

Regional Course on Statistics on Informality: Informal economy, work and employment  
6- 10 July, Chiba, Japan

**Session 2.6- Data sources for producing  
statistics on the informal economy:  
*Mixed surveys***



Arman Bidarbakhtnia  
Lecturer, UNSIAP

## We will discuss...

Why mixed surveys

Types and characteristics of mixed surveys

The 1-2 survey

## Why mixed surveys?

### Data needed

- Informal employment characteristics
- Informal sector characteristics

3

## Why mixed surveys?

### Establishment surveys

- “Not fully” capturing employed persons
- “Partially” cover establishments

### Household surveys

- Covering employed persons
- Capture entrepreneurs

### Statistical units

- Households, establishments
- Owners(entrepreneurs), Establishments

4

# Why mixed surveys?

## Other considerations

### ❖ Cost

- Having separate surveys
- constructing/updating frame

### ❖ Quality

- measurement errors
- frame imperfection
- Timeliness
- consistency

### ❖ Design

- Informal economic activities are more unevenly distributed
- Mixed surveys are more complex

5



# Types of mixed surveys

## Phase1

### Modular

- PSUs and HHs from “base survey”
- Construct frame: list of informal sector entrepreneurs

## Phase2

- Select all/sample of listed entrepreneurs
- Phases can be simultaneous operations

## Phase1

### Independent

- Same sample of PSUs as base survey or an independent HH survey
- List all HHs and members within PSUs
- Construct frame: list of HHs with informal sector entrepreneurs

## Phase2

- Select all/sample of listed entrepreneurs
- Phases are consecutive survey operations

6



# Comparison

## Mixed surveys

- Design: homogeneous **HHs**
- List **HHs** within PSU
- Identify informal sector **entrepreneurs**
- Cover: **informal** sector units

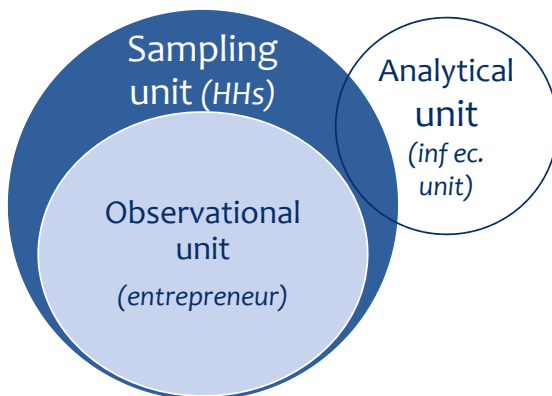
## Establishment surveys (area based)

- Design: Homogeneous **buildings**
- List **buildings**
- Identify informal **economic units**
- Cover: all **economic** units (potentially)

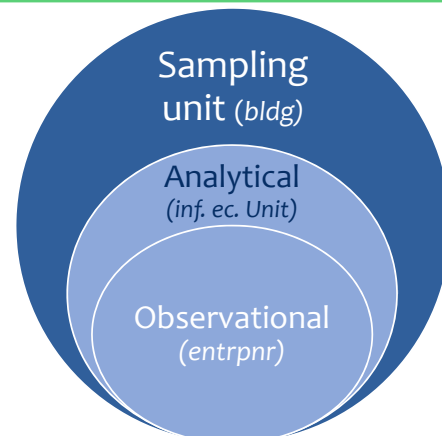
7

# Comparison

## Mixed surveys



## Establishment surveys (area based)



8

## A dual approach

### Sampled PSUs (*building blocks*)

1) List HH based (including mobile) entrepreneurs

2) Select mobile and HH-based informal sector entrepreneurs

1) List economic units with fixed visible premises

2) Select visible informal sector units

9

## Practice in ESCAP region: **1-2 Survey**

### Objectives

- ❖ An integrated data collection methodology on *household unincorporated enterprises*

---

- ❖ Produce statistics on *Household Unincorporated Enterprises with some Market Production (HUEMs)*

---

- ❖ Produce statistics on **informal sector** as a subset of HUEMs

10

## IS Enterprises & Household Enterprises

Household Enterprises					
Producing at least some goods & services for market				Producing goods & services for own final use	
Non-agricultural		Agricultural		Goods	Services
Formal sector	<b>Informal sector</b>	Formal sector	<b>Informal sector</b>	Agriculture, forestry, fishing	Paid domestic services
				Other activities	Owner occupied dwelling services
Household Unincorporated Enterprises with some Market Production (HUEMs)					

11



## “1-2” vs “mixed modular” survey

### Phase1

### Modular

- PSUs and HHs from “base survey”
- Construct frame: **list of informal sector** entrepreneurs

### Phase2

- Select all/sample of listed entrepreneurs
- Phases can be **simultaneous** operations

### Phase1

### 1-2 survey

- PSUs and HHs from “base survey”
- **Identify HUEMs** inside and outside PSU (through owners inside PSU)
- Construct frame: List **HUEMs identified** in 1-2 survey and **small units from business register**

### Phase2

- Select **a sample of HUEMs** from the frame
- Phases are **subsequent** operations

12



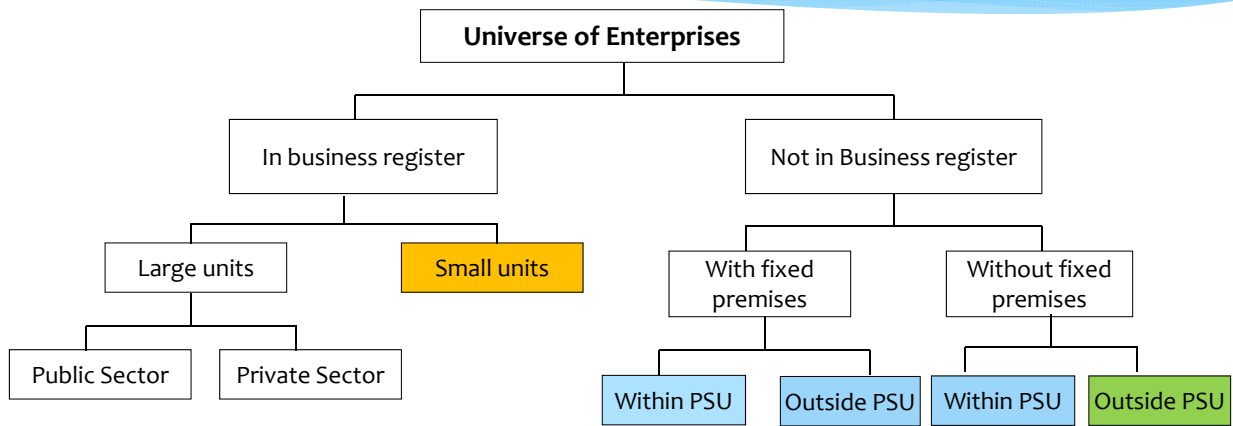
# 1-2 Survey Approach

**Phase1:** PSUs from base survey

**Phase2:** Identification of



# Holistic picture



- List frame
  - Area frame
  - Not covered
- } HUEM phase in 1-2 survey

## Design Considerations in 1-2 survey

- ❖ Questionnaire design; *modules for identification of HUEMs, I.S. and I.E.*
- ❖ Sequence and **timing** of the two surveys
  - ✓ HUEM as additional module to LFS
  - ✓ HUEM is conducted after the LFS within a short time lag

15

## Design Considerations in 1-2 survey

- ❖ **Frame** construction for both phases
- ❖ Selection of sample areas
  - ✓ Consider the distribution and **density of economic activities**
- ❖ Selection of sample HUEM units in sample areas
  - ✓ Determine **estimation domains** (e.g., industry; geographic subdivisions)

16