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# Kyrgyz Integrated Household Survey

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## Background

- Kyrgyz Integrated Household Survey (KIHS) was introduced in 2003 by the National Statistical Committee (NSC) with financial and technical support from DFID
- KIHS is designed to accurately measure consumption based poverty in the country.
- The term “intergrated” reflects a joint collection of household budget survey and labor force survey
- The KIHS has been conducted annually since its inception in 2003.

## Sampling

- The sample size of KIHS is about 5,000 households, the largest sample in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- The sample is drawn using stratified two-stage random sampling, based on the results of the 1999 population census.
- The country is divided into 15 strata, representing urban and rural dimensions of the seven oblasts and the city of Bishkek.
- The survey is representative at the national, rural/urban, and oblast levels.

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## Panel structure

- The KIHS is a rotating panel - one of the main strengths of the survey, compared with other household surveys in Kyrgyzstan or Central Asia.
- A maximum of 1/4 of households are replaced each year, and in fact, the replacement rate in many years was substantially lower.
- As a consequence, 35% of the households that had been part of the 2003 sample are still part of the 2008 sample.
- It is easy to build a panel as the household ID codes uniquely identify the households.

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## Field work

- The KIHS data is collected quarterly
- The survey covers 208 settlements throughout the country
- Every household fills in a diary on food consumption for two weeks each quarter of the year.
- In addition, information on expenditure for non-food items and services is collected during the quarterly interviews.

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## Topics covered

- Given its objective, the KIHS collects detailed information on households' consumption and expenditure
- Other topics covered are income, education, health, assets, housing, access to services and internal migration.
- Labor force survey is an integral part of the KIHS
- KIHS also includes a number of modules and questions which are not standard practice.
- For example, a module on women and fertility is included and children are physically measured in the health module.

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## Publications and research

- KIHS is a major data source for official statistics on standards of living of the Kyrgyz population – a special report is published annually by NSC
- It is a basis for monitoring of the country development indicators and most of the MDG indicators
- World Bank published several poverty assessment reports and notes
- Academic papers, based on KIHS, are not many
  - Falkingham, Akkazieva and Baschieri (2010) on out of pocket health expenses
  - Ukueva and Becker (2010) on remittances and purchase of durables
  - Anderson and Kroeger (in progress) on remittances and child schooling
  - Esenaliev and Steiner (in progress) on poverty and conflict

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## Conclusion

- Being the longest and largest panel household survey in the Kyrgyz Republic, the KIHS is an important data source for the analysis of socio-economic developments in the country.
- It meets well its major objective – measuring consumption based poverty
- However, the data remains underutilized for research purposes as few researchers have been granted access to the data.

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