Improving data availability for economic empowerment of women in Sri Lanka: A study on data integration for monitoring the SDGs

Parallel session 2.
Integrating data to leave no one behind

Gamini De Silva
Research Question

• Can the data availability and its disaggregation be improved by combining two sources of information such as LFS and HIES?
Integrating economic statistics in monitoring the 2030 Agenda

**Methodology**

1. Estimating Non Wage Income (NWI) in the LFS

2. Combine the two datasets LFS (updated) and HIES using common variables

---

**Study approach (i)**

- **HIES**
  - 20540 hh records

- **LFS**
  - 21596 hh records

- Estimated NWI onto 21596 records in LFS using a model developed in HIES

**Study approach (ii)**

- Combined records of HIES and LFS for common variables
Results: Main Outcome

- Estimated an additional variable (NWI)
- Compute Total HH Income
- Enabled the identification of poverty within the context of labour force characteristics in the LFS.

Sample tabulations possible:

- *Sex of Head of HH by poverty status and secondary occupation status* ('yes' or 'no')
- *Sex of Head of HH by poverty status and number of hours worked per week (head as well as all HH members)*
Results: Secondary Outcome

Combining HIES with LFS:

- increased the sample size (for common variables)

Integrating the two databases for poor HHs:

- provided supplementary space for women’s economic empowerment issues
Comment on Survey Data

- In LFS and HIES, there are several other proxy variables, but they cannot be utilized to combine these two data sets because of the difference in structuring of questions.

*Recommendation: For DCS (The National Statistics Office of Sri Lanka) to maintain coherence among surveys in terms of definitions of variables and consistent designs in sample surveys to facilitate further combining data across different surveys.*