

Happening in SRO

You can find this “Happening in SRO” and all similar updates on the SRO Intranet. Look for the Section titled: Did You Know?



Nepal Household Registry Project Update

Lisa Wood & Stephanie Chardoul

In August 2013, the first wave of CAPI data collection for the Chitwan Family Study (CVFS) in Nepal started. This 6-month wave of data collection is now wrapping up, and the SRO and ISER (Institute for Social and Environmental Research) teams are planning for the 2nd wave of CAI data collection for this longitudinal panel study. This will actually be the 35th wave of data collection (previously done with paper)—17 years of demographic data on over 10,000 individuals!

In addition to providing Blaise and SurveyTrak International, the SRO/TSG staff provide on-going support to the ISER technical team in Nepal. Karl Dinkelmann is pushing into new territory with Blaise to restructure the multi-module approach for this very complicated household and individual level survey. In addition to a household registry and survey, multiple individuals in the household may also be interviewed for various "supplements" (e.g., if marriage status or location of where someone lived changed during the past six months). Adding complexity, the number of times each individual might be asked each supplement may also vary. As you can imagine, the preload files are extensive and complicated! Combining household and individual level interviews in the same survey project has been a similar approach for our new international partners (e.g., Ghana Panel Study and a possible upcoming project in India).

In addition to the Blaise complexity, the team was faced with other new challenges, including (1) finding ways to address time slippage on old laptops (having the correct time is critical for the internet send/receive process), (2) how to show Nepalese text in both Blaise and SurveyTrak, and (3) the time differences between Nepal and Ann Arbor. With a 9 hour and 45 minute time difference, many late nights (after long days) were spent by Andrea Pierce, Ahmad Chehade, Jennie Williams and Brant Zhang communicating and trouble-shooting with technical staff in Nepal (at 9:15 pm EST, it is 7 am in Nepal).



CVFS Training Session (Aug. 2013)



CVFS Interviewing (Dec. 2013)

EGC-ISSER Socioeconomic Panel Survey

Yu-chieh (Jay) Lin, Patty Maher, Gina-Qian Cheung, Beth-Ellen Pennell

Overview

The EGC-ISSER Socioeconomic Panel Survey is a collaboration between the Economic Growth Center (EGC) at Yale University and the Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic Research (ISSER) at the University of Ghana. The survey is principally funded by the EGC, designed by both the EGC and ISSER, and carried out and supervised by ISSER. The first wave of data collection was conducted as PAPI in 2009-2010. Interviews were completed with 5009 households

For the second wave of data collection (2014) the two institutions enlisted the collaboration of the Survey Research Center (SRC) to develop the ISSER capacity to conduct the survey using CAPI and an electronic sample management system (SurveyTrak International). The second wave of the survey is principally funded by the EGC, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, African Social Research Initiative at the University of Michigan and SRC. It is designed by both the EGC and ISSER and carried out and supervised by ISSER and SRC.

Study Design

The main objective of this survey is to provide a scientific framework for a wide range of potential studies of the medium- and long-term changes taking place in Ghana. The survey provides regionally representative data for the ten regions of Ghana, employing a two-stage stratified sample design. The information gathered will assist decision makers in formulating economic and social policies to identify target groups for government assistance and evaluate and benchmark the impact of the assistance for use at the district level.

International Capacity Building

| | June 2013 | October 2013 | January 2014 | March 2014 | June 2014 (expected) |
|----------|---|---|--|--|---|
| Timeline | Tech Team Kick-off meeting & System Design | Tech Training for 3 ISSER staff at SRC & System Testing and Enhancement | TL and lwer Training for 80 trainees at ISSER & Modifications of Systems | Production Starts & Production Quality Control Support | Production Ends & Final Dataset with Documentation |

- Since June 2013, SRC SurveyTrak International Tech Team members, in collaboration with three senior advisors (Beth-Ellen Pennell, Patty Maher, and Gina-Qian Yang Cheung) and a project manager (Yu-chieh (Jay) Lin), have conducted systems testing in preparation for the fielding of the EGC-ISSER Socioeconomic Panel Survey.
- In October 2013, ISSER Project Manager, Data Manager, and Blaise Programmer visited and had two-week workshop with SRC Tech Team in Ann Arbor.
- Then SRC Project Manager (Jay Lin), Director of Survey Research Operation (Patty Maher), and Chief Technology Officer (Gina-Qian Yang Cheung) jointly developed a set of Interviewer training materials and provided a month long on-site assistance (in Ghana) during team leader and interviewer training.
- With field data collecting started (March 4th), the SRC team is currently providing ongoing technical and production support.

Challenges and Lesson Learned

- Both SRC and ISSER contribute to systems development. The integration of SRC's sample management system and ISSER's Blaise data model relies on lots of testing and communication efforts.
- Offline export and import (transfer) sample lines and customized synchronization functions have been developed for the project due to the difficulty of accessing internet.

- Dropbox has been used to deliver Field Progress Report and study specific materials from the terminal server at SRC to the field.
- Multiple types of communication channels have been used daily among SRC, ISSER, and field staff because of unstable internet access and different internet providers: Landline/Cell Phone call, E-mail, Skype, Viber, WhatsApp, Text Message, and Facebook Messengers.
- Training in the use of technical systems to collect data, using paradata to conduct quality control, and giving appropriate feedback to ISSER users needs to be customized and established based on users' previous PAPI field experience.
- Challenges exist to the ability to conduct joint production support due to (1) the different time zones between ISSER and SCR (ISSER staff and field staff works between 3am and 1pm EST) and (2) the unreliability of internet access.

ISSER Team Members

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Clement Adamba | Project Coordinator |
| Johnson Appiah Kubi | Production Manager |
| Richmond Kingsley Egyei | Production Manager |
| Ekow Amissah | Data Manager & Help Desk Supervisor |
| Elana Cohen-Khani | Application Programmer (Blaise) |

SRC Team Members

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ahmad Chehade | Application Programmer (SurveyTrak) |
| Andrea Pierce | Help Desk Specialist |
| Beth-Ellen Pennell | Director of International Unit |
| Emmanuel Ellis | Help Desk Specialist |
| Genise Pattullo | Help Desk Supervisor |
| Gina-Qian Yang Cheung | Chief Technology Officer |
| Holly Ackerman | Application Programmer (WebTrak) |
| Joel Devonshire | Data Manager |
| Lingling Zhang | Data Manager |
| Lihshwu Ke | Database Administrator |
| Lisa Wood | Technical Lead/Coordinator |
| Mengyao Hu | Research Assistant |
| Patty Maher | Director of Survey Research Operation |
| Xuetao(Brant) Zhang | Application Programmer (SurveyTrak) |
| Youhong Liu | Application Programmer (Blaise) |
| Yu-chieh (Jay) Lin | Project Manager |



We conducted team leader and interviewer trainings in Koforidua, Eastern Region (Jan 19 –Feb 12).



Everyone is working on the final preparation in the conference room the night before the interviewer training (Jan 21).



Richmond (ISSER Production Manager) is leading the group discussion at the team leader training (Jan 22).



Patty is giving the lecture about PAPI vs. CAPI studies at the team leader training (Jan 23).



First time trainees saw and used the sample management system. We had two team leaders per table to help eight interviewers (Jan 26)



Gina and Patty had a group picture with trainees at the farewell party (Jan 27).



All PIs, SRC trainers, ISSER staff, and team leaders--group picture outside the training conference room (Jan 22).



We took one Sunday afternoon off and had a field trip to the Volta River, which is south of the Akosombo Dam and drains into the Gulf of Guinea (Jan 26).



Patty, Jay, and Gina in a group discussion about scenarios for evening exercises with all team leaders during the break of classes (Jan 27).



Place in the Eastern Region of Ghana where we conducted the pretest w/ non-panel households (Feb 9).