

Adapting household surveys to better measure poverty in the pandemic context : Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

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2021 survey: data collection challenges during a pandemic

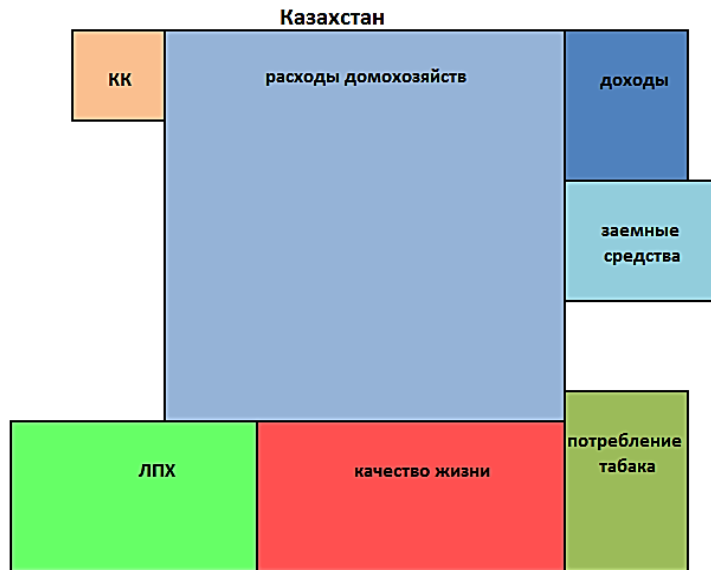
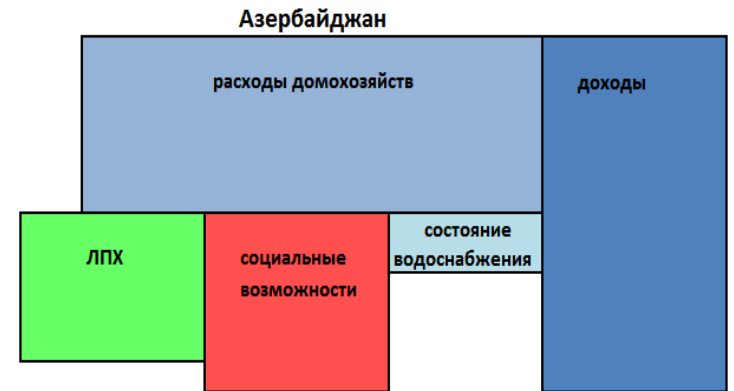
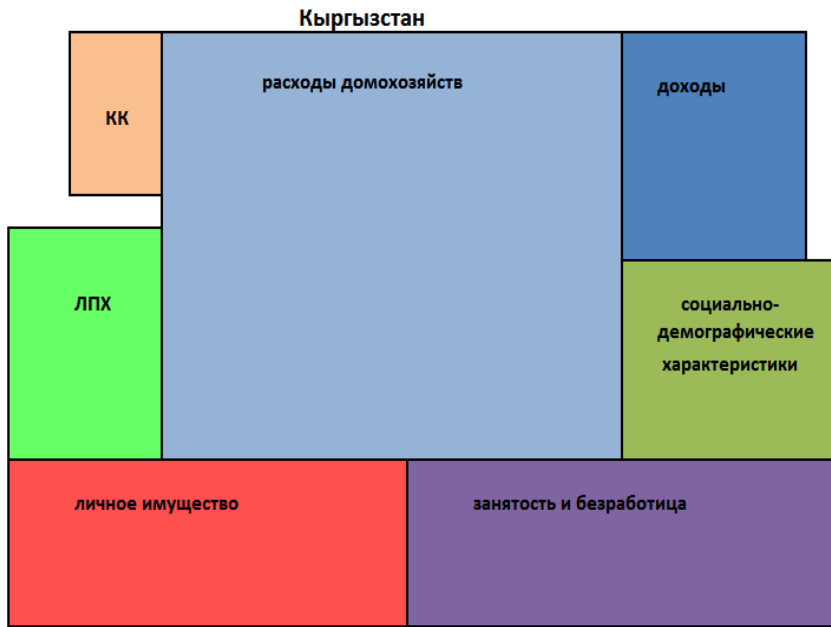
- unadjustment of the questionnaires to the telephone survey: the large volume and complexity of the questionnaire; increased time for conducting a survey by telephone;
- inaccessibility of households due to isolation; restriction and complete cessation of movement;
- Increased number of refusals, including "... for health reasons";
- the NSO does not have a database with the telephone numbers of the respondents;
- households have no telephones;
- parents' phones were used in the process of online education of children, so data collection was possible only for a limited time;
- significant increase in the interviewers' workload to collect data after the lifting of hard restrictions

Directions for further adaptation of HBS in a pandemic: the main dilemma

shortening of time for survey and **simplification** of questionnaires

VS

the need to take into account the provisions of the Poverty Measurement Guidelines 2017, 2020




Approximate structure of HBS in three countries

Issues addressed

- inclusion of disaggregation variables in questionnaires;
- harmonization of material and social deprivations and the multidimensional poverty index;
- suggestions and optimization of conducting surveys for individual modules

Variables for Disaggregating Poverty Data

- ethnicity
- household ownership status
- type of household
- sign of disability
- age
- gender
- migration Status
- current employment status
- degree of urbanization
- level of education
- received social transfers (income)



Missing variables or incomplete encoding of responses




Introduce or improve a household check card with detailed response coding

Material and social deprivation and the multidimensional poverty index

The number and content of questions significantly differs markedly, however:

1. Material and social deprivation (MSD): **good basis for harmonization**

- AZ, KZ intend to fully implement the EU SILC questionnaire;
- KG: there are some questions from EU SILC;

 problematic issue - the transition to EU SILC will require the introduction of personal issues, while the HBS of these countries is carried out at the household level

- introduction of MSD and serious MSD coefficients

2. Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

- KG implemented NIMB, KZ - initial stage, AZ - unclear prospects: **no basis for harmonization**

BUT: a number of the former USSR countries are included in **global multidimensional poverty index** the UN Global Human Development Report - **basis for harmonization?**

Harmonization based on the Global MPI

- **3 dimensions:** health, education and living standards
- **10 indicators:** most of the questions are already in the questionnaires.
- for 8 countries (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine) calculated **multidimensional poverty indices**
- **BUT:** due to low thresholds of GIMB for the countries of the region is very low -> has no practical value
- Possible options:
 1. Coordination of harmonized deprivation thresholds with the countries of our region
 2. Minor refinement of one or two issues

Suggestions and optimization of surveys for individual modules in the pandemic context



A matter of particular concern: **medium-term trend towards an increase in the number of modules and questions in the HBS**

- determine the priority tasks implemented within the framework of the HBS: **expenses, income, MSD, NIMB**; in some cases - **OPC**
- solve other tasks through other surveys, web surveys and with a smaller coverage of respondents
- this applies even to those blocks of questions that lead to the calculation of SDG indicators beyond SDG 1 and SDG 10

Suggestions and optimization of conducting surveys for individual modules

- a more radical step: remove surveys not related to the HBS from the scope of the tasks of the respective statistical offices / departments responsible for conducting the HBS
- include irrelevant questions (by the order of other government agencies) in separate modules
- change the frequency of polls, for example:
 - GIMB calculated every three years
 - index of child deprivation every two to three years, subject to the introduction of NIMB
- Shorten questionnaires on private household plots
- Introduce a question on the timing of individual modules

Thank you for
attention!