

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE NIGERIAN LIVING STANDARDS SURVEY (NLSS)

NLSS 2018/19

1. What is the Nigerian Living Standards Survey (NLSS)?

- a. The NLSS is a household-based survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the World Bank. The main objective of the survey is to collect information on the living conditions of the Nigerian population. The survey collected data on individual and household demographics (age, gender, marital status, among others), access to education, health and basic services, employment, assets, and income. The survey is used to measure the prevalence of poverty and to estimate a wide range of socio-economic indicators including benchmarking of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Who conducts the survey?

- a. The survey was conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the World Bank.

3. How often is it carried out?

- a. Conventionally, the survey is meant to be carried out every 3 - 5 years. The last round of the survey was conducted in 2009/10, making it almost ten years since the last official poverty estimates. The most recent round was conducted in 2018/19, albeit with notable changes in the methodology. The next round is scheduled for 2023.

4. When was the survey conducted?

- a. The survey was conducted between 2018 and 2019. The planning and preparation for the survey started early in 2018; however, the actual field work and data collection for the survey was done between September 2018 and October 2019. This is typical of surveys collecting data on consumption in countries with large rural population, to account for seasonality. The analysis and validation of the responses started in November 2019 and was concluded in March 2020.

5. Who are the target respondents?

- a. The target population of the survey are individuals in households across the country, by states (including FCT), both urban and rural dwellers.

6. What was the sample size and response rate of the survey?

- a. The sample design was initially intended to cover 600 households per state, making 22,200 households nationwide. However, due mainly to challenges in Borno State, only 22,110 households were sampled. The overall response rate exceeded 95 percent, which is one of the highest for a household survey of this magnitude.

7. What are the major differences between 2018/19 and 2009/10?

- a.

Item	2009/2010	2018/19
Data Collection Method	Manually (prone to errors and time-consuming)	Electronically, using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) devices (faster, more accurate, eliminating errors)
Mode of Recording Consumption	Monthly Purchase Diary recorded by the household (poorly completed and often with errors)	7-day recall recorded by the trained field staff (more accurate recording and much easier for households)
Data Processing	Manual data entry and editing (time consuming, highly prone to errors)	Real-time entry and subsequent checking and editing by a trained data editor while enumerators still in the field (much better data quality)

Recording of food consumed	Only food <i>purchased</i> for the household was recorded (gives an inaccurate estimate of total food consumed)	Recorded food <i>consumed</i> from all sources, both at home and away from home, either purchased or given or produced at home
Time Lag from the previous round	5 years	10 years
Household Sample Size	33,300 Households (difficult to manage given the length and coverage of the survey, resulting in a lower response rate and lower data quality)	22,200 Households (much easier to manage, resulting in better data quality and response rate)

Poverty Estimates

1. What is the current level of poverty in Nigeria?

State	Poverty headcount rate
NIGERIA	40.09
Urban	18.04
Rural	52.10
Abia	30.67
Adamawa	75.41
Akwa Ibom	26.82
Anambra	14.78
Bauchi	61.53
Bayelsa	22.61

Benue	32.90
Borno	Unavailable, as insufficient data was collected due to security challenges
Cross River	36.29
Delta	6.02
Ebonyi	79.76
Edo	11.99
Ekiti	28.04
Enugu	58.13
Gombe	62.31
Imo	28.86
Jigawa	87.02
Kaduna	43.48
Kano	55.08
Katsina	56.42
Kebbi	50.17
Kogi	28.51
Kwara	20.35
Lagos	4.50
Nasarawa	57.30
Niger	66.11
Ogun	9.32
Ondo	12.52
Osun	8.52
Oyo	9.83
Plateau	55.05
Rivers	23.91
Sokoto	87.73
Taraba	87.72
Yobe	72.34
Zamfara	73.98
FCT	38.66

Note: National and urban and rural estimates do not include Borno state.

2. Why is there no poverty estimate for Borno state?

- a. In order to estimate poverty for the state of Borno, the selection of the households would have to be statewide and random. Due to the security situation in Borno, many areas were inaccessible. The NBS collected information from 530 households in Borno from areas that remained accessible despite the security situation. However, making estimates based on these 530 households would only reflect poverty in safer communities in Borno and would therefore not be representative of the state as a whole.

3. Is poverty rising or falling in Nigeria?

- a. The NLSS 2018/19 is a new baseline for tracking the status of poverty in Nigeria. With support from the World Bank, the NBS adopted best practice in the collection and processing of the data. As is often the case, such improvements come at the expense of giving up some degree of comparability with earlier rounds of the survey while achieving high standards in survey practice. Aside from the use of electronic devices for data collection, a 7-day recall for recording household consumption and expenditure was adopted for this round, as opposed to the monthly consumption diary used in previous rounds. In addition, additional efforts were made to measure food quantities in households using non-standard units of measurement, resulting in better quantification of food consumption. All these new changes and improvements, as well as the lag between this round and the last round make it problematic to compare, therefore, a deliberate decision was made to use the 2018/19 round as the new baseline. As such, it is not possible to say whether poverty increased or decreased between 2009/10 and 2018/19, because of the changes made in the survey design and implementation.

4. What is the level of inequality in Nigeria?

State	Gini coefficient
NIGERIA	35.13
Urban	31.94
Rural	32.77
Abia	24.48
Adamawa	27.78
Akwa Ibom	31.78
Anambra	24.99
Bauchi	26.51
Bayelsa	29.69
Benue	29.43
Borno	
Cross River	30.68
Delta	29.84
Ebonyi	28.60
Edo	29.52
Ekiti	29.70
Enugu	24.99
Gombe	31.54
Imo	27.24
Jigawa	28.00
Kaduna	35.19
Kano	28.64
Katsina	24.57
Kebbi	29.55
Kogi	24.42
Kwara	25.06
Lagos	27.23
Nasarawa	25.57
Niger	27.59

Ogun	27.10
Ondo	25.54
Osun	25.12
Oyo	31.09
Plateau	40.22
Rivers	29.47
Sokoto	28.02
Taraba	32.23
Yobe	27.31
Zamfara	23.49
FCT	32.26

Note: national and urban and rural estimates do not include Borno state.

Using the data

1. Why are these data relevant?

- a. The results of the NLSS are extremely useful and important for Nigeria and Nigerians. Primarily, the data is useful for policymaking, for research and for holding government at various levels accountable to their promises. It can help targeting government interventions, designing of policy and programs, as well as monitoring the implementation and status of existing ones. The information is also useful to the private sector for business and investment decision making, as well as to development sector operators to guide the operations.

2. How can I access the poverty report and data?

- a. E-library of NBS website (<http://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary>). The datasets are currently under preparation.