

# Measuring Informality

Agenda Setting Conference on Research  
on the Informal Economy  
25-26 March 2011, Cape Town, South  
Africa

# Focus of Measurement

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## ◉ Informal Sector versus Informality

- On informal sector
- Establishment-based
- Main sources of data
  - 2003 Industrial Census
  - 2005/2006 Ghana Living Standards Survey
  - 2010 Population and Housing Census

# 2003 National Industrial Census

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- Covered
  - all large medium-size establishments (engaging 10 or more persons)
  - a sample of small establishments (engaging less than 10 persons).
- Covered establishments with activities mainly in:
  - mining and quarrying,
  - manufacturing,
  - construction,
  - the production and distribution of electricity, gas and water.
- Collected information on:
  - number of employees engaged (by sex),
  - wages and salaries,
  - gross output,
  - gross fixed capital formation,
  - sales, main inputs used in production,
  - energy used in production

# 2005/2006 Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS V)

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- Household-based survey with a module on Non-farm Household enterprises
- National sample of 9000+ households
- Information collected on
  - Principal activity
  - Years on operation
  - Whether registered
  - Main source of capital
  - Availability/requirement of credit
  - Persons engage (full-time, casual, apprentices, etc.)
  - Contractual status of workers
  - Provision of paid annual/sick leave
  - Production, sales, assests

# 2010 Population and Housing Census

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- Individual or third party reporting on sector of employment
- Name and location (at home or address) of establishments where individuals are employed

# Plans on Improving data on Informal Employment

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- Regular survey programme adopted
- Content of programme
  - Quarterly labour force surveys (include features of the job/activity)
  - Integrated business survey (covering all branches of activity)
  - Ghana Living Standards Survey (every five years)
- Promoting use of the data
  - Users' seminar on data availability/feedback
  - Teaming up with researchers on analysis of the data

# What still needs to be done?

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- Concepts need to be well defined; clarity of what each represents and who it covers
- Distinguishing characteristics of different groups/types
- Specific policy goals -- What purposes would the data serve and what data are used for the policies
  - A catalogue of key policy initiatives and what information would be required to meet the needs