

AN OVERVIEW OF THE LIVING CONDITIONS MONITORING SURVEY 1998.

The Living Conditions Monitoring Survey (LCMS 1998) whose results are presented in the preliminary report, was carried out between November – December, 1998. The monitoring of living conditions and poverty through surveys by Central Statistical Office started in 1991. So far three surveys have been conducted, analysed, and results published. These are the Social Dimensions of Adjustment Priority Survey I (1991), The Social Dimensions of Adjustment Priority Survey II (1993) and the Living Conditions Monitoring Survey (LCMS 1996). The LCMS 1998 is a continuation of the Living Conditions Monitoring Surveys which are intended to be carried out biannually.

The LCMS1998 was carried out nation-wide and covered 16,710 households representing a sampling fraction of about 1 household per every 113 households. The survey covered 8,487 households in rural areas and 8,223 households in urban areas

The sample design used is the Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) method. This entailed allocating the total sample proportionately to each stratum according to its population share. Sample selection also followed the PPS method.

The survey covered the following topics:-

- Demographic characteristics
- Migration
- Health
- Education
- Economic Activities
- Income
- Under five Children Nutrition (Anthropometry)
- Access to various facilities & infrastructure
- Household Assets
- Expenditure
- Community Developmental Issues
- Food production
- Poverty

The above topics are the basis for computing poverty and the analysing living conditions in Zambia and are based on an internationally accepted list of living conditions components.

The survey used two types of questionnaires to collect data from the field. The listing form was used to list all households in the sample enumeration areas, and the main questionnaire was used to obtain information on the household and each member of the household.

The results of the survey are of great benefit in that they give reliable information on key living conditions indicators against which to monitor development. Moreover, the series of surveys contain some core indicators which are repeated in each survey and those form the basis for comparability overtime.