Mauritania

Sources:
World Bank Poverty Monitoring Database 2002
Deininger & Squire, World Bank 2004
World Bank, World Development Indicators 2004

Surveys:
Enquête permanente sur les conditions de vie des ménages 1987, 1989, 1995
This is a World Bank Living Standard Measurement Survey. In 1987 and 1989 the sample included 1500-1600 households and in 1985, 3540 households.

The sampling is different for all the years. In 1987, nomadic people that represent some 30% of the population were not covered. In 1989 the mobility of the population was somehow considered. In 1995 the sampling was apparently improved since a better frame was available. The sample was divided into four strata according to geographical areas and a two stage sampling design, first selecting enumeration areas and then households was applied.

The households were visited two times during two weeks. In 1995, 64 food items, 14 non-food and 21 durables were asked. Self consumption and in-kind items were included. The amounts of daily items consumed were asked since last interview, for past month and past year. Less frequent expenditures were asked for past year and since last interview. Questions on education, housing and utilities, transports and health were included in the questionnaire. The income concept is also quite extensive but the Gini coefficients are very high. In 1987, 13% of the households report no incomes and in 1989, 18%.

The documentation available from Deininger & Squire (2004) indicates that there are doubts about the quality of the 1987 and 1989 surveys. Apparently some guessing had to be done when aggregating the data.

Enquête sur les priorités 1 & 2 1992, 1993
This is a World Bank Priority Survey with a sample size reported to be 5860 households in both 1992 and 1993. The survey has several problems: only a small number of consumption items were included in the questionnaire, for example, 11 food items and only one non-food item were specified. Self-consumption was not asked. Even if the questions on food consumption were very limited, the amount is about twice of the size of reported income if assuming 12 months availability (after imputations). On the income side, the surveys included very little detail. Earnings, public transfers and other incomes were asked.