Bangladesh

Sources:
Dowling and Soo 1983, Table 2 in the appendix
Jain 1975
Fields 1989
van Ginneken 1982
Khan 1997
Statistical Yearbook, Table 14.29 on p. 641 has been used from the 1990 edition.
World Bank Poverty Monitoring Database 2002
Deininger & Squire, World Bank 2004
World Bank, World Development Indicators 2004

Surveys:
Bangladesh Household Expenditure Survey, several years available
The survey is conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. The documentation available relates mostly to the 1981/982 and 1985/1986 surveys. Some changes in the methodology were made both in the 1981/82 and the 1985/86 surveys compared to previous years. The use of varying reference periods for different expenditure classes and more detailed interviewer instructions were important changes.

1981/82: The sample was divided into two strata: urban and rural. A two stage sampling technique was used in both the rural and the urban areas. In the first stage, 400 sample villages were randomly selected from the rural areas. The households of the villages were then further stratified into four economic groups (very poor, poor, well-to-do and rich). In the second stage, the sample households were selected by systematic sampling from each economic group. The sample size for rural areas was 5949 households. The urban areas were divided into six strata according to the size of the population in the localities. A total of 250 enumeration areas were drawn from the six strata. Before a sample of households from the enumeration areas was drawn, they were stratified into three economic groups on the basis of house rent paid. The sample households where then selected by systematic sampling from each economic group. 3614 households were covered in the urban areas. The survey was conducted from July 1981 to June 1982. The data was collected through personal interviews.

Income was defined as the material return in-cash and in-kind by the household earners other than boarders, lodgers and servants. Wages, salaries, pensions, contributions and professional fees were asked on a monthly basis; interest, dividends, earnings from agricultural activity, business, commercial and industrial establishments, land and property, rents, gifts and assistance, insurance benefits and other income were asked on a yearly basis. Receipts in-kind, home produce consumed and rents from owner-occupied dwellings were imputed. All these imputations were difficult to carry out. The reference period for the incomes was one month. Before the 1973/1974 survey borrowings, withdrawals from savings and working capitals, sale of properties and loaned money received back was included in the household income.

The expenditure concept refers to the household consumption expenditure defined as the value of goods and services finally consumed.

The following applies (at least) to 1985/86:
The survey covered 1500 expenditure and income items with various reference periods: a week a month, three months and one year. The questionnaire seems very detailed with a long list of food items and the standard main groups of other items. Taxes seem to be included in the income questionnaire as well as interest on property, gifts and assistances and remittances. The reference period for food & beverages and fuel & lightning was daily purchase for the last fifteen days (in 1981/1982 one week). Transportation, laundering, personal care and services were asked for last month. Clothing and footwear and personal effects were asked for last three months. Housing, medical care, education, recreation and durables were asked for last one year. Household income was asked for last month and last one year.

Decile and Ginis are available in the Statistical Yearbook. The means are taken from the Report of the Bangladesh Household Expenditure Survey 1981-82. The deciles in the SY are estimated by curve fitting for 1963/64 and 1973/74. For later years, the deciles are based on the original data.

In van Ginneken & Park (1984) it is mentioned that large households were over-represented in the 1973 sample; this is corrected for.

Deiniger & Squire, World Bank (2004) uses the same source as the Statistical Yearbook. No additional documentation was available for the more recent surveys.