International Labour Organization

Report I

▶ General Report

21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians
(Geneva, 11–20 October 2023)

100 years of ICLS

21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians

Department of Statistics
Geneva, 2023

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▶ Abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAPI	computer-assisted personal interviewing
CPIs	consumer price indices
CSPro	Census and Survey Processing System
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Communities
GDP	gross domestic product
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ILMS	international labour migration statistics
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
IT	information technology
LFS	labour force survey
LMIS	labour market information system
NSO	national statistical office
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
SMART	Statistical Metadata-driven Analysis and Reporting Tool
SNA	System of National Accounts
SSE	social and solidarity economy
StaRS	ILO Statistics Reporting System
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

▶ 1. Introduction

1.1. Celebrating a century of standard-setting in labour statistics

1. With the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919, which ended the First World War, the international community recognized that universal peace could be established only if it was "based upon social justice", leading to the creation of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The ILO was mandated to work towards the improvement of the conditions of labour that existed involving "injustice, hardship and privation to large numbers of people", in particular through the regulation of hours of work, the prevention of unemployment, the provision of an adequate living wage, protection against sickness, disease and injury, the protection of children, young persons and women, the provision of social protection, the protection of migrant workers, the recognition of the principle of freedom of association, the organization of training, and many other measures. The Organization is unique, with a tripartite governance structure composed of representatives of governments, workers and employers. [1]

2. The same Treaty mandated the ILO to collect and distribute information on all subjects relating to "conditions of industrial life and labour" around the world. Accordingly, in April 1923, not long after the creation of the ILO, the Governing Body of the ILO, at its 18th Session, approved the creation of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) "for the purpose of considering the problems involved in the compilation of such statistics and of agreeing, if possible, upon certain methods and standards with a view to rendering labour statistics more comparable as between different countries". [2]

3. The ICLS is therefore celebrating its centenary in 2023. It is one of the oldest mechanisms for the setting of international statistical standards and has been meeting approximately every five years since its establishment, with only a very brief interruption during the Second World War. Based on framework standards derived from ILO Conventions and Recommendations, the ICLS has established operational statistical standards through the discussion and adoption of many important resolutions, recommendations and guidelines throughout its 100 years, on a myriad of topics related to the changing world of work. [3] Many of these texts have been guiding the production and compilation of labour statistics at the country level. The topics covered have ranged from international classifications and definitions of the main concepts of employment, unemployment and underutilization, to hours of work, labour costs, wages and employment-related income, household income and expenditure, consumer price indices (CPIs), social protection, occupational injuries and diseases, strikes and lockouts, freedom of association and collective bargaining, labour rights and informality, to name but a few.

4. The last two times it met, the ICLS adopted some groundbreaking resolutions, specifically the resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, adopted by the 19th ICLS in 2013 (hereinafter referred to as the "19th ICLS resolution I"), and the resolution concerning statistics on work relationships, adopted by the 20th ICLS in 2018. In so doing, the

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[1] Treaty of Versailles, Part XIII, Section I, Preamble and Article 387.

[2] See ILO, *Report on the International Conference of Representatives of Labour Statistical Departments, held at Geneva, 29 October to 2 November 1923*, 1924.

[3] It is recalled that ILO Conventions are legal instruments and that, once ratified, their provisions are incorporated by the legislative authority at the country level into national law.

ICLS acknowledged the need for updated statistical concepts to adapt to the major changes taking place in the world of work. During the 108th (Centenary) Session of the International Labour Conference in 2019, the Future of Work Initiative was widely discussed, and a strong call was made for building solid empirical evidence to inform discussions.

5.   The 21st ICLS will address a number of crucial topics, which will include reviewing existing practices and proposing further adaptations, relating in particular to the informal economy, but also to other key concepts such as earnings, classifications and labour migration. The ICLS centenary will be a unique opportunity to reflect on the work done and to identify future needs for adjustments and for the forging of new conceptual frameworks and methodologies. Today, the world of work is changing dramatically and important conversations are needed to further define key concepts to better reflect the changing realities of workers and their families around the world. In line with the original purpose behind the creation of the ICLS in 1923, there is a need to shed light on key concepts around the variables and dimensions of labour statistics and to harmonize, provide accuracy and transparency, and build trust in respect of each number published or handled by policymakers. Furthermore, data science methods have improved tremendously and the tools now available for producing sound labour statistics are more efficient and reliable than ever before. This process is certain to help achieve increased consensus and agreement at a time when all parties concerned – citizens, governments, employers and workers – are discussing very important and relevant issues with a view to achieving social justice in their countries.

1.2. Statistical activities in the ILO

6.   The ILO's Department of Statistics, created in 2009, reports to the Deputy Director-General, alongside the Research Department, the International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin Centre) and the Priority Action Programmes defined by the International Labour Office (the Office). It is headed by the Chief Statistician/Department Director and is tasked primarily with enhancing the capacities of Member States to produce, use and analyse labour statistics through the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building; initiating and facilitating discussions on statistical standards for key variables; and compiling and harmonizing labour statistics through the consolidation of ILOSTAT, the ILO's central labour statistics portal, as the world's largest repository of labour statistics.

7.   The ILO's Department of Statistics is responsible for representing the ILO in the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System and in the inter-agency Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA). It leads the ILO delegation to the United Nations Statistical Commission and is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) in 2014, and the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities, endorsed by the CCSA.

8.   Statistics in the ILO are also actively linked to the UN Secretary-General's Data Strategy, the aim of which is to mobilize governments, civil society and businesses to leverage the potential of data and to collaborate in order to produce more and better data from a whole-of-UN data ecosystem that maximizes the value of data. [4] The ILO was involved in the preparation of the *System-wide Road Map for Innovating United Nations Data and Statistics* produced by the Committee of the Chief

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[4] United Nations, *Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere with Insight, Impact and Integrity 2020–22*.

Statisticians of the United Nations System and adopted by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in 2020. [5]

9. The ILO's statistical activities are carried out mainly by the Department of Statistics, but other departments are also part of its statistical system. Child labour and forced labour statistics are collected by the Governance and Tripartism Department; statistics on wages and earnings are collected by the Conditions of Work and Equality Department; social protection data are compiled by the Social Protection Department; and statistics on cooperatives are covered by the Department of Sustainable Enterprises, Productivity and Just Transition. The Department of Statistics works closely with other technical departments in supporting the compilation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators that are under the ILO's custodianship. All the programmatic outcomes defined in the ILO's programme and budget are linked to statistical indicators, mainly derived from the SDG indicators, and each outcome includes specific outputs on statistical activities. Under the Programme and Budget for 2024–25, the Department of Statistics is responsible for coordinating the enabler on enhanced knowledge, innovation, cooperation and communication to advance social justice, and has a specific output, which is to accomplish more and better statistics with reliable labour market information systems. In past biennia, similar outcomes and outputs were also included as main drivers of the ILO's statistical activities.

10. Regional statistical activities are carried out through the Global Technical Team on Statistics. This team comprises three labour statisticians based in Africa, one based in the Americas (supported by the Labour Information and Analysis System for Latin America and the Caribbean (SIALC) project based in Panama), two based in Asia and the Pacific and one based in the Arab States. The Global Technical Team is technically coordinated by the Department of Statistics and provides direct assistance to countries at the regional level. Its members participate in the work of regional statistical bodies and attend meetings of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

1.3. Labour statistics in times of COVID-19

11. As in all other domains, the COVID-19 pandemic strongly affected the production of labour statistics at a time when it was extremely important for policymakers to have timely and accurate information on labour market impacts, while simultaneously needing to find ways to deal with the economic and social crises emerging from the lockdowns, downturns and health emergencies caused by the pandemic. These challenges to statistical production were very quickly addressed by most countries, with the support of employers' and workers' organizations. The international system set in motion mechanisms at the national level to support countries and the statistical community, through the CCSA, started a process of tight coordination and joint work to allow countries to avoid a complete interruption of statistical procedures. The emergency mode was quickly adopted and, through a permanent virtual connection, all international organizations dealing with statistics were able to work together actively to provide quick solutions to the emerging discontinuation of field activities (which until then had derived data mainly from surveys), propose alternatives to enable the continuation of operations, and identify other types of data that could be used to shed light on the labour market impacts of the pandemic.

12. The ILO and many other international organizations actively triggered personalized technical support to countries, sharing information on possible practices implemented in response to the

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[5] United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, *System-wide Road Map for Innovating United Nations Data and Statistics*, CEB/2020/1/Add.1, 2020.

crisis and quickly reacting to possible alternative sources of information that could help policymakers to avoid possible information deficits. In this regard, the ILO quickly issued technical notes, including in relation to the challenges of conducting a labour force survey (LFS) and ways of controlling possible biases when turning to phone interviews, and hosted discussions with many national statistical offices (NSOs) worldwide to shape alternatives in order to reduce the risk of any damage that could result from the dramatic changes (see section 3.11 for more information). The need to adapt was clear and the response was fast to equip countries with the tools that could be used to generate the data needed for policies. The main topics addressed by the ILO in its response to changes in the availability of data included, among many others, the need to adapt concepts on employment, unemployment and work statistics in general in the light of the crisis, the impact of telework on figures, the possible disruption of employment relationships and the effects on informal work.

13. Meanwhile, the ILO as an organization needed to assess the impact of the pandemic on the world of work. Very early in the process – in March 2020 – it launched the *ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the World of Work* (later the *ILO Monitor on the World of Work),* proposing a range of policy options to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the world of work and to facilitate recovery. [6] The first eight editions of the *ILO Monitor* focused on COVID-19 and on updating the statistical data available during the pandemic, by actively using methodologies for nowcasting (forecasting in real-time), turning to big data to identify the impact of lockdowns in countries – including business closures and working hours losses – on informal workers, women and young people, and on social protection systems. During the pandemic, the *ILO Monitor* was highly visible, was recognized as being extremely useful by governments, employers and workers, and provided a strong statistical background for advocacy and support to countries and citizens (see section 4.5 for more information).

1.4. Monitoring decent work in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

14. Progress in respect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) is being tracked through the global indicator framework approved by the UN General Assembly in July 2017, which is based on the 17 SDGs and the 169 targets defined in 2015. In recent years, a well-established international system has been working, through the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, under which Member States meet regularly with the international agencies that are the custodians of each of the established indicators to develop and refine the methodologies for all domains of development. The ILO is the sole custodian agency for 11 global SDG indicators, a joint custodian with other agencies for 3 indicators, and is involved as a partner agency for a further 3 indicators.

15. While, originally, some of these indicators were not available for a considerable number of countries, or the methodologies were not fully accepted by the international community, considerable progress has been achieved in the last five years. In 2018, the 20th ICLS discussed and approved the methodology for SDG indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights. All the refinements that were meant to be implemented to cover all ILO Member States have now been achieved and agreed on. Some of the indicators were upgraded from Tier III to Tier II and have since been

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[6] See, for example, ILO, *ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Seventh edition: Updated estimates and analysis*, 2021.

upgraded to Tier I. [7] Today, none of the SDG indicators on labour statistics are classified as Tier III indicators and most of the others are Tier I or in the process of being reclassified as Tier I. Only three indicators are expected to stay as Tier II, since data availability is still a problem, although methodologies have been established (indicators 8.7.1, 8.8.1 and 10.7.1). This clearly shows the steady progress in the production and compilation of this important set of indicators covering various SDGs (Goals 1, 8, 10 and 16). The joint work with co-custodian agencies on some of the indicators has proved to be successful and valuable to countries, and the use of an established standard-setting mechanism such as the ICLS has been crucial for some of the indicators. A full revision of the tier system will be carried out by the end of 2023 by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators in advance of the refinement process planned for 2025.

16. The ILO has been fulfilling its duties to provide periodic reports to the UN on the set of agreed SDG indicators (see section 2.1 for more information), in particular by providing inputs to the annual report of the UN Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs and by working jointly with the United Nations Statistical Commission on the update of the global SDG indicators database. The ILO has been supporting the UN economic and social commissions by providing regional and global estimates of the various indicators and has been providing capacity-building and technical support to Member States on each of the SDG indicators under its custodianship.

1.5. Measuring global social justice

17. As mentioned above, social justice was at the core of the creation of the ILO in 1919 and this commitment was reaffirmed in the Declaration of Philadelphia of 1944 when the tripartite constituents of the ILO decided that "all human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity". It was agreed that "labour is not a commodity". The new Administration of the ILO, which took office in October 2022, also has the advancement of social justice at the core of its vision; indeed, *Advancing social justice* was the theme of the Director-General's first report to the International Labour Conference, at its 111th Session (2023). [8] In the report, the ILO Director-General identifies social justice as being a concept about fairness, equality and having a voice; about rule of law and access to justice within a society; and about enabling societies and economies to function more cohesively and effectively by reducing poverty and inequality as prerequisites for inclusive growth. He also identifies social justice as having four dimensions. The first is **universal human rights and capabilities**, in which access to an adequate standard of living, education, nutrition, healthcare and social security are seen as universal human rights. The second dimension is **equal access to opportunities**, and it relates mainly to access to opportunities for productive and freely chosen employment. **Fair distribution**, as the third dimension, relates to the specific attention that must be paid to the most vulnerable in society and to addressing inequalities in society. The fourth dimension, on **just transitions**, refers to all the transformations that affect people's well-being over time, which includes transformations associated with globalization, technological, demographic and environmental transformations, and crises, and how they affect the world of work.

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[7] Tier I: the indicator is conceptually clear and has an internationally established methodology and available standards, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region; Tier II: the indicator is conceptually clear and has an internationally established methodology and available standards, but data are not regularly produced by countries; Tier III: no international established methodology or standards are available for the indicator, but methodological work is being carried out by countries.

[8] ILO, *Report of the Director-General: Advancing social justice*, ILC.111/I(A)(Rev.).

18.   The concept of advancing social justice clearly calls for progress across the four dimensions through decent work, as labour income is the main source of income for most households worldwide. Productive employment with universal social protection, based on sound social dialogue and respect for labour rights are the four interrelated pillars of decent work, as was acknowledged in the 2030 Agenda. The Decent Work Agenda, as set out in the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008), as amended in 2022, triggered important statistical efforts worldwide by clearly calling for empirical evidence to support decent work at the national, regional and global levels. In 2008, the 18th ICLS discussed the report of a dedicated Working Group on the Measurement of Decent Work and agreed on a set of possible indicators, which were identified by the ILO constituents as key to monitoring progress on decent work. [9] The framework of decent work indicators was launched afterwards and was intensively used by the ILO and by its constituents in framing Decent Work Country Programmes to guide national action by the ILO constituents at the country level. [10]

19.   When the 2030 Agenda called for discussions on how to identify indicators to monitor progress towards the SDGs, the ILO was already very well positioned to contribute from a technical point of view and suggested an array of possible indicators that had already been agreed on, defined and produced by many countries worldwide. The global indicator framework for the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda defined the set of indicators to monitor social and economic aspects, including many pertaining to decent work. In the five-year period since the 20th ICLS, the international statistical system has moved actively in coordinating and assuring efforts towards the definition and production of indicators across the various social and economic aspects, based on various existing frameworks.

20.   Now, the ILO is being called on to measure progress towards the advancement of social justice and many global initiatives are being discussed by the Governing Body of the ILO. There is a call for a Global Coalition for Social Justice that would encourage better coordinated multilateralism, promote policy coherence and coordination and tackle the roots of failures in the so-called "social contract", a need acknowledged by the UN Secretary-General in his report *Our Common Agenda*. [11] This call will trigger important discussions on which indicators can be identified to address the four dimensions of social justice, and which existing frameworks can be actively used to monitor social justice throughout the world. Many of the existing indicators on decent work and the SDGs will be used, along with many existing SDG indicators that focus on dimensions of development beyond labour statistics. The forging of a Global Coalition for Social Justice will require an agreement on the metrics produced by many international organizations in relation to the quality of employment, social cohesion, well-being, education, health, food, human rights, equity, poverty and many other dimensions tackling transitions and crises. [12] This initiative will surely make use of all the standards and definitions defined by the ICLS and those adopted by other statistical standard-setting mechanisms, such as the United Nations Statistical Commission.

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[9] ILO, *Report of the Conference,* 18th ICLS, ICLS/18/2008/IV/FINAL, 2008.

[10] ILO, "Decent work indicators".

[11] UN, *Our Common Agenda: Report of the Secretary-General*, 2021.

[12] See, for example, UN Economic Commission for Europe, *Handbook on Measuring Quality of Employment: A Statistical Framework*, 2015; UN Economic and Social Council, *In-depth review of the "social cohesion" concept prepared by Statistics Canada*, Conference of European Statisticians, 71st plenary session, ECE/CES/2023/8, 2023; and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "Measuring Well-being and Progress: Well-being Research".

1.6. Labour statistics and "Beyond GDP" discussions

21. In 2009, the ILO Director-General participated in the launch of a report produced by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress established by the French Government. [13] The motivation behind the report was the dissatisfaction with the use of gross domestic product (GDP) as the main measure to track economic performance and social progress in the world at a time when a financial crisis was seriously affecting well-being. This Commission addressed the flaws, limitations and gaps which are usually noted with the use of GDP as an indicator. A key proposal of the Commission was to initiate a process that could lead to a refinement of the indicator and to combine it with a set of other indicators, which would address crucial issues and areas not covered by GDP and the prevailing System of National Accounts (SNA). The main recommendations were focused on the need to have better measures – and better measurement – of economic performance, adjusting focus from mere production to encompass well-being, broadening the valuation of production to include all non-market productive activities, and generating better measures of income and wealth distribution. The Commission also highlighted the multidimensional nature of well-being, the need to address sustainability and environmental issues and the need to focus on quality of life, including by measuring time use and engendering indicators focused on distributional issues.

22. On the basis of the Commission's recommendations, various global, regional and national "Beyond GDP" initiatives were launched by many organizations, academic institutions and NSOs throughout the world. For example, the 2030 Agenda offered a wider approach to incorporating sustainable development into global statistical production, trying to emphasize the need to complement GDP with an array of other indicators to track development and well-being. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had already tried to do this with its *Human Development Reports* and its suite of indicators.

23. Previously, in 2003, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework presented the opportunity to bridge indicators on economic activities with the environment, one of the blind spots identified in the current methods of measuring GDP. This was complemented by the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting framework adopted in 2021.

24. Furthermore, in 2021, the UN High-level Committee on Programmes established a core group of UN system entities, including the ILO, to discuss the UN's contribution to measuring progress beyond GDP. Its conclusions, produced in 2022, were endorsed by all heads of UN agencies through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, acknowledging the Beyond GDP approach as being central to the follow-up to the UN Secretary-General's report *Our Common Agenda*. [14] A UN policy brief on the subject was issued in May 2023 as one of the main inputs to the Summit of the Future that will take place in 2024. [15]

25. While the above activities are being carried out at the global level, a refined SNA is being discussed actively and is expected to be launched in 2025 by the United Nations Statistical Commission. The SNA update and extension is meant to focus on key issues referring to well-being, the digital economy, globalization, sustainability, distributional aspects, the informal economy and unpaid work. All these aspects are clearly connected with labour statistics in many domains. The blind

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[13] Joseph E. Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and Jean-Paul Fitoussi, *Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress*, 2009.

[14] United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, *Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes on its virtual consultation on Progress Beyond GDP*, CEB/2021/6/Add.1, 2022.

[15] UN, *Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 4 – Valuing What Counts: Framework to Progress Beyond Gross Domestic Product,* 2023.

spots explicitly identified by the core group of the High-level Committee on Programmes include the social and economic value of unpaid work (particularly unpaid care work) and of human development, human rights and governance aspects; and the social and economic costs of environmental aspects (such as pollution and climate change) and of inequalities in all dimensions (including in respect of rights, income, gender, education and health). The Beyond GDP initiative is seeking to place people more centrally within the metrics, to enable all countries to produce the necessary indicators in a harmonized manner through official statistics, but also by being innovative with the possible sources of information. [16]

26. Labour statistics play an important role in the Beyond GDP initiative, which is why the ILO's Department of Statistics has been participating actively in the ongoing discussions on the refinements of the SNA towards the new system to be adopted in 2025. In this regard, the present discussions by the 21st ICLS on the informal economy will be very relevant to the way the new SNA will incorporate this in its way of measurement. As part of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, the ILO has sought to incorporate the latest statistical frameworks adopted by the 19th ICLS in 2013 and the 20th ICLS in 2018 into the core of the SNA and is collaborating closely as a formal reviewer of the draft chapters on labour accounts and the informal economy. This role will allow the degree of coherence between the frameworks to be maximized and ensure the transparency of their correspondence. The ILO has also made strong contributions to other topics of high priority to it, such as unpaid work and the care economy.

▶ 2.   SDG indicators

2.1.   Monitoring the SDG indicators under the ILO's custodianship

27. As a designated focal point for reporting to the UN Statistics Division, the ILO's Department of Statistics serves as the central hub within the ILO for collecting and providing statistical, methodological and analytical inputs for key SDG reports and outputs. It has been fulfilling its annual reporting duties to the UN Statistics Division for 15 indicators, consistently providing timely, complete and comprehensive inputs.

28. Moreover, its data compilation and production efforts have led to a substantial increase in data availability for nearly all the SDG indicators under the ILO's custodianship, with the number of countries covered having doubled or even tripled for some indicators. The increased availability also applies to required disaggregation and to global and regional estimates. Table 1 provides a summary of improvements in current data availability for the ILO's Member States since the 20th ICLS in 2018.

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[16] For an in-depth report, see United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, *Valuing What Counts – United Nations System-wide Contribution on Progress Beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP)*, 2022.

▶ **Table 1. SDG indicators under ILO custodianship – State of play in 2018 and 2023**

SDG indicator	Series	ILO Member States covered		Global and regional estimates
		in 2018	in 2023	
1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)	Proportion of the employed population living below the international poverty line, by sex and age	110	117	Yes
1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims, and the poor and the vulnerable.	Proportion of population covered by at least one social protection cash benefit	72	164	Yes
	Proportion of children covered by social protection benefits	61	122	Yes
	Proportion of women giving birth covered by maternity benefits	66	128	Yes
	Proportion of persons with disabilities receiving benefits	80	137	Yes
	Proportion of unemployed receiving benefits	83	171	Yes
	Proportion of workers covered in case of employment injury	45	159	Yes
	Proportion of older persons receiving a pension	158	182	Yes
	Proportion of vulnerable persons receiving benefits	67	144	Yes
	Proportion of poor population receiving social assistance cash benefit	53	105	Yes
5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	Proportion of managerial positions held by women (13th ICLS)	148	173	Yes
	Proportion of women in senior and middle management positions (13th ICLS)	78	133	
	Proportion of managerial positions held by women (19th ICLS)	–	94	
	Proportion of women in senior and middle management positions (19th ICLS)	–	78	
8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person		176	176	

SDG indicator	Series	ILO Member States covered		Global and regional estimates
		in 2018	in 2023	
8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex	Proportion of informal employment, by sector and sex (13th ICLS)	64	135	Yes, new time series as of 2023
	Proportion of informal employment, by sector and sex (19th ICLS)	–	77	
8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities	Average hourly earnings of employees by sex and occupation (local currency)	64	120	
8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Unemployment rate, by sex and age (13th ICLS)	173	184	Yes
	Unemployment rate, by sex and disability (13th ICLS)	19	103	
	Unemployment rate, by sex and age (19th ICLS)	–	99	
	Unemployment rate, by sex and disability (19th ICLS)	–	69	
8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training, by sex (13th ICLS)	127	161	Yes
	Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training, by sex (19th ICLS)	–	91	
8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	Proportion of children engaged in economic activity, by sex and age.	70	90	Yes
	Proportion of children engaged in economic activity and household chores, by sex and age	79	122	Yes
8.8.1 Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status	Non-fatal occupational injuries among employees, by sex and migrant status (per 100,000 employees)	76	88	
	Fatal occupational injuries among employees, by sex and migrant status (per 100,000 employees)	72	87	
8.8.2 Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status		0	187	Yes, added in 2020

SDG indicator	Series	ILO Member States covered		Global and regional estimates
		in 2018	in 2023	
8.b.1 Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy		0	138	Not applicable
9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (ILO data, custodianship of United Nations Industrial Development Organization)	Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (13th ICLS)	159	178	Yes
	Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (19th ICLS)	–	97	
10.4.1 Labour share of GDP		53	176	Yes, added in 2020
10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination		0	3	

– indicates information not available.

29. To support the compilation, production, interpretation and effective use of SDG labour-related indicators by countries around the world, the ILO's Department of Statistics provides an array of capacity-building initiatives. These range from training activities related to statistical sources, international statistical standards and methodological guidelines, to capacity-building related to data disaggregation, data analysis, and complementary indicators and frameworks. Targeting diverse audiences, including the ILO's constituents and NSOs, these initiatives have bolstered the quality and availability of data for SDG indicators. Notably, the Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy, jointly organized by the ILO's Department of Statistics and the Turin Centre, has been instrumental in advancing the measurement of SDG indicators. Furthermore, the ILO's Department of Statistics has produced and regularly updates methodological resources and analyses pertaining to SDG labour-related indicators, ensuring the availability of reliable and relevant information.

2.1.1 Online reporting using the SDMX global data structure definition

30. In order to facilitate the development of SDMX-based data [17] and metadata exchange formats for SDG indicators, a Working Group on SDMX was established by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, composed of statisticians and technical experts on SDMX from national statistical systems, UN specialized agencies and other international organizations, with the UN Statistics Division acting as secretariat.

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[17] Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) is a standard approved by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in 2005 for exchanging statistical data and metadata and endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2008 as the preferred standard for data exchange.

31.   Version 1.0 of the global SDMX artefacts for SDG indicators and guidelines for its use and customization were released in May 2019, after a six-month period of testing. Since then, the global data structure definition (DSD) for the SDGs is updated and published up to four times per year, as necessary. These releases coincide with those of the global SDG database. The current version is version 1.14, which was released in July 2023.

32.   The ILO participated in the pilot testing of the artefacts before their release and, since March 2020, has submitted the data for SDG indicators using SDMX. In 2020 and 2021, data were sent in SDMX files by email. Since 2022, data for SDG indicators have been published in ILOSTAT's SDMX API and can be queried using the global structures, enabling machine-to-machine communications in the reporting to the UN Statistics Division.

2.2   Conceptual advancement of Tier II and Tier III indicators

33.   As discussed further in section 3.23, in October 2018, recognizing the need to have an internationally agreed methodology to measure SDG indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights consistent with UN General Assembly resolution 71/313, [18] the 20th ICLS adopted a resolution concerning the methodology of the SDG indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights (hereinafter referred to as the "20th ICLS resolution II").

34.   In its resolution II, the 20th ICLS confirmed that the ILO should be the custodian agency for the indicator and recommended that the Governing Body of the ILO consider the creation of a tripartite committee to further address improvements to the methodology. The methodology set out in the annex to resolution II clarifies that the mandate of the committee was "not to vet the SDG 8.8.2 indicators prior to their release, but to consider improvements that could be implemented in 2020" and emphasizes that "the primary purpose of the SDG indicators is to establish benchmarks for the consistent monitoring of progress and that the SDG process does not allow for methodological revisions for the construction of SDG indicators prior to 2020 nor on an ad hoc basis, as this would undermine the primary purpose of these indicators."

35.   At its 335th Session (March 2019), the Governing Body of the ILO requested the Director-General to implement the 20th ICLS resolution II. [19] At its 341st Session (March 2021), it approved the establishment of a tripartite committee to consider further improvements to the approved methodology of SDG indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights. [20] Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting had to be postponed, but it was ultimately scheduled for September and October 2022. [21]

36.   In line with its mandate and in consideration of the comments provided previously by the ILO's tripartite constituents, the Office prepared a technical note for submission to the tripartite committee containing a set of proposed refinements to the methodology. The refinements concerned the following aspects of the methodology as outlined in the annex to the 20th ICLS resolution II and the SDG indicator metadata: [22] triggered coding; the application of default rule;

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[18] UN General Assembly, resolution 71/313, Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/71/313 (2017).

[19] ILO, *Report of the Director-General – First Supplementary Report: Reports of the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians*, GB.335/INS/14/1, 2019.

[20] ILO, *Composition, agenda and programme of standing bodies and meetings*, GB.341/INS/16(Rev.1), 2021.

[21] ILO, *Composition, agenda and programme of standing bodies and meetings*, GB.344/INS/18(Rev.1), 2022 and ILO, *Composition, agenda and programme of standing bodies and meetings*, GB.345/INS/7, 2022.

[22] UN Statistical Division, *SDG indicator metadata (Harmonized metadata template - format version 1.1)*, 2023.

dropping countries from reporting on SDG indicator 8.8.2; and reporting for non-ratifying countries.

37. After a series of discussions, each of the proposed refinements was agreed on and accepted unanimously by the tripartite committee and was subsequently adopted by the Governing Body at its 347th Session (March 2023). [23] With the agreed refinements, as of 2023, all the ILO's Member States have reported on the indicator with a continuous time series from 2015 to 2021. In view of the agreed refinements and their implementation, the ILO made a request to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators that SDG indicator 8.8.2 be considered for reclassification from Tier II to Tier I under the global indicator framework.

38. SDG indicator 10.7.1 on migrant recruitment costs was included in the SDG monitoring framework to support countries' efforts to achieve fair and orderly migration. It provides a measure of the average costs that employee migrant workers incur during the recruitment process, expressed as a percentage of their earnings abroad. A high indicator can signal issues in the recruitment process that place undue economic burden on migrant workers and expose them to potential abuse, limiting the development benefits of international labour migration. It is the only indicator specific to labour migration included in the SDG framework and is one of the indicators being considered to monitor implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration of 2018, in particular objective 6, which is to facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work.

39. As a co-custodian of SDG indicator 10.7.1, the ILO, in collaboration with the World Bank, advanced work to develop a methodology to measure it that is suitable for implementation from the perspective of either a country of origin or a country of destination. The outcomes of this work resulted in the publication in 2019 of draft guidelines for the collection of statistics for the indicator and an operational manual on recruitment costs, which were validated by countries through a technical meeting. [24] As a result, SDG indicator 10.7.1 was reclassified as a Tier II indicator in October 2019.

40. Since then, the ILO has promoted the measurement of SDG indicator 10.7.1 as part of official statistics through: the provision of direct technical support to NSOs to implement pilot surveys and conduct national surveys, including specialized migration surveys and add-on modules in national household surveys; capacity-building through dedicated training modules on the measurement of SDG indicator 10.7.1 in the context of the Turin Centre's annual workshop on Measuring and Analysing International Labour Migration [25] and in regional and national workshops; the validation and refinement of the data collection tools through cognitive testing; and the preparation of updated practical tools including survey questionnaires and explanatory notes.

41. While significant progress has been achieved in the five-year period since the 20th ICLS, the official measurement and reporting of SDG indicator 10.7.1 by countries remains limited, and is carried out mainly by countries in Asia, and increasingly in Africa. [26] Very limited progress has been

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[23] ILO, *Report on the work of the tripartite committee to consider further improvements to the approved methodology of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights*, GB.347/INS/INF/5, 2023.

[24] ILO and Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development, *Statistics for SDG indicator 10.7.1: Draft Guidelines for their Collection*, 2019, and ILO, *Operational Manual on Recruitment Costs – SDG 10.7.1*, Working paper, 2019.

[25] Turin Centre, "E-Learning on Measuring and Analysing Labour Migration".

[26] The ILO has provided support with pilot testing or national survey implementation to measure SDG indicator 10.7.1 in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, South Africa and Viet Nam.

documented among predominantly migrant-receiving countries. [27] National implementation was severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with many countries halting or postponing data collection activities. An additional factor hindering progress is the need for a survey that can adequately capture the target population (return international migrants in origin countries and international migrants in destination countries). For countries with a high share of resident international migrants, the measurement of SDG indicator 10.7.1 may be feasible through an add-on module attached to the national LFS. Where this is not the case, a specialized migration survey is required, underscoring the importance of funding to establish such surveys as part of national household survey programmes in countries with important international migration flows.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views as to: (a) whether the measurement of SDG indicator 10.7.1 is a policy priority in their country; (b) whether their country already measures or has plans to measure this indicator; and (c) whether the ILO should expand its activities to further refine the methodology and promote the regular production of data on SDG indicator 10.7.1 as part of official labour statistics.

▶ 3. Developments in concepts and methods employed for specific topics of labour statistics

3.1. New statistical standards on the informal economy

42. The need to revise the resolution concerning statistics of employment in the informal sector, adopted by the 15th ICLS in 1993, and the *Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment*, adopted by the 17th ICLS in 2003, was discussed at the 20th ICLS in 2018.

43. It was the view of the 20th ICLS that a revision was needed to address identified issues and problems inherent in the current statistical framework on informality and to develop a more comprehensive set of statistical standards, aligned to the latest statistical standards on labour, with improved definitions and concepts built on countries' gained experience of measuring informal employment and the informal sector.

44. To support this work, a working group was established in 2019, consisting of representatives of governments from all regions, employers' and workers' representatives, and observers. The working group met four times between 2019 and 2022 and made substantial progress in developing a proposal for a new set of statistical standards concerning statistics on the informal economy, in the form of a draft resolution, for discussion and adoption by the 21st ICLS. To widen the consultation process and obtain feedback on the proposal developed by the working group, the ILO also conducted a series of preparatory regional meetings of labour statisticians in all regions throughout 2022. These meetings focused on both the relevance to the regional context and the technical feasibility of the proposed new standards.

45. In line with established practice, the Governing Body of the ILO agreed at its 345th Session (June 2022) that a Tripartite Meeting of Experts in Labour Statistics on the Revision of the

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[27] The Republic of Korea and South Africa are currently conducting activities to validate and adapt the measurement of SDG indicator 10.7.1 to their national contexts.

Standards for Statistics on Informality would be established to examine the proposal prior to the 21st ICLS. [28] At the meeting, which was held in February 2023, the experts expressed strong support for the proposal and identified some points that could be adjusted or clarified. The Office updated the draft resolution taking into account the input received from the meeting and the text is being presented to the 21st ICLS. [29]

46.   The draft resolution sets the statistical boundaries of informality by introducing the underlying concept of informal productive activities and the overarching concepts of the informal economy and the informal market economy. It defines new concepts to be introduced, such as partly informal productive activities, the overarching concept of informal work, and informality in relation to forms of work other than employment, thus aligning the framework to the statistical definition of work adopted by the 19th ICLS in its resolution I and to the general production boundary as defined by the SNA. It contains proposed changes in terms of scope and existing concepts, including changes in the conceptual and operational definitions of the formal sector, the informal sector, the household own-use and community sector and informal employment, intended to strengthen the current definitions and contribute to increased harmonization. The draft resolution also provides general recommendations on the collection of data on the different components of the informal economy and a set of indicators to assist countries in producing statistics on the informal economy.

47.   To further support the draft resolution, a set of room documents is being provided, expanding on some selected topics relevant to the proposal, including the conceptual framework; dependent contractors and informality; contributing family workers and informality; and current country practices for defining informal sector and informal employment. [30]

48.   The 21st ICLS will be asked to evaluate the proposed new standards for statistics on the informal economy in a dedicated committee and make appropriate recommendations concerning their adoption by the Governing Body of the ILO.

49.   In parallel with the revision of statistical standards, the ILO has been engaged in developing improved data collection methods for the measurement of informal employment and the informal sector. Pilot tests have been conducted within the *Engendering informality statistics* project, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the project *Developing labour statistics with a focus on informality in the Arab countries*, funded by the Ford Foundation. The results will be used to provide support to countries to implement the new standards and improve the measurement of informality, particularly from a gender perspective.

50.   To further build the capacity of countries to produce more in-depth policy-relevant data, an extended informal economy indicator framework has been developed, enabling countries to deepen the understanding of the informal economy in its multiple dimensions and further support the development and monitoring of policies. Further information is provided in a room document. [31]

51.   The indicator framework, as well as the guidelines for data collection and the conceptual framework for statistics on the informal economy, will need to be updated to reflect the resolution

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[28] GB.345/INS/7.

[29] ILO, *Statistics on the informal economy: Report for discussion at the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians*, ICLS/21/2023/II, 2023, Appendix.

[30] Room documents 1–4.

[31] Room document 5.

as finally adopted. The intention is to publish these documents as part of a comprehensive set of guidance on statistics on the informal economy.

52. The provision of capacity-building, training and technical assistance to NSOs and other relevant stakeholders would be required to support the implementation of the new standards. This would need to include aspects such as data collection and publication, interpretation and understanding of the new standards and communication of their impact.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference will be asked to: (a) evaluate the proposed new standards in a dedicated committee and make appropriate recommendations concerning their adoption by the Governing Body of the ILO; and (b) express their views on the proposed follow-up activities during the sittings of the committee established by the Conference to consider the draft resolution concerning statistics on the informal economy.

3.2. Implementation of the resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization

53. The 19th ICLS resolution I marked an important change in the domain of labour statistics. The resolution updates existing definitions adopted in 1982 and significantly broadens the scope of statistics on work and the labour market. In addition to forming a new base for the measurement and reporting of statistics, the 19th ICLS standards established a new base for the wider set of statistical standards, forming part of the motivation behind the new standards on work relationships adopted at the 20th ICLS and the proposed new standards on informality to be discussed at the 21st ICLS.

54. The period since the 20th ICLS has seen a progressive expansion of the implementation of the latest standards through labour force surveys and, in some cases, through other household surveys such as household income and expenditure surveys. In addition, the 19th ICLS standards have been widely applied in the latest round of population and housing censuses, supported by guidance and model questionnaires developed and published by the ILO.

55. The ILO has widely supported the implementation of the standards at the national and global levels through a combination of methodological development and testing, direct technical assistance, capacity-building and inter-agency coordination, as described below.

3.2.1. Methodological development and pilot studies on labour force surveys

56. As reported at the 20th ICLS, between 2015 and 2017, the ILO conducted a series of pilot studies in partnership with ten countries across different regions, testing different LFS questionnaires to establish which approaches could be recommended for wide application. The studies combined qualitative (cognitive) and quantitative testing to thoroughly evaluate the questionnaires and provided a strong evidence base for guidance and model questionnaires that were published in 2018, including an electronic questionnaire based on the Census and Survey Processing System (CSPro) for computer-assisted approaches. In follow-up, the ILO has engaged in a range of different activities to expand the guidance available and test existing guidance in additional settings.

57. Between 2017 and 2019, the ILO, in partnership with the World Bank and the Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka, implemented a pilot study with the primary objective of comparing the outcomes of an LFS and a multi-topic living standards survey – both designed to

apply the 19th ICLS definitions. In addition, the study allowed the testing of additional content of interest, such as the application of the revised International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18), as adopted at the 20th ICLS in 2018, including questions that could be used to identify dependent contractors.

58. Among many findings of interest, the study in Sri Lanka demonstrated a high level of sensitivity in the measurements to survey design, with a gap of over 20 per cent in the estimates of female employment between the two surveys in the first round of testing, and a smaller gap for male employment. Updates to the multi-topic survey before a second round of testing narrowed the gap to 6 per cent. This emphasizes that women's employment is particularly sensitive to survey design – with evidence showing that this related to the need for recovery questions and careful wording to ensure that casual and part-time work, as well as work helping in family businesses and farms, was identified. In addition, the study provided evidence that the overall survey design and focus (for example, on poverty or labour measurement) can impact the estimates generated, indicating that it should not be assumed that comparable estimates will be generated by different surveys, although careful design and testing can certainly reduce differences. The results of the study have been published through joint reports of the ILO and the World Bank [32] and used to update existing ILO model questionnaires and guidance. [33]

59. In addition to the methodological work described above, to improve the accessibility of ILO model questionnaires, a new interactive LFS questionnaire viewer has been launched on the ILOSTAT portal, showing both questionnaire content and supporting documentation such as national adaptation guides and derivations for key indicators, to support the generation of more harmonized and comparable estimates across countries. [34]

3.2.2. Addition of new topics to LFS tools and guidance

60. The initial rounds of pilot studies on LFS questionnaires and the initial published model questionnaires focused on the core content to identify employment, labour underutilization and own-use production of goods on the basis of the 19th ICLS definitions. Based on those studies, three different versions of an LFS questionnaire have been published by the ILO, reflecting the different approaches to the measurement of employment that were demonstrated to generate comparable results and that could be more suitable depending on the country's context. Over time, this core content has been expanded, with the addition of several new topics. The general strategy being pursued is to apply a modular approach to the overall LFS content, based on a core set of content that is included in all cases, with additional topics depending on national context and priorities. One of the objectives of this approach is to ensure that the LFS covers as wide a range of work-related topics over time as possible (including the measurement of different forms of work) and that the process of adaptation is as flexible and as low of a burden as possible, as supported by pilot studies and evidence.

61. In addition to the wide range of topics already covered in the standard model LFS questionnaires, the additional topics include qualifications and skills mismatches, volunteer work, functional difficulties, barriers to employment and occupational injuries. Furthermore, more recent studies on informality and unpaid domestic and care work (discussed further in sections 3.5 and 3.16) are allowing the content to be further expanded to include the own-use provision of services and a

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[32] ILO and the World Bank Group, *Measuring Women and Men's Work: Main Findings from a Joint ILO and World Bank Study in Sri Lanka*, 2021.

[33] ILOSTAT, "Labour force survey (LFS) resources".

[34] ILOSTAT, "LFS questionnaire viewer".

variety of topics of relevance to the understanding of informality, such as the use of information and communications technology in businesses, asset ownership, earnings, access to finance and motivation for working in family businesses. The general long-term strategy of the ILO is to further refine and expand the model questionnaire content on high priority topics, support application in countries and expand guidance in related areas, such as dissemination and the management of breaks in series.

3.2.3. Amendments to the resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization

62. Through the various rounds of testing and development work undertaken in recent years, a small number of issues have been identified with the 19th ICLS definitions, including with regard to ambiguities or wording at risk of misinterpretation. A room document presents proposed amendments to the definitions related to volunteer work and the own-use provision of services, which are intended to remove ambiguities in the existing definitions. [35]

63. A remaining area of potential further work relates to the implementation of the definition of subsistence foodstuff producers contained in the 19th ICLS resolution I. The definition identifies subsistence foodstuff producers as a subgroup of own-use producers of foodstuff. According to the criteria proposed to identify subsistence foodstuff producers, the activities must contribute to the livelihood of the household or family and people engaged in such production as recreational or leisure activities are excluded. The resolution further states that the work should be carried out without workers hired for pay or profit. No guidance currently exists on the application of the stated criteria to identify subsistence foodstuff producers and, in practice, some countries are reporting all own-use producers of foodstuff as subsistence foodstuff producers.

64. To address this gap, the ILO included questions to operationalize the contribution to livelihood in the studies in Sri Lanka and assessed the results. The conclusion was that the measurement was very sensitive to question wording, and that there is a lack of a wider reference for statistics on subsistence activity, extending beyond the scope of the 19th ICLS definition. For example, there are questions as to whether subsistence is more appropriately measured at the household level or at the individual level and how (if at all) the identification of subsistence foodstuff producers should relate to other activities of the individual or households (such as employment of the person themselves through another activity). From this initial work, although it is not clear whether any amendment would be required to the 19th ICLS definition itself, it is considered that further work is required to support the generation of useful statistics on subsistence, including on the range of indicators of potential interest, the range of concepts involved and appropriate measurement approaches. The ILO has engaged in initial discussions with the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the potential to engage in further work in this area over the coming years.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference will be asked to express their views on: (a) the proposed amendments to the definitions provided in the 19th ICLS resolution I; and (b) the requirement for further work on the topic of subsistence foodstuff production.

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[35] Room document 6.

3.2.4. Technical assistance and capacity-building related to the 19th ICLS resolution I

65. Since 2018, the ILO has conducted a wide range of regional training activities covering ICLS standards and related topics. In addition, it has been extensively engaged in providing direct technical assistance to support the implementation of the standards adopted by the 19th ICLS, allowing their application to be extended significantly. These activities are discussed in more detail in sections 6.3–6.6 of this report.

66. Furthermore, the ILO has taken into account the latest standards when updating the content of the Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy, which has been carried out on multiple occasions since 2018, reaching a wide audience. The Academy and other global capacity-building activities are discussed in more depth in section 6.1.3.

3.3. Review of national practices to compile labour statistics

67. In June 2023, the ILO's Department of Statistics issued a questionnaire on national practices in different areas of labour statistics, such as LFS methodology, the concepts used and the range of data collected on different topics. The intention is to use the responses to establish a database of practices which can be maintained on an ongoing basis. Some of the key information gathered through this exercise will be presented for the information of the 21st ICLS.

3.4. Implementation of the resolution concerning statistics on work relationships

68. Resolution I adopted by the 20th ICLS in 2018 replaced the previous standards adopted by the 15th ICLS in 1993 (ICSE-93) and includes a revised International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18), an International Classification of Status at Work (ICSaW-18) covering all forms of work, and a set of cross-cutting variables and categories.

69. ICSE-18 consists of ten detailed categories of status in employment, including four subcategories of employees, separate categories for owner-operators of corporations and the new category of dependent contractors, thereby providing a more detailed classification that better responds to the need of countries to provide statistics that reflect the ongoing development in labour markets.

70. Supporting the transition to the new standards has been an important part of the ILO's work programme since their adoption in 2018. The Office has been actively supporting countries in all regions with the testing and implementation of ICSE-18, and has provided methodological assistance to countries, organized capacity-building events and promoted awareness-raising.

71. While the COVID-19 pandemic, to some extent, paused activities in implementing ICSE-18, countries have since started to give the implementation more attention. In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, extensive tests have been conducted in seven countries and six additional countries have planned tests for 2023 and 2024. Two countries have implemented ICSE-18 and expect to publish data by the end of 2023. In Asia and the Pacific, one country has implemented ICSE-18 while four have carried out tests. In Africa, four countries have implemented ICSE-18 and a further six have planned tests. In Europe and Central Asia, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) has established a task force to develop recommendations for data collection in respect of ICSE-18 in all European Union countries. Pilots will be conducted in 2023 and 2024.

72. Based on the increased experience gained by countries, the ILO has continually updated the proposed methods for integrating ICSE-18 measurement in household surveys in the ICSE-18 e-manual. [36] Particular attention has been given to the identification of the new category of dependent contractors and on reducing the number of questions used to address concerns of increased response burden. The methodology will continue to be updated to reflect the latest developments and gained experience, and the ILO is committed to engaging in capacity-building events to support country implementation.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference may wish to reflect on the range of tools currently available to support the implementation of the 20th ICLS resolution I and consider how best to ensure the wide application of the standards and the types of support needed to disseminate the standards and tools, including through capacity-building activities.

3.5. Measurement of unpaid domestic and care work

73. The adoption of the 19th ICLS resolution I brought own-use provision of service work (colloquially referred to as "unpaid domestic and care work") within the reference scope of activities for labour force statistics.

74. Reflecting on progress made since the 19th ICLS, amid an "ever-increasing demand on countries to generate statistics on unpaid work activities", the 20th ICLS identified a "critical need for guidance and methodological development related to time-use methods" and noted the many challenges associated with time-use measurement, not only in respect of "methods of data collection, but also analysis and use of the data generated". [37]

75. Responding to this stated need, the ILO initiated a programme of work to support the production of statistics on the own-use provision of services through the periodic attachment of light time-use modules to national labour force surveys. Beginning in June 2020, with financial support from the United Nations Foundation and the collaborative technical and advocacy platform Data 2X, the ILO partnered with NSOs and research institutes to develop, test and refine new modular time-use measurement tools. The programme of work drew on existing guidance and best practice, taking account of recent developments towards harmonized international standards for the production of time-use statistics and technical advances in computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) software capabilities.

76. Outputs of this programme of work include new model light time-use modules (developed in CSPro for CAPI mode) and national adaptation, implementation and data processing guides. The ILO has also developed a dedicated training course on the topic of unpaid care work, launched through the Turin Centre in 2022, and has integrated the topic of the own-use provision of services and time-use measurement within its training and technical assistance programmes. Key outputs from this work are highlighted in a room document. [38]

77. The ILO continues to be active in providing technical inputs to inform the updating of international standards and guidance on the production of time-use statistics and on the related topic of the

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[36] ILOSTAT, "ICSE-18 e-manual".

[37] ILO, *Report of the Conference*, 20th ICLS, Report III, ICLS/20/2018/3, 2018, para. 126.

[38] Room document 7.

valuation of unpaid household services, to ensure alignment with the concepts, reference definitions and indicators as specified by the 19th ICLS. The ILO, as a member of the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics, coordinated by the UN Statistics Division, is actively participating in the revision of the 2005 UN *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use*, scheduled for publication in 2024. [39]

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to indicate their support for the continuation of work to support countries in attaching light time-use modules to their LFS to improve the measurement of own-use provision of service work.

3.6. Measurement of volunteer work

78. As requested by the 20th ICLS, the ILO's Department of Statistics has updated the existing volunteer work measurement guidance and tools. Through excellent collaboration and thanks to the generous support provided by the United Nations Volunteers Programme, a new LFS module has been developed and validated through qualitative and quantitative tests conducted in Senegal and Ukraine.

79. The ILO's Department of Statistics provides on-demand support to interested countries for the implementation of the module. Detailed advice on the module's national adaptation and implementation can be accessed by countries on the Department's website, [40] by downloading the *Volunteer work measurement guide*, [41] accessing the LFS questionnaire viewer, or by taking the *Measuring volunteer work* self-learning course hosted by the Turin Centre. The guide and the course are available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Also, since 2021, the Turin Centre has incorporated the measurement of volunteer work in its programme of capacity-building activities, which include the Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy.

80. The updated guidance has been promoted at different relevant national, regional and global events (such as the World Volunteer Conference in 2022 and the World Statistics Congress in 2023) by both the ILO and the United Nations Volunteers Programme. Ukraine is the only country that is known to have produced official volunteer work statistics using the new ILO module in 2022. Several other countries have expressed their wish to do so, and are working on achieving this with support from the ILO's Department of Statistics.

81. As an important part of the volunteer work performed in society is the provision of unpaid care services, the ILO's Department of Statistics has invested time and resources in developing tools to identify volunteer care work in survey data collected using the LFS volunteer work module. To this end, an experimental version of a correspondence table linking the relevant codes of the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS) and those of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) has been developed and tested using data collected in Ukraine. It allows for the aggregation of time-use statistics and LFS data on time spent in diverse types of unpaid care work and for the production of more comprehensive estimates.

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[39] UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work*, 2005.

[40] ILOSTAT, "Statistics on volunteer work".

[41] ILO, *Volunteer work measurement guide: Guidance on implementing the ILO-recommended add-on module on volunteer work in national labour force surveys*, 2021.

82.   In addition to methodological work, the ILO's Department of Statistics updates the database of national volunteer work indicators on the ILOSTAT portal on an annual basis.

3.7. Statistical definitions of care work

83.   The term "care work" refers to a wide range of productive activities that share an orientation to meeting people's physical, psychological, cognitive and emotional needs. [42] Interest in the topic of care work has grown considerably in recent years, as the care economy has gained prominence within policy agendas worldwide. [43] There is growing recognition of the social and economic value of unpaid care work, amid attention to persistent gender-based inequities and debates on Beyond GDP. Another important driver is the acceleration of demographic changes and the demands – and opportunities – these present for investments in the care economy and decent jobs. [44]

84.   Care work is undertaken in a wide variety of economic units (in private homes, communities, and market and non-market enterprises). Identical care work activities may be performed, in identical economic units, as paid or unpaid work, and as formal or informal work. These considerations can complicate the delineation of the boundaries between care work and non-care work. A further complication is that data on care work may require a combination of different measurement sources.

85.   As a result of this complexity, and in the absence of internationally standardized reference definitions and guidelines for measurement, a wide divergence of classification practices can be observed among countries, international agencies, academic research institutions and non-governmental organizations. The difficulties this presents for international comparability and monitoring over time is well recognized. There is growing demand, both from within the wider UN system and from ILO constituents, for an internationally standardized definition of care work.

86.   The 19th ICLS resolution I provides a coherent conceptual starting point for the advancement of an international definition of care work as a cross-cutting concept. Work to develop a new reference definition, a conceptual framework and measurement guidance, harmonized to existing international standards and in parallel with ongoing work to update the International Standard Classification of Occupations adopted by a tripartite Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics in December 2007 (ISCO-08) is proposed. This work would commence after the 21st ICLS with the establishment of a technical working group on care work, comprising members from among the ILO constituents and qualified observers. Further information is provided in a room document. [45]

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to: (a) indicate their views on the need to develop a statistical reference definition, conceptual framework and indicator framework to standardize the measurement of care work, for submission to the 22nd ICLS for approval; and (b) in case such standards are needed, indicate their support for the establishment of a technical working group on care work to initiate the detailed work to support this development, or make suggestions for other ways to advance this work.

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[42] ILO, *Care work and care jobs for the future of decent work*, 2018.

[43] ILO, *Care at work: Investing in care leave and services for a more gender equal world of work*, 2022.

[44] ILO, *Care at work: Investing in care leave and services for a more gender equal world of work*.

[45] Room document 8.

3.8. Update of the resolutions and guidance on the measurement of work-related income

87. The current standards on the measurement of income resulting from engagement in work activities were established more than 20 years ago in the resolution concerning the measurement of employment-related income adopted by the 16th ICLS in 1998 (hereinafter referred to as the 16th ICLS resolution I) and in the resolution concerning household income and expenditure statistics adopted by the 17th ICLS in 2003 (hereinafter referred to as the 17th ICLS resolution I).

88. The 16th ICLS resolution I established standards on the measurement of employment-related income, setting concepts and definitions building on standards established earlier, mainly through resolutions of the 10th ICLS, the 13th ICLS and the 15th ICLS. Since 1998, however, important changes have been made to the core statistical concepts on which this resolution was based, including with regard to working time, employment and status in employment, by the 18th ICLS, 19th ICLS and 20th ICLS, respectively. As a result, parts of the text of the 16th ICLS resolution I became inconsistent with the latest standards.

89. The 17th ICLS resolution I, in addition to the concept of income from employment, introduced the concept of income from the production of services for own consumption, which is part of own-use production – a form of work newly defined by the 19th ICLS resolution I. Income from the other forms of work defined in the 19th ICLS resolution I (unpaid trainee work, volunteer work and other forms of work), however, are not mentioned. Additionally, the 17th ICLS resolution I builds on the same key employment-related income concepts and definitions introduced in the 16th ICLS resolution I, which are inconsistent with those introduced after 2003.

90. To align these two resolutions with the latest standards and to update the measurement advice they contain, the ILO's Department of Statistics initiated a process to amend them. Drafts of the amended resolutions with corresponding explanations were prepared and discussed with the ILO constituents during regional and interregional online consultations in May and June 2023. The feedback received helped identify amendments to be incorporated into the final drafts that will be presented at the 21st ICLS for discussion and adoption. The updated drafts are provided in a room document. [46]

91. The amended resolutions will serve as a foundation for the future work by the ILO's Department of Statistics on the improvement and development of standards, guidance and tools to measure work-related income. During the consultations, the constituents identified several main priority areas where significant progress must be achieved, relating to:

- the development of a comprehensive framework of concepts, definitions and indicators related to work-related income describing their correspondence to other statistical frameworks such as the SNA;

- the review of concepts and definitions to assess the need for change and for the development of new ones;

- the improvement of measurement guidance and tools for household and establishment surveys and administrative sources, and their simultaneous dissemination in English, French and Spanish.

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[46] Room document 9.

The ILO's Department of Statistics is committed to working on these priority topics and to supporting the production of national statistics if the necessary resources become available.

92. Some progress on measurement guidance has already been achieved. As part of the *Engendering informality statistics* project started by the ILO in 2021 with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the ILO's Department of Statistics developed and tested guidance on the measurement of income from employment in LFS modules in order to collect data on employment-related income – which is particularly relevant for developing countries with high shares of informal independent workers in employment. Further information in this regard is presented in the room document on the subject. While the work carried out has been sufficient to generate initial guidance, it has highlighted the complexity of the measurement of work-related income through household surveys and the need for further work.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference will be asked to express their views on: (a) the proposed amendments to the 16th ICLS resolution I and the 17th ICLS resolution I; (b) the priorities for future work, referring to the areas identified in the room document on the amendment of existing standards and guidance on work-related income; and (c) whether there is a need to develop new statistical standards for presentation to the 22nd ICLS, necessitating the establishment of a working group of experts or, if not, how else this work could be advanced.

3.9. Work-related violence and harassment

93. In 2019, the International Labour Conference adopted the Violence and Harassment Convention (No. 190) and Recommendation (No. 206), 2019. Recommendation No. 206 calls on ILO Member States to "collect and publish statistics" to support efforts to eradicate violence and harassment in the world of work. In follow-up, the ILO conducted an initial review of potential national sources of statistics on the topic. The results of this review, which are summarized in a room document, highlight the limited and scarce data available on the phenomenon and the important challenges that exist in respect of its measurement. [47] The review further revealed that, while surveys constitute the best potential source of data, countries currently only capture some dimensions of work-related violence in specialized surveys, such as working conditions and crime and victimization surveys.

94. To support countries in meeting the call for data made in Recommendation No. 206, there is a need to develop a conceptual and measurement framework for statistics on the topic. To this end, the ILO has prepared a room document outlining key conceptual and methodological considerations for this purpose, drawing on the review of sources and experience in measuring violence in related domains, namely violence against women and intimate partner violence. [48] The document highlights the complexity of conceptualizing and defining violence, as the phenomenon is multifaceted, and the awareness and perception of what behaviours constitute violence can be subjective and vary between individuals and across social and cultural contexts. Key issues to address include identifying the behaviours that capture the most important dimensions of violence and harassment relevant across contexts and providing clarity on how to

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[47] Room document 10.

[48] Room document 11.

establish the link between violent behaviour and work. Moreover, measuring violence poses specific ethical and safety issues, given the sensitivity of the information collected.

95. The ILO further developed a preliminary survey questionnaire and ethical and safety guidelines for its implementation. In 2022–23, it conducted qualitative and quantitative validation tests of the questionnaire, in collaboration with selected NSOs and academic and research institutions. The results from these tests will serve to inform further conceptual and methodological work.

96. Besides its work towards a framework for official statistics on this subject, the ILO, through a module in the 2021 World Risk Poll, gathered initial insights on the violence faced by workers in 121 countries, to raise awareness of the topic and promote the ratification of Convention No. 190. [49]

▶ Points for reflection

> Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on: (a) whether the topic of statistics on work-related violence and harassment is of interest to their country; (b) the progress achieved to date in identifying conceptual and methodological approaches to producing statistics on the topic; and (c) whether it would be relevant to establish a working group to support the ILO in advancing the statistical work on the topic.

3.10. Statistics on digital platform work: Current situation and the way ahead

97. While the prevalence of digital platform employment is still relatively low in many countries, the number of digital platforms has increased significantly over the last decades. Digital platforms reflect a range of different business models and have become a global phenomenon that has penetrated almost all industries. This has created a very diverse landscape of digital platforms and digital platform employment, with an increased impact on labour markets, consequently gaining the increased attention of policymakers. [50]

98. Statistical offices, agencies and the research community have been conducting conceptual and methodological work exploring this phenomenon. However, this work is still in the refinement stage and further steps are needed to ensure that digital platform employment is accurately represented in a more harmonized manner across different statistical sources, countries and regions.

99. The *Handbook on Measuring Digital Platform Employment and Work,* prepared jointly by the OECD, the ILO and Eurostat, provides a starting point for a statistical framework on digital platform work and employment that is aligned to the international statistical labour standards. [51] It includes recommendations on how to measure digital platform employment and allows for flexibility in that it covers several relevant dimensions of digital platforms and digital platform employment, enabling countries to focus on different aspects depending on their specific policy objectives. It nevertheless includes some unclear statistical boundaries and definitions, and does not address some key aspects such as type or degree of control exercised by the digital platform or the degree of reliance on digital platform activities.

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[49] ILO, Lloyd's Register Foundation and Gallup, *Experiences of violence and harassment at work: A global first survey*, 2022.

[50] ILO, *World Employment and Social Outlook 2021: The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work*, 2021.

[51] OECD, ILO and Eurostat, *Handbook on Measuring Digital Platform Employment and Work,* 2023.

100. Experiences of countries in identifying digital platform employment also point to the difficulties involved. These include challenges in terms of correctly identifying digital platform work and arising as a result of the low prevalence in countries, the use of multiple digital platforms and the fact that such work might be sporadic and performed as a secondary job for a few hours, among others.

101. Despite a strong policy demand for data on digital platform work and employment, conceptual and methodological challenges persist. While countries and agencies have gained experience in measurement, further work is needed to improve their capacity to provide policy-relevant data on digital platform employment. A room document highlights this need for further conceptual and methodological work based on the progress made to date. [52]

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on:
>
> (a) the need to develop statistical guidelines on digital platform work, including a conceptual framework and recommendations for data collection;
>
> (b) whether the development of a conceptual framework of digital platform work and employment should use the framework provided by the OECD–ILO–Eurostat *Handbook on Measuring Digital Platform Employment and Work* as a starting point;
>
> (c) whether the focus of the conceptual work should be on the issues presented in section 6.3 of the room document on digital platform work and employment and whether other essential issues would need to be addressed;
>
> (d) the need for countries to contribute actively to the methodological work on the subject and opportunities for testing different essential aspects; and
>
> (e) whether the ILO's work related to developing statistical guidelines on digital platform work and employment should be carried out with a view to presenting new standards for discussion at the 22nd ICLS, necessitating the establishment of a working group of experts and, if not, how else this work could be advanced.

3.11. Response of labour statistics to COVID-19

102. The COVID-19 pandemic sent unprecedented shock waves across the globe, affecting the ability of countries to collect labour market data through surveys. At the same time, it created significant additional demands for data to monitor the wide-ranging impacts of the pandemic on the work people do, working conditions and engagement with the labour market. This situation placed significant pressure on producers of statistics and consequently created a demand for support from the ILO in various areas. In response, the ILO engaged in a wide range of activities, as described below.

103. Before the end of March 2020, the ILO undertook an early assessment of the impacts of the pandemic on efforts to collect and publish labour market statistics, highlighting a range of challenges faced by countries, including the suspension of interviewing due to lockdowns and restrictions in movement, which cut off the supply of data at the time it was most needed. [53] Unsurprisingly, the impact was the greatest among countries that relied on face-to-face interviewing – many of which tried with very limited time and resources to move to telephone

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[52] Room document 12.

[53] ILO, *COVID-19 impact on labour market statistics*, ILO technical note, 2020.

interviewing. Where data were available, it became clear that existing indicators needed to be supplemented in order to capture more fully the impact of the pandemic on the labour market, for example through additional data on hours of work lost and temporary absences from employment.

104. This initial rapid assessment was followed by a more comprehensive global review in 2021, which enabled a more complete picture to be gained on the scale of impacts. [54] The review showed that nearly half of all countries that had planned to conduct an LFS in 2020 had been forced to suspend interviewing at some point in 2020, with major variations across regions, largely related to the existing mode of data collection. In response to the inability to continue with face-to-face interviewing, about half of the countries that were not already collecting information by telephone turned to this method during 2020; however, this transition created major challenges, such as the need to source contact information, meaning that survey response rates and data quality were inevitably impacted. In the most extreme cases, countries had to suspend surveys and planned publications entirely but, in most cases, countries did manage to continue their LFS and even expand the range of information being published. These impacts continued in 2021 and beyond.

105. To bridge the initial gaps in data at the global level on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on labour markets, the ILO launched its *ILO Monitor on the World of Work* series (as discussed further in section 4.5 of this report) incorporating innovative new modelling approaches to generate global estimates on topics such as working time losses, overall changes in numbers of people employed and unemployed, and how such changes were distributed between women and men.

106. To further complement the picture and in the light of the major disruptions to national data collection systems, between November 2021 and March 2022, the ILO commissioned a global survey on the impacts of COVID-19 on employment, education and future work aspirations. The global survey was conducted in 40 countries selected to capture the diversity of situations across the different world regions, using a mixed-method approach. The findings corroborate the evidence to date in terms of job losses and work-hours losses during the initial phase of the pandemic, and the disruptions to the education system worldwide. Nevertheless, they also document the early signs of recovery in labour markets and shed new light on the impacts these changes have had on future work aspirations.

107. One of the responses to the lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic was a massive increase in the number of people working from home, which appears to have had a lasting impact on how people organize their work and where the work is performed. To support countries in their efforts to measure this development, the ILO produced and published guidance on measuring remote work, telework, work at home and home-based work, which is being reproduced in a room document. [55]

108. With regard to other areas of methodology, the ILO produced a wide range of guidance, particularly during 2020. This included early guidance on essential LFS content and the treatment of special cases arising during the pandemic that may have been ambiguous under existing standard definitions and may therefore have posed a risk of inconsistent treatment across countries, for example the treatment of absences with an unknown date of return due to COVID-19 related restrictions. [56] Other topics covered included ways to maintain CPI data

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[54] Antonio R. Discenza and Kieran Walsh, *Global review of impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on labour force surveys and dissemination of labour market statistics* (ILO, 2021).

[55] Room document 13.

[56] ILO, *COVID-19: Guidance for labour statistics data collection: Essential labour force survey content and treatment of special groups (Rev. 1),* ILO technical note, 2020.

collection, the use of rapid surveys as a way of capturing pandemic impacts on employment and unpaid work, and practical guidance to maintain LFS data collection. [57]

109. As the volume of online engagement increased significantly, the ILO participated in numerous online capacity-building and knowledge-sharing events across all regions, including in collaboration with various other agencies, including UN regional commissions, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Bank, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and others. The ILO also collaborated extensively through inter-agency mechanisms such as the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, through which an extensive set of guidance was shared and a variety of online events were organized. [58] This was in addition to the substantial technical assistance undertaken by the network of ILO regional statisticians as discussed in section 6 of this this report.

110. Among the various other impacts, capacity-building activities were pushed almost exclusively online during 2020 and 2021, bringing both benefits, in terms of the ability to efficiently reach large audiences, and challenges, such as those relating to the adaptation of materials and training approaches to the online modality. In early 2021, the ILO organized a targeted online academy dedicated to the provision of guidance on labour statistics in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to the extensive programme of capacity-building activities discussed in section 6.

3.12. Statistics of cooperatives

111. The cooperative ownership model and democratic governance principles provide a means for producers, workers and consumers to address many of the issues they face in the rapidly changing world of work and in society. Reliable, comparable and comprehensive statistics are needed to properly inform policy on the promotion and regulation of cooperatives and to assess the extent of their contribution to promoting sustainable economic growth, high quality employment, decent work and social justice. The need for better national statistics on cooperatives is reflected in the ILO's Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193), and in the *Guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives*, the first international statistical standard on cooperatives, adopted by the 20th ICLS.

112. The Guidelines describe the concepts, classifications, statistical units and operational definitions needed to compile statistics on cooperatives and call on the ILO to conduct further methodological work in that regard. To this end, the ILO, with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) and the International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy (CIRIEC), issued a publication entitled *Statistics of Cooperatives: Concepts, classification, work and economic contribution measurement*. [59] The publication brought together updated versions of four background studies that had been produced before the adoption of the Guidelines. An ILO information guide, *Measuring Cooperatives*, was published in 2022 to explain the Guidelines and the further work needed to put them into practice. [60] An initiative to evaluate and make recommendations on the Guidelines in

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[57] ILO, *COVID-19: Guidance for labour statistics data collection: Consumer Prices Indexes*, ILO technical note, 2020; ILO, *COVID-19: Guidance for labour statistics data collection: Capturing impacts on employment and unpaid work using Rapid Surveys*, ILO technical note, 2020; and ILO, *COVID-19: Guidance for labour statistics data collection: Guidance to data producers to maintain labour force survey data collection*, ILO technical note, 2020.

[58] UN Statistical Division, "COVID-19 Response by ISWGHS".

[59] ILO, CIRIEC and COPAC, *Statistics on Cooperatives: Concepts, classification, work and economic contribution measurement*, 2020.

[60] ILO, *Measuring Cooperatives: An information guide on the ILO Guidelines concerning Statistics of Cooperatives*, 2022.

five countries (Costa Rica, Italy, Republic of Korea, Türkiye and United Republic of Tanzania) was launched in 2021 to provide national inputs to the development of an ILO manual on statistics of cooperatives. [61]

113. These evaluation studies, supported by national advisory committees in each country as well as a global advisory committee, revealed that further clarification and methodological work is needed, including to:

- clarify the criteria and methods for the operational identification of cooperatives in data sources;

- stress the relevance of measuring the contribution of cooperatives through conventional economic indicators;

- advance the work on developing indicators on the special economic effects of cooperatives;

- measure the social and environmental impact of cooperatives;

- identify and measure informal or unregistered cooperatives;

- develop data collection methodologies for the various topics included in the Guidelines.

114. The results of this work are described in national reports for each country and summarized in a room document. [62] This document proposes that the known issues be addressed, where possible, through an updated version of the information guide, through further methodological work as part of the work to develop the ILO manual on statistics of cooperatives, and through the establishment of a working group to focus specifically on indicators to assess the special economic contribution of cooperatives. A consolidated and more thoroughly considered and tested set of modifications to the Guidelines, if needed, could then be proposed at the 22nd ICLS together with the manual.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to: (a) review the room document containing a progress update on the evaluation studies on measuring cooperatives; (b) comment on the outstanding issues and recommendations outlined in the room document; and (c) indicate their support for and interest in contributing to the ongoing work to test and further develop the *Guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives* and their supporting documentation in collaboration with the Office.

3.13. Measuring the social and solidarity economy

115. In parallel with the ILO's efforts with regard to statistics on cooperatives, work around statistics on the social and solidarity economy (SSE) was initiated by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy. Three research papers on SSE statistics were released in August 2021, funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea. [63]

116. The SSE is typically comprised of associations, non-profit organizations, cooperatives and mutual societies, as well as some public-benefit foundations and other similar entities that adopt

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[61] ILO, "Initiative on advancing the Guidelines concerning Statistics of Cooperatives".

[62] Room document 14.

[63] UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy, "Three research papers on SSE statistics have been released by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSE)".

SSE-specific ethics, values and principles. The SSE has gained further recognition for its role in creating and sustaining jobs and providing services for members, users and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. At a time when calls for new ways of doing business are growing, the SSE can provide a basis for a model of enterprise that fosters inclusiveness, sustainability and resilience.

117. At present, few countries produce statistics concerning the SSE, and those that do refer to various definitions and perimeters of the SSE following their national traditions or legislation. Existing frameworks for producing statistics on the SSE do not achieve comparable and harmonized statistics at a global level. One of the reasons is that an agreed statistical definition and methods and indicators that ensure systematic and comparable data collection on the SSE have not yet been established.

118. At its 110th Session (2022), the International Labour Conference adopted the resolution and conclusions concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy. [64] Subsequently, the Governing Body of the ILO, at its 346th Session (October–November 2022), approved a Strategy and Action Plan on Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy for 2023–29. [65] The seven-year Strategy and Action Plan includes "Improved statistics on decent work and the SSE" as an output under its first objective, which is focused on improved understanding of realities and needs related to decent work and the SSE.

119. In April 2023, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development, requesting Member States to make visible the contribution of the SSE in the compilation of national statistics. [66]

120. As a continuation of its work around the statistics of cooperatives, the Office has been exploring the current state of such statistics and is presenting to the 21st ICLS a room document providing background and history on the statistics of the SSE, recalling the recent and current discussions and efforts of the Office and international entities regarding the subject and proposing a road map for developing guidelines concerning statistics of the SSE, including proposed actions by the constituents and the Office until the next ICLS and beyond. [67]

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to: (a) review the room document reporting on the current situation regarding statistics concerning the SSE and the need to work towards guidelines concerning statistics of the SSE; (b) comment on the outstanding issues and recommendations outlined in the room document; and (c) indicate their support for and interest in contributing to the ongoing work in collaboration with the Office.

3.14. Labour migration statistics: Current situation and future work

121. In October 2018, the 20th ICLS endorsed the *Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration* to help countries improve the knowledge base on international labour migration. The

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[64] ILO, Resolution and conclusions concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy, International Labour Conference, 110th Session, 2022.

[65] ILO, *Matters arising out of the work of the 110th Session (2022) of the International Labour Conference*, GB.346/INS/3/2, 2022.

[66] UN General Assembly, resolution 77/281, *Promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development*, A/RES/77/281 (2023), para. 1.

[67] Room document 15.

Guidelines called on the ILO to promote their implementation, continue the methodological work and report on progress. Since then, the ILO, in collaboration with countries, has conducted a series of case studies to validate the Guidelines and to identify gaps, areas requiring development and examples of good practice. The case studies included an assessment of the conceptual framework using different data sources; a comparison of sources to shed light on gaps; a review of practices to enable the statistical use of administrative data; and survey tests to measure specific categories of migrant workers. The case studies are being made available through the ILOSTAT portal [68] and being used as illustrations in forthcoming guidance and workshops.

122. To promote the implementation of the Guidelines and build national capacity, the ILO, in collaboration with the Turin Centre, established an e-learning module on measuring and analysing labour migration, which has been conducted annually since 2020; [69] integrated activities on labour migration statistics in ILO development cooperation projects in Africa, the Americas and Asia; and provided direct technical assistance to countries on the integration of labour migration in population censuses, household surveys and labour market information systems.

123. Furthermore, the ILO conducted an assessment of national practices on labour migration statistics in the period 2015–22. The assessment showed that the majority of reporting countries have at least one main source for producing stock data on the labour force status of international migrants, through their 2020 population census (113 countries) or through a specialized migration survey (17 countries). For more frequent and detailed data, however, of 93 countries identifying international migrants in their latest LFS, one third cannot produce estimates of the employed population by international migrant status and by sex with a minimal level of precision. Further information is provided in a room document. [70]

124. Significant gaps continue to be observed in respect of the use of administrative records to generate statistics relevant to international labour migration. Globally, 50 countries reported that they include foreign citizens in the national population register and an additional 43 countries reported that they maintain specific registers of foreign citizens. Of these, however, only 37 and 34 countries, respectively, can produce statistics on the employment of international migrants using these data. Additionally, of 83 countries compiling border entry and exit data, only 45 identify employment as reason for arrival or departure, and 27 produce flow statistics from these. Similarly, of 82 countries compiling work permit data, only 48 produce statistics on stocks and inflows of foreign workers and 12 produce statistics on outflows of national work permit holders. Fewer countries reported that they compile information on temporary migrant workers, including border workers, seasonal workers and similar employed in the country (44 countries); or working abroad (24 countries).

125. Improving statistics on this topic is a priority for many countries: about 50 per cent of NSOs have concrete plans in the next five years to harness administrative sources, implement a specialized migration survey or redesign a household survey, with high- and middle-income countries prioritizing international migrants working in the country, and lower-middle- and low-income countries placing emphasis on nationals working abroad and returning migrant workers.

126. To improve global data availability, the ILO expanded its International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) database through the launch of a dedicated annual questionnaire to compile official data from national producers and the publication of global and regional estimates of international

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[68] ILOSTAT, "Statistics on migrant workers".

[69] Turin Centre, "E-Learning on Measuring and Analysing Labour Migration".

[70] Room document 16.

migrant workers in 2018 and 2021 (see section 5.2). Efforts are under way to compile new census data from countries as input for updated global estimates for publication in 2024. Additionally, the ILO is undertaking a review of its estimation methodology to improve the quality and granularity of the global estimates and its coherence with other ILO estimation methods.

127. In its efforts to promote coherence across related international statistical standards, the ILO participates in a number of technical working groups, including as co-chair of the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics (2022–24), and as a member of the UN Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics and the UN Economic Commission for Europe's census task forces on population concepts and migration and mobility.

128. Following the assessments and accumulated experience, and in the light of the updated conceptual framework for international migration and mobility statistics and the accompanying indicator framework endorsed by the United Nations Statistics Commission in 2021 and 2023 respectively, [71] the ILO undertook a revision of the *Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration*. The revision aims to strengthen the coherence between the ICLS Guidelines and the newly adopted UN statistical framework through common concepts and terminology; resolve issues with selected definitions; and facilitate wider communication and uptake of the Guidelines. Considering the extensive nature of the revision, the ILO proposes to undertake an additional consultation with the Working Group on International Labour Migration Statistics before finalizing the changes. The consultation would also serve as an opportunity to expand the recommendations on temporary labour mobility and to further specify the measurement guidance, as per the national context. Further information is provided in a room document. [72]

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to: (a) comment on the ILO's proposal to call a meeting of the Working Group on International Labour Migration Statistics to finalize the proposed revision of the 20th ICLS *Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration* for dissemination by 2025; (b) contribute to improving the availability of official national data and the quality of global estimates on international migrant workers by replying to the ILO's 2023 ILMS questionnaire; and (c) propose activities that will allow the ILO to further advance the topic.

3.15.   ISCO-08: Recent developments and revision

129. Since 2018, the ILO has been actively supporting countries in the implementation of ISCO-08. This effort has involved providing capacity-building and technical assistance to countries such as Armenia, Eswatini, Iraq, Lebanon, Mauritius, Namibia, Qatar, Uganda, Ukraine and Viet Nam. Additionally, the Office has provided support to other countries, the United Nations and other agencies, and other users, such as advice on the development of national occupational classifications, the validation and coding of occupations, and the sharing of relevant documentation.

130. To further assist countries in using and implementing the classification, an ISCO-08 implementation guide is being developed. It provides advice on necessary activities and resources to adapt and implement ISCO-08 at the national level, as well as information on revising a national

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[71] UN Economic and Social Council, *Migration statistics: Report of the Secretary-General*, E/CN.3/2021/11, 52nd session, Statistical Commission, 2021; UN Economic and Social Council, *Social statistics: Report of the Secretary-General*, E/CN.3/2023/5, 54th session, Statistical Commission, 2023.

[72] Room document 17.

occupation classification. It is complemented by country cases and provides useful resources. Additionally, the ISCO-08 web page has been updated and includes documentation and an "assisted search code" function to facilitate the coding process. [73] Furthermore, the ISCO-08 structure has been translated into Arabic.

131.   Following discussions at the 20th ICLS, a technical working group was established to support the revision of ISCO-08, which is expected to be completed before the 2030 round of housing and population censuses. The aim will be to modernize ISCO and reflect current trends and practices while maintaining comparability with past statistics, building on previous consultations and recommendations and taking into account the additional problems encountered by countries, associations of professionals and agencies, and those identified by the technical working group. The revision of ISCO is also aimed at improving conceptual clarity, rethinking the definitions and use of skill levels as a classification criterion, revising skill levels of categories, incorporating new and emerging occupations, improving the grouping of categories, treating obsolete ones, revising group descriptions, and making proposals for the future modernization of ISCO with the objective of presenting a revised ISCO for discussion at the next ICLS.

132.   Since 2021, the technical working group has undertaken several initial consultations to identify appropriate options to address key structural problems in ISCO. Concrete proposals have been made on the improvement of the ISCO structure, group descriptions and modernization projects that will be completed in the future. Additionally, the Office explored ad hoc consultations and collaboration to improve various areas in ISCO. This included a collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower of Singapore on the use of machine learning to identify newly emerging occupations in order to generate updates to ISCO, as described further in a room document. [74]

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to: (a) review the room document on the revision of ISCO-08 and provide feedback on the proposed options identified for the update of ISCO-08 or any additional issues considered relevant; and (b) offer advice on the relevance of ISCO modernization and express their interest in supporting the initiative.

3.16.   Engendering informality statistics: Improved tools and recommendations for data collection and production

133.   As mentioned in section 3.8, in 2021, in parallel with the work to develop a new statistical framework on informality statistics, the ILO, with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, started the *Engendering informality statistics* project. The project involves multiple related streams of work, including: providing input to the discussions of the working group established to develop the new standards, with a particular focus on ensuring that the requirement to generate gender relevant data on informality would be reflected in the updated standards; undertaking pilot studies to examine and provide guidance on LFS content, consistent with the new standards and allowing a wider range of data to be generated, describing gender-based differences in informal work; and studying the use of statistics on informality to provide guidance and promote good linkages between data and policy usage.

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[73] ILOSTAT, "International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)".

[74] Room document 18.

134. The pilot study work was undertaken in Peru and Uganda in collaboration with the NSOs, initially through a round of qualitative studies in 2021, followed by quantitative studies in 2022, which ended in December. Despite the challenges of completing the work while COVID-19-related restrictions were in place, all planned stages of the work were completed and highly valuable data were generated to inform choices on survey content.

135. Reflecting key areas of data need related to informality, the studies focused on a range of topics, including the identification of informality, asset ownership in businesses, the usage of information and communications technology, motivation, the earnings of dependent and independent workers, access to finance and the testing of sequences to identify dependent contractors based on ICSE-18. During the quantitative testing phase, a split sample design was used, whereby two different sets of questionnaire content were tested on those topics, with variations on key selected questions. In Uganda, two rounds of data collection were undertaken with the same households at different points in 2022, while, in Peru, one round was implemented between October and December.

136. The ILO is incrementally publishing findings from the studies, as well as providing model questionnaire content, including updates to existing published model questionnaires and additional content on the selected focus topics. The ILO would like to thank the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for its ongoing support for this work, and the colleagues in Peru and Uganda who devoted extensive effort to ensuring that the studies could be completed successfully. This work is further described in a room document. [75]

3.17.   Administrative sources in labour statistics

137. Administrative data are the routine data regularly collected by governments, service providers and various other entities during their day-to-day business. These data are a by-product of administrative processes and were not initially compiled for statistical purposes. However, they can still be used as a basis for producing official statistics in many areas and are a valuable source to complement surveys and censuses. In labour statistics, for example, many indicators from the decent work indicator framework require data that could not possibly be collected through an LFS but are available in administrative records.

138. The COVID-19 pandemic, the measures taken to contain it, and its socio-economic effects highlighted the relevance of administrative data as a complementary source of official statistics. In a context of increased difficulties in collecting data from the field, the use of administrative records for statistical purposes has proved to be an important complement to traditional surveys.

139. Moreover, administrative records can be a useful source of statistics for topics or population groups not covered by surveys and, through comprehensive coverage, enable more detailed and disaggregated statistics to be produced. Also, combining survey data and administrative data makes it possible to take full advantage of each source's strengths, while mitigating their limitations. Benefits of this approach where administrative and survey data complement each other include increased data quality and accuracy, reduced burden on survey respondents and compilation efforts, and improved cost-efficiency of statistical production. A room document provides more details on the potential of administrative data to complement survey data, as well as on several country practices concerning the use of administrative records as a complementary source of labour statistics. [76]

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[75] Room document 19.

[76] Room document 20.

140. While administrative records can be useful supplementary sources of information to surveys, they may suffer from limitations including with respect to completeness, coverage, adherence to standard statistical definitions, the representativeness of the target population and other data quality issues. They may also suffer as a result of the institutional challenges of ensuring sustainable data exchange among government entities. Consequently, data harmonization is a first necessary step towards the interoperability of administrative records and other sources.

141. As a practical example of these issues, a labour market information system (LMIS), including one that contains labour migration information, must rely on all available data sources, including administrative records. The collection of reference metadata is essential to harmonize the definitions of the concepts (variables) and classifications used in them, as well as other elements such as reference periods and methodological aspects.

142. In response to these challenges, the Office has developed a questionnaire for the self-assessment of the quality of administrative records (SAQUAR questionnaire) to obtain information on the characteristics and functioning of administrative records in order to assess their potential as a source of data for statistical purposes, in particular to generate useful indicators for an LMIS. [77]

143. The SAQUAR questionnaire (or an abridged version thereof) is an instrument that is key to a methodology designed by the ILO to identify and improve administrative records that can be used as data sources for the compilation of labour statistics. This methodology includes two phases. Phase 1 is "Diagnosis and prioritization" and involves developing, based on the information collected through the SAQUAR questionnaire, a list of prioritized work packages (composed of the administrative records to be worked on). Phase 2 comprises three steps to be implemented in sequence for each prioritized work package, namely: "Define the improvement plan", "Develop the tools" and "Pilot implementation and final recommendations". It is important to note that, for each work package, the methodology is executed independently of the progress being made for the other work packages.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to: (a) provide their views on the opportunities raised in the room document on maximizing the potential of administrative data as one of the key sources within national statistical systems and labour market information systems, in addition to traditional survey data; (b) share their country experiences in this regard, where applicable; and (c) provide guidance to the Office on potential priority future activities, such as guidance development in this area.

3.18. School-to-work transition statistics

144. Three dedicated school-to-work transition surveys have been conducted since 2018, with financial and technical support from the ILO, in Burkina Faso (2019), Congo (2022) and Côte d'Ivoire (2022). These household surveys use a standardized questionnaire adapted to national circumstances and measure the aspirations and perceptions of young people, their conditions of work, means of job search, and history of economic activities. Data gathering in school-to-work transition surveys is based on retrospective questions addressed to young people aged 15–29 years and makes it possible to track the full transition path of each respondent.

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[77] The SAQUAR form and the Users' Guide are adaptations of the questionnaire to evaluate the quality of administrative registers (CECRA questionnaire) recommended by the Working Group on Administrative Records in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and coordinated by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

145. As dedicated school-to-work transition surveys are costly to conduct, the ILO has also developed methodologies to derive transition-related indicators directly from a conventional LFS: one is based on key variables found in most labour force surveys and enables the measurement of stages and forms of transition. This is feasible if the LFS includes information on educational attendance, status in employment, type and length of contract, the willingness to work and whether young employed persons are looking for another job. Moreover, the measurement of the length of school-to-work transitions can be obtained from labour force surveys with rotational sample designs, thus avoiding recall errors inherent in retrospective questioning. While a dedicated school-to-work transition survey remains the best source of information on transitions, this work also demonstrates the benefits of conducting sample surveys with a rotational design.

3.19. Child labour: Country practices and guidance

146. In 2018, the 20th ICLS adopted a resolution to amend the 18th ICLS resolution concerning statistics of child labour. The rationale for this amendment was to align the statistical measurement framework of child labour with the more detailed framework on forms of work set out in the 19th ICLS resolution I. This change provided a comprehensive theoretical and statistical framework for assessing the various forms of work in which children participate. These include not only employment for pay or profit, but also own-use production work, unpaid trainee work and volunteer work. This amendment is of great importance for several reasons. It allows for the better identification of less visible forms of work performed by children that may go unnoticed in current statistical instruments. It also provides more detailed information to address the specific challenges of child labour within each form of work. Additionally, it promotes a better understanding of the interactions between different forms of work and enables a more accurate assessment of the true workload faced by children. Ultimately, it enhances understanding of the true nature of child labour and the mechanisms required to address and combat it effectively.

147. Over the past five years, notable advancements have been made in the field of child labour statistics. Specifically, various measurement and training resources to facilitate the measurement and analysis of child labour have been created or are nearing completion. These resources are intended for use by NSOs, the social partners and other relevant institutions or individuals. They encompass stand-alone and modular child labour questionnaires, interviewers' manuals, national adaptation guidelines, sampling tools, reporting templates for national child labour reports, ethical guidelines for conducting child labour research, and more. These developments aim to enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of data collection and analysis in the field of child labour statistics.

148. Various countries, including Bangladesh (2022), Burkina Faso (2022), Gambia (2022), Honduras (2023), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022), Nigeria (2022) and Uganda (2021), are conducting or have conducted national and sectoral surveys using the updated statistical framework. These surveys have provided first-hand information on the specific relevance of different forms of work, which were previously either not collected or simply aggregated into a single category using the previous definition of employment.

149. In 2021, the ILO, jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), published the sixth version of the *Global Estimates of Child Labour* report. [78] Unfortunately, the estimates were unable to incorporate the new statistical framework due to the lack of a critical mass of data using

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[78] ILO and UNICEF, *Child Labour: Global Estimates 2020 – Trends and the road forward,* 2021.

the new framework. However, they still serve the purpose of measuring trends to track progress towards target 8.7 of the SDGs.

150. A room document provides details of these points and an in-depth technical reflection on the issues of mainstreaming of child labour surveys into the national statistical system. [79] It explains the different forms of child labour surveys in terms of their relationship with potential base surveys. It also discusses the key parameters of survey design, including scope, periodicity, sample size and sample design. The objective of this discussion is to provide guidance and considerations for integrating child labour surveys into the national statistical system, taking into account the existing infrastructure and specific survey objectives.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to: (a) review the room document on child labour statistics and provide feedback on the proposed options identified for the mainstreaming of child labour surveys into the national statistical system; and (b) offer advice on other possible approaches for the mainstreaming of child labour surveys into the national statistical system.

3.20. Forced labour: Estimates and the way forward

151. In 2018, the 20th ICLS endorsed the first ever *Guidelines concerning the measurement of forced labour*. The Guidelines provide statistical definitions of the main concepts, namely, forced labour, forced labour of children and duration in forced labour. They also distinguish between different types of forced labour (state-imposed and privately imposed) as well as particular forms of forced labour (bonded labour, trafficking for forced labour and forced commercial sexual exploitation). The Guidelines discuss a range of measurement issues, including issues relating to: classifications and items of data collection; data sources and the data collection strategy; survey design and ethical considerations; and data analysis and reporting. They recognize the role of the global, regional and national estimation of forced labour on the achievement of SDG target 8.7 to eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and human trafficking. Lastly, the Guidelines call for the ILO to prepare technical manuals on practical methods for data collection, data processing, data analysis and data transmission on forced labour, and to provide technical assistance through training and capacity-building.

152. Over the last five years, much work on the statistics of forced labour has taken place based on the Guidelines, as described below.

- Training and other materials have been developed or are in the process of finalization on the measurement and analysis of forced labour for use by NSOs, the social partners and other concerned institutions or individuals. These include a standardized questionnaire for measuring forced labour in stand-alone surveys or in modules attached to existing surveys; training materials for data collection and research on child labour and forced labour; user guides and sampling tools for household-based surveys on forced labour; ethical guidelines for research on forced labour; and the revision of an ILO publication containing guidance on surveys to estimate forced labour in the light of the Guidelines. [80]

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[79] Room document 21.

[80] ILO, *Hard to see, harder to count: Survey guidelines to estimate forced labour of adults and children*, forthcoming.

- National and sectoral surveys on forced labour were conducted under the auspices of the ILO, including in Argentina (2022), Malaysia (2020), Mongolia (2022), Nepal (2020), Niger (2022), Nigeria (2022) and Peru (2022). Other surveys with questions on forced labour include the survey on the extent and characteristics of tobacco workers in Malawi (2022), and surveys on trafficking for labour exploitation in fishing in Ghana, Indonesia and South Africa (2023–24).

- In 2022, the ILO, Walk Free and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) published the fourth edition of the *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery* report [81] and an accompanying report on the methodology used in the preparation of the estimates. These estimates used the statistical definition adopted in the Guidelines.

153. A separate room document details these points and describes a few methodological issues that require further development, including an operational definition of trafficking for forced labour, the statistical treatment of proxy-response in household-based surveys of forced labour, procedures for sampling of the base population in sectoral surveys of forced labour, and innovative methodologies for turning a non-probability sample to a probability sample in circumstances where lists of workers are not available. [82]

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to: (a) provide their views on the issues raised in the room document on forced labour statistics and related challenges; and (b) provide guidance to the Office on potential priority future activities on this topic.

3.21. Consumer price indices

154. The ILO, in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Europe, continues to organize every second year a meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices, alternating with the biennial meeting of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices. Following a one-year gap owing to COVID-19-related restrictions, the 2021 meeting was hosted online from 2 to 10 June 2021. At the meeting, a special session was organized to discuss the production of CPIs under lockdown. The most recent meeting took place from 7 to 9 June 2023 in Geneva. It was attended by 138 experts from statistical offices, international organizations and research institutions. Papers were presented on a number of methodological issues that arise in the compilation of CPIs, including new data sources, quality changes and expenditure weights, and also on practical issues such as the implementation in CPIs of the 2018 Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose, the modernization of the CPI production and the production of CPIs for various household groups. There were also poster sessions on various topics and a workshop on scanner data. The proceedings of the meetings are available on the meeting's website. [83]

155. The ILO continues to participate actively in the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics, which was established in 1998 and has overall responsibility for the preparation of manuals on all types of price indices. At its 2014 meeting, the Group of Experts on Consumer

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[81] ILO, Walk Free and IOM, *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*, 2022.

[82] Room document 22.

[83] UN Economic Commission for Europe, "Meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices".

Price Indices requested an update of the 2004 CPI manual. [84] The Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics and its Technical Expert Group supported the update.

156. One of the key changes made when updating the 2004 CPI manual was splitting it into two publications. The first, the *Consumer Price Index Manual: Concepts and Methods*, focuses on CPI compilation methods. [85] A draft version was presented to relevant national statistical authorities for global consultation in September–October 2019. Detailed feedback was received from nearly 60 countries, and the updated version was released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in November 2020 and endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 51st Session in 2020.

157. The companion publication, *Consumer Price Index Theory*, focuses on the conceptual and theoretical foundations that drive CPI compilation methods and practices, and a draft version is available for review. The two main changes from the original 2004 publication reflected in the companion publication include the treatment of scanner data in the calculation of elementary aggregates and quality adjustment methods for scanner data. Other updates have been made to reflect the theoretical underpinnings of evolving CPI methods.

158. In response to COVID-19, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics and the ILO released guidance notes regarding price collection and index compilation during the pandemic. [86] The notes contained similar guidance and were broadly consistent.

3.22. Industrial relations indicators and social dialogue

159. For the preparation of the *Social Dialogue Report 2022*, [87] the ILOSTAT database was updated and expanded to include both collective bargaining coverage and trade union density rates. Data are now available on the trade union density rate for 139 countries (with 26 new countries added to the database) and on the collective bargaining coverage rate for 99 countries (with 12 new countries added). Further information is provided in a room document that has been prepared on the subject. [88]

160. Data are compiled through three primary channels: the annual ILOSTAT questionnaire; microdata from labour force and other household surveys that the ILO collects from NSOs; and special enquiries (often relying on administrative data) conducted by the ILO and national experts in selected countries. [89] For the calculation of collective bargaining coverage and trade union density rates, only employees (excluding persons not in paid employment) are taken into account, unless otherwise stated in the notes. Collective bargaining coverage rates are also adjusted for workers that – in line with the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98) – are excluded from the right to collective bargaining (such as public servants engaged in the administration of the State).

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[84] ILO et al., *Consumer price index manual: Theory and practice*, 2004.

[85] ILO et al, *Consumer price index manual: Concepts and methods*, 2020.

[86] For example, ILO et al, *Consumer price index: Business continuity guidance*, 2020; and ILO, *COVID-19: Guidance for labour statistics data collection: Consumer Prices Indexes*, ILO technical note, 2020.

[87] ILO, *Social Dialogue Report 2022: Collective bargaining for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery*, 2022.

[88] Room document 23.

[89] For the *Social Dialogue Report 2022*, special enquiries were conducted in the following countries: Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania (note: the enquiries in Nigeria and United Republic of Tanzania did not yield reliable results).

161. Systematic data collection and calculation for industrial relations indicators, however, remain challenging. First, in many countries, data are not collected or, for various reasons, are considered unreliable. Second, although data collection on industrial relations indicators was integrated into the ILOSTAT questionnaire in 2011, the response rate from countries continues to be low and the quality of the data poor. Third, even where data are available and reliable, comparisons across countries and over time remain limited, given that the data stem from different sources and there are time series breaks in some countries.

162. Given the lack of international statistical guidelines, [90] the ILO has been pioneering the work on setting standards and concepts to facilitate international comparability. [91] Additional work and resources are, however, needed to further improve data availability and quality. This will require the revision of the current guidelines, experimentation with additional data collection methods (for example, the use of the Delphi method of surveys among experts), capacity-building at the national level and engagement with NSOs to incorporate questions on industrial relations data into the labour force surveys. Efforts should be made to establish the biennial collection and estimation of collective bargaining coverage and trade union density rates with the publication of a statistical brief. Further efforts should also be made to collect data on employers' organizations and to pilot data collection for peak level social dialogue.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on how data collection efforts can be improved in respect of industrial relations data (trade union density and collective bargaining coverage rates) and the difficulties that they may encounter in this regard with a view to presenting proposed guidelines, survey methods and definitions that could lead to the proposal of a new standard at the next ICLS.

3.23. SDG indicator 8.8.2: Labour rights

163. As also discussed in section 2.2, in October 2018, recognizing the need to have an internationally agreed methodology to measure SDG indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights consistent with UN General Assembly resolution 71/313, the 20th ICLS adopted resolution II concerning such a methodology. In March 2019, the methodology was also approved by the Governing Body of the ILO. [92]

164. The 20th ICLS resolution II confirmed the ILO to be the custodian agency for the indicator. It also recommended that the Governing Body consider the creation of a tripartite committee to further address refinements to the methodology. At its 341st Session (March 2021), the Governing Body approved the establishment of the tripartite committee to consider further improvements to the approved methodology of SDG indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights. [93] After a series of meetings held in 2022, the tripartite committee adopted an amendment to the 20th ICLS resolution II detailing the agreed refinements of the methodology. [94]

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[90] Currently there are two ICLS resolutions that relate to industrial relations data: the resolution concerning statistics of strikes, lockouts and other action due to labour disputes (1993); and the resolution concerning statistics of collective agreements (1926).

[91] ILO, *Guidebook on how and why to collect and use data on industrial relations*, 2020.

[92] GB.335/INS/14/1.

[93] GB.341/INS/16(Rev.1).

[94] The amendments were incorporated into the text of the resolution, as published on the ICLS website.

165. The indicator measures country-level compliance with freedom of association and collective bargaining rights and is based on the coding of ILO textual sources and national legislation against a detailed list of evaluation criteria. The indicator has a range from 0 to 10, with 0 being the best possible score (indicating higher levels of compliance with freedom of association and collective bargaining rights) and 10 the worst (indicating lower levels of compliance with freedom of association and collective bargaining rights).

166. Given that the statistical foundation of the indicator is the ILO textual sources and that those sources are themselves based on information provided by the governments and employers' and workers' organizations, the data collection and reporting is carried out by the ILO and not by NSOs or other national authorities. Since 2019, each year the ILO submitted both the indicator, global and regional averages and related storylines to the United Nations. Upon the adoption of the amendment to the 20th ICLS resolution II detailing the agreed refinements of the methodology, the Office updated the data and, through a careful analysis of national legislation, expanded the reporting to non-ratifying countries as well. As of 2023, the data are reported annually for all ILO Member States and are available for the years 2015–21.

167. In 2023, the Office also developed a web page to make SDG indicator 8.8.2 and the underlying coding of non-compliances publicly available. [95] The website allows users to search the data in multiple ways to facilitate understanding of individual country scores and the monitoring of progress over time.

3.24. Status of the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160)

168. The compilation and publication of relevant, timely, valid, reliable and comparable labour statistics play an essential role in the efforts of Member States to design, implement, monitor and review effective national employment policies and programmes. Labour statistics are also embedded in the 2030 Agenda and play an essential part in the measurement framework for many SDGs.

169. The Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63), was adopted to provide a basic set of regular statistics on wages and hours of work for a number of purposes. The Labour Statistics Convention (No. 160) and Recommendation (No. 170), 1985, revised and expanded Convention No. 63 to take account of modern needs for an integrated system of labour statistics. Convention No. 160 addresses the needs of both developed and developing countries and incorporates the principles of flexibility and gradualism. These themes are elaborated on further in a room document. [96]

170. Since 1988, Convention No. 63 has been closed to new ratifications. In November 1997, the Governing Body of the ILO, at its 270th Session, determined that Convention No. 63 was outdated [97] and, in 2018, the ILO Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group (SRM TWG), at its fourth meeting, proposed it for abrogation in 2024. [98] Convention No. 160 and Recommendation No. 170 were, however, deemed to be up-to-date instruments and the SRM TWG (with the corresponding decision of the Governing Body at its 328th Session (October–November 2016)) called on the Office to promote the ratification of Convention No. 160

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[95] ILOSTAT, "SDG indicator 8.8.2 – Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on ILO textual sources and national legislation".

[96] Room document 24.

[97] ILO, *Report of the Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards*, GB.270/LILS/3(Rev.1), 1997.

[98] ILO, *Abrogation of four international labour Conventions*, ILC.112/Report VII(1), 2022.

and encourage Member States that are still bound by the Convention No. 63 to ratify Convention No. 160. [99]

171. In the context of the Standards Review Mechanism, the Governing Body has requested the Office to follow up on the recommendations of the SRM TWG, including with the implementation of action plans tailored to the Member States concerned, with the aim of ensuring that the abrogation of a ratified instrument does not cause a gap in legal protection in Member States. [100] To do this, the Governing Body encouraged what could be described as "remedial ratification", that is the ratification of up-to-date Conventions that are related to the outdated Convention.

172. To date, Convention No. 63 has been denounced by 20 Member States but is still effective in 14 countries. A total of 51 Member States have ratified Convention No. 160 (including the 20 Member States that have denounced Convention No. 63), with Sierra Leone being the latest country to ratify the Convention in 2022.

173. Between 2018 and 2023, the ILO's Department of Statistics prepared 17 comments concerning the implementation of Convention No. 160 and 12 comments concerning the implementation of Convention No. 63, based on information submitted by governments to the International Labour Standards Department.

▶ Points for reflection

> Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on the feasibility of ratifying the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160), and to consider and evaluate the urgency of its ratification in the case of the countries that have ratified the Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63), in view of the upcoming abrogation of Convention No. 63 in 2024. The countries concerned are Algeria, Barbados, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Kenya, Myanmar, Nicaragua, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

3.25. Statistics on qualifications, skills, apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning

174. In 2018, the 20th ICLS endorsed the *Guidelines concerning measurement of qualifications and skills mismatches of persons in employment*, which provide definitions of the main concepts, guidance regarding the measurement approaches and analytical indicators. The 20th ICLS requested that the ILO continue methodological work on this topic, develop data collection tools, and arrange for the testing of the concepts and measurement approaches presented in the Guidelines.

175. Building on the 20th ICLS recommendations on the subject, the Office has carried out a number of activities since 2018, as described below.

- The Office has advanced the development of new instruments for collecting information on the qualifications and skills available and required at the workplace. Following a review of national and international practices in measuring qualifications and skills through household-based surveys, it developed an add-on module on occupational qualifications and skills, suitable for attachment to national labour force and related household surveys. The module is accompanied by instructions for completing the form, as well as a variable and indicators

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[99] ILO, *Minutes of the 328th Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office*, GB.328/PV, 2016, para. 581.

[100] ILO, *Minutes of the 334th Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office*, GB.334/PV, 2018, para. 761.

derivation guide. It was subject to internal and external review and is fully compatible with the LFS model questionnaires published by the ILO.

- Progress has been made on the testing of the relevance and suitability of the conceptual framework of the Guidelines and the methodology developed for collecting data on qualifications and skills. A skills module, in full or in part, was implemented in the labour force surveys of Eswatini (2021) and the United Republic of Tanzania (2020) and in a number of school-to-work transition surveys. Following a technical workshop in Eswatini in 2022, a comprehensive report presenting the results of the skills module is expected to be published in 2023. The report includes statistics on the qualifications and skills mismatches of persons in employment.

- To support the implementation of the Guidelines and enhance national capacities to identify, collect, analyse and disseminate labour market information related to qualifications and skills mismatches, the Office, in collaboration with other organizations, provided a stand-alone learning course on measuring skills mismatches in 2020. Given the interest in this course, it was then introduced as an annual course. Each edition of the course has been attended by more than 70 participants from all over the world. Training activities on the measurement of qualifications and skills mismatches have been included in many other training courses.

- The Office has been systematically producing and disseminating estimates of mismatches by level of education. [101]

176. As many workers and jobseekers, owing to changes in the labour market or in job requirements, find themselves in need of retraining or upskilling, there is increasing recognition of the key role that apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning can play in enabling these people to acquire the relevant skills and competences and in improving the productivity and competitiveness of enterprises.

177. Apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning were considered by the Global Commission on the Future of Work to be an important element of the system of lifelong learning. The importance of lifelong learning is emphasized in the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 108th (Centenary) Session in June 2019.

178. In order to make sure that the labour standards concerning apprenticeships, internships and other work experience schemes are up to date, a new legal instrument on quality apprenticeships, namely the Quality Apprenticeships Recommendation, 2023 (No. 208), was adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 111th Session (June 2023).

179. To address the calls for better statistics on the number of participants in apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning, and also in vocational education and training, the Office has reviewed the availability of such information in national labour force and other household-based surveys. A room document is being presented to the 21st ICLS that sets out the results of this review and discusses the comparability of data. [102]

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[101] See: ILOSTAT, "Data" and ILOSTAT, "Education and Mismatch Indicators (EMI database)".

[102] Room document 25.

> Participants in the Conference are invited to: (a) indicate whether the topic of statistics on work-based learning is of interest to their country; (b) indicate whether their country already collects statistics on apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning through establishment-based or household-based surveys; and (c) express their views as to whether this topic should be discussed in the future in greater depth with a view to producing internationally comparable statistics on participation in apprenticeship and other forms of work-based learning.

3.26. Disability statistics

180. Data on labour market disparities between persons with and without disabilities are essential to inform transformative policymaking and programming. Yet, analysis of ILOSTAT datasets reveals that many countries do not collect population-level data on disability status, thereby hampering efforts to disaggregate labour market indicators. Investment in national data systems is needed to advance disability inclusion.

181. To obtain a more comprehensive picture of the situation of people with disabilities in the labour market, the ILO has been systematically producing and publishing data for 65 labour market indicators that help to quantify the disparities in the labour market outcomes of persons with and without disabilities. [103] These include indicators related to the labour force, employment, unemployment, working time and earnings, disaggregated by age, sex, status in employment, education, occupation, economic activity, and rural versus urban areas. The database is regularly updated using the ILO Harmonized Microdata collection. In addition, the Youth Labour Market Statistics (YouthSTATS) database, which focuses on people aged 15–29 years, now includes new indicators that have been cross-tabulated by disability status.

182. To enhance the national capacity to generate comprehensive and reliable data and to improve the comparability of data on people with disabilities, which would facilitate the monitoring of States' progress towards the SDGs and of their compliance with their obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the ILO has been providing technical assistance and training to the ILO constituents and promoting the use, in labour force and other household surveys that feature a module on employment, of the questions on disability developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. [104] Thanks to these efforts, an increasing number of countries are including disability identification questions in their national labour force surveys.

183. To improve understanding of the barriers and other factors that drive the disparities in the labour market outcomes between people with and those without disabilities, the ILO has developed, in collaboration with the Washington Group, a disability module suitable for attachment to national labour force and related household surveys. [105] The module has been implemented in a number of countries.

184. The ILO has also organized a number of dedicated workshops, webinars and online resources in the form of blog posts on the subject. As part of the *Innovation to Inclusion* project, funded by the

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[103] For more information, see the Disability Labour Market Indicators (DLMI) database, available at: ILOSTAT, "Data". For methodological information, see the description of the DLMI database at ILOSTAT, "Disability Labour Market Indicators (DLMI database)".

[104] Washington Group on Disability Statistics, "WG Short Set on Functioning (WG–SS)".

[105] The module can be downloaded at: https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/LFS/AddOn_DisabilityBarriers_V1_Full.zip.

Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and designed to promote the private-sector employment of persons with disabilities in Bangladesh and Kenya, the ILO has provided training and technical assistance to the constituents. It has also provided technical support to the *Including People with Disabilities in the Arab Labour Market* project developed by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

185. Based on the disability data disseminated through the ILOSTAT portal, the ILO provided significant input to the UN *Disability and Development Report 2023*. [106]

3.27. Occupational injuries

186. Occupational safety and health is at the core of decent work, and thus it is part and parcel of the Decent Work Agenda and Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda. In June 2022, the International Labour Conference amended the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (2018) by adding to it a safe and healthy working environment as a fifth principle and right.

187. Valid, reliable, timely and comparable data on occupational safety and health are essential in order to provide comprehensive and timely information for prevention purposes.

188. An analysis of the data on occupational injuries shows that the data tend to be heterogeneous in many respects. There are wide differences between countries with respect to the data sources and their coverage. In many countries, the data derived from administrative records (compensation schemes and notification systems) are incomplete and subject to a number of limitations (for example, coverage may be limited to paid employees only and certain activities, such as those in agriculture or in the informal sector, are often excluded completely). Also, very often, there are significant delays in reporting the data.

189. In order to improve the availability, comparability, timeliness and comprehensiveness of the data, significant activities are needed to increase national capacity to undertake new data collection initiatives. Furthermore, there is a need to expand the data collection to cover occupational diseases and exposure to risk factors at the workplace so that appropriate policies can be developed to address the underlying cause of occupational accidents.

190. Given the limitations of administrative records, and in order to respond to countries' needs with respect to collecting data on occupational injuries through household surveys that would complement data from the traditional sources, in 2022 the ILO developed a module on this subject that is suitable for attachment to national labour force and related household surveys. This module can be used to fill information gaps and is a valuable tool for assessing the efficiency of notification systems. The module also provides the possibility of obtaining information about the work-related health problems and risk factors that are not usually available through notification systems. The module is accompanied with guidelines for adaptation at the national level, instructions for completing the module and its integration into the LFS, and a variable derivation guide to support the generation of harmonized outputs. [107]

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[106] UN, *Disability and Development Report 2023*, forthcoming.

[107] The full set of documentation can be downloaded at: https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/LFS/AddOn_OccupationalInjuries_V1_Full.zip.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to express their opinions on the ongoing work on the measurement of occupational safety and health and on the further methodological development and testing of a module, with a view to the provision of complementary guidance on the measurement of occupational diseases and exposure to risk factors.

3.28. Green jobs

191. The ILO has engaged in various statistical activities and developed guidance and knowledge products concerning the concept of green jobs following the adoption in 2013 by the 19th ICLS of the *Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of employment in the environmental sector*. The Guidelines provided the first statistical definition of the concept of green jobs. Moreover, the ILO has carried out various labour statistics and analysis activities in support of the *Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all*, which were adopted in 2015 by the Governing Body of the ILO. [108]

192. Various knowledge products related to the green jobs concept, the measurement of green jobs and green jobs indicators have been developed. In 2023, the Office prepared a technical paper which presents a review of the definitions for the concepts of green jobs, the green economy, the circular economy, just transition and related concepts that have been developed through intergovernmental processes and international organizations. [109] Moreover, a template for and guidance on preparing the ILO *Employment–Environment–Climate Factsheets* have been developed to help provide a snapshot of a country's situation and outlook regarding the nexus between the labour market, the environment and the climate. [110]

193. In October 2022, an ILO–OECD workshop was organized to support a request by G7 Labour and Employment Ministers for a methodology and concept definition to monitor the creation of decent work and good quality jobs that are contributing to a green, nature-positive economy and a just transition. The two agencies proposed that the definition of the concept of green jobs should be aligned with that in the 19th ICLS Guidelines. They agreed that there is no single best methodology of measurement, since the method used will depend on the policy objective and data availability.

194. In 2022, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the ILO developed the report *Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions*. [111] The report seeks to fill knowledge gaps on decent work and employment in the emerging nature conservation and restoration economy. It includes a conceptual framework and a measurement framework grounded in ICLS standards and other international statistical standards and discusses the conceptual linkages between green jobs and decent work in nature-based solutions. The report was launched at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference held in Montreal, Canada, in 2022.

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[108] ILO, *Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all*, 2015.

[109] Monica Castillo, *Green jobs, green economy, just transition and related concepts: A review of definitions developed through intergovernmental processes and international organizations* (ILO, 2023).

[110] For example, see: ILO, "Country fact sheets on employment and environmental sustainability across Asia and the Pacific".

[111] ILO, UNEP and IUCN, *Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions 2022*, 2022.

195. The ILO has engaged with different stakeholders in international and bilateral meetings to share information, provide technical support and build capacity.

196. In the context of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) programme in Guyana, the ILO provided in-person training to the Bureau of Statistics of Guyana on the concept of green jobs and on the environmental goods and service sector of the System of Environmental–Economic Accounting (SEEA). It also facilitated a virtual workshop on the Environmental and Clean Technology Products Economic Account developed by Statistics Canada. As a part of the PAGE programme for Kyrgyzstan, the ILO has provided training to the National Statistical Committee on the environmental goods and service sector of the SEEA, and has jointly designed and supported the implementation of an establishment survey on green jobs by the NSO. The results are expected by the end of 2023.

197. In 2023, the ILO led a technical training workshop in Morocco to build national statistical capacity on the definition and measurement of the green jobs concept following ICLS standards, using guidance developed from ILO pilot testing, with support from the PAGE programme and the Advancing the Decent Work in North Africa (ADWA) and Promotion of Decent Work in Agribusiness (ProAgro) projects. Participants included officials of Morocco's High Commission for Planning and the National Labour Market Observatory.

198. The ILO, as a part of the Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network (GAIN), has also developed modelling methodology to analyse the impact of green policies on employment, thus helping policymakers to make informed decisions. Several regional and country assessments have been carried out since 2018. Using an input–output analysis, the green jobs assessment reports for India, Mauritius, Nigeria, Tunisia, Türkiye and Zimbabwe have been published and reports for Burkina Faso and Ghana are to be released shortly. Reports for four Arab States are also expected in 2023.

▶ 4. Data compilation and production

4.1. Data compilation and production in general

199. Since 2018, the ILO's Department of Statistics has continued to make significant advancements in data compilation and production, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of global labour market trends. Major initiatives were undertaken, including the expansion of the ILO Harmonized Microdata collection, the introduction of the ILO Statistics Reporting System (StaRS), [112] the development of econometric models for estimating labour market indicators, the use of nowcasting techniques during the COVID-19 pandemic and the establishment of an on-demand data production service.

200. The ILO Harmonized Microdata collection was significantly expanded to cover an additional 44 Member States, another 7,500 national survey datasets and a broader range of variables. It now provides 260 million data values, which is approximately 95 per cent of the data available on the ILOSTAT portal.

201. Furthermore, by leveraging the ILO Harmonized Microdata collection, the Department established an on-demand data production service in 2019. This service consists of creating international databases within hours, fulfilling hundreds of requests for data tabulations and

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[112] ILO, "ILOSTAT StaRS".

cross-tabulations from other departments, international organizations, research institutions and universities.

202. Although microdata have become the prominent data channel by far, annual questionnaires remain an important data collection tool to obtain information for countries with scarce labour data or limited dissemination platforms and to obtain non-household survey data. As such, the StaRS platform was introduced in 2020 to facilitate the reporting process and is currently used for two annual data inquiries.

203. The Department has developed and maintains econometric models in collaboration with other ILO departments to produce estimates and forecasts of key labour market indicators. These models are crucial for monitoring global and regional trends, filling existing data gaps and contributing to SDG reporting and the production of flagship ILO reports. Most notably, the Department led the development of the ILO nowcasting model, which effectively tracked the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world of work, supporting the publication of the *ILO Monitor*.

204. These initiatives have not only facilitated detailed analysis and informed policymaking but have also supported the global monitoring of progress towards the SDGs and the production of ILO flagship reports.

4.2.   ILO harmonized microdata

205. The ILO Microdata Repository has grown significantly over the past five years. More than 13,000 microdata sets from 160 ILO Member States have now been processed. This compares to 5,500 microdata sets from 116 countries in 2018. This effort would not have been possible without the major progress achieved by NSOs worldwide to move to an open data policy and to freely disseminate their national LFS microdata. The ILO and its constituents directly benefit from this move towards more open data, as it enables more detailed analysis, revealing new insights about trends and challenges in the world of work.

206. Following requests from ILO researchers and other ILOSTAT users, the number of standardized derived variables created from the processing of microdata has also been extended. Beyond the usual individual and labour market variables, the processing now covers other topics often included in labour force surveys, ranging from education and training (including apprenticeships and internships) to labour migration (including country of birth and nationality), while also covering the structure of households (including marital status and relationship to the head of household). The latest extension in derived variables is related to ISCO and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC). Mapping and processing were initially conducted at the 2-digit level, but are now being extended to the 3- and 4-digit levels when possible. This will significantly improve international statistics derived from detailed occupations and economic activities.

207. The ILO Harmonized Microdata collection has now become the main source of international data published by the ILO. Importantly, data obtained through microdata processing are no longer requested in the annual ILOSTAT questionnaire, which has significantly reduced the reporting burden for ILO Member States.

208. Further information on this subject is provided in a room document. [113]

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[113] Room document 26.

4.3. Annual data questionnaires

209. The introduction of the StaRS platform in 2020 marked a significant advancement in providing data producers with a modern and secure platform to report their statistical information to the ILO. StaRS offers respondents a range of features, including the ability to quickly download and upload Excel questionnaires, submit microdata files, manage contact information, access a range of practical and methodological resources, and obtain a comprehensive overview of data availability, particularly for SDG indicators.

210. StaRS currently serves as the data compilation platform for two annual data inquiries: the ILOSTAT questionnaire and the ILMS questionnaire. The ILMS questionnaire, which was launched globally in 2018, plays a crucial role in gathering core labour force statistics disaggregated by international migration status, while the ILOSTAT questionnaire encompasses a wide array of other topics covered on the ILOSTAT portal (as discussed in section 5).

211. To streamline the reporting process and reduce the burden on data producers, the Excel questionnaires within StaRS continue to be tailored by country. These questionnaires come with pre-filled metadata and request data that cannot be obtained through alternative channels, such as the processing of household survey microdata. This has led to a remarkable reduction in the reporting burden. For instance, most countries receiving the ILOSTAT questionnaire in 2023 had a maximum of 34 data tables to complete, a significant decrease from the 74 tables in 2018.

212. Furthermore, the questionnaires incorporate several additional features aimed at enhancing data quality and minimizing errors on the part of respondents. These include the integration of a self-review sheet, comprehensive data reporting guides and tutorial videos.

213. Through its array of functionalities, StaRS, along with its customized questionnaires, has been instrumental in enhancing the accurate and timely reporting of statistical information to the ILO.

4.4. Econometric modelling of estimates

214. Global and regional estimates showing trends in the world of work provide important insights for policymakers, analysts and researchers, employers' and workers' organizations, research institutions and international organizations. Given existing gaps in the production of international labour statistics, monitoring international labour market trends requires statistical modelling.

215. The ILO's Department of Statistics, in collaboration with the Research Department and other ILO departments for selected indicators, has designed and actively maintains a series of econometric models that are used to produce estimates and forecasts of key labour market indicators. Modelled indicators include employment, unemployment, potential labour force and labour productivity, among others.

216. The ILO modelled estimates series, published on ILOSTAT, is the world's largest repository of global and regional estimates for labour market indicators. As such, it is an important source for SDG reporting at the global and regional levels. Moreover, the estimates are a data source for several recurrent ILO reports such as the *World Employment and Social Outlook*, the *World Social Protection Report*, and the *Child Labour Global Estimates Report*, as well as the *ILO Monitor*.

217. The ILO modelled estimates series has been updated multiple times over the past five years. The updating frequency varies according to data and resource constraints. Additionally, since the 20th ICLS, several upgrades have been made. First, new indicators and breakdowns have been added to the collection, including measures of labour underutilization (such as time-related underemployment) and several SDG indicators, such as the labour income share, the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training, the proportion of children in child

labour, and the share of workers in informal employment. Second, the econometric strategy has been revamped to include pseudo out-of-sample performance assessment and cross validation more systematically for model selection. Third, the econometric strategy has been adapted to produce and update estimates during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

218. Furthermore, a new set of econometric tools, separate from the ILO modelled estimates series, has been developed to estimate the effects of policies relevant for the ILO and its constituents. The new modelling strategies aim to produce rigorous and timely evidence on policy effects. Some of the empirical strategies even allow for a plausible claim of causal estimates, as in the case of the policy simulation of universal basic old-age pensions.

4.5. Nowcasting techniques and the ILO Monitor in COVID-19 times

219. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of timely economic and labour market data. The containment measures taken to limit the spread of the virus and its devastating consequences caused a large decline in work activity, which materialized at unprecedented speed. The collection and publication of labour force surveys did not produce sufficiently timely and globally representative data to meet the incredible demand for information from policymakers and many other users of the data. In this context, nowcasting techniques, which leverage information from additional data sources, provide a good complement to standard data production methods.

220. For this reason, the ILO's Department of Statistics spearheaded the development of the ILO nowcasting model, with the purpose of filling data gaps on a more timely basis. The model combined standard nowcasting techniques with extrapolation nowcasting techniques in order to achieve global coverage. The variable "hours actually worked" was utilized in the nowcast, which enabled the tracking of aggregate global work activity and captured the sudden and large-scale economic shocks caused by COVID-19.

221. The *ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the World of Work* (later the *ILO Monitor on the World of Work*) is a joint initiative of the ILO's Employment Policy Department, the Research Department and the Department of Statistics that was launched as a recurrent publication during the pandemic. It was instrumental in assessing the labour market situation and policy implications during the pandemic, due to a large extent on the use of innovative nowcasting techniques. The estimates derived from these nowcasting techniques, together with complementary econometric modelling, were leveraged to produce timely and policy-relevant estimates for the *ILO Monitor* series, covering topics such as: the effects of testing and tracing on labour market disruption, the effect of fiscal stimulus on hours worked, and the effect of COVID-19 vaccination on economic recovery.

4.6. On-demand data production

222. Beginning in 2019, the ILO's Department of Statistics began providing a new "on-demand" data production service, which leverages the ILO Harmonized Microdata collection. The service enables clients to request the production of data tabulations, cross-tabulations and other analytical outputs leveraging any of the approximately 100 variables included in the collection. Initially offered to other ILO departments and field offices, this service was subsequently opened to other agencies and institutions conducting labour-related analytical work. The service, which relies on an R-based data production platform, can produce international databases from the more than 13,000 harmonized datasets in a matter of hours.

223. Since the establishment of the on-demand data generation service, the ILO's Department of Statistics has fulfilled approximately 200 requests covering a wide range of labour-related topics, with an average of 15 distinct tabulations per query. [114] Data from this service have also been featured in media outlets including *The Economist* and *The Financial Times*.

224. The data reviews that occur following the production of new datasets provide vital feedback on data quality, which has accelerated the detection of outliers and other data quality issues, and improved standardization across the ILO Harmonized Microdata collection and ILOSTAT. By providing new international databases on demand, this new work stream also informs and supports methodological development, including on topics such as labour migration, informality, apprenticeships, skills mismatches, the care economy and workforce, and the impacts on estimates of the adoption of the 19th ICLS standards, among others.

▶ 5. Data dissemination and labour market analysis

5.1. ILOSTAT portal

225. In celebration of the ILO Centenary, a rebranded version of ILOSTAT was launched in 2019 as a comprehensive portal rather than just a database. The main goals were to: incorporate search engine optimization for improved web engagement and search results; create a responsive website to attract mobile users; further consolidate all statistical content into one platform; use off-the-shelf technologies to reduce development and maintenance costs; and optimize the user experience while giving the portal a visually appealing overhaul.

226. The redesigned portal experienced exceptional growth in user engagement and accessibility. Views quadrupled from 280,000 in 2018 to an impressive 1.2 million in 2022, while the user base surged from 160,000 to 798,000.

227. To enrich the user experience, extensive efforts were made to incorporate intuitive features throughout the portal. Search options, filters, links to related content, and an expanded menu were integrated, facilitating navigation and content discovery. This was particularly crucial considering the wealth of resources available and the significant expansion of statistics from microdata processing.

228. The ILOSTAT portal saw a substantial increase in the number of data tables, growing from around 300 to 699, with around 200 million data values expected by the end of 2023. Tables were organized into 17 databases, most of which are updated on a weekly basis, with several having been introduced in recent years. An overview of the databases is provided in table 2 (in order of size).

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[114] Tabulations have been produced for the FAO, the International Energy Agency, the OECD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNICEF, UN-Women, the World Health Organization, the World Bank and other international organizations, as well as for numerous research institutions and universities.

▶ Table 2.   Overview of ILOSTAT databases

Database	Topics	Coverage	
		# of tables	**# of values** (in millions)
Short Term Labour Force Statistics (STLFS)	Monthly and quarterly labour force statistics from national household surveys	308	78.1
Labour Force Statistics	Labour force statistics from national household surveys	98	17.8
Education and Mismatch Indicators (EMI) NEW	Labour market indicators broken down by education including cross-tabulations by occupation to assess mismatches	45	14.1
Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination Indicators (GEND) NEW	Gender-related indicators including breakdowns by marital status and household type (this is a subset of data available by sex)	63	10.8
Rural and Urban Labour Market Statistics (RURBAN)	Labour market indicators broken down by rural and urban areas	65	5.1
Youth Labour Market Statistics (YouthSTATS)	Labour market indicators, including school-to-work transitions, with detailed breakdowns focused on young people aged 15–29	57	4.4
ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST)	Global, regional and country-level modelled estimates of the labour force, employment, informality, unemployment, labour productivity and labour income share, among others	38	4.1
International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS)	Labour force statistics broken down by international migration status	67	3.8
Wages and Working Time Statistics (COND)	Hours of work, working time arrangements, earnings, and minimum wages	22	2.4
Disability Labour Market Indicators (DLMI) NEW	Labour market indicators broken down by disability status	65	1.9
Work Statistics – 19th ICLS (WORK) NEW	Work statistics based on the statistical standards from the 19th ICLS, including data on paid work and unpaid work (such as subsistence foodstuff production work and volunteer work)	25	0.3
Occupational Safety and Health Statistics (OSH)	Fatal and non-fatal injuries at work and labour inspection	17	0.3
Labour Market-related SDG Indicators (ILOSDG)	SDG indicators on working poverty, social protection, informal employment, unemployment, women in management, earnings, manufacturing employment, occupational injuries and child labour	18	0.2
Competitiveness Indicators (COMP)	Labour productivity, hourly labour cost and inflation	5	0.2
Industrial Relations Data (IRdata)	Trade union membership, collective bargaining, and strikes and lockouts	6	0.2

Database	Topics	Coverage	
		# of tables	# of values (in millions)
Child Labour Statistics (CHILD) NEW	Child labour statistics broken down by sex, age and rural/urban	36	0.1
ILO Monitor on the World of Work (ILOMONITOR) NEW	Working hours lost owing to the COVID-19 crisis	4	0.02

229. A new data explorer was also launched in 2019, providing a user-friendly and much faster interface than the previous offering. It allows users to instantly find, filter, reshape, visualize and extract data in various formats. New features include pivoting and calculating distributions and growth rates. Other new data offerings included regional pages and web-based country profiles.

230. In terms of statistical resources, several additions were made, most notably the LFS resources page with ILO model questionnaires and modules. [115] The portal also now features topic pages, a blog and a landing page for all sources and methods. This was intended to cater to the needs of various users more adequately, including both data users and producers.

231. In 2018, the quarterly ILOSTAT e-newsletter was introduced, proving highly successful with currently over 30,000 subscribers. This audience size is even more notable when considering that the ILO's own e-newsletter has 120,000 subscribers. The newsletter serves as a valuable channel for disseminating important updates and insights from the ILOSTAT portal, further amplifying its reach and impact.

232. These various initiatives have firmly established the portal as a pivotal hub for international labour statistics, facilitating knowledge-sharing and enabling informed decision-making.

5.2. ILMS database

233. Following the endorsement by the 20th ICLS of the *Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration*, the ILO scaled up its efforts to expand its ILMS database, with the launch in 2018 of a dedicated questionnaire sent annually to labour migration focal points from NSOs and line ministries (see section 4.3). [116]

234. Until October 2018, the database consisted of 19 indicators drawn from ad hoc subregional data compilations. Following its expansion, the new global ILMS database comprises 64 indicator tables covering stocks, inflows and outflows relating to international labour migration. Of these, 35 indicators are reported by countries and 29 (rates and ratios) are computed by the ILO using the country-reported data.

235. Beyond improving global data availability, the ILMS database serves as an important mechanism to strengthen the network of national focal points on labour migration data, build national capacities in data processing and reporting, and promote inter-agency coordination. Annual training workshops on data reporting are organized for focal points in countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), in collaboration with the ILO TRIANGLE in ASEAN project, [117]

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[115] ILOSTAT, "Labour force survey (LFS) resources".

[116] ILOSTAT, "Statistics on migrant workers".

[117] ILO, "TRIANGLE in ASEAN".

and for 22 countries in Asia and the Pacific through a collaboration with Statistics Korea. [118] Training activities are also conducted for countries in Africa in collaboration with the African Union and regional economic communities. Additionally, since 2021, the ILO and the African Union have jointly organized the annual ILMS data compilation exercise in the African continent to minimize the reporting burden on countries, avoid duplication of work and ensure data consistency.

236. In 2019, the ILO further started to harness its repository of household survey microdata to produce core labour force statistics by international migrant status. Indicators are computed for many countries that identify international migrants in their LFS and share the microdata with the ILO. The ILO is currently assessing the quality and reliability of labour migration statistics obtained from these surveys, given that they are not specifically designed to cover the international migrant population (see section 3.14).

237. As at April 2023, the ILMS database provides data on international labour migration for 172 countries (compared to 27 countries prior to 2018). Despite the notable progress, important data gaps remain, especially for low and lower-middle-income countries, which are predominantly migrant-sending countries and which face significant data collection challenges. Furthermore, inflow and outflow indicators continue to be very scarce globally.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on: (a) progress achieved in establishing a global ILMS database; and (b) the type of support their country requires to reduce gaps and improve the quality of ILMS.

5.3.   World Social Protection Data Dashboards

238. Social protection is a human right and is defined as the set of policies and programmes designed to reduce and prevent poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion throughout the life cycle. [119] It is a pillar of decent work and has a dedicated SDG target within Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere). Timely, reliable, accurate and comparable data are crucial for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of social protection policies and programmes worldwide. Several international standards guide the ILO in producing the indicators, including: the 9th ICLS resolution concerning the development of social security statistics, adopted in 1957; the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202); and the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102).

239. Over the past five years, globally, the ILO has continued collecting and analysing quantitative information on social protection schemes while updating a knowledge database for 214 countries and territories. [120] The Social Security Inquiry (SSI) questionnaire feeds the database and has become the main comprehensive tool used to compile data on coverage, level of benefits and financing. [121]

240. In 2020, the SSI became an online tool with a registration process and a user-friendly interface, offering options to download and upload information and comprehensive guidance materials,

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[118] ILO and Statistics Korea, "International Labour Migration Statistics Joint Project".

[119] ILO, *World Social Protection Report 2020–22: Social protection at the crossroads – in pursuit of a better future*, 2021.

[120] ILO, "World Social Protection Data Dashboard".

[121] ILO, "ILO/SSI".

among other features. Since the 20th ICLS, the SSI has been completed twice, and the results were disseminated via the SDG indicators database, [122] the World Social Protection Data Dashboards and the flagship *World Social Protection Report*. The most recent report was published in 2021, [123] together with five companion reports, one for each ILO region. Other reports based on the data from SSI were produced in collaboration with the African Development Bank, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the International Social Security Association, UNICEF and UN-Women, among others.

241. The ILO has provided assistance and training to countries in building their monitoring and evaluation frameworks on social protection and developing capacities in data compilation and analysis. Since the last ICLS, the ILO has organized four regional training activities, in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific, and multiple national training activities on this subject. The Turin Centre and the ILO's Social Protection Department developed a self-guided training package in three languages on social protection statistics and have implemented it in several regions.

242. As a result, several countries included social protection indicators in their national monitoring and evaluation frameworks and developed annual national statistical reports on social protection. Under the framework of the ACTION Portugal project, national institutions monitoring social protection systems and national statistics institutes jointly established interinstitutional working groups on social protection statistics, which led to the production of national statistical bulletins on social protection, for example, in Cabo Verde (the first edition was published in 2022) [124] and Mozambique (four editions have been published since 2018). [125] Similarly, the Social Protection Department supported the drafting of the first statistical bulletins on social protection in other regions.

243. Drawing on country experiences, the Turin Centre and the Social Protection Department are developing a guide on building national systems of social protection statistics, to be piloted in two countries by the end of 2023 and applied in other countries as of 2024.

244. Other tools developed to examine the latest global social protection development trends include the Social Protection Monitor to capture the latest announced measures [126] and the online Rapid Assessment Protocol Social Protection Costing Tool. [127]

5.4. Analytical outputs

245. The improvements in data compilation and production described in section 4 paved the way for a major increase in the quantity and variety of analytical outputs disseminated through the ILOSTAT portal and beyond. The larger and more internationally comparable ILOSTAT databases enabled a wider range of analysis in recent years, providing new insights for researchers and policymakers on topics for which international data have previously been absent. Notably, the use of ILOSTAT data in both ILO and non-ILO publications has increased meaningfully. The improved data offerings have also bolstered the ILO's contributions to the annual report of the

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[122] UN Statistical Division, "Statistics – SDG Indicators Database".

[123] ILO, *World Social Protection Report 2020–22*.

[124] ILO, Action Portugal and Government of Cabo Verde, *Boletim Estatístico do Sistema de Proteção Social em Cabo Verde, 2016–2020*, 2022.

[125] ILO, Action Portugal and Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Mozambique, *4° Boletim Estatístico sobre Protecção Social*, 2022.

[126] ILO, "Social Protection Monitor".

[127] ILO, "ILO/RAP".

UN Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs, regional monitoring briefs and the annual *Gender Snapshot* report.

246. In 2019, the ILOSTAT portal began featuring a blog to highlight the latest trends in labour statistics using ILOSTAT data and provide insights into methodological issues and developments. Leveraging the reach of the ILO communication channels, including the website front page, the newsroom and various social media platforms, the blog has effectively captured the attention of a diverse audience. To date, there have been 63 engaging and informative blog posts published, which have attracted approximately 327,000 users to the ILOSTAT portal. What is particularly notable is that 76 per cent of these were new visitors, signifying the blog's effectiveness in attracting fresh audiences. The blog serves as a gateway for individuals to discover the depth and breadth of labour statistics available through ILOSTAT as well as the range of methodological guidance and documentation produced by the ILO's Department of Statistics.

247. In 2018, a new series of briefs, *Spotlight on Work Statistics,* was introduced, to provide in-depth examinations of specific labour-related issues. To date, 12 issues have been published, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of complex topics. In addition, numerous other ILO briefs have been published, shedding new light on topics including rural and urban labour markets, gender gaps in the world of work, school-to-work transitions, and the impact of marriage and children on labour force participation.

248. In addition to the outputs released through the ILOSTAT portal, the ILO's Department of Statistics contributed to the analysis carried out for several noteworthy ILO publications, which have made excellent use of the expanded ILOSTAT databases. Notably, the *ILO Monitor*, with its multiple editions, has played a pivotal role in monitoring and analysing labour market trends during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Its insightful assessments have been instrumental in understanding the evolving landscape. Another ILO flagship report, the annual *World Employment and Social Outlook,* also offers valuable insights into global labour market developments. [128]

249. Overall, the analytical outputs published on both the ILOSTAT portal and the ILO's main website over the past five years have significantly expanded the availability of labour-related information, contributing to evidence-based policymaking, and fostering a deeper understanding of labour market dynamics. These outputs have not only served the ILO's mission but have also been utilized by various organizations to enhance their research and publications in the field of labour statistics.

5.5.   SDMX global data structures for labour statistics

250. SDMX was endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2008 as the preferred standard for data exchange. Since then, it has been progressively adopted by many organizations for the exchange and dissemination of statistical information. One key aspect of facilitating the interoperability of systems using SDMX is the definition of global artefacts (specifically data structure definitions – DSDs) making use of the standard. Global DSDs for some domains have existed since 2014. In 2016, a working group, comprising representatives of the ILO, the OECD, the European Central Bank, Eurostat and the World Bank, was established to develop a global DSD framework for labour statistics, reaching agreement on six global DSDs on the subject. A pilot phase was launched in 2019 to test the artefacts, after which these were revised and streamlined. The first version of the global DSDs was released in 2023 and is now available on the

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[128] See also ILO, *The impact of the Ukraine crisis on the world of work: Initial assessments,* ILO brief, 2022 and ILO, *Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward*, 2021.

SDMX Global Registry website. [129] The global artefacts are being maintained by the ILO. They will be updated to leverage some of the new features available in the new SDMX version 3.0.

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to reflect on the relevance of using SDMX and, in particular, the global artefacts in order to facilitate data exchange and reduce the reporting burden for labour-related statistics, and, where possible, to refer to the global artefacts when designing their data exchange operations.

5.6. Open data in the ILO

251. In pursuing the objective for the ILO to be a recognized international centre of excellence for knowledge, research and policy analysis on the world of work, the Office has implemented an ILO Open Access Policy, which stipulates free access to information and unrestricted use of electronic resources for everyone. To support the new ILO Open Access Policy, the ILO's Department of Statistics has adopted the open data principles for its databases and data sets together with the accompanying referential metadata.

252. Along with the already implemented open data technical requirements, as of 3 May 2023, these resources are covered by the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence, under which any user is given permission to use, reproduce, distribute or otherwise communicate a given work to the public with appropriate attribution of credit to the source.

253. An exception to these publications is microdata submitted by the constituents and partner institutions that by agreement is deemed to be used solely by the ILO for research purposes and not shared with third parties.

▶ 6. Technical assistance and capacity-building in labour statistics

6.1. Global activities

6.1.1. The ILO in the SDMX community

254. The aim of the SDMX initiative, which was first established in 2002, is to create and maintain technical and statistical standards and guidelines together with an information technology (IT) architecture and IT tools, to be used and implemented by the SDMX sponsors and other organizations dealing with statistical data and metadata exchange. [130] Combined with modern technologies, these SDMX standards and guidelines should improve efficiency when managing statistical business processes.

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[129] SDMX Global Registry, "Fusion Metadata Registry".

[130] The initial sponsors of the SDMX initiative were the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the European Central Bank (ECB), Eurostat, the IMF, the OECD and the United Nations. The World Bank joined the initial group of sponsor organizations in 2003.

255. At the ILO, there is a history of more than ten years of work with SDMX. In 2012, a REST API [131] compliant with SDMX was integrated in the first release of ILOSTAT, allowing software tools like the ILOSTAT Excel add-in and the ILO Knowledge Management Gateway to consume and display ILOSTAT data.

256. The Office has been assisting countries with the implementation of LMIS projects associated with SDMX since 2017. These projects include the development of a series of capacity-building activities and the provision of a toolkit composed of open-source software tools based on SDMX, namely .Stat Suite, SDMX Constructor and SMART (Statistical Metadata-driven Analysis and Reporting Tool). It delivered technical support for more than 100 SDMX-related activities that took place in the 2021–22 biennium in 21 countries, including SDMX and data modelling training activities, and for the deployment of SDMX tools.

257. The Office has been actively involved in the development of the SDMX standard, with representatives participating in different task forces and working groups for the development of global artefacts and the validation and transformation language (VTL), for example. An ILO representative has chaired the SDMX Technical Working Group [132] since 2020, covering the period when the latest SDMX version 3.0 was developed and released (November 2021). The 11th SDMX Experts' Meeting, held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, in November 2022, was jointly organized by the ILO.

258. In recognition of the ILO's substantive contributions to the SDMX initiative, the SDMX Sponsors' Committee reached a unanimous agreement in March 2023 to invite the ILO to become the eighth sponsor organization of the initiative. Accordingly, the ILO has become a party to the memorandum of understanding that sets out the framework for cooperation, governance arrangements, intellectual property rights and resource-sharing relating to SDMX initiative activities. [133]

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to take note of the relevance of the extensive contributions made by the Office to the SDMX initiative, which led to its incorporation into the highest governance body of the initiative.

6.1.2. Labour market information systems

259. An LMIS is an advanced solution promoted by the Office for its constituents to compile, store and make labour market indicators available for the analysis of the labour market and the formulation and monitoring of policies based on evidence. Since the last ICLS, more than 40 countries and regional organizations have either expressed substantial interest in, or have already been proactively working on, the implementation of an LMIS project, attesting to the significance of such systems in improving the management and accessibility of labour market data globally.

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[131] REST APIs (representational state transfer application programming interfaces) are web services that use HTTP and provide an interface for software clients to interact with the service.

[132] The governance structure of the SDMX initiative is composed of the Sponsors' Committee, the secretariat and two working groups: the SDMX Technical Working Group and the SDMX Statistical Working Group.

[133] Bank for International Settlements et al., *Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment and Operation of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) Initiative*, 2007.

260. A new methodological framework has been developed and instituted by the Office to guide Member States through the implementation of LMIS projects. This process involves various activities aimed at providing technical assistance and capacity-building across different roles, with the objective of implementing a sustainable solution. The activities under the framework include:

- assessing data availability and the overall institutional situation of the main LMIS stakeholders;

- signing a memorandum of understanding between the ILO and the implementing agency of the country, usually the Ministry of Labour or NSO;

- establishing a governance structure and designating operational roles and focal points;

- defining system architecture and deploying .Stat Suite, an open-source statistical data warehouse and dissemination system developed and maintained by the Statistical Information System Collaboration Community (SIS-CC) and provided free of charge, including free support by the ILO; [134]

- holding a data production workshop (over three–five days) to identify information sources for labour market indicators, establish agreements with data providers, collect reference metadata and harmonize the definitions of the indicators and classifications;

- when necessary, arranging a consultancy service following a methodology designed to harness administrative records as statistical data sources for labour indicators;

- creating a master plan with the participation of all stakeholders, to define the set of indicators (variables and classifications) to be included in the LMIS, with a common conceptual scheme across all indicators irrespective of the data source;

- performing knowledge transfer (over three–five days) to enable IT staff to configure and administer the LMIS .Stat platform;

- conducting a workshop on SDMX and data modelling (over three–five days), aimed at creating and uploading to the platform all structural metadata (both the SDMX standard and the methodological framework foster the harmonization of concepts and classifications);

- carrying out a data preparation workshop (over three–five days) to train data managers and producers on preparing and uploading data and referential metadata to the platform;

- assisting in the configuration of the LMIS .Stat platform for live production, including the definition of statistical themes for easier browsing of the information and designing the user interface , logos and branding.

261. Since 2018, the Office has been instrumental in assisting 28 countries and regional organizations with the implementation of an LMIS. The projects are currently at different stages: 21 countries have successfully completed a data production workshop, of which 16 have also finalized both the SDMX and data modelling and the data preparation workshops. Five countries have progressed to the point where their LMIS platform is fully operational.

262. Additionally, the Office, in association with the Turin Centre, has established a systematic learning approach to streamline training and avoid repetition in building capacities for common knowledge areas in SDMX and LMIS projects. Since 2020, an annual basic e-learning course on LMIS has been offered, alongside an advanced, in-person LMIS course. This year the first edition

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[134] More information is available on the SIS-CC website, at https://siscc.org.

of an SDMX course took place in September. These courses are open to all active participants interested in LMIS or involved in any ongoing project.

263. Furthermore, in order to mitigate the technical hurdles associated with data production and preparation in an LMIS project, the Office has developed a suite of desktop applications, collectively known as the LMIS toolkit, which comprises: the SDMX Constructor, which empowers users to create, edit and upload SDMX structural artefacts; a set of electronic worksheets to guide the data modelling process and facilitate the creation of the initial set of structural metadata objects with the SDMX Constructor; SMART, aiding in data transcoding and re-formatting of the data set to be uploaded to the platform; and the SDMX Excel add-in, facilitating the download or upload of data and metadata from any SDMX registry, including the LMIS platform.

264. The above-mentioned work on LMIS projects has served as input for the preparation of a room document on the topic, which will be discussed during the 21st ICLS. [135]

▶ **Points for reflection**

> Participants in the Conference are invited to review the room document on LMIS projects and express their views as to: (a) whether the topic is of interest to their country; (b) whether their country already has an LMIS in place and whether it is compatible with ILO recommendations and approaches; and (c) whether they consider that this topic should be discussed in greater depth with a view to defining which mechanisms should be put in place to facilitate the implementation process.

6.1.3. Global capacity-building programmes

265. Since the conclusion of the 20th ICLS, the ILO's Department of Statistics and the Turin Centre have continuously worked together to identify capacity-building priorities for the ILO's social partners in relation to labour statistics and labour market analysis.

266. The global capacity-building programmes developed since 2018 have included standard face-to-face training activities at the Turin Centre and in the field, offered in multiple languages. New offerings have included: virtual training activities, especially developed and promoted after the COVID-19 pandemic; academies on labour statistics at the Turin Centre and in the field, offering a complete learning experience, catering to users and producers of labour statistics; online self-learning modules, available globally for everyone; and tailor-made training activities at the Turin Centre and in the field. These were provided in addition to technical advisory services. The capacity-building programmes focused on topics of relevance to ILO Member States that are a priority for labour statisticians and labour market analysts globally. Some of the topics developed in recent years include measuring skills and qualification mismatches, measuring labour migration, measuring informality, measuring unpaid care work, sampling and weighting, microdata analysis and various other topics carefully selected each year based on the priorities of Member States in respect of labour statistics.

267. Examples of the global capacity-building programmes implemented in recent years are the 2021 Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy, which was held online and trained 130 participants from more than 60 countries; and an online self-learning module on measuring volunteer work, which was developed in five languages and made widely available online.

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[135] Room document 27.

268. Since 2018, the ILO's Department of Statistics and the Turin Centre have provided training to 1,866 participants from all around the world. Of these, 1,058 were male and 808 were female. In terms of regional distribution, 721 participants were from Asia and the Pacific, 838 were from Africa, 146 were from Latin America, Central America and the Caribbean, 149 were from Europe and 12 were from North America. They included representatives of: NSOs; ministries of labour and employment, and other ministries; employers' and workers' organizations; international development organizations and partners; and international non-governmental organizations. They also included researchers, academics and other members of the extended development community.

6.1.4. South–South and triangular cooperation in labour statistics

269. In 2022, the ILO launched a programme to support South–South and triangular cooperation among Portuguese-speaking countries. This programme primarily involves the establishment of a support network under the technical leadership of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). The initial phase of this work involved a review of the existing state of labour statistics in selected Portuguese-speaking countries. This review was used as a basis on which to plan and implement a programme of support between the IBGE and the statistical agencies of the partner countries, including the sharing of practices and capacity-building in labour statistics. While the primary immediate objective of this activity is to establish a network of support among Portuguese-speaking countries, it is also seen as a template for other such networks which could be established within or across regions, addressing, among other issues, the need to provide support in a wider set of languages and on a wider scale than can be managed exclusively by the ILO.

6.2. Asia and the Pacific

270. Since October 2018, the ILO's statistical work and assistance to Member States in the Asia and the Pacific region has been focused on four major areas, as described below.

6.2.1. Capacity-building on labour statistics and on the standards from the 19th ICLS and 20th ICLS

271. The ILO organized a number of regional and subregional training activities and related meetings in collaboration with regional and national partners in Asia and the Pacific, specifically to build capacity on labour statistics and on the standards from the 19th ICLS and 20th ICLS. These included:

- a subregional technical workshop on populating labour market indicators and standardizing microdata for the Pacific Island countries, which was jointly organized with the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community (SPC/SDD) and UNESCAP (New Caledonia, December 2018);

- a Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy for the Pacific Island countries, jointly organized with the SPC/SDD and UNESCAP, which was a blended learning modality that included an online phase and face-to-face training (Fiji, 2023);

- a training workshop on work and labour force statistics for Fiji and Tonga, which was jointly organized with the SPC/SDD (Tonga, 2023);

- in relation to labour migration statistics, a wide range of capacity-building activities to support ASEAN countries, including annual training on ILMS projects, a subregional technical workshop for South Asia (2022), and national training activities in Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam,

Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, the Philippines and Viet Nam. The ILO also contributed to a regional workshop on strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda, organized by the UN Statistics Division and UNESCAP (Thailand, 2019);

- national training activities on labour statistics, labour market information systems and labour migration in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Samoa, Tonga and Viet Nam;

- a range of contributions to online capacity-building and information-sharing activities, including on household income and expenditure surveys for Pacific Island countries, organized with the SPC/SDD; a professional course on global migration, organized with the University of the Philippines and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; and various Asia–Pacific Statistics Cafés, organized with UNESCAP, to provide information to support countries in managing data collection challenges owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, among other things;

- data clinics (briefings) for data management officers working in UN Resident Coordinator Offices, on decent work-related SDG indicators and ILOSTAT (March 2022) and on the theme "Leave no migrant behind" (July 2022, organized jointly with the IOM);

- several other face-to-face and online courses organized by or in collaboration with the Turin Centre, supporting a total of 721 government officials and representatives of the social partners from the Asia and the Pacific region.

6.2.2. Support to Member States in data collection for labour force statistics

272. The ILO has supported the implementation of the 19th ICLS resolution I and the 20th ICLS resolution I in the region through data collection and data processing exercises for key labour market variables and for data collection systems, including support to the following countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. In addition to the support provided with regard to LFS methodology and the application of the latest standards, support also covered topics such as the measurement of labour migration, school-to-work transitions, child labour, forced labour, social protection, green jobs, labour demand and vacancies, and unpaid domestic and care work.

273. The ILO has also continued to support and provide technical assistance to Member States in the region in respect of building their statistical systems to be able to collect and publish annual or subannual statistics on work and the labour force, in Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (in collaboration with the World Bank), and Viet Nam. Advocacy work on the production of annual labour force statistics has also been undertaken and is continuing in countries such as Fiji, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Timor-Leste.

6.2.3. Support in measuring and reporting on SDG indicators on decent work

274. Since the adoption of the Decent Work Agenda, as fully embedded in the 2030 Agenda with its 17 goals, the ILO has continued to support Member States in the Asia and the Pacific region in developing monitoring systems for assessing their progress in implementing the SDGs, particularly for the targets related to decent work. The ILO continues to provide inputs to the revision or development of SDG-related monitoring and evaluation components of Decent Work

Country Programmes and to the common country analysis processes where decent work-related SDG targets are included in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. This includes work in Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Nepal, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

275. The ILO has also supported the piloting of activities for the measurement of the SDG indicators for which it is the custodian agency in most Member States that have implemented a new LFS since end of 2018. A key focus was on the SDG indicators that are still classified as Tier II in the region, with work taking place in Fiji, Mongolia and the Philippines. The ILO has also supported India in the development of a national SDG indicator framework.

276. The ILO is also playing an active part in the UN mechanisms to support capacity-building on SDG monitoring and reporting activities at the regional level.

6.2.4. Support to Member States in maintaining data collection systems through the COVID-19 pandemic and in assessing the impact of the pandemic

277. With the COVID-19 pandemic immediately affecting data collection activities in the region, the ILO quickly developed a range of guidance to support countries in maintaining their data collection and data production systems. It joined the UN Regional Collaborative Platform and provided briefings to NSOs through Asia-Pacific Statistics Cafés, on:

- COVID-19: Impact on implementing household surveys (June 2020);

- Rapid assessment surveys on the impact of COVID-19 (June 2020);

- Conducting a census during the COVID-19 pandemic: Challenges and approaches (June 2020).

278. Equally quickly, the ILO developed some measurement tools to assess the impact of COVID-19 on labour markets at the national level, using both household surveys (covering working hours losses, jobs losses and income losses) and establishment surveys (covering the impact on business operations, for example). With the ILO's technical support and using ILO guidance tools, the following Member States produced data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their labour markets using additional questions included in their LFS: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. The ILO also supported the implementation of COVID-19 impact rapid assessments in various countries, in collaboration with UN system and other international partners in the region.

6.3. Africa

279. Over the last five years, the ILO statistical activities in Africa have focused on five major areas, as described below.

6.3.1. Capacity-building on labour statistics and decent work indicators

280. Between 2019 and 2023, capacity-building workshops and training courses were organized in Niger (on the issue of employment indicators and cognitive testing, attended by participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Senegal and Togo), Nigeria (on labour migration statistics, organized in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States) and Senegal (on the issue of statistics of informality).

281. An online mini-academy on labour market statistics and analysis relating to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda was organized for French-speaking countries (November–December 2020). An online course on the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market in Africa was also organized for French-speaking countries (November 2021).

282. Decent work country profiles with a focus on SDG labour market indicators were produced in Cabo Verde (2022), Côte d'Ivoire (2020) and Togo (2019).

6.3.2. Implementation of the 19th ICLS resolution I and 20th ICLS resolution I, survey implementation and reporting

283. The ILO supported the implementation of the 19th ICLS resolution I and the 20th ICLS resolution I and provided general support for LFS activities in the following countries: Cabo Verde, Eswatini, Gambia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Technical support was provided for the population and housing census in Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, particularly in relation to the use of ILO model questionnaires to apply the 19th ICLS standards.

284. Technical and financial assistance was provided to Congo and Côte d'Ivoire for school-to-work transition surveys conducted in 2022. The ILO also provided support for the production of thematic reports in several countries, on topics such as child labour, youth employment, informality, qualifications, skills and skills mismatches.

6.3.3. Labour market information systems

285. Since the 20th ICLS, the ILO has provided support for the implementation of an LMIS through capacity-building or technical assistance in the following countries: Botswana, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Djibouti, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

6.3.4. Support to regional economic communities and strategic partnerships with the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa

286. Since the 20th ICLS, the ILO has worked extensively in partnership with other agencies to support the measurement of and reporting on decent work, including joint activities with the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union, including with the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on labour migration statistics, including the compilation and reporting of regional indicators. The ILO provided technical support to the SADC for the implementation of the SADC Labour Market Observatory. It also adopted a joint work plan with the African Union on the development of labour statistics with a focus on child labour, social protection, the informal economy, LMIS and youth employment.

287. Based on the memorandum of understanding signed between the ILO and the UN Economic Commission for Africa on the development of labour statistics in Africa, an assessment of labour market statistics capacity needs and data status was conducted in 2019.

288. As a key member of the specialized technical group on labour market information and the informal economy established under the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, the ILO has supported the activities of the African Union Commission on the harmonization and coordination of labour market information and the informal economy in Africa.

6.3.5. Data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic

289. A regional survey was conducted on the impact of COVID-19 on employment, education and work aspirations between November 2021 and March 2022. The survey collected information about experiences and situations before the pandemic, during its peak and later in the pandemic, in respect of employment, labour market attachment, education and learning, and work aspirations

and prospects. The survey's findings provide a unique regional perspective on some of the nuances of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that supplement or are not necessarily captured in headline labour market indicators, such as employment, unemployment and underemployment.

290. In collaboration with the World Bank, the UNDP and NSOs, national surveys on the impact of COVID-19 on jobs and informal units of production were conducted in 2020 and 2021 in Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Togo.

6.4. Arab States

6.4.1. Labour statistics in COVID-19 times

291. The COVID-19 pandemic affected data collection activities and regular survey planning in the Arab States region. The ILO Regional Office for the Arab States therefore assisted the Central Administration of Statistics in Lebanon in conducting its first ever telephone-based household survey – a follow-up LFS – in 2022. The questionnaire covered topics relating to the impact of COVID-19 and the final report, prepared with the support of the ILO, included an analysis of the pandemic's effect on the labour market. [136]

6.4.2. Technical assistance to countries in relation to labour statistics and LMIS projects

292. Since 2018, the ILO has provided a wide range of assistance to countries in the implementation of labour force surveys as well as other support for the production of labour statistics.

293. In 2020–21, the ILO assisted the Central Statistical Organization and the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office in Iraq in conducting the first LFS in a decade. Similarly, as mentioned above, in 2022, the ILO provided technical support to the Central Administration of Statistics in Lebanon to conduct its follow-up LFS.

294. The ILO provided support to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in implementing the "1–2" methodology in the LFS of 2021 and 2022 to capture information on informality.

295. The ILO is implementing, in collaboration with the Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) network, a regional project funded by the Ford Foundation entitled *Developing labour statistics with a focus on informality in the Arab Region*. The project is aimed at enhancing knowledge and capacity for improved data on employment in the region, in particular in terms of measuring informality through the development of a model questionnaire in Arabic based on ICSE-18 and through cognitive testing to harmonize definitions and terminologies used across the region. The project is expected to end in December 2023.

296. The ILO continues to provide support for the implementation of an LMIS in Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

6.4.3. Training and capacity-building activities

297. Other capacity-building activities undertaken since 2018 include:

- training on school-to-work indicators for officials from the Department of Statistics (Jordan, 2022);

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[136] ILO, *Lebanon follow-up Labour Force Survey*, 2022.

- webinars on SDG indicators for the Arab region in collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (October 2021 and June 2022);

- a preparatory workshop on the implementation of a harmonized household income and expenditure survey in the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf, organized with its Statistical Centre (May 2022);

- in collaboration with the Turin Centre, the first edition of the Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy for the Arab region was conducted in October 2022, and the second edition in July and August 2023. The Academy was developed and delivered online in Arabic to cater to the learning needs of Arabic speakers and was aimed at building the capacity of junior statisticians across the Arab region. A total of 49 participants attended the two editions, representing 14 countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen);

- in 2019, in collaboration with the Turin Centre, a tailored training programme was organized in Turin for the Ministry of Labour of Saudi Arabia entitled *Labour market concepts and indicators for project managers and policymakers*, with 20 participants.

6.4.4. Statistical resources

298. To enhance knowledge of statistical standards and the latest ICLS resolutions, the ILO invested in the development of various statistical resources in Arabic. Important resources now available include: a harmonized Arabic translation of ISCO-08 (codes); an Arabic translation of the publication *Decent work and the Sustainable Development Goals: A guidebook on SDG labour market indicators*; and an Arabic translation of the draft resolution concerning statistics on the informal economy and an overview of statistical standards on the informal economy.

6.4.5. Coordination with UN agencies

299. The ILO is actively engaged with UN regional mechanisms to support the development of national statistical systems and to enhance SDG monitoring and reporting activities, such as through the Data and Statistics Working Group led by the UN Regional Coordinator's Office in Lebanon and the Data Management and Analysis Committee led by the UN country team in Jordan.

6.5. Europe and Central Asia

300. Since 2018, the ILO's statistical activities in the Europe and Central Asia region have focused mainly on the implementation of the 19th ICLS resolution I and the 20th ICLS resolution I, on estimating the impact of COVID-19 on the world of work and on supporting the modernization of LFS data collection, processing and dissemination. These have included:

- the testing and implementation of volunteer work measurement in Ukraine with support provided by the United Nations Volunteers Programme;

- the provision of support for the LFS and measurement of time use through the LFS in the Republic of Moldova, including through a CAPI tool developed by the ILO;

- the implementation of the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 Assessment in Kazakhstan (led by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office), including the measurement and valuation of volunteer work;

- the provision of support to Uzbekistan to modernize the methodology, tools and processes of the national LFS conducted by its research institute. Additionally, the ILO supported the

implementation in Uzbekistan of a survey on working conditions in the construction sector in 2022, applying the latest standards and LFS methodology. Another, similar, survey on working conditions in the catering sector is being prepared;

- the provision of support to Kyrgyzstan for the measurement of informality in the LFS and to update the LFS to meet the latest statistical standards.

- the provision of support to Azerbaijan and Belarus for the implementation of the 20th ICLS standards and ICSE-18;

- the provision of support to Turkmenistan for the implementation of a survey on the impacts of COVID-19;

- the provision of support to Montenegro for the adaptation and implementation of its CSPro CAPI solution for the LFS, which will facilitate the transition to the standards adopted by the 19th ICLS and 20th ICLS.

6.6. Latin America and the Caribbean

6.6.1. Implementation of the resolutions of the 19th ICLS and 20th ICLS: Technical assistance and regional meetings

301. The ILO organized two face-to-face meetings of the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (which is a body of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), in Chile, in July 2018 and November 2019. The meetings of the Working Group have been held in a virtual format since restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic were first put in place.

302. Since March 2020, a number of virtual regional meetings and workshops on labour statistics have been held, with a wide participation of countries from the region, ranging from approximately 14 to 18 countries.

- In 2020, three meetings were held. These meetings focused on the need to exchange experiences to discuss the application of the standards adopted by the 19th ICLS. Among the key issues discussed were the explanation and application of published ILO technical notes on topics such as the identification of people temporarily absent from employment and the usefulness of the publication of additional labour underutilization indicators identifying groups such as the potential labour force. These topics were highly relevant given the increases in temporary absences and in the potential labour force during the pandemic.

- In 2021, four meetings were held (in January, March, May and September). These meetings focused on work among countries to exchange information on the identification of dependent contractors as defined in the 20th ICLS standards, and on how this group should be treated in the new informality statistics framework to be discussed at the 21st ICLS.

- In 2022, two meetings took place. The topic of the first meeting was employed persons working on or through digital platforms. During the second meeting, the focus was on the development of new statistical standards on informality. Aspects of the implementation of the 20th ICLS resolution I were also reviewed simultaneously.

- In 2023, the ILO conducted preparatory regional meetings of labour statisticians on informality statistics to enable the draft standards on that subject to be discussed in advance of the 21st ICLS.

303. During the period from 2018 to mid-2023, the ILO provided technical assistance on a range of topics, including the application of the 19th ICLS and 20th ICLS standards, to the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. In most cases, the support related to the update of the LFS (or other survey used as the official source of labour force statistics) but, in several countries, support was provided to facilitate the application of published ILO guidance on the measurement of economic characteristics in their population and housing censuses.

304. In addition, a coordinated project was undertaken among countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to develop and implement a harmonized LFS questionnaire, following published ILO models and adapted to the regional context. The questionnaire was used for the LFS of Antigua and Barbuda for 2022/23 and will be applied in other countries on an incremental basis. Support was also provided for the population and housing censuses and the labour force surveys in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago.

6.6.2. Labour statistics in COVID-19 times

305. The year 2020 and part of 2021 were marked by the heavy impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on countries' statistical operations. In a strategic alliance with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the ILO launched a technical assistance plan through which support was provided to more than ten countries in the region (Argentina, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay). The support provided ranged in scope from one-off consultations to systematic weekly assistance. In some cases (for example, Chile, Ecuador and Paraguay), it also involved providing support to technical users and journalists by making presentations to explain the recommendations applied and the analysis of the data in this complex situation.

306. This technical assistance helped to overcome some of the difficulties in the operation, design and analysis of data and made it possible to put into practice the recommendations issued by the ILO's Department of Statistics. This work allowed for the development of closer ties with the constituents and raised awareness in countries of the importance of incorporating international recommendations to provide better information on the major labour market impacts of a crisis like the pandemic. This has made it possible to accelerate the take-up of the latest statistical standards and guidance.

6.6.3. Labour market information systems

307. Since 2018, a significant amount of work has been done in the region in terms of awareness-raising, training and technical assistance for the implementation of LMIS projects. The ILO has worked with the following countries in the region, with different levels of progress being achieved: Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. Of note are the results achieved in El Salvador, whose LMIS has already been generating data for publication, and is in a second phase of study for its expansion. It is expected that Chile and Uruguay will reach a similar stage during 2023. A joint project with the Caribbean Community has been initiated to support LMIS implementation in the Caribbean States.

6.6.4. Support to Member States in respect of labour statistics

308. The ILO has provided technical assistance in several other areas of labour statistics that go beyond the application of the 19th ICLS resolution I and the 20th ICLS resolution I, covering several areas that are on the agenda for the 21st ICLS, such as: labour migration; child labour and forced labour;

digital platform work; telework and remote working; and informality. At the same time, the ILO has supported studies based on sources of information other than labour force surveys, such as establishment surveys, economic censuses, administrative records and others. These studies have included the investigation of sources of information available in Chile and Colombia to measure international labour migration in accordance with the *Guidelines concerning statistics on international labour migration* adopted by the 20th ICLS, as well as technical assistance providing for the measurement of child labour in accordance with the 20th ICLS resolution IV in Chile and Uruguay.

309. An ongoing ILO regional programme funded by the Government of Panama, the Labour Information and Analysis System for Latin America and the Caribbean (SIALC), has been operating since the 1980s. This programme has recently been renewed and enhanced based on the discussions during the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference (2023), to include a greater focus on strengthening labour information systems and supporting analytical work in the region, by compiling data and assisting Member States in that regard.