



International
Labour
Organization

Good practice on data collection (Global)

BACKGROUND

IPEC, through its Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC), assists countries in the collection, documentation, processing and analysis of child labour relevant data. The data, however, does not include specific information on forced and bonded child labour. In 2005, ILO's Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL) published the first global estimate of the number of persons in forced labour. Of the minimum estimated 12.3 million victims, 40-50 percent are thought to be children and youth under 18 years. Growing international concern about forced labour and human trafficking has prompted ILO Member States to work closely with the Office in order to obtain reliable information on:

- the extent of forced labour of adults and children at national level;
- the forms that it takes (including the means of coercion and type of exploitation), and
- the profile of victims.

ACTION

As a first step, ILO developed indicators of trafficking for forced labour by applying the Delphi methodology. The Delphi methodology allowed selected experts to express their opinion on what these key indicators should be, and also to react to the opinions of the others.

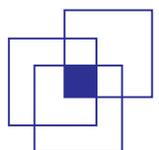
This research was implemented in 2008 in the context of a joint European Commission-ILO Project, under the supervision of a steering committee composed of experts from the European Commission, International Labour Office, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), University of Tilburg, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

As a next step, ILO identified a number of countries which were interested in testing the methodology and carrying out national surveys. In each country, a methodology was developed to adapt the Delphi indicators to the national context. Workshops were held to discuss the research and sampling methods which could be used. The surveys were implemented in close collaboration with national statistical offices.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- National workshops to design national sets of indicators of forced labour were held in Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Nepal, Niger, Ecuador, Guatemala, Bangladesh, and Paraguay.
- Questionnaires and sampling methods were designed in close collaboration with national statistical offices, and staff members were trained on the use of the methodology.
- The following surveys were implemented:
 - 3 surveys for assessing forced labour among migrant workers;
 - 2 surveys for assessing traditional forms of forced labour of both adults and children;

Good practice



A collaborative effort by
International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)
and its partners

- special modules were added to existing surveys to assess forced labour of children and/or adults in 3 countries;
- 3 surveys for assessing forced labour only of children.

SUSTAINABILITY

An important aspect was to involve national statistical offices in order to ensure sustainability. Staff members were trained on the use of the methodology and supported by national consultants. Wherever they existed, national commissions (on child labour, forced labour or human trafficking) participated in the whole process, including the design and follow-up of the survey. National stakeholders were also involved in the development and use of forced labour indicators. Close collaboration with policy makers was essential to ensure acceptance of results and their subsequent use in decision making.

LESSONS LEARNED

It was understood from the outset that forced labour is difficult to measure because of its frequently hidden nature. Most victims never complain, either because they do not recognize themselves as victims or because they have no access to organisations that could help them. We have learned that it is possible to survey forced labour, including of children, by using methodologies that capture information on specific indicators. It was essential to carefully prepare the ground, in particular to build consensus on a set of indicators and to carefully define the target population.

NECESSARY CONDITIONS

The most important condition is to secure political support for carrying out the surveys. Forced labour is a sensitive issue in most countries. There are significant gaps between the estimated number of victims of forced labour and those identified by law enforcement authorities. Therefore, it is necessary to involve all stakeholders in the design of the survey in order to target the most prevalent forms of forced labour, to ensure the correct use of indicators and to survey the right areas in each country. It is also paramount to work with senior statisticians given the complex nature of the subject. Capacity building of national stakeholders is a necessary condition to ensure the successful implementation of surveys.

REFERENCES

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