



ILO/EC Project
“Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work (MAP)”

MEETING ON MEASURING AND MONITORING DECENT WORK
Lessons learnt from MAP project

Geneva, 27-29 June 2012
ILO Building, Room XI, R2 South

Background document

The MAP project

Decent work is central to efforts to reduce poverty and is a means for achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, provides security in the workplace, as well as social protection for workers and their families. Decent work also gives people the freedom to express their concerns, to organize and to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

In this regard, monitoring and assessing progress towards decent work at the country-level is a longstanding concern for the International Labour Organization (ILO) and its constituents. The 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization details that member States may consider “the establishment of appropriate indicators or statistics, if necessary with the assistance of the ILO, to monitor and evaluate the progress made” (Paragraph II.B.ii.).

In September 2008, the ILO convened an international Tripartite Meeting of Experts (TME) on the Measurement of Decent Work, and consequently, adopted a framework of Decent Work Indicators, that was presented to the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, December 2008). The Governing Body endorsed the proposal to test the framework in a limited number of pilot countries, by developing Decent Work Country Profiles.

The project Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work (MAP) (2009–2013) with funding from the European Union, works with government agencies, employers' and workers' organizations, as well as research institutions to strengthen the capacity to self-monitor and self-assess progress towards decent work (see also the MAP Project Brief).

The MAP project covers nine countries in the world, including Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Indonesia, Niger, Peru, Philippines, Ukraine, Zambia, and facilitates the identification of decent work indicators that are relevant at the national level, supports data collection, and uses the collected data for an integrated policy analysis of decent work (decent work country profiles) in order to make them relevant for decent work country programmes and national policies. The project also provides guidelines and manuals on measuring and assessing progress on decent work from the pilot countries' experience.

The Decent Work Country Profiles

The Decent Work Country Profiles cover ten substantive elements corresponding to the four strategic pillars of the Decent Work Agenda (full and productive employment, rights at work, social protection and the promotion of social dialogue): employment opportunities; adequate earnings and productive work; decent hours; combining work, family and personal life; work that should be abolished; stability and security of work; equal opportunity and treatment in employment; safe work environment; social security; and, social dialogue, employers' and workers' representation (see also the FAQ note on the Profiles).

The Profiles compile in one document all available data on decent work, statistical and legal indicators, as well as analysis of gaps and trends on decent work. They facilitate the evaluation of progress made towards decent work and inform national planning and policymaking.

The Profiles provide key information for designing and monitoring the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCP) and represent an advocacy tool to mainstream decent work into national development policies. The compiled decent work indicators can serve as a reliable baseline at the stage of defining decent work targets, and as a powerful instrument for the monitoring and evaluation of the DWCP and national policies.

Decent Work Country Profiles are developed with constituents in mind, and are intended to facilitate social dialogue and greater engagement of social partners in the design and

implementation of policies and programmes for decent work and broader national development objectives.

The Decent Work Country Profiles aim to provide information on all the elements of decent work in the country by analysing statistical and legal indicators within the framework of national labour and social policies, over the last decade (depending on data availability). The purpose of the document is to give baseline information on the state of decent work in a country, the progress made in decent work, and highlight the gaps that still remain, in both decent work and its measurement. It is also intended as an advocacy tool for the development of future national policies and development plans.

The MAP meeting (27-29 June 2012)

The MAP meeting will bring together producers and users of decent work indicators including partners from national statistical offices, ministries of labour, and workers' and employers' organizations as well as ILO experts and representatives of the European Commission and the Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The purpose of the meeting is to share experiences from the pilot-countries covered by the MAP project, and discuss challenges for measuring, monitoring and reporting on decent work at the national level.

The discussions will focus on how the ILO framework on the measurement of decent work (TME, September 2008) has been applied and adapted to national priorities, in order to produce national assessments on decent work, that are useful for social partners and policy makers; what are the main challenges encountered by the pilot-countries and what are the tools and guidelines developed by ILO to respond to these challenges.

The discussion will focus on the following themes:

- what is measured (indicators, definitions);
- how is it measured (data collection tools, compilation and databases);
- for what purpose decent work is measured at national level;
- main outputs (national assessments on progress and gaps); and
- for whom (main users and links to policy-making).

The meeting is organized on 4 sessions (see also the Agenda of the meeting):

- (i) Session 1, Wednesday 26, June (am) : discussion on relevant indicators for measuring decent work at the country level ;
- (ii) Session 2, Wednesday 26, June (pm): discussion on the best ways to collect data and measure the decent work indicators ;
- (iii) Session 3, Thursday 27, June (am): presentation of key findings of the Decent Work Country Profiles (by national partners) ;
- (iv) Session 3, Thursday 27, June (pm): discussion on main outputs of the Profiles, policy linkages, and ways forward (to improve, extend and update on a regular basis the Decent Work Country Profiles).
- (v) Session4: reports on Session 1, 2 and 3 presented and discussed.

The ILO methodology on the measurement of DW (global list of DW indicators, see Technical Meeting of Experts reports, September 2008) will be presented and the ILO tools and guidelines to support Member States on producing decent work indicators and decent work country profiles will be discussed during these sessions (Manual on concepts and definitions of decent work indicators, technical tools for labour force surveys, databases on decent work, guidelines on analysing decent work indicators in an integrated approach...).

The meeting will provide an opportunity for the pilot-countries that have collaborated with ILO/MAP, to present and discuss lessons learnt from their experiences and best practices. In this way, it will be possible to identify challenges remaining on producing and analyzing decent work indicators, and improve ILO tools and future support to Member States and constituents.

In this context, the participants will be invited to discuss by regional area (working groups constituted on a tripartite basis, for Africa, Asia, Latin America and CIS countries) on main issues and to present the main findings of their discussions in plenary sessions, followed by plenary discussions (see technical guidance notes for working groups).

In the last session of the meeting, two reports will be presented by international experts: the first on the issue of data availability and data collection (as discussed in Session 1 and Session

2) and the second on the issue of data analysis and producing Profiles on DW at the national level (as discussed in Session 3).

From all these discussions and the two reports, a full report on lessons learnt and main challenges will be produced and will be an important input for the “Global methodology on measuring and assessing progress on decent work”. This global methodology will be further developed and discussed at the MAP project’s Global Conference (Brussels, mid-2013). From that, reports for the GB (2013) and the 19th ICLS (end 2013) on measuring and assessing progress on decent work will be produced.