



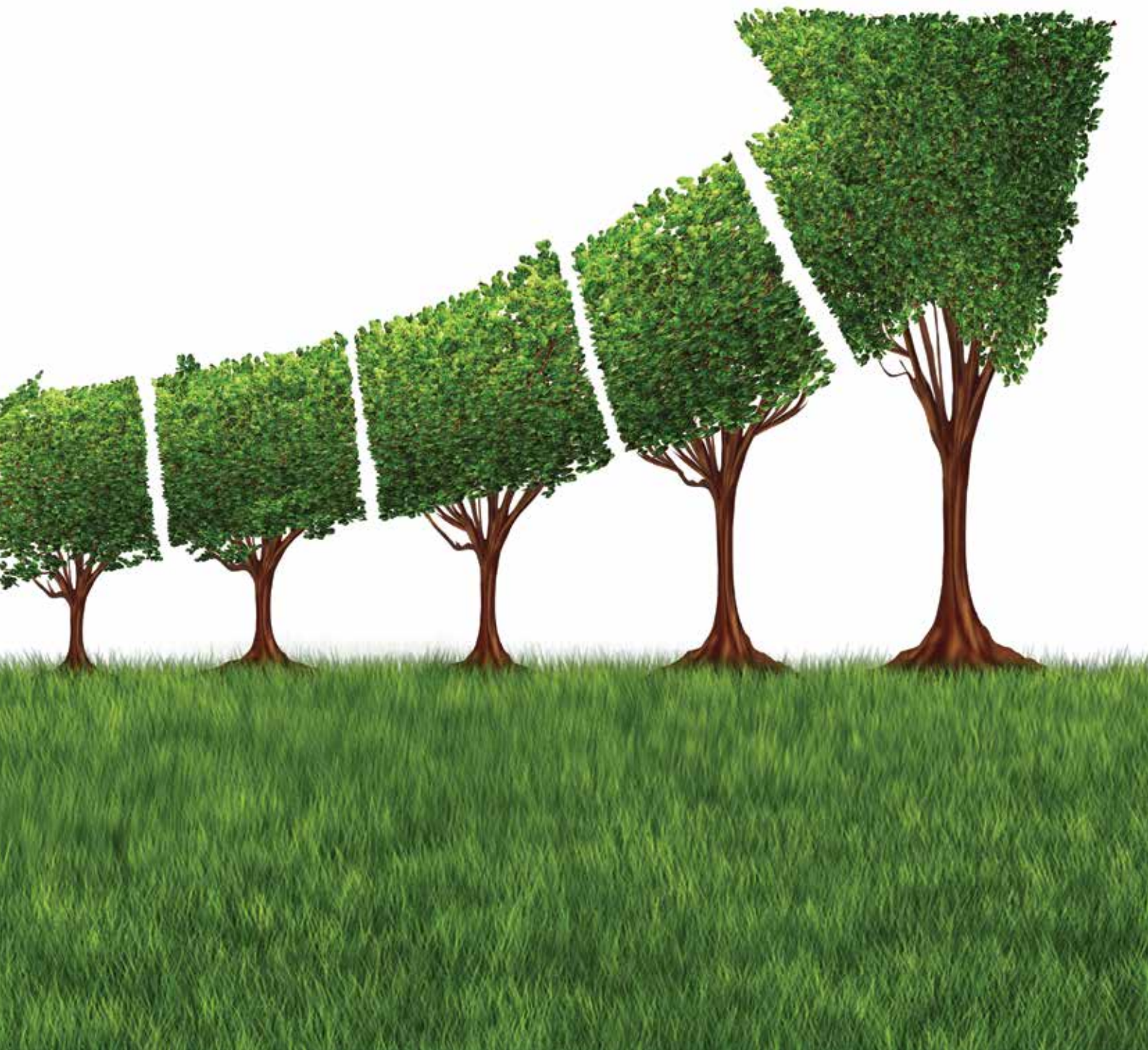
International
Labour
Office

A photograph showing a man in a white shirt and a colorful sarong (red, green, and purple stripes) weighing produce on a scale. He is talking to a man in a white t-shirt and a blue cap, who is holding a clipboard. They are standing in a rural market setting with a blue tarp and a brick wall in the background. The foreground is filled with various fresh vegetables like green beans, eggplants, and tomatoes.

Enhancing the Knowledge Base to Support the Promotion of Decent Work in Rural Areas

**DECENT WORK IN THE RURAL ECONOMY
POLICY GUIDANCE NOTES**

The access of rural women and men to decent work and productive employment is one of the key challenges of sustainable development today. Measuring and monitoring decent work requires the production of timely and reliable information on relevant employment and labour issues, which can support research and inform decision-making. Rural areas in countries around the world are dynamic geographical zones whose diverse and changing populations, economic activities and decent work characteristics can be uniquely captured over time through the development and analysis of two types of decent work indicators, i.e. statistical and legal framework decent work indicators. The International Labour Organization (ILO) works closely with national data producers and tripartite constituents to enhance the knowledge base to support the promotion of decent work in rural areas, by helping to establish, as well as assess over time, a set of feasible decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas. These reflect national priorities and are commensurate with the available human and financial resources along with the national statistical infrastructure. The ILO seeks to accompany national stakeholders as a technical partner in this process. It offers technical assistance and advice, encouraging the alignment of country practices and methods with international labour statistics standards and good practices, providing capacity building and sharing knowledge products, such as ILO statistical publications and manuals, guidelines and tools.



1. Rationale and justification

In many countries, rural economies contribute significantly to job creation and economic growth. Of the 5.98 billion people in developing countries, it is estimated that nearly 3.4 billion live in rural areas.¹ The well-being and livelihoods of rural workers reflect a range of productive activities across different sectors in both paid and unpaid forms of work.

Traditionally, rural workers have been concentrated in the agricultural sector, and in the poorest countries, many have been engaged in subsistence agriculture. According to an ILO study of 54 countries, extreme poverty among workers is essentially a rural phenomenon. Using a poverty line of US\$1.25 per day, the study suggests that nearly 80 per cent of the working poor live in rural areas.² Poverty affects rural areas more than urban zones, and the gaps may be considerable. In developing countries, extreme poverty in rural areas is often associated with a limited access to the labour market and the poor quality of employment.

The limited availability of rural labour statistics makes it difficult to characterize rural labour markets, particularly in developing countries. Available data in international labour statistics repositories, such as ILOSTAT,³ indicate that considerable data gaps exist for several decent work indicators by rural/urban areas. These include: informal employment rate; youth not in employment; education or training; employees with low pay rate; precarious employment rate; subsistence worker rate; time-related underemployment and gender wage gap, just to name a few. When seeking information with further breakdowns, for example, by rural/urban areas and by sex or age, data becomes even scarcer. The most commonly available indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas for a large set of countries are basic labour market indicators related to employment, unemployment and labour force. Such information is insufficient to allow countries to adequately capture the realities of decent work in rural areas.

Assessing the progress towards decent work at national and subnational levels – including rural/urban areas – calls for an appropriate set of quantitative and qualitative decent work indicators at the national level. Taking into account decent work policy priorities, social partners in countries together with key stakeholders, such as national statistical offices, are best positioned to establish a set of relevant decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban area. Selected indicators should reflect policy need as well as the national capacity to produce, analyse and disseminate the indicators.

The launch of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development brings new demands for statistics and represents a fresh opportunity to develop decent work-related indicators at the national and subnational level (rural/urban areas). A limited set of 14 SDG indicators has been established to support high-level monitoring of decent work through this process. By itself, this set is insufficient to effectively monitor decent work at the national or subnational level, but its establishment represents an opportunity to engage stakeholders and donors to develop a broader set of targeted decent work indicators, which could also allow for analysis of rural and urban areas. This could also include indicators on rural institutions, such as cooperatives, social enterprises, and producer organisations among others. Such efforts can support the identification of strategies for capacity building and technical assistance for sustainable and long-term impact.

This policy guidance note provides information on the ILO's approach to enhancing a statistical knowledge base on decent work in rural areas. Moreover, given the different paid and unpaid forms of work that exist in rural areas coupled with the poor quality of employment that often characterizes rural jobs, the note focuses on an approach that allows evaluating different aspects of decent work as required for different policy priorities. Enhancing the knowledge base regarding the most vulnerable rural population groups requires particular attention.

¹ UNDESA: *World urbanization prospects: The 2014 revision* (New York, 2014).

² ILO: *Global employment trends 2012: Preventing a deeper jobs crisis* (Geneva, 2012), p. 43.

³ Available at: www.ilo.org/ilostat/

2. Scope and definitions

The first step in seeking to assess progress towards decent work in rural areas is to gain an understanding of international labour statistics standards and the conceptual framework for measuring decent work and its scope. It is also useful to discuss the issues concerning definitions of “rural” and “rural workers”. This section provides an overview of these topics.

International labour statistics standards

Since 1923, the ILO has organized the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), which meets every five years. The ICLS is the recognized international standard-setting body on labour statistics. The ICLS’s standards guide and facilitate the production of labour statistics in an integrated national statistical system based on common concepts and definitions. They also aim to promote the international comparability of labour statistics and the coherence of concepts and methods across sources and domains within a country.

ICLS participants include experts from governments, mostly representing labour ministries and national statistical offices, employers’ and workers’ organizations. Regional and international organizations and other interest groups participate in the ICLS as observers.

The ICLS makes recommendations on selected topics of labour statistics in the form of resolutions and guidelines, which the ILO Governing Body then discusses. Once the Governing Body has approved them, they become part of the body of international standards on labour statistics. These standards usually relate to concepts, definitions, classifications and other methodological procedures, which are agreed as representing ‘best practice’ in the respective areas.

Among the most far-reaching standards in terms of scope and impact is the Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization (hereafter, the 19th ICLS Resolution on work statistics) adopted by the Nineteenth ICLS in October 2013.⁴ This Resolution defines the statistical concept of “work” as: “Any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or provide services for use by others or for own use.” The concept of work is independent of the formal or informal character or the legality of the activity. The 19th ICLS Resolution on work statistics identifies five mutually exclusive forms of work,

including: (1) own-use production work; (2) employment work; (3) unpaid trainee work; (4) volunteer work; (5) other work activities. The forms of work are distinguished on the basis of the intended destination of the production (for own final use or for use by others, i.e. other economic units) and the nature of the transaction (i.e. monetary or non-monetary transactions, and transfers) to help define paid and unpaid forms of work.

The ICLS standards cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Work, employment, unemployment;
- Underemployment;
- Labour underutilization;
- Working time;
- Employment-related income;
- Informal sector employment;
- Informal employment;
- International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO);
- International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE);
- Child labour;
- Household income and expenditure statistics;
- Consumer price indices;
- Occupational injuries;
- Strikes and lockouts;
- Social security;
- Collective agreements;
- Labour costs;
- Gender mainstreaming in labour statistics;
- Dissemination practices.

⁴ Further information about the 19th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization is available at: www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/standards-and-guidelines/resolutions-adopted-by-international-conferences-of-labour-statisticians/WCMS_230304/lang-en/index.htm

Enhancing the Knowledge Base to Support the Promotion of Decent Work in Rural Areas

Decent Work Measurement Framework

The Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization adopted by ILO Member States in 2008 institutionalized the decent work concept, placing it at the centre of the ILO's policies through the Decent Work Agenda. The Declaration recommended the establishment of appropriate indicators or statistics to monitor country-level progress towards decent work.

In September 2008, the ILO convened an international Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the measurement of decent work, and consequently adopted a framework for measuring decent work. The framework was presented to the 18th ICLS in December 2008 and in early 2009 to the ILO Governing Body. Subsequently, the ILO developed a manual with specific guidelines on the framework and indicators.⁵

The objective of the Decent Work Measurement Framework (DWMF) is to assist ILO constituents to assess progress towards decent work and to offer comparable information for analysis and policy development. The framework contains both quantitative (statistical) and qualitative (legal framework) indicators, which are considered essential and mutually reinforcing, to properly monitor progress towards decent work. This is a unique feature that sets the DWMF apart from other measurement frameworks.

The framework model is universal and can be adapted to national circumstances and priorities. It also has the potential to evolve dynamically over time to include both paid and unpaid forms of work.

In its broadest conception, the DWMF's scope extends to the entire population. It is intended to cover all persons who either are, or potentially could be, engaged in productive work, as well as persons of all ages in the population who should be protected against a minimum set of social security contingencies. The scope extends to all usual residents and therefore covers migrant workers and non-migrants as well as workers of all ethnic and indigenous origins. It covers those engaged, or potentially engaged, in both paid and unpaid forms of work, as defined by the 19th ICLS Resolution on work statistics.

Gender is a cross-cutting concern of the Decent Work Agenda, in that gender is relevant to all facets of decent work and not a topic that should be treated in isolation. Reflecting this, decent work indicators should be measured separately for women and men whenever possible. In developing countries, it has been reported that women are more often engaged in subsistence farming activities than men. These types of gender differences should be highlighted and analysed to understand differences in access to work for pay or profit among rural workers.

⁵ For more information, see *Decent work indicators - Guidelines for producers and users of statistical and legal framework indicators*, at www.ilo.org/stat/Publications/WCMS_223121/lang-en/index.htm

Enhancing the Knowledge Base to Support the Promotion of Decent Work in Rural Areas

Ten dimensions characterize the DWMF (see Figure 1). Together these dimensions cover the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda, and represent the structural dimensions of the framework under which both statistical and legal framework indicators are organized. There is an additional substantive element, which provides data users with information on the economic and social context for decent work. The framework currently includes 71 statistical indicators and 21 legal framework indicators, which are allocated among the ten dimensions and the substantive element on the economic and social context for decent work.

The 14 decent work-related SDG indicators for which the ILO is the custodian agency, closely correspond to selected decent work indicators from the DWMF. Many of the indicators in the DWMF and SDGs may be disaggregated by rural/urban areas, to support monitoring decent work in rural areas.

Definition of rural and urban areas

The definition of rural and urban areas as used in labour statistics or other statistical domains is a complex issue because there are no existing international statistical guidelines that would allow coherent, harmonized reporting. Currently, an array of different criteria is applied in national definitions of rural/urban areas reflecting myriad geographic and socio-economic realities in countries across the globe.

This situation presents serious challenges when attempting to make cross-country comparisons of labour statistics by rural/urban areas or even regional or global estimates of different indicators, including labour force participation rates, gender pay gaps, youth unemployment rates, or child labour rates.

Figure 1. The ten dimensions of the decent work measurement framework

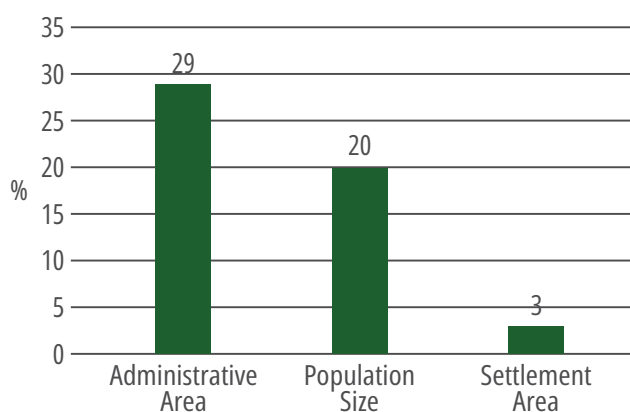


Source: ILO, 2017.

Enhancing the Knowledge Base to Support the Promotion of Decent Work in Rural Areas

The ILO has developed an inventory of country-level statistical definitions of rural and urban areas for 214 countries/territories, which confirms that the definitions are highly heterogeneous.⁶ Countries often define urban areas and provide no specific definition of rural areas. It is telling that in many countries, rural areas are defined de facto by urban areas, signalling that urban areas are the main focus, while rural areas become a residual category. Most countries (52 per cent) base their definitions on a single criterion, most often administrative area, population size or type of settlement area (Figure 2). Notably, predominance of agricultural activities is not commonly used as a single criterion.

Figure 2. Percentage of countries applying a single criterion to define rural/urban areas by the main criterion



Source: ILO, 2017.
Values are given as a percentage of 214 countries, 52 per cent of which applied a single criterion.

Definition of worker and rural worker

The ICLS has adopted a statistical definition of the concept of work, but it did not explicitly define “worker”. According to the 19th ICLS Resolution, “work” refers to the productive activities carried out within the system of national accounts (SNA) general production boundary, a “worker” by extension can be understood as any person who is engaged in one or more of the five forms of work defined in the Resolution during a given reference period. A “rural worker” can then be defined for statistical purposes as a worker engaged in any job or work activity that is located in a rural area during a given reference period. This issue requires special attention in survey measurement because often the geographic location of the household or housing unit in a household survey is assumed to be the same as the geographic location of the person’s job(s) or work activity(ies). Individual workers, however, may be living in one geographic area and working in another. This is depicted in Figure 3, where cells 2 and 3 reveal situations where a worker’s household is located in one geographic area, but their job or work activity is in another.

Figure 3. Worker’s household location versus job or work activity location

	Urban household	Rural household
Urban-based job or work activity	Urban household and urban-based job or work activity 1	Rural household and urban-based job or work activity 2
Rural-based job or work activity	Urban household and rural-based job or work activity 3	Rural household and rural-based job or work activity 4

Source: ILO, 2017.

⁶ P. S. Robles, H. Kashef, and M. Castillo: *Definitions of rural/urban areas for use in labour statistics: Analysis of the most common criteria used*, Department of Statistics (Geneva, ILO, 2016).

3. The ILO's approach

In working to ensure that its constituents are better equipped to promote decent work for sustainable rural livelihoods, the ILO emphasizes strengthening the country-level knowledge base on rural labour statistics and analysis. In particular, the ILO approach to enhancing the statistical knowledge base on decent work and productive employment in rural areas focuses on the following components:

- (1) capacity building on ICLS standards, indicator frameworks, definitions of rural/urban areas, and measurement of ethnic/indigenous groups and related topics (where relevant)
- (2) review of household survey instruments and methods
- (3) technical assistance to countries
- (4) compilation and dissemination of decent work/SDG indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas
- (5) analysis and dissemination of available indicators
- (6) participation in international expert groups and forums. Accompanying these efforts is the development of partnerships. Each of these components is discussed further in turn.

(1) One of the key components of the ILO's approach is capacity building on labour statistics with a special focus on rural areas and an emphasis on groups vulnerable to discrimination, including rural women and youth. A two-pronged approach defines the capacity building strategy. First, it seeks to strengthen national capacity on both producing and analysing relevant and timely labour statistics, which are aligned with ICLS standards and the decent work measurement framework and indicators. This includes SDG decent-work related indicators. Alongside this, it emphasizes enhancing constituents' knowledge bases. Specific areas include statistical definitions of rural/urban areas and relevant topics for measuring decent work in rural areas. These include measuring job location, ethnic/indigenous groups, decent work issues concerning rural women, child labour, subsistence foodstuff production, appropriate sampling design for reliable estimates in rural areas, etc. As measurement guidelines and examples of best practice become available, other relevant topics, such as statistics on cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy organizations and enterprises, as well as their role in measuring decent work, will become subject to discussion. Capacity building activities target producers of official statistics such as the national statistical offices and Ministries of Labour, while future activities will also include strengthening the knowledge base of data users, including ILO tripartite constituents. Reports⁷ of capacity-building activities serve to identify follow-up priorities that participants highlight, especially for any methodological review or technical assistance.

(2) The **review of household survey instruments and methods** is carried out for selected sub-regions to understand what indicators and disaggregations can be captured using currently available household survey questionnaires and how well question sequences align with international labour statistics standards that the ICLS has adopted. Moreover, such reviews can yield good practices in the measurement of items such as the job location (rural/urban area) as well as measurement of ethnic/indigenous groups or national/indigenous languages. The latter relate to subpopulations that are more likely to be found in rural and remote areas. A review of the stratification methods and estimation domains in

⁷ An example is the report for the workshop to strengthen national capacities in five West African countries on rural labour statistics for the promotion of decent work. D. Lawani et al: *Atelier régional de renforcement des capacités nationales dans les statistiques du travail en milieu rural en vue de la promotion du travail décent dans les États en situation de fragilité*, (Abidjan and Geneva, ILO Regional Office for Africa and ILO Department of Statistics, 2016).

Enhancing the Knowledge Base to Support the Promotion of Decent Work in Rural Areas

the sampling design contribute to understanding whether quality estimates for selected indicators by rural/urban areas are feasible. Results of the review are shared with the selected countries during capacity-building workshops.

(3) The ILO provides technical assistance to countries wishing to strengthen their production of labour statistics and decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas. This work seeks to complement continuing technical assistance activities on labour force survey questionnaire design. This is achieved through partnering with countries to consider qualitative and quantitative testing of specific items of interest for the study of decent work in rural areas. In particular, testing could focus on measuring respondent's job location (in rural/urban areas) and worker ethnicity, as well as question sequences for construction of decent work/SDG indicators. The ILO is in the process of developing guidance and toolkits, which support the implementation of the international standards that the 19th ICLS Resolution on work statistics adopted. These include guidance on measuring own-use production of goods work (and subsistence foodstuff production), which needs to be shared with countries. The ILO also stands ready to provide technical assistance on sampling design for producing reliable estimates on selected indicators for rural domains.

(4) The compilation and dissemination of decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas allows data users to analyse levels and trends of the indicators within a given country. At the national level, data and metadata are collected from different official sources and ideally stored on a single platform for ease of access. The ILO's data are stored in the labour statistics repository, ILOSTAT. The set of indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas can help define a baseline decent work profile for each country, and be used to mark the progress in subsequent years. The information collected in ILOSTAT serves to highlight the data gaps by country, indicator, year and disaggregations, including target groups such as women and youth.

(5) Analysis of available labour market indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas and dissemination in reports allow data users to understand the levels (i.e. estimates at a given point in time) and trends (i.e. changes in the estimates over time) that appear. Notably, these include the more severe labour market deficits in rural areas and among groups vulnerable to

discrimination, such as women and youth.⁸ These reports also represent an opportunity to flag issues such as the lack of data comparability across countries reflecting different concept definitions of rural/urban areas, and also more generally, the serious data gaps on decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas.

(6) Participation in international expert groups and forums related to rural labour statistics and analysis provides an opportunity for the ILO to share its knowledge and to contribute to the development of the strategies and decisions of global partners that can have an impact on both the knowledge base and promotion of decent work in rural areas. Finally, the ILO acknowledges the importance **of partnerships among international agencies and development partners to support the strengthening of production and analysis of rural labour statistics.** In addition to strengthening collaboration with national statistics offices and ILO social partners, the ILO aims to strengthen existing partnerships with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and regional partners, and seeks new opportunities for building partnerships.

⁸ For example, the *Thematic Labour Overview* on rural employment in the Latin American and the Caribbean region, and the ILO's flagship reports on world employment, social protection and global wages are key sources of information and reference on rural employment and social security statistics respectively.

4. The ILO's experience to date

During the early part of its history, the ILO was involved in collecting statistical information on rural labour markets, but the topic later lost its place among the Organization's many competing priorities. Currently, some data production and analysis of rural labour market statistics for individual countries is being carried out, but generally there is little information available about international compilations of decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas or analysis of such indicators.

Starting in 2014, when the promotion of decent work in the rural economy was established as one of the areas of critical importance in the ILO's programme of work, the Organization started strengthening the knowledge base on the subject. This resulted in the establishment of an initial foundation on decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas. As a result, an inventory of statistical definitions of rural/urban areas used by statistical offices worldwide was prepared and the approaches that international organizations use to define rural/urban areas for statistical purposes were mapped. The review revealed that there is no single standard definition of the concept of rural areas that could be applicable to all countries or even to the countries within a region.

The ILO's statistical inquiry, which is sent annually to national statistics offices and labour ministries worldwide, has started to collect information on key labour market indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas. Moreover, the ILO maintains a household survey microdata repository for selected countries, which has been used to process selected decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas for selected countries. The compiled statistics are available for public use on the ILOSTAT website.

In continuing to address significant data gaps, the ILO has recently begun to analyse the available labour market indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas. The scarce availability of quality labour statistics, the lack of implementation of the 19th ICLS Resolution on work statistics, and the lack of a commonly applied international definition of rural/urban areas makes analysing the labour market situation in different countries an enormous challenge. The lack of harmonization in concept definitions and methods limits the possibility of constructing regional or global estimates, or even averages for a small set of countries.

A recent ILO report⁹ analyses the rural/urban differences in the labour market in countries across the globe without aiming at a comparison between regions or countries due to the lack of a harmonized definition of rural/urban areas. The report highlights the serious gaps in labour statistics disaggregated by rural/urban areas and the limiting effect this has on producing a more comprehensive analysis.

Another example of the ILO's efforts aimed at enhancing the knowledge base on decent work in the rural economy and improving its services to the constituents is methodological research work on household surveys. This work has followed a sub-regional approach, targeting selected countries in three sub-regions during the 2016-17 period: fragile states of francophone West Africa, the Asia-Pacific region, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. The ILO has reviewed household survey questionnaires and prepared an inventory of sampling design methods related to stratification and estimation domains for rural/urban areas. For selected Asia-Pacific region countries, key decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas from microdata sets were tabulated and analysed. The summary review of the research work for the selected Asia-Pacific countries has been documented in an ILO report.¹⁰

⁹ D. Levakova: *Rural workers in the spotlight: Labour market situation and data challenges* (Geneva, ILO Department of Statistics, forthcoming).

¹⁰ D. Lawani: *ILO methodological study of household surveys and construction of key rural/urban disaggregated decent work indicators in selected Asia-Pacific countries* (Geneva, ILO, forthcoming).

Enhancing the Knowledge Base to Support the Promotion of Decent Work in Rural Areas

Capacity building related to measuring decent work, implementation of ICLS standards, gender mainstreaming in labour statistics and related topics constitutes a key area of the ILO's work. At the global level, the ILO organizes the Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy, which brings together some 90 participants from all regions of the world. Capacity building activities by sub-region are being carried out to share the findings of the ILO's methodological research work on household surveys with countries, and its knowledge on other relevant topics related to decent work measurement and monitoring in rural areas. Particular attention is being paid to socially disadvantaged groups, which are vulnerable to discrimination on various grounds, as relevant to rural economies of specific regions. These groups often include women, children, as well as ethnic and indigenous groups. Workshop reports serve as an opportunity to identify follow-up actions with countries. For example, following the report of the *Workshop to strengthen national capacities in West African countries on rural labour statistics for the promotion of decent work* conducted in June 2016, the ILO provided follow-up technical assistance to selected participating countries.

"Measuring decent work in rural areas" is a subject that has been featured in the Rural Development Academy conducted at the ILO-International Training Centre. The ILO has also conducted a short webinar on rural labour statistics.

To share knowledge, build networks and demonstrate its leadership in the field of rural labour statistics and decent work, the ILO regularly participates in different expert groups and international forums. For example, the ILO participated in the Seventh International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS VII), chairing and presenting a paper¹¹ in a session on "Measuring agricultural employment, labour conditions, child and forced labour, green jobs and human capital management", and also participated as an expert in an "Expert Meeting on the definition of rural areas", which was organized as a side event to the ICAS VII. Moreover, the ILO was an active participant in an Expert Consultation on "Methodology for an information system on rural livelihoods and Sustainable Development Goal indicators on smallholder productivity and income" organized by FAO. It also contributed to the development of the FAO's Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRIS), a farm-based modular multi-year data collection programme, which operates over a 10-year cycle and is synchronized with the agricultural census.

¹¹ M. Castillo, D. Levakova and H. Kashaf: *Measuring and monitoring decent work in rural areas in support of sustainable development*. Paper presented during the Seventh International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS VII) (Rome, Oct. 2016).

5. Practical guidance and resources

ILO guidance and resources on rural statistics and labour statistics more broadly cover a range of products including: resources specifically on rural labour statistics, international standards related to labour statistics, the ILOSTAT online database, ILO statistical publications and manuals, and training resources. Information on each of these resource categories is provided below.

Resources on rural labour statistics¹²

These resources include an inventory of country-level statistical definitions of rural and urban areas for 214 countries/territories, an inventory of practices used by international organizations regarding rural/urban typologies and definitions, and an analysis of the information. The ILO has also mapped the available set of key decent work indicators by country. The methodological research work on household surveys for selected countries has led to the development of presentations, analysis and workshop report materials for selected regions and countries.

The ILO has compiled and disseminated the available set of labour market indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas in ILOSTAT and analysed some of the labour market information in selected countries. ILO presentations to international forums and expert reviews of rural labour statistics along with work on indicators that partners such as the FAO and the World Bank have carried out also represent a valuable set of resource materials (e.g. a paper presented during ICAS VII entitled, *Measuring and monitoring decent work in rural areas in support of sustainable development*).

International standards related to labour statistics¹³

International standards on labour statistics are of two types: Conventions and Recommendations, adopted by the International Labour Conference, and Resolutions and Guidelines, adopted by the ICLS. The largest body of international labour statistics standards are those that the ICLS adopts. These standards do not specifically centre on rural labour statistics, but they are nonetheless invaluable for enhancing the statistical knowledge base on decent work in rural areas.

¹² For more information, see: www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/statistics-overview-and-topics/rural-labour/lang-en/index.htm

¹³ For more information, see: www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/standards-and-guidelines/lang-en/index.htm

ILOSTAT online database¹⁴

ILOSTAT is the ILO's online database, which contains statistical information for a set of indicators. A broad range of decent work indicators are available in ILOSTAT, but topic areas for which rural disaggregated data are available are limited to working age population, employment, unemployment and labour force and social protection.

ILO statistical publications and manuals

The ILO has published a series of publications and manuals intended to share knowledge on a range of labour statistics-related topics. Statistical manuals provide countries with guidance on the implementation of statistical standards and best practices in national data collection programmes concerning labour statistics. These publications cover topics that are pertinent to strengthening knowledge on decent work in the rural economy, including guidance on decent work indicators, wages statistics, measuring informality, child labour, social dialogue indicators, and volunteer workers. Key publications include:

- ILO Department of Statistics publications portal¹⁵
- ILO statistical manuals¹⁶
- Child labour statistics¹⁷
- Decent Work Indicators: Guidelines for producers and users of statistical and legal framework indicators¹⁸
- Measuring informality: A statistical manual on the informal sector and informal employment¹⁹:
- An integrated framework for wages statistics: A manual on methods²⁰

¹⁴ For more information, visit ILOSTAT at: www.ilo.org/ilostat/

¹⁵ See: <http://www.ilo.org/stat/Publications/lang-en/index.htm>

¹⁶ See: www.ilo.org/stat/Publications/statistical-manuals/lang-en/index.htm

¹⁷ See: www.ilo.org/ipecc/ChildlabourstatisticsSIMPOC/lang-en/index.htm

¹⁸ See: www.ilo.org/stat/Publications/WCMS_223121/lang-en/index.htm

¹⁹ See: www.ilo.org/global/publications/ilo-bookstore/order-online/books/WCMS_222979/lang-en/index.htm

²⁰ See: www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/WCMS_315657/lang-en/index.htm

Training resources

The ILO has developed training materials, which it regularly uses in workshops, seminars and other forums as well as online videos and tools. The Organization continues to develop new materials and toolkits, in particular with regard to guidance on the implementation of the 19th ICLS Resolution on work statistics in household surveys. The ILO's Academy on Rural Development and Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy offer opportunities to share information to enhance the knowledge base regarding rural labour statistics. The ILO has developed training tools related to the implementation of the 19th ICLS Resolution on work statistics and also on gender mainstreaming in labour statistics. These include:

- ILO Department of Statistics Training Programme²¹
- ILO-International Training Centre Academy on Rural Development²²
- ILO-International Training Centre on Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy²³

ILO portals of interest

- ILO Department of Statistics
- ILO portal on agriculture; plantations; other rural sectors
- ILO portal on measuring decent work²⁴
- ILO portal on decent work and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development²⁵

²¹ See: www.ilo.org/stat/Areasofwork/Training/lang--en/index.htm

²² See: www.itcilo.org/en/areas-of-expertise/rural-development/academy-on-rural-development-towards-decent-work

²³ See: www.ilo.org/stat/Areasofwork/Training/WCMS_546818/lang--en/index.htm

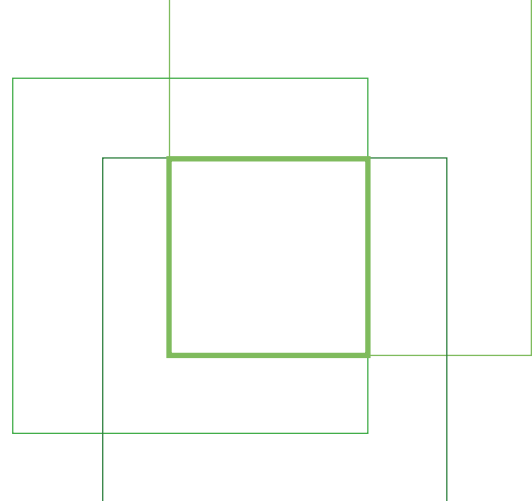
²⁴ See: www.ilo.org/integration/themes/mdw/lang--en/index.htm

²⁵ See: www.ilo.org/global/topics/sdg-2030/lang--nl/index.htm





Overview of Policy Guidance Notes on the Promotion of Decent Work in the Rural Economy



Supporting inclusive agricultural growth for improved livelihoods and food security

- Decent Work for Food Security and Resilient Rural Livelihoods
- Decent and Productive Work in Agriculture

Promoting economic diversification and triggering productive transformation for rural employment

- Economic Diversification of the Rural Economy
- Promoting Decent Work for Rural Workers at the Base of the Supply Chain
- The Role of Multinational Enterprises in the Promotion of Decent Work in Rural Areas
- Transitioning to Formality in the Rural Informal Economy
- Sustainable Tourism – A Catalyst for Inclusive Socio-economic Development and Poverty Reduction in Rural Areas

Promoting access to services, protection and employment-intensive investment

- Providing Access to Quality Services in the Rural Economy to Promote Growth and Social Development
- Extending Social Protection to the Rural Economy
- Developing the Rural Economy through Financial Inclusion: The Role of Access to Finance
- Employment-Intensive Investment in Rural Infrastructure for Economic Development, Social and Environmental Protection and Inclusive Growth

Ensuring sustainability and harnessing the benefits of natural resources

- A Just Transition towards a Resilient and Sustainable Rural Economy
- Decent Work in Forestry
- Harnessing the Potential of Extractive Industries
- Water for Improved Rural Livelihoods

Increasing the voice of rural people through organization and the promotion of rights, standards and social dialogue

- Rights at Work in the Rural Economy
- Promoting Social Dialogue in the Rural Economy
- Building Local Development in Rural Areas through Cooperatives and other Social and Solidarity Economy Enterprises and Organizations
- Decent Work for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in the Rural Economy
- Empowering Women in the Rural Economy
- Decent Work for Rural Youth
- Promoting Fair and Effective Labour Migration Policies in Agriculture and Rural Areas

Improving the knowledge base on decent work in the rural economy

- Enhancing the Knowledge Base to Support the Promotion of Decent Work in Rural Areas

For more information please visit www.ilo.org/rural or contact rural@ilo.org

Copyright © International Labour Organization 2019 – First published (2019)

This document is part of the Portfolio of Policy Guidance Notes https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/economic-and-social-development/rural-development/WCMS_436223/lang--en/index.htm