

► Volunteer work measurement

International standards & ILO
tools and guidance



Volunteer work measurement guide

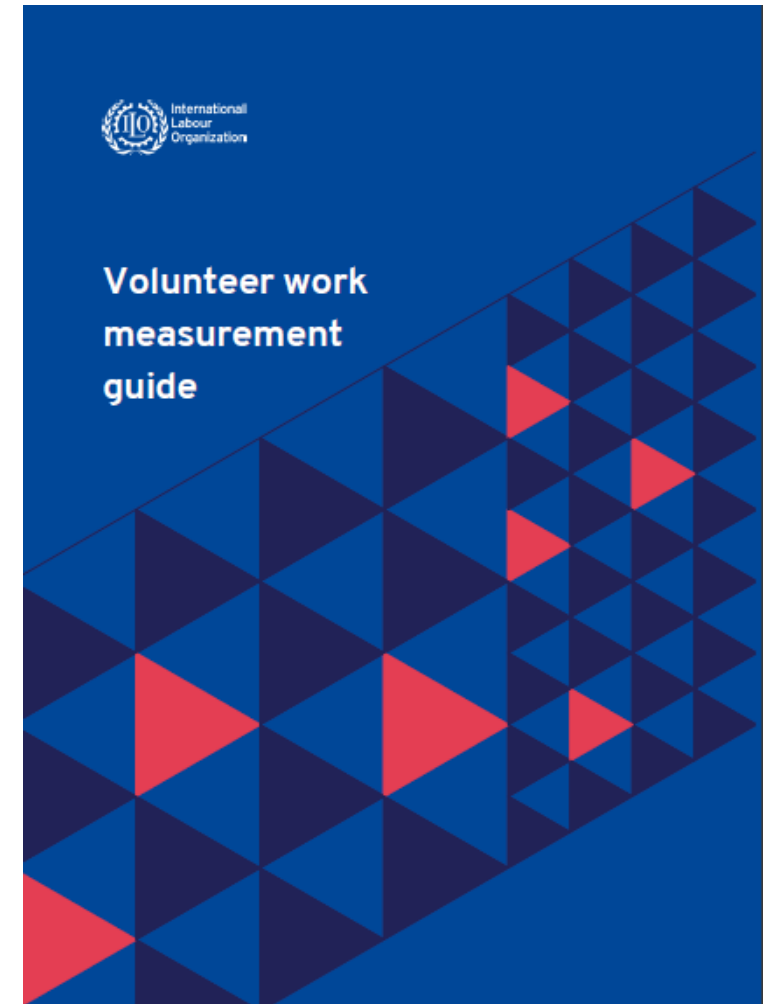
- Why measuring volunteer work?
- Statistical definitions set by the 19th ICLS
- Measurement tools and guidance
- Key indicators and dissemination

We work in different ways to achieve what we want



Volunteer work — ILO measurement guidance

- Based on the 19th ICLS resolution
- New definition
- LFS add-on module
- Detailed explanations and implementation advice
- Some countries apply it already



What is volunteer work?

It is **work**

- Work – any activity to produce goods and provide services
- Activities that cannot be delegated to others and natural processes are not work activities
Examples: sleeping, studying, eating, exercising, socialising, etc.
- Definition set by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians
- Based on the definition of “productive activity” set by the UN System of National Accounts

What is volunteer work?

It is **unpaid** work

- No remuneration for time worked or work done
No expectation and no agreement to receive remuneration
- Support, stipend or compensation in kind or in cash could be offered
To enable persons to participate in activity, not to remunerate their effort
Could be meals, transport, accommodation or money/vouchers to cover the costs of these
- Cash received must be less than 1/3 of local wages
If it is equal to or higher than 1/3 of local wages, then the work is not unpaid

What is volunteer work?

It is **non-compulsory** work

- No civil, legal or administrative obligations
Fulfilment of social responsibilities of a communal, cultural or religious nature is not considered an obligation
- No coercion
Work extracted through menace, threat or force cannot be voluntary
- Free will
Work performed willingly even if there are legal obligations in specific cases

What is volunteer work?

It is work **for others**

- Beneficiaries could be all kinds of organizations, persons who are not part of the volunteer's household or family, and the nature
The volunteer's family might benefit indirectly from the work, but must not be the main intended beneficiary
- Work done for/through organizations, community, groups
Organization-based volunteer work
- Work done directly to help people and nature
Direct volunteer work

Labour Force Survey add-on module

IDENTIFICATION OF VOLUNTEER WORKERS (VOL)			
FOR RESPONDENTS OF WORKING AGE (>=N)			
INTERVIEWER READ:			
The next questions are about work that people may do without expecting to receive payment or something return.			
VOL_1	In the last [4 weeks / 30 days] that is from [DATE] up to [DATE/yesterday] did you [volunteer/do voluntary work] or spend any time helping ... READ AND MARK ALL THAT APPLY		
	Friends, neighbours, strangers? help given to members of own family excluded	a	☐
	Organizations, associations, clubs, institutions [(such as NGOs, religious organizations, sports clubs, schools, online groups, etc.)]? (The/Your) community?	b	☐
	Nature, wild/street animals [(such as dogs, cats, birds, fish, etc.)]? DID NOT PROVIDE UNPAID HELP	c	☐
		d	☐
		e	☐
IF VOL_1=a,b,c,d CONTINUE WITH VOL_3, ELSE IF VOL_1=e CONTINUE WITH VOL_2a			
INTERVIEWER READ:			
Besides providing unpaid help, people may do something to donate food or other products to people or to organizations, such as charities, NGOs or [religious institutions].			
VOL_2a	In the last [4 weeks / 30 days] did you spend any time buying, collecting or distributing donated products or goods?	YES	01 ☐
		NO	02 ☐
VOL_2b	Did you spend any time preparing products or goods to be donated? e.g. cooking, cleaning, arranging, packaging, fixing, ironing or something else	YES	01 ☐
		NO	02 ☐

CHARACTERISTICS OF VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES (CVA)			
FOR RESPONDENTS OF WORKING AGE (>=N) WHO REPORTED AT LEAST ONE ACTIVITY IN VOL_3 AND ANSWERED WITH YES TO VOL_4			
- IF ONE ACTIVITY REPORTED IN VOL_3, THEN ASK THE NEXT QUESTIONS FOR THAT ACTIVITY - IF TWO ACTIVITIES REPORTED, THEN ASK THE NEXT QUESTIONS FOR EACH ACTIVITY - IF THREE ACTIVITIES REPORTED, THEN: - ESTABLISH WHICH ARE THE TWO ACTIVITIES ON WHICH MOST OF THE TIME WAS SPENT IN THE LAST [4 WEEKS / 30 DAYS] - ASK THE NEXT QUESTIONS FOR EACH OF THE TWO ACTIVITIES			
INTERVIEWER READ:			
Now, I would like to ask you some questions about the help you provided in [ACTIVITY].			
CVA_1	Whom did you help in this activity?		
	FRIEND, NEIGHBOUR, STRANGER	01	☐
	ORGANIZATION, ASSOCIATION, INSTITUTION, CLUB, BUSINESS	02	☐
	COMMUNITY	03	☐
	NATURE, STREET/WILD ANIMALS	04	☐
	FAMILY MEMBER OR RELATIVE	05	☐
			→ 2nd ACTIVITY OR END
CVA_2	How many hours did you spend in this activity in the [reference week / last week / last 7 days]?		
		HOURS	ENTER "0" (ZERO) IF NO WORK IN [REFERENCE WEEK / LAST WEEK/ LAST 7 DAYS]
		MINUTES	
CVA_2b	How often did you do this activity in the last [4 weeks / 30 days]?		
		Every day	01 ☐
		Every week (NOT EVERY DAY)	02 ☐
		Less often (NOT EVERY WEEK)	03 ☐
CVA_3	And how many hours did you spend on [ACTIVITY] in total, in the last [4 weeks / 30 days]?		
		HOURS	ENTER "999" IF CAN'T REMEMBER

Design of the module

- Submodule VOL: Identification of volunteer workers
 - Intended for respondents of working age (15+)
 - Detects participation in unpaid work activities for the benefit of others
 - Establishes the list of specific unpaid activities
 - Time spent in all activities (optional)
 - Engagement in volunteer work in the last 12 months (optional)
- Module CVA: Characteristics of Voluntary Activities
 - Intended for respondents of working age (15+) who reported at least one activity in submodule CVA. Asks details about two activities.
 - Establishes whether reported unpaid activities meet the criteria of volunteer work
 - Collects data on time spent in volunteer work activities, tasks performed and organizer

Explanatory notes and adaptation advice

- Conventions used in the module offer essential implementation instructions

- Regular text: Indicates text to be read by the interviewer
- *Italics*: Indicates interviewer instructions or aids, not to be read out loud
- CAPS: INDICATES RESPONSE CATEGORIES AND FILTERS NOT TO BE READ OUT LOUD
- (Parenthesis): Indicates that a choice or a substitution must be made
- [Blue text]: Indicates questions that may be included/excluded as per national circumstances
- [Red text within square brackets]: Indicates text that must be adapted as per national circumstances
- **Bold text**: Indicates question numbers, section headings, skips, and other structural items

- Additionally, the ILO Guide offers detailed explanations on the...

- purpose of each module question
- meaning of each answer option
- national adaptation

QUESTION ID	DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES
SUBMODULE INTRODUCTION	Purpose • To highlight the change in topic during the interview. • To focus respondents' attention on a key element of volunteer work: the lack of expectation to receive a remuneration in exchange for the work done.
	National adaptation and implementation • All respondents of working age selected for the module must hear or read (as per mode of data collection) the introduction before answering the module questions. • When translating the introduction into the national language(s), care should be taken to ensure that respondents understand that the module questions refer to work done without the intention to ask for or the expectation to receive remuneration (monetary or in-kind). • People may receive support (cash or in-kind) to enable their participation in unpaid activities. Such support does not represent remuneration for work done. It is offered to cover (partially or totally) the costs incurred by a person while participating in a specific activity. Examples include travel to and from the place where unpaid work is done; meals; accommodation, in case a person has to spend several days away from home. • Translation(s) of the introduction must exclude the possibility that respondents think of employment work for which payment was not received as expected (e.g. delayed or withheld).

Volunteer work activity

- Key concept, essential for the correct implementation of the module

Specific set of tasks performed by a respondent for a specific type of beneficiary in the reference period (similar to jobs in employment)

Examples:

- Cooking for a neighbour's wedding
- Looking after a friend's children
- Offering free English classes in a school
- Providing free care services in a hospital
- Training the community's football team without payment
- Cleaning a park
- Running a YouTube channel to inform others about climate change

Key factors for a successful implementation

- Minimal statistical infrastructure
- Capacity to adjust existing data collection tools and procedures
- Efficient communication with relevant stakeholders
- Availability of resources

Key indicators

Number of volunteers, volunteer rate and time volunteered disaggregated, at least, by:

- Sex
- Age
- Residence area
- Education
- Labour status
- Tasks performed
- Type of volunteer work
- Economic activity of organizations

► Data 

Frequency [select to filter] ▼

Search...  ▼

Indicator	Excel summary	Zipped csv	Data Explorer
+ Number of volunteers by sex and type of volunteer work (thousands) Annual	xlsx	gz	View
+ Number of volunteers by age and type of volunteer work (thousands) Annual	xlsx	gz	View
+ Volunteer rate by sex and type of volunteer work (%) Annual	xlsx	gz	View
+ Volunteer rate by age and type of volunteer work (%) Annual	xlsx	gz	View

Statistics on more than 60 countries available in ILOSTAT database
<https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/volunteer-work/>

Key learning resources

- Volunteer work measurement guide (EN, ES, FR, AR, RU)
https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/publications/WCMS_789950/lang--en/index.htm
- Measuring Volunteer Work self-learning course (EN, ES, FR, AR, RU)
<https://ecampus.itcilo.org/course/view.php?id=2302>

Demo version of the ILO survey tool

<https://forms.office.com/r/vEW7Kigna>

Any question?

