Methodology for the ILO individual surveys on Lifelong Learning

The availability of data on various forms of learning in the world of work and their impact on the labour market remains limited, especially in low- and middle-income countries. To help address this gap, the ILO conducted individual surveys in Bangladesh, Tanzania and Fiji.

While the survey methodologies were adapted to each country's technical and geographical constraints, all three surveys use similar questionnaires. The surveys gathered information on respondents' employment situation and their experiences with formal, non-formal and informal training. Full questionnaires and survey designs are available upon request.

Bangladesh survey

A total of 6,164 structured face-to-face interviews were conducted throughout Bangladesh with individuals aged 15-64 in November and December 2023. To cover all geographical regions of Bangladesh, interviews were conducted across all eight administrative divisions: Barishal, Chattogram, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh, and Sylhet. In each division, districts were stratified by type of locality (urban and rural), creating 16 strata. Only one district was selected from each stratum. In each urban stratum, the divisional headquarters was chosen as the urban district to cover the most urbanized populations. In each rural stratum, one rural and one urban district were randomly selected. For the Chottogram Division, the rural district was chosen randomly from the three hill districts, Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban, to ensure the inclusion of a hill district.

At the district level, two administrative areas were selected in each district: one City Corporation or Municipality (urban area) and one randomly selected sub-district (rural area), for a total of 32 areas. A two-stage clustering approach was employed within these 32 administrative areas. First, samples of areas – villages in rural areas and mahallas in urban areas, were selected using probability proportional to size (PPS) and served as the primary sampling units (PSUs). These areas consisted multiple households, which formed the secondary sampling units (SSUs). At the second stage, every third household was selected in a clockwise direction, with data collected from 20 different households per area. Only one individual from each household was interviewed to ensure precise information about their own learning and work experience. The distribution of survey interviews according to the population size and number of households is provided in Table 1.

TABLE 1. SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION IN BANGLADESH

Divisions	Districts	Administrative areas	Nr. of households	Percentage	Sample size targeted	Sample size collected
Barishal	Barishal	Barishal	629,842	79.50	260	269
		Gournadi				
	Jhalokati	Jhalokati Sadar Upazila	162,403	20.49	67	67
		Nalchity				
Chattogram	Chattogram	Chittagong	2,143,958	92.67	1028	1036
		Karnaphuli				
	Khagrachhari	Khagrachhari Sadar Upazila	169,526	7.32	81	75
		Ramgarh				
Dhaka	Dhaka	Dhaka	4,036,445	92.89	1591	1599
		Savar				
	Gopalganj	Gopalganj Sadar Upazila	308,707	7.10	122	158
		Kotalipara				
Khulna	Khulna	Khulna	670,923	77.45	513	523
		Dighalia				
	Meherpur	Meherpur Sadar Upazila	195,323	22.54	149	166
		Mujibnagar				
Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Mymensingh Sadar Upazila	1,460,900	69.14	311	296
		Muktagachha				
	Jamalpur	Jamalpur Sadar Upazila	652,046	30.85	139	143
		Baksiganj				
Rajshahi	Rajshahi	Rajshahi	775,260	63.37	501	486
		Durgapur				
	Chapai Nawabganj	Chapai Nawabganj Sadar	448,029	36.62	290	312
		Gomastapur				
Rangpur	Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar Upazila	834,309	57.93	383	405
		Badarganj				
	Kurigram	Kurigram Sadar Upazila	605,724	40.07	278	285
		Ulipur				
Sylhet	Sylhet	Sylhet	746,867	60.29	197	215
		Golapganj				
	Habiganj	Habiganj Sadar Upazila	491,886	39.70	129	129
		Nabiganj				
8 division	**16 districts**	**32 sub districts**			**6040**	**6164**

Fiji survey

In Fiji, the survey targeted users of a major telecommunication company (approximately 190,000 phone numbers), distributed across the country as shown in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2. SAMPLE FRAME DISTRIBUTION IN FIJI

Location	Users
Ba	6,269
Bua	2,724
Kadavu	2,358
Koro	1,190
Korovou	619
Labasa	11,443
Lau	2,159
Lautoka	20,724
Levuka	492
Lomaiviti	2,273
Mamanuca	1,338
Nadi	22,851
Natewa	778
Natovi	2,421
Rotuma	729
Savusavu	5,631
Sigatoka	7,150
Suva	86,324
Taveuni	1,917
Tavua	5,590
Yasawa	1,080

The survey sample design included stratification by broad region ("division") and by type of area (rural or urban), ensuring that respondents were represented across these dimensions.

Within this framework, a random sample of 2,452 users aged 18 and over was selected from the company's database, with each stratum allocated proportionally to its population size. As a result, 40 percent of the selected users were from rural areas, 35 percent from the western division, 45 percent from the central division, and 20 percent from the northern division.

A total of 2,272 phone interviews were completed during March and April 2025. To account for possible non-response related to respondents' socio-demographic characteristics, the survey data were weighted to align the distribution of respondents with the known distribution of the Fijian population by gender and age. For this purpose, the age pyramid from the 2017 Fiji Population Census was used.

Tanzania Survey

Between March and June 2025, a total of 4,500 face-to-face interviews were carried out with individuals aged 15 and above across eight regions: Arusha, Mwanza, Mbeya, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Tabora, Lindi and Mjini Magharibi. In each region, interviews were conducted in two selected administrative districts, one urban and one rural.

The number of interviews in each region was proportional to the number of households, and within each region, the sample was allocated to the selected urban and rural districts in proportion to their size. Table 3 shows the distribution of the sample across regions and districts.

At the district level, interviews took place in randomly selected locations. Specifically, two wards were randomly selected in each district, followed by four randomly selected villages per wards (i.e., administrative level below districts). In each village, enumeration areas (EAs) were randomly selected with a probability proportional to size. Survey teams began at a central point in each EA, chose a random direction and visited every fourth household after the first. Within each selected household, one adult was randomly chosen to complete the survey.

After data collection, survey responses were weighted to ensure that, at the district level, the distribution of respondents by age and gender corresponded to the age pyramid from the 2022 Population and Housing Census.

TABLE 3. SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION IN TANZANIA

Region	Urban District	Sample Size	Rural District	Sample Size	Total Sample Size
Arusha	Arusha City	233	Monduli	212	445
Mwanza	Ilemela	392	Magu	269	661
Mbeya	Mbeya City	254	Rungwe	198	452
Dodoma	Dodoma City	318	Chamwino	248	566
Dar es Salaam	Ilala	760	Kinondoni	554	1,314
Tabora	Tabora Municipality	202	Sikonge	164	366
Lindi	Lindi TC	202	Kilwa	183	385
Mjini Magharibi	Mjini District	159	Magharibi District	152	311
Total		**2,520**		**1,980**	**4,500**