ILO Statistical Capacity Initiatives in
Asia and the Pacific Region for the period
2018-2023
(Report I, para. 270-278)

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# Introduction

Between October 2018 and September 2023, ILO statistical work and assistance to the **36 Asia and the Pacific member States with a 3.7 billion population**, focussed on the following four major areas:

(1)   Capacity building in labour statistics and decent work indicators, particularly covering the new labour statistics standards from the 19th and 20th ICLS resolutions;

(2)   Support to implementation of these latest standards through revised labour force surveys or other data collection exercises (like modules attached to other household based surveys ), including building statistical systems for annual or sub-annual LFS;

(3)   Support to the production of, and reporting on SDGs decent work indicators; and

(4)   Support to selected National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in maintaining data collection systems through the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as in monitoring the impact of the pandemic on their labour markets.

# Capacity-building activities on labour statistics (1)

- Technical workshop on **populating labour market indicators and standardizing microdata for the Pacific Island countries**, which was jointly organized with the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community (SPC/SDD) and UNESCAP (New Caledonia, December 2018);

- **Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy for the Pacific Island countries**, jointly organized with the SPC/SDD and UNESCAP, which was a blended learning modality that included an online phase and face-to-face training (Fiji, January 2023);

- **Training workshop on work and labour force statistics for Cook Islands, Fiji and Tonga**, which was jointly organized with the SPC/SDD (Fiji, August 2023);

- Contributions to **online capacity-building and information-sharing activities**, including: on household income and expenditure surveys for Pacific Island countries, various Asia– Pacific Statistics Cafés, organized with UNESCAP;

# Capacity-building activities on labour statistics (2)

- **Briefings for data management officers working in UN Resident Coordinator Offices**, on decent work-related SDG indicators and ILOSTAT (March 2022), and on labour migration data (July 2022);

- Labour migration: Contribution to a **regional workshop on strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda**, organized by the UN Statistics Division and UNESCAP (Thailand, February 2019);

- Labour migration statistics: **annual capacity-building activities to support ASEAN countries**, including annual training on ILMS projects;

- **National training activities on labour statistics**, mostly online, for: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Samoa, Tonga and Viet Nam;

- **Courses organized in collaboration with the Turin Centre**: a total of 721 AP officials.

# Support to ILO member States in data collection

- **Support to implementing the 19th and 20th ICLS provided to 16 ILO MS** through national labour force surveys (LFS), population censuses, or household income and expenditure surveys (HIES), and in **building LFS statistics systems**: Afghanistan (income and expenditure, and LFS 2021), Bangladesh (quarterly LFS-, 2022), Brunei Darussalam (2022), Cambodia (2019), Cook Islands (2019), Kiribati (2019), Lao PDR (2022), Maldives (LFS 2023-planning stages), Marshall Islands (2019), Myanmar (2019-2020), Palau (2023), Samoa (2022), Timor-Leste (2022), Tuvalu (2022), Vanuatu (2019), and Viet Nam (2019-2021);

- **Support to piloting the implementation of the 19th and 20th ICLS provided to 5 ILO MS**: Indonesia (2023), Malaysia (2022), the Philippines (2022-2023), Sri Lanka (2019-2020), and Thailand (2021);

- **Data collection of selected topics through labour force surveys**, such as children's activities and forced labour (Lao PDR 2022), social protection (Cook Islands 2019), labour demand/ vacancies (China- technical briefing 2023, and Viet Nam 2021), labour migration (and recruitment costs of migrant workers), and in measuring unpaid care and domestic work (pilot in Indonesia, 2022-2023).

# Support to measuring & reporting on SDG indicators

- **Revision or development of SDG-related monitoring and evaluation (M&E)** components of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCP), and input to the country UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNCF) to include SDG decent work indicators, as well as support in the development of national SDG indicator frameworks;

- **Piloting the measurement of SDG indicators** for which ILO is the custodian agency, with a focus on SDG indicators that are still classified as Tier II in the AP region, particularly SDG indicators **8.3.1 (informal employment)**, **8.5.1 (hourly earnings)**, and **10.7.1 (recruitment costs of migrant workers)**;

- **Contributed to UN capacity-building mechanisms on SDG monitoring and reporting activities at the regional level**: UN Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) on SDGs data and statistics; Regional Steering Groups on: Economic Statistics, Population and Social Statistics, and the Thematic WG on Gender Statistics; ESCAP annual SDG Progress Reports.

# Supporting data collection during COVID-19 pandemic

- **Joint UN briefings to national statistical systems on ILO response and guidance**, through the UN Asia-Pacific Statistics Cafés:
  - ➢ COVID-19 Impact on implementing Household Surveys (1 June 2020);
  - ➢ Rapid assessment surveys on the impact of COVID-19 (8 June 2020);
  - ➢ Conducting a census during the Covid-19 pandemic: challenges and approaches (29 June 2020).

- **Measuring the impact of COVID-19 on labour markets at national level**, using both household surveys (covering **working hours losses**, **jobs losses** and **income losses**) and establishment surveys (covering the impact on business operations), in at least **10 AP member States**: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam;

- **Support to rapid assessments of COVID-19 impact in various countries**.

# Collaboration & future priorities

- **Great achievements on labour statistics in the AP thanks to partners' support**, particularly from:
  - ➢ The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, with a programme of support to labour statistics, jointly supported LFS in: Cambodia (2019), and Samoa (2022);
  - ➢ The **Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC)**: joint support to 9 (out of 13) ILO member States in the Pacific, through HIES and LFS;
  - ➢ **UNESCAP**: in capacity building activities, through SIAP (Chiba, Japan);
  - ➢ **ASEAN & Statistics Korea** (KOSTAT): particularly on labour migration statistics;
  - ➢ World Bank and Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)- Collaboration on measuring indicator 10.7.1 (Bangladesh and Nepal).

- **Future priorities** in the AP region remain such as (in addition to SDG indicators):
  - ➢ Implementing the 19th, 20th and 21st ICLS resolutions;
  - ➢ International labour migration;
  - ➢ Emerging topics such as: digital platform employment, unpaid care work, etc.

THANK YOU

International Labour Organization

21st
International
Conference of
Labour Statisticians
11–20 October 2023

100 years of ICLS

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