



Decent Work Country Profiles

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Decent Work Country Profile?

The profiles provide information on all dimensions of decent work in a country, analysing statistical and legal indicators within the framework of national labour and social policies. The profiles cover a period of approximately ten years and examine ten substantive elements of decent work. Gender is a cross-cutting theme of the profiles.

2. How was the concept for Decent Work Country Profiles developed?

Based on the outcomes of a Tripartite Meeting of Experts in September 2008, the Governing Body requested the ILO to prepare profiles for a limited number of countries. The Governing Body later decided that the Office should provide guidance on broadening collaboration with member States with a view to expanding and compiling a comprehensive set of profiles.

3. What are the 10 substantive elements covered in the profiles?

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, workers' and employers' representation.

4. Why were these substantive elements chosen?

The substantive elements build on the four strategic pillars of the Decent Work Agenda (full and productive employment, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue). They highlight that rights at work are a cross-cutting issue and that international labour standards cover the entire spectrum of the Decent Work Agenda.

5. What is the value-added of the profiles?

The profiles compile all available data on decent work statistical and legal indicators and analyse gaps and trends, where possible, reflecting on the national context. This facilitates the evaluation of progress towards decent work and may inform national planning and policymaking as well as Decent Work Country Programmes and regional activities.



6. How are the profiles developed?

Currently, the profiles are drafted collaboratively by national consultants and ILO experts and coordinated by a team in Geneva. National partners are consulted throughout the process of data compilation, analysis and drafting of the text. The profiles are validated by constituents prior to publication. With the support of ILO/EU Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work project (MAP, 2009-2013) a number of profiles are being produced. The main objective of MAP is to develop a global methodology on measuring decent work through a range of activities including capacity building and data collection.

7. Who is the target audience?

National constituents, policymakers, researchers, international organizations and development practitioners.

8. Which countries are targeted?

Decent work is a concern for countries at all levels of development. Austria and Tanzania were among the first countries to develop a Decent Work Country Profile. Other Decent Work Country Profiles that are available or in the making concern Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Niger, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Ukraine and Zambia.

9. Do we rank countries using the profiles?

The profiles do not intend to rank countries in terms of decent work. While there is a core set of Decent Work Indicators that needs to be compiled for all countries, the methodology for calculating statistical indicators is customized to each country's needs and the available data. Similarly, national law and its application have to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The information on decent work is presented, insofar as possible, in a standard format and using methodologies that facilitate comparisons.

For more information on Measuring Decent Work see:
<http://www.ilo.org/integration/themes/mdw/lang--en/index.htm>

For more information on MAP and to access examples of Decent Work Country Profiles visit:
www.ilo.org/map