Measurement of Forced labour Opportunities and challenges

ILO Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL)

What is forced labour?

Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)

"All work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily"
2012 ILO Global estimate

20.9 million people in forced labour

- State-imposed forced labour: 2,200,000 (10%)
- Forced sexual exploitation: 4,500,000 (22%)
- Forced labour exploitation: 14,200,000 (68%)

Need for national estimates

• What do policy makers need to know?
  - How big the problem is
  - Who are the victims/people at risk
  - In which industries/occupations are they working
  - What are the processes of recruitment
  - What are the means of coercion

• What data are available?
  - Statistics on identified victims in some countries
  - Some qualitative research
Pilot research on forced labour at national level

Qualitative research to understand the mechanisms of forced labour

Work on operational definition of forced labour and criteria to identify forced labour

Surveys (non-representative samples) with assessment of forced labour using the list of criteria of forced labour

Pilot surveys with probabilistic samples

Operational definition

Forced labour = Involuntariness AND Penalty

- Unfree recruitment
- Coercion during employment
- Impossibility to leave employer
Concept of Coercion

Penalties and threats of penalties Against the worker and/or his/her relatives

➢ Violence and threats of violence
➢ Restriction of workers 'freedom of movement
➢ Debt bondage
➢ Withholding of wages
➢ Retention of Id or travel documents
➢ Abuse of vulnerability

Typology of forced labour

➢ imposed by State authorities
➢ imposed by private agents for commercial sexual exploitation
➢ imposed by private agents for labour exploitation
  ✓ In households, with individual employers
  ✓ In establishments
  ✓ In other forms of labour (illicit activities, exploitation of people for petty crimes, forced begging, etc.)
Ten pilot surveys

- Designed and implemented between 2008 and 2012
- In close collaboration with NSOs
- With probabilistic sampling
- Various target groups
  - Returned migrants
  - Families
  - Children

Lessons learnt and next steps

Interest and feasibility of a statistical approach to data collection on forced labour demonstrated

Shows the need to:
- Harmonize concepts
- Elaborate a statistical definition of FL
- Develop standard list of criteria
- Design standard survey tools
- Develop guidelines on sampling procedures adapted to FL
For further information, please consult:

www.ilo.org/forcedlabour