

Implementation of 19th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization

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- Background
- ILO LFS methodological work
- ILO Technical Assistance & Capacity building
- ILO LFS practical resources
- Next steps



Background – 19th ICLS Resolution I

18th ICLS asked ILO to work on an update to standards from 13th ICLS Resolution (“Statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment”)

- Need for updated definition of employment (too broad)
- Need to expand range of labour underutilization indicators beyond unemployment rate
- Need for recognition of all work, both paid and unpaid and definitions to enable measurement
- Need for improved integration with other statistical domains (e.g. National Accounts)
- Need for greater consistency and comparability across countries

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Background – 19th ICLS Resolution I (2)

Proposed new standards developed through wide consultation and presented to ICLS in October 2013 for adoption



Key elements

- First statistical definition of ‘work’
- Definitions for 5 different forms of work
 - Employment (narrower than previous definition)
 - Own use production work (goods or services)
 - Volunteer work (goods or services)
 - Unpaid trainee work
 - Other
- Four different indicators defined (LU1 to LU4)

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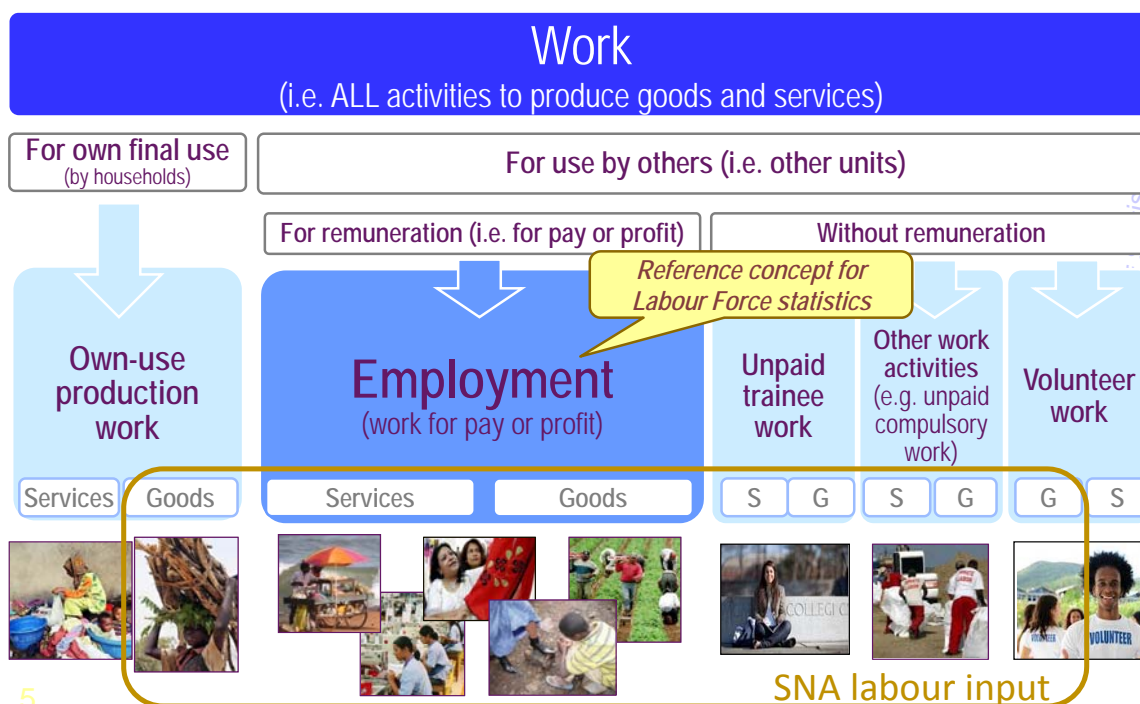
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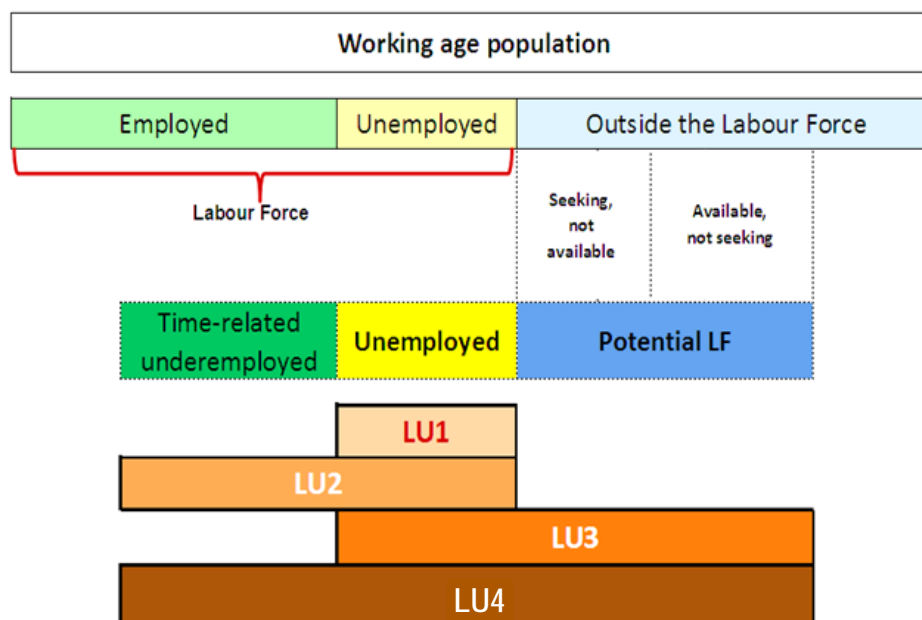


Forms of Work Framework

By main intended destination & transaction type



New indicators of labour underutilization (LU1-LU4)



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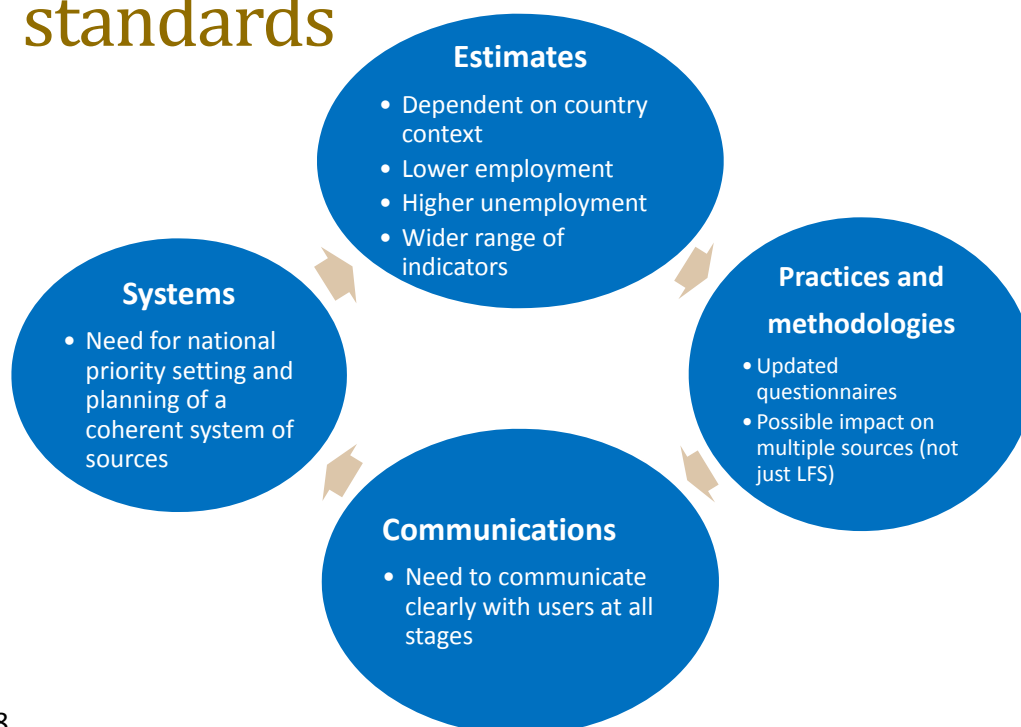


Other important elements of the standards

- A variety of guidance on implementation
- Recognition that measurement will take place through a system
- All topics should be measured
 - Key indicators should be disseminated frequently
 - Different topics to be measured at different frequencies
 - Use of different sources
- Best system depending on national context, demands and resources

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Implications of the new standards

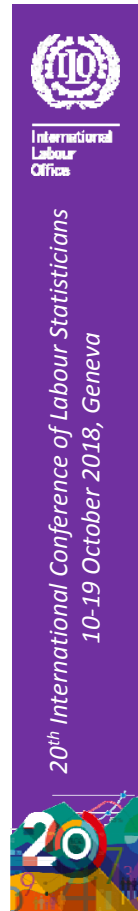


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Follow up ILO mandate

- Undertake methodological research to support implementation
 - New concepts and definitions
 - How to implement the standards within a coherent statistical system
- Prepare guidance, tools and updated training
- Disseminate widely

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ILO Response (2014-2018)

- Development of programme of work:
 - LFS Methodological development
 - Technical assistance & capacity building
 - Advocacy & promotion of implementation

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ILO LFS Methodological Work



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ILO LFS methodological work

- Testing to develop evidence-based guidance
- Built on accumulated national experience
- In partnership with NSO & development partners
- Progressive development by topic
 - Employment & labour underutilization (2015-2017)
 - Own-use production of goods, including subsistence food producers (2014 –ongoing)
 - Volunteer work (2018 - 2021)
 - Own-use provision of services (forthcoming)

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ILO LFS pilot studies (2015-2017)

✓ Scope

- Employment (as work for pay or profit)
- Measures of Labour Underutilization
- Own-use production of work (goods and services)
- Selected aspects of status in employment

✓ Objectives

- To identify good practice in LFS questionnaire design
- *Not designed to assess impact on indicators*

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ILO LFS pilot studies (2015-2017)

2 stages of testing:

- **Qualitative:** Cognitive testing
- **Quantitative:** Split sample field tests

10 partner countries

- **Africa:** Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Namibia, Tunisia
- **Asia/Pacific:** Vietnam and Philippines
- **Central Asia/Eastern Europe:** Kyrgyz Republic and Moldova
- **Latin America & Caribbean:** Ecuador and Peru
- 2 questionnaires per country to enable within country comparison

Additional support from UN Foundation and African Development Bank

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Reports with Main findings (1)

- I. Background, objectives and methodologies
- II. Cognitive interviewing
- III. Field tests
- IV. Measuring employment
- V. Measuring of working time & time-related underemployment
- VI. Measuring unemployment & the potential labour force
- VII. Measuring main activity
- VIII. Measuring own-use production of goods (*forthcoming*)
- IX. Measuring work in agriculture (*forthcoming*)

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Reports with main findings (2)



Available in ILO Department of Statistics website:

https://www.ilo.org/stat/Areasofwork/Standards/lfs/WCMS_627815/lang--en/index.htm

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General findings

Translation is an essential and sensitive process and should not be an attempt to achieve an exact verbatim version

- Need to translate to spoken language not written (if there are differences)
- Even where the same language is being used some adaptation to reflect local spoken norms is necessary

Literal translation of standards into questions can lead to confusion and burden

- E.g. terms like 'work for pay or profit' should be nationally tested to ensure the correct understanding is achieved

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Employment: 5 approaches tested

Model 1

High subsistence approach
– starts with questions on
farming/fishing activities

Model 2

Main activity approach –
starts with general
question on main activity

Model 3

Traditional approach
starting with question on
work for pay or profit in the
reference period

Model 4

Traditional approach starting
with questions targeting
different types of working
activity (employee vs self-
employed)

Model 5

Jobs based approach –
starts with questions on
having a job or business



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Employment: Findings (cognitive)

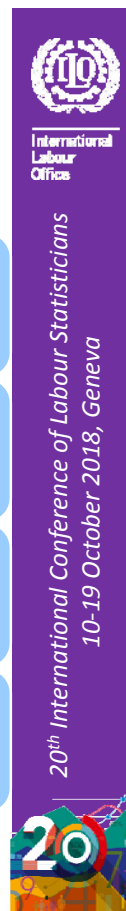
Majority of questions were observed to be understood as intended

Some commonly used terms require careful translation and are open to misinterpretation (for profit, in kind, job)

Questions to establish main intended destination functioned better when the question on the activity and the intended destination were separated

Lists of examples can be helpful, but care is needed to ensure respondents understand that these are only illustrations and not a comprehensive list

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Employment: Findings (field tests)

Different question sequences did achieve comparable results within countries in the majority of countries

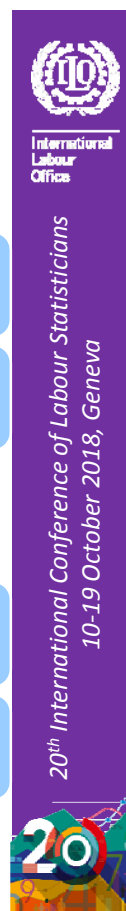
Critical to have common components to achieve this particularly for some types of workers

- E.g. employers generally identified quickly, others require more questions
- Need for questions on main intended destination of production for those engaged in farming or fishing (i.e. not safe to assume own use producers will say they don't do work to generate an income/have a job etc.)

Possibility of over-identification of employment should also be considered although this was not observed through these pilot studies

Overall some differences in efficiency were seen

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Unemployment & potential labour force Findings (cognitive & field tests)

Cognitive issues were relatively minor. Questions generally understood as intended and no major reporting difficulties observed

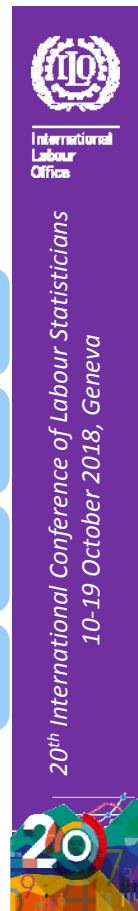
One version of the job search questions was concluded to work better to capture a wider range of activities (notably among women)

Some improvements identified for availability questions

Questions on desire and need interpreted as intended

- No evidence found that respondents limited their reporting of desire based on perceived availability of work

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Working time and time related underemployment: Findings

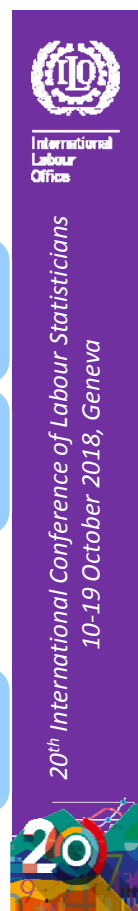
By and large two versions generated comparable estimates of both usual and actual working time and time related underemployment

Reporting difficulties were not widely observed

- Some feedback that respondents with simultaneous activities found reporting of working time difficult
- Proxy response difficult

No major issues observed with questions related to time related underemployment

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Main activity: Findings

Tested different ways to identify main activity

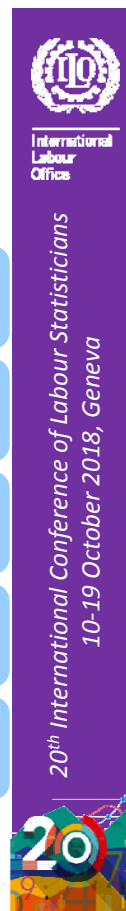
Necessary to read out response categories to avoid confusion in respondents

Questions generated useful supplementary information to labour force status

Additional question on 'all activities' in advance of 'main activity' can add useful analytical information as well as easing reporting

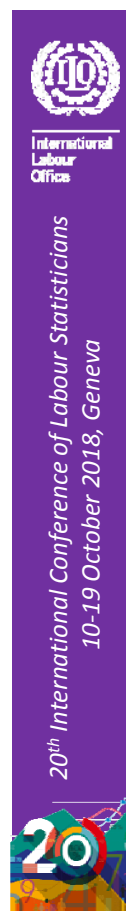
Model 2 approach (asking main activity as part of sequence to identify employment) is promising subject to careful design

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Other methodological and technical coordination activities

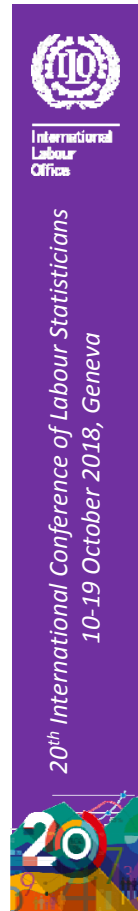
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Other LFS pilot testing initiatives

- Support to regional activities
 - Latin America (Regional public good initiative)
 - European Union (Eurostat)
 - CIS region (CIS-STAT)
 - Pacific Islands (SPC)
- ILO-WB-Data 2X joint pilot study

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Joint ILO/ World Bank pilot study

World Bank and FAO have also been tests 19th ICLS implementation in other surveys

Not possible to directly compare the outcomes

Planning commenced in 2017 to undertake a study in Sri Lanka

Both LFS questionnaire (ILO) and WB questionnaire (LSMS) to be tested

Methodology similar to previous pilots but larger sample

Purpose to test some remaining issues and more directly compare outcomes

Generate guidance on implementation in different survey types

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Joint pilot study -Timelines & outputs

- Cognitive testing – late September/early October 2018
- Field testing wave 1 Q1 to Q2 2019
- Field testing wave 2 – to be confirmed



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Joint pilot study – early conclusions

Need for appropriate translation to local spoken language is critical

Commonly used terminology can be problematic

- Agriculture, salary, job or business
- Long questions or lists can be difficult
- Various issues identified with flow and wording of questions

Questionnaires will be updated for next stage of tests

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ILO Technical assistance & Capacity Building on LFS



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Regional training workshops

Focus on 19th ICLS & related priority topics

- Chile (2015), China (2014), Fiji (2015), Italy (2016), Japan (2017), Republic of Korea, (2015), New Caledonia (2014), Oman (2014), Panama (2014), South Africa (2014 and 2015), the United Republic of Tanzania (2017) and Thailand (2017)
- Forthcoming: Japan November 2018
- Content will continue to evolve reflecting latest standards and guidance

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Labour Market Statistics Academy

ILO had a range of LFS related training courses historically

In 2016 these were redeveloped to 2 week academy in English

In 2017 Academy in French in West Africa

Academy in Turin in 2017 (English), reshaped to also cover labour related SDGs

In future Academy will be held in different languages on a rotating basis

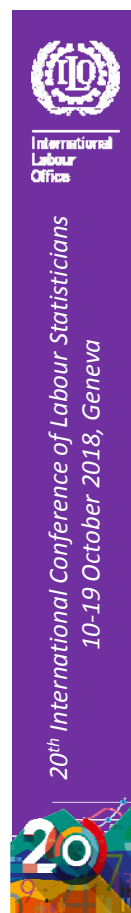
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2020 Population & Housing Census programme

- 2020 UN Recommendations for P&H Censuses
 - Updated to be aligned with 19th ICLS resolution
- Technical assistance with updating census questions on economic characteristics provided as per country requests
- Collaboration with UNSD to develop e-census course on measuring economic characteristics in population censuses

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ILO LFS practical resources

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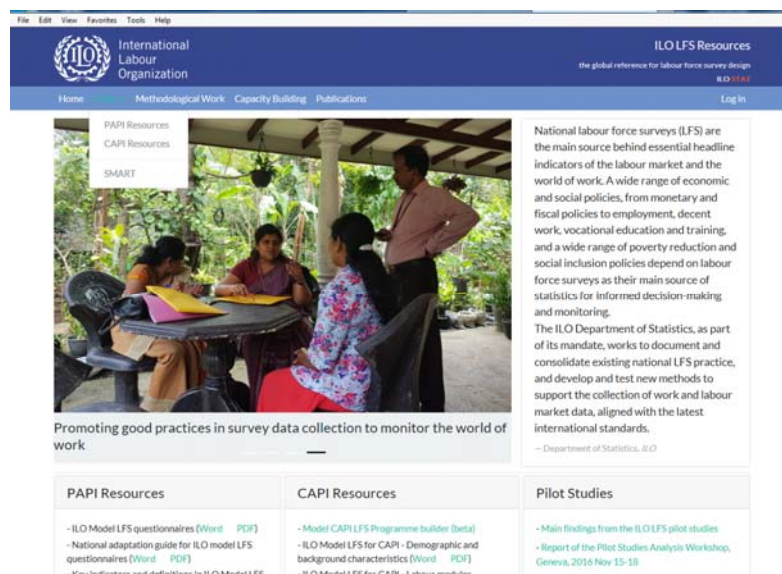
LFS practical resources overview

- Focus on practical model materials
- Aligned with latest ICLS and related standards
- Based on accumulated practice & pilot experience
- Intended for countries with different practices
- Guidance to focus on national adaptation
- Solutions for PAPI and CAPI implementation
 - **Model LFS Questionnaires**
 - **National Adaptation Guides**
 - **Core variables Mapping & Calculation Guides**
- New ILO LFS web resources

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New ILO LFS web resources



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ILO Model LFS Questionnaires

Modular content

(choice as per national context):

- Demography
- Labour Migration
- Disability
- Household resources and livelihood
- Employment
- Work in agriculture & market orientation
- Main job –characteristics (incl. ICSE-18)
- Second job –basic characteristics
- Working time
- Time related underemployment and inadequate employment
- Job search, desire and availability
- Own use production of goods

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ILO Model LFS National Adaptation Guide

- For questionnaire developers
- Purpose & uses of each question
- Valid response options
- Recommendations for national adaptation
- Recommendations for field implementation



National adaptation guide for ILO Model LFS Questionnaire for PAPI Approach 1 (version 1)

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MODULE 9: JOB SEARCH AND AVAILABILITY

Module 9 is asked of all respondents not identified as employed in the reference week. The purpose of the module is to identify different situations of labour underutilization including underemployment and people in the potential labour force as defined in Resolution 2 of the ILO 103rd Session. In addition to the core questions on search, desire and availability for work the sequence includes questions on reasons for not seeking and non-availability for work to enable a wider range of barriers to labour market engagement.

This module is a core part of any labour force survey sequence and is the source of the unemployment rate and other labour underutilization indicators.

9.1 Active search to find a paid job

The respondent did anything to find a paid job in the last 4 weeks.

Response categories

(0) YES

(1) NO

Persons

• To identify people who were actively searching for employment.

• Part of the sequence of questions required to identify the unemployed and the potential labour force.

National adaptation and implementation

• Within the question use the specific dates which cover the 4 weeks before the interview.

• Any activity to seek a paid job should be recorded as YES, even if the amount of activity was low or if the job sought was a casual job for only few hours a week.

9.2 Active search to start a business

The respondent did anything to try to start a business in the last 4 weeks.

Response categories

(0) YES

(1) NO

Persons

• To identify people who were actively searching for employment.

• Part of the sequence of questions required to identify the unemployed and the potential labour force.

Implementation guidelines

• Any activity to try to start a business should be recorded, even if the amount of activity was low. Typical activities to start a business would include applying for

ILO National adaptation guide for PAPI (Approach 1) - 60

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ILO Model LFS Variables Mapping & Calculation Guide

- Required questions to construct essential labour force & work variables
- Operational definitions aligned with latest ICLS standards
- Calculation guidance

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20 October 2017

DERIVATION OF KEY STATUSES

Status/Variable	Question	Response Categories	Comment
Employment	(2.1)	(0) YES	Working for wage or salary
	(2.2)	(0) YES	Working for wage or salary
	(2.3)	(0) YES	Working for wage or salary
	(2.4)	(0) YES	Working for wage or salary
	(2.5)	(0) YES	Working for wage or salary

Status/Variable	Question	Response Categories	Comment
Potential labour force - unavailable job seekers	(3.1)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(3.2)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(3.3)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(3.4)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(3.5)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(3.6)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(3.7)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(3.8)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(3.9)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(3.10)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
Potential labour force - available potential jobseekers	(4.1)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(4.2)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(4.3)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(4.4)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(4.5)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(4.6)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(4.7)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(4.8)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(4.9)	(0) YES	Not seeking work
	(4.10)	(0) YES	Not seeking work

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CAPI resources

- CAPI tool in CSPro being developed
- Interactive survey builder tool
- To be demonstrated during side-event today
 - 1:00 -2:20 pm
 - Conference Room IX (R2)

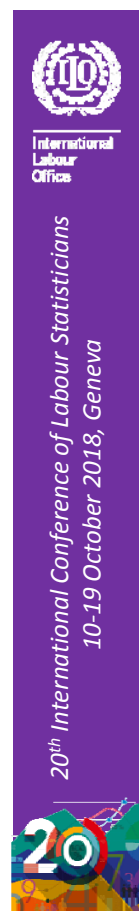
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Next steps (1)

- Continue methodological development
 - Pilot studies in collaboration with interested countries & development partners
 - Remaining issues such as seasonal work and subsistence work (meaning and operationalization)
- Expand range of practical LFS materials
 - Illustrated model LFS adaptation guide
 - Practical recommendations for LFS testing, sampling
 - Practical guide for dissemination of key LF & work indicators, gender analysis
- Roll out capacity building programme

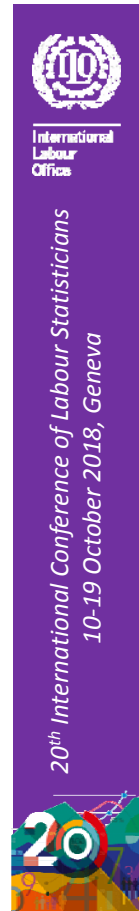
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Next steps (2)

- Expand technical assistance to countries
 - Through network of ILO Regional Advisors
- Continue to promote implementation
 - Partnership with DFID for SDG Goal 8
 - Promotion through Inter Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys
 - Continued collaboration with EU and other working groups and task forces
 - Other partnerships and general advocacy
 - 2 lunch events:
 - Volunteer work statistics (with UNV) –Friday 12, October
 - Gender statistics (Data2x) –Wednesday 17, October

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Points of note

- Points of note for ICLS
 - Comment on work completed/tools developed
 - Support for wide implementation of standards
 - Provide guidance on priorities for further methodological development
 - Suggestions for partnerships/collaborations

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