19th ICLS implementation:
National LFS practices and implementation plans

Elisa M. Benes & Kieran Walsh
ILO Department of Statistics
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ILO review of national plans on 19th ICLS implementation in LFS

- Metadata questionnaire prepared by ILO
- Sent to 212 countries (Jul-Sep 2018)
- Part A: Characteristics of most recent LFS
- Part B: Concepts & definitions currently used
- Part C: Tests & implementation plans on 19th ICLS
- Response rate: 58% (123 countries covering 80% of the world’s population)
Coverage of review

- Overall coverage spread across the major world regions
- Gaps for Caribbean, Central Africa, Middle East, Northern Africa, South East Asia

Periodycity of National LFS

- Over 80% of responding countries have an annual or sub-annual LFS
- Less frequent LFS are prevalent among countries in Africa

Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).
• Headline employment is reported on a sub-annual basis in about 70% of responding countries

• Headline unemployment is reported on a sub-annual basis in about 70% of responding countries

• Higher number of countries reporting monthly unemployment (compared to monthly employment)

Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).
• Globally, response rates for most LFS stand above 80%, except for in EU+EFTA countries
• The lowest LFS response rates reported stand around 40%

• Globally, over 50% of LFS rely on a single data collection mode
• But most EU+EFTA countries use multiple data collection modes

Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).
- Globally, close to 50% of LFS are now conducted using CAPI as main mode of data collection

- Use of proxy respondents in LFS is widespread
- Globally, half of LFS have 30-50% of personal interviews answered by a proxy respondent
Current measurement of key concepts in national LFS

- Employment
- Time-related underemployment
- Unemployment
- Potential labour force

Employment

REFERENCE PERIOD FOR EMPLOYMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>last 7 days</th>
<th>Moving calendar week</th>
<th>Fixed calendar week</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High income</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper-M. income</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low &amp; L-M income</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).

- Near universal convergence in the use of a short reference period (7days/calendar week) to identify persons Employed
• Over 70% of countries treat persons on paid long absence as employed

• Unpaid long absences & seasonal workers not working in the off-season are currently included in employment by ~30% of countries

• Globally, around 30% of countries currently include all own-use production of foodstuff in employment

• Less than 20% include in employment those that sell some part
• Globally, less than 20% of countries currently include own-use production of other goods (non-food) in employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Own-use production</th>
<th>Home construction</th>
<th>Fetching water</th>
<th>Collecting firewood</th>
<th>Manufacture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).

• 60 countries currently capture farmers/fishers producing exclusively for own final use separately from employment

• Other own-use production of goods is currently captured separately from employment only by a few countries

Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).
- Globally, less than 20% of countries currently include volunteer work or unpaid trainee work in employment

- Another 20% currently capture volunteer workers and unpaid trainees separately from employment
Unemployment – criteria used

- Near universal use of the strict definition of unemployment
- Very few countries continue to apply only 2 criteria

Unemployment – job search

- Near universal convergence to a 30 day/1 month/4 week reference period for job search
- Very few countries still use a shorter (1 week) or longer (3 months) reference period
Unemployment – availability

- About 80% of countries aligned with 19th ICLS standard
  - Most measure availability in the period after the reference week
  - A few (30%) continue to measure availability only in the period before the reference week

Potential labour force

- About 70% of countries can now identify the potential labour force
- Others can identify sub-groups of the potential labour force
Time-related underemployment

Globally, close to 80% of countries apply all criteria to identify persons in time-related underemployment.

Remaining countries tend to exclude one criterion (availability, desire or hours’ threshold).

Most countries use a fixed hours’ threshold based on national legislation or norms.

Over 80% of countries set an hours’ threshold between 35 - 40Hrs.
**WORKING TIME AND JOB REFERENCE IN TIME-RELATED DEFINITION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Usual hours in all jobs</th>
<th>Actual hours in all jobs</th>
<th>Usual hours in main job only</th>
<th>Actual hours in main job only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>High income</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).

- Diverse practices are observed in the reference concepts (working time and job) used to capture time-related underemployment

**REFERENCE PERIOD FOR AVAILABILITY TO WORK MORE HOURS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Before reference week (only)</th>
<th>After reference week (only)</th>
<th>Before and after reference week</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High income</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
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Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).

- Diverse practices in assessing availability to work more hours
- Only about a third of countries use a period after the interview/reference week, as recommended
National plans to implement changes in the LFS

- About 50% of middle & low income countries expect an impact on key labour market indicators
- Less than 20% of high income countries expect an impact
- But many have not yet evaluated the potential impact

Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 15th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).
• Globally, close to 60% of countries plan to or are conducting tests or evaluations related to Resolution I of the 19th ICLS

• Few countries started testing in anticipation of the 19th ICLS
• Testing intensified from in 2016
• Some countries reporting plans to test have no set the year
• Most common is to conduct an expert review of the LFS questionnaire, followed by field tests & micro-data evaluation
• About 25% plan an LFS parallel run and/or a statistical test

• Most focus on the revised employment definition
• Among middle and low income countries most also include identification of subsistence foodstuff producers
• Other topics: volunteer work, own-use provision of services, dependent contractors
• On labour underutilization, most focus is given to unemployment and the potential labour force

• Nevertheless, time-related underemployment is also a focus, especially in low income countries

• User consultation with other Departments within NSO and the Ministry of labour is high (over 70% of countries)

• Other users consulted include other line ministries & academia
Most common challenge reported is lack of financial / human resources to conduct tests (40% of countries)

Followed by lack of awareness & technical materials

### INCOME GROUP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># CHALLENGES REPORTED</th>
<th>TOP THREE CHALLENGES (challenge unique to income group in bold)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Income</strong></td>
<td>1. Lack of financial/human resources to conduct tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. No expected impact on main labour market indicators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Limited awareness of the 19th ICLS standards/new indicators by key stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper &amp; Middle Income</strong></td>
<td>1. Lack of technical expertise to introduce changes in LFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Lack of financial/human resources to conduct tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Lack of technical materials to guide the implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low &amp; Lower-Middle Income</strong></td>
<td>1. Lack of financial resources to conduct the next LFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Lack of financial/human resources to conduct tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Limited awareness of the 19th ICLS standards/new indicators by key stakeholders</td>
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</table>
Publication of revised headline indicators

- Growing publication of employment & subsistence foodstuff producer rates aligned with 19th ICLS in 2014-2018 period

- Growing publication of LU1-LU4 indicators aligned with 19th ICLS in 2014-2018 period

Summary

- Widespread LFS testing, but limited resources
- Advances already in labour underutilization
  - Convergence in unemployment measurement
  - Many now capture the potential labour force
  - Differences remain in time-related underemployment
- Employment definition a key focus of tests globally
- Subsistence food producers a key focus in middle and low income countries
- Gaps in measuring own-use production of goods
- Expressed need for guidance materials & support to communicate changes
  - Side event on Communication (Thursday 18 October)