

## 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS implementation: National LFS practices and implementation plans

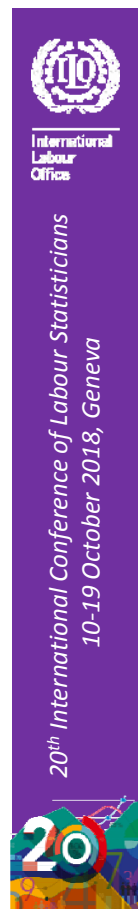
Elisa M. Benes & Kieran Walsh  
ILO Department of Statistics

11 October 2018

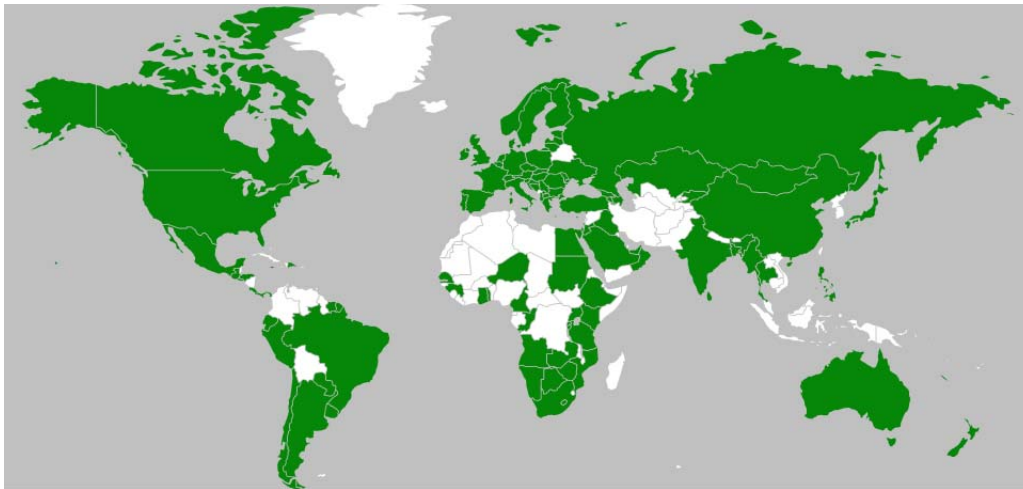


## ILO review of national plans on 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS implementation in LFS

- 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

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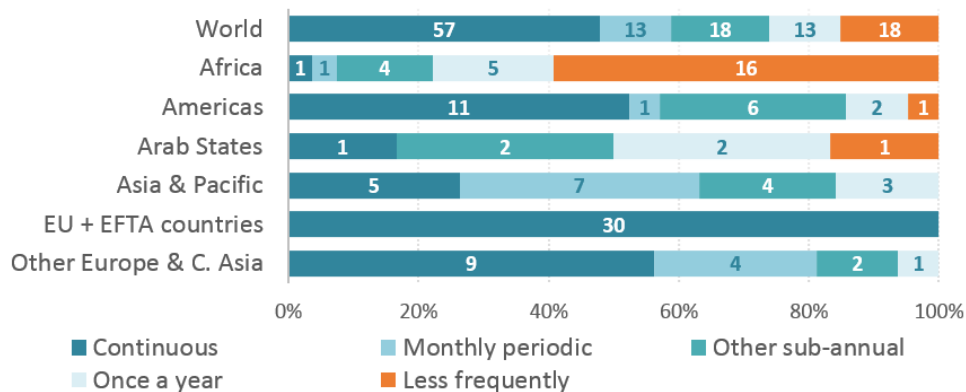


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## PERIODICITY OF NATIONAL LFS



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

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

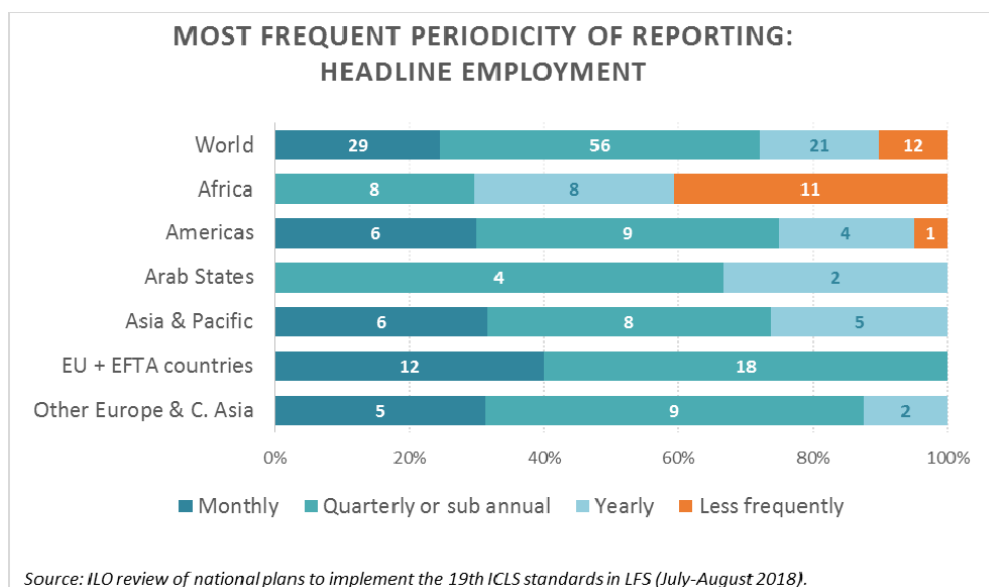
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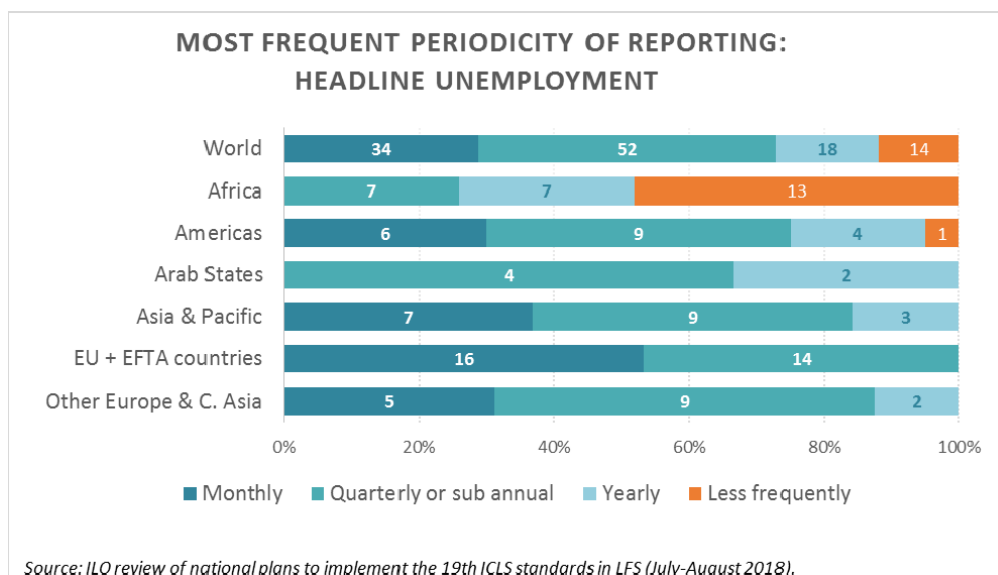
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- **Headline employment is reported on a sub-annual basis in about 70% of responding countries**

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- **Headline unemployment is reported on a sub-annual basis in about 70% of responding countries**
- **Higher number of counties reporting monthly unemployment (compared to monthly employment)**

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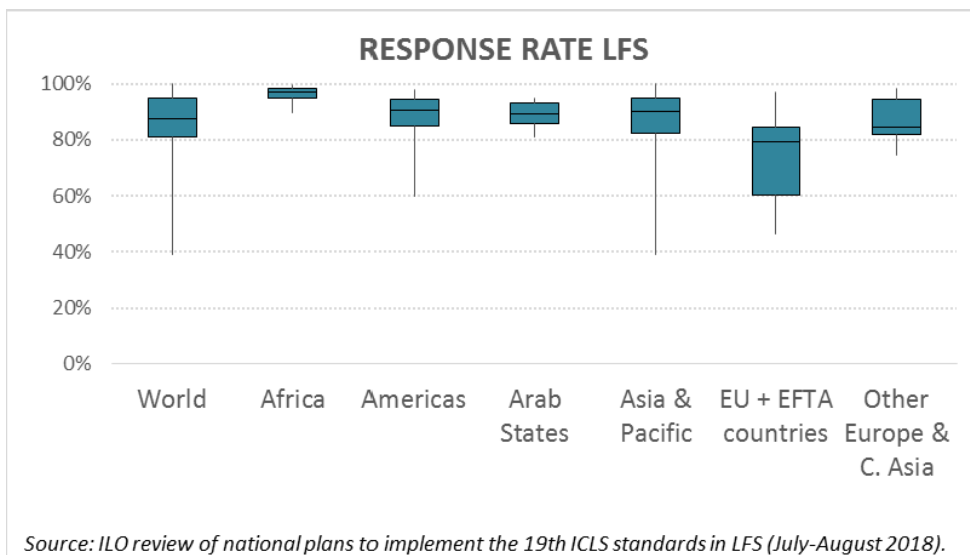
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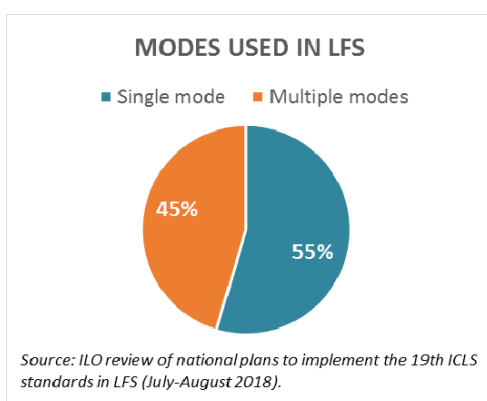
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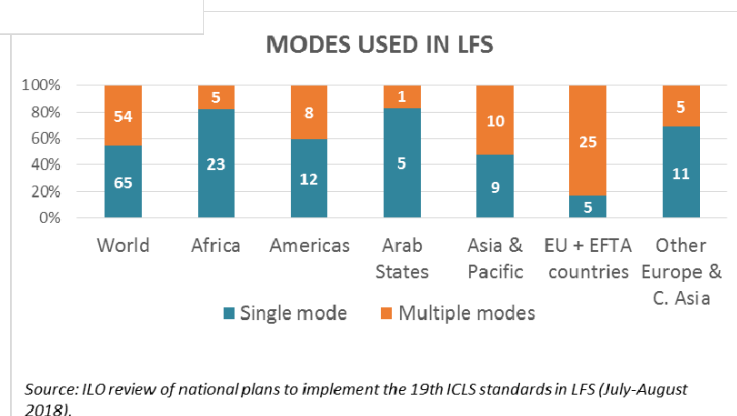


- Globally, response rates for most LFS stand above 80%, except for in EU+EFTA countries
- The lowest LFS response rates reported stand around 40%

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



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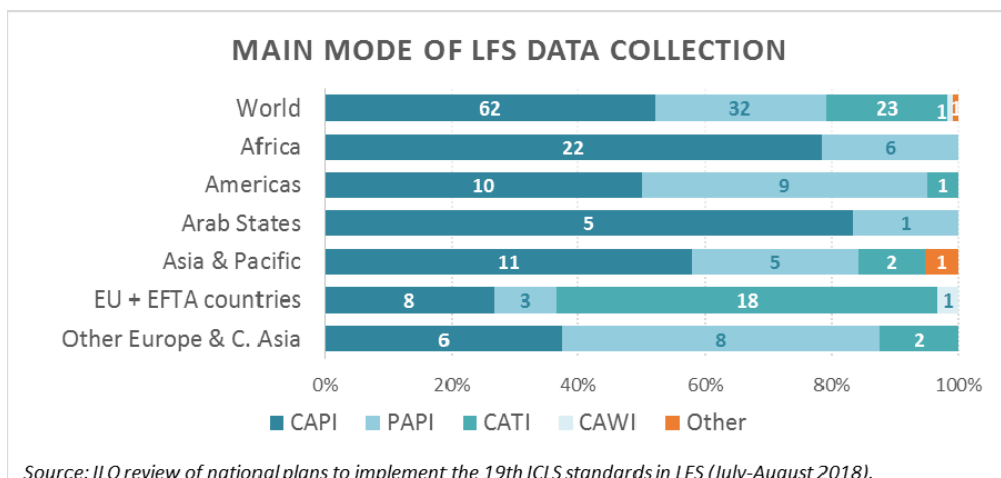
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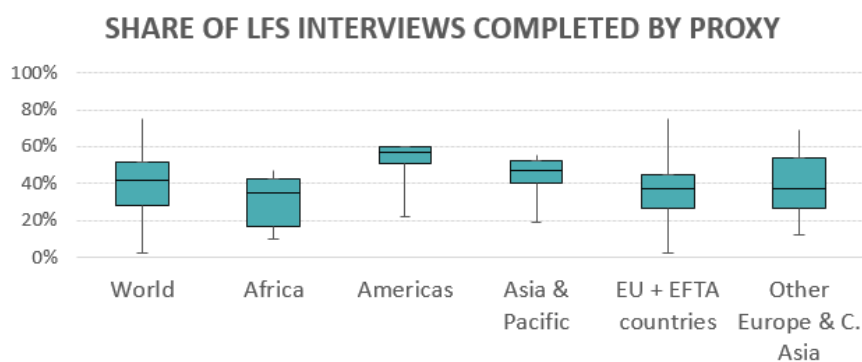
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- Globally, close to 50% of LFS are now conducted using CAPI as main mode of data collection

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

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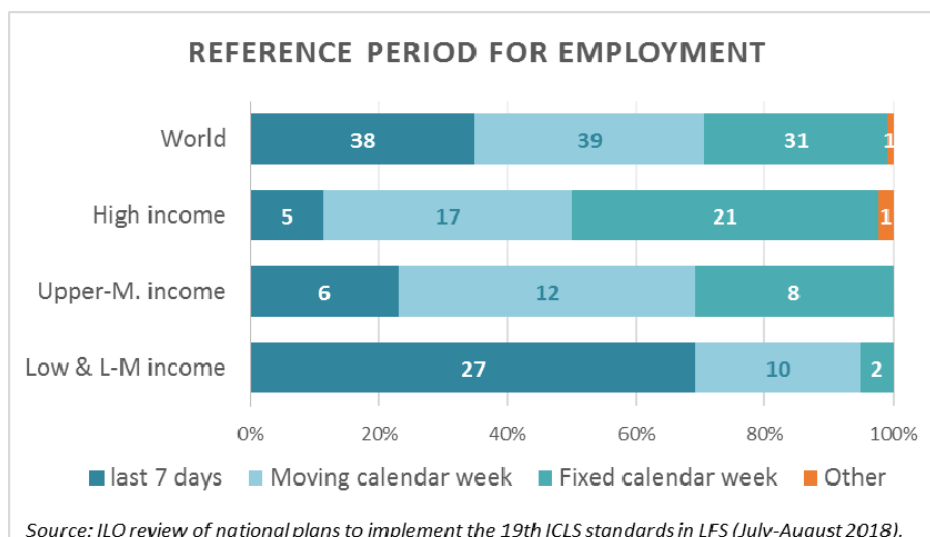


## Current measurement of key concepts in national LFS

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

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## Employment



- Near universal convergence in the use of a short reference period (7days/calendar week) to identify persons Employed

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

- 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

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

- 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

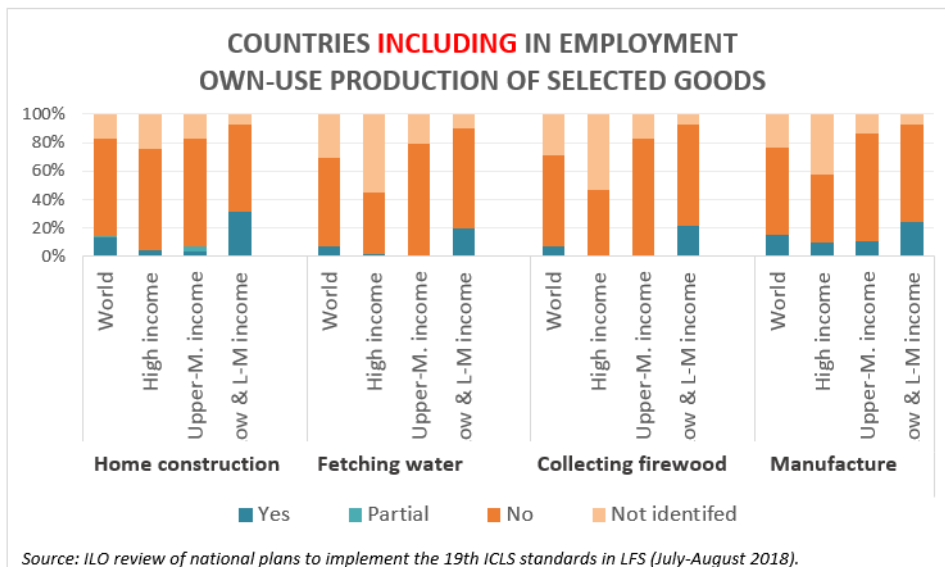
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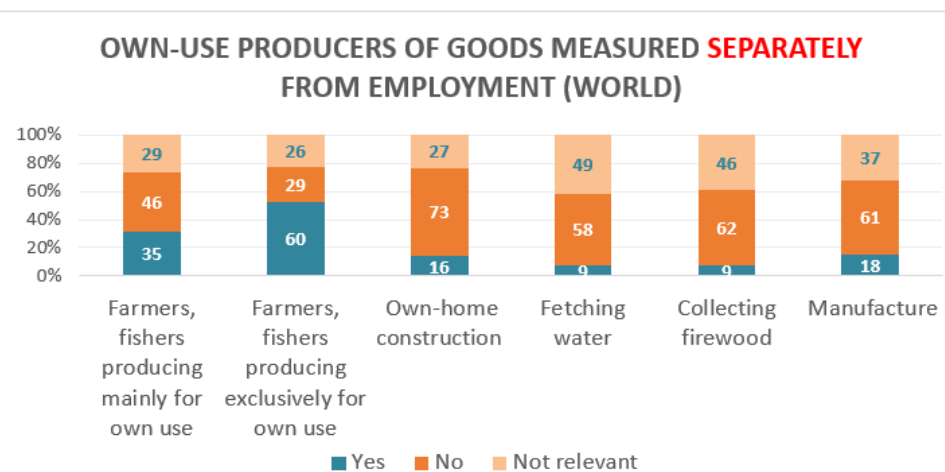
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- Globally, less than 20% of countries currently include own-use production of other goods (non-food) in employment

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- 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

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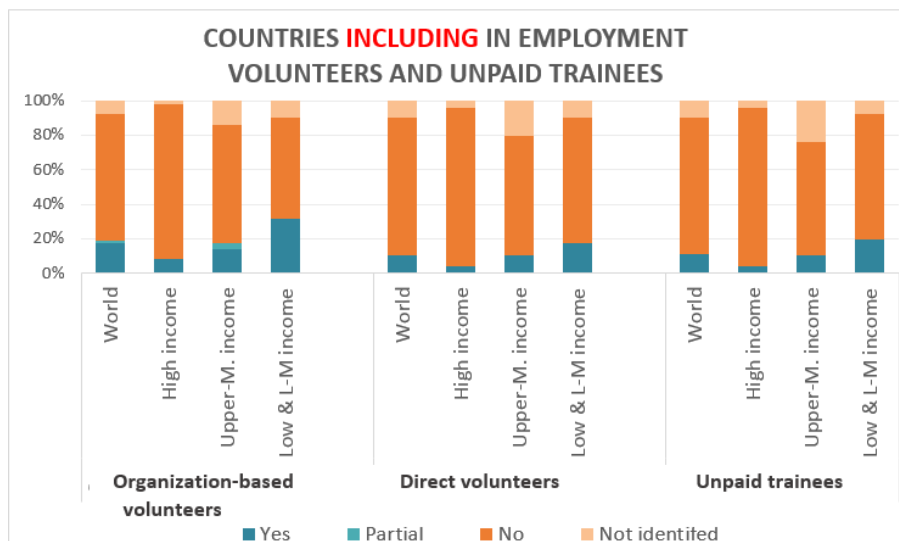


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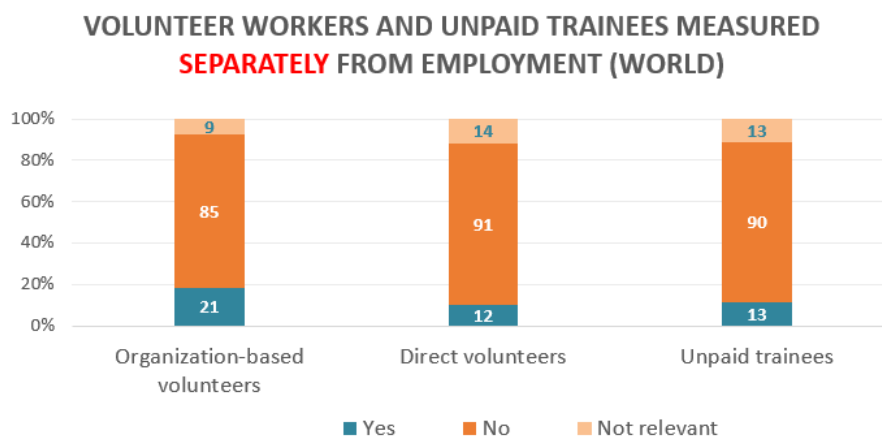




Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).

- Globally, less than 20% of countries currently include volunteer work or unpaid trainee work in employment

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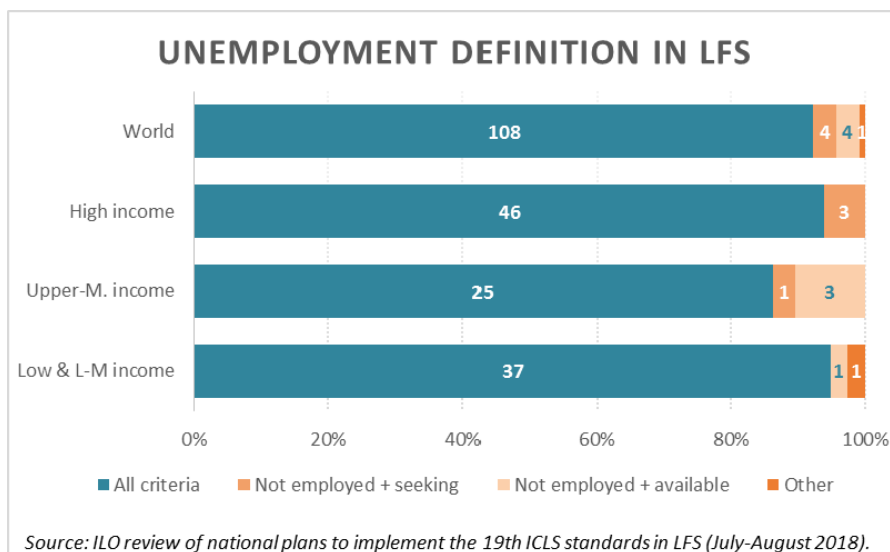


Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).

- Another 20% currently capture volunteer workers and unpaid trainees separately from employment

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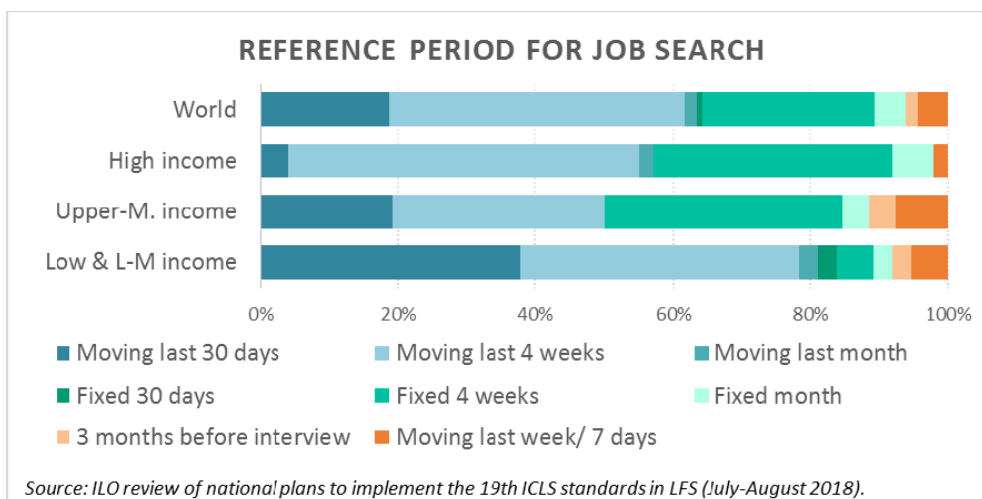
# Unemployment –criteria used



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

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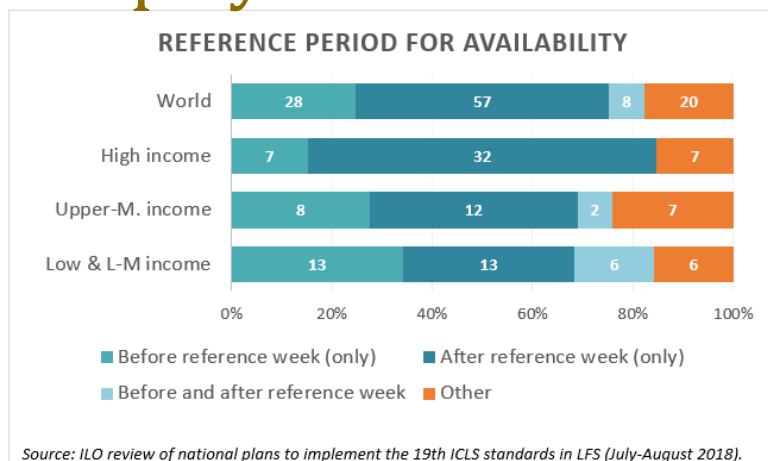
# Unemployment –job search



- 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

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# Unemployment –availability



- About 80% of countries aligned with 19<sup>th</sup> 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

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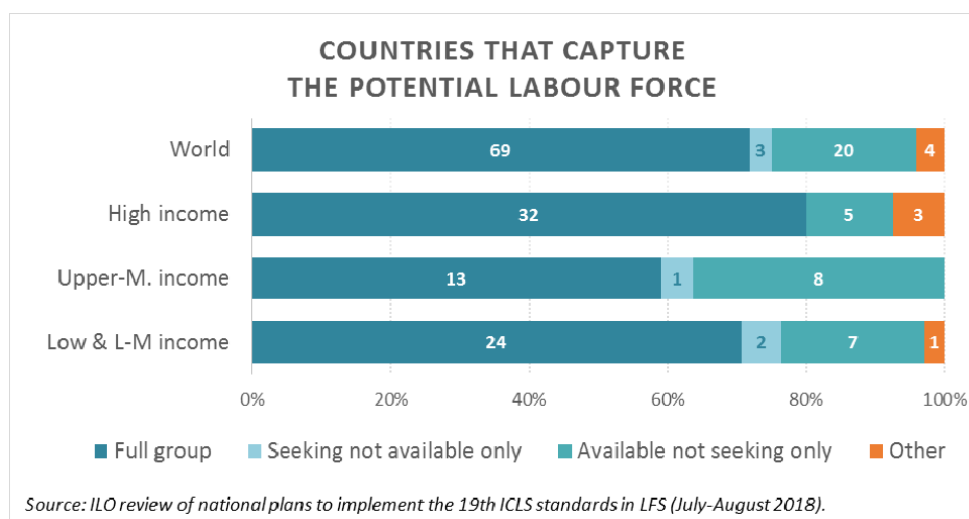


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# Potential labour force



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

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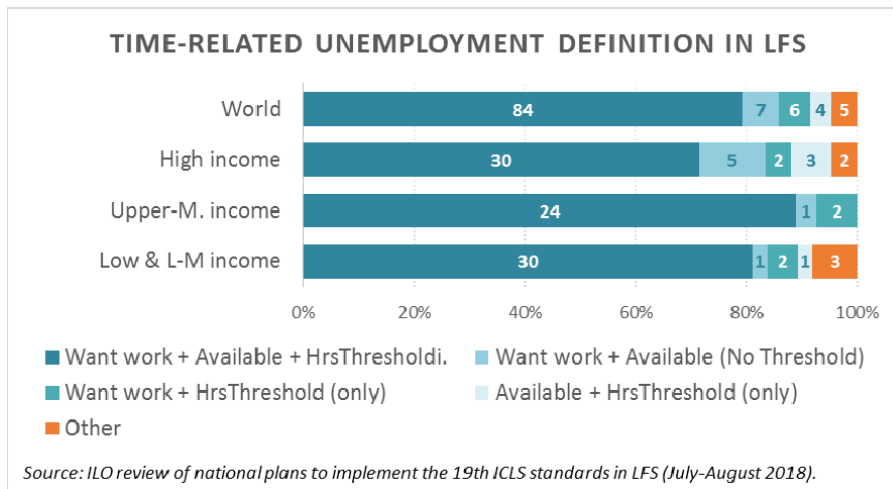


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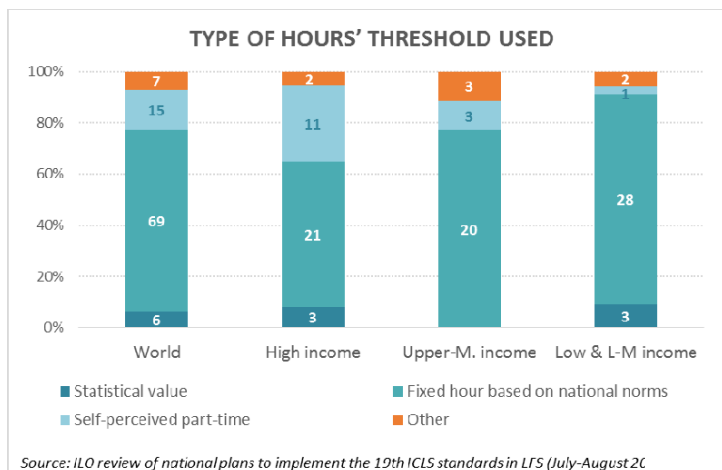


# Time-related underemployment



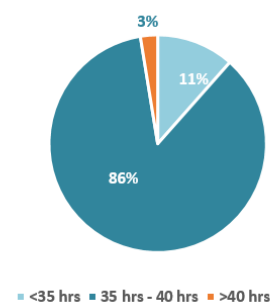
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- Globally, close to 80% of countries apply all criteria to identify persons in time-related underemployment
- Remaining countries tend to exclude one criterion (availability, desire or hours' threshold)

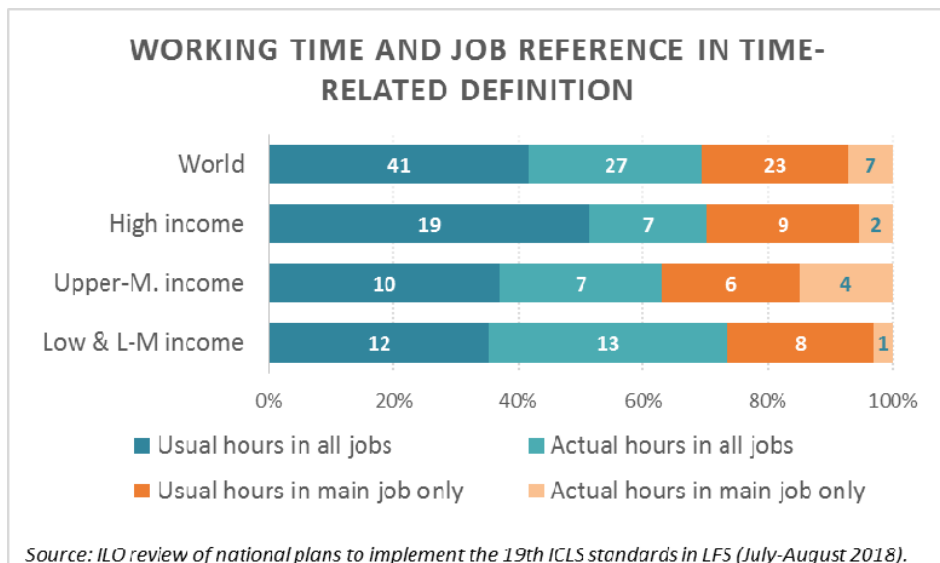


- Most countries use a fixed hours' threshold based on national legislation or norms
- Over 80% of countries set an hours' threshold between 35 - 40Hrs

Hours' threshold value

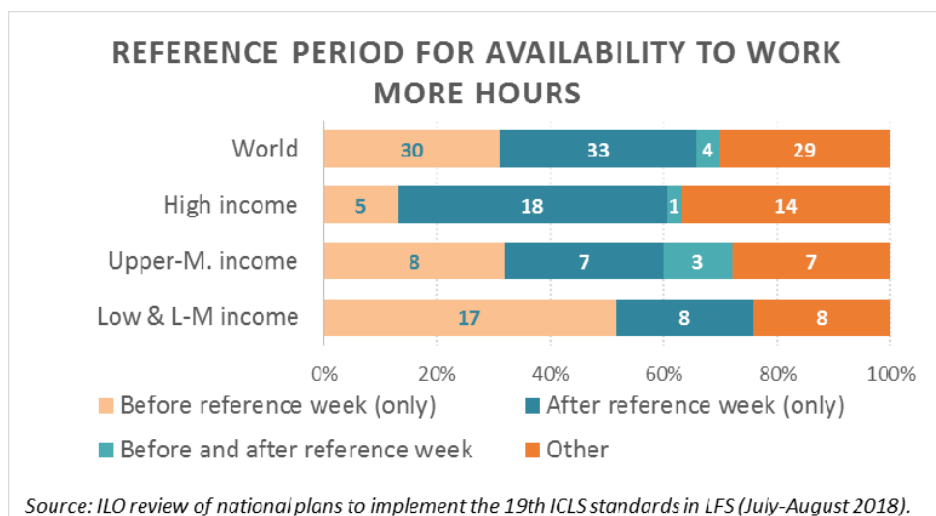


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- Diverse practices are observed in the reference concepts (working time and job) used to capture time-related underemployment

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- 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

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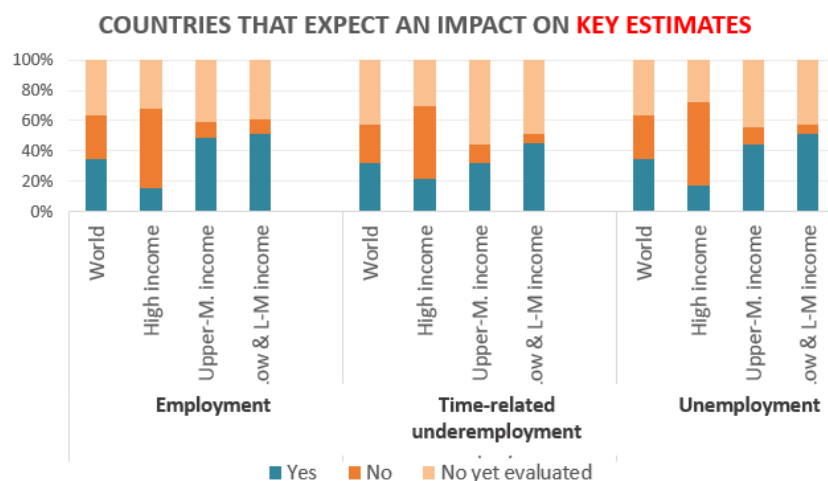
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## National plans to implement changes in the LFS

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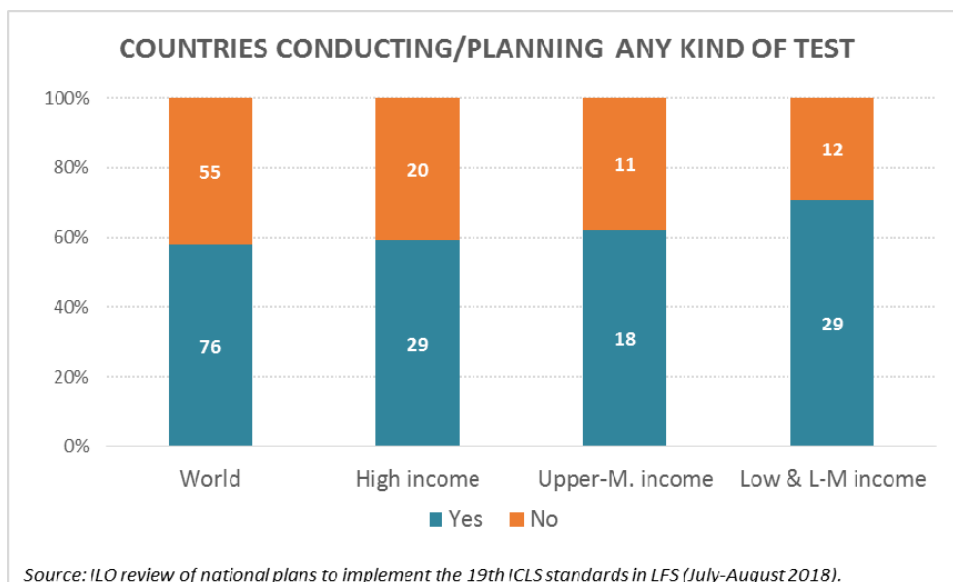


Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).

- 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

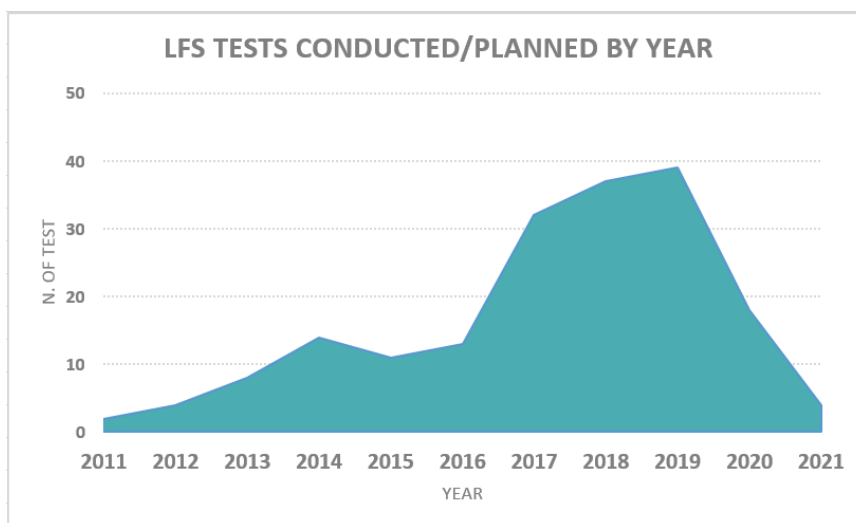
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- Globally, close to 60% of countries plan to or are conducting tests or evaluations related to Resolution I of the 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS

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- Few countries started testing in anticipation of the 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS
- Testing intensified from in 2016
- Some countries reporting plans to test have no set the year

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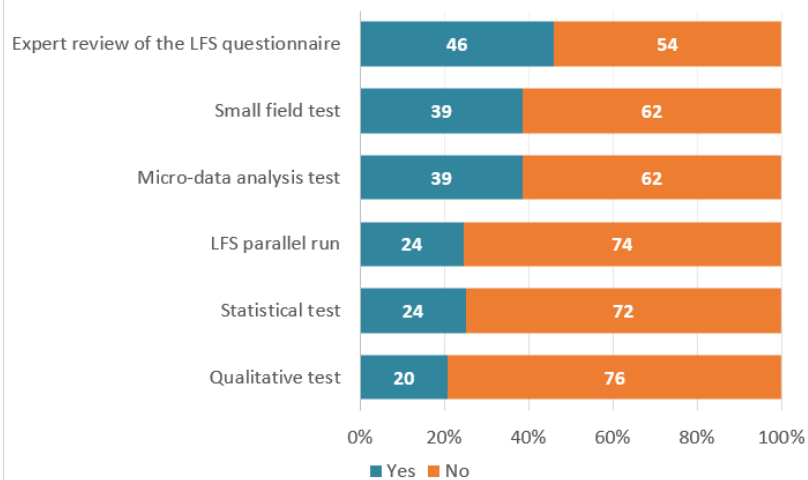


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### TYPE OF TEST CONDUCTED/PLANNED (WORLD):

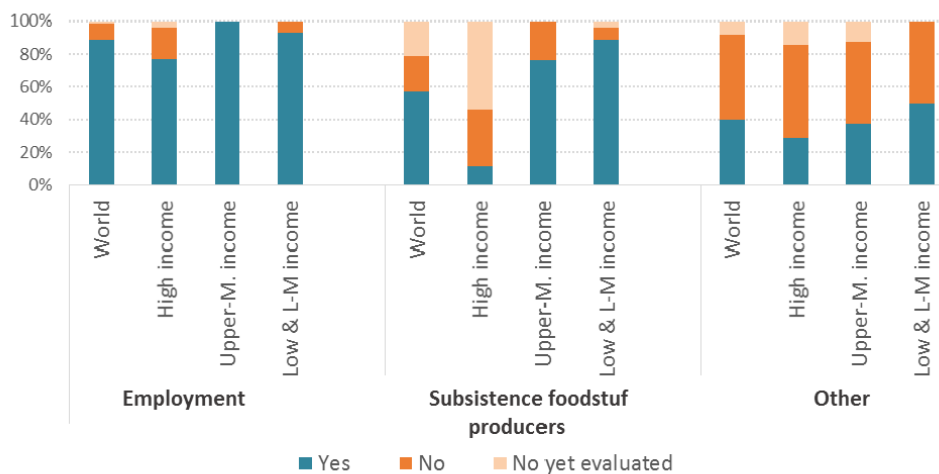


Source: ILO review of national plans to implement the 19th ICLS standards in LFS (July-August 2018).

- 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

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### TOPICS COVERED IN THE TESTS: FORMS OF WORK



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

- 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

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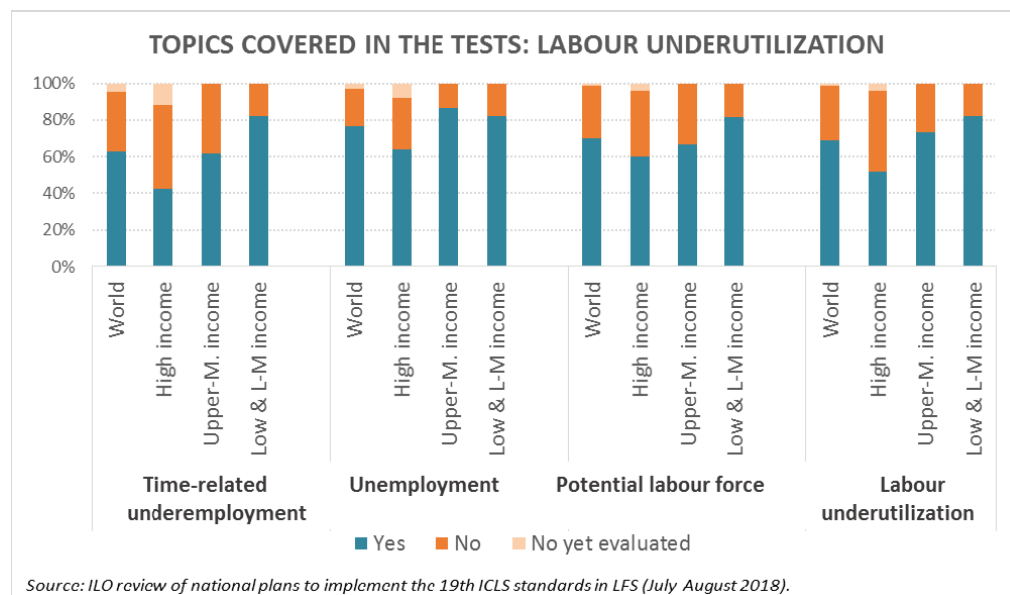


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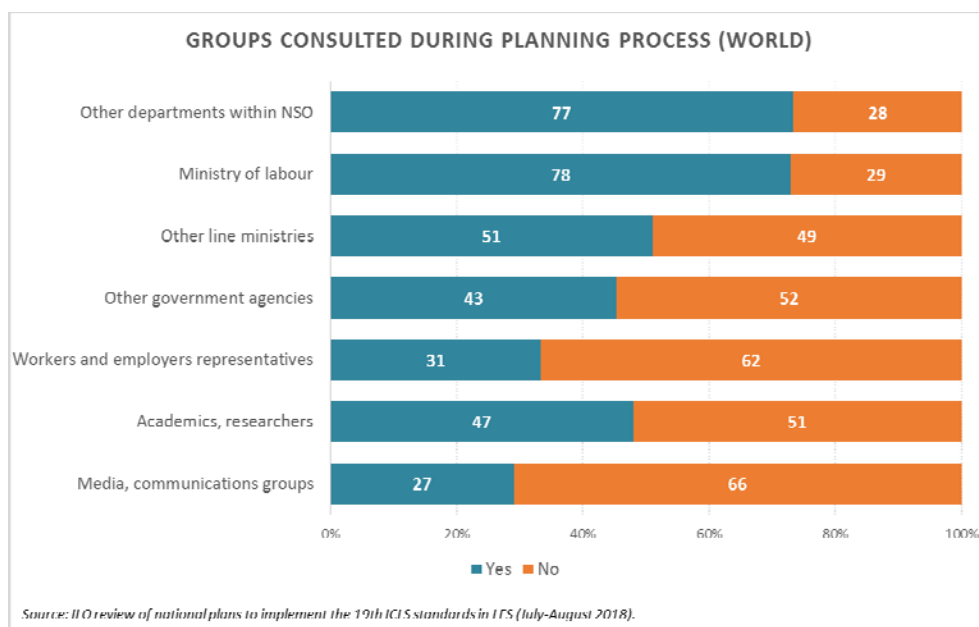






- On labour underutilization, most focus is given to unemployment and the potential labour force
- Nevertheless, time-related underemployment is also a focus, especially in low income countries

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- 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

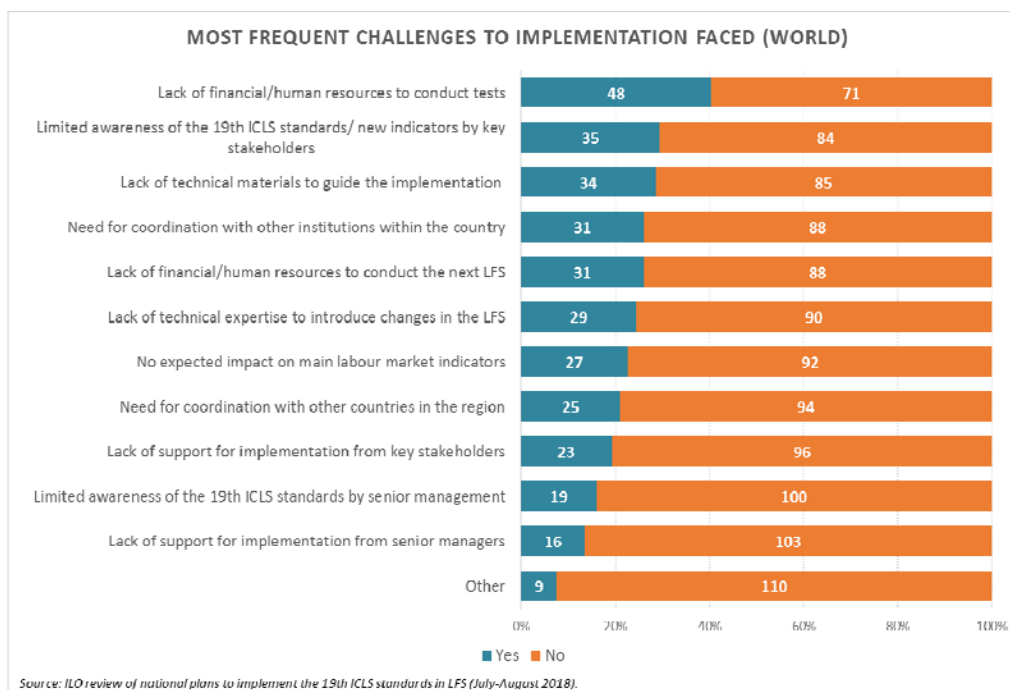
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- **Most common challenge reported is lack of financial / human resources to conduct tests (40% of countries)**
- **Followed by lack of awareness & technical materials**

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INCOME GROUP	# CHALLENGES REPORTED	TOP THREE CHALLENGES (challenge unique to income group in bold)
High Income	1 – 2	1. Lack of financial/human resources to conduct tests 2. <b>No expected impact on main labour market indicators</b> 3. Limited awareness of the 19 <sup>th</sup> ICLS standards/new indicators by key stakeholders
Upper & Middle Income	3 – 4	1. <b>Lack of technical expertise to introduce changes in LFS</b> 2. Lack of financial/human resources to conduct tests 3. Lack of technical materials to guide the implementation
Low & Lower-Middle Income	4 – 5	1. <b>Lack of financial resources to conduct the next LFS</b> 2. Lack of financial/human resources to conduct tests 3. Limited awareness of the 19 <sup>th</sup> ICLS standards/new indicators by key stakeholders 3. Lack of technical materials to guide the implementation

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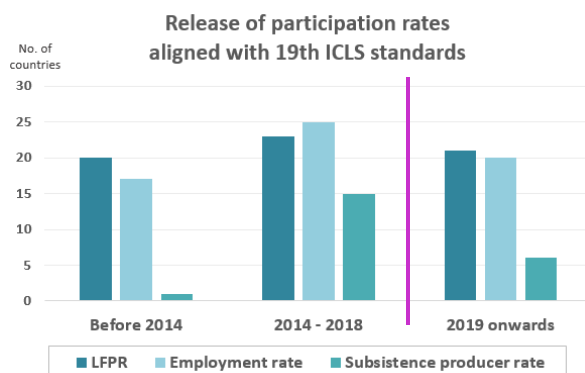


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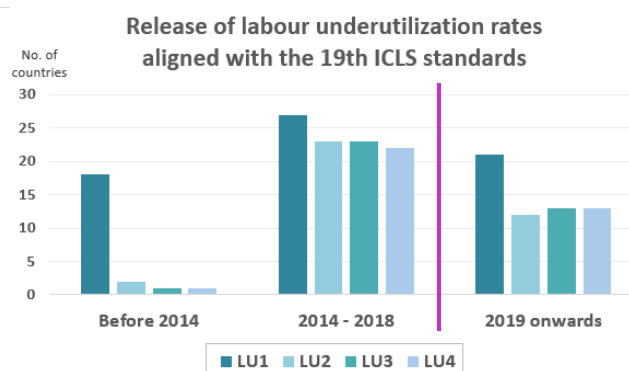


## Publication of revised headline indicators



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

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



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## 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)

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