

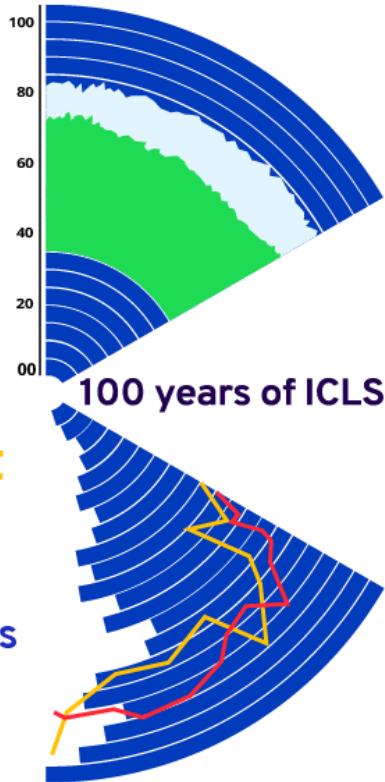


International
Labour
Organization



International
Conference of
Labour Statisticians

11-20 October 2023



100 years of ICLS

Measurement of forced labour: stocktaking and way forward

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Forced labour: Estimates and the way forward

▶ Travail forcé: estimations et marche à suivre

Trabajo forzoso: estimaciones y camino a seguir

Participants in the Conference are invited to: (a) provide their views on the issues raised in the room document on forced labour statistics and related challenges; and (b) provide guidance to the Office on potential priority future activities on this topic.

Les participants à la Conférence sont invités à: *a)* donner leur avis sur les questions soulevées dans le document de séance sur les statistiques du travail forcé et aspects connexes; *b)* donner des orientations au Bureau quant aux priorités d'éve

Se invita a los participantes en la Conferencia a que: a) expongan sus puntos de vista sobre las cuestiones planteadas en el documento de sala relativo a las estadísticas sobre el trabajo forzoso y las dificultades conexas, y b) orienten a la Oficina sobre posibles actividades prioritarias futuras acerca de este tema. nuelles activités futures dans ce domaine.

Content

- Forced labour at the ICLS
- Implementation of forced labour surveys with ILO support since 2018 and remaining study design challenges
- Areas for further methodological development
- Upcoming resources (research tools and training materials)
- 2022 Global estimates of forced labour
- Towards a global programme on data collection
- Discussion

► Forced labour at ICLS

- 17th ICLS (2003): Need for data on forced labour to raise awareness and design appropriate policies
- 18th ICLS (2008): Further development work on the measurement of forced labour (worst forms of child labour)
- 19th ICLS (2013): Presentation of pilot surveys and formal resolution to set up a Working Group
- 20th ICLS (2018): Endorsement of *Guidelines concerning measurement of forced labour*
 - Classifications and items of data collection, data sources and data collection strategy, survey design and ethical considerations, and data analysis and reporting
 - Call for ILO to (a) prepare technical manuals, and (b) provide technical assistance through training and capacity building

► Implementation of forced labour surveys with ILO support (2018-)

- Data collection: 15 surveys in 17 countries (mostly implemented by NSOs and through ILO technical cooperation projects)
- Different approaches
 - Stand-alone (10) vs modular (5)
 - Different coverage spans: sectoral, sub-national and national

► Remaining challenges in survey design

Questionnaire design

- Implementation of cognitive testing in 4 countries
 - Simplification of language, improvement of recall, improvement of screening questions
- Operationalization of national definition and context
- More work needed on measurement of forced labour of children
 - This includes ethical considerations

Sampling

- Rare statistical phenomenon
 - «standard» household survey sampling design might not be cost-efficient
 - Low number of cases identified in sample
- Some novel techniques employed since ICLS
- Further development needed on drawing inference from non-probability samples (common in hard-to-reach populations)
- Call for further work on linked surveys (as per previous session on child labour)

► Areas for further methodological development

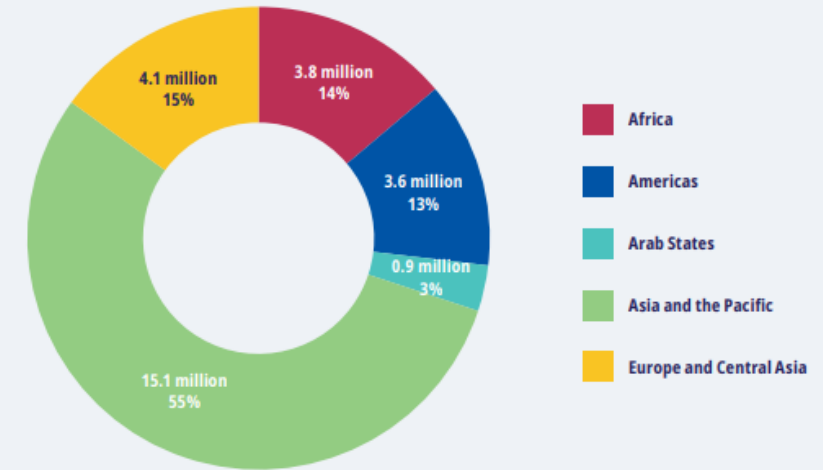
- Proxy response
 - Unreliability of using proxy response in such sensitive topic
 - Further methodological development need to correct for biases
 - ILO currently exploring use of proxy response in specific circumstances (e.g. fishing, where there is a left-behind partner)
- Measurement of trafficking for forced labour
 - Partial overlap of legal concepts was already identified in the ICLS *Guidelines*
 - Standard tools for analysis of trafficking in persons (STATIP) project by ILO, UNODC and IOM at the UN level, and University of Georgia (USA) as academic partner
 - Development of survey tools aiming to identify 3 concepts within the same questionnaire: forced labour, trafficking in persons, trafficking for forced labour
 - Pilot of AI tools to code respondent's verbatims
 - Tentative submission of *Guidelines* to UN Statistical Commission in 2026 (crime statistics)
 - Looking for volunteers for pilots in 2024-2025!

► Upcoming resources

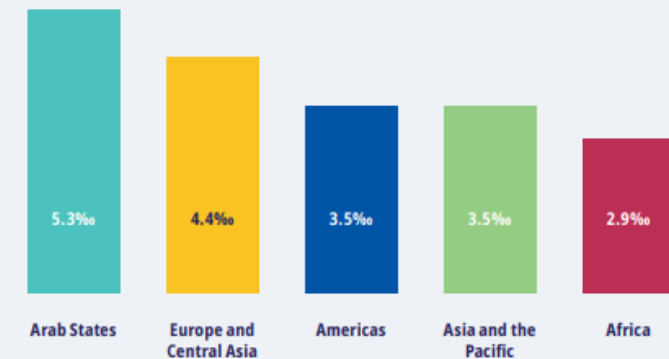
- Model questionnaires
- Sampling tools
- Reporting templates
- Training curricula
- 2nd edition of *Hard to see, harder to count*
- Evidence gap map, toolkit for mixed methods, ethical guidelines

Global Estimates of Forced Labour

- 4th Global Estimates (2005 and 2012 with capture/recapture of reported cases; 2017, 2022)
- 2022 estimate (jointly with Walk Free and IOM) was the first after adoption of *Guidelines*
- 27.6 million people were in forced labour on any given day in 2021, corresponding to 3.5/1000 individuals
- Results derived – among others -- from surveys conducted in 68 countries by Gallup Inc.
 - Deriving country-level estimates directly from dataset is still challenging (rare statistical prevalence)
 - Importance for countries to collect national data (also for Target 8.7 Voluntary National Reviews to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development)



Forced labour by region: percentage distribution



Forced labour by region: prevalence per thousand population

Source: ILO, Walk Free, IOM (2022)

► Towards a global programme for data collection

- Proposal of a global forced labour and human trafficking statistical programme
 - Including support to design and implementation of sustainable programmes for forced labour data collection
- Expectation is large increase of countries regularly collecting representative national data on forced labour, and better information on the characteristics of population affected
- Critical to inform policy responses and for tracking progress
- Similar approach as the one used to mainstream child labour statistics
 - Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (1998)
 - Today: Global estimates of child labour covers over 70% of target children population

► Items for discussion

- (a) Areas for further methodological development
- (b) Advice on creation of a global programme for data collection on forced labour and human trafficking
- (c) Expression of interest in conducting forced labour surveys or incorporating forced labour modules into existing surveys

► **Thank you!**

