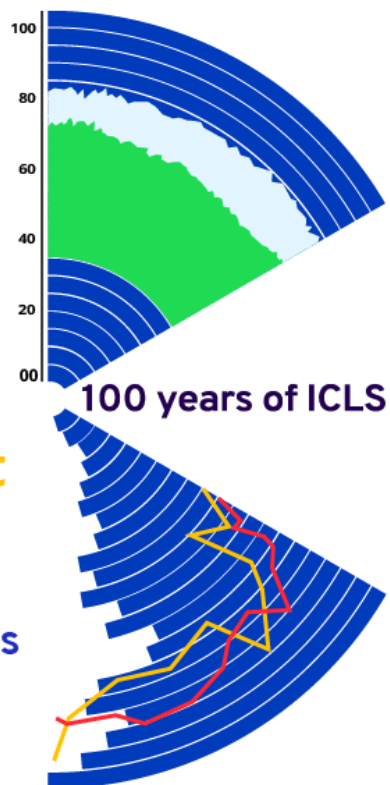




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Developing labour statistics with a focus
on informality in the Arab Region

Introduction

The development of statistics to measure the magnitude and nature of informality in the Arab Region is an essential basis for the formulation and monitoring of effective policies to support the transition to formality and decent work, as well as for extending fundamental rights and social protection to workers in the informal economy.

The ILO recognizes the strong need for further development of employment statistics in the Arab region and the need to align labour statistics with the latest international statistical standards, in order to improve the current measurement and comparability.

► Project background

Collaborators

The ILO, in collaboration with Ford Foundation, and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), is undergoing a project in the Arab Region that aims to improve the available data on employment and in particular on informal employment and gender.

Objectives

- Fill the gap in knowledge on measurement of employment and in particular informality in the Arab region.
- Provide NSOs with updated tools to produce better and more accurate statistics for policy makers, researchers and advocates.
- Examine and address the differences in terminologies, statistical definitions, questionnaire design, sampling methods, survey coverage, and legal context/regulations, the compilation and comparability of informality statistics across Arab countries.

► Project Activities

Assessment of current social protection mechanisms and statistical measurement

- Development of report on the coverage of social protection and measurement of informality in four Arab countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, and Morocco).
- The report provides an overview of the labour force and the social protection programs related to employment in the four Arab countries. It also analyses the sections of the survey questionnaires related to informality in these countries.

Design of questionnaire module

- Development of questionnaire module that includes new set of detailed questions related to the countries' context, based on available social protection schemes and local regulations.
- The questionnaire targets the new status in employment categories and reflects the recommendations of the 19th ICLS on framework of work statistics and the 20th ICLS.

► Project Activities

Conduct of cognitive testing

Two Arab countries, **Egypt and Lebanon**, are currently conducting the cognitive testing of the suggested questionnaire module on a limited sample.

- Development of cognitive testing plan and strategies to identify respondents.
- Preparation of cognitive testing material, including training manual, probing questions, and templates for note taking and report writing.
- Selection of interviewers, training, and distribution of roles.

Identification of respondents

PARTICIPANT SELECTION - COGNITIVE TESTING OF LFS QUESTIONNAIRE

PRIMARY SAMPLING CRITERION		PLANNED						ACTUAL		
		INTERVALS			AVERAGES			Place of residence		
		Place of residence			Place of residence			Place of residence		
		Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
	Employees in informal job	1 - 3	1 - 3	2 - 6	2	2	4			
Main activity	Employees in formal job in formal private enterprise	1 - 3	1 - 3	2 - 6	2	2	4			
	Informal Self employed in Agriculture	0 - 2	1 - 3	2 - 4	1	2	3			
	Informal Self employed in Other Sectors (non agricultural)	1 - 3	0 - 2	2 - 4	2	1	3			
	Formal self-employed in any sector	1 - 3	1 - 3	2 - 6	2	2	4			
	Dependent contractors (any sector)	1 - 3	0 - 2	2 - 4	2	1	3			
	Contributing family workers (any sector)	1 - 3	0 - 2	2 - 4	2	1	3			
	Total				13	11	24			

Secondary sampling criteria

SEX	INTERVALS	AVERAGES
Males	10-14	12
Females	18-20	12
AGE GROUPS	INTERVALS	AVERAGES
15-34	9-11	10
35-64	9-11	10
65+	3-5	4

EDUCATION	INTERVALS	AVERAGES
No formal education	5 - 7	6
Primary	9 - 11	10
Secondary	5 - 7	6
Higher education	1 - 3	2

► Project Activities

Development of final report

- Analysis of findings and results based on the records of each interview.
- Formulation of conclusion on key measurement challenges and good practices in questionnaire design, particularly for the labour force survey (LFS) in the region.
- Dissemination of testing results and formulation of analytical input for further work in a second stage.

► Questions / Discussion



► **Thank you**

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