Rapid Surveys to capture COVID-19 impacts on employment & unpaid work

ILO Department of STATISTICS

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ILO support to labour data collection during COVID-19

Support through

- Monitoring impacts on labour force surveys
- Briefs, technical notes, survey tools
- Direct technical advice
- Regional webinars
- Facilitate horizontal cooperation (NSO-NSO)
- International coordination (UNSD, UN Regional Commissions, World Bank, Eurostat, CISSTAT)

Available Practical Guidance

- Application of ICLS standards & treatment of special cases in context of lockdowns
- Priority topics for LFS during lockdowns
- Maintaining LFS data collection (switch from PAPI/CAPI to telephone interviewing)
- Modules for rapid surveys on COVID-19 impacts

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Rapid telephone /web surveys during COVID-19 containment

• As alternative data source where no ongoing LFS, or LFS halted or postponed

• To generate timely information for rapid assessments, planning, decision-making, nowcasting

• NOT for estimating key labour market indicators, labour force status of population, unemployment, etc.

• Need to take account issues of coverage, representation, precision to inform appropriate uses
ILO practical guidance on Rapid Surveys

- To promote coherence in labour data collection through multi-topic rapid surveys

- **Short questionnaire modules**
  - 3 alternative strategies for RS targeted to households or persons
  - Changes in employment, own-use production (goods & services), volunteer work
  - Flexible, minimal sequences for inclusion in multi-topic RS
  - Aligned with good survey practice & ICLS standards to extent possible

- **Basic guidance on data quality**
  - Sample frames, questionnaire design, length, call protocols, metadata, appropriate use of rapid survey data, issues to take into account
Module content for household level rapid surveys (23 questions)

- **Household own-account agriculture**
  - COVID-19 impacts on household agriculture
  - Main intended destination of household agriculture
  - Change in household agriculture production

- **Household non-agriculture businesses**
  - Industry of main household business
  - COVID-19 impacts on main household business
  - Continued business operations

- **Household wage employment**
  - COVID-19 impacts on wage employment of members
  - Experience of job loss
  - Industry and other essential char of lost job

- **Coping strategies due to COVID-19**
  - Subsistence agriculture
  - Start of new business, wage jobs
  - Other strategies to supplement income

- **Sources of livelihood**
  - Change in employment income since outbreak
  - Main source of livelihood at present

- **Household unpaid care & domestic work**
  - Change since outbreak
  - Impact of increased care responsibilities on employment

- **Volunteer work in response to COVID-19**
  - Participation & receipt of volunteer help
Module content for person-level rapid surveys
Two alternative strategies / different sequences depending on context

Strategy II: (15 questions)
- Impact on working situation
- Type of impact experienced

Strategy III: (21+ questions)
- Employed in ref. week
- Subsistence agric in ref. week
- Absence by reason
- Expectation of return
- Job loss since outbreak

Lost / current job characteristics
- Industry
- Status in employment
- Public / private / household sector
- Employee job-related benefits
- Self-employed business registration
- Hours worked & changes (current job)

Additional topics: Change in...
- Type of place of work
- Geographic location of work,
- Employment income
- Coping strategies due to loss of income

Unpaid care & domestic work
- Participation in reference week
  - Domestic work
  - Child-care
  - Dependent adult care
  - For own-household / other family
- Change in time-spent since outbreak
- Impact on employment

Volunteer work
- Participation since outbreak
- Type of volunteer work done
- Frequency of participation since outbreak
- Previous volunteer work experience

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iel.org
ILO resources

Rapid surveys modules


Additional ILO Guides on labour data collection during COVID-19

https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/covid-19/

LFS impacts overall & by country