Developing statistics of forced labour: ILO experience and challenges

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ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
What is forced labour?

ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)

“All work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily”
Typology of forced labour

- Imposed by State authorities
- Imposed by private agents for commercial sexual exploitation
- Imposed by private agents for labour exploitation
  - In households, with individual employers
  - In establishments
  - In other forms of labour (illicit activities, exploitation of people for petty crimes, forced begging, etc.)
“…to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms”.

→ Tools for Member States to produce their national indicators are needed
→ Baseline estimates are needed
ILO Building the foundations (since 2002)

- Qualitative research on forced and bonded labour
- Surveys on forced and bonded labour of adults (2004-2010) (non-representative)
- ILO-EC Delphi survey (2008) to reach a consensus on indicators of trafficking
- Quantitative surveys on forced labour in more than 20 countries (prevalence surveys, sectoral, characteristics)
- One report on the profits of forced labour (2012): The cost of coercion
- Publication of «Hard to see, harder to count», ILO survey guidelines to design and implement surveys on forced labour
2017-Global Estimate of Modern Slavery under the Alliance 8.7 with WalkFree Foundation, in collaboration with IOM

Modern Slavery

Forced labour

Forced Marriage

Other (not covered)
2017 Forced labour global estimate

- **State-imposed forced labour**
  - 4,100,000 - 17%

- **Forced sexual exploitation**
  - 4,800,000 - 19%

- **Forced labour exploitation**
  - 16,000,000 - 64%
Current process

- Joint research project with UNODC on measurement of trafficking for forced labour
- Nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2013)
  - “set up a working group with the aim of sharing best practices on forced labour surveys in order to encourage further such surveys in more countries.”
  - working group “should engage ILO constituents and other experts in discussing and developing international guidelines to harmonize concepts, elaborate statistical definitions, standard lists of criteria and survey tools on forced labour, and to inform the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians on the progress made.”
- Six Expert Group meetings (Geneva, Lisbon, New York, Kathmandu, Vienna, Bangkok)
  - Specific themes: forced labour of children, bonded labour, forced commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking for forced labour
- Draft guidelines in preparation (operational definitions, sampling, questionnaire design)
- Expert group meeting in Brazil in March 2018 to discuss draft guidelines (Governments, DOS, Workers, Employers, experts, IO, CSO)
- Presentation to 20th ICLS meeting in October 2018
Thank you!

For further information, please consult:
www.ilo.org/forcedlabour