



► Statistical and Operational challenges of shifting from face-to-face to CATI LFS

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Current LFSs working conditions and use of labour indicators for policy

The COVID-19 has taken the world by surprise. No or few countries were prepared to measure its impact on the world of work.

- ▶ Since the beginning of the pandemic ILO started measuring its impact through the publication of the ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work.
- ▶ Challenges are multiple:
 - ▶ The crisis has transformed into an economic and labour market shock, impacting not only supply (production of goods and services) but also demand (consumption and investment)
 - ▶ Impact on the quantity of jobs (both employment and underemployment)
 - ▶ Impact on the quality of work: wages and access to social protection
 - ▶ Effects on specific groups who are more vulnerable to adverse labour market outcomes.
- ▶ Policy makers needed updated data to take necessary actions
- ▶ National statistical systems faced a challenge to adapt at the same time their questionnaires and data collection mode on time

► Categories of most vulnerable labour

- Persons underlying health conditions and older people are most at risk of developing health issues
- Young persons as well as older workers are vulnerable to falling labour demand.
- Women are over-represented in more affected sectors such as services or in occupations that are in the front line of dealing with the pandemic (e.g. nurses)
- Unprotected workers, including self-employed, casual and gig workers that lower their chance to access to paid or sick leave mechanism, and are less protected by conventional social protection mechanisms and other forms of income smoothing.
- Migrant workers where the pandemic will constrain both their ability to access their places of work in destination countries and return to their families

Impact of the most vulnerable and informal employment

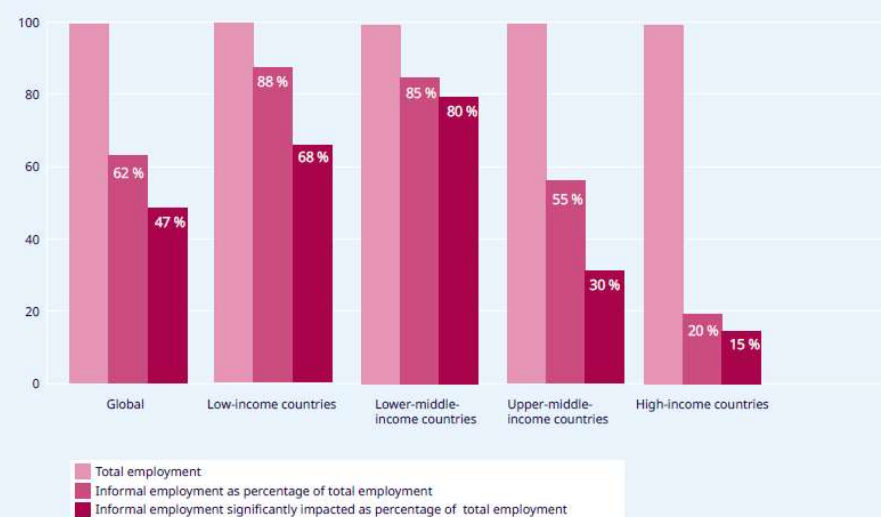
► Figure 2. Workers at risk, informality, and social protection

| | Share of employment in at-risk sectors (%) | Informality rate in non-agriculture (%) | Social protection coverage (%) | Deaths due to COVID-19 per 100 000 people (as of 1 April) (%) |
|-------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|---|
| World | 37.5 | 50.5 | 45.2 | 0.5 |
| Africa | 26.4 | 71.9 | 17.8 | 0.0 |
| Americas | 43.2 | 36.1 | 67.6 | 0.5 |
| Arab States | 33.2 | 63.9 | | 0.1 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 37.9 | 59.2 | 38.9 | 0.2 |
| Europe and Central Asia | 42.1 | 20.9 | 84.1 | 3.2 |

Note: Sectors considered at high risk of disruption are accommodation and food service activities; manufacturing; real estate, business and administrative activities; and wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles.

Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, November 2019; ILO, *World Social Protection Report 2017-19*; ILO, *Women and men in the informal economy: A statistical picture*, Third edition; and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

► Figure 3. Informal economy workers: How many are significantly impacted?



Note: Based on the analysis of national household survey data from 129 countries representing 90 per cent of global employment. Extrapolated to 2020 global employment and by sector. Total employment (represented in light purple) is used as the base of reference (100 per cent) for each income group of countries. Total informal employment is represented in light purple (2 billion informal economy workers). Informal economy workers significantly impacted by the crisis are represented in dark purple (1.56 billion in total). These significantly impacted workers are in countries with workplace closures and/or work in at-risk sectors. See Technical annex 2. The proportion of informal workers significantly affected is given by comparing the light and dark purple areas. Information by sectors classified by level of risk and size of enterprises available in table A3.

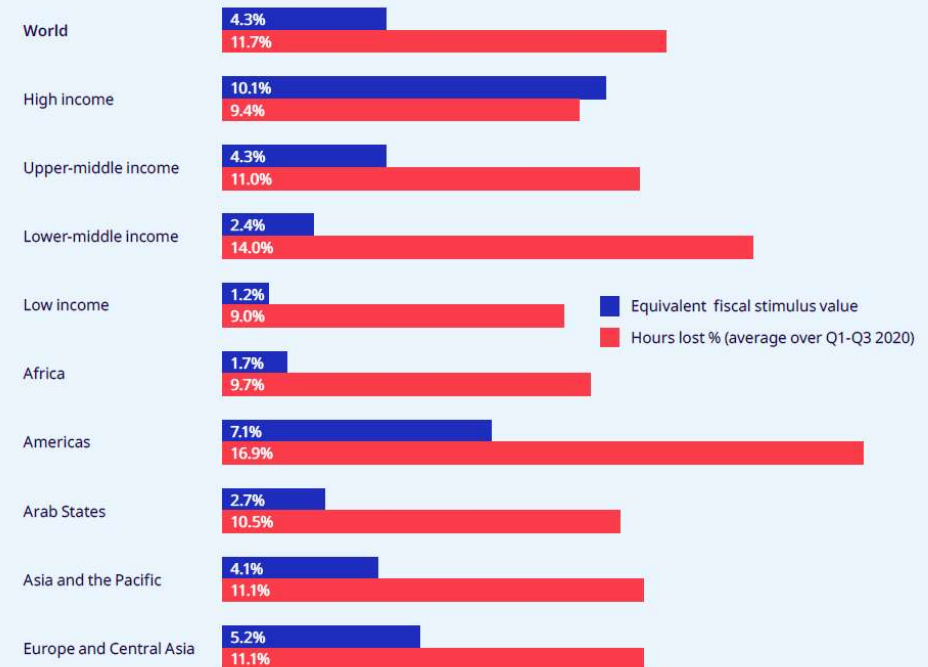
Estimated working-hour losses. A “nowcasting” model developed by ILO

► Figure 3. Working-hour losses, world and by region and income group, first, second and third quarters of 2020 (percentage)



Source: ILO nowcasting model (see Technical Annex 1).

► Figure 8. Working hours lost (% of total, average over first three quarters of 2020) and equivalent fiscal stimulus value



Note: The basis for calculating equivalent fiscal stimulus is average output per FTE employment at 48 hours per week.

Source: ILO estimates based on ILOSTAT, IMF and Oxford Coronavirus Government Response Tracker database.

► On the policy level the ILO Monitor shows

The continuing and devastating impacts of the pandemic on jobs and labour income since early 2020, and that the massive disruptions in the labour market that will persist into the fourth quarter

- First, maintaining the right balance and sequence of health and economic and social policy interventions continues to be crucial
- Second, policy interventions need to be made on a scale which corresponds to the magnitude of labour market disruptions
- Third, it is critical that policy measures should provide the fullest possible support for vulnerable and hard-hit groups, including migrants, women, young people and informal workers.
- Fourth, filling the stimulus gap in emerging and developing countries can only be achieved through greater international solidarity.
- Fifth, social dialogue continues to be an important and effective mechanism for policy responses to the crisis.
- You can find the ILO Monitor on the following link https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/impacts-and-responses/WCMS_755910/lang--en/index.htm

► ILO ROAS statistical work to assist countries in measuring COVID-19 impact on Labour market

Current work

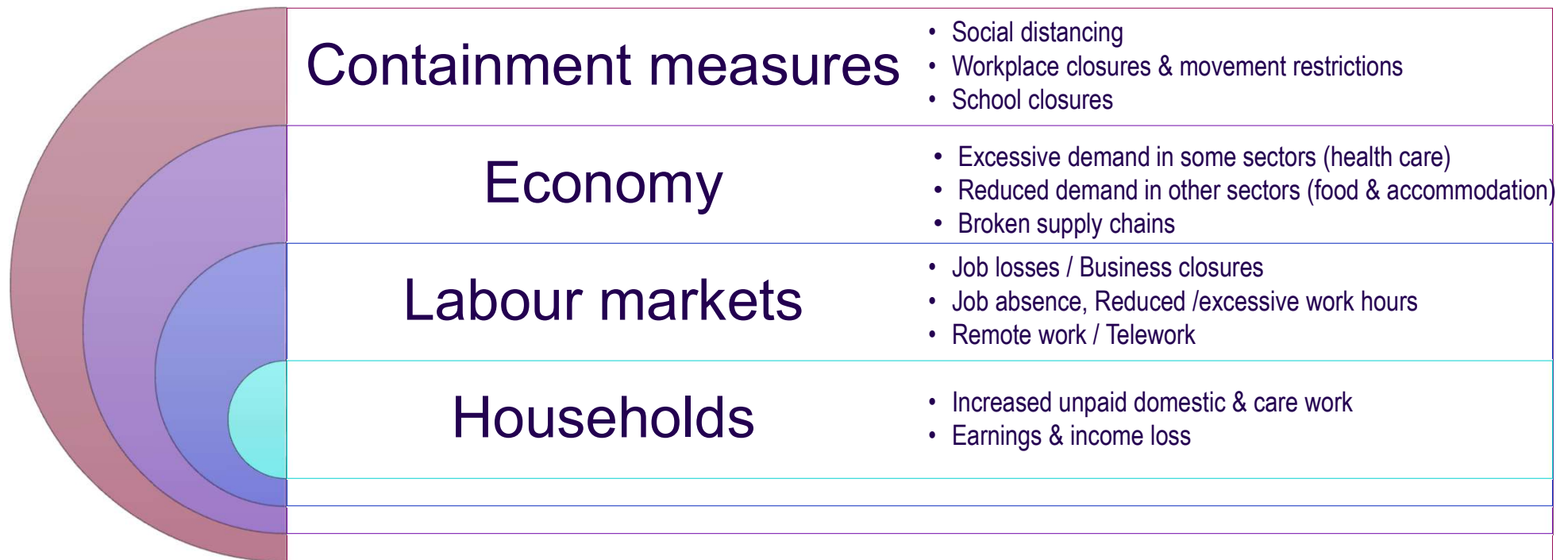
- Assisted three countries in amending their Labour Force Questionnaire in order to measure the pandemic impact on labour market
- Translated guideline on measuring labour market with the cooperation of GCC-STAT (https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/publications/WCMS_747637/lang--ar/index.htm)
- Conducting Rapid Surveys in selected countries
- Financing and assisting two countries in conducting LFS's to measure COVID impact

Challenges

- Most of the Arab States countries conduct yearly Labour Force Surveys
- Some countries didn't conduct LFS survey for years
- Few Arab States countries share their micro data with ILO
- Statistical challenges in shifting the LFS from face-to-face to telephone based interviews

COVID-19 impacts in the world of work

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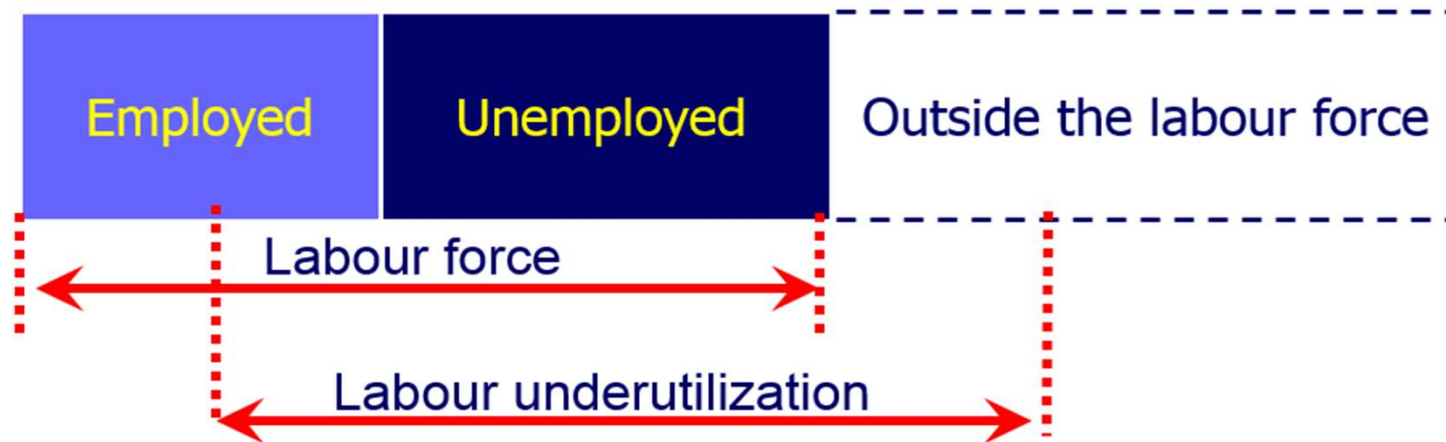
► Measuring the Labour market

▶ **NSOs are pushed to shift from face-to-face to telephone survey to maintain time series**

- ▶ The shift from face-to-face to telephone based survey goes together with changes on the methodological aspects of the survey:
- ▶ Maintain the latest ICLS resolutions' definitions and adapting the questionnaires
- ▶ Changes on the sampling frame and weighting
- ▶ Changes in the response rates and quality control measures
- ▶ Staff training and survey management

► Maintaining ICLS standards

Labour Force & Labour underutilization (19th ICLS)



“To capture mismatches between labour supply and demand,
which translate into an unmet need for employment among the population”

Para 40, Resol I. (19th ICLS, 2013)

Adapting LFS topics to monitor labour markets during COVID-19

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- **Labour force status**
- **Employment**
 - Employed, working +1 hours in reference week
 - Employed absent from work, reason for absence, expectation of return, continued pay
 - Selected characteristics: industry, status in employment, place of work
- **Hours actually worked among employed**
 - Reasons for change in hours worked
- **Labour underutilization**
 - Time-related underemployed, unemployed, potential labour force
 - Reasons for working less, not seeking or not being available for work
- **Recent job loss & reasons for job loss**
- **Receipt of benefits, *sources of income*****

Relevance of ICLS standards during COVID-19

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- **Highly relevant, particularly for a wider set of indicators**
 - Work, Employment, Labour underutilization (19th ICLS, 2013)
 - Latest reference for labour force statistics
- **Maintain existing definitions & measurement to assess changes**
 - To enable comparisons over time (trends, impacts)
- **Some clarifications & new interviewer training may be necessary**
 - To handle growing uncertainty
 - New reasons impacting labour market outcomes
- **Include new topics that are becoming particularly relevant**
 - Telework, remote work, home-based work

► **Adapting the questionnaire**

Employment & labour underutilization: Essential topics

EMPLOYED

Employed, worked 1+ hours

Employed, absent

- Reasons
- Duration, expectation of return
- Pay during absence, source of pay

Essential main job characteristics

- Industry
- Occupation
- Status in employment
- Public/ private/ household sector
- Place of work (before COVID/current)
- Telework
- Formal / informal job
- Hours actually worked
- Reasons +/- hours (COVID/non-COVID)
- Want / available to work more hours

NOT EMPLOYED

Job search

Method of job search

Reason not seeking

Want to work at present

Availability to start employment

Reason not available

Previous employment experience

ALL

Lost job / business since [start outbreak]

- Industry
- Status in employment
- Duration since last stop work

Reasons for job/business ended

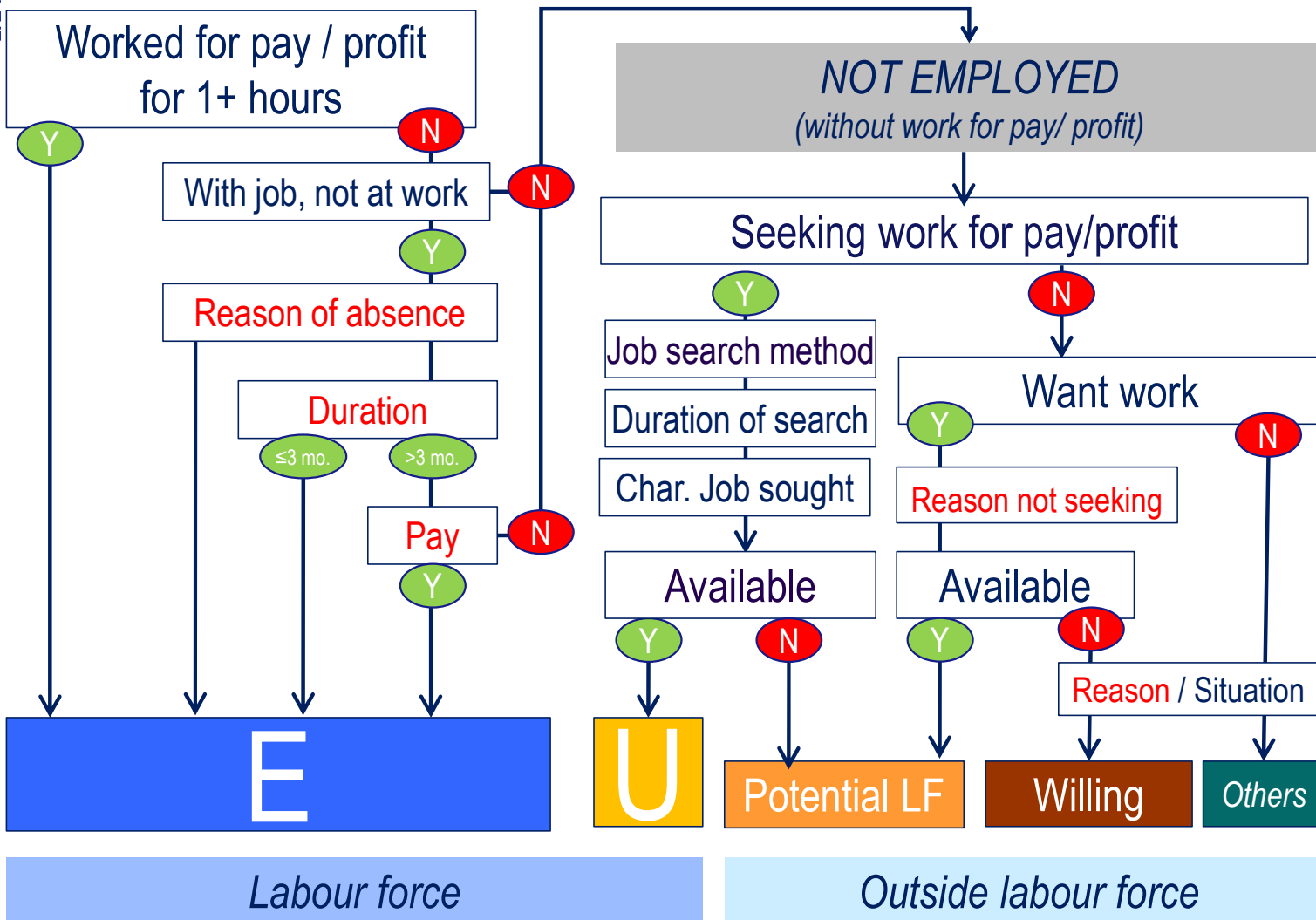
Lost income since [start outbreak]

Sources of income

Receipt of government benefits

****New emphasis needed in some topics and criteria previously not captured in detail**

WORKING AGE POPULATION



Handling uncertainty regarding absence from employment in LFS

- Strategy will depend on national circumstances & LFS system
- Essential to determine if person is to be classified as Employed or not
- Strategy should recognize time of return may be unknown. **Crucial to have evidence of continued job attachment (expectation of return) and continued pay (including partial pay) from employer during absence**

Box 2. Question on total duration of absence: New response

QX. In total, will (you/NAME) return to that same job/business within [3 months or less]?

1. YES → **EMPLOYED**
2. NO
3. **NO, BUT EXPECTS TO RETURN ONCE RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED** → **EMPLOYED**
4. UNSURE TO RETURN
9. DON'T KNOW [PROXY ONLY]

BOX 4. Clarifications for question on continued receipt of remuneration

QY. (Do/does) (you/NAME) continue to receive an income from (your/his/her) job or business during this absence?

*(INTERVIEWER:
Include partial pay and pay expected in the future,
Exclude if income from other sources only –e.g. government benefits, other aid)*

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► Changes in the sampling frame and weighting

► **Changes in the sampling frame and weighting when shifting to telephone survey**

NSOs used the latest LFS wave telephone numbers as a sampling frame default of not being able to do the blocks listing.

- Change of the dwelling to telephone number as a sampling unit
 - The telephone number is no longer linked to the current dwelling
 - How to weight the telephone number/dwelling in the block over time?
 - changes of the owner of the telephone number and existing of multiple numbers for a single households
 - Household with no telephone numbers
- Implicitly passing from cross-sectional to panel survey
 - Sample attrition problem
 - Adjusting the weights (post-stratification, calibration)
- Indicators accuracy and minimal sample size to measure critical indicators example of the working age population

► **Changes in the response rates and quality control measures**

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- Telephone surveys are witnessing a major decrease in the response rate
- Does an unanswered call should be considered as a non response or under-coverage of the survey?
- How to make a follow-up for an answered call?
- Does the Household responds a second time to the NSO once they know the caller number?
- How do we consider households with no telephone numbers?
- What is the profile of non-respondents in the absence of geographical location (poor or wealthy neighbourhood)?

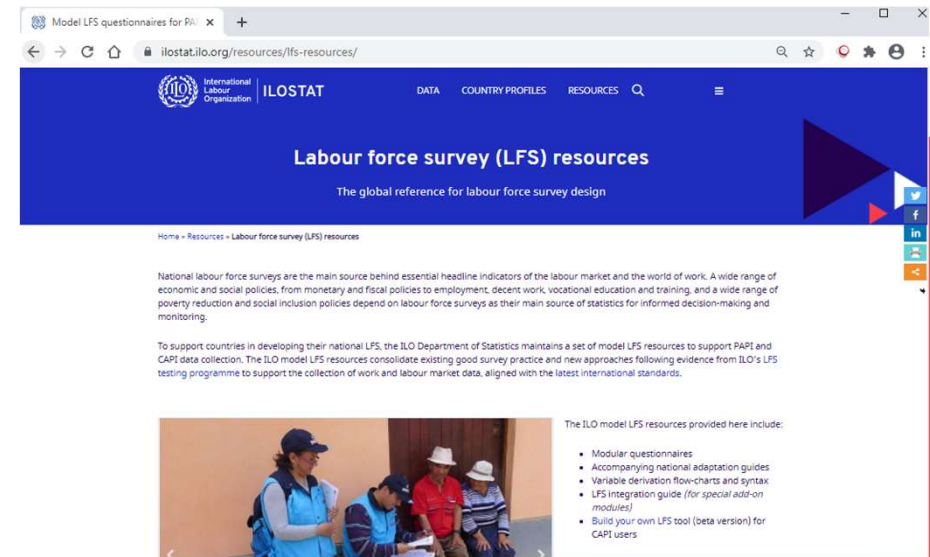
► Staff training and survey management

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- Decreasing and amending LFS questions are not sufficiently tested for telephone surveys
- Limited interview time may have negative impact of answers quality (to measure in the future)
- Train the interviewers on techniques for maintaining the call: face-to-face techniques are not necessary optimal in the telephone context.
- Interviewers' time management and selecting the optimal time for calling the household:
- Informing and preparing the household for future calls

<https://ilostat.ilo.org/resources/lfs-resources/>

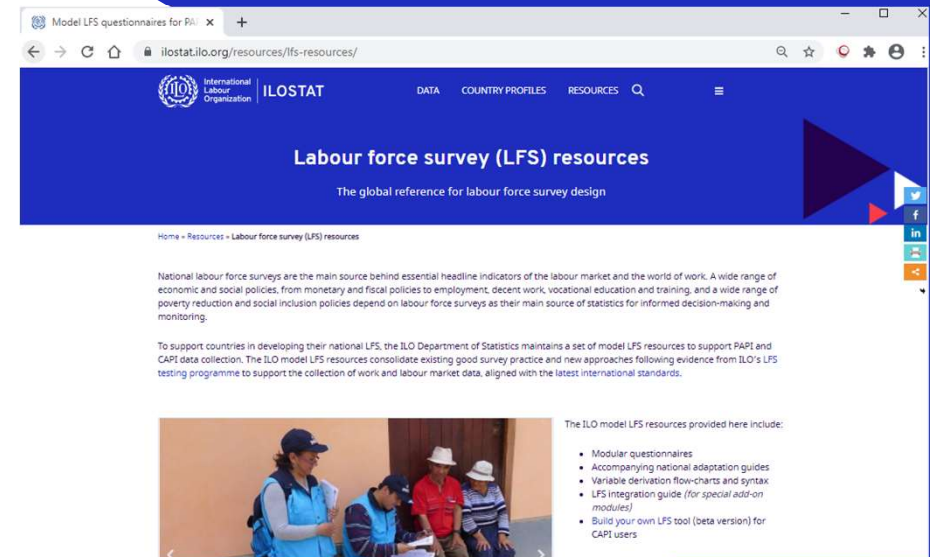
- Updated ILO model LFS questionnaires (PAPI/CAPI):
 - **Core LFS modules:** Demographics, Employment, Labour underutilization
 - **Add-on modules:** Volunteer work, Employment barriers for persons with disabilities, Occupation & skills mismatches.
- Alternative versions & guidance for national adaptation



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► **Thank you**