Innovation and renovation: Updating household surveys on the world of work

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Ultimate objective of ILO strategy

Surveys that:

- Generate high quality information to meet many data needs on the world of work
- Are coherent and consistent (across time and space)
- Achieve good value for money
- Are efficient
- Are sustainable and resilient
- Are adaptable to context
- Etc…
How do we get there – ILO approach (1)

- Updating international statistical standards to provide a coherent framework of definitions reflecting the world of today (and tomorrow)
  - 19th ICLS (2013) – new framework for statistics on work, employment and labour underutilization
- **New cycle of standards reflecting the 19th ICLS**
  - 20th ICLS – work relationships and other topics
  - 21st ICLS – informality and other topics
- **Together support a range of work statistics more able to fully capture the current and evolving reality of the world of work**
How do we get there – ILO approach (2)

- Developing flexible guidance and tools to support
  - Application of latest standards
  - Good measurement practices based on pilot studies and country partnerships
- Toolset now includes: https://ilostat.ilo.org/resources/
  - Innovative and flexible modular based content for surveys – covering different forms of work and sets of indicators which can be combined flexibly
  - Different core approaches to measuring work to fit different country contexts (e.g. high subsistence settings)
  - PAPI and CAPI approaches and tools
  - Content for LFS and Census of Population
Some lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

- ILO and many other agencies developed new guidance for countries ([https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/covid-19/#guidance](https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/covid-19/#guidance))
  - How to interpret and apply latest standards during the pandemic (e.g. due to massive temporary work absences)
  - How to generate new indicators of use
  - How to maintain data collection
  - How to capture key concepts (e.g. remote working)
- Seismic shift in use of telephone interviewing – very useful but not always sustainable
- Need to learn from this – support countries to implement sustainable and modernised data collection
Some lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

• ILO and many other agencies developed new guidance for countries on how to interpret and apply latest standards during the pandemic (e.g. due to massive temporary work absences).

  • How to generate new indicators of use
  • How to maintain data collection
  • How to capture key concepts (e.g. remote working)

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

• Recently published report shows the scale of impact on LFS was very substantial but countries responded very strongly.

• Seismic shift in use of telephone interviewing – very useful but not always sustainable.
Some lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic (2)

- Need to learn from this – support countries to implement sustainable and modernised data collection

Source: ILO Global Survey on impacts on labour force surveys
Final thoughts

• Innovation does not only mean coming up with new approaches

• It also means updating practices in countries to apply good existing approaches

• ILO approach to survey design envisages modular approach implemented over time – follows practices already in place in some countries

• **Similar approach can be applied more widely to promote a more coherent, co-ordinated and efficient household survey system**

• How to create sustainable remote collection approaches that generate high quality data?

• How to achieve resilience and flexibility for different countries?
THANK YOU