



International Labour Organization

# Considerations about the SDG labour market indicators

**Rosina Gammarano**

Data Production and Analysis Unit  
ILO Department of Statistics

**Workshop on Reporting Labour Statistics to the ILO  
for better SDG monitoring in Arab States and Northern Africa**  
February 2019 – Amman, Jordan

# SDG labour market indicators provide a wide overview of the labour market situation:

- Labour underutilization (8.5.2)
- Quality of employment: remuneration (8.5.1, 1.1.1), occupational safety and health (8.8.1), productivity (8.2.1) and working conditions in general (8.3.1)
- Legal frameworks (8.8.2), the national context of social security (1.3.1), policy priorities (8.b.1)
- Youth situation in the labour market (8.6.1)
- Labour market segregation by gender (5.5.2)
- Work that should be abolished (8.7.1)

→ **but not exhaustive**

SDG indicators are forward-looking and not restrictive: to be **expanded and complemented** according to national needs and circumstances

Reporting on all SDG labour market indicators requires a developed, integrated national statistical system, including various data sources

	Strengths	Limitations
Population censuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehensive enumeration, coverage of the whole population</li> <li>- Allows for the production of reliable information on small groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very costly</li> <li>- Short questionnaires prevent from getting detailed information on specific topics</li> </ul>
Household surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehensive coverage of population</li> <li>- Detailed questioning permits precise measurement of statistical concepts for short reference periods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sampling prevents reliable estimates for small groups</li> <li>- Lower quality of data on “sensitive”, income-, and employer-related topics</li> <li>- Cannot provide estimates of vacancies, training needs, etc.</li> </ul>
Establishment surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehensive coverage of larger businesses</li> <li>- Payroll records provide consistent and reliable data for income and employment by industry</li> <li>- Only source for data on vacancies, training needs, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Typically poor coverage of very small and unregistered businesses</li> <li>- Requires constant updating of registers (births and deaths)</li> <li>- Difficult identification of small or informal units</li> <li>- High non-response rates</li> <li>- Sampling prevents reliable estimates for small groups</li> <li>- Data items are limited by the information in establishment’s registers</li> </ul>
Administrative records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total count allows maximum detail</li> <li>- Inexpensive to compile statistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Often poor coverage</li> <li>- Often not up to date</li> <li>- Data quality may be questionable</li> </ul>

# SDG global indicator framework recognizes the need for disaggregated data

«Leave no one behind» -> requires data specifically for each vulnerable group

## Overarching principle of data disaggregation of the SDG Global Indicator Framework:

SDG indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics

# Disaggregation of labour statistics is crucial to:

- identify specific issues in the labour market
- inform formulation of targeted policies
- monitor progress made towards goals (reduction of inequalities, eradication of discrimination, etc.)

But for disaggregated data to be reliable and comparable:

- internationally-agreed classifications, or national classifications easily adaptable to international ones
- standard, internationally-agreed definitions of each category

Most of the labour-related SDG indicators to be derived from LFS or similar types of household surveys:

- reliability issues for reduced groups of population
- trade-off between reliability of data obtained/level of detail of categories used
- data quality relies on self-declaration by respondents or proxy respondents → problematic for sensitive topics



**Cross-cutting** nature of SDG labour market indicators (links and interdependencies) and the SDGs in general: need to analyse them as a coherent set, and within a wider context

**Thank you**