



International
Labour
Organization

IMPLEMENTATION OF A LABOUR FORCE SURVEY IN YEMEN

A labour market information system (LMIS) provides quantitative and qualitative information and insights into the labour market, which can all help labour market agents make informed plans, choices, and decisions in the area of labour market development. One of the main components of a LMIS is a Labour Force Survey – a standard household-based survey of work-related statistics.

Since the last Labour Force Survey was conducted in Yemen in 2003, there is a need to determine the changes that have occurred in the composition of the population

by sex and age, as well as in the country's demographic statistics and social characteristics. In order to strengthen labour policies, it is also necessary to collect labour market information, particularly on the demographic situation of workers, as well as on the characteristics and variables of the unemployed, such as employment and unemployment rates. Yemen also lacks adequate information on female labour force participation, which might help craft future policies to expand participation and retention in the labour market.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Partners:

Silatech; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); Central Statistical Office (CSO); Ministry Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL)

Beneficiary country:
Yemen

Timeframe:

March 2013 –
May 2015

Budget:

USD 738,351

THE RESPONSE

The ILO, with financial support from Silatech, applied its international technical expertise to build the capacity of the Yemen Central Statistical Office (CSO) with a view to establishing a sustainable LMIS to generate regular, high-quality labour market data complying with international standards.

The role of the LMIS is also to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL) to analyse and disseminate comprehensive data, thereby supporting its activities in labour market monitoring, policy-oriented analysis and policy formulation.

The establishment of the new Labour Force Survey programme complemented this effort, and in general supported the ILO's labour market information and analysis project in Yemen, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and local development targets. The project is coordinated by the ILO Department

of Statistics (STATISTICS) at the ILO headquarters in Geneva, in collaboration with the ILO Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS) in Beirut.

In its capacity as the official body compiling statistics in Yemen, the CSO was the ILO's partner throughout the implementation of the Labour Force Survey. In view of the CSO's role, the project aimed to develop its capacity in the areas of survey management, data dissemination, field operations, processing, questionnaire and sample design, and the tabulation and presentation of data.

In addition, awareness raising was conducted among government agencies, social partners, research institutes and other stakeholders about the concepts, methods, uses and limitations of labour statistics derived from Labour Force Surveys.





RESULTS

The project's central objective was to enhance the knowledge base of the labour market in Yemen to foster the development of labour market policies. To this end, the Labour Force Survey set out to:

- Provide current data on the number of employed, unemployed, and underemployed, as well as on their demographic and social characteristics, including the size of women's participation in economic activity, among 13,400 households;
- Collect data on skills available in the labour force, youth participation in training programmes, and other data requirements to improve the performance of employers and the job market skills available to them;
- Measure the volume and characteristics of labour migration among Yemenis outside the country;
- Provide information on wages and employment-related income in different occupations, branches of economic activity, and sectors of employment.



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BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

As the ILO is the global body responsible for compiling the Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) – which include, inter alia, definitions of employment and unemployment – the Organization is in a unique position to help its member States build their statistical capacity. Among the key facets the ILO can offer in this area are those related to Labour Force Surveys and statistical analysis, as well as capacity building in labour market inspection, administration and governance.