APPENDIX 3: RESEARCH QUALITY ASSESSMENT ADAPTED FOR ILO'S RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS AND OUTPUTS

The following criteria were adapted from IDRC's RQ+ assessment tool for the specific purposes of informing RS&KM within ILO. This exercise and its adapted tool should be considered a strong starting point for further discussion and refinement of the process as ILO develops a systematic process for assessing the quality of its knowledge products.

An overall assessment of each selected project or program was conducted according to the following criteria to provide a contextual understanding for each product. The assessment was based on project documents, evaluations and other available documents that offer a broader understanding of the particular project or program.

Key Contextual Factors Per Project				
Data environment	1 Flourishing - Instrumentation and measures for data collection and analysis are widely agreed upon and available - Body of data is well developed, stable and with significant open data resources - Abundance of national and international data sources	2 Developed - There exist the necessary instrumentation and measures for data collection and analysis and are generally available - Body of data has reasonable availability and is generally credible - Diversity of international data sources, but few at the national level	3 Limited - There are few instruments and measures for data collection and analysis available - Limited quantities of data, and/or some credibility gaps. - Few international and national data sources	4 Weak - Instrumentation and measures for data collection and analysis are generally unavailable - Data scarcity and with lack of credibility - Data sources are scarce
Organizational research environment	1 Empowering Research environment (organizational priorities, infrastructure, norms, incentives, etc. related to research) is fully established and enabling for researchers.	2 Supportive Research environment is well developed and generally supports researchers with their needs.	3 Unsupportive Research is not an organizational priority, yet the organization tends to comply with acquired commitments or external requests.	4 Restrictive Research environment is weak or largely under-developed, not supportive of researchers or possibly even works against them.
Political environment	1 Stable Stable political environment with solid governance practices, lack of significant social conflicts, and no personal risks to researchers.	2 Moderately stable Generally stable political environment, with established governance practices, unusual major social conflicts, and no personal risks to researchers.	3 Unstable Political environment that features some levels of instability and recurrent change, some major social conflicts, and minor risks to researchers.	4 Volatile Very unstable or unpredictable political environment with weak governance practices, social conflict, and/or potentially significant risks to researchers.

Each knowledge product was then reviewed and assessed according to the following criteria.

Research Quality Dimensions per RSKM output					
1. Scientific rigour		**Unacceptable**	**Less than acceptable**	**Acceptable/good**	**Very good**
1.1 Methodological Integrity		1 - 2 - Data collected did not satisfy research needs (i.e., match the research questions). - The analysis was deeply flawed. - Conclusions are weak, largely unfounded by the data, and bear little relevance to the development problem. - The research results are not properly presented. - The research work did not exhibit logical consistency*. * Logical consistency of research implementation establishes a clear path connecting objectives, hypothesis/questions, data collected, findings and conclusions.	3 - 4 - Data and information collected left some gaps. - The analysis performed left some important aspects unexamined. - Some conclusions are not consistent (with data, hypothesis, etc.) or present little value. - The presentation of results needs improvement and/or clarification for uptake/use. - The logical consistency of the research left some important gaps.	5 - 6 - Data and information collected were sufficient. - The analysis was adequate overall. - Conclusions are useful, pertinent and linkable to the data and evidence. - The presentation of research results is overall satisfactory, with little improvement needed. -The research work exhibited a clear logical consistency.	7 - 8 - Data and information collected covered all research objectives and could be used in other studies - The analysis was comprehensive and well matched to the research questions. - Conclusions are relevant to research objectives and have the potential to stimulate further debate and/or action. - The communication is clear, compelling, and articulate to the intended user. - The research work exhibited a clear/precise logical consistency.
2. Research Legitimacy		**Unacceptable**	**Less than acceptable**	**Acceptable/good**	**Very good**
2.1 Addressing social dialogue	Insufficient Information to Assess (IIA)	1 - 2 There has been no apparent effort to address social dialogue. The researchers appear to have been insensitive to this aspect of the research.	3 - 4 The research was sensitive to this issue. Some efforts were made to address the voices of governments, employers' and workers' organizations.	5 - 6 The research was sensitive to this issue. Appropriate and timely measures have been taken to include tripartism in the research design. Measures have been taken to ensure effective participation of constituents in data collection and tripartism is part of data analysis.	7 - 8 Appropriate and timely measures have been taken to ensure tripartism in the research. There was a systematic effort by the research team to address social dialogue in all phases of the research process. Constituents are addressed in the dissemination strategies.

2.2 Inclusiveness	Not an area of focus (NAF): *The nature of the research is such that inclusiveness does not need to be taken into account.* Insufficient Information to Assess (IIA): *Not enough information available to make a credible assessment.*	1 - 2 Relevant selection processes and the prioritization and safeguarding of vulnerable or marginalized communities has not received sufficient attention in the research design and execution.	3 - 4 Inclusiveness has been partially addressed in the research design, execution and findings. Weaknesses remain, e.g., in selection processes, and/or the prioritization and safeguarding of vulnerable or marginalized communities demand more attention.	5 - 6 Inclusiveness has been appropriately addressed in research design, execution and findings. A few opportunities remain to strengthen selection processes, and/or the prioritization and safeguarding of vulnerable or marginalized communities.	7 - 8 Inclusiveness has been intentionally and systematically addressed in the research design, execution and findings. There are no weaknesses in relevant selection processes, and/or the prioritization and safeguarding of vulnerable or marginalized communities.
2.3 Gender	Insufficient Detail to Assess (IIA): *Not enough information available to make a credible assessment*	1 - 2 The research was gender blind. - Gender considerations were not included in the research questions or objectives - Data collection did not register differences related to gender - No evidence of gender analysis; data was not disaggregated by sex - There was no consideration of gender balance and roles in the research team.	3 - 4 Gender was considered in a limited way with notable weaknesses. - Data collection minimally accounted for differentiated situations related to gender - Limited gender analysis; few data were disaggregated by sex - Limited gender consideration was shown in the composition and roles of the research team.	5 - 6 Gender was adequately considered in most phases of the research cycle, and gender balance in participation. - Gender was appropriately incorporated into the research questions and objectives - Data collection accounted for differentiated situations related to gender - There was reasonable gender analysis; data was generally disaggregated by sex - Gender considerations are noted in the composition and roles of the research team.	7 - 8 Gender was fully considered in all aspects of the research cycle, and in participation. - Gender was explicitly and comprehensively incorporated into research questions and objectives - Data collection accounted for differentiated situations related to gender - Rigorous gender analysis; data was disaggregated by sex wherever possible - Emphasis was given to gender balance and appropriate roles in the research team
2.4 Engagement with organizations and institutions in regions and countries	Not an area of focus (NAF): *The nature of the research is such that local organizations and institutions do not need to be taken into account (ex., research from ILO's databases)* Insufficient Information to Assess (IIA): *Not enough information available to make a credible assessment.*	1 - 2 Engagement with appropriate contexts has been neglected during the research process. Several major weaknesses can be found, related to how research needs and questions were identified, local organizations and institutions engaged, contexts considered, and benefits from the research process assured.	3 - 4 Contexts and engagement have been considered during the research process, but some weaknesses remain related to how research needs and questions were identified, local organizations, institutions or stakeholders engaged, contexts considered, and/or local benefits from the research process assured.	5 - 6 Context and engagement have been appropriately considered in the research process. Few, if any, minor weaknesses remain related to how research needs and questions were identified, local organizations, institutions or stakeholders engaged, contexts considered, or stakeholder benefits from the research process assured.	7 - 8 Context and engagement have been carefully and systematically considered in the research process. Research needs and questions were clearly identified, local organizations, institutions or stakeholders effectively engaged, contexts considered and respected, and stakeholder benefits from the research process assured.
3. Research Importance		**Unacceptable**	**Less than acceptable**	**Acceptable/good**	**Very good**

3.1 Relevance	Insufficient Information to Assess (IIA) Not enough information available to make a credible assessment	1 - 2 The research does not contribute to a key development priority, or an emerging area that might demand solutions in the foreseeable future. Justification for the work is absent or unconvincing.	3 - 4 The research makes little contribution to a key development priority or an emerging area that might demand solutions in the foreseeable future. A justification for this area of work is not well substantiated.	5 - 6 The research contributes to a key development priority, or an emerging area of some significance that might demand solutions in the near future. This area of work is justified.	7 - 8 The research makes an important contribution towards a key development priority, or an important emerging area that is highly likely to demand solutions in the near future. This area of work is well justified.
4. Positioning for Use		**Unacceptable**	**Less than acceptable**	**Acceptable/good**	**Very good**
4.1 Knowledge accessibility and sharing	Insufficient Information to Assess (IIA) Not enough information available to make a credible assessment	1 - 2 The research was not initiated and conducted with use in mind, i.e., no evidence of understanding of the context(s) within which the results are likely to be used; no evidence of stakeholder or user mapping. There has been no attention or engagement to making research findings available in formats and through mechanisms suited to well-targeted audiences. Potential users will struggle to know about and access these knowledge products.	3 - 4 There was insufficient effort to map, understand and engage stakeholders or key potential user groups, and limited engagement with understanding the larger context within which they operate. Insufficient attention has been paid to making research findings available in appropriate formats and through appropriate mechanisms to well-targeted potential user groups.	5 - 6 The project research mapped, understood and engaged stakeholders and potential user groups. Researchers appear to have a credible understanding of the context within which key potential users/user groups operate. Research findings were made available to different potential user groups in user-friendly formats	7 - 8 The research was initiated and conducted with use in mind, and with an emphasis on engaging with the contexts of potential users. The research included sophisticated/highly differentiated stakeholder mapping and engagement. Research findings were appropriately available to well-targeted and influential potential user groups in highly accessible and user-friendly formats. Mechanisms for use have been explored.
4.2 Timeliness and Actionability	Insufficient Information to Assess (IIA) Not enough information available to make a credible assessment	1 - 2 The research did not include any relevant analysis of user environment including institutional, political, social or economic contingencies. The plan to support research use was inadequate and the team was not responsive to emergent opportunities.	3 - 4 There is evidence that some analysis of the user setting was undertaken; however, consideration was incomplete and did not adequately inform the translation of research to user groups. The strategies or plans to move the knowledge to policy or practice were weak, unresponsive and not fine-tuned.	5 - 6 There is evidence that the user environment and major contingencies have been examined and reflected upon and connected to strategies and plans for moving the research into policy or practice in an effective and timely manner.	7 - 8 The analysis of the user environment and contingencies is exceptionally thorough, well-articulated and dynamic. There is evidence of careful prospective appraisal of the likelihood of success of strategies designed to address contingencies. The research could respond to emerging opportunities for influence. There was thoughtful translation of the implications of research for user groups.

Knowledge products selected for this example assessment exercise were:

PROJECT	PRODUCT TYPE	TITLE AND SOURCE OF PRODUCT
Global Wage Report	Flagship reports	Global Wage Report 2018/19: What lies behind gender pay gaps https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_650553/lang--en/index.htm
	Video	Key findings https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=nWyXVqzSucs&feature=emb_logo
	Impact story	Global wage growth lowest since 2008, while women still earning 20 per cent less than men https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_650551/lang--en/index.htm
Research Department Working paper series	Working paper	COVID-19 and the world of work: Impact and policy responses https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_738753.pdf
	Working paper	Research Department Working Paper n. 39 – Workfare programs and their delivery system: Effectiveness of Construyendo Perú https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---inst/documents/publication/wcms_674562.pdf
	Working paper	Research Department Working Paper n. 9 - A review of the effectiveness of Active Labour Market Programmes with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---inst/documents/publication/wcms_459117.pdf
Fairway Programme	Media terminology	Media-friendly glossary on migration – Middle East Edition https://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_605067/lang--en/index.htm
	Brochure	Fairway Project Leaflet https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/projectdocumentation/wcms_516544.pdf
	Policy brief	Fairway: Interregional dialogues on migration involving countries in the Middle East and Africa https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_736192.pdf
MyIPEC Myanmar	Country report	Assessment of vulnerable youth economic integration opportunities in Myanmar https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-yangon/documents/publication/wcms_734405.pdf
	Video	MyIPEC Myanmar: I wanna go to school https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_bg0DZeJbg&feature=emb_logo
	Training material	Myanmar safe work for youth https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-yangon/documents/publication/wcms_649246.pdf
Better Work	Research brief	Better Work Vietnam: Impact brief https://betterwork.org/portfolio/impact-brief-better-work-vietnam/
	Discussion paper	Discussion Paper 24: Wildcat strikes and Better Work bipartite committees in Vietnam https://betterwork.org/portfolio/12829/
	Annual synthesis report	Better Work Vietnam – 8th Compliance synthesis report https://betterwork.org/portfolio/better-work-vietnam-garment-industry-8th-compliance-synthesis-report-july-2015/