Rwanda Labour Force Survey

Impact of 19th ICLS standards on key labor market indicators and strategies used to communicate new indicators

BY James BYIRINGIRO

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National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda

Outlines

- Background on labor statistics in Rwanda
- Process followed to implement new standards
- Impact of new standards on key headline indicators
- Relevance of new standards in Rwanda
- Strategies implemented to communicate the changes
- Good practices, main challenges faced/lessons learned
1. Background

Prior to RLFS introduced in 2016, the main source of labor statistics (supply side) was the Integrated HH survey on living standards (EICV) which was conducted once in 5 years till 2010 and now every 3 years.

- There was an unmet demand of labour statistics
- Some indicators such as unemployment rate were inadequate to describe the labour market situation in Rwanda’s economy context
- The NISR decided to plan a bi-annual LFS in the 2nd NSDS (2014-2018).

2. Process followed to implement new standards

- In January 2014, it was already decided that new standards should be used in 2016 LFS.
- **2014: Awareness about new international standards**
  - Workshop on domestication of 19th ICLS resolutions (10th to 14th Feb 2014).
  - Labour statistics frame work/Metadata handbook
  - Capacity building of NISR staff
- **2015: Preparatory activities for the RLFS**
  - Sample design (May)
  - Developing survey tools (May)
  - Pre-test of questionnaire (August 2015)
Process followed in new standards implementation (ctd)

- **2016: Pilote and first round of RLFS**
  - Conducting the Pilot survey (Feb-March 2016)
  - Publication of Pilot survey results (July 2016)
  - Awareness of new standards using the results of Pilot survey (Key ministries, Senates Media, academia)

- **Conducting the full survey (August 2016)**
  - The first round of RLFS was carried out in August 2016 using a half of annual sample of 9,344 households. The results were published in October 2017.
  - The RLFS is carried out in Feb and Aug of each year using a rotation sample design.
  - In addition to pilot survey, 5 rounds were carried out so far.
  - From Feb 2019, quarterly RLFS will be started.
3. Impact of new standards on key headline indicators (LF status)

**WAP**
Population Aged 16 and Above  
6,903,839

**Labour Force**  
Sum of Employed and Unemployed

- **New Definition**  
  3,687,906
- **Old Definition**  
  5,465,444

**Outside Labour Force**  
Persons who are neither employed nor unemployed

- **New Definition**  
  3,215,933
- **Old Definition**  
  1,438,395

**Employed**  
Who worked for pay or profit at least 1 hour in 7 days, or absent from work

- **New Definition**  
  3,096,278
- **Old Definition**  
  5,215,118

**Unemployed**  
Who had no job, seek for job & available to start job

- **New Definition**  
  591,628
- **Old Definition**  
  250,326

**Subsistence agriculture**  
Who was doing agriculture mainly for Own use

- **New Definition**  
  1,777,538

**Others**  
Include; Students, Retired Persons, sick, old persons, discouraged...

- **New Definition**  
  1,438,395

Source: RLFS_Feb 2018

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Impact of new standards on key headline indicators (ctd…)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>New standards (LFS)</th>
<th>Old standards(LFS)</th>
<th>Old standards(EICV_2014)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour force participation rate</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment to population ratio</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
<td>75.5%</td>
<td>85.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsistence foodstuff producer rate</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of labour underutilization</td>
<td>56.6%</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RLFS_Feb 2018 and EICV4
Impact of new standards on key headline indicators (Ctd…)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Participated in subsistence agriculture</th>
<th>Not participated in subsistence agriculture</th>
<th>All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LFPR</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>57.6%</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment to population ratio</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LU1 - Unemployment rate</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment</td>
<td>55.1%</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilization</td>
<td>71.5%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>56.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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4. Relevance of new standards in Rwanda context

- The advantage of separating employment and own-use production (mainly subsistence agricultural) is that it allows proper assessment that provides adequate measures of promoting productive and descent work.
- New standards provide a range of underutilisation indicators that well describe the unmet needs for employment (LU1, LU2, LU3, LU4).
Relevance of new standards in Rwanda context (Labour underutilisation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August 2016</th>
<th>February 2017</th>
<th>August 2017</th>
<th>February 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.3</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>56.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>38.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Strategies implemented to communicate the changes

- To inform key stakeholders (Key Ministries, Private sector, syndicates representative, about new standards as earlier as possible (February 2014).
- Update key stakeholders on the progress in the implementation (workshops: May 2105, July 2015)
- Involving some key stakeholders in all stages of implementation of new standards
- Informing high level authorities about new changes, its implications and their relevance (using pilot survey results)
- Carry out dissemination among small groups of targeted main users
- Clarify new concepts in produced reports
6. Good practices identified in communicating the changes, main challenges faced/lessons learned

- **Good practices:**
  - To publish headline indicators using both new and old standards.
  - To present the LFPR along with subsistence foodstuff producer rate when subsistence farming is important in a country.

- **Challenges faced:**
  - Scattered data on workers in agriculture while the whole picture of agriculture is needed.
  - The concept to be used when employment is combined with subsistence agriculture is not clear.
  - Labour force status of usually subsistence agricultural who own small plots of industrial plants.

- **Lessons learnt**
  - We should not worry about the impact of new standards on labour market indicator whatever big is it. We just have to well communicate the sources of changes and focus on trends of new indicators over time.
  - To present statistics on agriculture as a whole(Eg: include a chapter on work in agriculture in the report.)
For more information on Rwanda labour force survey:

www.statistics.gov.rw/datasource/labour-force-survey-0

THANK YOU