



*ILO-PARIS21 Seminar on
Capacity Building for Labour Statistics
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Thematic Paper - abridged version

KEY INDICATORS OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MALI

The national statistical system in Mali is coordinated by the National Statistical and Information Office (*Direction Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Informatique - DNSI*) whose mission includes collecting, processing, analysing, and disseminating the statistical data produced by the DNSI or by other bodies such as the *Observatoire de l'Emploi et de la Formation* (OEF).

To improve coordination within the national statistical system, a statistical coordination committee (CCS) was created to help the DNSI define, coordinate, and schedule its programme of surveys, studies, and other public service statistical activities. The CCS is composed of four subcommittees, including the subcommittee on demographic and social studies of which the OEF is a member.

The national statistical system is composed of the central structure (the DNSI), Regional Planning and Statistical Offices (*Directions Régionales du Plan et de la Statistique - DRPS*), Statistical Planning Units (*Cellules de Planification Statistique - CPS*), and ministerial observatories. In fact, socio-economic developments have brought about a great need for sectoral statistics which in turn has led to a decentralisation of statistical production. Thus, in particular areas such as labour market analysis, statistical development and analysis bodies have been created. Within the ministry responsible for employment and professional training, an Observatory for Employment and Training (the OEF) was therefore put in place.

In this respect, the production of Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) falls within the jurisdiction of the OEF, which works in concert with all of the statistical data producer and user services. The OEF's strategy of working within a network aims mainly at coordinating data concepts, methodologies, and analysis; ensuring better data on the actors of the labour market; facilitating the production of Key Indicators of the Labour Market; and promoting the participation of all labour market actors in the KILM process.

I. THE IMPACT OF STUDY RESULTS

Before the creation of the OEF, the labour market was characterised by:

- a lack of reliable data; and
- irregular data production.

Today, the OEF has at its disposal data on:

- the modern sector (business characteristics, fields of activity, volume of activity, salaries, staff mobility, professional training, etc.);
- the characteristics of the economically active population, employment rates, unemployment rates, under-employment;
- the informal sector (informal activities, informal working population, etc.);

- the rural sector (employment rates, under-employment, etc.);
- the integration of graduates into the educational system;
- job applications and offers; and
- labour market trends, issues, and priorities.

Since its creation, the OEF has justified its existence as much by being a tool for future decision-making as by the considerable contributions it makes to the different actors in the employment and training market.

The indicators of the labour market produced by the OEF have enabled:

- **in training matters:**
 - to suspend the training component on “Administration” at the ECICA, a professional public training school offering technical certificates. This component is of little external use.
 - to introduce new programmes at the Rural Polytechnic Institute (*Institut Polytechnique Rural - IPR/IFRA*), an agricultural engineering school.
 - to guide the professional training programmes of the National Agency for Employment (*Agence Nationale Pour l’Emploi - ANPE*) and the Training and Learning Support Fund (*Fonds d’Appui à la Formation et à l’Apprentissage - FAFPA*).
- **in labour matters:**
 - to draft a labour policy document;
 - to draft a National Action Plan for Labour and Poverty Reduction (*Plan National d’Action pour l’Emploi en vue de Réduire la Pauvreté - PNA/ERP*);
 - to draft the “Labour” component of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper; and
 - to formulate specific labour programmes: Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) unit, EIIP in rural areas (PROMIIR), EIIP in urban areas (PILE).

In addition, the OEF has the ear of the National Assembly on all issues related to employment and training. In light of the results of OEF–conducted studies, the National Assembly questioned the government on child labour and unemployment in Mali. Following this intervention, Mali set up an IPEC/ILO (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour/International Labour Organisation) programme to fight child labour, and the government adopted a National Labour Policy Framework Paper.

II. CAPACITY BUILDING

The OEF intends to:

- **put into place a simplified system that will enable it to follow the labour market** and regularly publish key indicators of the labour market such as participation rates, unemployment rates, under-employment rates, incomes, jobs created, etc.;

- **put into place a simplified system that will enable it to periodically determine the needs of the workforce** through mechanisms such as census results and job registers.
- **develop job/employment sheets** that describe required competencies, access conditions, and the employment modalities. They are an indispensable communication tool for promoting job placement, adapting professional training to the needs of the labour market and its development, and improving social dialogue in collective negotiations, student and job seeker orientations.
- **produce more training indicators and put in place a mechanism for following-up with graduates once on the job market** (integration survey or graduate follow-up studies);
- **improve the quality of its website** to better share information with its partners.

These are issues that the OEF proposes to address. To bring them to fruition, the OEF will need increased capacity in terms of staff training, international technical expertise to support the implementation of different tools, and logistical support to upgrade its outdated computer and office systems.

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