

# Proposed Research Approach

## Summary of preliminary research approach

The REFLECT project aims to support Member States in their fight against forced labour by providing cost estimates tailored to specific interventions, sectors and regional contexts. In order to do this in a robust way, two interlinked research tracks have been identified:

- (i) *Track 1:* National level research, which will take place in 5 selected countries with diverse geographical coverage and diverse forms of forced labour, will allow us to test our methodology in various contexts, identify priorities and draw on a large body of localised impact assessments.
- (ii) *Track 2:* Global and regional cost calculations, which will build on the lessons learned from country-level assessments, will allow us to scale up our results to estimate the regional and global financial magnitude of eradicating forced labour in order to achieve Target 8.7 by 2030.

These two research tracks will be further developed following discussions in the Technical Expert Group. This group is composed of researchers and technical experts from international organizations, academia, and other invited organizations and will provide feedback throughout the research process and support the strategy for data collection. It is envisaged that the first meeting of the Technical Expert Group will take place in October 2020.

## National level research

The in-country field research will focus on building detailed roadmaps for selected countries to achieve their stated priorities and beyond to eradicate forced labour by identifying key interventions and establishing budgetary needs to take these interventions to scale.

Broadly, the roadmaps will determine how much of each type of intervention is needed and what this will cost. Though, in order to get to this result, the proposed research must first find the answers to the following questions:

- What policies and programmes exist currently (both broad and targeted)?
- Which have not yet been put in place (from Recommendation 203)?
- How are they implemented/how well do they work?
- How much do they cost (at current rate)?
- How much would they cost to be scaled up to achieve necessary effectiveness?

The national level research will be carried out in four stages:

- 1) *Establishment of baseline profile*, which will take into account existing research and data on forced labour in the country, and a stakeholder mapping to identify potential partners;
- 2) *Data collection for case study work*, which will collect and consolidate data on programming costs and effectiveness;
- 3) *Cost calculations*, which will link to research developed at global and regional levels
- 4) *Final country reports*, which will create roadmaps with detailed costing implications and recommendations, and will serve as an input for ILO's work on the economics of forced labour. Specific country-level events will be held for the communication and dissemination of results.

## Global and regional cost calculations

The global and regional cost calculations will build on the research carried out at the national level in the selected countries. To understand the magnitude of the costs associated with the eradication of forced labour, the project will focus on developing background work and methodologies in three broad areas which will then be integrated to estimate the regional and global figures.

### 1. Definition of target population

Based on the results of the upcoming 2021 Global Estimates on Forced Labour, the project will define a typology of major types of labour exploitation that will serve as a basis for our estimates. Through a modelling process specific for this costing exercise, we will estimate the stock and flow of target population into situations of forced labour, as well as the vulnerable population, for the period of analysis (2021-2030) by sex, region and type of exploitation.

### 2. Definition of measurement focus

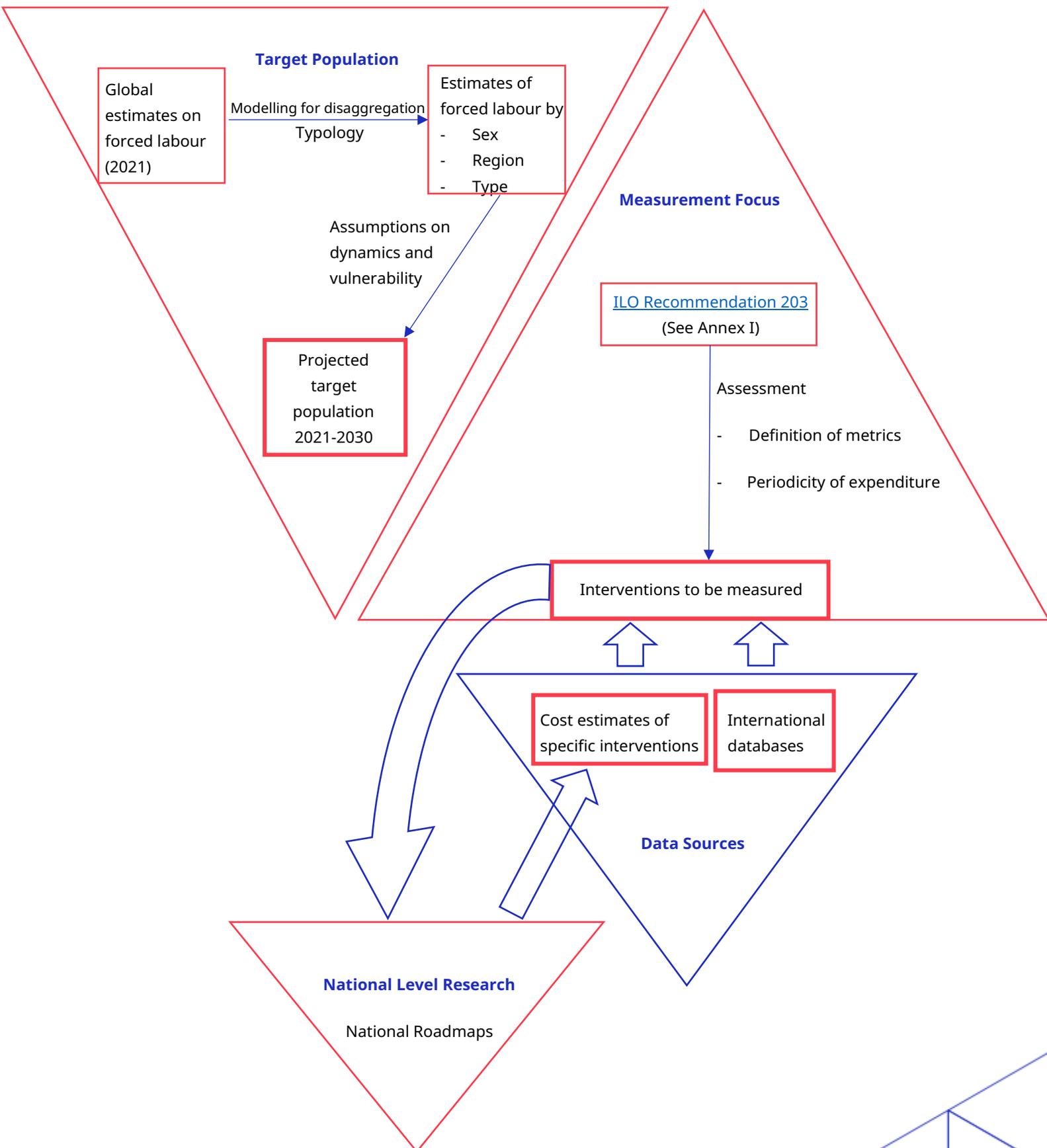
The ILO Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203) will serve as a basis for the identification of interventions to be measured. The project will conduct a full mapping of the Recommendation to identify components that can be quantitatively assessed and measured, taking into consideration the typology developed in the first stage (definition of target population). The project will determine the metrics to be used (e.g. cost per victim), the periodicity of expenditure (in particular, if it is a one-off, seasonal or recurring expenditure). The results of the research carried out in selected countries will be used to determine priority areas for consideration for the global estimates.

### 3. Data collection

Two main sources of data will be used:

- (i) International databases, including databases housed in the ILO, on interventions and policies such as social protection coverage and expenditure;
- (ii) Cost estimates of specific interventions carried out in selected countries. These will be obtained from multiple sources (national statistical offices, government administrative records, CSOs, etc) and will be adapted to the metrics developed during the second stage (definition of measurement focus).

# Research Methodology Flowchart



Pending consultations with the Technical Expert Group, the proposed approach will be refined.