# Outcomes Related to Change in Causal Mechanisms

## Utilization of Services: Indicator 8B[[1]](#footnote-1)

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| **ILAB Standard Outcome Indicator Reference Sheet** |
| **Name of Indicator:**  8B – Number of collective structures or institutions within a system that have institutionalizedmore effective services, processes or programs associated with improved workers’ rights |
| **Name of Result Measured**: Increased institutionalization of services or processes associated with improved workers’ rights |
| **DESCRIPTION** |
| **General Definition(s):** **[“Collective structures or institutions”](https://norc.sharepoint.com/sites/9426-OTLAMEServices/Shared%20Documents/Common%20indicator%20tool/TOsC%20Guidebook--June%202024%20Updates.docx%22%20%5Cl%20%22_Institutions)**  can be interpreted two ways. First, they can be social structures that are collectively created and are continuously altered over time. Institutions can also be “a set of rules governing interpersonal behaviors” (sometimes called “the rules of the game”) that are not owned or possessed by a single actor; rather, they are shared by a larger group or society. See World Bank publication “[The role of institutions in development](https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/575481468740986684/the-role-of-institutions-in-development)” for more information.[**“System”**](https://norc.sharepoint.com/sites/9426-OTLAMEServices/Shared%20Documents/Common%20indicator%20tool/TOsC%20Guidebook--June%202024%20Updates.docx#_System)is a group of interacting, interrelated, or interdependent elements forming a complex whole. Almost always defined with respect to a specific purpose. The terms system and structure are sometimes used interchangeably. See [Introduction to Systems Thinking](https://thesystemsthinker.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Introduction-to-Systems-Thinking-IMS013Epk.pdf) for more information. **“Institutionalized more effective services, processes, or programs”** refers to increased service utilization resulting from process improvements and increases in level of sustained quality and access in a service delivery environment. For example, efforts to raise workers’ awareness of their rights might be considered to be institutionalized if a union is formed, which takes on the responsibility of educating all new employees of their rights within the company/industry. This is usually a long-term process outcome involving a salient process mechanism, i.e., it reflects the cause-effect relationships across multiple steps in a sequence of interactions in which actors engage in activities, interventions, processes or structures (that operate in particular contexts) to generate outcomes of interest. Process mechanisms generate changes in outcome under certain context conditions and refer to empirically traceable phenomena. Examples of relevant services or processes include: collective bargaining, conciliation, dispute resolution, mediation, legal accompaniment, grievance handling, remediation, compliance assistance, bipartite or tripartite social dialogue at enterprise or sector level, complaint or claim filing or handling, information flows, sanctioning, standard operating procedures, social protection and safety nets, and human resource management (including recruitment, training and development, performance appraisal, and reward management, such as managing pay and employee-benefits systems).**[“Program”](https://norc.sharepoint.com/sites/9426-OTLAMEServices/Shared%20Documents/Common%20indicator%20tool/TOsC%20Guidebook--June%202024%20Updates.docx%22%20%5Cl%20%22_Program)** is a set of structured activities or a group of related services managed in a coordinated way that convey a benefit not available from managing, delivering or receiving them individually. A program is also a group of projects managed together in order to gain efficiencies on cost, time, technology, etc. ILAB manages foreign assistance projects through two program offices: (1) the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking; and (2) the Office of Trade and Labor Affairs. Project-level evaluation results are used to inform other projects within these programs.**“Associated with improved workers’ rights”** is a qualifier that indicates that only collective structures or institutions that have utilized services, processes, or programs associated with improved workers’ rights should be included in this indicator. Utilization of other services, processes, or programs not associated with improved workers’ rights should not be included. |
| **Guidance on Aligning Project Indicator Terms with Standard Outcome Indicator Terms:** **“Collective structures or institutions”** * *Include in project indicator definitions the types of collective structures or institutions that will be considered for this indicator.*

**“System(s)”** * *Include in project indicator definitions the specific systems that will be considered for this indicator and the boundaries for those systems.*

**“Institutionalized more effective services, processes, or programs”** * *Include in project indicator definitions the criteria that will be used to determine whether more effective services, processes, or programs have been institutionalized.*

The **“program(s)”** * *Include in project indicator definitions which types of programs associated with improved workers’ rights will be considered for this indicator.*

**“Associated with improved workers’ rights”** * *Grantees should include in their project indicator definitions which services, processes, or programs associated with improved workers’ rights are included in this indicator.*
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| **Calculation(s):** *How, specifically, will you measure each indicator? For example, if you are collecting data from a survey, which questions from the survey, and which response options to those questions, will you use to determine whether a person counts toward the indicator?* |
| **Unit of Measure:** Number of individual actors *[Ensure the project indicator has the same unit of measure]* |
| **Disaggregated by:** *How do you plan to disaggregate the data for reporting?* |
| **How will this indicator be used?** *(optional)***:** *What are the reasons this indicator is important for or relevant to the project? How is progress related to the indicator understood, measured, and defined by local actors in the system?*  |
| **PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION** |
| **Data Source:** *Where will you obtain the data used to report on this indicator?* |
| **Method of Data Collection and Construction:** *How will you collect the data?*  |
| **Reporting Frequency:** *How often will you report on the indicator? (Most indicators will be reported biannually, but some may be reported more or less frequently, depending on project requirements and data availability.)* |
| **Individual(s) Responsible at Grantee Organization:** *Which project roles will be responsible for collecting, analyzing, and reporting on the data? These may be separate people, e.g., MEL specialist, MEL manager, etc.* |
| **TARGETS AND BASELINE** |
| **Baseline Timeframe:** *When will you collect baseline data and what timeframe will those data represent? (If you are relying on other people’s data, the timeframe for the data may be earlier than the timeframe in which you collect it.)* |
| **Rationale for Targets** *(optional)***:** *What are the reasons you chose your targets?* |
| **DATA QUALITY ISSUES** |
| **Dates of Previous Data Quality Assessments and Name of Reviewer(s):** *When did you check the quality of the data?* |
| **Date of Future Data Quality Assessments** *(optional)***:** *When will you check the quality of the data?* |
| **Known Data Limitations:** *What challenges may there be to collecting accurate data? Are there known inaccuracies in the data (e.g., certain populations that are not included in the results) that should be considered when interpreting the data?* |
| **CHANGES TO INDICATOR** |
| **Changes to Indicator:** *What changes have been made to the indicator over the course of the project?* |
| **Other Notes** *(optional)****:***  *What other issues or considerations related to the indicator need to be noted?* |
| **THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON:** |

1. See MEL Plan Fillable Templates for Worker Rights Projects, including the Learning for Action (L4A) Agenda (available at: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/Learning-for-Action-L4A-Agenda-Template-CLEAN-508.docx>); Complexity-Aware Logic Model (available at: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/Project-Logic-Model-Template-combined-page-CLEAN-508-1.docx>); and MEL Process Diary (available at: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/Process-Diary-Template-CLEAN-508.docx>). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)