



PREVALENCE REDUCTION INNOVATION FORUM

ESTIMATING THE PREVALENCE OF FORCED LABOR AMONG DOMESTIC WORKERS IN CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

NORC at the University of Chicago

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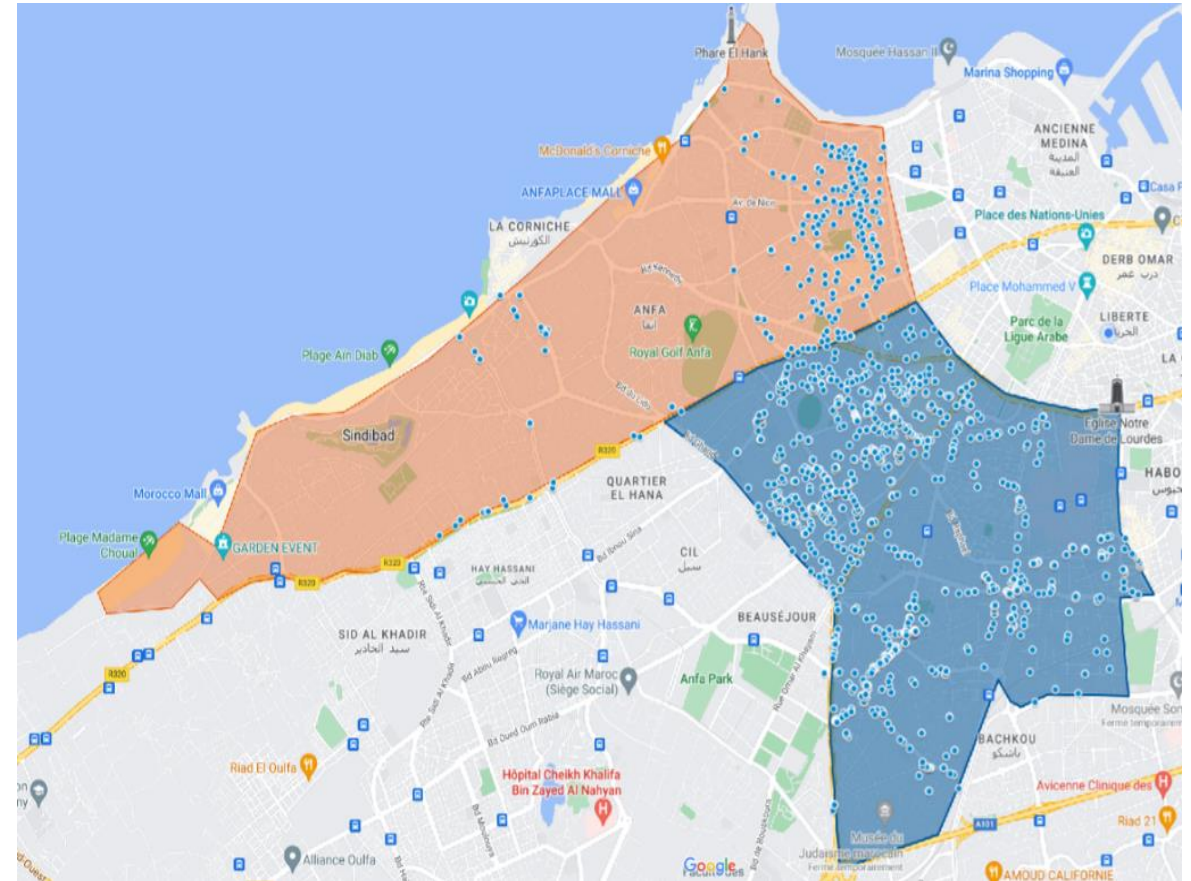
Claire Vision 
Consulting

PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- 1. Explore ways to estimate the prevalence of exploitative labor among domestic workers in Morocco.**
- 2. Apply two methods to estimate the prevalence of exploitative labor among domestic workers in the Greater Casablanca region in Morocco.**

STUDY BACKGROUND

- Morocco has a history of domestic trafficking with limited legislation on trafficking, until very recently
- Very limited existing literature
- Study focuses on urban receiving areas of internal trafficking of female domestic workers
- Anfa and El Maarif municipalities of Casablanca



METHODS

Prevalence Estimation Sampling Approaches

- **Two sampling methods**
 1. Mark-Recapture (MR) (Method 1)
 2. Vincent Link-Tracing Sampling (VLTS) (Method 2)
- **RCT embedded in VLTS component**
- **Local data collection partner:** Claire Vision Consulting
- **Study areas:** Anfa and El Maarif
- **Piloting period:** November – December 2022
- **Main data collection period:** January 17 – March 17, 2023

METHODS

Method 1 – Mark Recapture (MR)

- **Target population:** adult female domestic workers
- **Fieldwork duration:** 6 weeks
- 203 public venues covered over a 6-week period
- Final sample size N = 1,038

Method 2 – Vincent Link-Tracing Sampling (VLTS)

- **Target population:** female domestic workers aged 16 years and above
- **Fieldwork duration:** 8 weeks
- 93 initial “seeds” identified during Mark-Recapture fieldwork
- Two waves of recruitment among domestic worker networks
- Final sample size N = 989

MEASURING & DEFINING A POTENTIAL VICTIM

Threshold 1 – 2 Indicators

- Having to perform sex acts to pay off debt or receive wage
- Losing freedom of movement due to
 - surveillance,
 - experiencing isolation within the workplace, or
 - losing the freedom to communicate with friends or family

Threshold 2 – 10 Indicators

- Experiencing at least 2 or more abuses from two distinct categories of the 10
- Categories of abuse pertaining to
 - recruitment,
 - employment practices and penalties,
 - personal life and properties,
 - degrading work conditions,
 - debt bondage, and
 - violence

Respondents who met either threshold → Potential victims

FINDINGS – METHOD 1 PREVALENCE ESTIMATES

Mark-Recapture Findings (Method 1)

	Mark-Recapture Sampling		
Indicators	Sample* (N=1038)	Population Adjusted**	95% CI
	Percent	Percent	
Meets Threshold 1	14.07	14.28	12.03%, 16.53%
Meets Threshold 2	25.92	27.07	24.20%, 29.93%
Meets Either Threshold 1 or 2	27.75	28.73	25.82%, 31.64%

*Reached a final sample of 1,067 captures across 1,038 unique individuals

FINDINGS – METHOD 2 PREVALENCE ESTIMATES

Vincent Link-Tracing Findings (Method 2)

	Vincent Link-Tracing Sampling				
Indicators	Sample* (N=989)	VH Weights**	HCG Weights	NE4NS	NE4NS CI
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	95%
Meets Threshold 1	20.42	20.89	22.40	19.87	16.76%, 22.99%
Meets Threshold 2	30.23	29.50	35.36	32.00	27.72%, 36.29%
Meets Either Threshold 1 or 2	32.56	32.15	37.92	34.15	29.86%, 38.45%

FINDINGS – COMPARISON OF PREVALENCE ESTIMATES

- We found both estimation strategies to be efficient
 - VLTS produced estimated higher rates of forced labor violations, MR generated a much larger estimated population size
- VLTS appeared to be able to uncover high numbers of forced labor violations
- Forced labor violations were common among domestic workers in the two municipalities in Casablanca (Anfa and El Maarif)

Indicators	MR Sample (N= 1038)	MR Population Adjusted	VLTS Sample (N=989)	VLTS Population Adjusted
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Indicator 1 (Threshold 1)	14.07	14.28	20.42	19.87
Indicator 2 (Threshold 2)	25.92	27.07	30.23	32.00
Either (Indicator 1 or Indicator 2)	27.75	28.73	32.56	34.15

FINDINGS – DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES

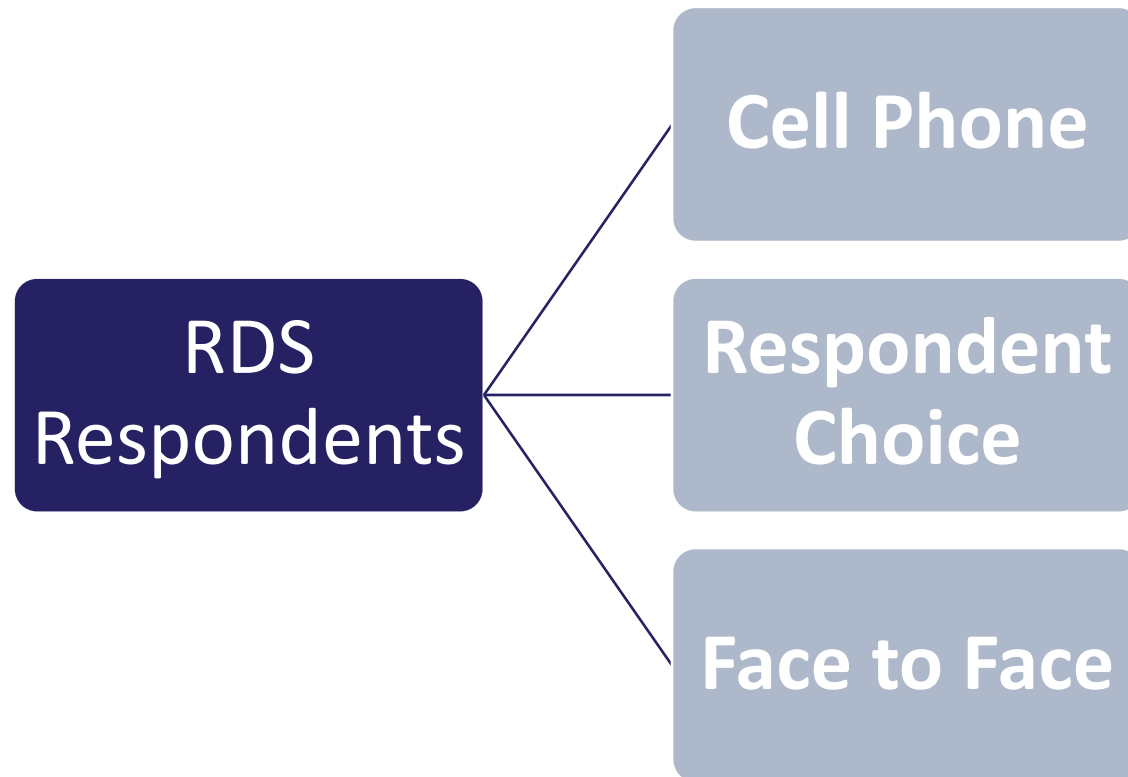
Demographic Characteristics	MR Sample (N=1038)	VLTS Sample (N=989)
Age	40.84 years	39.93 years
Currently Married	NA	54.16%
One or more Children	NA	72.44%
No Education	54.34%	54.87%
Country of Origin – Morocco	99.32%	100%

FINDINGS – MOST COMMON VIOLATIONS

Violation	Current Employer		Ever Happened	
	MR Sample (N= 1038)	VLTS Sample (N=989)	MR Sample (N= 1038)	VLTS Sample (N=989)
Control through religious retribution	2.60%	5.16%	11.95%	18.20%
Required to work extra hours without pay	11.37%	18.60%	30.83%	35.09%
Confiscated identity papers	18.02%	22.35%	29.77%	34.58%
Restrictions on freedom of movement	12.33%	18.10%	30.06%	39.33%

- Most common method of personal control reported by workers in both samples was religious retributions
- In general, reports of violence by current employer were low
- Most common reason people stayed at their current job after experiencing some workplace abuse was that there were no better job options

FINDINGS – RCT



Purpose: An RCT was designed to assess the impact of survey modality on prevalence findings using an VLTS approach.

Modalities: Face-to-face (N=306)
Cell phone (N=300)
Respondent choice (N=292)

FINDINGS – RCT

The three randomized assignments made no differences statistically or substantively in their prevalence rates of forced labor. The same patterns were observed on nearly all constituent items under the two main threshold indicators.

Table 1. Interview Modality and Forced Labor Rates (% Positive)

Indicators	Face-to-Face N=306	Mobile Phone N=300	Choice N=292	Chi-Square
	Percent	Percent	Percent	p-value
Indicator 1	20.59	20.00	20.89	0.96
Indicator 2	29.74	29.33	31.85	0.77
Either Indicator 1 or Indicator 2	33.66	30.67	33.56	0.67

CHALLENGES AND ADAPTATIONS

- Initially focused on child domestic workers.
 - Our formative assessment found new laws in Morocco making CDW illegal were highly known and applied.
 - This made it almost impossible to find actual CDWs. We pivoted to looking at adult domestic workers.
- Initially attempted to compare Time Location Sampling (TLS) and VLTS for estimating the prevalence of domestic servitude.
 - However, during pilot testing we observed very low response rates at the primary TLS venues to reliably measure the frequency of venue attendance, a critical component of a TLS estimation strategy.
 - Therefore, we switched to apply mark-recapture as our estimation approach to compare against VLTS.

LIMITATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

- Data collection was limited to open space recruitments (i.e., street intercepts)
 - Slave-like and/or grossly exploitative working conditions may have been missed
 - Data collection activities were limited to daylight hours, thus systematically missing those who traveled outside these hours.
- Trauma-Informed research training was crucial for enumerators
- Sampling design did not capture a sizeable number of foreign domestic workers
- Our initial approach of using Time-Location Sampling was problematic
 - TLS is expensive when compared to other methods
 - TLS can be methodologically cumbersome
 - TLS assumes a heavy concentration of the target population in a relatively small geographic area

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Awareness building to mobilize domestic workers to understand their rights and entitlements
- Use legal mechanisms to compel employers to implement workplace benefit entitlements
- Improved monitoring and patrolling from governments
- Increased service provision from CSOs

Thank you.

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