Luxembourg has been an ILO member State since 1920 and is a long-standing partner in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Luxembourg has ratified a number of ILO Conventions, including all eight Fundamental, two Governance and 91 of the 177 Technical Conventions.

Luxembourg is strongly engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both at the national and global levels. Within this framework, it has shown a strong commitment to the ILO’s mandate, providing voluntary contributions to the ILO’s development cooperation programme, notably in the fields of social protection, vocational training and youth employment. The ILO cooperates closely with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy, as well as with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Anchored in the 2016 Partnership Agreement between Luxembourg and the ILO, Luxembourg supports development cooperation activities through both un-earmarked contributions as well as programme funding in Luxembourg’s partner countries.

Luxembourg has been a long-standing partner in promoting the Decent Work Agenda.

Luxembourg DeveLopment Cooperation priorities

Luxembourg’s development cooperation activities focus on social development, particularly on health, integrated local development and education, including Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Luxembourg also provides support to microfinance initiatives.

Its priority countries for development cooperation activities are Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and Nicaragua.

In 2017, Luxembourg provided US$ 424 million in net official development assistance (ODA), which represented one percent of the country’s gross national income (GNI).
Luxembourg funds the ILO through:

- **Assessed contributions** paid by all ILO Member States by virtue of their membership, which constitute the ILO’s core funding or regular budget. Between 2015 and 2018, Luxembourg provided more than US$ 1 million.

- **Voluntary core funding contributions** provided by eight ILO donors as a pool of un-earmarked, flexible resources allocated by the ILO to strategic areas and emerging priorities. From 2015 to 2018, total voluntary un-earmarked contributions amounted to US$ 4.2 million.

- **Voluntary, non-core funding contributions** provided as earmarked funds for priority programmes and projects in addition to assessed contributions. Voluntary earmarked contributions from Luxembourg to the ILO in the period 2015-2018 amounted to US$ 7.5 million.

Launched in 2017, the Luxembourg-funded project “Support to the extension of social health protection in South-East Asia” is an example of how the ILO is contributing to the development of social health protection in South East Asia. In Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR), the project worked closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Health to develop a unified health insurance scheme, building from the assessment of the pilot and the monthly monitoring and supervision missions of the pilot implemented in two provinces the project also supported. Concurrently, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, Swiss Red Cross, Fred Hollows Foundation and the ILO are coming together to carry out a year-long costing exercise of the health insurance benefit package and health facility costing, thus providing a comprehensive and coordinated support to the Ministry of Health. In Viet Nam, the project is supporting the revision of the Health Insurance Law by way of producing reviews and evidence to inform policy options. These activities are also allowing the ILO to train workers’ and employers’ organisations to effectively engage into the review process. In Myanmar, the project supports the implementation of the social security board medical reform, which aims to extend coverage and facilitate access to benefits. Regionally, the project is working to establish a sustainable regional technical facility that supports knowledge development and capacity building and provides technical assistance on social health protection, feeding the support being provided at country level.
Promoting Rural Employment in Mali

The Luxembourg-ILo partnership to promote youth employment in rural areas has positively impacted beneficiaries through different activities. Since 2015, the national network for Start and Improve your Business (SIYB), supported by the Conseil National du Patronat du Mali (CNPM) representing Malian employers, is promoting the development of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in rural areas. The SIYB network is particularly benefiting women and young rural distributors and sellers of agricultural products, women members of the network of women economic operators (RFOE), and women producers. In order to expand the reach of the project, 3,000 “Know About Business” manuals have been translated into French and printed for new trainers and young learners in vocational and technical training centres. Complementing these activities, the project strengthened the capacity of public employment services such as the Youth Employment Promotion Agency (APEJ), thereby supporting more than 1,000 youth in rural areas in the production of business plans and access credit from local microfinance institutions. The project also provided trainings and hosted workshops to the Regional Councils in Ségou and Sikasso. As a result of this engagement, each region currently has a strategy on vocational and technical training for employment.

Boosting Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Cabo Verde

This Luxembourg-funded project, implemented by the ILO partnership with the UN Development Programme since 2017, is creating a favourable environment to the development of small and medium enterprises so as to generate employment opportunities for Caboverdean youth. The project is working closely with local actors (employment services, municipalities and universities) on the islands of S. Antão, S. Vicente, S. Nicolau, Fogo and Brava. The project has mobilized 2,175 youth in activities related to employment creation and career development. Based on the Start and Improve Your Business Programme (SIYB) training package and resources, 21 new trainers are now rolling out SIYB trainings in these islands. Furthermore, the project is implementing GET (Gender and Entrepreneurship Together) Ahead for Women in Enterprise, which targets women in low-income households to promote the formalisation of their activities and now has 27 new trainers working with women to help improve their management techniques. In order to improve access to finance, the project is working closely with microfinance institutions and with the Central Bank of Cabo Verde in support of the creation of new financial mechanisms for young people and develop a national strategy for financial education.
Supporting Youth-led Enterprise Development in Senegal

Luxembourg has been a strong contributor to ILO’s activities on employment creation and sustainable socio-economic development in Senegal. Through a project on socio-economic insertion of graduates from vocational training programmes implemented from 2013 to 2017, young people were given the opportunity to acquire entrepreneurial skills and to strengthen their managerial capacity to start income generating enterprises. The project engaged 4,000 participants in trainings on the different types of organizational culture and its implications for enterprise development, and over 6,500 youth in trainings on micro and small enterprise development, self-employment and techniques to generate sustainable business ideas. Over 150 individuals obtained an officially recognized certificate, validating the experience acquired. Moreover, the ILO supported the Ministry of Vocational Training, Learning and Crafts to put a formal apprenticeship system in place, allowing young people to gain practical professional experience in handicraft manufacturing. Thanks to the favourable business environment enabled by the project, 298 enterprises were established, generating 675 direct and 169 indirect employment opportunities. The project was implemented in close collaboration with the public authorities and local professional organizations, as well as with the support of the UN Industrial Development Organization and the UN Development Programme.

Stimulating Youth Employment in the Sahel

With funding from Luxembourg, the ILO is implementing a project on youth employment in the Sahel since 2017. This project contributes directly to the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth by improving knowledge on various key topics such as quality apprenticeships, youth entrepreneurship, and transition to formal jobs. The project is currently developing the second volume of the Guide for Practitioners on Quality Apprenticeships after a first volume was published in November 2017 targeting policymakers. Other tools, surveys and studies are currently being developed, linking quality apprenticeships and youth employment at the global and sub-regional levels.

A multi-partner sub-regional forum on young entrepreneurs and self-employed persons was jointly organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the United Nations Development Fund, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the UN Industrial Development Organization and the ILO and with the support of the Senegalese Government. This event brought together 200 stakeholders involved in the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth to share their experiences and discuss opportunities for policy and skills development and issues of access to market and finance. A second sub-regional workshop on quality apprenticeship was held in April 2019, bringing together representatives of tripartite delegations (Governments, employers, workers) from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Togo as well as, United Nations agencies, representatives from the private sector and civil society. A third event is planned in 2020 on the employment of young people in rural areas.

The project is also implementing a School-to-Work Transition survey in Burkina Faso, which represents a pioneering effort to produce this kind of data in the country. A Quality Apprenticeship pilot project is being developed in the Buildings and Public Works sectors to improve vocational training towards dual-type training, where selected young people will receive on-the-job training based on revised curricula developed closely with the private sector.

Decent work in the 2030 Development Agenda

The 2030 Agenda places decent work and social justice at the heart of policies for sustainable and inclusive development. Its implementation is therefore an integral part of the ILO’s work, built on multi-stakeholder collaboration with the UN, and the development partners. Thematic partnerships and alliances have emerged in this context such as Alliance 8.7 on child and forced labour, or the Global Initiative on Decent Work for Youth. For instance, the ILO developed an online course on the SDGs for workers’ organisations available worldwide and is rolling out a support package for main-streaming decent work into sustainable development at the country level and specific capacity-building measures on SDG target indicators.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS AND FIELD SUPPORT