



International
Labour
Organization



SWEDEN



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION AGENCY

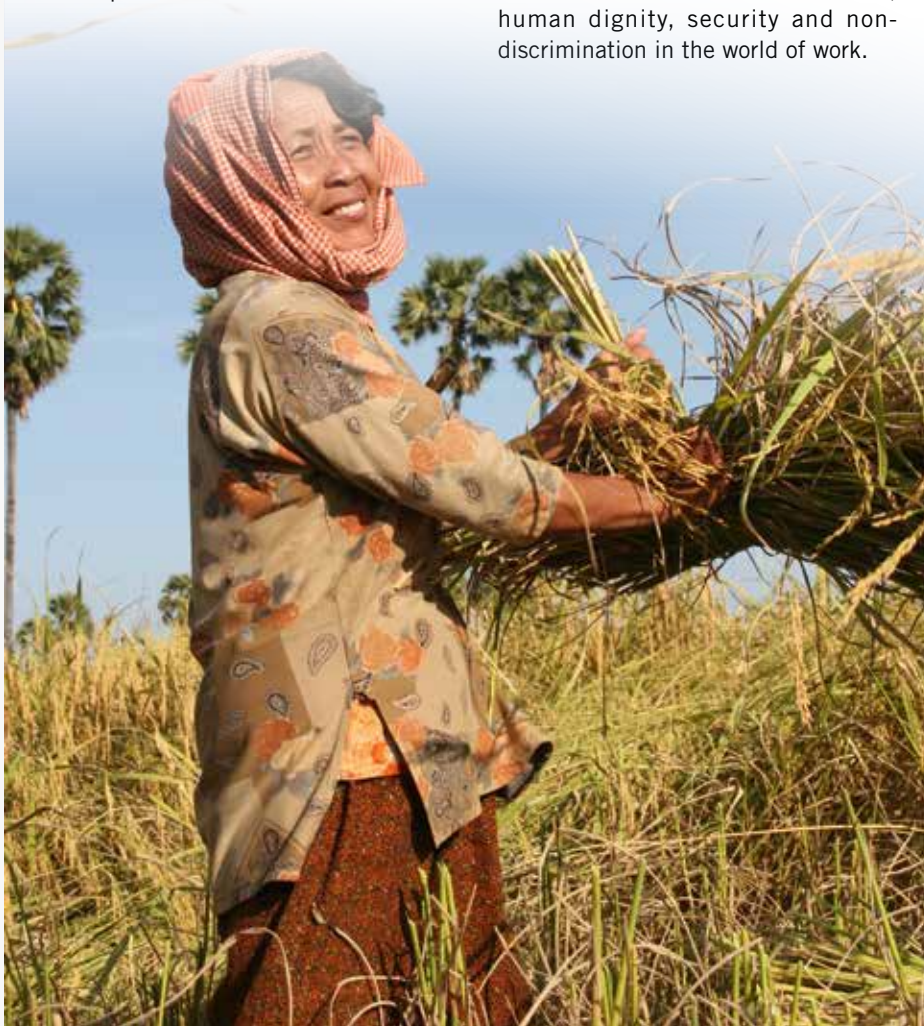
Government of Sweden ILO Cooperation

Sweden was one of the ILO's founder member States in 1919 and is a key partner in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Sweden has ratified a considerable number of ILO Conventions, including the eight fundamental Conventions, the four priority Conventions, as well as 81 of the 177 technical Conventions. In 2012 Sweden ratified the Maritime Labour Convention (2006), which entered into force in August 2013.

Sweden's contribution to ILO priorities

Sweden signed a Partnership agreement in 2009 that regulates voluntary contributions to the ILO. It provides a coherent, predictable and structured framework for cooperation.

The Partnership builds upon the close alignment between the development cooperation priorities of Sweden and ILO's objective to realize social justice and the universal values of freedom, human dignity, security and non-discrimination in the world of work.



SWEDEN'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The overall target of Sweden's development assistance is to ensure that those in poverty have the ability to improve their living conditions. Swedish development aid follows three thematic priorities: democracy and human rights, environment and climate change and gender equality and women's role.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) serves as central administrative agency for Sweden's development cooperation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs formulates policies and strategies, sets guidelines and decides on appropriation of funds for international development cooperation.

Sweden focuses on development cooperation in the following partner countries:

- **Africa:** Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- **Asia:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iraq, Myanmar
- **Latin America:** Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala

Sweden allocated 0.97% of its gross national income to official development assistance (ODA) in 2012, which amounted to US\$ 5.2 billion. Multilateral ODA amounted to US\$ 1.6 billion.

The Partnership Programme 2012-13

The Sweden-ILO Partnership Programme provides thematic funding, lightly earmarked at the level of selected Decent Work Outcomes, which are the backbone of the ILO's Strategic Policy Framework 2010-15.

In 2012-13 Sweden's funding contributed to the achievement of ILO results in **over 70 countries**. Some highlights:

► Sri Lanka: Promoting employment

The ILO supported the preparation of the long-term National Human Resources and Employment Policy 2013-23 (NHREP), which reflects the country's vision for poverty reduction by providing opportunities for employment. The National Budget 2014 now includes financial resources for development of small and medium enterprises (SME) and micro-finance opportunities for women's entrepreneurship.

► Tanzania: Improving working conditions of domestic workers

A survey undertaken with ILO support estimated the number of domestic workers at nearly 885,000 in Tanzania, representing 5 per cent of the working age population. A Tripartite Working Group was established, which developed a National Action Plan (2012-14) towards the promotion of decent work for domestic workers. The Government and the social partners formally launched the Action Plan, which includes the path to ratification of Convention No. 189, the landmark treaty for domestic workers.

► Honduras: Strengthening employers' organizations

Enterprises cannot grow and prosper if the political and institutional environ-



ment is not adequate to this purpose. ILO support in this area relies largely on the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprise (ESEE) toolkit, which was developed and tested with Swedish funding. A significant result was achieved in Honduras, where the Consejo Hondureño de la Empresa Privada (COHEP) has developed a national agenda on sustainable enterprises and is monitoring, jointly with the government, progress towards the implementation of the specific proposals included in it.

► Strengthening workers' organizations in Export-Processing Zones (EPZs)

With ILO support, a collective bargaining agreement was signed and implemented in Togo, where 6,947 temporary workers in different EPZ companies had their contracts converted to that of permanent workers. The remaining workers now have an 8-hour a day working time as well as social security coverage. In Togo, Madagascar and Zimbabwe **over 14,000 EPZ workers have been organized into trade unions**.

► South Africa: Promoting Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining

In South Africa the rural sector has a particularly difficult past given the country's experience during the apartheid years. With Swedish support, the ILO interacted with workers in the wine and citrus sectors, who are often voiceless and unrepresented, as well as with employers in those sectors. This work has led to a diagnostic report on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining (FACB) in the rural sector, which drew together the perceptions of all the stakeholders, recording that they often "talked past" one another in a way that is unlikely to lead to constructive and effective freedom of association and collective bargaining. Key results are: **(1)** the Diagnostic Report on FACB was tabled in Parliament and discussed by the tripartite constituents; **(2)** a National Plan of Action was adopted by the constituents, **(3)** the Ministry of Labour organized training for labour inspectors and Labour Court Judges and **(4)** the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration was engaged in training of labour inspectors.

► The Maritime Labour Convention

The ILO Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) consolidates and updates 37 existing maritime labour Conventions and the related Recommendations in a

single modern and globally applicable ILO Convention. Widely known as the **seafarers' bill of rights**, it is unique in its effect on both seafarers and quality ship owners. Sweden supported the MLC by promoting wide spread ratification to bring the Convention into force by reaching the required 30 ratifications, and by contributing to its effective implementation at the national level. Assistance was provided to **over 40 countries** from all regions. The vast majority of the world's seafarers are now covered by the MLC.



"My expectation is that I become fully trained as a mechanic with training in electrics so I can open my own garage and make a living out of it - a good standard of living"

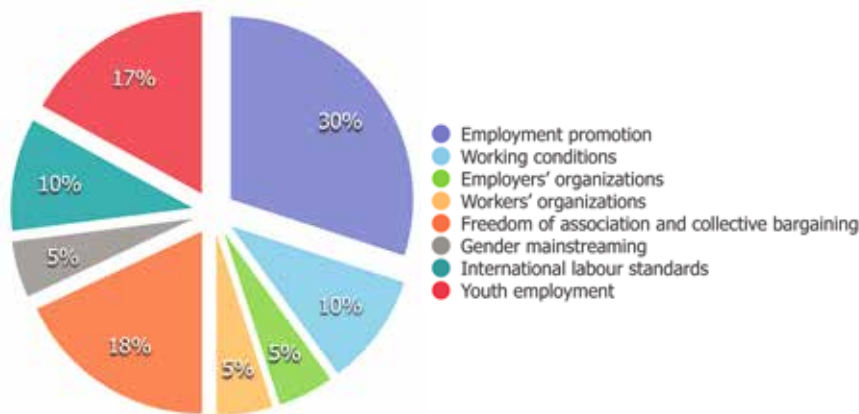
Ahmed Damiri, Apprentice

► Decent work for Jordan's youth

Finding a decent job is difficult for young people in Jordan, where they make up over 60 per cent of the population.

The ILO supported improvements in the national system for skills testing by helping introduce an upgraded apprenticeship model and promote young people's rights at work. A new approach to apprenticeship for car mechanics was tested. This pilot was successfully run and **the large majority of participants found a well-paid job afterwards**. Given this positive result, it is planned to apply this model on a national scale, under the national Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) strategy currently being drafted.

Allocations by Outcome Sweden-ILO Partnership Programme, 2012-13



Support beyond the Partnership Programme

Jobs for rural youth in Zambia: A One UN initiative

Sweden funds an ILO-led joint programme with the FAO and with support from the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The aim is to facilitate sustainable livelihoods for young women and men in rural areas of Zambia, through the promotion of sustainable micro-, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSME). **The expected results include:**

- ▶ The creation of at least **3,000 new jobs** and improved financial performance of at least 5,000 youth owned-managed rural enterprises.
- ▶ To boost food security for the local population by way of increasing the volume of production of soy beans.

▶ The creation of local institutional capacity that will become a platform for the replication of the programme approach in other agricultural value chains.

Rural jobs – an African priority

Two third of Africa's population live and work in rural areas.

Agriculture represents **65%** of jobs in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Per capita food production has barely grown over the last 50 years, only representing **17%** of Sub-Sahara's GDP.

FACTS AND FIGURES ON SWEDEN'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ILO

Sweden finances the ILO through the Regular Budget (RB) and Extra-Budgetary Technical Cooperation (XBTC).

Regular Budget contributions are provided by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. Countries' contributions are based on the United Nations allocations assessment. The total regular budget of the ILO amounted to US\$ 861.6 million in 2012-13, of which **US\$ 9.2 million** was provided by Sweden.

Extra-Budgetary Technical Cooperation (XBTC) contributions support specific global and national projects and programmes with a clear timeline and pre-defined geographic and thematic focus. This includes the lightly earmarked thematic funding of the Partnership. The overall funding from Sweden to ILO XBTC between 2008 and 2013 amounted to **US\$ 40.6 million**.

Sweden was the **8th largest donor** to the ILO's voluntary funds during the period 2010-13.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT KEY AGAINST HIV FIGHT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

To contribute to the Southern Africa Development Community's goal of "controlling and reversing the HIV and AIDS epidemic", Sweden funds an ILO programme on economic empowerment along transport corridors in Southern Africa, which has 3 main components: HIV prevention and impact mitigation in the transport sector; mobilising co-operatives and community-based organisations in the fight against HIV and AIDS; and legal and policy provision.

A recent independent evaluation stated the programme has very high prospects for sustainability, high potential for outreach and also long term impact through multiplier effects. In addition to the relevance of interventions to socio-economic needs of virtually all stakeholders in the programme area, these strategies have resulted in strong ownership and support across all the beneficiary countries.

Public-private partnerships: Corporate Social Responsibility in Cambodia and Bangladesh

The Swedish business sector is taking up an active role in contributing to sustainable development and poverty reduction. Within that framework the international garment brand H&M, Sida and the ILO are cooperating in Cambodia and Bangladesh through two programmes in the garment sector.

In **Cambodia** the aim is to improve industrial relations in the garment industry through a mixture of policy advice and capacity building.

- ▶ At *enterprise level*, the programme seeks commitments to implement, in selected enterprises, the Memorandum of Understanding on Improving Industrial Relations in the Garment within those enterprises, and to eliminate so-called “unfair labour practices.”
- ▶ At *industry level*, the programme works with the Garment Manufacturers of Cambodia (GMAC) and major union confederations to raise awareness of the MOU and of relevant aspects of the labour law.
- ▶ At *national level*, the programme works with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training to improve

conciliation skills, clarify rules and procedures concerning industrial relations, and continue to build a database on union registration and Most Representative Status certifications, and collective bargaining agreements.

Bangladesh has been experiencing remarkable growth in the ready-made garments (RMG) industries for the last three decades. As the second largest shareholder in global apparel exports the RMG sector has become an integral and major part of Bangladesh's economy, and contributes 13 per cent of GDP and 75 per cent of export earnings. Current employment in the RMG sector is over 4 million. Ironically, while the sector is growing rapidly, there is acute shortage of skilled workers.

This programme is expected to bring the industry and training providers and government agencies together in promoting enterprise based training and upgrading the skills of workers which would contribute to enhanced productivity and earnings to workers. The programme integrates workers' rights and occupational safety and health aspects.



PROMOTING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: SWEDEN-ILO COOPERATION SINCE 2002



Sweden's 11 years of support to the Youth Employment Network (YEN) – a partnership between the United Nations, the ILO and World Bank – has been crucial in both positioning youth employment high in the development agenda and providing best practices and support to governments, practitioners, and youth during and after the global crisis.

YEN's primary contribution to this global crisis has been towards a knowledge base on what works, and more importantly what does not and why.

The Youth to Youth Fund was a success in supporting youth in Africa and drawing attention from other implementing partners and donors on a replicable, consistent model to serve small enterprises and necessity entrepreneurs. The Fund was recognized as one of the 30 most important and innovative global models to support micro-entrepreneurship by the World Bank and was showcased in the 100 Innovators Gallery of the Rockefeller Foundation.



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