

► Finland ILO cooperation

June 2023

Finland has been an ILO Member State since 1920 and is a key partner of the ILO in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. It has ratified 102 Conventions and four Protocols, including all ten Fundamental, all four Governance Conventions and 88 technical Conventions.

► Finland's contribution to the ILO's priorities

Finland supports the ILO's mandate both through contributions to the ILO's core budget and to development cooperation programmes and projects. Finland's funding supports ILO's work on closing the gender gap in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, where it has been promoting decent work for more than ten years. Additionally, Finland co-finances the Trade for Decent Work project with the European Commission. The initiative assists the ILO's constituents to improve the

application of the ILO fundamental conventions. Trade for Decent Work started in 2019 with funding from the European Commission, with Finland joining the project in July 2021 to further develop the project's work in five beneficiary countries in Africa. Finland contributed an additional US\$ 3 million to Trade for Decent Work in 2023.

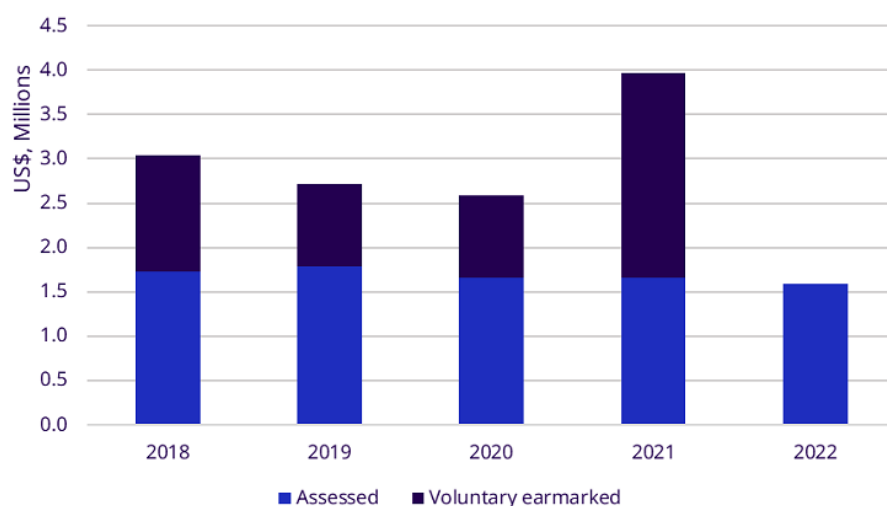
Finland's development cooperation priorities

Finland published a Government White Paper for Development Policy in May 2021 which will extend over several governmental and parliamentary terms. Finland's development policy centralizes themes closely connected to its own values, including the rights of women and girls, high-quality training and education, sustainable economy and decent work, democratic societies and climate change. Finland provides half of its ODA multilaterally and actively contributes to changes in policies and practises of multilateral organizations, such as results-based management, championing gender equality and integrating environmental considerations. Finland's official development assistance is primarily focused on Africa and Asia.

Finland's financial contributions to the ILO

- ▶ **Assessed contributions** to ILO's Regular Budget, paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. From 2018 to 2022, Finland contributed over US\$ 8.4 Million.
- ▶ **Voluntary, non-core funding contributions** earmarked for specific themes or projects. From 2018 to 2022, Finland contributed US\$ 5.5 Million..

Finland's Overall Contributions to the ILO, 2018-22



Finland's support to the ILO's development cooperation



► Trade for Decent Work

The Trade for Decent Work project supports partner countries to overcome challenges in ratifying and implementing ILO Fundamental Conventions. Rooted in cooperation and dialogue, the project seeks to enforce labour rights as well as reinforce political commitment, the capacity of the public authorities, regulation and independent social partners at the centre to progress in social standards and the application of fundamental principles and rights at work.

The project harnesses the potential of trade for decent work, with the objective of ensuring quality jobs and respect of domestic labour rights compliant with international standards.

The Project was launched in January 2019 with the financial support of the European Commission, with the Government of Finland joining the initiative in July 2021. Thanks to this additional contribution, Trade for Decent Work was able to extend its operations to address additional areas of work in the participant countries in Africa. The Project has activities in 13 countries in the regions of Asia and the Pacific, Africa and the Americas.

The programme of action in each participating country is tailor made and enables the project to expand its reach into sectors of particular importance for workers' rights, including children's rights. While the Project tackled child labour in the African region, it addressed the issue in the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana but prioritised the mining sector in Madagascar. In Cabo Verde, child labour was addressed through combatting sexual exploitation in the tourism sector. In all participant countries, the Project mobilised the labour administration and the social

partners to ensure timely reporting to the ILO supervisory bodies.

With the combined support of the European Commission and Finland, the Project provided advisory support enabling the ratification of ILO core instruments in:

- **Bangladesh** – Minimum Age Convention (No.138) and Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention (No.29) in 2022
- **Mozambique** – Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
- **Myanmar** – Minimum Age Convention, (No.138) in 2020
- **Viet Nam** – Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No.98) in 2019 and Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105) in 2020.

The Project also supported legal and institutional reforms enabling Viet Nam to review and adapt its legislation to align with their labour obligations under the Trade and Sustainability Chapter of EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (FTA); the review and adoption of an updated list of hazardous work prohibited to children in Cabo Verde, Ghana and Mongolia; and the development of a roadmap to address the issues raised in a complaint brought against Bangladesh for non-observance of Conventions related to labour inspection, freedom of association and right to organise and collective bargaining. Trade for Decent Work also delivered awareness raising sessions and trainings on International Labour Standards to the judiciary and legislative authorities in Pakistan, Madagascar and Mozambique.

In 2023, the Project is entering its second phase, which will last until 31 December 2025.



► Decent Work for Women in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco Phase II

As the first of its kind, the Unit on Gender Equality and Non-discrimination within the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower was established and subsequently operationalised under the project in 2019. With support from the project, the Ministry also conducted its first institutional gender audit in its history and issued two historic decrees (Numbers 43 and 44), to remove restrictions on women's ability to work at night and in certain professions.



The project focuses on capacity building for, and the development of, women's entrepreneurship. The project developed the Egyptian version of the ILO's Financial Education for Women Training Toolkit. A strong pool of 11 trainers underwent training and certification, and in turn reached out to 767 end beneficiaries in 16 governorates. The toolkit was subsequently adopted institutionally within the National Council for Women. The Government of Egypt also allocated funds to implement the training in Egypt's least privileged villages.

Building upon the results of Phase II, the project will continue to support these constituents through Phase III. During the next three years, the project's goal is to simultaneously enhance women's participation in the labour force and contribute to greening the economy through job creation and entrepreneurship development in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.



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