



▶ Canada ILO cooperation

June 2023

Canada joined the ILO in 1919 as one of the founding Member States of the Organization. Since then, Canada has ratified numerous ILO Conventions, including nine of the ten Fundamental Conventions, three Governance Conventions and 26 Technical Conventions. This partnership has been key to advancing the objectives of the Decent Work Agenda.

▶ Canada's contribution to the ILO's priorities

Canada has proven to be a key partner in the pursuit of decent work for all. It helps to advance ILO objectives through its voluntary contribution to the ILO's development cooperation programme. These voluntary contributions are mainly channelled through the Labour Program of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Through ESDC's technical assistance and capacity building, Canada addresses the social, and particularly the labour dimensions of international trade and

economic integration. This partnership advances fundamental labour rights. The ILO partnership with GAC supports key initiatives promoting youth employment, empowering rural women, and maximising the benefits and minimizing the risks of labour migration. The ILO partnership with IRCC provides technical assistance for the socioeconomic integration of Venezuelan refugees and in host countries of the Quito Process, through skill certification and a better access to public employment services.

Canada's development cooperation priorities

Through its Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada contributes to global efforts to eradicate poverty and address inequality. Canada's vision for international assistance is based on promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls as the most effective approach to building a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world. The Policy is guided by six interconnected areas of action:

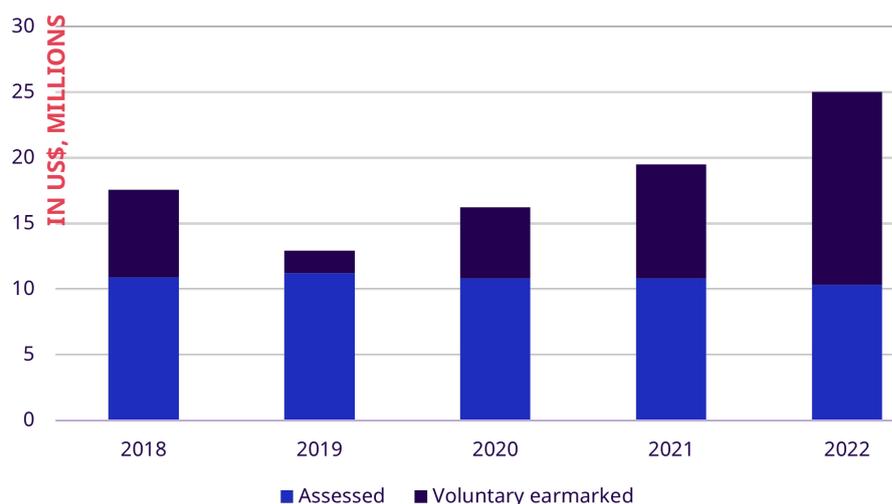
- ▶ Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls
- ▶ Human dignity
- ▶ Growth that works for everyone
- ▶ Environment and climate action
- ▶ Inclusive governance
- ▶ Peace and security

Recent commitments: At the Generation Equality Forum in 2021, Canada made a number of commitments aligned with the Feminist International Assistance Policy to address to advance gender equality around the world, including CAD\$100 million in new support to address unpaid and paid care work issues in low- and middle-income countries. The objectives of this commitment are to support women's ability to participate in the economy, in education, and in public life, thus fostering gender equality, women's economic empowerment and gender-responsive pandemic response.

CANADA'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- ▶ **Assessed contributions**, paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership, constitute the ILO's core funding or regular budget. Between 2018 and 2022, Canada's assessed contribution to the ILO's regular budget exceeded US\$ 54.6 million.
- ▶ **Voluntary contributions** provided as earmarked funds for priority programmes and projects in addition to assessed contributions. Total voluntary contributions by Canada to the ILO between 2018 and 2022 reached over US\$ 37.2 million.

▶ Canada's Overall Contributions to the ILO, 2018-22



Collaboration with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC):

▶ Jordan: Strengthening the Capacity of the Trade Union in Jordan's Garment Sector



Thanks to a collaboration between Better Work Jordan (BWJ) and the Higher Council for the Rights of Workers with Disabilities in Jordan, this project achieved diverse results in late 2022 and early 2023. In late 2022, BWJ commissioned an assessment of workers with disabilities in the Jordanian garment sector. In February and March 2023, and based on the recommendations from the report, trainings were delivered by the Higher Council to workers with disabilities, employers, trade union staff and labour inspectors across three industrial zones: Sahab, Irbid and Dulayl. The training raised awareness of disability rights and inclusion in the workplace. Furthermore, the project collaborated with a trade union expert and trainer to facilitate knowledge sharing and successfully concluded a two-week workshop across Irbid, Sahab, Dulayl and South Jordan (Aqaba). As part of capacity building efforts for the trade union, workers engaged in social dialogue activities with a focus on gender equality as well as learned about the sector's collective bargaining agreement and effective communication during this workshop.

▶ Strengthening Industrial Relations in Indonesia

The project focuses on the Indonesian garment export sector where the ILO has established a longstanding presence through its Better Work Indonesia programme. The project was developed to strengthen the capacity of trade unions to engage with employers and the Government to address labour issues and contribute to more harmonious industrial relations. Ongoing activities support trade unions to upgrade their operational, technical and policy engagement capacity at the federation, branch and workplace levels. The project fosters constructive engagement practices towards women members and the inclusion of women's voices and presence in decision-making and policy discussions.

As part of a larger ILO effort that also covers the palm oil and fisheries sectors, the project seeks to improve or develop new data systems for trade union operations, outreach and case management. The project collaborated with the Confederation of Indonesian Trade Unions (CITU) and the Confederation of all Indonesian Trade Unions (KSBSI) – two of the largest union confederations in Indonesia – to develop the study "Systems Analysis for Grievance Documentation and Case Management Systems".

▶ Improving Compliance with Key International Labour Standards in Ukraine

A shift in constituents' priorities, caused by the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine in early 2022, entailed a reprogramming of project interventions. In the immediate term and within its scope, the project addressed the humanitarian needs of trade unions in the country. Throughout 2022 national constituents continued to operate and requested additional technical expertise from the ILO on labour law reform (ongoing in Ukraine), improving equal pay policies and strengthening the capacity of social partners to promote Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) at the workplace. Additionally, ad-hoc support was provided to trade unions through trainings on psycho-social support, providing services to internally displaced persons (IDPs), the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work and the integration of approaches towards preventing violence and harassment in collective bargaining agreements.

► **Strengthening the Capacity of Labour Inspection in the Cambodian Garment Sector**



The project works with Cambodia's Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MLVT) and industry partners to promote sustainable compliance and strengthen social dialogue in the Cambodian garment sector, specifically targeting the rapidly growing footwear, travel goods and bags factories. Interventions focus on capacity development of labour and OSH inspectors through jointly developed action plans, which lay out commitments between tripartite constituents. In October 2022, Better Factories Cambodia (BFC), MLVT, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and the Textile, Apparel, Footwear & Travel Goods Association in Cambodia (TAFTAC, formerly GMAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). With a focus on mutual capacity sharing, the MoU includes an agreement on modalities for assessments and an agreement that BFC will continue to deliver its factory-level core services, targeted technical assistance and capacity building requests.

Collaboration with Global Affairs Canada (GAC):

► **FORTER'ESS - Promoting Decent Work through Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations in Tunisia**

The FORTER'ESS project works with the Tunisian government and social partners to strengthen the resilience of 22 women-led, social and solidarity economy (SSE) organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the governorates of Beja, Jendouba and Kef. These organizations are implementing recovery plans aimed at improving their workspaces, addressing the financial impact of the pandemic and training their members. FORTER'ESS intervenes through its support programme in marketing, access to markets and technology tools as well as production and governance of collective organizations.

Through this project, 22 production units were re-organized, benefiting over 400 women producers. The project facilitated participation in eight national and regional fairs, leading to improved market access for the beneficiary organizations. Additionally, 60 women leaders participated in a leadership development programme. The project supported the development plan in the context of the SSE and trained 30 civil servants on the legal framework of the cooperative system.



“I faced many challenges during the pandemic, including the suspension of our wheat, barley and maize processing activity. We were unable to pay our bills and rent, which complicated our relationship with our partners and led to the loss of our equipment. Thanks to the FORTERESS project, we were able to relaunch our activity, purchase a new packaging machine, rent a more suitable space for our female workers and resolve conflicts with our partners. Through this project, which strengthens the resilience of women-led organizations in the social and solidarity economy, we were able to increase our workforce from 10 to around 40 women engaged in our Agricultural Development Association. Today, we are stronger and better equipped to face future challenges, both financially and managerially”

► **Ms Leila Omrani**, President of Agricultural Development Association *Al Hayat*, Tunisia

► **Opening Doors: More and Better Decent Work Opportunities for Domestic Workers in Peru**



The project aims to improve the socioeconomic conditions of women care workers, especially domestic workers in Peru, via two

pillars. First, the project provides technical assistance to the Ministries of Women, Labor, Health and Education to strengthen the delivery of programmes and services, including the implementation of the new Domestic Workers Law, which promotes formalization of the profession and through the National Care System, which provides a regulatory framework for the

care economy as a whole. Secondly, the project works collaboratively with unions, two national federations of domestic workers (FENTTRAHOP and FENTRAHOGARP) and women's organizations, including national women's rights organization Flora Tristan. This collaboration aims to empower domestic workers to claim and defend their rights as valued professionals within Peruvian society. As part of their advocacy work, national communications campaigns help raise awareness on domestic workers rights, employers' responsibilities under the new law and existing resources that are available to support domestic workers.

▶ ASEAN Region: Protecting the Rights of Migrant Workers



Protecting the rights of migrant workers in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region has been at the core of Canada-ILO cooperation since 2012. “TRIANGLE in ASEAN: Safe and Fair Labour Migration” 2016-2024 is a partnership between GAC, the ILO and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). TRIANGLE in ASEAN delivers technical assistance and support with the overall goal of maximizing the contribution of labour migration to equitable, inclusive and stable growth in ASEAN. In 2021, GAC extended its support to TRIANGLE in ASEAN until 2024, allocating new funding with a specific focus on low-paid migrant care workers and countering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant workers.

The programme works nationally across six countries (Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) and engages with all ASEAN Member States at regional level. It works in close cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Committee on Migrant Workers (ACMW), governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs) to achieve three inter-linking objectives: strengthening protection of the rights of migrant workers, enabling migrants to contribute to and benefit from economic and social development and establishing labour mobility systems that are gender-responsive and increase the efficiency of labour markets. The programme has a cross-cutting Gender inclusivity and equality strategy (GIES) which incorporates inclusivity of diverse SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics), migrant workers and migrant workers affected by disability.

▶ ProGRESS: Promoting Gender Responsive Enterprise Development and TVET Systems in Bangladesh

Through the ProGRESS project covering ten districts in Bangladesh, the Government of Canada and ILO Bangladesh have partnered to strengthen Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and enterprise development systems to make them more inclusive and accessible for women by working on policies, systems and operations. The Directorate of Technical Education is the implementing agency and The National Skill Development Authority, the Department of Women Affairs, the Small and Medium Enterprises Foundation, the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training of Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment, the

Ministry of Chittagong Hill tracts Affairs are collaborating partners in this project. Interventions are designed to effectively address the low labour force participation of female workers in wage and self-employment as well as their limited access to the business development services required for initiating self-employment.

ProGRESS helps enhance the employability of the female workforce of Bangladesh, improving women’s economic well-being and maximizing their contributions to national economic growth through strategic improvements in the TVET and enterprise development systems.

Collaboration with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC):

▶ Fair Recruitment in Central America: Strengthening Institutional Capacities for the Socioeconomic Integration of Migrants and Refugees

Thanks to IRCC’s contribution, the project helps strengthen the capacities of key actors on fair recruitment practices and the integration of refugees and migrants, including returning migrants, in Central American labour markets. The project implements activities in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras, as well as regional interventions across Central America. It is integrated within the ILO Regional Strategy on labour migration and human mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean, which has Fair Recruitment as one of its five pillars. In 2022, the ILO worked in partnership with the Ministries of Labour of Guatemala and Honduras to develop fair recruitment tools designed to prevent refugees and migrants from

becoming victims of trafficking and forced labour. The project also initiated the development of an Employability and Human Talent Strategy in Costa Rica, and migrants were included as a priority group. This initiative seeks to achieve coherence between employment and migration policies that facilitate the adaptation of jobs to skills and the improvement of protections for migrant workers while highlighting their contribution to development. Finally, within the framework of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), the project developed a «Regional Strategy for the Recognition of Labour Competencies to facilitate labour mobility in Central America and Mexico.»

Contact details

International Labour Organization
Route des Morillons 4
CH-1211 Geneva 22 Switzerland

T: +41 22 799 7370
E: partnerships@ilo.org
ilo.org/partnerships