

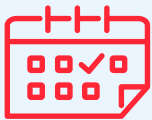


# ► Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy Policy in Asia



November 2022

## ► At a glance



### Duration

July 2021 –  
December 2023



### Donor

Government of  
Republic of Korea



### Geographical coverage

Cambodia, Mongolia,  
Kyrgyzstan, Thailand  
and Vietnam

## ► What is this project about?

Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is gaining traction globally as a driver for job creation, and inclusive and sustainable development. In the absence of legal and policy frameworks, however, it can be difficult for policymakers to identify SSE entities and differentiate them from other businesses and support them adequately.

To help overcome these challenges, the project aims to help policymakers, workers' and employers' organizations and practitioners better understand the SSE's contribution to decent work and sustainable development and elaborate SSE policies and/or mainstream the SSE in their policies and programmes. This initiative is part of a larger project on [Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy Knowledge Base](#) in Asia and a continuation of a first phase that focused on a different set of countries in Asia.

## ► What is Social and Solidarity Economy?

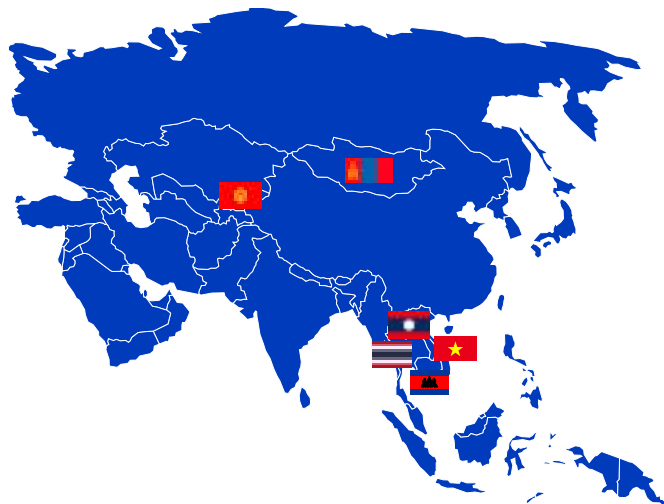
“Social and solidarity economy encompasses enterprises, organizations and other entities that are engaged in economic, social, and environmental activities to serve the collective and/or general interest, which are based on the principles of voluntary cooperation and mutual aid, democratic and/or participatory governance, autonomy and independence, and the primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or

profits as well as assets..."<sup>1</sup> The SSE in Asia encompasses cooperatives, associations, community self-help groups and mutual aid organizations with a long trajectory in the region. It also includes social enterprises, a new form that blends social objectives with income generating activity, and organizations representing informal economy workers. The origins of the SSE can be traced to the principles of solidarity, reciprocity and mutuality deeply rooted in the region's cultures and traditions.

## ► Focus

The second phase of the project focuses on the following countries:

- Cambodia
- Mongolia
- Kyrgyzstan
- Thailand
- Vietnam



## ► How will this project be implemented?

The project will be carried out through two areas of work:

**Research:** Conduct a mapping of the SSE landscape in each country using an analytical tool, and undertake multiple country case studies on the SSE

**Capacity building:** Carry out capacity building activities for the policymakers, workers' and employers' organizations and practitioners in the five countries to deepen their understanding of opportunities and challenges on the SSE and strengthen their technical capacities towards developing and/or mainstreaming SSE in their policies and programmes.

Research	Capacity-building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Refine the analytical research framework</li> <li>► Carry out five country studies on mapping the SSE landscape</li> <li>► Elaborate a normative model on the SSE which can be identified across all eleven countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Design and implement SSE capacity-building activities</li> <li>► Establish a regional community of practice of SSE</li> <li>► Implement national follow-up activities to facilitate the co-creation of SSE policies</li> </ul>

A national consultant (researchers at national universities and/or research centers) will lead the effort in each of the selected countries with the support and guidance of national advisory committees. The consultants will produce a case study on mapping the SSE landscape in each of the five countries.

A comprehensive report capturing all findings and lessons learned from the five countries will be produced with the guidance of the regional advisory committee by 2023.

The ILO will organize a research conference to present the key findings and foster social dialogue, knowledge sharing and collaboration among government officials, representatives of workers' and employers' organizations, practitioners, researchers, and other relevant stakeholders.

The findings from the project will provide inputs towards reaching a common understanding on the SSE and contribute towards elaborating a normative model for the SSE in Asia which can be identified across all eleven countries of Asia.

<sup>1</sup> Resolution concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy, International Labour Conference, 110th Session, 2022.

## ► Who are the target beneficiaries?

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- Policymakers in the five countries to become acquainted with institutional and legal frameworks needed for the SSE to thrive in their countries;
- Employers' and workers' organizations, cooperative and wider SSE institutions in the five countries to become better informed about the scope, nature, limitations, and opportunities around the SSE; and
- The staff of relevant ILO departments and field offices who are working with ILO constituents in developing and strengthening SSE policies in Asia and beyond.

**To find out more about the project, see [Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia](#).**

**For more information on the initiative, contact ILO's Cooperatives Unit: [coop@ilo.org](mailto:coop@ilo.org)**

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