



International
Labour
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► ILO Core Voluntary Funding (RSBA) Partners Visit Côte d'Ivoire

October 2022

In Côte d'Ivoire, delegations could see the results of their essential contributions firsthand.

Highlights

- Delegations from the nine countries that provide unearmarked funding (RSBA) to the International Labour Organization (ILO) visited Abidjan from 5-7 October, 2022.
- RSBA funding has made it possible to immediately support the resilience of workers in the informal economy that were affected by the post-COVID-19 crisis recovery, including in Côte d'Ivoire.

Turning Decent Work into reality

The Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) has emerged as a key funding modality through which the ILO and its development partners can advance the Decent Work Agenda and the associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the ILO's unearmarked, voluntary core funding modality, RBSA is a critical element of the ILO resource mix.

The flexibility that comes with unearmarked resources allows the ILO to respond in areas and countries where opportunities for results emerge and other resources are not readily available. This funding type was particularly important as part of human-centred and socio-economic responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

Across its areas of operations, the ILO leverages RSBA resources in several ways, including to:

- Launch innovative initiatives;
- Respond quickly to emerging needs;
- Expand the scope or scale of existing programs;
- Integrate cross-cutting issues into labour policies and programs;
- Mobilize more funds from other sources;
- Work in partnership with other UN agencies to make its assistance activities more sustainable;



► Thanks to COMOVIMAR, I could double my income and now I can help my husband with household expenses. I thank the ILO for this guidance"

► Fofana Marian, a plantain seller

The nine RBSA funding partners - Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden - were in Abidjan, where they had the opportunity to meet women that were supported to create COMOVIMAR, a modern cooperative in the suburban area of Marcory, thanks to the training they received from ILO. The ILO also enhanced the capacity of national stakeholders to register informal workers for Universal Health Coverage and the Special Regime for

Independent Workers, enabling the transition to formal economy and giving them access to social protection.

In Abidjan, female workers engaged in training and were empowered to leave the informal sector to launch their own small businesses in the food industry, raising their incomes as a result.

► A life-changing experience

Thanks to the intervention, approximately 20 entrepreneurs from the formal economy benefitted from the pilot phase, receiving training on the ILO [Start and Improve Your Business Programme](#) and [Formalize your business training](#).



The Director of ILO Office in Côte d'Ivoire, Frédéric Lapeyere, explains that the ILO was able to support the implementation of the national strategy for the formalization of the informal economy thanks to the support of RSBA as well as reinforce existing partnerships and enhance synergies between on-going activities in Cote d'Ivoire.



Sweden is proud to support these women, who made good use of the funds provided. We want to congratulate them, and we want to continue this beneficial partnership for all."

► **Thérèse Sjöström Jaekel**, Swedish Development Cooperation.

For example, the RSBA intervention was able to catalyze support for the development of an awareness raising campaign on the formalization of domestic workers. RSBA contributors were able to attend a campaign event [for the project AGRIDOM](#), which is funded by the Government of Switzerland, during their visit.



Contact details

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

T: +41 22 799 7239
E: pardev@ilo.org