



International
Labour
Organization

▶ United Nations ILO cooperation

▶ December 2023

The United Nations development system (UNDS) encompasses 15 specialized agencies, 23 Funds, Programmes, research institutes and other entities in addition to numerous functional and regional commissions and subsidiary bodies. Within this framework, the International Labour Organisation assumes a distinct role and responsibility in assisting member States in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 8) – to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, social justice and decent work for all – while also actively contributing to the realisation of all SDGs and their respective targets.

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) shares core principles with the ILO's Decent Work Agenda in that it is universal, inclusive, transformative, and firmly based on the normative framework of the UN system. [The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection](#) for Just Transitions are embodied in [UN SG Transitions pillars](#), offering valuable guidance for adopting a human-centred approach to the future of work, promoting international initiatives and cooperation.

Since 2018 the UN has embarked on a reform process aimed at enhancing the cooperation, coherence, and results-based orientation of the UNDS at the country, regional, and global levels in full support of the 2030 Agenda. As a specialized agency within the UNDS, the ILO is actively engaged in the implementation of the [UNDS repositioning](#) Reform to safeguard the integration of the Decent Work agenda into policy frameworks, while emphasizing the significance of tripartism – collaborating with Governments, workers' and employers' organizations – as well as the role of social partners throughout this process. These efforts aim to ensure that ILO collaborates with other members of the UN system to '[deliver as one](#)', while also fully valuing the unique and complementary contributions of each member of the UNDS.



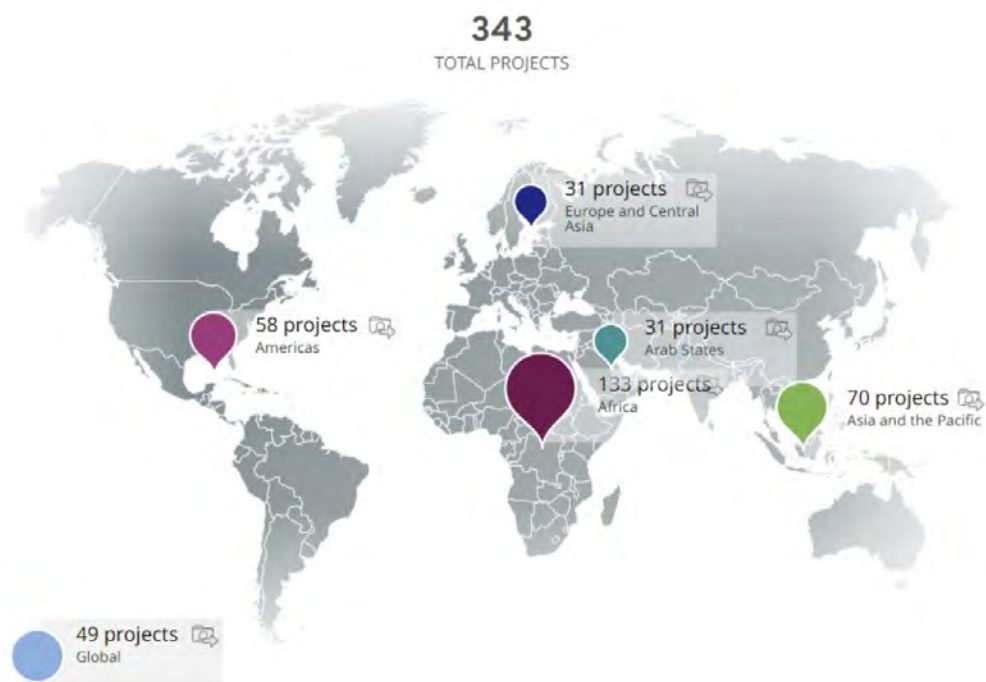
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PARTNERSHIP FOR DECENT WORK

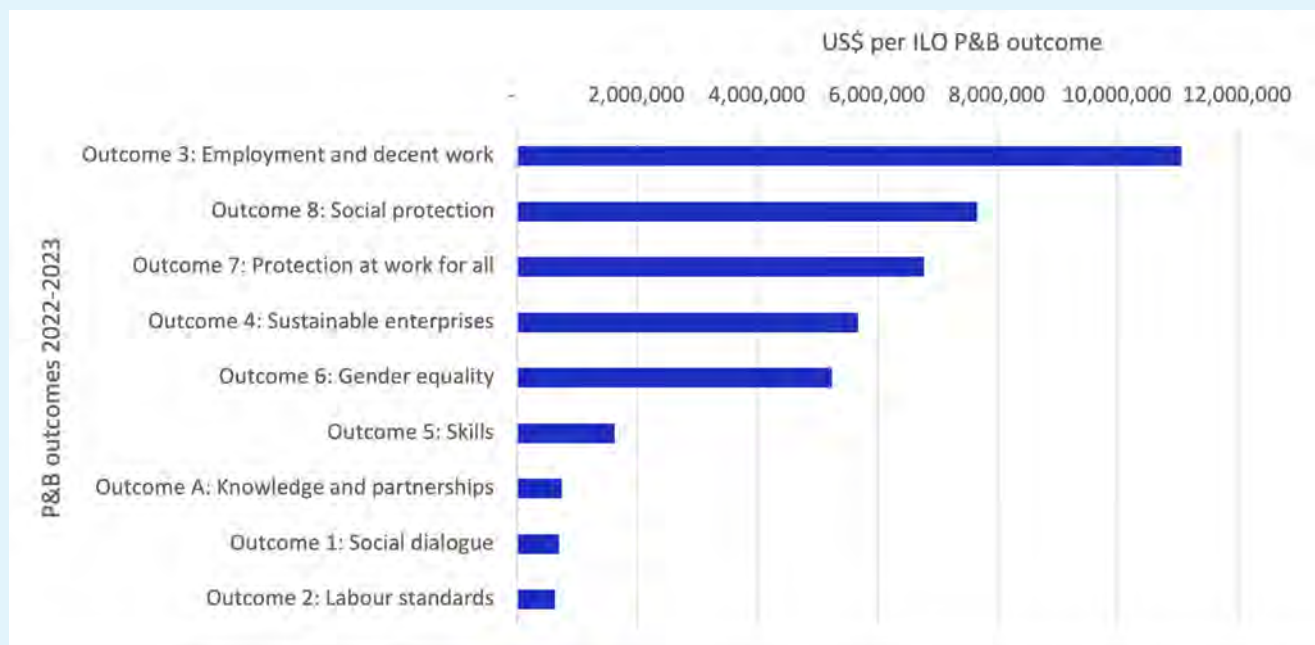
ILO has formed close partnerships with a range of UN entities to promote decent work and social justice for all women and men. Within this framework, ILO projects implemented with the financial support of development partners in the UN system accounted for around 10 per cent of the ILO's total active development cooperation projects in 2022. The ILO also plays a key role in a range of different Joint UN Programmes and harnesses the potential of UN Multi-Partner Trust Funds to bring decent work to all along the Leave No One Behind UN commitment.

From 2018 to 2022 the UN has contributed over US\$176 million to ILO interventions at country level and in support to some work undertaken by technical departments at global level. With support from nearly 30 UN partners, the ILO implemented 343 projects across Africa, the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia, Asia and the Pacific, and the Americas regions in support of ILO's outcomes as well as the SDGs. In 2022, the UN was the fourth largest source of voluntary contributions to the ILO.

► UN's support to ILO interventions in 2018–2022



► UN funds per ILO programme and budget (P&B) outcome 2022–2023



Source: [ILO Dashboard](#)

► Joint SDG Fund

The [United Nations Joint SDG Fund](#) supports countries as they accelerate their progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Fund operates through a series of calls under below-mentioned windows for the UN system that lead to the implementation of transformative Joint Programmes, under the leadership of Resident Coordinators. In doing so, the Fund is committed to forge paths and partnerships that unlock public and private capital for the SDGs at scale.

Past Fund windows have demonstrated the pivotal role played by the ILO in effectively implementing collaborative programs addressing Social Protection and Leave No One Behind (LNOB), Financing and Catalytic Investments. The Joint SDG Fund has also channelled funding to strengthening resilience and ending the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to accelerate the SDGs. The ILO was involved in 7 joint programmes for a total amount of US\$ 1,838,700.

Joint SDG Fund Windows



► Investing in Prevention and Peacebuilding

The [Peacebuilding Fund \(PBF\)](#) is designed to prevent a relapse into violent conflict through the delivery of fast, flexible, and relevant funding. Supported by fifty member states and the private sector, the PBF has supported the ILO since 2009. Its contributions to the ILO since 2018 have totalled US\$ 11.2 million for 17 projects. Through decent work and social dialogue, the projects have promoted social cohesion and the political and economic empowerment of conflict-affected communities, with a focus on women and youth.

The New Way of Working is one of the elements of the UN Secretary General reform agenda, in which he calls on individual agencies, the UN system, and the “system as a whole” to work together across the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus by breaking down silos and “bring the humanitarian and development spheres closer together from the beginning of a crisis to support affected communities, address structural and economic impacts and help prevent a new spiral of fragility and instability.”

The ILO has an important role to play in crisis response and should aim to be proactively involved in the nexus at an early stage through joint UN programming, supplementing humanitarian emergency action with interventions to stimulate and support long-term socio-economic development in an inclusive, peace-responsive, and rights-based manner.¹

In Mauritania, the ILO and UNODC implemented a project on *Preventing violent extremism through the empowerment of young people in conflict with the law and strengthening access to rights and justice*.

The project had a positive and lasting impact on such youth, promoting social cohesion and preventing violent extremism. It supported the Mauritanian justice system, focusing on social inclusion and economic integration of young individuals from identification to reintegration. Capacity building and other support were provided to social assistance structures, enhancing their ability to address employability issues and advise identified young people.

Additionally, the project empowered youth associations to play a role in reducing vulnerabilities among young people in conflict with the law, resulting in increased engagement in crime prevention and social reintegration, and enhanced trust and cooperation with relevant institutions.



¹ ILO, 2021, [Employment and decent work in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#).

► Spotlight Initiative Joint programme on violence against women

A joint initiative of the UN and the European Union, the [Spotlight Initiative](#) to eliminate violence against women and girls, is a global initiative to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence. Spotlight supported the ILO's engagement in four projects in Southeast Asia, Timor-Leste, Zimbabwe, and Argentina with contributions totalling US\$ 19.2 million.

The ILO has implemented until 2023 the [Safe and Fair](#) project: Realizing Women Migrant Workers' Rights and Opportunities in the ASEAN Region. The project, a collaborative effort between the ILO, UN Women, and UNODC, aimed at ensuring safe and equitable labour migration for all women within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. The initiative achieved the following, in partnership with civil society:

- Organized women migrant workers into networks and advocacy platforms, including a new domestic workers' network.
- Supported women migrant worker leaders in advocating for Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment.
- Improved access to support services such as psychosocial, health, legal, and skills certification for migrant workers.

- Trained government departments, service providers, and organizations on women migrant workers' rights and quality service provision, and established Migrant Worker Resource Centres in six countries. Additionally, provided technical support on legal and policy instruments related to labour migration and ending violence against women.



► COVID-19 Response and Recovery

The United Nations [COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund](#) was designed to support low- and middle- income countries, within the framework of the UN Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs), to overcome the health and development crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and targets those most vulnerable to economic hardship and social disruption. It has supported the ILO's engagement in 22 projects with US\$ 6.6 million in contributions supporting migrant, informal, and frontline workers that have been most affected as well as ensuring continuity of education, promoting economic recovery of SMEs and the informal sector, and improving resilience of communities. The Fund has enabled the UNDS to act collectively and respond quickly to the most acute early phases of the development emergency, meeting national needs and addressing critical gaps in the socio-economic response to COVID. As a member of the Advisory Committee, the ILO was part of the COVID MPTF's governing structure.



Whereas the ILO contributed to 22 projects, it was the lead on 4, including the *Inclusive Economic Recovery through Sustainable Enterprises in the Informal Economies of Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu* project. Its integrated interventions have successfully improved the employment and business environment, for instance the deployment of digital platforms in Vanuatu reached 5,000 informal sector workers.