



International
Labour
Organization

Trade, Labour and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in South-East Asia: Promoting labour compliance and sustainability in export sectors

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Homeworkers and their families in Indonesia. © Ferry Latief/ILO, 2012.

► At a glance



Partners

- Government: ASEAN Secretariat, national labour ministries.
- Employers and Workers' Organizations: Trade unions, industry bodies.
- Judiciary
- Trade sectors
- Others stakeholders beyond ASEAN



Funded by

Employment and Social Development
Canada (ESDC)



Duration

March 2024 – February 2029



Budget

CAD 6.99 million

► Project overview

South-East Asia's rapid economic growth, fueled by its export sectors, has not been matched by equal progress in labour rights. Violations such as forced labour, child labour, unsafe working conditions and restricted union freedoms are prevalent, especially in trade-related industries. The *Trade, Labour and FPRW in South-East Asia* project seeks to tackle these issues by promoting compliance with international labour standards, particularly the **Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW)**.

The project will strengthen the enforcement of these standards, focusing on export sectors critical to the region's economy. It aims to enhance labour compliance, foster tripartite dialogue between governments, employers, and workers, and ensure the integration of gender equality and inclusion across all project activities.

Key focus areas

- **Labour rights compliance:** Catalyzing policy dialogue on labour rights, including FPRW in trade policies and practice.
- **Tripartite dialogue:** Strengthening dialogue between governments, employers, and workers.
- **Gender and inclusion:** Promoting gender equality and combating workplace discrimination.

► Key data

- **South-East Asian workforce:** 351 million¹
- **ASEAN economic growth:** 5.7% in 2022, projected 4.6% in 2023²
- **ASEAN trade-related employment:** 79.4 million³
- **Child labour:** 48.7 million across Asia and the Pacific⁴
- **Forced labour:** 15.1 million in Asia and the Pacific⁵

► Key outcomes

1. **Strengthened capacity** of ASEAN stakeholders to uphold labour compliance with international standards, including FPRW.
2. **Awareness and knowledge** built among stakeholders in the ASEAN region for informed action towards FPRW.
3. **Enhanced intersectoral dialogue and consensus** on labour rights compliance and the enforcement of FPRW in the ASEAN region.
4. **Enhanced integration of labour rights compliance and sustainability** in ongoing ASEAN region initiatives to improve the implementation of FPRW in the sub-region.

► Implementation strategy

- **Technical assistance and capacity building:** Support for labour officials, workers, and employers' organizations through tailored training and technical assistance.
- **Collaboration with ASEAN:** Working closely with the ASEAN Secretariat and other regional platforms to ensure integration with existing initiatives.
- **Gender and inclusion:** Mainstreaming gender equality, including in labour dialogues and decision-making.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Robust data collection to measure the project's impact, with a focus on vulnerable groups and gender representation.

► Expected impact

- **International Labour Standard compliance:** Measurable improvements in international labour standards and worker rights enforcement in export sectors.
- **Gender empowerment:** Enhanced gender equality and representation in labour dialogues and decision-making.
- **Regional integration:** Stronger alignment of ASEAN initiatives with international labour standards.



Project Website



3-minute survey

1 ILOSTAT 2022
2 ILOSTAT 2022
3 ASEAN STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS 2023
4 Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward
5 Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage

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