

NEW PUBLICATIONS AND TOOLS

SIYB SUCCESS STORIES

Every year, SIYB transforms the lives of thousands of entrepreneurs worldwide. Recognizing that the experiences of fellow entrepreneurs can provide valuable lessons and motivation, the Global SIYB Team curates and shares inspiring success stories from those who have been trained using SIYB packages. Explore this year's top 10 success stories [here](#).

NEXT-GEN SIYB WEBINAR

In September 2024, the ILO SIYB Global Coordination Team organized a knowledge exchange webinar on the use of AI tools to enhance and complement SIYB training and on lessons learned from Training of Trainers (ToTs) on the Digitalise Your Business (DYB) module in Kenya and Uganda and the updated Expand Your Business (EYB) module in China. The recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).



A ROUGH GUIDE TO INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT: PUBLICATION AND WEBINAR

In February 2024, the ILO released a comprehensive guide on fostering inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystems. This resource provides practical step-by-step guidance to apply the ILO's Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystem approach to ensure that individuals facing any form of exclusion can fully participate in entrepreneurial ecosystems. The guide was officially launched in a webinar in November, featuring case studies and lessons learned from pilot initiatives in Nepal and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The full guide can be accessed [here](#) and the webinar recording can be found [here](#).



THE REVAMPED EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS (EYB) PACKAGE

Following successful pilots of the updated EYB module in Ningbo, China, in June 2023, and Pretoria, South Africa, in February 2024, the Expand Your Business (EYB) package has now been officially launched. Designed for growth-oriented small and medium enterprises, the module empowers entrepreneurs and SMEs to develop effective business growth strategies. The revised EYB module features simplified and enhanced content to ensure alignment with the evolving needs of growing businesses. These improvements, informed by valuable feedback from SIYB trainers and entrepreneurs, made the EYB module more practical, relevant, and impactful for scaling enterprises.



THE FULL-FLEDGED DIGITALIZE YOUR BUSINESS (DYB) MODULE



Building on the Digitalize Your Business (DYB) guide launched in 2022, the ILO SIYB Global Coordination Team officially launched in 2024 the full-fledged DYB package, including the entrepreneurs' manual and trainers' session plan, marking a significant milestone in the SIYB program's efforts to support small enterprises in embracing the digital economy. This training offers practical content and exercises to equip entrepreneurs with tools and knowledge to integrate digital solutions into their business operations, from online marketing and e-commerce to digital financial management. Early feedback from pilot training in Egypt, Kenya, Uganda and Bosnia and Herzegovina highlight the relevance and effectiveness of DYB, especially as a complement to the other IYB modules.

SIYB PODCAST: WANT TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR? HOW TO DO IT RIGHT

On 27 June 2024, the ILO released episode 59 of the ILO Future of Work Podcast, focusing on entrepreneurship and the success of the SIYB programme. The episode can be listened [here](#).

EPISODE 59 ► ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Want to be an entrepreneur? How to do it right

27 June 2024



ITC ILO Certification Programme for SIYB trainers

The ITC-ILO delivered a Certification Programme for SIYB trainers between April and November, 2024. This year, the training was delivered both in English and French, with a total of 35 candidates from 25 different countries. Of these, 45.7 percent were women. The training in English had 23 participants and the one in French had 12.

COMING SOON

AGRI-ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT IN AWASSA, ETHIOPIA

The upcoming agri-entrepreneurship ecosystem assessment in the Sidama region of Ethiopia offers an in-depth analysis of the region's entrepreneurial landscape, with a focus on agribusinesses. Applying the ILO's Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (IEED) approach, the report identifies key actors, services, policies, and programs shaping the agri-entrepreneurship ecosystem across critical ecosystem pillars, including policy, culture, human capital, finance, support, and markets. It highlights challenges faced by micro, small, and medium-sized agribusiness and agri-entrepreneurs, explores underlying constraints, and showcases promising developments within the ecosystem. The assessment aims to provide actionable recommendations and foster collaboration among stakeholders to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for agribusinesses in the Sidama region.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, several initiatives contributed to the scaling of SIYB delivery in 2024. The Lazos project continues to support Venezuelan displaced persons and host communities in Argentina, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Peru by expanding the SIYB Training Service Providers (TSP) network and thereby increasing the programme's reach. Approximately 260 trainers were newly capacitated in 2024, and over 1,900 entrepreneurs were trained in the SIYB programme. In this year's newsletter, we highlight initiatives implemented in seven countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago.



TOT WITH MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, AND MSMEs OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LAZOS PROJECT

In Europe and Central Asia, the SIYB programme continues to contribute to local job creation and economic growth in countries such as the Kyrgyz Republic, where it incorporated a gender-sensitive approach, and Ukraine, where the programme was relaunched with a focus on increasing the number of national trainers. Approximately 100 trainers were newly capacitated in 2024, and over 100 entrepreneurs were trained in the SIYB programme. This newsletter highlights information about SIYB activities in five countries in the region: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Ukraine.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, several MoUs were signed with new partner organizations, three ToMTs were conducted, and multiple projects are introducing the SIYB methodology, further extending the programme's reach in the region. Approximately 10 Master Trainers and 410 trainers were newly capacitated in 2024, and over 6,500 entrepreneurs were trained in the SIYB programme. This year we highlighted activities in 17 countries: the Republic of Chad, Congo Brazaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Guinea, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

In the Middle East and North Africa, efforts to foster and expand the SIYB program continue to progress. Several projects in the region co-funded the organization of a Training of Trainers (ToMT) held in Beirut to strengthen the SIYB program, with 21 master trainer candidates participating from Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Approximately 20 Master Trainers and 230 trainers were newly capacitated in 2024, and over 6,500 entrepreneurs were trained in the SIYB programme. This newsletter covers SIYB activities in eight countries in the region: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the OPT, Tunisia, and Yemen.



PARTICIPANTS OF A TOT IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES IN 2024

In Asia and the Pacific, the SIYB programme is being implemented with various focuses: agriculture in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Timor-lest; gender in Afghanistan, gender and refugees in Nepal; climate change in Kiribati; and digitalization in China and the Philippines. Approximately 20 Master Trainers and 7,200 trainers were newly capacitated in 2024, and over 1,400 entrepreneurs were trained in the SIYB programme. This year's newsletter reports SIYB activities in 11 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Fiji, and Kiribati.

ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND PERU

The ILO [Lazos Project](#), funded by SIDA, aims to promote the socioeconomic integration of Venezuelan displaced individuals in Latin America and the Caribbean. Within this framework, the SIYB programme continues to capacitate trainers and entrepreneurs to foster job creation among Venezuelan refugees and migrants and host communities.

In the Dominican Republic, the project started building the SIYB capacity of three professional training institutions identified by a BDS check: the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and MSMEs (MICM), the National Institut of Professional Technical Training (INFOTEP) and the Association for Women Development (ADOPEM). Between March and May 2024, 54 trainers (80% women) were trained. Currently, an estimated 21 Training of Entrepreneurs (ToEs) are being planned to reach at least 360 entrepreneurs, with a priority on displaced Venezuelan women, who will represent 40 percent of participants. Additionally, the process of formalizing an agreement with the MICM is underway. A video that captures the experience of the SIYB training process in the Dominican Republic can be seen [here](#).

In Colombia, a similar BDS assessment identified four new partners to implement the SIYB programme with a gender and migrant focus. These partners signed unilateral letters of commitment and trained 77 trainers (47 women), who facilitated training sessions for 298 entrepreneurs, including 262 women (130 of them displaced). During the ToT and the ToE sessions, the gender approach was emphasized trough practical workshops to raise awareness on these topics.

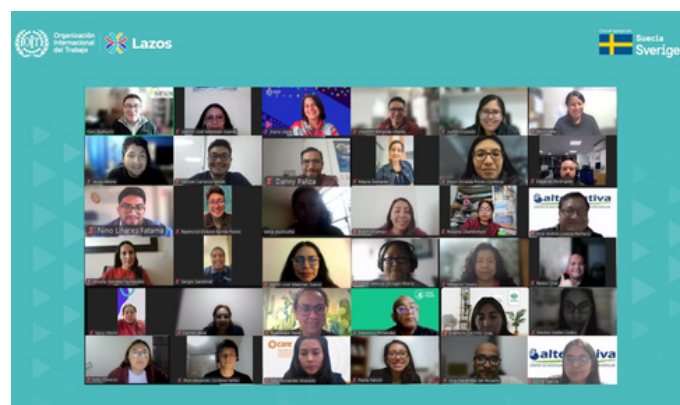


A TOE HELD IN BUCAGAMANYO, COLOMBIA



A TOT FOR TSP FROM INFOTEP IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In Peru, eight unilateral letters of commitment were formalized with organizations focused on assisting migrants, refugees and vulnerable populations. These included two ministries, a private company, and five NGOs, one of which specilizes in supporting the Venezuelan diaspora. A total of 57 professional members (74% women) completed SIYB training with a gender focus. As part of the trainers' certification process, a work plan was developed to outline implementation objectives, including a strong emphasis on the sustainability of the project. The SIYB programme in Peru is expected to reach over 300 potential and existing entrepreneurs next year.



PARTICIPANTS OF AN ONLINE TOT SESSION IN PERU

In Argentina, four unilateral letters of commitment were formalized to receive training on the GYB and IYB modules: two with local governments and two with NGOs. In total, 19 trainers are being capacitated, where 74 percent are women.

EL SALVADOR

Under the framework of the Alto Impacto Soyapango project, funded by USAID and implemented by FUSAI and the Rafael Meza Ayáu Foundation, a GYB and SYB ToT was conducted, resulting in the certification of ten trainers. These trainers rolled out at least one training each, in pairs, for representatives from ten different educational centers in the Soyapango region. The initiative aimed to equip these teachers with the SIYB methodology, to empower them to support students in their final school years with entrepreneurial capacity.



IYB AND SYB TRAINING SESSION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CREANDO PROFESIONES PROGRAMME

Additionally, in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP), 100 individuals working in the bakery sector in El Salvador received SIYB training with a focus on the use of sorghum. These training initiative was conducted as part of the Innova Bakery initiative, which seeks not only to enhance the technical skills of business owners but also to support small-scale sorghum producers by improving their income opportunities while contributing nutritious food to the population.

Lastly, GLASSWING El Salvador, an NGO tackling the root causes and consequences of violence in the country, organized IYB and SYB training sessions as part of the NIDO project and “Creando Profesiones” program. These sessions engaged 24 parents of youth participating to provide households with sustainable livelihoods by strengthening their entrepreneurial skills

PANAMA

As part of the ILO’s initiatives in the framework of the project “Technical Support for the Transformation and Integral Improvement of Panama’s National Institute of Professional Training and Education for the Human Development” (INADEH in its Spanish acronym), a GYB and SYB ToT was conducted for 40 trainers. These trainers are set to be certified during the first semester of 2025.

In addition, INADEH’s entrepreneurship training curriculum has been revised and adapted to align with the SIYB methodology. This adaption is expected to strengthen INADEH’s Innovation and Productive Entrepreneurship Centre, enabling entrepreneurship counselors to base their guidance on the SIYB modules, thereby enhancing support for aspiring entrepreneurs.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

A virtual ToT was held in Trinidad and Tobago, bringing together participants from Belize, Barbados, and Jamaica in addition to the host country. Attendees included representatives from the Ministries of Youth in Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Barbados, members of Trinidad and Tobago’s National Entrepreneurship Development Company, and representatives from Belize’s Galen University. A total of 25 trainer candidates (14 women) participated in the training,

The training was designed to meet a pressing need to enhanced entrepreneurship training capacity among Caribbean institutions, with a focus on supporting MSMEs and youth engaged in national programs. Additionally, the aim is to equip these trainers to assist vulnerable groups with limited employment options, aligning with the objectives of the programmes run by the organizations they represent. As a result of the ToT, all participating institutions developed annual SIYB Operational Plans to institutionalize the SIYB methodology and integrate it into their respective training programs.

AZERBAIJAN

A 40-hour classroom-based SIYB training was implemented under the [Employment Support Project \(ESP\)](#) in Azerbaijan. This initiative, implemented by the consulting company EKVITA with funding from the World Bank and in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Azerbaijan, aims to create self-employment opportunities for vulnerable groups, including unemployed individuals and young people. As part of the project, SIYB materials were translated and adapted to the local context, and 70 trainers were trained. By November 2024, the programme had provided business training to approximately 26,000 unemployed individuals.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In 2024, six new Local Employment Partnerships were established under the [Local Employment Partnerships 2 \(LEP II\)](#) project, financed by the European Union and implemented by the ILO in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As part of the project, four SIYB-certified trainers were contracted and have started delivering the SYB training modules across the country.



TOT SESSION HELD IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA IN NOVEMBER 2024

IRELAND

The SIYB programme is in the early stages of implementation in Ireland, with plans to establish a SIYB association and engage with potential partners, including local development companies and universities. A ToT led by Master Trainers from across Europe is planned for 2025 to further support the program's introduction and roll-out in the country.

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Key materials, including GYB, SYB, the SIYB Business game and the Trainers' manuals were translated into Kyrgyz. In addition, SIYB trainers and trainers from the ILO's [Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises \(SCORE\)](#) programme worked together to develop an adapted joint SIYB and SCORE training translated into Kyrgyz. Furthermore, a training on financial literacy, Gamification Financial Literacy (KA\$NA), was developed by a regional Master Trainer to complement the GYB-SYB module, focusing on savings, investments, and income generation.

The SIYB Trainers Association "Public Foundation Alliance Trainers & Consultants" (PF AT&C) has continuously delivered SIYB training, while adapting to different users' requests. This includes a refresher ToT for 10 active trainers in the country. PF AT&C is currently implementing SIYB in the framework of the UNDP "Aid for Trade in Central Asia" project in the Naryn province. This initiative aims to empower women in creative industries by providing a safe space for learning, psychosocial support, and knowledge sharing, so they can achieve financial independence. The project operates at the Kochkor District, which aims to become a centre of creativity for women to collaboratively develop business ideas and social initiatives.



WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN A TOE

UKRAINE

Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing war, the ILO SIYB programme in Ukraine continues to grow and adapt to meet emerging trends and the specific needs of communities and sectors across the country.

In August 2024, a new group of 18 trainer candidates from diverse regions in Ukraine completed a seven-day ToT workshop on GYB and SYB. The participants represented diverse organizations, including civil society organizations working to empower women, veterans of the war and internally displaced persons, humanitarian organizations promoting economic inclusion and employability, and independent business management consultants providing guidance to entrepreneurs and start-ups. The certification process is ongoing and the successful trainers are expected to be fully certified by the end of December 2024.

The SIYB training programme has been relaunched in Ukraine under the ILO “Support to Ukraine” project, funded by the Government of Belgium. This initiative focuses on preventing labour exploitation and human trafficking, fostering entrepreneurship, and supporting social partners in rebuilding Ukraine’s economy.

To address the gap left by many trainers who fled Ukraine at the onset of the war, the project is building a new cohort of SIYB trainers. Additionally, it aims to train at least 100 aspiring entrepreneurs from vulnerable populations, subsequently awarding small grants to the top 25 business ideas.



PARTICIPANTS OF THE TOT HELD IN UKRAINE IN AUGUST 2024

REPUBLIC OF CHAD

In 2024, the National Office of Employment Promotion (ONAPE in its French acronym) organized two ToT sessions at the Study and Training Centre for Development in N'Djamena to enhance self-employment opportunities for job seekers. The first ToT was conducted between January and February 2024, and 14 counselors were trained and became certified GYB trainers; these trainers have since trained 77 aspiring entrepreneurs. The second ToT was held in May and put together 20 trainer candidates who are preparing to train 100 aspiring entrepreneurs in December 2024. The ToEs are specifically designed for self-employed job seekers registered in ONAPE's database, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to pursue self-employment opportunities.



ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS ATTENDING THE TOE IN MAY 2024

CONGO BRAZZAVILLE

In 2024, SIYB activities in Congo Brazzaville included coaching 17 trainers on the SYB methodology and supervising the training of 100 youth on SYB and business plan development. The SIYB program expanded its outreach by registering the Agency for the Development of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (ADEPME in its French acronym) as an official SIYB partner.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

In 2024, two GYB-SYB ToTs were organized in the DRC. The first was conducted under the African Development Fund-funded project "Youth Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Agribusiness", training 20 individuals (12 women) in Kinshasa, which resulted in 13 trainers fully certified. The second ToT was implemented as part of the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) program in Ituri Province, where 13 individuals, including six women from the Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) organization, participated. These trainer candidates delivered GYB and SYB training to 695 beneficiaries, who have since started businesses and received follow-up support.



YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN THE AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS SECTOR PARTICIPANTS OF A SIYB TOE

Overall, in 2024, 1,943 entrepreneurs or potential entrepreneurs (715 women) received training on the four SIYB modules in the DRC. Most of these beneficiaries received follow-up support and require financial assistance to establish their own businesses.

The SIYB programme has also been promoted to several organizations in the country, such as UNDP, the Ministry of Industry and Development of SMEs, and Save the Children. Potential partnerships with these organizations are expected to materialize in the future.

ETHIOPIA

The ILO Youth-to-Youth Fund, part of the PROSPECTS Opportunity Fund, was granted to ten youth organizations in Ethiopia, enabling them to implement activities that promote young entrepreneurship.

Two ToTs, supported by the ILO PROSPECTS partnership in collaboration with the Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions and the BDS Providers Association of Ethiopia were conducted in Adama from 22 April to 2 May 2024 and in Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 August 2024. Approximately 50 trainers attended the sessions and are now expected to roll out ToEs targeting refugees and host communities.



TOT SESSION HELD IN ADAMA, IN THE OROMIA REGION OF ETHIOPIA

A partnership formed by the ILO Better Regional Migration Management (BRMM) programme and the Organisation for Women in Self Employment aims to empower Ethiopian migrants in Asella and Addis Ababa. Applying the SIYB methodology, a cycle of ToEs was conducted, consisting on six rounds of training sessions, each lasting 15 days, targeting returnees and migrants, with 991 participants in total. Among the activities, a business plan competition was organized to encourage participants to put their entrepreneurial ideas into practice. Out of 142 submitted business plans, 30 were selected as winners and awarded seed funding and other forms of support.

The ILO project ProAgro Ethiopia partnered with Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) to create job opportunities for women and youth by offering BDS support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the agribusiness sector. BDS support was provided from 15 January to 31 July 2024, based on the findings of a business health assessment conducted for 300 existing SMEs. One of the interventions included the provision of IYB and SYB training. Through the ILO ProAgro Ethiopia project, a SIYB ToT was delivered to 15 trainer candidates in the Sidama region and ToEs were subsequently delivered to 602 entrepreneurs and SME members (including 284 women)

GABON

The SIYB program in Gabon achieved significant milestones in 2024, with 18 trainers completing SIYB Level 1 training and 16 trainers undergoing a competency reinforcement workshop (CRW) for full SIYB certification. Key institutional partners, including the National Employment Office (ONE), National School of Rural Development (ENDR), and National Office for Investment Promotion (ONPI), became new SIYB partner organizations.

GUINEA

In Guinea, the National Office for Professional Training and Development, and the Charente Maritime Association organized two ToTs to train 15 trainer candidates, as well three coaching sessions for 12 certified trainers. These activities took place between February and October 2024, and the coaching sessions facilitated the roll out of ToEs, reaching approximately 50 entrepreneurs in various sectors, particularly those producing and/or selling local products.



PARTICIPANTS OF A TOT IN GUINEA

KENYA

From 5 to 15 February 2024, a two-week ToT was held in Naivasha as part of the PROSPECTS project to empower entrepreneurs and MSMEs in Nairobi, Turkana, and Garissa. For this training, SIYB and DYB were merged into a single manual and adapted to Kenya's context. The training was attended by members of BDS organizations, including the Micro and Small Enterprise Authority and Regional Chamber of Commerce. The participating trainers committed to rolling out ToEs with interested partner institutions.



PARTICIPANTS OF THE TRAINING IN KERICHO

Under the ILO ACCEL Africa Project, another ToT was held in Naivasha from 28 July to 10 August 2024, focusing on eliminating child labour in the tea and coffee sectors in Kenya. ILO advocates for the eradication of child labour by tackling its root causes and promoting youth employment. As part of this initiative, trainers conducted training sessions in Kericho County in October 2024, aiming to improve local entrepreneurs' skills. The sessions, based on the GYB and SYB modules, were attended by 120 young entrepreneurs from six vocational training centres.

The ILO Better Regional Migration Management (BRMM) programme collaborated with the Kenyan National Chamber of Commerce in Mombasa for the organization of a ten-day ToT for 22 trainer candidates (ten women). The training was held in August 2024 to trainer candidates from public and private sectors, NGOs, and entrepreneurship support organizations. Participants came from various regions of Kenya to ensure that the SIYB training would have a nationwide reach. These trainer candidates already trained 660 returned migrants to enhance their entrepreneurial skills. Starting in September, a six-month initiative was launched by the BRMM project to empower approximately 400 returned migrants, primarily former domestic workers facing various vulnerabilities, including single parenting or disabilities. This initiative provides participants with GYB and SYB training, as well as with support for business registration and access to finance /loan services. The initiative was reported in the local media, which can be watched [here](#).

Additionally, from 26 October to 15 November 2024, another ToT was conducted at the Boma International Hospitality College in Nairobi. Organized by SIYB's ILO partner organization, Elimu Masters Hub, this training convened 20 potential trainers, including 10 women.

LIBERIA

A ToT with 28 participants was held in Liberia from 25 June to 6 July 2024, marking the first SIYB ToT session in the country. The programme is ongoing, with the first cohort of trainers expected to be fully certified by early 2025. The training also facilitated the introduction of Liberia's first partner organization, GUSCEMAN INC., a business development and capacity-building entity in the country.



FIRST SIYB TOT IN LIBERIA

NIGER

Between 19 July and 3 August, two ToT sessions were held at the Cultural Enterprises and Industries Promotion Agency in Niamey. The objective was to train and certify individuals from different organizations involved in promoting MSMEs in Niger. The sessions included training on the GYB and SYB modules. A total of 16 participants (9 women) from organizations supporting SME development, including the National Support Fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Industries, completed the training. Participants are now organizing their first ToEs, involving 45 participants (27 women). Additionally, under the ILO's IHTIRAM-Niger project, which supports descendants of victims of slavery, two ToEs took place in November and December 2024.

NIGERIA

A Training of Master Trainers (ToMT) workshop was held at the Financial Inclusion Centre in Abuja in November 2024. Ten Master Trainers candidates, including five women, from five countries (Nigeria, Kenya, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Uganda) participated in the training and will now start the practice phase by delivering, in pairs, at least one ToT for each SIYB module.



TOMT GROUP PICTURE IN ABUJA, NIGERIA

RWANDA

In Rwanda, the project “Boosting Decent Jobs and Enhancing Skills for Youth in Rwanda's Digital Economy” contextualized, adapted and translated the DYB module for the Rwandan context. Additionally, the project established partnerships with the Business Development Fund, Hunga Hubs and the Employment Service Centers to deliver SIYB and DYB for 1,020 entrepreneurs across 2025. As part of these efforts, 17 trainers from the partner organization Business Development Fund participated in a refresher ToT in SIYB and DYB held in November, and 15 trainers from Hanga Hubs, the Employment Service Centers, the Chief Skills Office of Ministry of Public Administration and Labour, and a selected group of local entrepreneurship hubs attended a ToT in SIYB and DYB held from 25 November to 6 December. All participants successfully completed the training workshop. As part of their certification cycle, trainer candidates will conduct ToEs in the following regions: Nyagatare and Kayonza in the East; Nyarugenge and Gasabo in Kigali City; Musanze in the North; Rubavu and Rusizi in the West; and Ruhango and Huye in the South. A video documenting the DYB ToT can be watched [here](#).



REFRESHER TOT TARGETING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND TRAINERS

SIERRA LEONE

In the context of the Opportunity Salone project, a ToMT targeting seven Master Trainer candidates was conducted in October 2024. These candidates are currently undergoing their certification process under the supervision of the responsible Master Trainer developers.

Additionally, the project signed three MOUs with different universities to enhance their capacity for delivering SIYB training through their entrepreneurship development hubs.

A ToT involving seven trainer candidates from the University of Makeni and the Ernest Boi Koroma University in Sierra Leone was held from 30 October to 9 November. The SIYB trainer candidates are now rolling out ToEs as part of their certification cycle. Recently, four GYB-SYB ToEs were conducted for 30 potential entrepreneurs.

SOUTH AFRICA

In 2024, the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in South Africa, supported by the ILO's Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP), expanded its SIYB capacity through a growing pool of Master Trainers. With two new Master Trainers certified in 2024, EPWP now has certified six Master Trainers and over 30 SIYB trainers nationwide. As part of their certification, the new trainers conducted a ToT session for the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), equipping 12 trainers to deliver entrepreneurship training to youth supported by NYDA funding and business initiatives. This collaboration strengthens EPWP's role in promoting sustainable employment and entrepreneurship.

Trough the ILO project Productivity Ecosystem for Decent Work, funded by Norad, a two-week ToT was conducted in July in South Africa. Participants included BDS professionals from local companies, who will focus their ToEs on entrepreneurs in the leather, footwear, and automotive sectors - industries that are critical to South Africa's economic development. So far, trainer candidates have trained 42 entrepreneurs from the above-mentioned sectors. In the framework of the same project, the SYB Manual was adapted to support emerging and new entrepreneurs in the automotive sector in South Africa. This Manual incorporates business opportunities identification tailored to the automotive sector, helping participants refine their ideas and establish businesses in a sector traditionally dominated by large enterprises. This adapted Manual has already been introduced to 18 trainers from various Sub-Saharan African countries. Adittionally, MoUs were signed this year with four organizations: Productivity SA, the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency, the Automotive Industry Development Centre Gauteng, and the Automotive Industry Development Centre Eastern Cape.



ADAPTATION OF THE SYB MANUAL TO THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR



PARTICIPANTS OF THE TOT ORGANIZED IN JULY AS PART OF THE "PRODUCTIVITY ECOSYSTEM FOR DECENT WORK" PROJECT

TANZANIA

As part of the [UN Kigoma Joint Programme II](#) (Youth and Women Economic Empowerment thematic area), an SIYB and Green Business ToT was conducted in June in the Kigoma Region. The training equipped 15 BDS providers and 10 Natural Resources and Community Development Officers with skills to support youth and women in creating and greening their businesses, promoting environmental sustainability, and integrating climate concerns into local development plans. Trained BDS providers aim to raise awareness among at least 500 youth and women on renewable energy and sustainable business practices.

Later, a ToE was held in collaboration with the FAO and focused on Agriculture Service Providers and Agricultural Government Extension Officers. Participants, including farm managers, extension staff, youth group service providers, and women sunflower producers, were trained to improve livelihoods through better natural resource management, climate resilience, and renewable energy solutions. These entrepreneurs, upon completion of the training programme, developed their business plans and were equipped with the tools and resources needed to start their own businesses.



GROUP PHOTO OF THE TRAINING OF AGRICULTURE SERVICE PROVIDERS
©NOREEN TOROKA, KJP

UGANDA

Under the PROSPECTS project, which focuses on supporting host communities and forcibly displaced populations, the DYB module was adapted and contextualized to Uganda. Subsequently, a SIYB and DYB ToT was organized for 20 participants in July 2024. Currently, the trainers are delivering DYB ToEs as part of their certification cycle, while Master Trainers observe to ensure quality and adherence to the SIYB standards. Approximately 250 entrepreneurs in targeted refugee and host communities are expected to benefit from the DYB training. Also through the PROSPECTS project, the SIYB manuals were uploaded to the “Kolibri” open-source platform, allowing students and out-of-school youth in Uganda to easily access the materials offline after downloading them.

In January 2024, the ILO signed a MoU with Uganda’s Prime Vocational Institute (PVI) to enhance entrepreneurship and address employment gaps by integrating the SIYB programme. PVI, a private institute registered with the Ministry of Education and Sports, applies SIYB to bridge the gap between students’ technical skills and their application in business. Offering eight national certificate courses and 14 short courses, PVI enrolled 650 students in 2024, including 228 women, across fields such as agribusiness, hotel management, and electrical installation.



GROUP PHOTO OF THE SIYB AND DYB TOT HELD IN JULY IN UGANDA

ZAMBIA

In October 2024, the SIYB programme was introduced to the Cheshire Homes Society of Zambia, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of persons with disabilities. Following their interest in adopting the programme for their members, a SIYB ToT is scheduled to commence in December 2024, targeting 20 members to enhance their business skills.



MEMBERS OF THE CHESHIRE HOMES SOCIETY IN ZAMBIA

Additionally, in November 2023, an international ToMT was conducted in Lusaka, Zambia, with 12 participants, nine of whom were certified as SIYB Master Trainers. The attendees were coming from Zambia, Kenya, India, and Ethiopia.

TOMT PARTICIPANTS AND FACILITATORS
AT THE POOLSIDE IN THE TRAINING VENUE



ZIMBABWE

The Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (POTRAZ) became a new partner organization in Zimbabwe for the SIYB programme. As part of the partnership, a ToE was held from March to June 2024, attended by 42 entrepreneurs.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and with funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB), a ToT was held in Gweru from 29 July to 7 August 2024, involving 25 participants. The ToT resulted in eight new partners with members trained in SIYB: Tariro Youth and Development Trust, Reguide Consultancy, Elevation Zimbabwe, Purse on Point, Bulawayo Chamber of SMEs, Hand in Hand, HOSPICE and Palliative Care Association of Zimbabwe, and the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development. This ToT aimed to address the growing demand for accredited SIYB trainers in Zimbabwe. Following the ToT, ToEs were organized in Bulawayo, Mutare, Mutoko, Karoi, Masvingo, and Hauna, where 840 entrepreneurs mobilised by Government and BDS organizations were trained in SYB and IYB, with a focus on fostering business growth and creating decent work opportunities in Zimbabwe.



TRAINERS AND ENTREPRENEURS AT ONE OF THE TOE SESSION CONDUCTED IN BULAWAYO

ILO DEVELOPS NEW SIYB MASTER TRAINERS IN THE ARAB STATES

From 24 June to 5 July 2024, the ILO conducted a Training of Master Trainers (ToMT) in Beirut, Lebanon, for 18 participants from Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). This initiative strengthens the SIYB programme's sustainability in the Arab region by developing high-performing trainers into Master Trainers capable of scaling entrepreneurship training. Participants underwent a two-week intensive workshop, followed by supervised SIYB Trainer certification processes. The training was part of several ILO projects in the four countries supported by different donors, including the European Union (EU), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Netherlands, KfW Iraq, and Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). The effort aims to build a robust entrepreneurship support system and establish SIYB as a regional brand for high-quality entrepreneurship training.



TOMT PARTICIPANTS IN
BEIRUT, LEBANON

ALGERIA

At the end of 2023, the Directorate General of the Algerian Chambers of Crafts and Trades asked the Master Trainers based in Algeria to organize three Competency Reinforcement Workshops (CRW) for 65 SIYB trainers who are members of the Chambers. These CRWs occurred between November and December 2023 in Sétif, Bouira, and Sidi Belabas, with the objective, among others, to develop competences and share knowledge on digitalization. The digital version of the Business Game in French and Arabic, consisting of animated PowerPoint slides prepared by the Master Trainers in Algeria, was also shared with the participants.

EGYPT

In the framework of the project “[Decent Jobs for Egypt’s Young People](#)” (DJEP Phase II) funded by Methanex Egypt, the ILO office in Egypt signed an implementation agreement with the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA), a government organization mandated to support the development of MSMEs in the country. As part of this collaboration, a SIYB ToT was held in Damietta between September and October 2024, where 26 trainers participated. Following the training, 20 participants qualified as potential trainers. Following the ToT, these trainers rolled-out ToEs, training 100 potential entrepreneurs in two rounds under the supervision of two Master Trainers.



PARTICIPANTS OF THE TOT WITH THE GOVERNOR OF DAMIETTA

Additionally, the project organized a competition for green and social businesses, with the final result taking place on 10 December.

IRAQ

Under the PROSPECTS project in Iraq, a full cycle of SIYB ToT for members of the Iraqi Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) was completed in August 2023, with the participation of 20 members. These trainers rolled out three ToE sessions on GYB in October 2023, followed by sessions on SYB between April and May 2024, and ending in June 2024 with sessions on IYB, all as part of their certification cycle. In total, these trainings reached more than 400 potential and existing entrepreneurs (over 50% women). From late June to early July 2024, a CRW for the trainer candidates was held, resulting in the certification of 14 new SIYB Trainers, who joined the five already certified trainers in the country. A graduation ceremony was held in Baghdad on 4 August, attended by the MoLSA and the Advisor to the Prime Minister. As a result of this collaboration, the MoLSA's Business Incubators Department adopted the SIYB training program into its curriculum. To support this initiative, the PROSPECTS program provided financial support to the department for the printing of 500 SIYB training manuals by 2025.

A total of 181 potential and existing entrepreneurs were trained in Basra as part of the ILO project Increasing Access to Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Urban Population in Basra City in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis. The training covered GYB, SYB, and IYB, and incorporated the Green Business Booklet. The project developed a comprehensive training program for workers in the waste management sector, including best practices in waste collection combined with SYB training to help participants create viable business plans in this field. The program successfully trained 51 waste collectors, equipping them with both technical skills and entrepreneurial knowledge to support their transformation from informal waste collectors into green business owners.

JORDAN

A SIYB-DYB workshop was delivered for women with small businesses in Jordan, organized by the ILO, in collaboration with the Jordan River Foundation, under the "Formalizing Access to the Legal Labor Market for Refugees and Host Communities in Jordan" project, funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the U.S. Department of State. A total of 156 women from Jordan and Syria participated in the training, which provided them with the necessary skills to improve and digitize their businesses.



DYP TOE PARTICIPANTS IN JORDAN

Of these, 139 received seed funding to support the digitization of their business following the training. This initiative was held as part of the certification of 20 trainers. The graduation ceremony included the distribution of financial grants to programme graduates. A video on the graduation ceremony can be watched [here](#).

Additionally, in the context of the PROSPECTS project in Jordan, a 12-day SIYB ToT in Amman brought together 24 trainer candidates from the public and private sector in Jordan and the OPT. Three trainers from Gaza, who are in the final stages of their coaching to become ILO master trainers, led the sessions. Through the SOLIFEM project, an ILO initiative funded by the European Commission's DG-NEAR, and in collaboration with PROSPECTS, 12 trainers from the West Bank Chambers of Commerce joined their colleagues in Amman to receive SIYB coaching.

LEBANON

Under the PROSPECTS programme in Lebanon, the El Majmoua Microfinance Institution, a SIYB partner organization since 2022, organized 20 ToEs in 2024 for agri-food business owners through the Improve your Agribusiness (IYAB) training, which is based on the IYB training module. Among the entrepreneurs attending were Lebanese nationals and Syrian refugees, with a special focus on women and large families. In total, 764 participants (43% women, 23% refugees) successfully completed the IYAB training, which was focused on the development of business plans, strategic thinking, and financial management skills for farmers, equipping them to meet the modern challenges of their sector. As part of this partnership, the ILO and the El Majmoua Microfinance Institution piloted a blended finance model to support Lebanese and refugee farmers following the economic and financial crisis that began in 2020, which led to an almost total cessation of financing for SMEs, particularly in the agricultural sector. The model aimed to revitalize the microfinance sector and create jobs.

As part of this initiative, 418 farmers received subsidized loans totalling USD 1.33 million, with an equity investment ratio of 1:3 between the ILO and Majmoua. This initiative supported and created a total of 1,445 jobs (fixed term and seasonal), and a monitoring plan on the ground showed a 3-fold increase in jobs, especially during high plantation and harvesting seasons. The repayment rate for both Lebanese and refugee farmers has been 100 percent as of September 2024, allowing the fund to revolve for other farmers who will benefit from future loans.



CONVERSATION WITH THE IYAB TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES (OPT)

Despite the conflict in the OPT, the SIYB programme continues growing in the country. The ILO project "Promotion of an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises and Decent Jobs for Women and Youth in the Agricultural Sector", funded by the Japan Representative Office, conducted a series of SIYB training sessions in 2024. The project partnered with a consortium of local NGOs (the Land Research Centre, Palestinian Farmers Union, Agricultural Development Association, Union of Agricultural Work Committees, and the Arab Center for Agricultural Development) and delivered a ToT cycle from 25 January to 30 April 2024, for 12 participants (seven women) from the partner NGOs, as well as from the Cooperative Work Agency. Nine of these participants were certified as trainers, while the remaining three are currently completing the certification process with support of the ILO. Following their certification, this group of trainers has delivered multiple training sessions for 109 entrepreneurs (including 94 women) from various West Bank governorates, including Jericho, Tubas, Hebron, Ramallah, Nablus, Salfit, and Jerusalem. Additionally, the trainers provided individual coaching sessions to newly established MSMEs between May and October 2024.



THREE PARTICIPANTS OF THE TOT HELD IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES IN 2024

TUNISIA

In the framework of the GOMARKET Entrepreneurial Days 2024 series, a ToE was organized in Kairouan from 23 to 26 October 2024 by two Master Trainers. The sessions were jointly organized by GOMARKET and the ILO project Advancing the Decent Work Agenda in North Africa (ADWA), as well as the ILO and the association Sousse Business Center Association (Centre d'Affaires de Sousse in French) and were attended by 13 women owners of green businesses from different regions of Tunisia. The objective was to support women-led businesses and women with green business projects to develop their business management capacities.

YEMEN

Trough the UN joint programme “Supporting Resilient Livelihoods, Food Security, and Climate Change Adaptation in Yemen (ERRY III)”, co-funded by the EU and the Government of Sweden, the SIYB programme has been expanding its reach in Yemen. To increase the country's pool of trainers, three ToTs were delivered, for the first time, by a Yemeni Master Trainer, showcasing the growing expertise of trainers in Yemen and the potential for transferring skills and driving entrepreneurship training nationwide. These ToTs were held in Aden in November 2024 and were successfully completed by a total of 72 individuals (46% women), representing 12 organizations from both the northern and southern governorates. The trainers are currently rolling out the lessons learned and implementing the SIYB programme across Yemen.



A TOT SESSION IN ADEN IN NOVEMBER 2024 IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE “ERRY III” PROJECT

In addition to the interest shown by potential entrepreneurs, several organizations have expressed formal interest in delivering various entrepreneurship training workshops based on the SIYB method and using the programme's Master Trainers. This highlights the increasing demand for business management education and skills in Yemen.

It is relevant to emphasize the special gender focus achieved in collaboration with the Business Women Council, under the Federation of Yemen Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and its member chambers. Trough the IYB module, 210 women business owners were successfully trained. Moreover, 4,800 small business owners received training, strengthening their abilities and enabling them to meet the criteria to qualify for an UNDP grant scheme.

AFGHANISTAN



TOT IN AFGHANISTAN IN DECEMBER 2023

In December 2023, the ILO Enterprise Development Programme in the Northern Region of Afghanistan organized a ToT, where 24 trainer candidates were trained to deliver trainings on SIYB. These trainers rolled out trainings to 382 entrepreneurs (including 322 women). For example, ToE sessions were held in Jalalabad, benefiting 61 women from Nangarhar province, and others were conducted with the UN [Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan](#) support in Laghman province, reaching 62 women. These trainings were based on both SIYB and [GET Ahead](#) training modules.

BANGLADESH

In July 2024, the [ILO Improving Skills and Economic Opportunities for Women & Youth in Cox's Bazar \(ISEC\) project](#) engaged with the SIYB Foundation of Bangladesh to conduct SIYB training in collaboration with the Sylhet Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The training targeted agricultural traders and producers in the Cox's Bazar.

The ILO [Skills-21 project](#) in Bangladesh continued building the capacity of new trainers in the country. As of November 2024, 61 SIYB trainer candidates have been awarded certificates of attendance and, among them, 23 completed all the requirements to become certified SIYB trainers.

Under the ILO [ProGRESS Project](#), an initiative aimed at fostering female employability, two GYB-SYB ToTs were conducted, building the capacities of 18 individuals (12 women) affiliated with the National Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh, various regional Women Chambers of Commerce, and other organizations. Among the 18 participants, six have already rolled out ToEs. Additionally, in the context of the ProGRESS Project and in partnership with the Indigenous Peoples Development Services, an initiative was launched to empower women from the Manipuri and tea garden communities. This initiative includes, among other activities, participation in SIYB trainings. Overall, in Bangladesh, 23 trainers successfully completed all requirements to become SIYB certified trainers and received their final certification in 2024.

CHINA

China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MoHRSS) organized a special campaign titled "Business Startup Trendsetter", which represents the 4th National Malanhua Trainer's Competition. The competition was divided into two phases: the first assessed individual comprehensive capabilities, including in SYB and DYB; and the second involved completing an individual assignment, which included a SYB training presentation and the design of an IYB training curriculum. The competition was held in Zhuhai City, in the Province of Guangdong, where 115 candidates reached the final stage, and 60 submissions received prizes. The winners of the first and the second prizes (20 individuals in total) were certified as SYB and DYB Master Trainers.

As of November 2024, a total of 7,000 trainers have been trained through 236 training workshops, bringing the cumulative number of certified trainers in China to 110,000.

Additionally, a second edition of an adapted IYB training manual was published, adapted to China's socio-economic development. A live-streaming training package for digital business start-up was also developed and scaled up in 2024.



4TH NATIONAL MALANHUA TRAINER'S COMPETITION. PHOTO BY CHINA EMPLOYMENT TRAINING TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION CENTER (CETTC).

INDIA

Under the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)-funded project, Promoting Sustainable Enterprises in India (PSEI), a SIYB training was conducted with a total of 249 participants (169 being youth; and 123 women). Of the 249 participants, 124 obtained financial subsidies under the Government of India flagship schemes: the Prime Minister Employment Guarantee programme, and the Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises programme. Following this training, SIYB trainees created new businesses and generated 308 new jobs (126 of which were for women).

Building on the successful demonstration of the SIYB methodology by the PSEI project, the State Government of Odisha approved the integration of the SIYB methodology into 50 different entrepreneurship development public programmes. These programmes are funded through the state budget and implemented by the government-affiliated Institute of Entrepreneurship Development. As a result, 1,500 youths are currently undergoing SIYB training. Similarly, the Andhra Pradesh State Skills Development Corporation, under the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, has approved a budget for 26 trainings in the state, which will benefit 780 youths.

INDONESIA

The Vocational and Productivity Training Center in West Bandung (BPVP), a government institution under Indonesia's Ministry of Manpower, partnered with the ILO-Promise 2 Impact project to conduct a ToT. Held from 24 June to 3 July 2024, this initiative aimed to incorporate the SYB module into existing agricultural training programs.

The ToT trained 25 young trainers, equipping them with the skills to conduct participatory entrepreneurship training sessions for BPVP's target groups and the broader community. Following the ToT, these trainer candidates implemented the SYB training for entrepreneurs through the Talent Class program, a programme that focuses on equipping young individuals with entrepreneurial skills tailored to developing technology-driven businesses. Participants of the SYB ToE program secured two of the five awards in the National Young Innovator 2.0 competition.



GROUP PICTURE OF THE TOT CONDUCTED UNDER THE ILO-PROMISE 2 IMPACT PROJECT

MONGOLIA



In Mongolia, a TOT was conducted in March 2024, certifying three new trainers. This year, 576 entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs were trained under the SIYB programme. Among the participants were young veterinarians leading private veterinary clinics in Ulaanbaatar, who were equipped with essential business management skills to strengthen their clinics and contribute to the local economy.

YOUNG VETERINARIANS COMPLETED SIYB TOE IN ULAANBAATAR

NEPAL

By October 2024, members of provincial and local governments, employers' organizations, and local stakeholders across Madhesh, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim provinces enhanced their capacity to train existing and aspiring entrepreneurs on starting and growing businesses. As part of their ToT certification requirements, participants committed to delivering at least one training session with a minimum of 50% female participation. This initiative, funded through EU-UN Empowered Women Prosperous Nepal programme, aims to meet the growing demand for quality business development services in these provinces. In early November 2024, a regional government trainer candidate, in collaboration with GiZ trainer candidates, rolled out the first SYB and GYB training for 20 local women entrepreneurs. Seven additional ToEs are planned by trainer candidates by the end of December 2024, and a total of 25 ToEs expected by February 2025.

Meanwhile, under the second phase of the UNHCR-ILO collaboration in Nepal, titled "A Systemic Approach to Refugee and Host Communities Livelihoods in Nepal", the SIYB Association made significant progress in expanding the scope of SIYB modules in the country, previously limited to Level 1. In 2024, three additional IYB manuals were adapted to the Nepali context. Additionally, the project organized two ToTs in 2024: one in Koshi Province and another in Kathmandu, training a total of 23 participants. In Koshi Province, the ToT trained 14 candidates, including eight Bhutanese refugees and six members from host communities. These trainers subsequently reached 169 entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs (51% women) within the Bhutanese refugee community. In Kathmandu, nine trainer candidates, including six refugees, were trained. These trainers have so far conducted ToEs for 55 entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs (37% women) from the urban-mandate refugee community, with a specific focus on the food sector.



WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS DURING A TOE IN DAILKEH VILLAGE MUNICIPALITY



TOT FOR URBAN-MANDATE REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN KATHMANDU

PACIFIC ISLANDS

A five-day SIYB training for 20 entrepreneurs from Fiji's creative sector was held from 29 April to 3 May 2024. Participants learned strategies to improve their portfolios and to increase visibility among potential clients. The training was organized by the Festivals Company in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, and SMEs, and with the support of the ILO and UNESCO.

From 5 to 14 March 2024, an eight-days ToT was conducted at the Marine Centre in Tarawa, Kiribati. The ToT included 18 participants representing Kiribati's Government, public enterprises, and entrepreneurs. Sessions covered the Green Business Booklet (GBB) and DYB modules, specifically addressing Kiribati's vulnerabilities to climate change, and aimed to empower local entrepreneurs and cooperatives, stimulate economic activity, and foster job creation in the country.

PHILIPPINES

Since late 2023, the potential of the SIYB programme to support the digitalization of MSMEs has been further strengthened, particularly through the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) use cases. A pilot training titled "Artificial Intelligence for the Digital Novice MSMEs – Marketing" was conducted as part of the SIYB ToT in Zamboanga City, in the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. This initiative was delivered under the Japan-funded pandemic recovery project "Bringing Back Jobs Safely: Rebooting Small and Informal Businesses Safely and Digitally" in partnership with the EU-funded MSME development project of the European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines. The training targeted trainers from the most remote islands of the Basuta archipelago. In March 2024, the pilot was followed by a second ToT aimed at informal sector entrepreneurs in collaboration with different partners, and a third ToT, specifically targeting managers of the digital centres operated by the Department of Information and Communications Technology of the Republic of the Philippines. This year's ToT sessions introduced new features, including GPTs and free text-to-image AI services. These activities are set to continue for at least the next three years under the newly launched Joint UN Program on MSME digitalization in the Philippines. This programme aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of Starlink technology in rural areas and advocates for its affordability, encouraging rural policymakers, governments, and entrepreneurs to explore these opportunities.

TIMOR-LESTE



THE SIYB REFRESHER TRAINING WORKSHOP IN TIMOR-LESTE

As part of the EU-funded ILO project "Agroforestry Skills for Employment and Resilience" in Timor-Leste, implemented in partnership with the Institute for Business Development Support (IADE) and supported by UNDP, a refresher training session was conducted for IADE's business trainers. This five-day training covered various topics such as costing, marketing, and financial planning. In the context of the same project, a ToT on financial education was organized for 26 SIYB trainer candidates. The ToT aimed to enhance participants' knowledge of financial management, enabling them to transfer these skills to families engaged in the agroforestry sector.