



ILO COOP/SSE IYC2025 Webinar Series

Providing care through the social and solidarity economy

An inclusive model for advancing decent work, gender equality and quality care services

Time: 13:30-15:00 (CET)

Date: June 17

Duration: 1.5 hours

Languages: English, with interpretation in Spanish and Arabic

Background and introduction

2025 is designated by the United Nations as the second [International Year of Cooperatives](#) (IYC2025). The work of the ILO on cooperative, social and solidarity economy is guided by the [ILO Constitution](#), the [Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 \(No. 193\)](#), and the [Resolution, Strategy and Action Plan](#) concerning decent work and the SSE.

As part of the year-round celebrations, the ILO Cooperative, Social and Solidarity Economy (COOP/SSE) Unit is organizing a series of webinars on the ILO's efforts in strengthening and working together with cooperatives and other SSE entities to build a better world, and through webinars, inspiring actions, fostering collaborations and deepening partnerships.

The newly adopted ILO [Resolution concerning decent work and the care economy](#) (International Labour Conference, June 2024) marks a truly historic milestone. For the first time, governments, employers' and workers' organizations reached a global tripartite agreement that firmly recognizes the care economy as central to achieving gender equality, social justice, and decent work for all.

It underscores that care work, paid and unpaid, is essential to all other work; that a well-functioning care economy is critical to a healthier and present workforce, creates

jobs and supports businesses and enhances productivity; and the urgent need for action to ensure decent work within the care economy and to promote access to high-quality care and support for all. The Resolution also recognized the role of cooperatives and other SSE entities, in the provision of quality care, investment in sustainable and modern infrastructure, and provision of training and employment opportunities.

SSE entities, including cooperatives, are playing an increasingly important role in delivering accessible, high-quality, and inclusive care services. Their multi-stakeholder, people-centred models prioritize community well-being, democratic governance, and sustainable solutions. By involving paid care workers, unpaid carers, care recipients, families, and communities, SSE entities create holistic approaches that respond to diverse care needs while enhancing working conditions for care providers. Through research, capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge sharing, the ILO supports SSE actors as crucial providers of care and as key drivers of decent work, formalization, and gender equality.

Objectives and key highlights:

This webinar aims to:

- Showcase ILO country experiences in delivering care through cooperatives and other SSE entities in Colombia, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and Zimbabwe, and across regions.
- Identify challenges in the care economy and highlight the potential of cooperatives and other SSE entities to formalize care work, improve working conditions, provide high-quality early childhood care and education, support women's economic participation, and better meet community care needs.
- Facilitate dialogue and knowledge exchange among ILO teams, the constituents, partners, and care receivers and providers, fostering collaboration, experience sharing and informing programmatic action.

Draft programme:

13:30-13:32 (2 mins)	Introduction by the moderator Berber Agtas, Ozge <i>Technical Specialist, Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination, DWT/CO for Eastern Europe and Central Asia</i>
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13:32-13:36 (4 mins)	Opening remarks Simel Esim <i>Head of Cooperative, Social and Solidarity Economy (COOP/SSE) Unit and Chair of UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the SSE (UNTFSSSE)</i> Laura Addati <i>Maternity Protection and Work Family Specialist, ILO Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Branch (GEDI)</i>
13:36-13:43 (7 mins)	Strengthening Community Care in Indigenous and Afro-descendant Territories through the Social and Solidarity Economy in Colombia Carolina Pava <i>ILO National Project Coordinator in Colombia</i>
13:43-13:50 (7 mins)	Establishing a childcare cooperative to deliver affordable, quality services: a trade union- led initiative in the OPT Younis Sbeih <i>National Project Officer, ILO Jerusalem, OPT</i>
13:50-13:57 (7 mins)	Providing care through the social and solidarity economy - Zimbabwe Audrey Charamba <i>National Programme Officer, ILO Harare</i>
13:57-14:04 (7 mins)	Reflections and comments Bharti Birla <i>Enterprise Development Specialist, ILO Decent Work Team for South Asia</i>
14:04-14:14 (10 mins)	Launch of ILO's Care.Coop tools (English and Spanish versions) Rayann Koudaih <i>Technical Specialist in Cooperative and SSE Development</i> Mia Touma <i>Jr Project Officer, Care policies, ILO Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Branch (GEDI)</i>
14:14-14:58 (44 mins)	Q&A and open discussion
14:58-15:00	Closing remarks

(2 mins)	Simel Esim <i>Head of Cooperative, Social and Solidarity Economy (COOP/SSE) Unit and Chair of UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the SSE (UNTFSSSE)</i>
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