



International
Labour
Organization

The ILO and Afghanistan

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► At a glance

Key Areas of Interest, post change in power in 2021

- Employment-intensive investment and emergency employment services
- Entrepreneurship, enterprise development and skills
- Women's economic empowerment

Social Partners

- Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI)
- Afghanistan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Investment (AWCCI)
- Afghanistan Chamber of Industries and Mines (ACIM)
- National Union of Afghanistan Workers' and Employees (NUAWE)
- Central Council of Labour Union of Afghanistan (CCLUA)

ILO conventions ratified

Afghanistan has ratified 19 ILO conventions including 5 of the 8 fundamental conventions.

► Afghanistan's Partnership with the ILO

Afghanistan became the 60th member state of the International Labour Organization in 1934. In 2003, the ILO officially established a liaison office in Kabul. Since then, it has been providing technical and financial support for various national and subnational programmes and projects in areas including employment policies and strategies, labour law reform, international labour standards, technical and vocational education and training, entrepreneurship and enterprise development, employment creation, labour migration, child labour, occupational safety and health, and livelihood issues.

The ILO Office in Afghanistan works with its constituents, particularly social partners, to promote international labour standards and decent work for social justice, upholding its founding mission that no lasting peace can be attained without social justice.

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Labour market indicators

- Population: 44.5 million
- Labour force participation rate (2023): 68%
(Male: 69.1%; Female: 4.8%)
- Share of informal employment (2021): 86.4%
- Employment-population ration (2023): 31.3%
- Unemployment rate: 27.3%
- Youth not in employment, education or training (2021): 43.8%

► ILO's Response Post-2021 Transition

- **Protection and promotion of International Labour Standards:** upholding International Labour Standards to ensure fair, safe, and equitable working conditions for all.
- **Entrepreneurship and enterprise development:** Employing a market systems development approach to foster sustainable and resilient MSMEs through decent work, serving as a catalyst for long-term job creation.
- **Employment-intensive investment:** Investing in essential community infrastructure to create short-term jobs and improve access to basic human needs, social services and economic activities, contributing to peace and resilience.
- **Market-responsive skills development:** Economic empowerment of rural communities, with a particular focus on improving the employability of young people.
- **Effective labour market governance:** Strengthening institutions, especially employers' and workers' organizations, to facilitate effective labour market governance.
- **Compliance with membership obligations:** Assisting the ILO's constituents in effectively complying with and fulfilling Afghanistan's membership obligations



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► Achievements in Promoting Decent Work and Social Justice Post-2021 Transition

- Supported 143,412 people with improved access to essential services via rehabilitated or maintained community infrastructure
- Created, sustained, or improved 16,965 jobs
- Supported 210 MSMEs with financial and/or technical assistance
- Trained 183 trainers and 4,446 potential entrepreneurs on internationally recognized entrepreneurship and enterprise development programs, including SIYB, GET Ahead, Financial Literacy, COOP and SURE
- Supported 140 new entrepreneurs to establish their own businesses, with over 90 per cent being women and girls
- Certified 20 trainers as professional business coaches and mentors
- Educated 129 trainers and 5,217 workers on fundamental principles and rights at work
- Trained 210 MSMEs on FPRWs and supported them with FPRW compliance
- Reached 6,400 people through FPRW awareness programs
- Trained 3,032 girls and women in market-demanded vocational skills
- Completed 22 infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance projects
- Trained 51 professionals on employment-intensive and local resource-based approaches, and market system development
- Conducted 2 rapid labour market assessments, and 12 rapid market appraisals and market systems analyses
- Organized 15 national tripartite plus gatherings on the promotion of international labour standards

What is the International Labour Organization?

The International Labour Organization is the United Nations agency for the world of work. We bring together governments, employers and workers to drive a human-centred approach to the future of work through employment creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue.