



International  
Labour  
Organization



# ► Italy ILO cooperation

July 2025

Italy is a founding Member State of the ILO and a long-standing partner in advancing the Decent Work Agenda. It has ratified 116 Conventions and 1 Protocol, including all 10 Fundamental Conventions and all 4 Governance (Priority) Conventions. Italy holds a permanent seat on the ILO Governing Body as a State of Chief Industrial Importance.

## ► Italy's contributions to the ILO

Italy and the ILO share a common focus on leaving no one behind by promoting social justice, decent work and sustainable development. Italy's development cooperation with the ILO is strongly focused on entrepreneurship, sustainable enterprises and decent work for all, particularly in the Arab States.

In addition to its partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the ILO collaborates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and its Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) on development cooperation.

Established in 1920, the ILO Office in Rome gives policy advice and technical support to tripartite constituents in Italy and San Marino, mobilizes resources, builds partnerships, and shares information.

Italy hosts the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin (ITCILO), which was established in 1964 and has since provided training and related services to develop the human resources and capacities of a wide range of actors.

Furthermore, the ILO benefits from the expertise of young Italian professionals thanks to Italy's support to the Junior Professional Officer Programme.

## Italy's Development Cooperation Priorities (2024-2026)

Italy's development cooperation is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and structured around its five pillars: **People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships**. The 2024-2026 programming cycle aims at promoting an integrated approach that links the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of development.

In line with this framework, the Italian Development Cooperation focuses on the following **priority sectors and cross-cutting themes**, many of which are directly relevant to the work of the ILO:

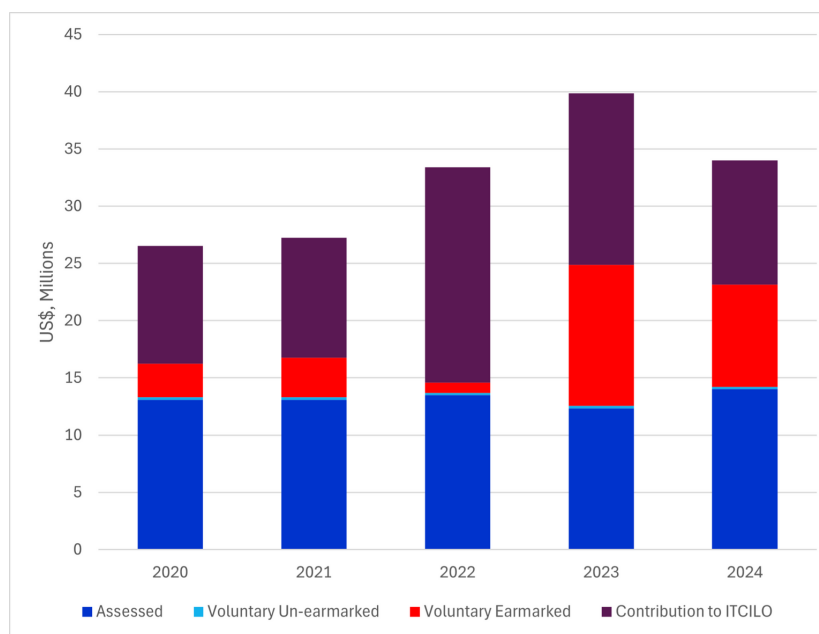
- **Education, training, and decent work:** inclusive quality education and vocational training for youth and women, to improve employability and innovation in textiles, agri-food, tourism, mechanics, and renewable energy.
- **Agriculture and food security:** sustainable food systems supporting small producers, biodiversity protection, and advances in precision farming and climate resilience; emphasis on fisheries and aquaculture.
- **Environment, climate change, and energy:** climate mitigation and adaptation focused on Africa and vulnerable regions, with a focus on the water-energy-food nexus, disaster risk reduction, circular economy, and renewable energy.
- **Health:** equitable access to healthcare in underserved and crisis-affected areas, with attention to maternal and child health, nutrition, and infectious disease control following the One Health approach.
- **Water and sanitation:** clean water and sanitation recognized as fundamental rights, backed by sustainable water management, rural sanitation, and wastewater reuse in climate-impacted areas.

Across all sectors, Italy's cooperation efforts also promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, inclusion of people with disabilities, digital transition, cultural heritage preservation, sustainable urban development, and good governance, peace, and human security.

## Italy's financial contributions to the ILO

### ► Italy's Overall Contributions to the ILO, 2020-2024

- **Assessed contributions** to ILO's Regular Budget, paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. From 2020 to 2024, Italy contributed US\$ 66 million.
- **Voluntary un-earmarked funding** contributions provided by 11 ILO donors as a pool of un-earmarked, flexible resources allocated by the ILO to strategic areas and emerging priorities. From 2020-2024, Italy contributed US\$ 1.1 million.
- **Voluntary earmarked funding contributions** provided as earmarked funds for priority programmes and projects in addition to assessed contributions. From 2020-2024 Italy contributed over US\$ 28.5 million.



**Contributions to the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin (ITCILO):** Italy provides an annual statutory contribution of USD 8.7 million to support the ITCILO. Between 2020 and 2024, voluntary contributions totalled USD 9 million. In addition, Italy allocated USD 12.6 million in extraordinary funding during the same period to support the restructuring of the Campus.[1]

## ► Italy's Partnership with the ILO: selected projects

### ► Jordan: Employment-Intensive Investments for Decent Work

The second phase of the Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) aims to expand green economic opportunities for vulnerable workers in Jordan's Irbid and Mafrq governorates, particularly within refugee and host communities. The project creates immediate short-term employment, delivers on-the-job training, and supports the development of environmentally sustainable home-based businesses.

With a particular focus on women and persons with disabilities, the initiative targets Jordanian host communities by generating 20,000 green working days and offering post-training services and market-relevant skills development to enhance employability. It also addresses key barriers to green livelihoods for both vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees, aligning skills development with labour market demand and strengthening job placement prospects for programme graduates.

By promoting inclusive, sustainable employment, the project contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), and Goal 13 (climate action).



[1] All USD amounts are calculated using the average United Nations operational exchange rate for the period 2020-2024

## ► Pakistan: Just Transitions in Sustainable Construction and Eco-Tourism

In response to the economic impact of the 2022 floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, this initiative promotes inclusive recovery through skills development and decent job creation in sustainable construction and eco-tourism.

The project introduces a national skills certification framework, integrates green practices into vocational training, and works with SMEs to improve workplace conditions. Special attention is given to women and youth in informal employment. Partnerships between training providers and employers aim to bridge skills gaps, enhance employability, and promote resilience in key growth sectors.

## ► Occupied Palestinian Territory: Strengthening Cooperatives and Social Entrepreneurship

The Italian Cooperation and the ILO collaborated on a three-year program entitled The Cooperative Support Programme (CSP) to strengthen cooperatives and social and solidarity economy enterprises in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The programme promotes an enabling environment for autonomous, economically self-reliant cooperatives that can expand employment and improve livelihoods for both women and men.

Palestinian cooperatives operate in a challenging institutional, legal, and administrative environment. CSP works to identify these barriers and support the creation of a more conducive ecosystem for cooperative growth. It also encourages greater member participation in cooperative governance and decision-making processes.

Italy's support for the CSP is helping to lay the groundwork for a more inclusive and resilient cooperative economy in the OPT.

Key results include enhanced institutional capacity at the Cooperative Work Agency, which now offers standardized tools and strategic planning support that have benefited over 300 cooperatives. Youth engagement has grown through a business plan competition with Al-Quds University, supporting youth-led ventures in areas such as technology, health, and green innovation. A childcare cooperative model has increased access to services while generating decent jobs for women. Collaborations with the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Food Programme have also helped women's cooperatives improve product quality and access new markets through integration into food assistance supply chains.



## ► Syria: Strengthening the Garment Sector through Skills and Enterprise Development

In Aleppo, the ILO is implementing targeted interventions under the “Weaving Hope” initiative to boost the competitiveness and job creation potential of Syria's textile and garment sector. A key component is a skills gap analysis focused on Syrian returnees from Lebanon, designed to match existing skills with labour market demands. The initial assessment, which covered 20 companies, is being expanded to 50 firms due to its strategic relevance in informing reintegration efforts.

In parallel, the ILO has launched a sectoral mapping initiative. A public call for proposals has been issued to select a partner to conduct the study, which will collect data from at least 200 companies in Aleppo and Damascus. With the textile and garment industry accounting for more than 75% of the local economy, the analysis will identify barriers to recovery and highlight opportunities to improve working conditions across the sector. The findings will serve as a foundation for future interventions.

These efforts are expected to inform upcoming initiatives in skills development, enterprise upgrading, occupational safety and health, and gender equality. The project also plans to partner with local TVET institutions and assess avenues for entrepreneurship and diaspora-driven investment, with a particular emphasis on supporting youth, women, and returnees.

## ► Iraq: Private Sector Development and Green Business in Southern Iraq

This initiative aims to boost private sector growth and decent work opportunities in southern Iraq, with a strong focus on the green economy. It is built around three key objectives: enhancing the business environment for MSMEs; strengthening institutional and entrepreneurial capacities through financial literacy and ILO's Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) programme; and improving financial inclusion, particularly in job-rich green sectors.

At the macro level, the project is helping develop a national MSME policy and green business strategy, following a national conference. It has carried out an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises (ESEE) assessment, introduced a simplified business registration manual, and launched the Iraqi Business and Development Network (IBDN), now linked to the ILO's global network. Social dialogue is actively promoted to address regulatory and market barriers.

At the meso level, the project has delivered Training-of-Trainers on SIYB, Financial Education, and green business tools. It also works with the Central Bank of Iraq and partner banks to design green financial products, revising procedures to streamline lending for MSMEs.

At the micro level, selected green enterprises receive tailored training and financial support to scale their operations sustainably and contribute to job creation across southern Iraq.



## ► Egypt: Boosting Productivity and Decent Work in Leather and Marble Industries

Launched in mid-2024, the ILO's "Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work in Egypt" (PE4DW Egypt) supports sustainable industrial transformation by tackling structural barriers to productivity and decent work in the leather tanning and marble sectors. The project strengthens sector-level institutions and supports MSMEs in improving operations, business performance, and workplace conditions.

A core component is the internationally recognized SCORE programme, which combines classroom training with hands-on coaching to enhance productivity, occupational safety and health (OSH), workplace cooperation, and resource efficiency. After Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions, the project is implementing Training of Enterprises (ToE), including baseline and follow-up visits to guide enterprise improvement plans.

Extensive fieldwork in Al-Robeiki and Shaq Al-Tho'ban industrial clusters helped identify operational gaps and informality challenges, providing a strong evidence base for tailored interventions. A high-level ILO retreat in Turin, Italy facilitated knowledge exchange between global and national teams, while interactive workshops brought together public and private stakeholders to co-design solutions aligned with national priorities.

The Italian Cooperation's support is not only financial—it is integral to embedding a sustainable ecosystem approach that equips institutions and enterprises with the tools, skills, and strategies needed for decent work, competitive growth, and inclusive transformation.

## ► Mali: Promoting Employment through Horticulture and Mango Value Chains

The An Ka Baara project promotes decent work and income generation for youth, women, and small enterprises in southern Mali. Anchored in a market systems development approach, the initiative focuses on strengthening the horticulture and mango sectors.

Through strategic partnerships with key market actors in Mali, An Ka Baara supports improved competitiveness by facilitating access to markets, quality inputs, technologies, and advisory services on good agricultural and business practices.

In the mango sector, the project targets the upgrading of orchard production, post-harvest handling, and processing practices to boost the competitiveness of local processors and exporters, with a particular focus on tapping into the underexploited organic market. In horticulture, the initiative promotes irrigation solutions, improved input supply, and hands-on training for women and youth, while expanding access to advisory services through digital platforms and community radio.



## ► Niger: Skills Development and Market Access in the Leather and Hides Value Chains

This project aims to boost employment opportunities in Niger's leather and hides value chain by applying the Market Systems Development approach. It focuses on strengthening the technical and entrepreneurial skills of young people, artisans, and enterprises, while enhancing product quality and access to markets.

Core objectives include upgrading training at the Centre des Métiers du Cuir et d'Art du Niger (CMCAN), improving apprenticeship systems, expanding access to modern tanning technologies, and reinforcing commercial linkages.

The project also leverages partnerships with Italian institutions and private sector actors such as UNIC and the Linea Pelle leather fair to support technology transfer, capacity building, and integration into international markets.



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