

Webinar Concept Note

Social and solidarity economy responses to crises

Date: 20 November 2025

Time: 10:00 – 12:00 (CET)

Background and Introduction

2025: The Second International Year of Cooperatives

The United Nations has designated 2025 as the second [International Year of Cooperatives \(IYC2025\)](#). The ILO's work on cooperatives and the wider social and solidarity economy (SSE) is guided by the [ILO Constitution](#), the [Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation](#), 2002 (No. 193), and the Resolution, and the [Strategy and Action Plan concerning decent work and the SSE \(2022\)](#).

As part of the year-round observance, [ILO's Cooperative, Social and Solidarity Economy \(COOP/SSE\) Unit](#) is hosting a webinar series on how the ILO and its constituents advance social justice through the SSE. Themes include the care and platform economy, formalization, supply chains, and crisis response.

SSE in Times of Overlapping Crises

The past decade has been marked by overlapping crises that threaten jobs, livelihoods, and social stability. Conflicts, economic downturns, and natural disasters have displaced millions and strained livelihoods. These interconnected crises deepen vulnerabilities and prolong recovery. In such contexts, cooperatives and other social and solidarity economy (SSE) entities frequently emerge as first responders and long-term actors in recovery. They provide essential services, protect livelihoods, and promote social cohesion through solidarity and people-centred approaches.

Yet SSE entities face policy and institutional barriers that limit their role in recovery and resilience. National frameworks may be misaligned with SSE principles and values or may restrict inclusive participation of vulnerable and marginalized populations. Inadequate financial and non-financial support undermine sustainability of SSE entities while infrastructure damage, supply chain disruptions, and limited market access create further barriers.

Webinar Focus: SSE Responses to Crises

This webinar will focus on four case studies of crisis response, with concrete examples:

- **Jordan** — Cooperative reforms and rural initiatives supporting livelihoods for refugees and host communities.
- **Philippines** — Cooperative network delivering inclusive climate insurance for post-disaster recovery.
- **Viet Nam** — Cash-for-work and community risk management to rebuild and adapt after typhoon-related shocks.
- **Kenya** — Cooperative banking's COVID-19 resilience measures, including loan relief, reduced interest rates, and a rapid shift to digital services.

Objectives and Key Highlights

- Identify challenges and enabling factors for cooperatives and SSE entities, and discuss their role in building resilience, social cohesion, and sustainable recovery.
- Showcase country experiences from Jordan, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Kenya on how the SSE reacts to crises such as displacement, natural disasters, and pandemics.
- Facilitate dialogue and knowledge exchange to strengthen the role of the SSE in crisis prevention, response, and recovery.

Agenda

10:00 – 10:05	Welcome and introduction Rayann Koudaih Technical Specialist, ILO COOP/SSE	
10:05 – 10:15	Opening remarks Simel Esim Head of COOP/SSE, ILO Nieves Thomet Chief Technical Adviser, ILO AP/CRISIS	The SSE for crisis prevention and recovery, and promotion of peace and resilience Global crises landscape and ILO strategies for response and recovery
10:15 – 10:35	Cooperative response to forced displacement Al-Shalabi Abdelfattah M. Q. Director General, Jordan Cooperative Corporation Samer Alrawashdeh National Project Officer RO-Arab States/DWT-Beirut	How cooperatives under the PROSPECTS Partnership support refugees and host communities, strengthen livelihoods, and build social cohesion.
10:35 – 10:55	Cooperative insurance & financial inclusion for climate risks Noel Raboy President and CEO of CLIMBS, Philippines	How a cooperative network uses inclusive insurance and financial services to help communities prepare for and recover from climate risks.
10:55 – 11:15	Cooperative response to financial shocks Vincent Marangu Director, Cooperative Bank of Kenya	How cooperative banking protected members through loan restructuring, digital tools, and regional diversification during COVID-19 crisis.
11:15 – 11:35	Community-led disaster recovery & adaptation in response to the typhoon Le Tuan An General Director of the Institute of Science, Technology and Environment (INOSTE)	How cooperatives led cash-for-work programs, rebuilding efforts, and community-based adaptation after typhoon-related shocks.

Son Ngoc Nguyen

ILO Programme Officer

11:35 – 11:55

Panel discussion and Q&A

Rayann Koudaih

Technical Specialist, ILO COOP/SSE

11:55-12:00

Closing reflections

Simel Esim

Head of COOP/SSE, ILO