



SIYB Update 2025



Global news



▶ Introducing Saby

The ILO is developing Saby – the SIYB AI Buddy for You! Saby is an innovative AI-powered post-training support tool designed to complement and amplify the impact of the SIYB programme. Delivered through WhatsApp, Saby provides entrepreneurs with on-demand, practical business guidance after formal training—helping them reinforce learning, apply SIYB concepts to real-life situations, and close the gap between knowledge and action. By offering tailored advice through text, voice notes, and photos, Saby was designed to complement in-person SIYB trainings through scalable and sustained post-training support. Building on promising results from pilot applications in Latin America, Saby is currently under development, with roll-out in a first set of selected pilot countries planned for 2026.



▶ The ILO's **Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystems Approach** is spreading

In 2024, the ILO introduced the Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystems Approach as a holistic approach to improving overall framework conditions for entrepreneurs. The ILO Rough Guide on Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystems was published and provides practical guidance for policymakers and practitioners on the subject. Since then, uptake of the approach has continued to grow. In Rwanda the approach is used to strengthen the digital entrepreneurship ecosystem, in Ethiopia to develop the agri-business ecosystem in Sidama region, and in several other countries entrepreneurship ecosystems assessments are underway to design future initiatives.

At the global level, the ILO has further strengthened advocacy by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Tsinghua University in China to jointly promoting the ecosystems approach, including through G20 Roundtable discussions on entrepreneurship that Tsinghua University regularly hosts.



Picture: Official launch of the ILO-Tsinghua Collaboration on Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystems

► ITC ILO Certification Programme for SIYB trainers

The ITC-ILO delivered a Certification Programme for SIYB trainers between May and December 2025. This year, the training was delivered both in English and French. The initiative brought together 24 participants from 17 different countries, with a gender-balanced cohort comprising 8 women and 16 men.

Latin America and the Caribbean

En 2025, le projet LAZOS financé par la Suède a consolidé l'institutionnalisation de la méthodologie GERME en Argentine, en Colombie, au Pérou et en République dominicaine, avec un accent marqué sur un accompagnement entrepreneurial sensible au genre et à la migration. Une réalisation clé a été l'application d'un nouveau Guide transversal sur le genre dans les processus de formation des formateurs, renforçant l'intégration des perspectives de genre dans les modules TRIE, CREE et Germe et touchant 198 facilitateurs appelés à reproduire ces pratiques dans leur travail avec les entrepreneurs.



Argentina

In 2025, the Sida-funded LAZOS Project consolidated the institutionalization of the SIYB methodology across Argentina, Colombia, Peru, and the Dominican Republic, with a strong emphasis on gender-responsive and migration-sensitive entrepreneurship support. A key achievement was the application of a newly developed Cross-Cutting Gender Guide within Training of Trainers processes, strengthening the integration of gender perspectives across the GYB, SYB and IYB modules and reaching 198 facilitators who will replicate these practices in their work with entrepreneurs.



Colombia

In Colombia, as part of the LAZOS project, the certification phase was completed with a certification event held in May 2025. The final balance of the process highlighted the achievement of training 74 GYB and SYB trainers from four partners institutions, of which 57 implemented processes with entrepreneurs and 38 obtained formal ILO certification. SIYB implementation has reached 298 entrepreneurs, the vast majority women (88%), with a balanced participation of migrants and host community members.



Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, the LAZOS project enabled significant expansion of SIYB, with 54 SIYB trainers trained under project implementing workshops and advisory services. Using the GYB and SYB modules, the project supported 349 current and aspiring entrepreneurs, (81% women), including 100 migrant women. 48 of these trainers documented successful case studies and obtained formal ILO certification reinforcing a growing national SIYB network and improving the quality and coverage

of entrepreneurship support services. Strong collaboration with key institutions—INFOTEP, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and MSMEs (MICM), and ADOPEM—enhanced sustainability, policy alignment, and real business consolidation outcomes.



Picture: ToT workshop conducted under the ILO LAZOS project in the Dominican Republic



Jamaica

In 2025, the Jamaica Productivity Centre supported the development of young entrepreneurs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields through the application of the ILO's SIYB methodology. Recognizing the critical role of STEM enterprises in driving innovation, economic diversification, productivity growth, and climate-responsive solutions, the Centre partnered with the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, under the Working in Her Footsteps Entrepreneurship Workshop. In November 2025, a Start Your STEM Business Workshop was delivered by certified SIYB trainers, using the Generate Your Business Idea and Start Your Business modules to help participants assess entrepreneurial readiness, structure business ideas, and understand core business elements.

The workshop also featured a one-minute Elevator Pitch Challenge, encouraging participants to articulate their ideas and reflect on strategies to overcome anticipated business challenges. The session reached 55 secondary, undergraduate, and graduate students and educators from multiple institutions, with business ideas emerging in areas such as food manufacturing, agriculture, and technology. Participants rated the workshop 5 out of 5, highlighting strong demand for continued entrepreneurship and business development training.



Picture: Start your STEM Business in Jamaica



In Peru, the LAZOS Project advanced the implementation of SIYB through certification processes and direct implementation with entrepreneurs. During the ToT phase, 52 trainers were trained late in 2024, and during 2025 delivered SIYB training to 219 entrepreneurs, 71% of whom were women, with balanced participation between migrants and host community members. Six partner institutions—including public entities, financial institutions, and NGOs—continued to integrate SIYB into their entrepreneurship support services, while seed capital for supported enterprises was provided by LAZOS Project and complementary funds from other institutions.



In Trinidad and Tobago, the national Youth Agricultural Homestead Programme (YAHP) initiative promotes youth entrepreneurship and agribusiness development by integrating ILO entrepreneurship training into its national agricultural skills initiative. YAHP is a two-year programme targeting nationals aged 18–35, equipping young women and men with practical and technical skills in crop production, animal husbandry, agro-processing, and agribusiness development to support sustainable agriculture and food security.

As part of the programme, the SIYB partner organization NEDCO delivered entrepreneurship training to 164 programme participants using the ILO's Youth Entrepreneurship (YEA), Generate Your Business (GYB), and Start Your Business (SYB) curricula.

Europe and Central Asia



The Local Employment Partnerships 2 (LEP II) project financed by the European Union works to contribute to better employability in local communities through the development of local partnerships in order. In 2024, six new local employment partnerships were established. In 2025, these SIYB trainings for 210 participants across the country were organized through these newly established partnerships. As a direct result of these activities, 97 participants successfully registered their own businesses, contributing to local economic development and job creation.



In 2025, the Women Creative Lab Project in Kochkor village strengthened women's entrepreneurship through an integrated training package combining the ILO's Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) and GET Ahead methodologies. A total of 100 women participants completed a structured learning pathway that included the gamified financial literacy programme "KA\$NA", GET Ahead for Women in Enterprise, and the Start Your Business (SYB) module.

The integrated approach enhanced participants' financial literacy, business planning, and entrepreneurial confidence, supporting women to start and develop sustainable enterprises within their local communities.



Ukraine

In April 2025, the ILO launched LEP4WORK, a new initiative supporting war-affected communities in the Kyiv region through Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs). The project focuses on vulnerable groups including women, internally displaced persons (IDPs), war veterans, and persons with disabilities, helping them access decent jobs through skilling, reskilling, and upskilling opportunities.

As part of this effort, in October–November 2025, the ILO organized three-day SIYB training workshops in Irpin, Bila Tserkva, and Brovary for a total of 198 participants, including 32 men and 166 women.

In addition, the ILO Country Office in Ukraine promotes entrepreneurship as a means for inclusive recovery in Ukraine with support of the Government of Belgium. As part of the initiative, a SIYB Training of Trainers was conducted to train 12 new trainers. SIYB trainings offered to entrepreneurs aligned with mentorship and grant support to allow Internally displaced persons to renew their businesses even in traditionally 'male dominated businesses domains' in the new host communities in Ukraine. A collection of inspiring stories of SIYB entrepreneurs has been compiled and published [here](#)

Sub-Saharan Africa

Regional and International Training of Master Trainers (ToMT) Initiatives



Seychelles

In November 2025, an International SIYB Training of Master Trainers (ITOMT) was successfully conducted in Seychelles, in collaboration with the Seychelles Business Studies Academy (SBSA). The intensive programme brought together six participants (three women and three men), including four from Seychelles and two regional participants from Uganda and Kenya, strengthening both national and regional SIYB capacity.

This milestone contributes to expanding a pool of internationally trained Master Trainers in the region and supports the long-term sustainability and quality of SIYB implementation across Southern and Eastern Africa



Kenya and Tanzania

International Trainers of Master Trainers processes were also organized in Tanzania and Kenya. In Tanzania, a ToMT workshop was held in April-May for a total of 18 aspiring Master Trainers from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. A second ToMT workshop was held in November-December in Kenya for 14 participants from Iraq, Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya. Together, these initiatives mark a strategic step in building a strong cadre of SIYB Master Trainers capable of scaling high-quality entrepreneurship development and strengthening business development services across Africa and beyond.



Picture: Training of Master Trainers in Arusha, Tanzania (up) and in Nairobi, Kenya (down)

Botswana, Namibia and South Africa

The De Beers Group-funded UN Women project “Acceleration of Women Micro-Entrepreneurs” (AWOME) continued to support women entrepreneurs in the three countries. In 2025, the project reached over 125 entrepreneurs with IYB training in Botswana, 50 in South Africa with GYB and SYB trainings, and 100 with SYB and IYB in Namibia. Additionally in South Africa, under ILO’s Productivity Ecosystems project, 12 trainers from local institutions were trained in the updated EYB module and have since supported growth-oriented enterprises in leather, footwear and automotive sectors.

Burkina Faso

In 2025, the SIYB programme continued to expand in Burkina Faso through intensive ToT and Training of Entrepreneurs activities delivered in partnership with public institutions, NGOs, and the private sector. Over the year, multiple ToT sessions strengthened national training capacity across the GYB, SYB, and IYB modules, with trainers certified in collaboration with partners such as Compassion International, Afrique Impacts, the Maison de l’Entreprise du Burkina Faso, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Fisheries Resources.

In parallel, extensive ToE roll-outs reached more than 250 aspiring entrepreneurs, supporting youth and community-based enterprise development. These sustained efforts demonstrate strong institutional ownership and continued demand for SIYB as a key tool for inclusive entrepreneurship and livelihoods promotion in Burkina Faso.

Cameroon

In 2025, the SIYB Programme further strengthened its institutional presence in Cameroon through expanded trainer development and new partnerships. Three Training of Trainers sessions were delivered with 25 trainers trained on GYB/SYB and 37 trainers on IYB modules. This enabled new partner institutions, including the Cameroon Agency for the Promotion of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (APME), a corporate foundation and ten agribusiness incubators to deliver SIYB trainings .

As a result, 1,287 young women and men received SIYB Agropastoral training across multiple value chains. These trainings were often embedded within broader technical and financial support programmes for holistic support. An innovation introduced in 2025 was the integration of peacebuilding dimensions into the SYB business plan model to enhance social cohesion in different communities.



Picture: SIYB ToT in Cameroun



Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

In 2025, the ILO continued to strengthen entrepreneurship and youth employability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through the roll-out of SIYB trainings under the PEJAB–Cassava on Youth entrepreneurship promotion funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB). Four SIYB Training of Trainers workshops were organised across Kinshasa, Kongo Central, Kwango, and Haut-Katanga, focusing on the GYB, SYB and IYB modules. The trainings reached over 70 trainers, including vocational training instructors, managers of rural infrastructure committees, and enterprise counsellors from employers' organizations and public services, with the aim of institutionalising entrepreneurship training and strengthening business support services for youth.

In parallel, 13 active SIYB trainers—including 12 trained in Ituri Province—delivered GYB and SYB trainings to a total of 388 young entrepreneurs including 173 women. These efforts demonstrate SIYB's role in improving youth employability, SME productivity, and inclusive local economic development in the DRC. Of these beneficiaries, 349 individuals were trained under the Collective Reparations Project of COOPI International and received an economic reintegration kit to strengthen capacity to restart or develop their businesses.



Picture: Newly trained SIYB trainers in Kinshasa, DRC



Ethiopia

In 2025, the ILO's PROSPECTS programme continued to expand SIYB outreach in refugee-hosting regions of Ethiopia, strengthening institutional capacity and promoting inclusive entrepreneurship for both refugees and host communities. Through its implementing partner DOT Ethiopia, PROSPECTS supported a SIYB Training of Trainers (ToT) in Dabat town, where 16 participants (11 men and 5 women) completed the training under the guidance of two ILO-certified Master Trainers from the Somali Region. These trainers subsequently supported large-scale roll-out activities, including a business plan competition initiative that trained 633 entrepreneurs (365 men and 268 women), of whom 249 were refugees, using SIYB methodologies.

At the institutional level, PROSPECTS supported the certification of two new SIYB Master Trainers in May 2025, further strengthening national capacity to deliver high-quality entrepreneurship support across ILO projects in Ethiopia. In parallel, PROSPECTS supported the establishment of a Business Incubation and Technology Transfer Centre at Jigjiga University, under its Career Development Directorate, embedding the ILO SIYB toolkit within university systems. Since May 2025, the centre has reached 320 entrepreneurs (210 women), including 190 refugees, providing training, mentoring, and incubation support. Jigjiga University now hosts ten ILO-certified SIYB trainers and two SIYB Master Trainers, ensuring that entrepreneurship development is now anchored firmly within the University's core systems.



Picture: Participants of the BPC Award Event in Dabat, Ethiopia

Guinea

In 2025, support to entrepreneurs was provided as part of the 3AE initiative. Using the GYB and SYB modules 15 aspiring entrepreneurs from universities and professional schools were trained in June and received tailored coaching and business plan development. 5 participants successfully formalized their enterprises, A second training was organized in November using IYB training for 17 existing entrepreneurs across diverse sectors such as tailoring, agri-food, bakery, pharmacy, architecture, and sanitation.

Kenya

The ILO's Better Regional Migration Management (BRMM) Project continued the rollout of the Digitalize Your Business (DYB) training in Nairobi County. The initiative is running a ToT, preparing 30 trainers to deliver practical, locally tailored digital business training to 460 returned migrant workers. The programme adapts DYB content specifically to Kenya's MSME environment, integrating tools from Embracing Digital in Kenya and focusing on real-life applications such as WhatsApp Business, mobile money, and online sales platforms. Strong partnerships with KEPSA, Nairobi County Government, and the Women Enterprise Fund aim to embed DYB within local BDS structures, ensuring sustainability beyond the project period and strengthening reintegration pathways for returning migrants.

In addition, Kenya saw significant expansion of SIYB delivery in 2025 through strengthened partnerships with universities, technical institutions, and development organizations. This included introduction of the SIYB programme at Kisii University through training of 18 faculty members and support to the integration of SIYB modules into entrepreneurship curricula. This institutional capacity helped the University secure new funding from the KCB Foundation to train entrepreneurs across the Lake Region.

In addition, a Training of Trainers took place at YMCA Nairobi with 13 participants, a TOT at the Technical University of Mombasa developing nine new trainers, and a TOT for Compassion International-Kenya, which equipped 11 staff with SIYB skills. Additional outreach included GYB training for 95 vocational students at Don Bosco Technical Training Centre in Murang'a County, supporting youth in generating viable business ideas. In addition, a new institutional partnership was formed with the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) through the signing of an MoU with plans to launch a SIYB Training of Trainers process in January 2026. Together, these interventions demonstrate Kenya's growing ecosystem of SIYB-trained institutions and practitioners driving MSME development across the country.



Picture: the SIYB closing ceremony at Kisii University



Lesotho

In Lesotho, SIYB was used to train 31 women entrepreneurs in Maseru under the UNDP initiative “Capacity-Building for Women-led Enterprises” (HER EMPIRE). The initiative consisted of a 10-day entrepreneurship bootcamp for women entrepreneurs facilitated by SIYB Master trainers and using the IYB modules on Marketing, Buying and Stock Control, Recordkeeping, Costing, Business Planning, and People and Productivity. The programme combined classroom-based training with structured mentorship support following the training. The graduation marked the culmination of a comprehensive capacity-building journey that strengthened women-led enterprises and supported sustainable business growth in Lesotho.



Mali

In 2025, institutionalization of the SIYB programme in Mali was strengthened further through sustained trainer development and targeted support to aspiring and growing entrepreneurs. Two Training of Trainers sessions were delivered to certify 18 new trainers (including six women) from consultancy firms and training institutions. In parallel, SIYB tools were used in partnership with the NGO Street Movie to support 18 aspiring young entrepreneurs with business plan development and business creation.



Mozambique

In 2025, Mozambique strengthened national capacity for entrepreneurship development through the successful completion of two SIYB Training of Trainers (ToTs). Delivered as part of this effort, the Digitalize Your Business (DYB) modules were translated and contextualized into Portuguese, enhancing accessibility and relevance for local trainers and entrepreneurs. In total, around 40 trainers were equipped with SIYB and DYB competencies, expanding the national pool of qualified facilitators and laying the foundation for wider roll-out of entrepreneurship training across the country.



Namibia

Under the EntreprenHER Programme, women previously trained in Improve Your Business (IYB) are now receiving targeted digital literacy training delivered by a local training institution. The initiative aims to equip women entrepreneurs with practical digital skills to confidently navigate an increasingly digital business environment. Building on SIYB foundations, the EntreprenHER Programme plans to further scale digital literacy support for women entrepreneurs trained across the full range of SIYB packages.



Niger

In 2025, the SIYB programme in Niger continued to strengthen national capacity for inclusive entrepreneurship through expanded trainer certification and targeted support to women. As part of the SIYB trainer certification process initiated in 2024, in

a Capacity Reinforcement Workshop was held in Niamey in July 2025, certifying 19 SIYB trainers, including 12 women, with a focus on coaching micro and small enterprises and delivering SIYB Level 1 modules tailored to low-literacy entrepreneurs engaged in income-generating activities.

Building on this effort, a SIYB Level 1 Training of Trainers was conducted in November 2025, funded by Médecins du Monde Belgium under the DEVENIR Project, resulting in 13 additional trainers (including 4 women). Immediately following the ToT, 180 women and young girls from women producers' unions in Niamey received SIYB training and coaching, strengthening their capacity to identify, manage, and grow individual and group-based economic activities.



Picture: SIYB training for women as part of the DEVENIR project

Nigeria

In December 2025, Nigeria advanced national SIYB capacity through the implementation of a 10-day SIYB Training of Trainers (ToT) in Abuja, supported by two GIZ-funded initiatives: the Action for Improving Labour Migration Governance in Nigeria (ACTION) Project and the Strengthening Employment and Employability Systems in Nigeria (SEESIN) Project.

The training focused on SYB and IYB modules and trained a total of 25 participants from Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment Job Centres, GIZ Job Centres, and key social partners—including the National Employers Consultative Association (NECA), Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), and Nigeria Trade Union Congress (TUC). This multi-stakeholder approach strengthens institutional ownership and lays the groundwork for wider SIYB roll-out, with step-down Training of Entrepreneurs and certification cycles scheduled for 2026.

Additionally, the SIYB partner organization Patriotic Citizen Initiatives has conducted SIYB trainings for over 1,000 IOM returned migrant entrepreneurs, empowering them to start or grow their businesses. The new 'Digitalize your business' module was also leveraged as part of the initiative to train participants on using digital apps for business logos and designs.



Picture: SIYB ToT in Nigeria



Rwanda

Rwanda made major strides in institutionalizing entrepreneurship education in 2025 through the integration of nine SIYB and DYB e-modules (English and Kinyarwanda) into the Rwanda Polytechnic e-learning platform. This national milestone expands access to entrepreneurship training for thousands of students, innovators, and graduates, including through RP's eight Business Incubation Centres and the Kigali ICT and Innovation Center.

Capacity building progressed strongly, with 44 trainers completing Training of Trainers—13 fully certified and 31 nearing certification—enabling outreach to 425 entrepreneurs, one-third of whom are women. An additional 575 entrepreneurs are targeted for training in 2026. New collaboration frameworks with partners including Imanzi Business Institute, Kina Rwanda, Hanga Hubs, and the Business Development Fund have strengthened the SIYB ecosystem and district-level outreach. The contextualization and translation of nine SIYB manuals into Kinyarwanda further enhances accessibility and ensures high-quality, context-appropriate entrepreneurial learning nationwide.



Picture: SIYB trainers in Rwanda



Sierra Leone

In 2025, Sierra Leone made significant progress in institutionalizing the SIYB programme within the national entrepreneurship ecosystem. A major milestone was the successful introduction of the SIYB methodology to Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology (EBKUST), where the University has formally decided to integrate SIYB packages into its curriculum across relevant departments.

As part of this process, seven university lecturers were trained and developed through a rigorous 10-day Training of Trainers (ToT), followed by supervised GYB, SYB, and IYB Trainings of Entrepreneurs (ToEs). The ILO has also supported EBKUST with a fully established Entrepreneurship Hub, which is now being managed exclusively by SIYB-certified trainers and Master Trainers, ensuring sustainability and continuous delivery. The Entrepreneur Hub provides youth and other professional both within and beyond community access to practical modules delivered through the Hub.

Additionally, the ILO, in partnership with the European Union, hosted the Opportunity Salone Knowledge-Sharing Event in Freetown in December 2025, bringing together government leaders, development partners, private sector actors, and entrepreneurs to promote innovation, job creation, and inclusive economic growth in Sierra Leone. The 3-day forum featured high-level panel discussions, enterprise showcases, business clinics, and a runway pitch competition to strengthen SMEs and value chains. 26 enterprises participated in the pitch competition, with eight winners recognized during the closing awards ceremony, highlighting outstanding innovation and business growth under the ILO Opportunity Salone programme.



Picture: The SIYB ToT at Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science in Sierra Leone

★ **Somalia**

The SIYB programme in Somalia has been institutionalised with implementation being spearheaded by SAMAD University. After the initial training of trainers, the trainers formed an association to coordinate their SIYB activities. In 2025, two representatives were able to be certified as SIYB Master trainers. Their certification marks a significant milestone for Somalia, as the country now has nationally accredited SIYB Master Trainers who can independently run ToTs and accompany local institutions. Through the ToMT process, 12 SIYB trainers and 115 entrepreneurs were trained in the SIYB packages in 2025.



Picture: SIYB training organized in Somalia

Sudan

The SIYB programme in Somalia has been institutionalised with implementation being spearheaded by SAMAD University. After the initial training of trainers, the trainers formed an association to coordinate their SIYB activities. In 2025, two representatives were able to be certified as SIYB Master trainers. Their certification marks a significant milestone for Somalia, as the country now has nationally accredited SIYB Master Trainers who can independently run ToTs and accompany local institutions. Through the ToMT process, 12 SIYB trainers and 115 entrepreneurs were trained in the SIYB packages in 2025.

Uganda

In Uganda, the 2025 a number of initiatives were advanced to strengthen the national entrepreneurship support system. Under the ILO PROSPECTS programme a training of trainers' programme was implemented in collaboration with the Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE) under a formal MoU to expand the country's pool of competent enterprise trainers. Ten selected participants from PROSPECTS partners, BDS providers, cooperative leaders, youth-focused organizations, and community development structures were trained in SIYB methodology, adult learning techniques, gender-responsive approaches, and practical facilitation skills.

During the closing session, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development committed to mainstreaming SIYB across sectors, recognizing its value for enterprise development.

In parallel, a number of ToTs were organized as part of initiatives by World Resilience Uganda, Magister Training Associates and Compassion International, training over 50 new trainers and reinforcing the institutionalization of SIYB in Uganda. Through 2025, these initiatives have reached over 550 people with GYB, SYB and IYB trainings.



Picture: SIYB ToT with the Federation of Uganda Employers



Tanzania

In 2025, the ILO significantly expanded and strengthened SIYB delivery in Tanzania through integrated interventions under the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP), the Enabel Wezesha Binti Project, and the Zanzibar Joint Programme, with a strong focus on youth, women, small holder farmers, and refugee-hosting communities. In Kigoma region, the ILO developed the capacity of 23 Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs) and certified 19 trainers in SIYB, thereby improving access to affordable, reliable BDS services in the region substantially.

For the first time in Tanzania, the Expand Your Business (EYB) module was introduced, and 18 out of the 23 service providers were introduced to EYB equip growth-oriented entrepreneurs with advanced tools and strategies to manage expansion, improve productivity, and create more employment opportunities. SIYB Training of Entrepreneurs reached over 950 entrepreneurs, predominantly women, contributing to better business performance and access to finance.

ILO promoted sustainable and competitive agricultural services by training 25 agricultural extension officers, lead farmers, and agro-input dealers through the SYB module, in collaboration with FAO, strengthening service delivery and commercialization of agriculture support systems.

To address financial inclusion barriers, 16 staff from CRDB Bank and the National Microfinance Bank were trained on SIYB tools, business plan assessment, green business practices, labour law compliance, and formalization, enhancing their capacity to support MSMEs while strengthening their own bankable business planning skills. Beyond the mainland, the ILO extended SIYB support to Unguja and Pemba in Zanzibar, where 78 youth and women smallholder farmers completed intensive SYB training, developed bankable business plans, and strengthened financial literacy, formalization, and labour law compliance.



Picture: SIYB TOT Group Picture, Kasulu Motel, Tanzania

Togo

In Togo, a training of trainers' workshop was organized and 20 new SIYB trainers were trained as part of an initiative to strengthen the national entrepreneurship support system under the an initiative by Compassion International.

Zambia

In Zambia, Kalumbila Mine Mining company launched an initiative to use SIYB to strengthen business skills and performance along their supply and support aspiring entrepreneurs from mine resettlement communities. Under the leadership of an experienced Zambian Master trainer, an intensive Expand Your Business (EYB) programme was delivered to 50 growth-oriented mine suppliers operating within the mining supply chain.

Implemented in three cohorts between December 2024 and April 2025, the training reached enterprises from Lusaka, Kitwe, Ndola, Solwezi, and Kalumbila, supporting them to develop practical Growth Plans and strengthen business resilience. Complementing this effort, 25 emerging entrepreneurs and SMEs from mine resettlement communities participated in a tailored rollout of the GYB and SYB modules in August 2025. Following the training and one-on-one coaching, all participants completed business plans, with several under review for funding and around half already formalised and operational.

Zimbabwe

The Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ) is playing its part in the educational transformation by promoting Innovation through the Innovation Drive Program. The SIYB programme has been instrumental in assisting tech innovators to refine their innovations and turn them into viable business plans. In 2025, 60 Innovators were trained in the Start Your Business package, and 40 tech innovators were trained in the Generate Your Business Idea.

As a culminating activity, tech innovators pitched their business ideas to the Universal Services Fund, with selected innovators receiving start-up support, while others were linked to financial service providers to access funding. According to POTRAZ, the SIYB programme is a critical component of the Innovation Acceleration Centre, equipping innovators with the skills needed to plan, launch, and scale technology-driven businesses, while contributing to job creation, economic growth, and socio-economic inclusion in Zimbabwe.



Picture: Team of SIYB trainers from Fine Touch Development Trust, Zimbabwe

Middle East and North Africa

Regional Training of Master Trainers (ToMT) Initiative

In 2025, the ILO continued to strengthen long-term SIYB capacity in the Middle East through a structured Training of Master Trainers (ToMT) initiative covering Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, and Palestine. Following a competitive selection process, 18 SIYB trainers had participated in an initial ToMT workshop held in Beirut in 2024. In 2025, 16 Master Trainer candidates have progressed into the supervised certification cycle and rolled out full SIYB trainer development cycles in their respective countries.

As part of this roll out, eight SIYB ToTs were delivered, resulting in the training of 172 new SIYB trainers across the region (80 women and 92 men). Several Master trainer candidates have already been able to be certified as Master trainers, while others are expected to complete the certification cycle in 2026.

Despite challenging operating contexts, particularly in conflict-affected settings, the initiative significantly expanded regional technical capacity and laid the foundation for more sustainable and locally led SIYB implementation across the Middle East.



Picture: SIYB Master trainer candidates from the Middle East

Algeria

In 2025, Algeria continued to scale entrepreneurship promotion through the nationwide deployment of GYB and SIYB-informed entrepreneurship training delivered through the National Agency for Support and Development of Entrepreneurship (NESDA) and partner institutions.

Between January and November 2025, NESDA trainers delivered 724 GYB sessions, reaching 9,396 participants, primarily students, university graduates, and TVET trainees, as part of a large-scale process to raise awareness on entrepreneurship and pre-select candidates for a more intensive entrepreneurship training programme offered through the Centre de Développement de l'Entrepreneuriat (CDE) programme. The CDE programme combines SIYB components with other modules and content for a comprehensive hybrid training model and is implemented across universities, institutes, and vocational training centres under the Ministries of Higher Education and of Vocational Training.

During the 2024–2025 period, the CDE programme delivered 1,344 sessions, reaching a total of 28,264 young people with the training programme. In the meantime, at Oum El Bouaghi University, aDigitalize Your Business (DYB) training cycle strengthened the capacity of the university's administrators and managerial staff to activate start-up laboratories and better support student-led enterprises. Delivered through two sessions, the programme trained 70 staff members, contributing to the institutionalization of entrepreneurship and innovation within higher education.



Picture: DYB ToT at Oum El Bouaghi University



Egypt

In 2025, the ILO under the PROSPECTS programme continued to strengthen inclusive entrepreneurship in Egypt through the implementation of the Enterprise Development Programme, delivered in partnership with three national implementing partners. The programme targets 2,500 refugees and host community members in Greater Cairo, Alexandria, and Damietta through a structured approach encompassing outreach and selection, delivery of SIYB, DYB, GET Ahead and SIYB – Social Entrepreneurship (SE) training packages, follow-up, and tailored Business Development Support (BDS).

In 2025 alone, 386 refugees and host community members (including 280 women, 230 refugees, and 12 persons with disabilities) strengthened their entrepreneurial skills, with more than half receiving post-training support aligned to needs identified through follow-up assessments. During the same period, 338 beneficiaries, including those trained in previous cycles, successfully started or expanded their enterprises with PROSPECTS support.

The ILO also further strengthened youth entrepreneurship in Damietta Governorate through the public-private partnership project “Decent Jobs for Egypt’s Young People: Together to Develop the Youth in Damietta”, funded by Methanex Egypt. Under the project, six SYB workshop rounds were delivered, reaching 110 entrepreneurs (72 women and 38 men), complemented by a business plan competition implemented in collaboration with the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA).

Cash awards totalling USD 2,000 were distributed to support winning business plans. Since 2024, SIYB delivery in Damietta has reached 208 entrepreneurs, contributing to the creation of 360 jobs. In parallel, the 2025 Rowad Domiat Business Competition was organised, attracting 130 applicants across services, manufacturing, digital transformation and AI. All finalists received SYB or IYB training under the supervision of SIYB Master Trainers, with nine businesses (seven start-ups and two existing enterprises) receiving awards totalling USD 20,000 to launch or develop their business.



Picture: The Finalists and Winners of the 2025 Rowad Domiat Business Competition

Iraq

In 2025, the ILO in Iraq continued institutionalization of SIYB through the projects “Towards More and Better Employment through Enhanced Support to Private Sectors in Southern Iraq – with a Focus on Green Business” funded by Italy through AICS and “Promoting Employment and Employability among Refugees, IDPs, and Host Communities, with a Focus on Women, Persons with Disabilities, and Youth in Northern Iraq,” funded by GIZ through BMZ.

Under these initiatives, two SIYB Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes were organized in February 2026. A total of 40 trainers participated, representing key national institutions such as the Central Bank of Iraq, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Youth and Sports, partner banks, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the KRI, employers’ organizations, NGOs, and BDS providers. These TOTs were conducted as part of a Training of Master Trainers process through which four Master Trainer candidates from Iraq are currently undergoing certification process to become Master trainers, further strengthening institutionalization of the SIYB programme in Iraq.

As part of this process, SIYB training packages were offered to 315 entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs across Erbil, Duhok, and Sulaymaniyah under the northern Iraq project, and to 434 entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs in Basra and Muthana under the southern Iraq project. Additionally, the project translated the Green Business Guide into Arabic and certified three trainers who subsequently delivered green business training to 57 MSMEs.

Jordan

Jordan continued to strengthen its national entrepreneurship ecosystem through expanded SIYB capacity-building under the ILO-PROSPECTS programme. A total of 12 national trainers were trained through successive Training of Trainers (ToT) cycles involving key institutions such as JEDCO, the Development and Employment Fund, and the Tanmeyah microfinance network.

To complete their certification, trainers conducted Training of Entrepreneurs (ToE) across all SIYB modules—GYB, SYB, and IYB—to train 172 entrepreneurs, including both Jordanians and Syrian refugees. Building on these developments, a second round of ToT is planned to further expand the pool of certified trainers and fully institutionalize SIYB with Jordanian partner institutions.

Lebanon

Lebanon continued to scale SIYB institutionalization in 2025 through two major strands of work: inclusive agri-business training under the ILO BOUZOUR Project and national SIYB Master Trainer development. Through BOUZOUR, local partner institutions Neopreneur and the Food Heritage Foundation delivered the gender-responsive 'Improve your Agri-business' training module – an adaptation of the 'Improve your Business' training for farmers and agri-businesses.

The training programme reached hundreds of rural producers and was supported by new tools such as an Inclusive Training Checklist and dedicated women-only learning spaces. These efforts enabled women farmers and home-based producers to strengthen costing, marketing, and digital skills. In parallel, as part of the regional training of Master Trainers process, four Lebanese Master Trainer candidates organized SIYB ToTs that trained a total of 38 new SIYB trainers in Lebanon, further contributing to national capacity and institutionalization of SIYB in the country.

Mauritania

In Mauritania, the SIYB programme achieved significant scale and impact in 2025 through the certification of 15 trainers from the Top Business Training Centre (TBC), an institution officially accredited by the Mauritanian State. As part of this process, TBC had trained 2,071 beneficiaries by the end of the year using a comprehensive package combining GYB, SYB, and IYB modules, life skills, business games, and tailored coaching. Activities were implemented across urban and rural areas, including Teyarett, Ksar, Riyad, El Mina, ReCEF, and Taguilalett.



Picture: SIYB trainers from the Top Business Training Center being honoured by the President of Mauritania



Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)

The SIYB programme in OPT had achieved significant milestones before the events of 7 October 2023. 25 local trainers had been certified under the “Enhanced Resilience of MSMEs and Improved Access to Decent Jobs in Gaza.” Project. Unfortunately, with the onset of the crisis, all activities were suspended as the situation in Gaza deteriorated rapidly. In late 2024 however, three of the certified trainers managed to participate in the regional Training of Master Trainers Workshop held in Beirut, a major achievement considering the mobility restrictions and complex humanitarian context.

Their participation not only demonstrates their professional commitment but also reflects the determination of Gaza’s entrepreneurial community to continue building skills and supporting livelihoods even in the most difficult circumstances. As part of their certification process, the three Master trainer candidates have already trained 68 Palestinian trainers in GYB and 63 in SYB.



Syria

2025 saw the introduction of the SIYB programme for the first time in Syria. Following the end of the war in Syria, ILO launched an initiative to roll out SIYB to support aspiring entrepreneurs in the country. Under the newly established ILO Programme of Support for Syria and with support of the Italian-funded “Weaving hope” project as well as the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL) and key national partners including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Commission, Chambers of Industry, and FAO, the ILO organized a 0-day SIYB Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Damascus in September/October 2025 to train 23 dedicated and talented trainers from government ministries, the banking sector and civil society organizations.

The initiative is expected to equip around 350 entrepreneurs, including many women in the industrial and garment sectors in Aleppo and Rural Damascus, with essential business skills.



Picture: The SIYB ToT in Damascus Syria, launched to introduce SIYB in Syria

Tunisia

The SIYB programme continued to be rolled out nationwide in Tunisia through the Agence Nationale pour l'Emploi et le Travail Indépendant (ANETI), the country's key public partner for entrepreneurship promotion. As part of its national employment and self-employment programmes, ANETI applied the full range of SIYB modules to support aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. During the year, over 700 entrepreneurs benefited from SIYB training delivered through ANETI's nationwide network, reinforcing the institutionalization of SIYB within public employment services and strengthening support for sustainable enterprise creation across the country.

Yemen

In 2025, the Supporting Resilient Livelihoods, Food Security, and Climate Adaptation in Yemen (ERRY III) programme—implemented by the ILO with funding from the EU and Sweden—continued to advance inclusive entrepreneurship through the SIYB initiative. Over the year, 26 national trainers were certified to deliver SIYB, significantly expanding Yemen's pool of qualified facilitators and strengthening local capacity to support micro and small enterprises.

These trainers reached more than 500 entrepreneurs, equipping them with practical business management, planning, and financial skills that have contributed to improved income generation and household resilience in a fragile and volatile context. To support sustainability and long-term impact, the ILO formalized partnership agreements with local Training Service Providers, embedding SIYB delivery within national institutions and ensuring continued access to quality business development services beyond the project lifecycle.

A major milestone was the certification of two SIYB Master Trainers, which enhances training quality, enables structured mentoring of new trainers, and positions Yemen to contribute to regional SIYB initiatives.



Picture: SIYB trainers in Yemen

Asia and the Pacific



Afghanistan

In 2015, the ILO's Sustainable Reintegration and Livelihood Support for Returnees and IDPs (SRLS) has continued to use SIYB to support women's entrepreneurship in Afghanistan. Current regulations in Afghanistan limit women participation in formal employment. However, there is a window of opportunity through entrepreneurship as women are allowed to start and run their own businesses.

Enhancing access to business skills training through SIYB is therefore an important intervention to influence growth and profitability of the businesses run by women. In 2015, 15 women trainers have been trained and certified in SIYB, and SIYB has been used to train 60 potential women entrepreneurs and 60 existing women entrepreneurs to better manage their business and create their own jobs and jobs for other women in the country.



Picture: SIYB trainees in Afghanistan



Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, the national entrepreneurship support system was further strengthened through several initiatives, including a training of trainers on IYB organized in November under the ZKS-ILO ProGRESS Project, and a training of trainers on GYB and SYB organized by the SIYB Foundation in August. Together the initiatives trained over 40 new trainers and reached hundreds of entrepreneurs in Bangladesh.



China

In April 2025, the ILO strengthened national capacity to support growth-oriented enterprises in China through a Training of Trainers (ToT) on the Expand Your Business (EYB) module, held in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province.

Organized by the ILO Country Office for China and Mongolia in collaboration with the Ningbo City College of Vocational Technology and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), the 10-day programme trained 30 participants (16 women and 14 men) from across the country, including SIYB Master Trainers, trainers, and higher-education faculty in the newly updated and improved EYB module.

The ToT equipped participants with advanced skills to design, deliver, and follow up EYB training to support growth-oriented MSMEs in China. In parallel, SIYB trainers also delivered IYB training to member companies of the Chongqing Cleaning Association, applying the latest version of IYB manuals. The training received strong positive feedback from participating enterprises.

India

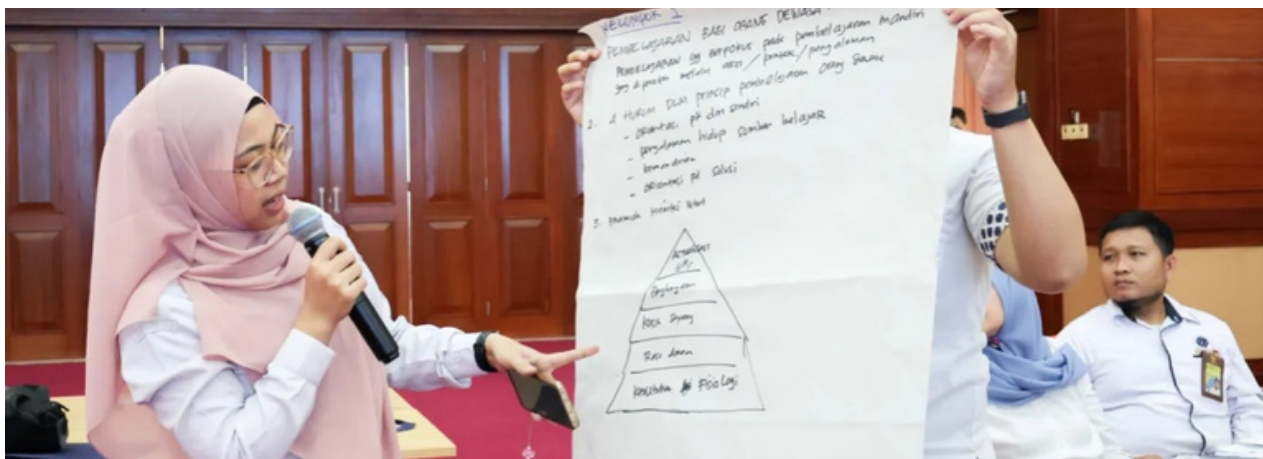
In 2025, the SIYB programme continued to expand across India through implementation by multiple partner organizations. Entrepreneurship training using the GYB and SYB modules reached at least 130 aspiring entrepreneurs through the Kerala Institute for Entrepreneurship Development (KIED).

In parallel, the Development Alternatives programme supported over 430 entrepreneurs, while the SIYB Association in India reached an additional 160 participants. Together, these roll-outs strengthened access to structured entrepreneurship training across different regions and delivery models, supporting aspiring entrepreneurs to develop viable business ideas and transition toward enterprise start-up.

Indonesia

In 2025, Indonesia further strengthened its public entrepreneurship support system through an expanded SIYB Training of Trainers (ToT) delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Manpower, under a longstanding collaboration with the ILO. Over the past two years, the capacity of more than 3,000 public employment services counsellors nationwide has been strengthened through targeted training programmes responding to Indonesia's evolving labour market needs.

Building on this foundation, a new SIYB ToT was conducted in October 2025 in Bekasi, equipping counsellors with practical tools to support aspiring entrepreneurs. The programme is designed as a blended model, that combines in-person trainings with e-learning modules rolled out through the Ministry's e-learning platform starting in 2026. By embedding SIYB within public employment services and scaling delivery through provincial and district counsellors, the programme is laying the groundwork for a sustainable, inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystem capable of supporting hundreds of entrepreneurs across the country.



Picture: The SIYB Training of Trainers workshop with the Ministry of Mapower in Indonesia

Nepal

In 2025, the SIYB Association Nepal—established in 2022 by certified SIYB trainers—significantly expanded entrepreneurship development under the “Empowered Women, Prosperous Nepal (EWPN)” project in partnership with the ILO Country Office in Kathmandu. A major milestone was the adaptation and translation of three IYB manuals (Productivity, Planning Your Business, and Buying & Stock Control) into Nepali, ensuring greater accessibility for local trainers and entrepreneurs.

A comprehensive 10-day SIYB Training of Trainers was delivered across three provinces—Sudurpaschim, Madesh, and Karnali—producing 62 newly trained trainers (25 women, 37 men). These trainers rolled out 44 GYB, SYB, and IYB training events, reaching 1,206 entrepreneurs, 78% of whom were women. Through ongoing mentorship and the SIYB Gateway certification system, 31 trainers advanced to certified status. Collaboration with refugee groups, UNHCR, provincial governments, chambers of commerce and local employment centers strengthened outreach and sustainability, further embedding SIYB as a growing entrepreneurship tool across Nepal.

Sri Lanka

In 2025, The Sri Lanka SIYB Association launched several important initiatives. In April, 25 active SIYB Master Trainers from across Sri Lanka convened in Colombo for an intensive 24-hour capacity-building session focused on integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the design and delivery of SIYB and other SME management training programmes. The event featured technical sessions and covered the latest SIYB products, including Digitalize Your Business and Green Business, alongside a hands-on AI workshop. The session also advanced planning for a national Master Trainer communication platform.

Additionally, the SIYB Association launched the Expand Your Business (EYB) programme in Sri Lanka to strengthen support for growth-oriented enterprises. A dedicated EYB Training of Trainers equipped 12 SIYB Master and Senior Trainers to deliver the programme nationwide and enhances national capacity to support enterprises in scaling sustainably and accessing larger markets.

Finally, the association also organized two separate two-day Refresher Training of Trainers (RToT) for about 50 of its SIYB Tamil Medium Trainers and 25 Sinhala Medium Trainers for seminars. Both the RToTs provided valuable platforms for the trainers to refresh their knowledge and strengthen their skills.



Picture: The SIYB Expand your Business ToT in Sri Lanka



Tuvalu

In 2025, SIYB trainers of the Department of Business and Investment, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Labour and Trade, successfully delivered a series of ILO SIYB trainings. These trainings had a strong focus on women entrepreneurs, equipping them with practical skills to start, grow, improve and digitize their businesses. In partnership with Pasefika We Are Guardians via Alinea International, participants also learned how to develop climate-resilient business models, an essential skill for Tuvalu's highly climate-vulnerable context. The high demand from women demonstrates the transformative impact of entrepreneurship training, helping turn ideas into real, sustainable businesses and contributing to stronger, resilient local economies.



Picture: SIYB trainers in Yemen