



International
Labour
Organization

The ILO in Myanmar

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► At a glance

Myanmar joined the ILO in 1948

Key areas of collaboration

- Forced labour and freedom of association
- Child labour
- Responsible business conduct
- Decent jobs, skills and labour migration
- Crisis response and decent work for peace
- Occupational safety and health
- Gender equality and disability inclusion

Social Partners

- Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM)
- Myanmar Industries Craft and Services- Trade Union Federation (MICS-TUsF)
- Agriculture and Farmers Federation of Myanmar (AFFM-FAW)
- Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)

Conventions ratified

Myanmar has ratified 25 ILO conventions, including 4 of the 10 fundamental conventions

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► Towards decent work for all in Myanmar

Myanmar faces a number of world of work challenges linked to poverty, unemployment, a large informal economy and limited social protection. These issues have been exacerbated by the pandemic and the military takeover in 2021.

The International Labour Conference at its 113th Session in June 2025 adopted a resolution addressing the situation in Myanmar, expressing deep concern over the continued deterioration of labour rights since February 2021. The resolution highlighted persistent and widespread violations, including forced labour and restrictions on freedom of association. It called on the military authorities to take immediate and concrete measures to end forced labour in all its forms and create an enabling environment for the exercise of freedom of association. The resolution further underscored the importance of continued engagement by the ILO, including through its supervisory mechanisms to ensure compliance with international labour standards. The resolution requested the office to continue to monitor developments closely and to report to the ILO Governing Body on progress.

Labour market indicators

- Population: 54.9 million ([Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026 | Humanitarian Action](#))
- Labour force participation rate (2026): 60.7%
- Employment to population ratio (2026): 57.7%
- Unemployment rate (2026): 4.9%
- Youth not in employment, education, or training (2026): 20.1%

Source: ILO modelled estimates 2026

► How do we work together?

Since the military takeover, the ILO's operations in Myanmar have been realigned with the United Nations Country Team's programmatic engagement guidelines, enabling coordinated work with workers' and employers' organizations as well as civil society across key areas:

- **Freedom of association and forced labour:** Coordinating efforts on the implementation of ILO resolution on Myanmar (2025), while providing technical support to people, communities and social partners.
- **Eliminating child labour:** Enhancing knowledge, raising awareness and building capacity among social partners and civil society to combat child labour.
- **Decent jobs, skills and labour migration:** Providing technical assistance to support creation and safeguarding of decent jobs through the promotion of responsible business practices, technical and vocational education and training as well as safe and regular labour migration.
- **Crisis response:** Promoting the resilience and empowerment of local communities through Employment Intensive Investment Programmes (EIIP). Job creation, skill development and social protection approaches are used for income generation and employability.
- **Occupational Safety and Health (OSH):** Promoting OSH standards and responsible business conduct to benefit women and men at work.
- **Gender equality and disability inclusion:** Addressing wage disparity and domestic care to empower and promote women in leadership roles.



► What has been achieved

- **Legislative framework:** Prior to the military takeover, key labour-related laws including the Occupational Safety and Health law, Factories Act, Shops and Establishments Act, Child Rights Law, and National Education Law were promulgated with ILO technical support.
- **Access to education and vocational training:** Vulnerable children and youth have gained access to education and vocational training, contributing to the elimination of child labour and greater employability.
- **Promotion of occupational safety and health (OSH):** Awareness campaigns and capacity-building programmes have helped foster a preventive safety and health culture, strengthening the institutional capacities of social partners at both sub-national and enterprise levels
- **Support for migrant workers:** Migrant centres operated by community-based and labour organisations have delivered life and vocational skills through a labour migration resources platform and provided legal assistance to vulnerable migrant workers and their families.
- **Crisis response and decent work for peace:** Following the March 2025 earthquakes, ILO's Employment Intensive Investment Programmes (EIIP) helped communities to regain stability and rebuild livelihoods. Critical infrastructure, including schools, water systems and transport links, was restored, improving access to essential services and reconnecting communities. People returned to work in stable, decent jobs, supported by strengthened skills and new livelihood opportunities that stimulated local economic activity.

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.