



International
Labour
Organization

► The ILO in Timor-Leste

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► At a glance

Timor-Leste joined the ILO in 2003

Key areas of collaboration

- Skills development
- Social protection
- Employment policy and strategy
- Social dialogue
- Just transition
- Formalization

Constituents

- Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment (SEFOPE)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry Timor-Leste (CCI-TL)
- Timor-Leste Trade Union Confederation (KSTL)
- Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI)
- Ministry Coordinator for Economic Affairs (MECAE)

Conventions ratified

Timor-Leste has ratified 6 out of 10 ILO fundamental conventions.

Contact details:

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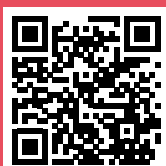
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► Towards decent work for all in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste maintains a strong partnership with the ILO, reflecting its commitment to sustainable development and decent work for all. While progress has been made in several areas, the country continues to face challenges such as informality, inequality, the impacts of climate change, high youth unemployment and limited access to quality education and training.

The ILO's collaboration with Timor-Leste focuses on key areas such as employment promotion, enterprise development, enhanced protection for workers, social protection and improved labour market governance. This includes strengthening the capacity of workers' and employers' organizations to effectively engage in and influence policy and decision-making processes.

The partnership also involves capacity building and technical assistance to the government of Timor-Leste and its social partners. Several projects aim to improve the skills and employability of young people through technical vocational education and training (TVET) programmes, strengthen the country's social protection system to support its broader social and economic development and facilitate the transition to a formal, environmentally sustainable economy.

Labour market indicators

- Labour force participation rate (2022): 35.9%
- Employment-population ration (2022): 34.9%
- Unemployment rate (2022): 2.9%
- Youth not in employment, education, or training (2022): 32.4%
- Informal employment rate (2021): 77.3%

2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census (ILOSTAT 2022 – 19th ICLS) and 2021 Labour Force Survey

► How do we work together?

The ILO and its government, employer and worker constituents in Timor-Leste are working together in a number of key areas:

- **Skills development:** Enhancing economic resilience through private sector growth and technical and vocational education training (TVET) to integrate youth into the labour market. Increasing quality employment and entrepreneurship opportunities by improving the quality of skills and TVET.
- **Social protection:** Strengthening social protection systems by improving system adequacy and institutional capacities.
- **Just transition and formalization:** Supporting the transition to a formal and environmentally sustainable economy by developing policy instruments, building stakeholder capacity and fostering citizen engagement.
- **Employment strategy and policy:** Assisting the government with the National Employment Strategy, enhancing labour market institutions for evidence-based policymaking and working with the General Labour Inspectorate to promote decent work.
- **Social dialogue:** Strengthening the capacity of workers' and employers' organizations to engage in effective social dialogue, fostering a collaborative approach to addressing labour issues.



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► What have ILO and Timor-Leste achieved together?

- **Improved rural roads and generated employment opportunities:** With the Ministry of Public Works in Timor-Leste, approximately half of the country's 1,975 km of core rural roads were improved by 2022 using employment-intensive methods. This initiative generated millions of workdays for rural populations, including marginalized groups.
- **Enhanced road access to agroforestry areas:** Over 100 km of roads connecting agroforestry areas were improved, creating short-term employment opportunities and boosting economic growth, while building the capacity of local contractors through technical and business training.
- **Labour Force Survey (LFS) and policy development:** The 2021 Labour Force Survey provided essential data for policy-making, including insights into employment trends. This supported the development of the National Employment Strategy (2021-2030) and its secretariat as coordinating bodies.
- **Efforts to combat child labour:** The 2016 Child Labour Survey helped shape policies to combat child labour nationwide.
- **Strengthened social protection systems:** The National Strategy for Social Protection (2021-2030) and its implementation plan were developed, along with the Timor-Leste Social Protection Platform. This comprehensive portal provides accessible information on social security, benefits and the rights and duties of employers and workers.

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.