

Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP)

Delivering on the ILO's Core Mandate

The Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) supports Member States in creating decent jobs through public investment, particularly in contexts of fragility, crisis, and structural employment deficits. With over 55 years of experience in more than 70 countries - and linking policy to practice - EIIP links employment creation with local economic development and serves as a strategic entry point for advancing the ILO's mandate and international labour standards, promoting decent work, social inclusion, and social dialogue.

In line with the ILO's tripartite mandate, EIIP works with governments, workers' and employers' organizations across the programme and project cycle to strengthen legitimacy, improve labour and business outcomes, and enhance the sustainability and impact of public investment.

Promoting standards

Promoting full, productive and freely chosen employment - C88, C122, C181

- In Armenia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, EIIP supported the design and expansion of national employment programmes. This included in some cases, establishing national legal and policy frameworks on minimum wages and working conditions, disability inclusion and sustainable exit strategies.
- In Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Vietnam, EIIP contributed to the drafting of national employment legislation, incorporating provisions on public works aligned with employment-intensive principles.
- EIIP is supporting Senegal, Burkina Faso and Guinea in adopting criteria to stimulate employment creation and improve job quality. In Senegal, this led to the technical validation and finalization of a guide for project owners, which in turn prompted the ongoing revision of the Public Procurement Code. In this context, support is also being provided in Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and UEMOA (West Africa Monetary and Economic Union).
- In Cameroon, EIIP's influence contributed to the adoption of a national Public Contracts Code that promotes employment-intensive methods and decent work standards.
- In Myanmar, following the 2025 earthquake, EIIP was mobilized to provide emergency livelihoods and community-level reconstruction in line with the Resolution adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2025. Guided by Article 33 of the ILO Constitution on Myanmar, this initiative aims to mitigate the impact of conflicts and disasters on local workers and enterprises.
- In Gambia, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Mozambique, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Timor Leste, the Sahel Region, Syria, the ILO supported emergency employment for local communities, which later contributed to development-driven interventions.

Minimum requirements for labour and working conditions - C29, C100, C105, C111, C131, C138, C155, C182, C187, R135

- In all programmes, EIIP sets minimum requirements for labour and working conditions, with zero tolerance for discrimination, harassment, child labour and forced labour.
- In Botswana, Cambodia, India, Kenya, Lebanon, South Africa, Thailand and Timor-Leste, EIIP contributed to setting appropriate national wage levels.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia EIIP interventions addressed child labour alongside employment-intensive infrastructure development for the parents.



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Targeting vulnerable groups - C94, C111, C159, C169

In general, EIIP supports women, young people, those living in poverty, and other vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, displaced persons and refugees.

- In Cameroon, Indonesia, Namibia, Senegal, Tanzania, Timor-Leste and Zambia, EIIP supported the implementation of C94 through reforms embedding labour clauses in public procurement.
- In Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Guatemala, Mali, Nicaragua, Niger, Indonesia and Panama, EIIP supported indigenous and tribal peoples and the use of local, traditional technologies, promoting C169.
- In Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa, EIIP promoted the inclusion of persons with disabilities in public works, advancing C159 and C111.
- In Burkina Faso, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Togo, EIIP supported forcibly displaced persons, including refugee workers, through labour-based interventions.

Work-based learning and strengthening national labour-based institutes - C142, R208

Since 2009, EIIP has supported three training institutions in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. By 2024, 18 institutions had signed a joint General Agreement of Cooperation (GAC) with the ILO.

- In Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia, EIIP helped establish work-based learning, including small-scale contractor development systems.

Social Dialogue - C87, C98, C135, C141, R149

EIIP includes rural community workers and local employers in its activities to ensure that they have a voice in the decisions that affect them.

- In Tunisia and Zambia, EIIP supported social dialogue and collective bargaining in the construction sector.
- In Iraq, Lebanon, Sierra Leone and Syria, EIIP supports institutional strengthening through collaboration with government, workers and employers to improve working conditions - providing a unique model for local partners where governance is being established.

Decent Work for Peace and Resilience - R204, R205

EIIP has been at the core of the Jobs for Peace & Resilience Programme, driving job creation through ILO interventions within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Nexus.

- In Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria and Togo, EIIP interventions promote employment and decent work within the HDPN, contributing directly to R205 and advancing ILO instruments, including C111, C122.

Active labour-market policies and public employment programmes as part of the Universal Social Protection Floor - C122, R122, R202

EIIP guides member States to maximize the employment content of their public investments, while supporting policy development and capacity building across sectors.

- In Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania, EIIP supported the design of public employment policies targeting workers unable to support themselves due to limited market-based employment opportunities.

Key Conventions & Recommendations Promoted by the EIIP

Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No.87); Employment Service Convention, 1948 (No. 88); Labour Clauses (Public Contracts) Convention, 1949 (No. 94); Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122); Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970 (No. 131); Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No.135); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Rural Workers' Organisations Convention, 1975 (No.141); Human Resources Development Convention, 1975 (No.142); Rural Workers' Organisations Recommendation, 1975 (No.149); Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155); Disabled Persons Convention (No.159); Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No.169); Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182); Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187); Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202); Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204); Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205)

