

Mandate Momentum Impact

Advancing decent work and social justice in and
through the social and solidarity economy



International
Labour
Organization

coop
SSE

2024-25 Strategic results

At a glance

About the work

Result 1

Result 2

Result 3



These results from 2024-25 reflect concrete progress in advancing decent work in and through cooperatives and the broader social and solidarity economy, in line with the ILO's mandate and in response to growing demand from governments, employers' and workers' organizations and to rapidly evolving global realities.



Simel Esim

Head

ILO Cooperative, Social and Solidarity Economy Unit (COOP/SSE)



Strategic results at a glance

ILC resolutions

4 International Labour Conference resolutions promoted the SSE

National frameworks

22 countries and territories with a more conducive environment for cooperatives and the broader SSE

Statistical methodology

2 international technical working groups advancing statistical methodology for cooperatives and the SSE towards ICLS 2028

60%+ of active Decent Work Country Programmes reflected the SSE or its entities

Capacity development

473 certified trainers for ILO training packages on cooperatives

Development cooperation

66 projects integrating cooperatives and the broader SSE

38

countries using ILO training packages on cooperatives

Global engagement

130+ events where the ILO contributed on cooperatives and the broader SSE



ILO support contributed to improvements in legal, policy and institutional frameworks for cooperatives and the broader social and solidarity economy in 22 countries and territories:

**Belize, Bermuda, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire,
Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Guyana, Jordan,
Kenya, Kiribati, Mali, Nigeria, Peru,
Saudi Arabia, Senegal, State of Palestine,
Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye,
Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.**

Source: [ILO Programme Implementation Report 2024-25](#)



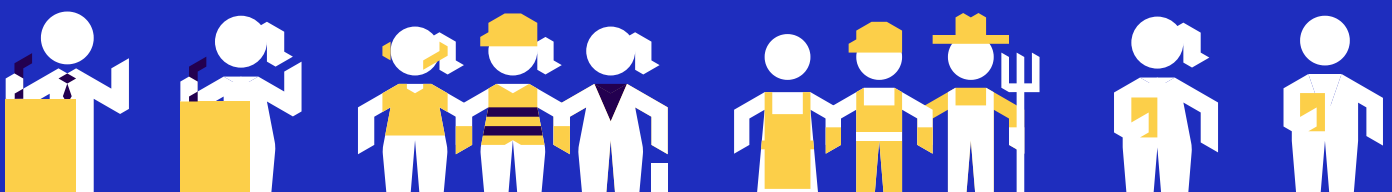
Global understanding and policy coherence on the SSE were strengthened

The ILO supported this result through research, statistics, knowledge management and engagement in global policy processes on the SSE and its entities.

- ▶ SSE promoted in ILC resolutions on fundamental principles and rights at work (2024), care economy (2024), addressing informality (2025), Second World Summit for Social Development (2025), and related GB follow-up
- ▶ Cooperatives and the SSE promoted through dedicated UN General Assembly resolutions and recognized in broader UN, G7 and G20 outcome documents, including the Doha Political Declaration and the Sevilla Commitment
- ▶ Two international technical working groups advancing statistical methodology for cooperatives and the SSE towards the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) 2028
- ▶ 47 knowledge products and expanded country diagnostics across regions
- ▶ 130+ global events including in the International Year of Cooperatives

Together, these results strengthened the visibility of the SSE and its entities in global policy processes, statistical work and knowledge exchange.

**Read more on
strategic result 1**



National legal, policy and institutional frameworks for the SSE were strengthened

Member States developed conducive environments and institutional capacity for the SSE



20+ Member States advanced **legal, policy and institutional frameworks** for the SSE



Regional frameworks advanced, including the ten-year SSE Strategy and implementation plan of the **African Union**



13 Member States integrated ILO training methodologies on cooperatives into national systems and institutions



473 certified trainers available, with ILO training packages on cooperatives used in **38 countries**



3,100+ participants from 160+ countries engaged through **the SSE MOOC**

These results developed conducive environments, institutional capacity and training systems for the SSE.

**Read more on
strategic result 2**

The SSE was further integrated into ILO activities, DWCPs and development cooperation projects

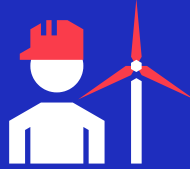
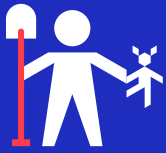


The SSE and its entities were further integrated into ILO activities, Decent Work Country Programmes, development cooperation projects and partnerships, including South-South and triangular cooperation.

- ▶ The SSE and its entities were integrated into work on care, formalization, supply chains, just transition and crisis response
- ▶ 66 development cooperation projects integrated cooperatives and other SSE entities in their activities
- ▶ Cooperatives and other SSE entities were reflected in over 60 per cent of active Decent Work Country Programmes
- ▶ Partnerships were strengthened across constituents, UN and multilateral bodies, international financial institutions, development partners, academia and other stakeholders

These results demonstrate that the SSE and its entities were further integrated into ILO delivery, country programming and development cooperation.

**Read more on
strategic result 3**



The results in a nutshell

The 2024-25 biennium demonstrated the central role of the SSE in advancing the ILO's constitutional mandate on social justice and decent work.



Across global policy recognition, national institutional strengthening and operational delivery, the Office advanced follow-up to the 2022 International Labour Conference Resolution through policy, institutional and programme results.



Sustaining this momentum will be essential to ensure that the SSE and its entities continue to support formalization, inclusive enterprise development, resilient supply chains and just transition in the world of work.





About the work

ILO engagement on cooperatives and the broader SSE is grounded in the Organization's mandate, responds to constituent demand and delivers results.

This engagement builds on the ILO's longstanding work on cooperatives since its founding in 1919, including the establishment of a dedicated function in 1920 and consultations with cooperators enshrined in the Constitution.

For
106
years

[Click here](#)

the ILO has advanced **social justice** through a **dedicated mandate and structure** for **cooperatives**, expanded to encompass the **social and solidarity economy (SSE)**.



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As the only United Nations agency with an explicit mandate on cooperatives and the broader SSE, the ILO has long played a leading role in the development of international normative, policy and statistical frameworks in this area.

It includes the Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193), the sole up-to-date international labour standard dedicated to cooperatives.

This was followed by guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives adopted at the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians.



110th International Labour Conference (2022)

Building on these foundations, the 2022 International Labour Conference (ILC) resolution concerning decent work and the SSE provided the first universal definition of the SSE, set out guiding principles to address challenges and opportunities, and specified the roles of governments and the social partners, as well as the role of the International Labour Office.



In the 2024–25 biennium, the ILO, through coordinated efforts across departments and field offices, with the Cooperative, Social and Solidarity Economy (COOP/SSE) Unit serving as the technical anchor, translated these normative commitments into measurable results.

The work was guided by the Strategy and Action Plan on Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy adopted following the 2022 ILC resolution. The strategy and action plan are structured around three objectives:

Improved understanding of realities and needs related to decent work and the SSE

Increased capacity to promote decent work and the SSE

Enhanced coherence on decent work and the SSE

In this biennium, cooperatives and other SSE entities were integrated into major tripartite policy processes; national reforms advanced across regions; foundations were laid for international statistical methodology and guidance; and the SSE was integrated in development cooperation portfolios addressing care, formalization, supply chains, crisis response and just transition.





Spanning the ILO's mandate, these results demonstrate that the SSE is a key operational component in advancing decent work and social justice.

They also highlight the importance of sustained institutional capacity within the International Labour Office to ensure coherence, technical rigour and continuity in advancing this mandate.





Strategic result 1

Global understanding and policy coherence on the SSE were strengthened

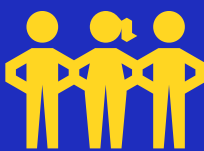
During the 2024–25 biennium, the ILO advanced follow-up to the 2022 International Labour Conference (ILC) resolution through tangible progress by advancing global recognition of cooperatives and the broader SSE, and by strengthening policy, statistical and knowledge foundations among constituents and across policy processes.



At the tripartite policy level, major ILO outcomes promoted the SSE across policy areas.

The following ILC resolutions adopted during the biennium recognize and promote the contribution of cooperatives and the broader SSE:

- Resolution concerning the third recurrent discussion on **fundamental principles and rights at work**
- Resolution concerning decent work and the **care economy**.
- Resolution concerning the general discussion on addressing informality and promoting the **transition to formality** for decent work
- Resolution concerning the Second **World Summit for Social Development**, 2025



These provisions were subsequently reflected in the respective follow-up action plans, which include SSE-related measures on evidence generation, capacity development and policy guidance.

This strengthened the capacity of governments and employers' and workers' organizations to apply SSE-related measures across the policy cycle. Together, these developments advanced the integration of the SSE within the ILO's normative, policy, strategic and operational frameworks.



Beyond the ILC, the ILO contributed to strengthening policy recognition of the SSE in multilateral processes.

Through its leadership in the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTF SSE), ILO played a central role in the preparation of the first United Nations Secretary-General's report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 77/281 on promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development.



References to the SSE and/or to the 2022 ILC resolution were included in other policy outcome documents, including the G20 Fortaleza Declaration (2024), G7 Cagliari Declaration (2024), the Luxembourg Declaration on Social Innovation (2025), the Sevilla Commitment of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (2025) and the Doha Political Declaration of the World Social Summit (2025).



United Nations General Assembly resolutions, including the Resolution on the International Year of Cooperatives 2025, the 2024 Resolution on promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development, the 2025 Resolution on cooperatives in social development, have further reinforced this recognition. Their implementation, including through activities undertaken during IYC 2025, has strengthened its visibility and impact.



The biennium also saw progress in sectoral policy guidance.

The ILO's policy guidelines for the promotion of decent work in recycling explicitly recognize cooperatives and other SSE entities as relevant actors, particularly in contexts of widespread informality and identify enabling measures to support their contribution to formalization and improved working conditions.



In parallel, the ILO advanced a structured pathway towards international statistical standards for the SSE.

Building on pilot implementation of the 2018 Guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives, Phase 2 of the Strengthening the SSE Knowledge Base project was launched in 2024 with support from the Republic of Korea.

This phase focuses on methodological consolidation and work towards statistical standard setting, with the objective of submitting international guidelines on SSE statistics and a manual on cooperative statistics to the International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2028.



A major institutional milestone on the statistics work was reached in 2025 with the establishment of two international Technical Working Groups under COPAC and the UNTFSE.

They have brought together approximately 40 experts from national statistical offices, ministries, academia and representative organizations.

Their work focuses on defining statistical boundaries for the SSE and strengthening methodologies for measuring the economic contribution of cooperatives. A joint expert workshop ensured coherence between the two workstreams and produced a technical synthesis that will inform future international statistical guidance and standards.

Complementary guidance was strengthened through the publication of Measuring Cooperatives (second edition, 2025) and Implementing the ILO Guidelines Concerning Statistics of Cooperatives: Insights from Five Countries.



Partnerships with the United Nations Statistics Division, OECD and the European Commission further anchored this work within broader statistical frameworks.

The evidence base was expanded to support constituents in designing policies and strengthening programmes on the SSE.

Country diagnostics and mapping exercises across Asia, Africa and Latin America strengthened understanding of SSE realities and policy gaps. For example, in Asia, mappings based on consultative processes in [Cambodia](#), [Thailand](#) and [Viet Nam](#) examined the role of SSE entities in rural economy, youth livelihoods and formalization, among others. [The Thailand brief](#) was published in May 2025, while work in other countries continued through validation and technical review.



Thematic research further strengthened the analytical foundation for policy.

Studies on the care economy in contexts such as [Zimbabwe](#), the [State of Palestine](#) and [Lebanon](#) analysed how cooperative and community-based models can expand access to services while improving working conditions.



The regional synthesis for Latin America brings together key findings from care economy studies in Colombia, Bolivia and Honduras.



Research on agricultural supply chains in Uganda and Lebanon identified gaps in occupational safety and health and child labour prevention.



Complementary research further expanded the evidence base on the role of the SSE in social protection and formalization, highlighting the contribution of health mutuals as member-based institutions and identifying SSE-based approaches to organizing workers in the informal economy, while a joint ILO–ICA brief clarified the distinctive relationship between cooperatives and profit.



These efforts were complemented by strengthened knowledge dissemination.

A total of 47 knowledge products were developed and shared through digital platforms, webinars and partnerships with organizations such as the International Cooperative Alliance and other global and regional SSE networks.

Access key knowledge products

The second United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025 further amplified global engagement, with more than 130 events and policy dialogues connecting cooperatives and the broader SSE to contemporary challenges – including the IYC webinar series on care economy, formalization, crisis response and large and multinational cooperatives.

IYC 2025: ILO Engagements



Taken together, these developments mark a major step in global recognition, measurement and knowledge on the SSE.

The SSE is gaining stronger normative recognition, more robust statistical foundations, and an expanding evidence base. This strengthens its policy legitimacy, increases its visibility in economic analysis, and reinforces the basis for expanding its contribution to decent work, social justice and sustainable development.



Strategic result 2

National legal, policy and institutional frameworks for the SSE were strengthened

During the biennium, the ILO supported Member States, responding to growing demand from governments, employers' and workers' organizations, to strengthen policy frameworks and institutional capacities necessary to promote cooperatives and the broader SSE as part of national employment and development strategies.



Demand for ILO support increased significantly, reflecting growing recognition among constituents of the SSE as a policy instrument for inclusive economic development and decent work.

More than 20 Member States advanced legal and policy frameworks aligned with Recommendation No. 193 and the 2022 ILC resolution.

These reforms included national SSE strategies, cooperative development policies, legislative revisions and sector-specific roadmaps linking cooperation to formalization, rural development and market access. Policy reforms were increasingly grounded in evidence and participatory processes. This strengthened the capacity of national institutions and social partners to coordinate the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of coherent SSE-related policy frameworks, and to learn from their implementation.

Diagnostics and mapping exercises supported by the ILO helped identify legal gaps, clarify institutional roles and define implementation priorities. Regional briefs in [Africa](#) and [Latin America and the Caribbean](#) further illustrate these policy developments and their implementation across contexts.

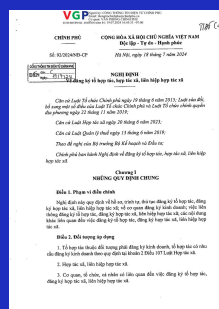


Examples illustrate the diversity and reach of these reforms.

Zambia and Bermuda adopted their first cooperative policies, while legislative and institutional reforms advanced in countries such as Jordan, Senegal, Türkiye and Viet Nam, strengthening governance and oversight of cooperative systems.

In Guatemala, a national SSE assessment and mapping exercise informed the development of the country's first SSE Action Plan, supporting a more coordinated policy approach to local economic development, rural employment and formalization.

In Chile, technical support informed the development of a roadmap to strengthen cooperatives and cooperation in the rural economy, linking these approaches to formalization and improved market access.



In fragile and crisis-affected contexts, ILO support emphasized institutional strengthening and feasible pathways to formalization and livelihoods.

In the State of Palestine, cooperatives were integrated into employment and sectoral strategies, including agriculture and care.

In Sierra Leone, reforms under the Opportunity Salone programme initiated modernization of the Cooperative Act, while in Lebanon cooperative-based approaches supported livelihoods in agricultural supply chains.

Regional frameworks reinforced this momentum.

The African Union's Ten-Year Strategy and Implementation Plan on the SSE, developed with ILO support, provides a continent-wide reference for integrating the SSE into employment and development strategies.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, ILO engagement with the Ibero-American Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy supported policy dialogue and exchange among governments and SSE actors.



Alongside policy reform, institutional capacity was strengthened to ensure sustainability and enable constituents to apply these frameworks in practice.

Thirteen Member States integrated ILO cooperative and other SSE training methodologies into national training systems and relevant public institutions.

In Senegal, a national pool of certified trainers was established to support nationwide delivery, while in Timor-Leste, the My.COOP training package was translated into the Tetum language and embedded in national training structures.

In Costa Rica, the ILO supported the design of a national service for cooperatives and other SSE entities, integrating training, certification and advisory services to support policy implementation.



The ILO's Our.COOP training package was expanded and standardized, reaching 38 countries and 15 languages.

473 certified national trainers create a multiplier effect that enables national institutions to deliver cooperative training independently.

Examples include extension officers trained in Peru to support aquaculture cooperatives, cooperative service providers trained in Uganda to strengthen member-based organizations and institutional uptake within cooperative authorities in Jordan and Nigeria.

Across sectors including aquaculture, agriculture and artisanal gold mining, training packages were applied to address decent work challenges.

In agriculture, training packages addressing occupational safety and health and child labour were applied in countries such as Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Nepal, strengthening prevention and compliance within supply chains.



Capacity development was also expanded through global learning platforms.

The massive open online course on the SSE, developed with Luxembourg support in multiple languages, in collaboration with the UNTFSSSE and delivered through the ITCILO e-Campus, reached more than 3,100 participants from over 160 countries during the biennium, including many participants from ILO constituents.

This significantly broadened access to structured SSE learning, strengthened peer exchange across regions and complemented national and regional training efforts.



[Access the course](#)

Taken together, these developments reflect a move beyond project-based support toward more institutionalized, system-wide approaches that embed the SSE in national policies, programmes and training systems.

By supporting the alignment of legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, and national and global capacity-development mechanisms, the ILO helped constituents build conducive environments in which cooperatives and other SSE entities can operate, grow and contribute sustainably to decent work outcomes.



Strategic result 3

The SSE was further integrated into ILO activities, Decent Work Country Programmes and development cooperation

During the biennium, the ILO strengthened the integration of cooperatives and the broader SSE across ILO activities, DWCPs, development cooperation and partnerships.

This marked a broadening from policy recognition to the more consistent practical integration of the SSE and its entities in programmes that support decent work and social justice.



The SSE was particularly visible in multi-country flagship programmes.

In the PROSPECTS partnership, which promotes the inclusion of refugees and host communities in national economies, cooperative and SSE models were used to support livelihoods, enterprise development and social cohesion, with support from the Government of the Netherlands.

In Lebanon, the EMDAD initiative strengthened social enterprises through training, financial support, mentoring and networking, enhancing their capacity to serve both host and refugee communities.



In Ethiopia's Somali region, cooperative-based approaches in livestock value chains supported productivity and economic opportunities for refugees and host populations.



In supply chains, programmes such as ACCEL Africa, supported by the Government of Netherlands, applied cooperative approaches to address child labour and strengthen governance.

In Mali, support to artisanal gold mining cooperatives contributed to the withdrawal of children from hazardous work while supporting youth through vocational training and alternative livelihood opportunities.



Across agricultural and rural development programmes, including initiatives such as ProAgro in Morocco and JEUN'ESS in Tunisia, cooperative and associative models supported improved productivity, agribusiness development, market access and working conditions, including among young small producers and workers in the informal economy, with support from the Government of Germany and the European Union, respectively.



This growing policy recognition was reflected in the integration of the SSE into ILO development cooperation.

Projects integrated the SSE in the promotion of fundamental principles and rights at work, employment opportunities, social protection, social dialogue, formalization, rural development, forced displacement contexts and supply chains, including 11 dedicated projects supporting cooperative and SSE policy development, statistics and institutional strengthening.



In total, 66 projects integrated cooperative and other SSE entities in their activities. This level of alignment demonstrates the operational scale of SSE-related work within ILO delivery mechanisms and funding streams.

ILO Development Cooperation Dashboard



The integration of the SSE was also reflected in the ILO's country-level programming frameworks.

A review of 52 active Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) indicates that more than 60 per cent reflected the SSE or its entities.

In the Caribbean, for example, the DWCPs of Barbados, Belize and Guyana highlight the role of cooperatives and other SSE entities in promoting productive employment, local economic development and economic inclusion.



Argentina

Bangladesh

Barbados

Belize

Burundi

Cambodia

Cameroon

Comoros

Congo

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ethiopia

Gabon

Guinea

Guinea-Bissau

Guyana

Honduras

India

Indonesia

Jordan

Lao PDR

Malaysia

Nepal

Papua New Guinea

Republic of Moldova

Sierra Leone

Somalia

South Africa

South Sudan

Suriname

Thailand

Timor-Leste

Viet Nam

Zimbabwe

* Mapping of active DWCPs that reflected the SSE or its entities

Partnerships further reinforced these developments.

Collaboration with United Nations entities, regional organizations, development banks, SSE networks and research institutions advanced policy coherence and operational delivery.



Engagement with organizations representing workers in the informal economy, including Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) and StreetNet International, ensured that SSE-related work was informed by organizations representing workers in the informal economy.



A global knowledge-sharing event convened by the ILO with constituents and partners further consolidated learning across regions and strengthened collaboration between SSE practitioners, policymakers and development partners.



By further integrating the SSE into ILO activities, Decent Work Country Programmes and development cooperation, the Office helped constituents harness the fullest potential of SSE entities to contribute to decent work, inclusive and sustainable economies, social justice, sustainable development and improving standards of living for all.

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