



International
Labour
Organization

► The International Labour Organization (ILO) in Timor-Leste at a glance (October 2023)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency devoted to advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity. The Organization has 187 member states and is unique amongst United Nations Agencies in being tripartite: governments, employers and trade unions all participate in its work and in its decision-making processes. Timor-Leste has been active member of the ILO since the year of 2003. Currently, the work of the ILO in Timor-Leste is shaped

within the framework of the tripartite approved Timor-Leste Decent Work Country Programme for 2022-2025 (DWCP). Agreed priorities and outcomes for the DWCP Timor-Leste are (1) Employment Promotion and Enterprise Development, (2) Enhanced protection of workers and social protection and (3) Improved labour market governance, including strengthened capacity of workers' and employers' organizations to effectively participate in and influence policy and decision-making processes.

Entrepreneurship support

Following the lead of the 2010-2016 Business Opportunities and Support Services (BOSS) project implemented with the Institute for Business Support (IADE) and other relevant stakeholders to deliver market oriented services to micro and small enterprises (MSEs) and contractors, the ILO is currently collaborating with endorsement of the European Union with IADE, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Timor-Leste (CCI-TL) and Women Employers' Organization of Timor-Leste (AEMTL) to foster women entrepreneurship skills. The intervention is based on the adaptation and roll out of the training tool Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (GET Ahead), a gender-sensitive entrepreneurship training programme designed for women and men with basic numeracy.

Under the framework of the recently started European Union project "Agroforestry Skills for Employment and Resilience", entrepreneurship support for women and youth living in rural areas will be rolled out with dedicated trainings and business support services.

Vocational Training

Under the framework of the recently commenced EU project "Agroforestry Skills for Employment and Resilience", the ILO, in collaboration with Government, Training Centres and Social Partners, will promote green and sustainable economic diversification in Timor-Leste through combined support to private sector development and technical and vocational education training (TVET). Revision of curricula and educational offer in selected trades will be at the root of the intervention.

Strengthening the national social protection system

Since 2021, with contributions from the Government of Portugal and the GIZ, the ILO assisted the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) to develop and adopt the first Implementation Plan 2022-2023 and the governance structure for the National Strategy of Social Protection 2021-2030 (NSSP). The latter included helping with estimates of the costing of

policy reform. The ILO also supported awareness raising in Portuguese and Tetum via national campaigns to promote the understanding of the social security system, the draft of the legislation to create the intersectoral group of statistics for social protection and the development of the Social Security Portal in Timor-Leste.

Eradication of Child Labour

With the support of the United States Department of Labour (USDOL) ILO assisted the government of Timor-Leste and the social partners with measurement (two dedicated survey in 2016 and 2022), policy design (national action plan, 2023), legislative review (hazardous work list, 2023), capacity strengthening (labour and school inspectorate, referral and reporting forms and procedures, 2020-2023).

Enhancing national Social Dialogue

Together with the promotion of the ratification of international conventions on social dialogue, the ILO since 2020 worked to strengthen operations of the National Labour Council and facilitated bipartite dialogue between employers and workers organizations for recovery and growth policies, workplace cooperation and improving dispute resolution. The latter led to a newly established formal dispute resolution mechanism.

Employment Intensive Infrastructure Works

Since 2012 the ILO, with funding from the Government of Australia, supported the National Directorate of Roads, Bridges and Flood Control (DRBFC) within the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to implement Road for Development Program – a leading rural road programme of the Timor-Leste Government, using local resource-based, inclusive approaches to rural roadworks. By end of 2022, about half of Timor-Leste's network of

1,975 kilometres of core rural roads was brought to in good condition, improving economic activity and the economic benefits in the rural areas. In most recent years, ILO assisted to provide (i) training tools for procurement officers and local enterprises, (ii) a set of core technical guidelines for management of rural roads at national and municipal level, (iii) the development of the Integrated Roads Management System (IRMIS), (iv) the development of Rural Road Master Plan and Investment Strategy (RRMPIS) 2023-2027.

Since 2017, with funding from the European Union, the ILO through the Partnership for Sustainable Agro-Forestry (PSAF): provided capacity building and the roll out of a labour-based programme for Contractors for rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads and facilitation of access and market linkages to the benefit of rural communities.

Violence prevention and response in the context of work

Under the Spotlight initiative funded by European Union the ILO assisted the government of Timor-Leste and the social partners with dedicated activities aimed at revising current legislation, training of labour inspectors and civil service Commission, upgrade of the national program "Support to Victims of gender based and domestic violence" and raise awareness in the population. The ILO also helped to draft the Law Against Violence and Harassment in the Work which is currently awaiting enactment.

Research and statistics

The ILO provided technical assistance and financial contribution to the Government of Timor-Leste to conduct the 2021 Labour Force Survey (LFS) and its analytical report (2023). In 2023, the ILO published a dedicated mapping of youth employment interventions.

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