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International Labour Organization

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
DANIDA | International Development Cooperation

Ministry of Employment

Government of Denmark ILO Cooperation

Denmark has been an ILO Member State since its creation in 1919 and a key partner of the ILO in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Denmark has ratified a considerable number of ILO Conventions, including the 8 fundamental Conventions, the 4 priority Conventions, as well as 60 of the 177 technical Conventions. In 2011 Denmark ratified the Maritime Labour Convention (2006), which entered into force in August 2013.

Denmark's contribution to the ILO priorities

Denmark-ILO Partnership Programme focuses on the fields of social dialogue and tripartism, gender equality and international labour standards, with a rights-based approach to development as a cross-cutting theme.

Denmark was one of the first donors to develop a partnership framework with the ILO. Through regular policy consultations, Denmark and the ILO seek broader synergies and identify common priorities for development cooperation.

DENMARK'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PRIORITIES

The cornerstone of Danish development policy is the "**Right to a Better Life**" framework – a rights-based approach, which promotes sustainable **economic growth that should be green** and **include social progress** in order for it to contribute to **improving the lives of poor people** and their ability to create a better life for themselves.

The framework makes explicit references **to decent work, ILO core labour conventions and social dialogue**. It identifies four strategic priority areas: 1) Human rights and democracy 2) Green growth 3) Social progress 4) Stability and protection.

Danida is the term used for Denmark's development cooperation, which is an area of activity under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Denmark focuses on development assistance in the following **22 priority countries**: Ethiopia, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Niger, Ghana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Zambia, Somalia, Kenya, Palestine, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bolivia.

Denmark allocated 0.84% of its gross national income to official development assistance (ODA) in 2012, which amounted to US$ 2.8 billion. Multilateral ODA accounted for 28% of Danish ODA.

FACTS AND FIGURES ON DENMARK'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ILO

The Government of Denmark finances the ILO through the Regular Budget (RB), the Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) and Extra-Budgetary Technical Cooperation (XBTC).

Regular Budget (RB) contributions are provided by all ILO Member States by virtue of their membership. Countries' contributions are based on the United Nations allocations assessment. The total regular budget of the ILO in the biennium 2012-13 amounted to US$ 861.6 million, of which US$ 4.88 million was provided by Denmark.

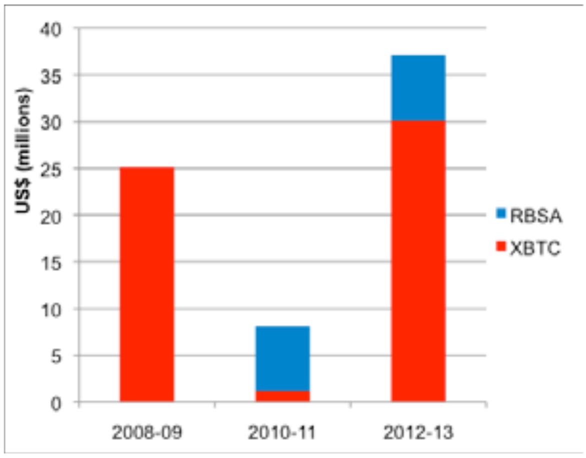
The **Regular Budget Supplementary Account** (RBSA) is an un-earmarked voluntary fund, which provides a pool of flexible resources allocated by the ILO to strategic areas and emerging priorities. Denmark supports the RBSA with DKK 20 million per year. Between 2008 and 2013 Danish contributions to the RBSA amounted to US$ 13,139,462.

Extra-Budgetary Technical Cooperation (XBTC) contributions support specific global and national projects and programmes with a clear timeline and pre-defined geographic and thematic focus. The overall funding from Denmark to ILO's XBTC between 2008 and 2013 amounted to US$ 56,398,774.

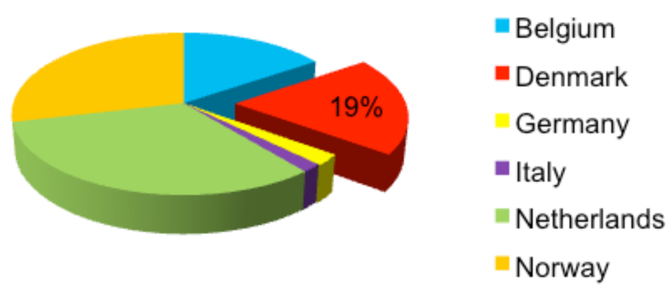
Denmark was the seventh largest donor to the ILO's voluntary funds during the period 2008-13.

Denmark's Voluntary Funding to the ILO, 2008-13

Extra-Budgetary Technical Cooperation and Regular Budget Supplementary Account



RBSA contributions 2012-13: US$



Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) – An ILO Priority

The continued support of Denmark to the RBSA has been a critical element in enabling the ILO to deliver results to Member States. The ILO established RBSA to provide donors with a modality to contribute fully un-earmarked voluntary funding, which is used in line with aid effectiveness principles and OECD/DAC Guidelines on ODA-eligibility. RBSA allows the Office to allocate funds strategically when and where they are most needed in an independent, flexible and fast manner, complementing other ILO resources.

RBSA resources have become a key element in advancing the ILO reform agenda, as they provide direct thematic support to the eight Areas of Critical Importance (ACIs) identified by ILO constituents in the new Programme and Budget for 2014-15. The eight ACIs are: promoting more and better jobs for inclusive growth, jobs and skills for youth, creating and extending social protection floors, productivity and working conditions in SMEs, decent work in the rural economy, formalization of the informal economy, strengthening workplace compliance through labour inspection, and the protection of workers from unacceptable forms of work.

Realizing the potential of Africa's Youth

In May 2009 the ILO was entrusted to implement two of the five Key Initiatives of the Africa Commission: "Unleashing African Entrepreneurship" and "Promoting Post-Primary Education". Denmark supported the initiatives with a total contribution of DKK 204 million (approximately US$ 42 million).

The aim of the first initiative - implemented in partnership with ILO's Youth Employment Network - is to stimulate the creativity and innovative capabilities of Africa's youth. The programme is implemented in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. A joint review by Danida and the ILO, conducted in September 2013, concluded that the Initiative was on track to reach the overall target of **11,500 businesses and 23,000 jobs created**. The programme involves media outreach campaigns, introduces youth entrepreneurship curricula, and provides access for youth entrepreneurs to training and finance. By the end of 2013 the programme had reached more than 30,000 young entrepreneurs. An impact survey showed that after one year, 56% of the young beneficiaries had created a new business. On average, each new business created 2.4 jobs.

The second initiative increases gainful and productive employment opportunities for young women and men in Benin and Zimbabwe. Using the ILO's Training for Rural Economic Empowerment methodology, community-based training is expanded and improved in rural areas in tandem with upgrading informal apprenticeship systems in selected urban areas. In 2013 independent evaluations indicated that the programme is reaching the established target of **19,000 individuals**. In 2014 the Zimbabwe component received additional funding from the Government of Sweden to extend its focus to Women's Economic Empowerment. The Government of Zimbabwe adopted the programme as a national framework for youth empowerment. In Benin – a G20 pilot country – the programme works with UNESCO in support of the national action plan on skills for employment.

DELIVERING AS ONE

UNIPP is a joint initiative of the ILO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), the UN Development Program (UNDP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) that has put a focus on indigenous peoples's issues at the global, regional and country level for the first time.

Cooperating to promote and protect indigenous people's rights

Launched in May 2011, the United Nations Indigenous People's Partnership (UNIPP) combines the individual expertise and networks of five UN agencies and aims to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, taking as a cornerstone their right to participate in decision-making, the State's duty to consult, and the principle of free, prior and informed consent. Funding from donors and participating UN agencies is channelled to a Multi-Partner Trust Fund. Denmark has been the first and most generous donor to UNIPP (US$ 1.5 million), for which the ILO currently serves as Co-Chair and hosts the Technical Secretariat.

Overall UNIPP initiated 110 projects and activities with over 100 partners in 6 countries and regional work in South-East Asia. Altogether, these areas are home to a large number of indigenous peoples with a population of 100 million (30% of the world's indigenous population).

UNIPP delivered capacity-building training to over 5,500 key actors, worked to harmonize state law with customary indigenous law in Nicaragua, facilitated 21 countrywide consultation workshops on free, prior and informed consent in Bolivia), enabled indigenous inputs to a new forestry law in Cameroon, helped draft 8 pieces of enabling legislation in Congo, and organized the first ever UN-led conference on indigenous issues and extractive industries in South-East Asia.

In addition, in Bangladesh the ILO implements a project funded by the Danish Embassy in Dhaka (US$ 601,541) to promote the rights of indigenous people through capacity building and advocacy initiatives based on the principles of ILO Conventions, in particular the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and other instruments relevant to indigenous and tribal peoples.

Responsible Business in Myanmar

"Foreign direct investment that results in job-creation should be invited. Investors should adhere to codes of best practices. Track records in regards to internationally recognized labour standards and environmental responsibility should be examined"

Aung San Suu Kyi at the International Labour Conference 2012.

In December 2013, Denmark decided to support a Programme for Responsible Business in Myanmar (US$ 1.8 million). Building on the reform agenda of the Myanmar Government and Denmark's' commitment to good governance, democracy and human rights, the ILO works together with the International Commission of Jurists and Institute of Human Rights and Business, focusing on responsible investment. The ILO will undertake value chain assessment and development for job creation and entrepreneurship in the garment and fisheries sectors. This programme contributes to the economic development of the country by creating new jobs and skills for its large young population.

Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Nepal

According to the Nepal Child Labour Report 2010, out of 1.6 million children (5-17 years) in child labour, 621,000 are in hazardous work, 60% of which are girls.

The Government of Nepal has demonstrated its commitment to the elimination of child labour. Ratification of two ILO core Conventions on child labour was followed by the establishment of a number of legal frameworks including the National Master Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour prepared with the support from Denmark and ILO technical assistance.

While the Government have raised commitments to end exploitative work for children, the priority remains with the worst forms of child labour such as slavery, trafficking of children, debt bondage, and forced or compulsory labour. Continuing assistance to the Government of Nepal, the ILO and the Danish Government launched a new 3-year initiative in 2013 on eliminating the worst forms of child labour (US$ 581,990).

The project provides support to the relevant government bodies, social partners, non-government organizations, children and their families towards creating integrated area-based models for child labour free communities, strengthening their institutional capacities and improving legislations and policies. The major project interventions include the preparation of a national child labour policy, the hazardous work list, upgrading national legislation related to child labour, and development of training and guidelines for addressing the issues of elimination of worst forms of child labour.

SUPPORT TO THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS IN PAKISTAN

Given weak coordination between provincial labour administrations and field offices and inadequate documentation systems, major constraints have hindered the capacity of Pakistani labour inspectors to ensure the application of labour regulations. Responding to a request from the Ministry of Human Resource Development of Pakistan, the ILO allocated RBSA funds during 2012-13 and provided technical assistance for the application of international labour standards and the establishment of a reporting mechanism for both provincial and federal institutions.

With the support of ILO technical assistance and through tripartite consultation, four provinces developed a targeted plan of action for the application of and reporting on international labour Conventions on child and forced labour. In addition, a reporting mechanism has been developed to connect districts, provinces and the federal ministry, as well as a computerized fast-track Labour Inspection Reporting System completed by the end of 2013.

Decent Jobs for Egypt's Young People

Following the Arab Spring, Egypt's already high youth unemployment rate increased from 19% in 2010 to 28.9% in 2012. A quarter of Egypt's population is aged between 18 and 29. However, job growth has failed to keep up with increases in the working-age population. In addition, the jobs that are being created are poor in quality and mainly concentrated in Egypt's informal economy. This lack of decent work is preventing the next generation of Egyptians from gaining the skills, experience and income necessary for the economic, social and political development of their country.

In November 2012 the Government of Denmark decided to support an ILO project (US$ 1.6 million) which offers an integrated approach to stimulating youth employment over a three-year period in two Egyptian Governorates: Qalyoubia and Menoufia. The project aims at increasing decent employment opportunities for young men and women, especially vulnerable groups by (i) strengthening the regional and local level capacity of relevant institutions related to youth employment (ii) Improving supply and demand in the labour market, and matching the links between the two.

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