



International
Labour
Organization



Ireland ILO Cooperation

Ireland is a long-standing partner in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Ireland has ratified a considerable number of ILO Conventions, including the eight fundamental Conventions, three priority Conventions, and 60 of the 177 technical Conventions.

Ireland's contribution to ILO priorities

Ireland signed a Partnership agreement in 2001 that regulates voluntary contributions to the ILO. It provides a coherent, predictable and structured framework for cooperation.

The Partnership builds upon the close alignment between the development cooperation priorities of Ireland and ILO's objective of securing sustainable livelihoods and decent work for women and men globally.



IRELAND'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The vision of Ireland's development assistance is a sustainable and just world, where people are empowered to overcome poverty and hunger and fully realise their rights and potential.

Three priority goals are **(1)** Reduced hunger, stronger resilience, **(2)** Inclusive and sustainable economic growth, **(3)** Better governance, human rights and accountability.

In order to deliver on the goals, six priority areas for action guide Irish development cooperation:

1. Global hunger
2. Fragile states
3. Climate change and development
4. Essential services, including education, HIV and AIDS, health and social protection
5. Trade and economic growth
6. Human rights and accountability

Ireland focuses on development cooperation in the following partner countries and territory:

- **Africa:** Ethiopia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- **Asia:** Timor-Leste, Viet Nam
- **Middle-East:** Occupied Palestinian Territory

Ireland allocated 0.47% of its gross national product to official development assistance (ODA) in 2012, which amounted to €628.9 million. Multilateral ODA amounted to 30% (OECD/DAC).

The Partnership Programme 2012-13

The Ireland-ILO Partnership Programme provides thematic funding, lightly earmarked at the level of selected Decent Work Outcomes, which are the backbone of ILO's Strategic Policy Framework 2010-15.

In 2012-13 Ireland's funding of €6 million contributed to the achievement of ILO results in **17 countries**.

Some highlights:

► Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda: supporting women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship

2,904 women entrepreneurs were trained on business management using gender-sensitive materials. 80 per cent of the women considered the training helpful in developing skills and knowledge to better manage their business and family money, and in boosting their confidence and general self-awareness. Furthermore, 43 Women Entrepreneurs' Associations (WEAs) and other relevant organizations' were trained and developed action plans to strengthen services to members and better advocate their interests. "Month of the Woman Entrepreneur" (MOWE) campaigns were supported in all three countries. Radio, television and press reached out to over 4.3 million people.



► Zambia: decent work for disabled youth through skills development

In Zambia, as in much of Africa, access to vocational skills training is not available to many women and men with disabilities. When training is provided, it is often in segregated settings and not of a standard comparable to that offered in general vocational centres. Negative attitudes and public perceptions of

persons with disabilities, combined with physical barriers and a lack of adapted curricula and training materials, impede their access. The systematic exclusion of young disabled persons from mainstream skills training exacerbates their poverty and limits their opportunities in life.

The Labour Law Reform Process in Zambia takes into account the rights of people with disabilities, especially training and employment. Training programmes on technical skills in selected colleges are being reformed with ILO support to make them accessible to students with disabilities. These colleges have developed their own strategies for ensuring vocational training that includes women and men with disabilities and are implementing the Government's policy.

"To my friends with disabilities: Do not allow others to look down at you because of your condition; step out and interact with the world around you through education. That is how other people will respect us and our rights"

*Apprentice Iness Mwape
Tailoring and design student,
Mansa Trades Institute*

► Ghana: eliminating child labour

In line with the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182) and Recommendation (No. 190), 1999, the Government of Ghana adopted a Hazardous Child Labour Framework in implementing their National Action Plan.

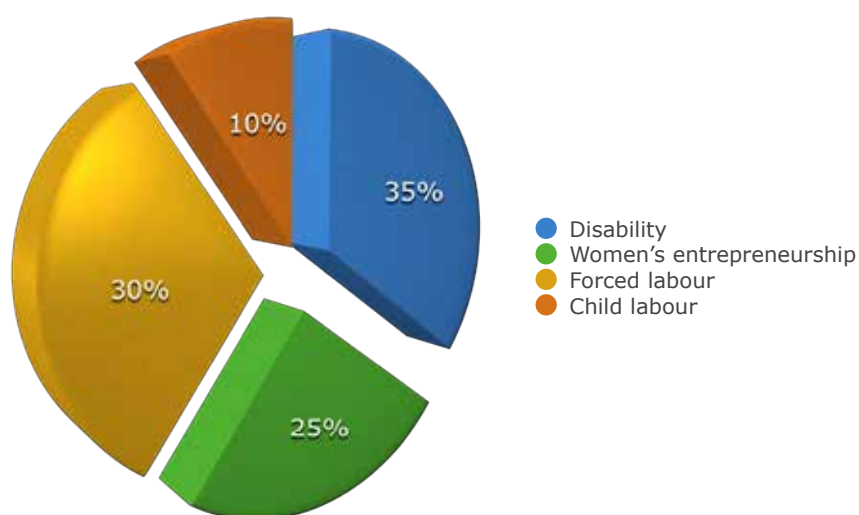
A formal agreement between the trade unions and employers was signed committing each party to coordinate their actions in the fight against child labour. This agreement will facilitate the inclusion of child labour clauses in collective bargaining agreements and ensure that there is no child labour in the formal economy.

► Brazil: combating forced labour

Thousands of Brazilians and labourers from neighbouring South American countries are thought to be trapped in slavery in Brazil's booming agrarian, mining and materials sectors.

ILO provided continued technical assistance in support of important actions taken by the Brazilian Government in 2012-13. A Second National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons was established. This includes a revamped National Pact against Slave Labour, the most prominent example of private sector engagement against forced labour since it represents more than 400 companies accounting for 30 per cent of Brazilian GDP.

Allocations by theme Ireland/ILO Partnership Programme, 2012-13



Support beyond the Partnership

Building social protection floors in Southern Africa

Over the last two decades Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi have registered unprecedented and fast economic growth. However, this has not translated into equal progress in poverty reduction and human development. There is a large consensus now that social protection is a key instrument to accelerate the reduction of extreme poverty. For this reason, the three countries are now establishing sound policy and institutional frameworks to deliver efficiently mechanisms of social protection. ILO adds value through its capacity and unique expertise at the macro level, in the areas of social protection financing and the establishment of a rights-based legal and institutional

framework, inspired by international social security standards.

The programme supported by Irish Aid provides technical assistance to the on-going processes of national dialogue for implementing the building blocks of domestically owned and funded national systems of social protection. Grounded in a regional peer learning process, the programme delivers practical assistance with economic feasibility studies, legal expertise, and advice on the governance of implementing national social protection floors. This allows countries to build tools to plan, budget and monitor the performance of national social protection programmes. Thus, systems are able to provide effective national responses to

Social protection floors are nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees that should ensure as a minimum that, over the life cycle, all in need have access to essential health care and to basic income security, which together secure effective access to goods and services defined as necessary at the national level.

protect households from social risks and economic shocks, while strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable and ensuring their social inclusion.

The programme will also ensure wider dissemination of its findings to other southern African countries, promoting a South-South learning approach.



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

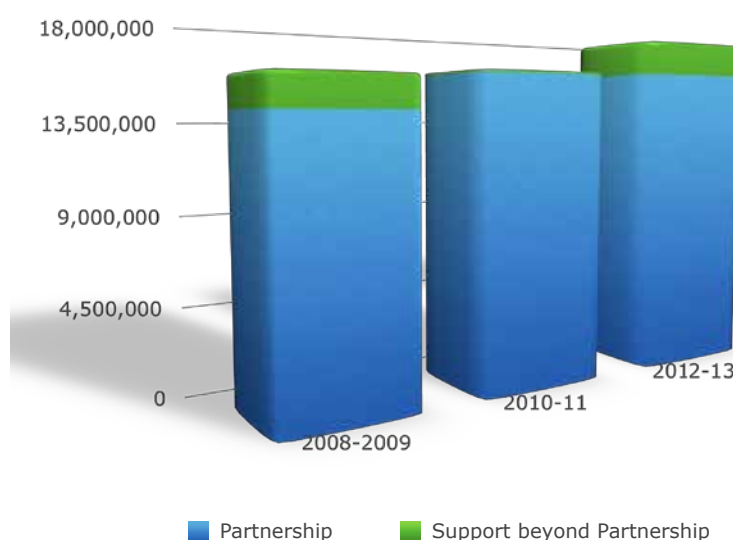
Ireland finances the ILO through the Regular Budget (RB) and Extra-Budgetary Technical Cooperation (XBTC).

Regular Budget contributions are provided by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. In 2012-13 Ireland provided **US\$ 4.3 million**.

Extra-Budgetary Technical Cooperation (XBTC) contributions support specific global and national projects and programmes. This includes the lightly earmarked thematic funding of the Partnership. In 2012-13 funding from Ireland to ILO XBTC amounted to **US\$ 9.8 million**.

Ireland was the **13th largest** donor to the ILO's voluntary funds in 2012-13.

Ireland's voluntary contributions to the ILO, 2008-13 (US\$ '000)



Viet Nam: Better Work

Better Work is a partnership between the ILO and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) that improves the lives of workers and their families by driving sector-wide, sustainable improvements in adherence to core ILO labour standards and national labour law, and promoting business competitiveness in major garment producing industries.

Approximately 1,000 garment factories are engaged, employing over 1,000,000 workers in Cambodia, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Lesotho, Nicaragua as well as Viet Nam, where Irish Aid contributes to Better Work.



KEY RESULTS IN VIET NAM

198 factories with 231,260 workers received support to improve compliance with labour standards and working conditions

A 5% improvement in compliance is associated with a 10% increase in worker **income**, a 9% increase in the **remittances** that workers send home, and a 3% improvement in workers' **health**. Workers in factories with higher compliance also receive 7% more training.

Profits are higher in Better Work Viet Nam factories where workers report better working conditions. The extent to which factories use their **productive capacity** has increased by 15%. In addition, Better Work factories are moving up the value chain, producing **higher value-added** products, such as suits and jackets. The percentage of Better Work factories that are **preferred suppliers in global supply chains** increased by over 20%.

A case study shows that improvements in working conditions have a **direct impact on business performance**. Increased social dialogue resulted in reduced **staff turnover** and **absenteeism**. There were no strikes in over nine years, translating into **high levels of productivity** and significant **cost savings**.

Timor-Leste: business opportunities and support services

The Timorese Government attaches great importance to developing a vibrant private sector through increased domestic and foreign investment. Yet, the private sector is still underdeveloped, characterized by small, individually owned, self-financed, agro-based and informal activities and is unable to provide rural households with productive employment and sustainable income.

This programme funded by Irish Aid supports the Institute for Business Support (IADE) and the National Directorate for Rural Development (NDRD) of the Ministry of Economy and Development in boosting local economic development,

enhancing Government service delivery and creating quality employment in rural areas by expanding market access for micro to small enterprises (MSEs,) strengthening local contractors and improving the provision of business development services

The programme is expected to result in increased sales, public and private investment, **1,050 jobs and 740 business start-ups** in target sectors (cattle, horticulture and tourism). Business development services for MSEs are enhanced and envisaged to be accessible nationwide.



Vegetable farmers in Maubisse sub-district, Timor-Leste, are growing seedlings in a greenhouse. Irish Aid's support has enabled the local farmers to grow organic vegetables and have a stable flow of income.

Contact

International Labour Organization
4, Route des Morillons
CH-1211 Geneva-22 – Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 799 7239 / Fax: +41 22 799 6668
E-mail: pardev@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/pardev

DEPARTMENT
OF PARTNERSHIPS
AND FIELD SUPPORT