

NOVEMBER 2019

Australia ILO Cooperation

Australia is a founding member State of the ILO and a key partner of the ILO in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Australia has ratified a number of Conventions, including seven Fundamental and three Governance Conventions. Australia is part of the Asia-Pacific Government Group of ILO members.



International
Labour
Organization



Australia's Contributions to the ILO

Australia contributes to the regular budget of the ILO and to its development cooperation programme. Funding supports ILO's work on labour migration, the [Better Work Programme](#), as well as on improving management and condition of rural road networks.

The cooperation between Australia

and the ILO is channeled through bilateral cooperation agreements with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. With the support of the Australian government, the ILO currently implements programmes in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Jordan, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka and key countries in Eastern-Asia.

AUSTRALIA'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PRIORITIES

The purpose of Australia's development cooperation programme is to promote Australia's national interests by contributing to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. To that end, Australian assistance focuses on supporting private sector development and strengthening human development by investing in the following sectors:

- Infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness;
- Agriculture, fisheries and water;
- Effective governance: policies, institutions and functioning economies;
- Education and health;
- Building resilience: humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection; and
- Gender equality and empowering women and girls.

At least 90 per cent of Australia's development cooperation assistance is directed to Australia's immediate neighbours in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly South East Asia and the Pacific.



FACTS AND FIGURES ON AUSTRALIA'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ILO

Australia funds the ILO through:

- **Assessed contribution**, paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership, which constitute the ILO's core funding or regular budget. From 2015 to 2018, Australia contributed over US\$ 32 million.
- **Voluntary non-core funding contributions**, provided as earmarked funds for priority programmes and projects in addition to assessed contributions. From 2015 to 2018, Australia contributed over US\$ 34 million.

Overview of Australia-supported Initiatives



Improving Rural Roads in Timor-Leste

Funded by the Government of Australia, the US\$ 18.4 million [Roads for Development Program \(R4D\)](#) is strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Public Works in Timor-Leste to manage rural roads assets. Since 2012, the ILO is strengthening key systems, developing sectoral policies, standards and improving the skills of staff within the Ministry of Public Works.

To date, a total of 552km of Timor-Leste's core rural roads networks have been improved to high quality all-weather standards and placed under regular routine maintenance. Approximately 500 government and 750 contractors' staff have been trained.

Improved rural roads are vital for people living in rural areas to be

able to access markets, health and educational services. R4D is also generating short-term employment opportunities and income for local labourers. Since 2012, approximately 1.3 million labour days have been created. This amounts to around US\$ 6.5 million in wages for local communities, including women and persons living with disabilities.



Maximising the Benefits of Labour Migration in ASEAN

In 2016, the total number of intra-ASEAN migrants was around 7 million, a fivefold increase since 1990. While labour migration can be an economic boost and a driver of social development, many migrant workers experience exploitation and abuse during recruitment and employment. [The Government of Australia is providing key support to ILO's](#) efforts to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of labour migration in ASEAN. In particular, the ILO is working closely with key partners within ASEAN, as labour ministries, workers' and employers' organisations, recruitment agency associations, academia, and civil society organisations.

Since 2015, these efforts have advanced law and policy in relation to labour migration, namely the Cambodia Labour Migration Policy 2019-2022 and the Thailand Royal Ordinance Concerning Management of Employment of Migrant Workers.

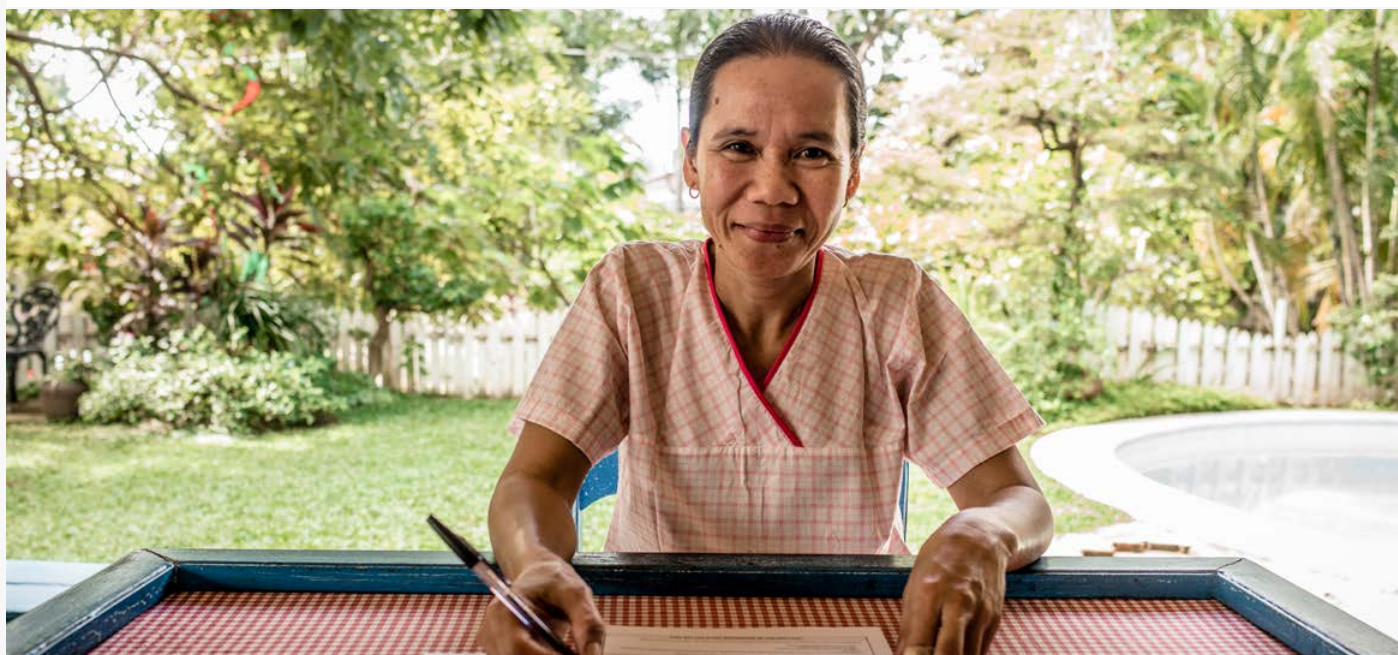
The ILO has also produced key research, including the "[Social Protection for migrant workers](#)" in ASEAN: Developments, challenges, and prospects and "[Towards Achieving Decent Work for Domestic Workers in ASEAN](#)": 10th [ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour](#) (AFML).

Other key achievements include:

- The training of over 31,400 government, employer, worker

and civil society representatives, 41% of whom were women.

- The delivery of services to over 130,000 current and intending migrant workers through a network of 35 [Migrant Worker Resource Centres](#).
- The launch of [SaverAsia.com](#), a remittance cost comparison portal designed to help migrant workers in [ASEAN](#) find the best rates for sending remittances home and make informed decisions to improve their financial health.
- The launch of two [#SafeMigrationASEAN](#) campaigns.



Promoting Decent Work in the Floriculture Sector in Jordan

The project supports vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees working in Jordan's floriculture sector through interventions that improve their working conditions, enhance their skills and boost their employability in the sector. The project, signed in July 2019, will be implemented in targeted farms in the governorates of Madaba and Irbid, where it will ensure the

inclusion of a large percentage of women and people with disabilities in its activities.

Activities will focus on supporting workers in skills development and certification, enhancing their access to employment opportunities and income generating activities in floriculture farms. This will be done through training and certifying a pool of one thousand workers to

advance their skills using ILO skills training methodology. Activities will also include Training of Trainers for female floriculture workers to train others in areas such as Occupational Safety and Health. The project will work with floriculture producers to help them access new local, regional and international markets, through the development of marketing material and export coaching.

Empowering Communities through Economic Development in Sri Lanka

With funding from the Government of Australia and the Government of Norway, the ILO is contributing to a more inclusive and equitable post conflict recovery and development in Vavuniya North, a Northern Province of Sri Lanka. The project is ensuring continuous and sustainable income opportunities for the poor and vulnerable in the province, increasing their income by 700%. Moreover, the project enabled unemployed young men and women to find employment in the processing and production of plants.

As a result of the project activities, as well as those of other development partners, the official poverty level has been reduced from 20% in 2012 to 3% in 2018 in Vavuniya North. These achievements have been possible through partnerships with private and public sector institutions and alliances with local actors. These alliances have not only contributed to economic development but also to the reconciliation and peace process as they served as platform for discussion, negotiation and to raise the voice of the vulnerable and disenfranchised. The cooperative of Vavuniya North increased its membership from 36 to 600 families due to expanded market networks. The cooperative established in the district of Mallaitivu

has also grown its membership from 40 to 450, who are working to support vulnerable women.



Building on these achievements, the project is expanding its geographical coverage and technical expertise to include legislative reviews in addition to empowerment and capacity building. Special focus is being given to enabling women and other excluded groups to participate on a more equal footing in the government's development agenda.

Better Work - Improving Garment Workers' Lives and Boosting Factory Competitiveness

The Government of Australia is a key resource partner to the [Better Work Programme](#), which brings together governments, global brands, factory owners, and unions and workers to improve working conditions in the garment industry and make the sector more competitive.

Through Better Work, factories have improved compliance with the ILO's core labour standards and national legislation, covering compensation, contracts, occupational safety and health and working time. This has both significantly improved working conditions and enhanced factories'

productivity and profitability.

Currently, the programme is active in 1,700 factories, benefitting more than 2.4 million workers in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Haiti, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Jordan, Nicaragua and Viet Nam.



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