



International
Labour
Organization

Turkey and the ILO

Turkey has been an ILO member State since 1932 and has ratified 59 ILO conventions, including all eight fundamental Conventions, three governance Conventions and 48 technical Conventions. Turkey supports the ILO's mandate both through contributions to the ILO's core budget and to development cooperation programmes and projects.



Turkish Support to Syrian Refugees

Turkey has become a major refugee-hosting country, after an unpredicted increase in the displacement of Syrian refugees since 2011. As of January 2017, more than 2.8 million Syrian refugees are registered under the temporary protection regime in Turkey. The countries receiving the refugees face major challenges in dealing with the situation and in supporting the host communities. While the address of humanitarian needs has been at the forefront of the response, the focus has been increasingly shifting to livelihoods support.



Within this context, the ILO is playing a significant role in the livelihoods cluster of the response in the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) coordinated by the UN agencies and development partners. In 2015, the ILO Office for Turkey has introduced a comprehensive strategy and inclusive response to the Syrian refugee crisis which has become one of the most important agenda items for the ILO Office for Turkey. In addition, the ILO has been progressively working on social integration and inclusion issues involving child labour, women's empowerment etc.

The ILO prepared a Programme for the Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Turkey, entitled "Promoting a Resilient Labour Market through Decent Work and Inclusive Economic Growth" for the period 2017-2021.

The Programme consists of three main pillars:

- The increase of the availability of a skilled, competent and productive labour supply to facilitate access to decent work for Syrian refugees and Turkish host communities;

- To support an enabling environment for business development and economic growth in identified sectors and geographic locations to address job creation and stimulate entrepreneurship opportunities for Syrian refugees and Turkish host communities;
- To provide support for the strengthening of labour market governance institutions and mechanisms to assist Turkey in implementing inclusive development strategies.

In January 2016, the "Regulation on Work Permits of Foreigners under Temporary Protection" was enacted by the Government of Turkey to regulate work permits for Syrians under temporary protection. The ILO's efforts and contribution to the livelihoods of and the enhancement of decent work opportunities for Syrian refugees became rather crucial with the introduction of the legislative regulation.

Promoting decent work is the core element in all ILO projects. In support of Active Labour Market Policies towards the Syrian refugees and host communities in Turkey, the ILO has delivered vocational, technical, skills development, and entrepreneurship trainings to Syrian refugees and local communities to improve the employability of both.

In 2016, over 1500 Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens have benefitted from the courses on Welding, Turkish language, Computer Numerical Control programming, Plastic pipe installation, Hairdressing and skin care, Patient admission services, Woodwork, and

CISCO Network Systems, with approved certificates by the Ministry of National Education.

In addition, local media seminars have been conducted to increase awareness of the use of a positive and anti-discriminatory language. A communication strategy has been developed on the base of the new legislative measures from which books as well as informative

documents have been produced on its implications on labour market such as “Syrians under Temporary Protection” and “Work Permits for Foreigners”. Currently, the ILO Office for Turkey is implementing follow-up projects, namely “Promoting decent work opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities in Turkey” and “Improving labour market integration of Syrian refugees and host communities in Turkey” in the cities of

Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Mardin, Ankara, Adana, Mersin and Hatay to continue on the promotion of decent employment and equal treatment for Syrian refugees and host community members.

The aim of the ILO Office for Turkey is to reach 10,000 Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens to benefit from vocational, technical, skills development and entrepreneurship trainings in 2017.

Turkish Support to Syrian Refugees



The Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) established on January 24th 1992, to provide development assistance, in priority to Turkish speaking developing countries but also to bordering countries, and improve cooperation through projects and programs in economic, commercial, technical, social, cultural and educational arenas, currently

maintains 21 coordination offices in 37 countries across Africa, Asia, and Europe.

In 2010, the Turkish Government through the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TIKA) contributed towards an ILO project aimed to support the ongoing efforts to create decent and sustainable jobs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (Opt). TIKA is now actively involved in

South-South and triangular cooperation in Central Asia, and in African countries.

The project supported the implementation of an ILO-supported development cooperative policy and strategy, instrumental in advocating for the development and endorsement of the unified cooperative law. It supported a targeted number of cooperatives in specific sectors through capacity development and trainings to increase their management performance and enhance their business and employment creation potential. One thousand new cooperative members, of which half of them were women, were trained by a pool of cooperative extension workers (change agents instrumental in turning existing cooperatives into sustainable business enterprises at the community level) and acquired new skills based on training needs and skills gaps. In addition, gender mainstreaming was equally ensured through the selection of a number of women-only enterprises that have participated in the proposed capacity building programme.

To support the national cooperative movement, the project functioned at both the institutional and community levels. The proposed initiative fell within the framework of the Palestinian Employment Programme. It aimed to stimulate economic growth and promote sustainable and decent employment opportunities.



TIKA and the ILO

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) continues to work with 33 Program Coordination Offices in partner countries and realizes projects and activities in over 100 countries. TIKA carries out the task of being a co-operating mechanism for the state institutions and organisations, universities, non-profit organisations and the private sector. In addition it functions as a plat-

form for these actors to come together and records the development aid carried out by Turkey. The ILO and TIKA have cooperated recently in the organisation of an SSTC Academy in ILO-ITC, Turin. TIKA provided self-funded scholars and resource persons for the academy, and provided training materials as well as tools for the students.

In addition to their support for the Occupied Palestinian Territories (Opt) and to the Syrian refugees, Turkey has also been very engaged in promoting South-South cooperation at the Global South-South Development Expo 2016 in Dubai, alongside ILO, promoting regional integration and cooperation among Turkish speaking countries.

Knowledge Management Facility on Youth Employment and Migration and South-South exchange



Another South-South cooperation initiative, in which Turkey has a major role in, is the project entitled 'Knowledge Management Facility on Youth Employment and Migration and South-South exchange', which takes the form of a knowledge-sharing platform, aimed at organizing thematic and global workshops to share experiences, lessons

learnt and good practices on youth employment and migration across national partners including representatives of government and civil society, at national and local levels — and the participating UN agencies. It also aims at supporting the collection and dissemination of data, information and tools generated by the joint programmes as well as conducting

research and studies on topics of common interest to the joint programmes. The KMF represents a tool to support the implementation of UN joint programmes through the YEM. It consists of joint programmes being implemented in countries in Africa, Asia, South-East Europe and Latin America.

Impact of the South-South cooperation initiative



The Knowledge Management Facility has allowed countries from the Global South to learn from each other regarding the effective implementation of policies on youth employment and migration, and draw upon the lessons learnt from the different JPs.

The Knowledge Management Facility has encouraged several South-South exchanges to take place. Several workshops have been organized and have raised the interest from some participants to further cooperate with their peer countries and learn from their experiences.

Turkey and the potential of cooperatives for waste pickers in the recycling sector

It is estimated that there are as many as 500,000 waste pickers in Turkey, including a growing number of Syrian refugees. They are part of the informal economy, as they receive neither social security protection nor any other benefits. Their incomes are directly depend-



ent on the amount of waste they are able to collect, which may be an average of 200-250kg per day of work, representing up to 15 hours of work per day. They are often exposed to health risks from cast off items and possible injury as well.

The workshop on “Understanding the Role of Waste Pickers and their Cooperatives in Waste Management and Recycling” was organized by the ILO and the Ministry of Customs and Trade in Ankara on December 20-21, 2016. During the two day workshop, waste pickers and central and local government officials had the opportunity to discuss the legal, institutional and financial barriers to, and solutions for, ensuring the livelihoods of waste pickers.

The General Director of Cooperatives at the Ministry of Customs and Trade of Turkey, and the Director of the **ILO Office for Turkey**, have opened the workshop with a key question: “As Turkey is transitioning into a modern integrated waste management system, is there a role for waste pickers to play and if so, what should it be?” Waste pickers from **Argentina** and **France** have shared their experiences in forming cooperative enterprises. Waste pickers from Turkey also shared their conditions of work, their organizing experiences and their expectations. Local and central government officials also presented the legal and institutional responses in place, or needed, for waste pickers’ integration into the modern system.

SSTC PANEL, ILO COOP MEETING, 10 NOVEMBER 2015, ANTALYA TURKEY

Linkage between South-South and triangular cooperation and Social and Solidarity Economy and Cooperativism – Parallel Session (F2) 130 pm -3 pm, Antalya Turkey

South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) is regarded as an approach harmonious with SSE for sharing knowledge, experience and good practices and for supporting capacity development, technology transfer and even resource mobilization or the formation of international networks of social innovation. The ILO has been engaged in initiatives that have evidenced the complementarity between SSTC and SSE in the past few years, these activities have been presented in the SSE Academies in Agadir (2013), in Campinas (2014), in Johannesburg (2015), and during the LED Forum in Turin (2015). South-South and triangular arrangements can expand the impact of Social Economy and exchanges between cooperatives in national contexts by building regional and inter-regional networks and platforms for knowledge and experience-sharing. There are already many SSE networks bringing together countries from the South, such as the Latin American Coordination Bureau of Fair Trade (MCLACJ), the MERCOSUR Solidario, the ASEC network in Asia, the RIPESS, and the IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) trilateral development initiative, which have been major drivers of South-South cooperation and exchanges.

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