



International
Labour
Organization



▶ Ireland ILO Cooperation

▶ September 2021

Ireland has been an ILO member State since 1923 and is a long-standing partner in the promotion of the Decent Work Agenda. It has ratified 73 ILO Conventions and three Protocols, including all eight fundamental and three priority conventions.

Since 2001, there have been multi-annual Irish Aid-ILO Partnership Programmes, providing over US\$ 36 million to the ILO through four consecutive phases in support of the work on Disability, Women's Entrepreneurship, Forced Labour and Child Labour topics in addition to support for individual projects in other areas of work. ILO and Irish Aid currently have a multi-year partnership (2016-2021) focusing on social protection and Employment-Intensive Investment Programmes (EIIP), support for Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique has focused on Social Protection as well as global knowledge sharing activities.

Ireland funds the ILO through Assessed contributions paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership and Voluntary contributions, which are earmarked funds for priority

programmes and projects. Apart from its Regular Budget assessed contributions made by the [Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation \(DBEI\)](#), the Government of Ireland, through the [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#), is a major contributor to the ILO development cooperation programme. Ireland's policy for international development 'A Better World' was published in 2019 and focuses on gender equality, climate action, good governance and combatting poverty. It builds on Global Ireland, the Government's initiative to double the scope and impact of Ireland's global footprint by 2025. The new policy prioritises making progress towards the UN target of allocating 0.7 percent GNI to Official Development Assistance by 2030, as economic circumstances permit.

Ireland's development cooperation priority countries

Ireland has nine partner countries: Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Viet Nam. It also has an ongoing development programme in South Africa since 1994 in support of the country's transition from apartheid to democracy.

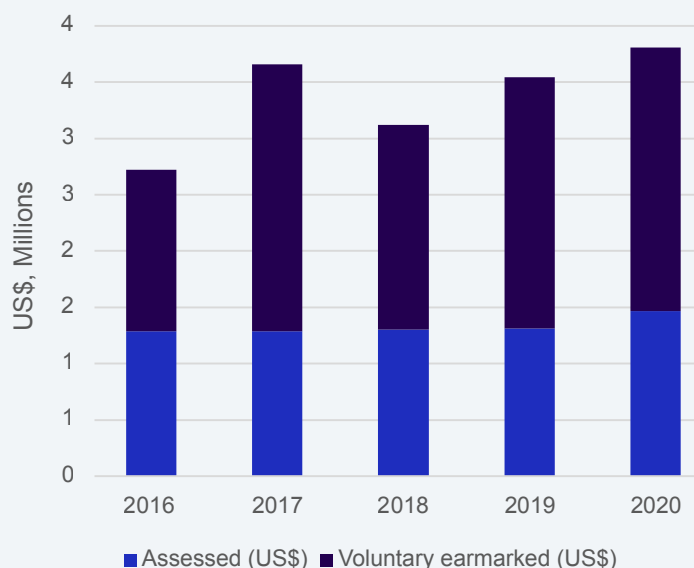
Ireland also works with partners to support peace, stability and development in Timor Leste. Additionally, it supports countries affected by conflict and fragility in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Zimbabwe and Palestine.

Ireland's strategic contributions to the ILO

Ireland funds the ILO through:

- Assessed contributions to the ILO's Regular Budget paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. From 2017 to 2020, Ireland contributed US\$ 5.4 million.
- Voluntary, non-core funding contributions earmarked for priority themes and projects. From 2017 to 2020, Ireland contributed US\$ 8.8 million.

Ireland's support to ILO interventions



Current ILO-Irish Aid Partnership Programme (2016-2021)

With Irish support of nearly US\$ 10 million, the multi-year partnership of Inclusive Growth, Social Protection and Jobs (IGSPJ), 2016-2021, focuses on strengthening the extension on Social Protection Floors (SPF) and EIIP in Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Viet Nam.

IGSPJ works to support national governments to use appropriate, inclusive, well-designed and well-managed social protection measures and employment promoting approaches. By promoting the delivery of public investments in support of resilience, access to services and employment opportunities for poor and vulnerable people, the programme contributes to inclusive economic growth. The partnership is also part of the [Flagship Programme for Social Protection Floors](#) (SPF) promoted by the ILO and as such contributes to a collective effort to strengthen national social protection systems in addition to sharing knowledge globally.

Project impact : Enhancing and extending Social Protection Floors

The ILO estimates that 73 per cent of the world's population lacks adequate social protection. In Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, over 70 per cent of the population is excluded from adequate social protection. Women, youth, children, the landless and people with disabilities are the most affected.

The project activities in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique focus on enhancing and extending workers' social protection benefits and enhancing the skills, employability and entrepreneurial capacity of target populations in the project countries. This social protection project supports project country governments to design policy measures and strategies for the implementation of a comprehensive social protection system including floors.

As such, the project so far has managed to enhance awareness on social protection through different public policy debates; capacity building of stakeholders; implementation of national policy frameworks, and advocacy campaigns.

Activities have enhanced technical capacity among national social protection practitioners for design



and implementation of social protection programmes through support to technical training like the TRANSFORM training initiative, review and design of implementation strategies. Regional experience sharing and exchange platforms have promoted regional social protection knowledge and experience sharing through Community of Practice (CoP) on topics such as shock responsiveness, or the extension of Social Protection coverage to the informal economy.

Social Protection in Viet Nam



In Viet Nam, despite the economic growth in the last decades, informal economy workers still represent about 70 per cent of the workforce, and more than 12 million people live below the national poverty line. Poverty has a higher incidence in rural areas, particularly among ethnic minorities.

The programme's overall objective is to ensure that more people in Vietnam will have access to adequate social protection benefits, delivered by a more efficient and effective system.

ILO activities support the Government, particularly the Ministry of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), to improve the linkage between the contributory and tax funded systems.

This includes the development of technical assessments, dialogues, legal reviews, as well as building the capacity of national constituents and developing communication strategies, all with the overarching goal of increasing social protection coverage and narrowing existing gender gaps through the development of a multi-tiered social security system.

TRANSFORM

[TRANSFORM](#) is an inter-agency capacity building initiative supporting the development of social protection floors in Africa. A leadership and transformative learning package on building and managing social protection floors in Africa, TRANSFORM was developed at the request of the African Union. It includes learning materials and pedagogical methods for adult learning, aimed to support critical thinking as well as technical capacities of decision makers and practitioners, for them to take ownership in building national social protection systems through continuous learning and reflective practice rooted in local contexts. TRANSFORM was developed through a collaboration between African social protection experts and Africa-based experts of ILO, UNICEF and UNDP, and is delivered in partnership with [Socialprotection.org](#) which administers the online E-Transform version. TRANSFORM is governed through an interagency Advisory Group, including its founding agencies, partners and donors.



Since its inception, TRANSFORM has received support from Irish Aid and the European Union Social Protection Systems Programme (EU-SPS), particularly the Government of Finland. As of to date, over 1,450 practitioners including policymakers, managerial and technical staff, frontline workers, social partner representatives and members of civil society across Africa and beyond benefitted from the TRANSFORM leadership development and training package.

Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) in Tanzania

The project has supported the government of Tanzania ministries and its institutions, TVET Institutions and ILO constituents to deliver their mandates while mainstreaming the pro-employment investments that apply employment intensive investment approaches. The project has conducted intensive capacity development of partner organizations and constituents such as TASAF, TARURA, ATTI, I-COT and ILO constituents (TUCTA, ATE, ZANEMA & ZATUC). The Project has supported national initiatives in building the capacity of emerging local contractors including those owned by Youth, women and community groups.

The project has supported to enhance the productivity, effectiveness and sustainability of public works implemented under TASAF through trainings, awareness creation, and introduction of feasibly and innovatively infrastructure technological options as well as enhancing monitoring and coordination. Under the EIIP project, a [report on the Employment Impact Assessment](#)



(a value-chain oriented study) of the public works component with the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) was finalized and disseminated. The report recommends strengthening and improving the learning aspects of the Programme; mobilizing public and private partners in the value chains promoted by TASAF; enhancing market linkages; and reinforcing community savings groups.

The Global component

The global component of the Partnership Programme supports coordination and management as well as provides technical support and quality assurance, notably to the TRANSFORM initiative. It also organises the joint production of knowledge products, such as a cross-country study on gender and disability mainstreaming in social

protection throughout the programme, following a mid-term evaluation recommendation.

In addition, the global component develops and manages the [online resource measurement tool](#), intended to provide information on the impact and scope of the programme.

COVID 19 response

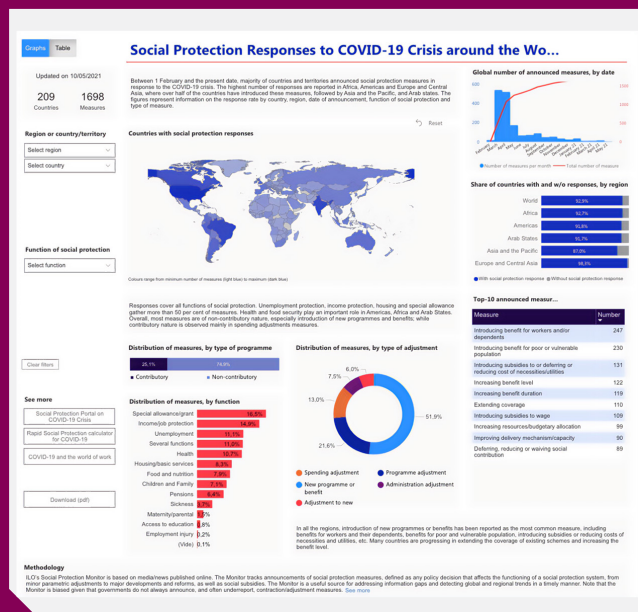
The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty in the economy and labour markets, and its long-term impact on livelihoods and the health status of programme participants and beneficiaries is still, in many instances, unknown. The support of Irish Aid has been essential to facilitating the ILO's engagement in COVID-19 response efforts in Irish Aid project countries. This has included:

Zambia: Working with other UN agencies to implement the Emergency Social Cash Transfer programme aimed at providing temporary emergency cash transfers to poor and vulnerable households as well as to vulnerable populations in the informal sector.

Malawi: Supporting the Government of Malawi, together with the UN Country Team (UNCT), to design and implement a harmonized COVID-19 social protection response. This plan includes the temporary expansion of the coverage and transfer levels of existing programmes in rural areas, reaching a total of 680,000 households or 2.1 million individuals. It also introduced the COVID-19 Urban Cash Intervention, which will cover 35 per cent of the urban population of Malawi, which is 285,000 households, amounting to about 900,000 individuals.

Mozambique: Leading the social protection cluster of the COVID-19 response in the country under the UN response plan coordinated by the UNCT.

Viet Nam: Supporting the Government of Viet Nam to integrate social protection as a pillar of crisis response and recovery. This has included presenting the experiences of other countries' responses to the COVID-19 crisis and analysing the potential of COVID-19 measures enacted by the Government to provide effective social protection to the Vietnamese population. The ILO also organized consultations and discussions with the Government on potential coverage and



adequacy gaps and policy considerations that could further support the Government's social protection responses to the crisis.

Tanzania: The ILO supported the Government of Tanzania, key ministries, institutions, Trade Unions and Employers Associations with COVID 19 prevention measures including awareness trainings, procurement of prevention equipment and development of guidelines for TASAF and TARURA to implement public works, livelihoods and other employment intensive related activities in the context of COVID 19.

Global: Setting-up the [ILO Social Protection Monitor](#), which is a database on global social protection responses to the COVID-19 crisis that is updated weekly and can be filtered by country, region, date of announcement, function of measure and type of measure.

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