



International
Labour
Organization

The ILO in Solomon



Key Facts and Figures

Population (2012): 550,000

GDP per capita (2012): US\$ 2,695

Labour force (2012): 217,000

- 130,000 male
- 87,000 female

Labour force participation rate (2012): 66.3%

- 79.1% male
- 53.4% female

Employment to population ratio (2012): 63.3%

- 75.9% male
- 50.6% female

Unemployment rate (2012): 4.6%

- 4.1% male
- 5.3% female

The Solomon Islands is one of the poorest countries in the Pacific region and its economy experienced major setbacks during the period of ethnic conflicts between 1999 and 2003 and civil unrest in 2006. More recently, the country witnessed relatively fast economic growth driven by logging and mining industries. But the logging revenue is expected to decline as stocks are exhausted. Its economy is also vulnerable to a variety of natural



disasters including cyclones, tsunamis, frequent earthquakes and volcanic activities.

The bulk of the population lives in the rural areas and depends on agriculture, fishing and forestry for livelihood and less than a quarter are engaged in paid work. Youth unemployment is considerably high because 40 per cent of the population is under 15 years of age and the labour market is unable to absorb all the school leavers.

The social protection system in Solomon Islands mainly covers employees in the formal economy. Plans are underway to broaden the scope of social protection to establish a national pension scheme and a National Health Insurance Scheme.

The availability of labour market statistics in Solomon Islands is very limited, infrequent and scattered.

The current government is committed to pushing forward the national coalition and reform and cooperating with the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) - the partnership between Solomon Islands and fifteen contributing countries in the region which was established after the civil war in the country.

Sources: ILO KILM.

Ratified Conventions

The Solomon Islands has ratified 22 ILO Conventions including all eight Fundamental Conventions:

- C.29 - Forced Labour Convention, 1930
- C.87 - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948
- C.98 - Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949
- C.100 - Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951
- C.105 - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (Not in force)
- C.111 - Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958
- C.138 - Minimum Age Convention, 1973
- C.182 - Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999

The ILO - Who We Are

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the UN specialized agency dealing with work and workplace issues, and related rights and standards. Its overarching goal is to achieve decent work for all so everyone benefits from working conditions that offer freedom, equity, security and human dignity. In working towards this goal the ILO has four principal strategic objectives:

- To promote and realize standards, and fundamental principles and rights at work.
- To create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment.
- To enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all.
- To strengthen the relationship between workers, employers and governments, and encourage social dialogue.

Founded in 1919, the ILO is the only surviving major creation of the Treaty of Versailles, which established the League of Nations. It became the first specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946.

The ILO in the Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands became a member of the ILO in 1984. The ILO Country Office for South Pacific Countries in Fiji manages the ILO work in Solomon Islands.

Current areas of work

In line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Pacific sub-region and Solomon Islands' Medium Term Development Strategy, and in consultation with tripartite constituents, the Decent Work Country Programme (2009-2012) details the policies, strategies and results required to realise progress towards decent work for all.

- Capacity building of tripartite partners and improvement of social dialogue.
- Promotion of decent employment opportunities, particularly for young women and men, and inclusive of persons with disabilities.
- Improvement of the labour market information and analysis system.
- Increasing social protection.



The DWCP has been able to improve social partners' understanding of international labour standards, strengthen their capability to provide meaningful services to their members, extend the representation of their organisations and establish an effective tripartite social dialogue mechanism. The DWCP has also helped improve decent employment opportunities for the youth and promote the production, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated labour market statistics.

Within the framework of the DWCP, a range of projects have been initiated to cover issues including post-conflict recovery, youth entrepreneurship, child labour, disaster response and social security.

Human Security Initiative: Tensions Reduction, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation Project: The joint UN project aims to enhance human security for the selected communities and former combatants through reducing "tensions" and promoting peaceful and sustainable measures for their survival and dignity.

Community Based Enterprises Development training (C-BED): The project trains hundreds of aspiring young entrepreneurs to improve their business skills through introduction of different business concepts such business idea generation, marketing strategies, customer services, products pricing, and costs and planning. The project also trains existing small business owners to enhance their business productivity, profitability and opportunities for business expansion.

Pacific Sub-Regional child labour and trafficking project: Based on ILO research that shows that many children in Solomon Islands are involved in hazardous work, commercial sexual exploitation and other illicit activities, the project aims to:

- Enhance capacity of labour officers, workers, employers and relevant stakeholders to address child labour issues.
- Finalize National Action Plans framework and hazardous child labour lists drafted in Samoa, Solomon Islands and Kiribati.
- Strengthen capacity of education officers to address child labour issues and improve formal and non-formal education programmes.
- Enhance knowledge base on the worst forms of child labour through targeted research and actions.
- Create and coordinate regional sharing platforms on child labour.

Sub-Regional Disaster Response Training on Disaster Response for the Pacific: In April 2014, in the wake of the disastrous flooding which claimed more than 20 lives and affected more than 50,000 people, the ILO offered a Cash for Work programme as part of the massive clean-up and rebuilding efforts. The pilot programme provided wages and tools to support target communities to clean up and repair of public areas and infrastructure.


The extension of social protection: The ILO supports the Department of Labour in reviewing the Workmen's Compensation Act (1952) to provide analyses of the existing Act in today's context, its gaps and recommendations and policy options for reform.

Social partners

ILO's social partners in the Solomon Islands are the Solomon Islands Council of Trade Unions (SICTU) and the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI). Labour issues are the responsibility of the Labour Division, headed by the Labour Commissioner, which is part of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration (MCILI).

The International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the UN agency for the world of work. It was founded in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I, to reflect the principle that universal and lasting peace can only be achieved if it is built on social justice. The ILO is the only 'tripartite' United Nations agency that brings together representatives of governments, employers and workers to shape policies and programmes for social justice and decent working and living conditions for all women and men. For this it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969. The ILO is also responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labour standards (Conventions and Recommendations). This unique arrangement gives the organization an edge in incorporating 'real world' knowledge about employment and work into its activities.

The logo features the text 'DECENT WORK' in white, bold, uppercase letters on a dark grey rectangular background. Below this, the tagline 'A better world starts here.' is written in white on a red rectangular background. The entire logo is framed by a white, stylized geometric outline consisting of overlapping lines.

DECENT WORK

A better world starts here.

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