



International
Labour
Organization

SUPPORT TO THE YEMENI MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOUR IN LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY

Despite marked recent development, Yemen continues to face structural and long-term development challenges, which have undermined the Government's efforts to provide decent work opportunities for women and men. While the oil and gas industry accounts for more than 70 per cent of total government revenue, it employs only a very small portion of the labour force. Without job creation and the diversification of economic development, the country will find it difficult to ensure equitable and sustainable growth and basic service provision in the future, and will encounter a soaring unemployment rate that will exacerbate socio-economic problems – such as child labour and militancy among the general population.

An essential element in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating national human resource development strategies, therefore, is to provide regular reliable data covering skills gaps, employment opportunities and employers' needs. To measure progress effectively and to engage in a meaningful evidence-based discussion on human resource development at all levels, Yemen needs to better understand the characteristics of the labour market, and requires the means to establish and maintain the knowledge bases for decision-making.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Partners:

Silatech; Central Statistical Organization of Yemen; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour of Yemen; Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Yemen

Beneficiary country:
Yemen

Timeframe:

Annual project
from 1 June 2009 –
30 June 2012

Budget:

USD 738,351, with
Silatech contributing
USD 300,000

THE RESPONSE

In 2006, the ILO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) helped Yemen formulate a Labour Market Information System and Human Resource Development Strategy. Based on this framework, a project was launched to enhance Yemen's capacity in statistical research, labour market monitoring, and policy-oriented analysis, laying the groundwork for making timely and reliable labour market information generally available.

In 2009 the ILO and UNDP provided technical assistance to develop the Labour Market Information Analysis (LMIA) Unit to collect, process, analyse and disseminate updated quality labour market data at both central and decentralized levels. The objective is to promote, implement and monitor the

National Employment Strategy and its associated action plan for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Following the 2011 political transition in Yemen, the ILO launched a further initiative in 2012 to produce an updated Labour Force Survey (LFS) in Yemen. Since the previous LFS in Yemen had been conducted as long ago as 2003, there was an urgent need to determine the changes that had occurred in the labour market, particularly in terms of the demographics of workers and the unemployed, as well as rates of employment and unemployment. Information was also needed on the size of women's participation in the labour force in order to enact policies to expand female labour force participation in the economy.



Partnerships and Field Support Department (PARDEV)

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

Tel. +41 22 799 7309
Fax +41 22 799 6668
E-mail: ppp@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/ppp

RESULTS

During the course of the project, the LMIA Unit was established and fully equipped.

The ILO and its partners were also able to significantly raise the level of knowledge among LMIA staff in data collection and survey methodology, and to use statistical packages in labour data analysis.

The National Employment Strategy and its associated action plan were also updated, endorsed and submitted to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

In addition, the ILO and the LIMA established a knowledge-sharing forum, where in-house lectures were organized in collaboration with their partners, and a training of trainers programme was conducted.

With this statistical infrastructure in place, the ILO and the Central Statistical Organization of Yemen were able to make progress towards the production of the LFS. First, a tripartite steering committee was set up to guide the LFS process. Following its establishment a labour force questionnaire was devised, which selected the different areas where data collection would occur on a quarterly basis to facilitate the selection of households for the LFS.

However, work on the LFS has been suspended until the political and security situation in Yemen stabilizes.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

As the ILO is the global body responsible for the Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM), including definitions surrounding employment and unemployment, the Organization is uniquely placed to build the statistical capacity of its Members. Among the key facets of statistical capacity the ILO can offer are those related to Labour Force Surveys and statistical analysis, as well as capacity building in labour market inspection, administration and governance.