JOBS FOR PEACE AND RESILIENCE (JPR)

Global flagship programme
ILO’s global flagship programme for peaceful and resilient societies

About 2 billion people currently live in fragile and conflict-affected situations, of whom more than 400 million are aged 15 to 29. Poverty is increasingly concentrated in fragile settings: the share of global poor living in conflict-affected situations is projected to rise from 17 per cent of the total today to almost 50 per cent by 2030. In 2017, more than 11,000 people lost their lives and more than 24 million were forced to flee their homes because of natural disasters. Given the risks posed by a changing climate, rapid urbanization and low levels of human development, such numbers are expected to rise unless communities worldwide build their resilience.

Conflict and disaster have severe implications for the world of work, while poverty, unemployment and decent work deficits can themselves become triggers of vulnerability and fragility. Through its Jobs for Peace and Resilience (JPR) flagship programme, the ILO contributes to more peaceful and resilient societies through development cooperation projects that promote employment, decent work and social dialogue in fragile situations.

A modular local resource-based approach

Guided by ILO’s Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation (No. 205), the Jobs for Peace and Resilience programme combines employment-intensive investments, technical, vocational and entrepreneurial skills training, employment services and private sector and local economic development approaches in a coherent and context-specific manner. The programme builds on ILO’s decade-long experience and added value in promoting employment, decent work and structural transformation of the economy.
The JPR’s modular, local resource-based approach focuses on the following key objectives:

➔ Providing direct job creation and income security
➔ Enhancing skills for employability
➔ Supporting self-employment, enterprises and cooperatives
➔ Bridging labour supply and demand

These key objectives are achieved through institution building, fundamental principles and rights at work and social dialogue.

The programme places a strong focus on youth and women, given the specific challenges and needs they face in situations of fragility, conflict and disaster. By enhancing the economic opportunities and inter-group contact, and by addressing grievances of the most vulnerable communities, JPR projects aim to reinforce social cohesion and build resilience to future shocks. Considerations of how employment and decent work link to peace and disaster resilience are therefore key to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the JPR.

### Building capacity for rights-based, inclusive labour market governance

The JPR puts first the needs and priorities of its target groups, which are discussed with relevant constituents and stakeholders. During the implementation, the JPR’s components are primarily channelled through national and local institutions, ensuring local ownership and sustainable capacity building.

The JPR contributes to the Decent Work Agenda by pursuing interrelated and mutually reinforcing strategies through a downstream-upstream approach, where delivering quick and tangible benefits in terms of job creation, skills development, employment services and enabling business environment promotes inclusive and effective labour market governance, which is essential for sustaining peace and resilience in fragile situations.
Enhancing synergies with other programmes and strategic partners

The implementation of the JPR in fragile, disaster- or conflict-affected situations is closely coordinated with other ILO flagship programme activities, including social protection, child labour and occupational safety and health. Strategic partnerships and strong coordination with relevant United Nations agencies, other international organizations and development partners are also critical elements of the JPR.

JPR’s work to date

For several decades, the ILO has carried out development cooperation activities in fragile and conflict-affected countries, including in response to major refugee crises. The ILO has implemented programmes and projects in Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Gambia, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor Leste, Tunisia, Ukraine, Yemen, to mention a few. Six JPR programmes have recently been launched in Central African Republic, Comoros, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sri Lanka.