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International
Labour
Organization



The Netherlands ILO Cooperation

The Netherlands is one of the founding member States of the ILO and a generous contributor to the ILO's development cooperation programme. The Netherlands has ratified 109 Conventions and two Protocols which include the eight Fundamental Conventions, four Governance Conventions and 97 Technical conventions.

Renewal of Commitment to a Historic Partnership

In addition to its contributions to development cooperation projects, the Netherlands signed a Partnership Programme with the ILO for 2018-2021, committing to provide:

- **US\$ 2.7 million** per year as an un-earmarked contribution that allows the ILO to respond flexibly to the

demands of developing countries for ILO assistance.

- **US\$ 2.8 million** per year to the Better Work Programme to continue improve working conditions and productivity in the garment sector worldwide.

THE NETHERLAND'S POLICY ON FOREIGN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

At the international level, the Netherlands pursues four closely connected objectives:

- Preventing conflict and instability;
- Reducing poverty and social inequality;
- Promoting sustainable and inclusive growth and climate action worldwide; and
- Enhancing the Netherlands' international earning capacity.

Advancing gender equality and improving the position of women and girls is a cross-cutting goal and the Netherlands' policy aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With special attention given to its focus regions in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the Middle East, the Government of the Netherlands is working to address income inequality and investing in new programs supporting young women and men through general and vocational education and employment opportunities. In these regions, spending will increase by at least one third in the following areas: water, agriculture, sexual and reproductive health and rights, climate change, rule of law and private sector development.



FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE NETHERLANDS' FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ILO

The Netherlands funds the ILO through:

- Assessed contributions paid by all ILO Member States by virtue of their membership, which constitute the ILO's regular budget. In 2015-2018, the Netherlands's assessed contribution exceeded US\$ 32.7 million
- Voluntary core funding contributions provided by eight ILO donors as a pool of un-earmarked resources allocated by the ILO to strategic areas and emerging priorities. In 2015-2018, the Netherlands contributed with over US\$ 11.8 million to priority projects and programmes.
- Voluntary, non-core funding contributions provided as earmarked funds for priority programmes and projects. In 2018 alone, the Netherlands contributed with US\$ 51.6 million.

The Netherlands' Overall Contributions to the ILO, 2015-2018



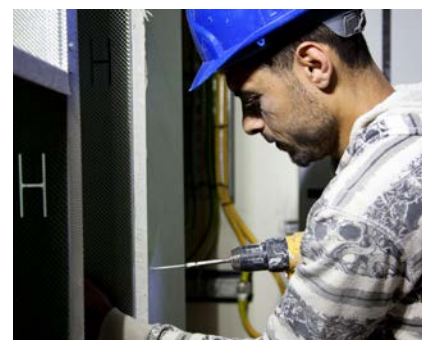
A Selection of Netherlands-supported Initiatives

Supporting Access to Labour Markets in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East

At the end of 2018, the Netherlands and the ILO established a transformative partnership to create livelihood opportunities for refugees and host communities in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East, as part of a broader coalition with, UNICEF, UNHCR, the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank.

The ILO contributes to the partnership

by leveraging its expertise on policy legislation and regulation, reinforcement of social dialogue mechanisms, addressing child and forced labour, ensuring social protection, and providing assistance through national welfare systems. The ILO promotes youth-focused employment services, skills development, formal and informal apprenticeships and the creation of immediate and long-term employment.



Contributing to Better Work

The Netherlands supports ILO's flagship programme [Better Work](#) - a collaboration between the ILO and the International Finance Corporation.

Better Work is a comprehensive programme bringing together all levels of the garment industry to improve working conditions and respect of labour rights as well as to boost the productivity and competitiveness of apparel businesses. Currently,

the programme is active in 1,700 factories employing more than 2.4 million workers in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Haiti, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Jordan, Nicaragua and Viet Nam. Independent research on Better Work's impact has shown that we have made significant, measurable improvements in working conditions, such as decreasing the gender pay gap by up to 17%, reducing concerns about sexual harassment by as much as 18%, and increasing

women's access to prenatal care by up to 26%. Factories in the programme have also seen increases in productivity, by up to 22% and profitability, by up to 25%. In factories enrolled with Better Work, the incidence of forced and child labour and other zero tolerance issues has significantly decreased.

The Government of the Netherlands has contributed US\$ 13 million to Better Work over the last four years.

Accelerating Action for the Elimination of Child Labour in Supply Chains in Africa

In November 2018, the Netherlands and ILO launched [ACCEL Africa](#) to accelerate actions to eliminate child labour in key supply chains in Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Mali, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda. ACCEL Africa targets the supply chains for cacao, coffee,

cotton, gold and tea.

Building on lessons learned from over 25 years of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), the ILO's ACCEL Africa project focuses

on (1) improving policy, legal and institutional frameworks, (2) institutionalizing solutions that address root causes of child labour in supply chains, and (3) strengthening partnerships and knowledge sharing among supply chain actors in Africa.

Promoting Decent Work in Oil Palm Plantation in Indonesia



Launched in April 2017 with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the project is improving workers' access to rights and quality jobs in oil palm plantations, while supporting enterprises to implement core international labour standards and national labour laws to improve compliance and competitiveness in their supply chains. The project supported meetings and technical workshops to promote effective social dialogue among sectorial

constituents. The project facilitated the establishment of a trade union network in the palm oil industry, which serves as a platform for communication and coordination at the national level between various Indonesian trade union federations in the palm oil sector. The project has also implemented activities at the provincial level, in North Sumatra, with a focus on the promotion of social dialogue and occupational safety and health (OSH) and labour inspection.

Promoting Youth Employment in Tunisia

The Netherlands-funded project "Youth and Employability" (JEMP in its French acronym) is improving access for young people to the labour market by strengthening their skills and equipping employment institutions with the tools and knowledge to provide quality and effective career counselling to young job seekers. Through the National Agency for Employment (ANETI),

JEMP was able to establish eight job search centres and recruit 38 trainers to the benefit of more than 6,000 young job-seekers, who received training in soft skills and financial education. JEMP is also enhancing ANETI's capacity, which now offers services that more effectively respond to the needs of youth seeking employment. Numerous Guides and Training Manuals have

been produced and are available for widespread use, including a Guide to Training in Soft Skills.



Strengthening Labour Inspection System in Pakistan

With nearly US\$ 1.3 million in financial support from the government of the Netherlands, the ILO revitalized the country's labour inspection system, working in close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan and workers' and employers' organizations through the project "[Strengthening National Capacity for ILS Compliance in Pakistan](#)" (SLISP). SLISP advanced standalone

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) laws in Sindh and Punjab, which taken collectively account for Pakistan's largest industrial areas. An achievement that not only means a great deal for addressing basic working conditions of workers but also expanded legal coverage to more workers, especially women, who had been largely excluded from the previous inspection mandate. From

the outset, the SLISP project brought together the government, employers and workers to move past their differences on Labour Inspection on certain elements of mutual interest. SLISP's continued awareness-raising helped highlight the need for effective Labour Inspection in Pakistan in order to comply with national and international labour laws.

Promotion of Social and Solidarity Economy (PROMESS) in Tunisia

With the financial support of the Netherlands, the ILO implemented the project “[Promotion of Organizations and Mechanisms of Social and Solidarity Economy](#)” (PROMESS, 2016-2019). Contributing to establishing the enabling environment needed for the social and solidarity economy (SSE) to flourish, PROMESS led a dialogue between governments, social partners and civil society to draft a law on SSE, to be submitted to Parliament in the coming months.

At the local level, PROMESS supported the creation and management of SSE enterprises, creating more than 400 decent jobs, 60% of which employed women. A key achievement was the establishment of a [collaborative platform for SSE](#), which is giving visibility to the sector.



Improving Working Conditions in the Ready-Made Garment (RMG) Sector in Bangladesh

Funded by Canada, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, the [ILO RMG programme](#) was initiated to support actions identified in the National Tripartite Plan of Action on Fire Safety and Building Integrity, developed in close collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh, employers' and workers' organizations. The first phase of the

programme (2013-2017) saw the inspection of 1,549 garment factories for structural, fire and electrical safety; trained over 800,000 garment workers on workplace safety, reintegrated 300 Rana Plaza survivors into the workforce; launched Better Work Bangladesh; and increased the capacity of the Department of Inspection for Factories

and Establishments. Its second phase is covering four strategic areas that include factory safety through remediation, governance building to effectively regulate industrial safety and support labour inspection reform, improve OSH in policy and practice, and expand Better Work Bangladesh to ensure compliance in at least 400 RMG factories.

Netherlands-ILO Collaboration in Jordan

The Government of the Netherlands is one of the key development partners supporting the ILO in its implementation of the Programme of Support to the Jordan Compact. This support has allowed the ILO to set up 13 ILO employment centres across Jordan and help over 5,500 Syrian and Jordanians find employment, 45% of whom are women.



“My father and I are the only members of our family who work. We are a family of ten. I studied chemistry in Yarmouk University but I didn't want to just sit there and wait for a job to become available in my field. I found out about this work and it has been a good experience. I have learnt a new profession. This is a positive thing for me because I want to be a productive member of society. At first, I didn't know how to sew and I didn't know anything about it but then through Facebook, I found out that there were trainings being offered in sewing. I took part in the one month training and I learnt how to sew on six different machines. After the training and working on a machine, I became a quality supervisor. I am happy at work. I encourage others to do the same.”

Hidaya Ahmad Bida, 22 years old.

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