

## A century of working towards social justice and peace

In 1919, from the ashes of the Great War, the International Labour Organization (ILO) was established with the mission to bring together workers, employers and governments to build a world of universal and lasting peace based on social justice. Since then, the ILO has remained committed to advance social and economic development and working conditions for all in support of the global pursuit for peace, prosperity and progress through its Decent Work Agenda. Its continuous engagement for peace through the promotion of rights at work, decent employment opportunities, social protection and dialogue resulted in the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.

Today, however, despite the efforts and progress made by many countries and the international community, nearly 2 billion people are still living in fragile and conflict-affected situations, where poverty is increasingly concentrated. All around the world, crises of different nature interrupt business activities, damage workplaces and destroy jobs, exacerbating vulnerability, inequality and social exclusion and highlighting, in these contexts too, the centrality of the world of work. In 2019, the Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work reiterated the importance of putting ILO's human-centred approach at the service of the most vulnerable populations in the world by recognizing that decent work is key to sustainable development, addressing income inequality and ending poverty, particularly in areas affected by conflict, disaster and other humanitarian emergencies.

Universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice

Preamble, ILOConstitution (1919)



## Employment and decent work in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

The Decent Work Agenda is an essential element of the triple nexus and upholds ILO's belief that employment, decent working conditions and social dialogue can contribute to peace and resilience. Through its distinctive rights-based approach, the ILO aims to build the resilience of nations and people caught in fragile, conflict and disaster situations. In collaboration with member States, tripartite constituents, international and national partners, and with the direct involvement of local populations and stakeholders, the ILO supports an employment-centred crisis response while promoting decent work and social justice as key drivers of resilience and social cohesion.

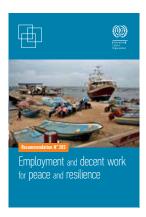
**1.8 billion people** are currently estimated to live in fragile contexts



By 2030,
up to two-thirds
of the world's extreme poor
will live in states affected by
fragility, conflict and violence<sup>2</sup>



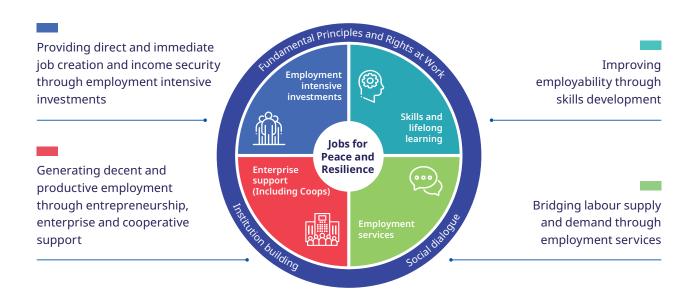
# A normative framework: Recommendation 205 on employment and decent work for peace and resilience



Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience, adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2017, is a landmark standard for promoting ILO's values and approaches in the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. It provides guidance to ILO constituents in dealing with world-of-work issues in crisis situations by placing attention on recovery and reconstruction in the aftermath of conflict and disaster but also by addressing root causes of fragility and taking preventive measures for building resilience. Being the only international normative framework focusing on the role of employment and decent work in the face of some of the most pressing challenges of our time, the Recommendation also represents a valuable instrument for the international community of humanitarian and development actors and institutions engaged in crisis response.

# An operational approach: the Jobs for Peace and Resilience flagship programme

Guided by Recommendation No. 205, the ILO's Jobs for Peace and Resilience flagship programme combines various ILO approaches to create jobs, reinforce skills and promote private sector and local economic development as ways to contribute to more peaceful and resilient societies. Through its modular, local resource-based approach, the JPR focuses on four key objectives:



Considering that weak governance, lack of dialogue and rights violations can slow down or impede crisis recovery and peace processes, the JPR also places a strong focus on institution building, social dialogue and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW).

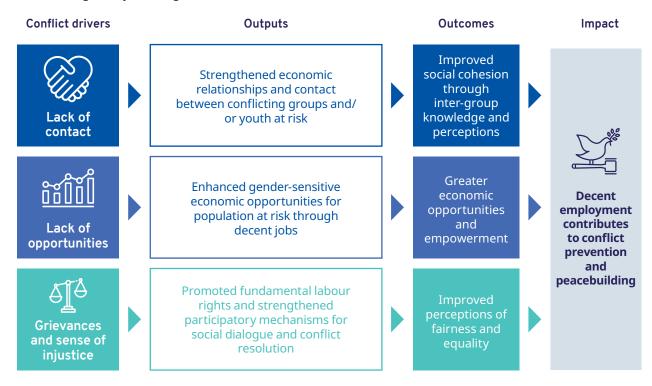
## **Sustainable Development Goals**

The JPR is contributing to various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the following:



## Employment for peace: measuring impact and building evidence

Unemployment, decent work deficits and lack of access to livelihoods can be key contributing factors to conflict through three main drivers: lack of contact and social cohesion, lack of economic opportunities and existence of grievances and sense of injustice. According to the analytical framework developed in 2016 by the ILO and the UN Peace Building Support Office (PBSO) jointly with the World Bank and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), employment programmes can contribute to peacebuilding by addressing these conflict drivers through the following theory of change:



The handbook "How to design, monitor and evaluate peacebuilding results in jobs for peace and resilience programmes" mainstreams peacebuilding and social cohesion results into job creation programmes and helps in building evidence and knowledge on the peacebuilding impact of employment interventions through specific outcomes, indicators and baselines.

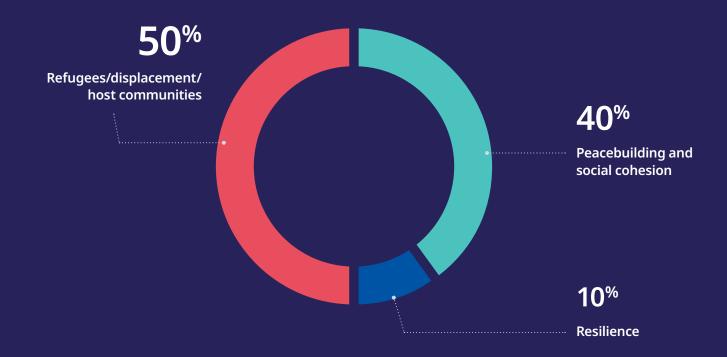
# Key figures<sup>3</sup>

Share of the JPR flagship programme by ILO region (% of funding)

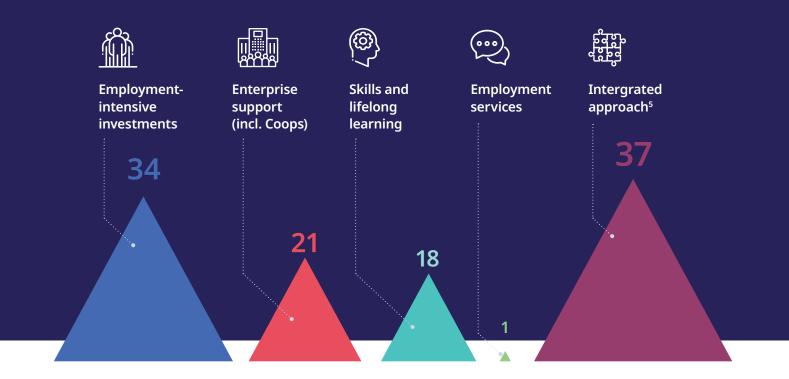


<sup>3</sup> Figures are based on JPR projects launched between 2015 and 2021.

# Share of the JPR flagship programme by type of setting (% of funding)<sup>4</sup>



# Number of JPR projects by policy area



<sup>4</sup> All JPR projects are categorised in one of the three settings. Where the settings are overlapping, categorisation has been done based on the main focus of the project.

<sup>5</sup> Projects that combine two or more of the JPR policy areas



While contributing to strengthening cooperation, coordination, complementarity and coherence among international actors working in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, the ILO aims to ensure that employment and decent work are a central part of crisis responses.

Since 2015, the following partners have contributed to the Jobs for Peace and Resilience flagship programme, in some cases through the provision of un-earmarked core funding to the ILO (Regular Budget Supplementary Account - RBSA).

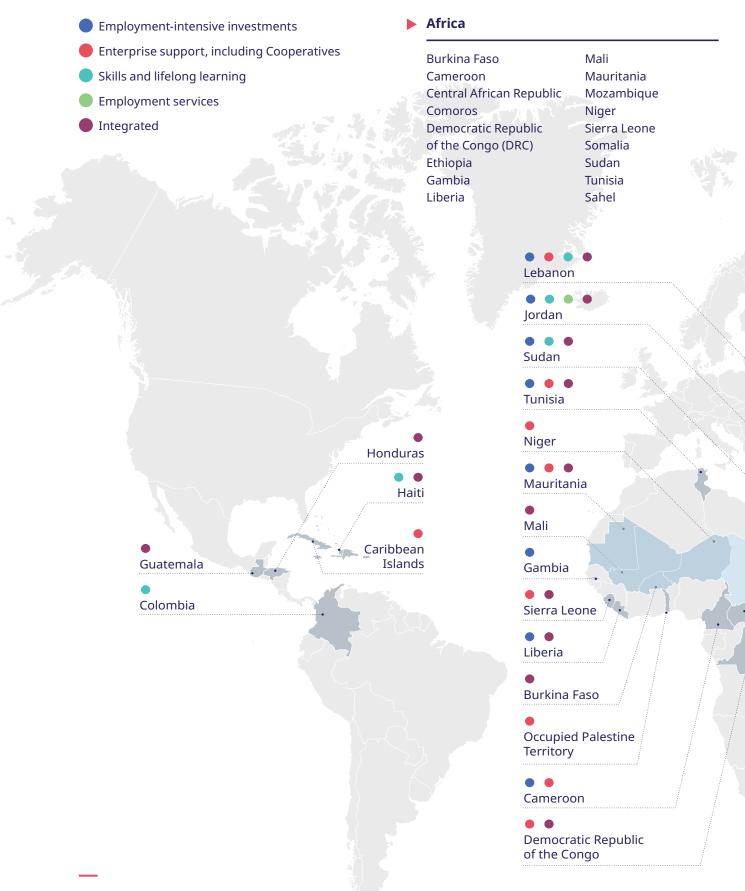
*	Australia
*	Cameroon
*	Canada
	Colombia
	European Union
	Germany
	Italy
	Japan
	Luxembourg
	Netherlands
	New Zealand
#	Norway
# <b>*</b>	Republic of Korea
+	Sweden
+	Switzerland
	United Kingdom
	United States

The JPR flagship programme has also received support from entities such as the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the UN Human and Security Trust Fund, the World Bank, OCHA and several other UN and multilateral agencies involved in fragile and crisis situations.

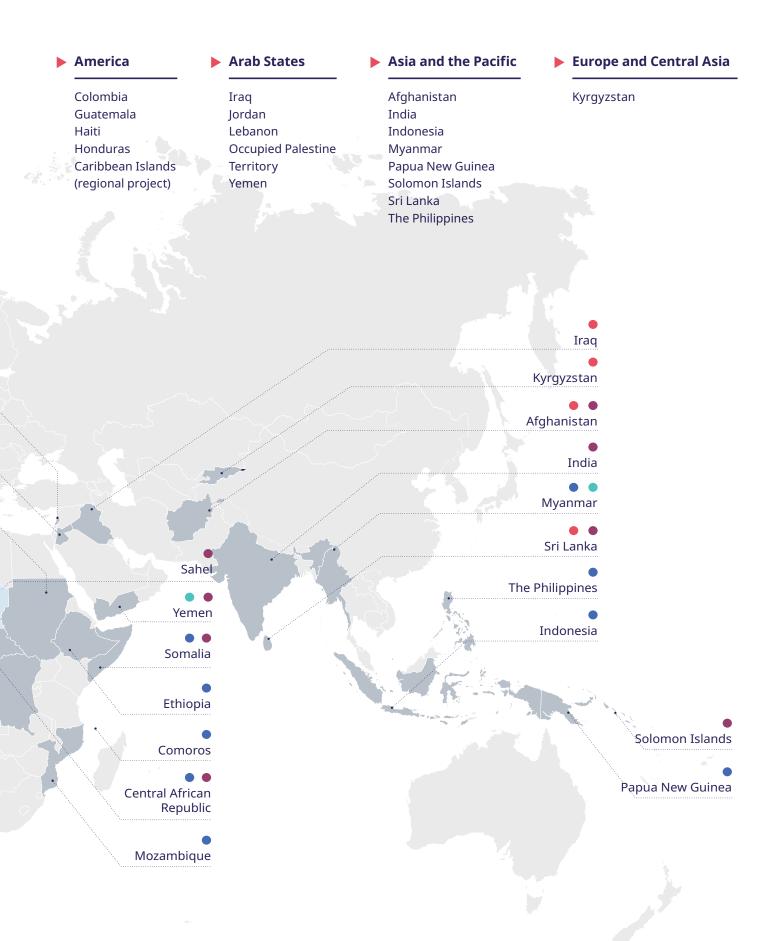




## The JPR is implemented in over 30 countries<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> The map shows the presence of the JPR between 2015 and 2021, with indication of the policy areas covered in each country.



## **Country experiences**

### Afghanistan: Road to Jobs initiative (2015-2020)

#### Enterprise support

Insecurity and political uncertainty have driven subdued economic growth in Afghanistan since 2014. While improving slightly over 2019, private sector sentiment remains negative, especially among small and medium firms, with confidence affected by political instability and violence. According to most recent household survey data, 55% of Afghans continue to live below the basic-needs poverty line. Poverty rates have increased, employment outcomes have deteriorated, and there has been some reversal of gains in access to services, with the widening of gender gaps. Population displacement continues and places additional pressures on the resources of already impoverished host communities (World Bank, 2020). In 2016-17 unemployment was estimated at 23.9%, with youth unemployment as a percentage of total unemployment being 45.5%.

In this extremely insecure and challenging environment the ILO's Road to Jobs (R2J) project has stimulated new and improved businesses and reduced unemployment by testing scalable job-creation business models in Balkh and Samangan provinces. The market systems development (MSD) approach has proven extremely effective in maximising job creation in agricultural value chains and in increasing incomes.

#### **Key results:**

- ▶ More than 10,000 farmers have improved yields and incomes through private sector-led extension services:
- ▶ More than 100,000 farmers have accessed agriculture good practices on-line as well as a mobile network providing audio-based financial literacy information;
- ▶ A public-private sector dialogue mechanism was established by the Balkh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI), with the provincial government, enabling and empowering business owners to discuss challenges, find solutions and reduce grievances;
- ▶ Entrepreneurship development ecosystems were established through:
  - Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) Master Trainers (8, 50% women), now available both nationally and internationally;
  - 65 SIYB Trainers, who have in turn trained 3,000 entrepreneurs (58% women), from which 645 new jobs were created, and US\$699,105 generated for all market players;
  - ▶ 35 (out of which 31 female) Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (GET) Ahead trainers who have trained 1,175 entrepreneurs (87% women). By the end of 2018, women had established 235 businesses, generating income;
  - More than 5,000 farmers were linked into profitable urban markets;
  - ▶ More than 600 women in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps who have increased their incomes through carpet weaving supply chains and have access to child care and learning services;
- Access to financial services has improved, with 151 business women and 60 businessmen trained on financial literacy issues, and more than 3,000 farmers are now accessing financial products in various supply chains.









# Central African Republic: Decent jobs for peace and resilience (2018-2019)

Integrated approach

In the Central African Republic (CAR), recurrent armed conflicts have weakened public and private institutions and led to the destruction of social and economic infrastructure and a general deterioration in the living conditions of the population. From 2018 to 2019, the ILO launched a project to reduce the risk of conflict and consolidate peace, particularly in high-risk areas, through two mechanisms:

- 1. creating jobs for marginalized youth and building basic infrastructure in the areas of intervention, and
- 2. promoting peaceful coexistence through more contact and improved relationships between groups perceived as antagonistic (e.g. between demobilized soldiers, displaced populations, Muslims, Christians and local communities) by encouraging social dialogue and adopting a rights-based approach.

### **Key results:**

- Access to employment information was improved through the completion of the labour market information system;
- ▶ The technical capacities of labour and line ministries, workers and employers organisations, NGOs and members of the targeted communities were strengthened to expand access to skills development and employability systems;
- ▶ A pool of 45 trainers was set up and their capacities strengthened in entrepreneurship development, creating a core group of trainers capable of mentoring young people and help them out of the vicious circle of unemployment-armed groups-violence;
- ▶ 181 young people "at risk" from various communities, including 113 women, were capacitated in micro-enterprises and cooperatives creation and management;
- ▶ 67 women, which were marginalized and stigmatized or victims of violence, were trained in labour-based approach and the use of local materials;
- ▶ In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Vocational Training and Social Protection, 48 young people from the different communities of Bimbo3 (Christian and Muslim) strengthened their capacities in labour-based construction techniques with the use of local materials. They attended an on-site construction school and built a 90 m² meeting/training room for young people in the area of the Secondary Town Hall of Boeing;
- ▶ Public institutions now include labour-based approaches in the planning, implementation and monitoring-evaluation of their investment programmes.

"The project of the International Labour Office is part of the dynamic of the quest for peace and the consolidation of social cohesion through the creation of decent jobs for vulnerable groups. The construction site school is proof that together we can build more solidly and lastingly, and that this work belongs to young Central Africans of all ages and backgrounds."

Statement by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Najat Rochdi, on the occasion of the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2018



Jordan: Formalizing access to employment through skills development, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and employment services for Syrian refugees and Jordanians (2017-2018)

In Jordan, the presence of Syrian refugees in the informal economy has contributed to the segmentation of the labour market, with many refugees willing to work under exploitative conditions due to lack of better options. This has affected wages and working conditions not only of Syrians, but of Jordanians as well. Realizing that the formalization of Syrian refugee workers would prevent the further deterioration of wages and working conditions for both communities, and therefore contribute to peaceful coexistence, the ILO launched a project to support access to decent work by providing a clear and efficient pathway to formalize, develop and certify skills. Engaging women remained a focus of the ILO, including through the promotion of equal opportunities to develop skills and enhance employability.

Throughout 2018, the ILO refined two main skills training methodologies in close collaboration with the Jordanian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (CAQA), namely Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and On-the-job training (OJT).

#### **Key results:**

- ▶ RPL skills certificates were awarded to 11,200 Jordanian and Syrian construction and manufacturing workers between 2016 and 2019, giving them access to formal work permits;
- ▶ 1822 beneficiaries were placed in jobs through OJT, 79.9% of whom were women and all of whom obtained a yearlong contract in firms;
- 443 agricultural workers received OJT at farms, 37.9% of whom were women;

- 190 workers, contractors and unemployed graduates were trained and certified to serve as Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) supervisors, 27.9% of whom were women;
- 1200 agriculture workers received training on how to use Occupational Safety and Health equipment, 28.8% of whom were women:
- In collaboration with the Wise Women Plumbers Cooperative,<sup>5</sup> the ILO supported 37 Jordanian and 13 Syrian women to complete two training courses in "Basics of Electricity";
- ▶ In collaboration with the Jordanian Trade Union, 926 manufacturing workers received training on core work skills, 48.2% of whom were women;
- 121 are now trainers in manufacturing and agriculture sector, 11.6% of whom were women.

To ensure the relevance of the intervention in the context of the Syria-Jordan migration corridor, the ILO and CAQA identified the construction, confectionary, garment and agriculture sectors as priority areas, in which large numbers of Syrians were already working informally. Preferential trade access for firms that employ Syrians and a World Bank programme using disbursement-linked indicators incentivized the government to issue work permits for refugees in agriculture and construction outside of the 'kafala' system (where workers cannot leave a job without the employer's permission).

Simultaneously, the ILO has been supporting employment services to provide career guidance, job matching and work permit assistance. Since 2017, a network of 13 Employment Service Centres (ESCs) have been fully equipped and staffed to support both Jordanian and Syrian job seekers. In addition, two ESCs have been established in Zaatari and Azrag refugee camps, in collaboration with UNHCR. So far, ESCs have provided services to 38,912 job seekers, of whom 36% are Syrian and 36% are women.

For more information: ILO Office in Beirut

# Mauritania: Direct jobs and inclusion for young Mauritanians and Malian refugees (2015-2020)

Employment-intensive investment

Since 2015, the ILO has been promoting the Employment Intensive Investment approach in Mauritania through public services provision in the area of infrastructure development, in both urban and rural areas. The ILO and UNHCR have partnered on two projects in the M'bera camp area of Bassikounou, linking the creation of decent jobs, the construction of infrastructure and the strengthening of social cohesion between refugee and host communities.

In the context of protracted refugee displacement in Mauritania, the ILO addresses the humanitarian, development and peace nexus by:

- Improving the employability of young women and men from different communities, including refugees and youth in the region, by undergoing on-site construction training in employment-intensive construction works;
- 2. Creating decent work opportunities through economic activities and the construction of basic community infrastructure using an employment-intensive approach and optimizing the use of local materials, according to the needs identified by the value chain and market analysis;
- Fostering local economic development through entrepreneurship and business development support to rural enterprises, youth integration services and local capacity building;
- 4. Promoting decent work and good practices in terms of occupational safety and health in local enterprises.

For more information: ILO Office in Alger





# Sri Lanka: Jobs for Peace and Resilience in Northern Sri Lanka (2017-2019)

Integrated approach

The ILO's Jobs for Peace and Resilience programme in Sri Lanka is an ambitious attempt to promote peace, livelihoods and resilience to climate change in a post-conflict environment. The backbone of the programme is the Local Empowerment through Economic Development and Reconciliation project (LEED+). The LEED+ project has provided a number of opportunities for linking smaller projects that act as additional components of the JPR programme, with objectives ranging from peacebuilding and reconciliation to building resilience to climate change.

LEED+ creates financially sustainable livelihood opportunities in post-conflict areas by working with cooperatives and partnering with private sector companies to attract investments and economic engagement. Through innovative partnerships the project is able to create inclusive and financially sustainable development for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, in areas where livelihood opportunities are limited. In 2019, 3 partnerships were created. Through one of these partnerships some 250 farmers grew 98 tons of groundnuts in the first season.

To facilitate the economic reintegration of ex-combatants, the ILO with the WFP and Puthukkudiyiruppu Women Entrepreneurs' Cooperative Society implemented "EMPOWER: Building peace through the economic empowerment of

women in Northern Sri Lanka". The project engaged with female former combatants creating livelihood opportunities and providing access to finance. The participants were linked with the value chains created under LEED+ thereby ensuring sustainable access to markets and inputs. As a result of the initiative, 1,200 female former combatants and conflict-affected women gained access to services and livelihood opportunities.

In 2017, Sri Lanka ranked as the 2<sup>nd</sup> most vulnerable country to climate-driven impacts in the world.<sup>6</sup> Placing importance on disaster risk and the need to reduce it, and realising the threat that climate change presents to the achievements of LEED+ and other projects, the ILO designed an intervention to build resilience and mitigation measures by developing effective models in disaster-prone rural localities. The project, which contributed to the national policy priorities on Disaster Management, worked both in drought-affected communities, and in flood-affected communities. In the former, the project supported the renovation of reservoirs that had fallen to disrepair during conflict years; in the latter,

it supported the introduction of land and water management and farming technologies through the rehabilitation of three dilapidated tanks providing water to 175 households. In addition, in flood-prone areas, flood resistant crops were introduced and agricultural value chains developed, benefitting more than 600 farmers and small and medium enterprises.

For more information: ILO Office in Colombo



# Tunisia: Creating jobs for Tunisian youth through the social and solidarity economy (2016-2021)

#### Cooperative support

Since the revolution of 2011, Tunisia has brought about significant improvements on the political front, such as greater freedom of expression and the establishment of a democratic regime, but progress in the economy remains slow. Indeed, the economic difficulties have increased the unemployment rate mainly in rural areas, especially among young people and, within this group, particularly for young women and graduates which in 2014 stood at 14.8% of the active population (11.4% in men, 22.2% women)<sup>7</sup>.

In this context, the ILO has been assisting the Tunisian government, social partners and civil society since 2014 in creating sustainable and decent jobs for young women and men people through the promotion of organizations and mechanisms of the social and solidarity economy (SSE).

This is done through the establishment of a conducive legal and institutional environment for the SSE, upscaling the successful rural youth employment initiatives implemented in the Le Kef governorate, and replicate those in three additional governorates, thus covering the entire North West region.

The promotion of the SSE has now become a priority for the Tunisian Government and the social partners. This is in line with the Social Contract signed in January 2013 by the Government, employers (UTICA) and workers (UGTT) - in the presence of the Director General of the International Labour Office (ILO) – which stated that "the building of a solidarity and integrated economy promotes economic recovery, the creation of more employment opportunities and aims at improving the business climate".

For more information: ILO Office in Alger

### Haiti: Promoting rural socio-economic resilience in the Grande Anse Department (2016-2023)

Skills and lifelong learning Enterprise support

In light of its geographical location - in the middle of the hurricane belt and on the border between the Caribbean and the North American continental plate - Haiti is exposed to frequent natural hazards such as tropical storms, hurricanes, earthquakes and landslides, and often subject to severe disasters. This fact, combined with its extreme levels of poverty, high population density, socio-economic problems and political instability, as well as an extremely low social protection coverage, makes it a particularly vulnerable country with a weak capacity to address major development challenges.

Over the years, the ILO has been supporting the Government of Haiti through various UN joint programmes aimed at building resilience through job creation: from the response to tropical storm Jeanne in Gonaïves (2004-2008) to post-earthquake recovery in Portau-Prince (2010-2015). In collaboration with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), it has also carried out vocational training programmes to improve the employability of vulnerable youth and reduce violence in the neighbourhood of Cité Soleil in Port-au-Prince (2015-2017).

Soon after the devastation of Hurricane Matthew in 2016, which caused destruction and loss of life and livelihoods particularly in South-western Haiti, the ILO initiated the implementation of a project to promote rural socio-economic development in the South and Grande Anse Departments (FOPRODER, 2016-2020). With the financial support of Norway, the project aimed to address education and skills gaps for vulnerable youths through vocational training in the agriculture and fishing sectors. The intervention supported the development of an association of mango producers and its penetration on the national and international markets, while also identifying two additional value chains (cocoa and bread fruit) with high market potential.

The development of these value chains and the maximization of their added value in Haiti is currently the focus of a new project, again funded by Norway (PROFIT, 2020-2023), which aims at improving the living conditions of small producers of cocoa and breadfruit and ultimately at reducing the vulnerability of families to natural and economic shocks that affect their food security and general well-being. The project also supports the creation of viable micro-enterprises to enable women and young people to meet their economic and social aspirations for decent work despite anthropogenic and / or natural disturbances.

#### **Expected key results:**

- ▶ 1,000 young beneficiaries, 50% women, will be trained in the best production and postharvest techniques to transform the raw material into products with high added value
- Young people will be structured into associations or cooperatives and trained in adequate entrepreneurial techniques
- Linkages between producers and potential markets will be established
- A common fund will finance the development of services for farmers through small businesses, as well as the development of new plantations and the rehabilitation of old farms

The 2021 earthquake, which caused widespread damage in southwest Haiti, slowed down the flow of activities and affected the expected results. In this context, the ILO is conducting an assessment to rebuild the vital infrastructure of the two value chains concerned and thus consolidate the PROFIT project.





### The Philippines: Improving water supply and sanitation services through public investment for more and better jobs and peace in Mindanao (2019-2022)

Employment-intensive investment

In 2014, after decades of conflict and years of negotiations, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Philippine Government agreed to cease hostilities and signed the Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro (CAB). The peace treaty effectively ended one of the most protracted armed conflicts in the world and gave birth to the new form of government, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The conflict put on hold development in the region, which remains one of the poorest in the country. It affected not only the combatants and their families but also civilians - in particular vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples, youth and women - and displaced hundreds of thousands. With the return of peace, populations were confronted with lost livelihoods, lack of basic services, lack of skills to adjust to society and, in some instances, threats of continuing violence amidst the ongoing risks of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

The new Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has the lowest proportion of families (74%) with basic access to drinking water services in the Philippines. Communities are characterized by high incidence of poverty, poor opportunities in education and productive work, and higher risk of conflict. Resource depletion and environmental degradation

compound this cycle of poverty, with high impact on health and livelihoods.

The ILO project "Improvement of Water Supply Equipment Management Capacity for the Establishment of Peace in Mindanao" creates sustainable solutions to help alleviate poverty and lay the ground for lasting peace and development in BARMM by generating productive work and employment through the construction of safe and reliable water systems in poor and marginalized communities.

The project builds the institutional and operational capacity of local partners to provide productive and decent work that has an economic, environmental and social impact by organizing and developing the skills of community contractors and local workers. The project demonstrates that addressing water insecurity can help attain decent living standards and social and economic integration. While generating productive work for vulnerable communities, increased access to safe drinking water improves the dignity and quality of life of target beneficiaries. Through building awareness on COVID-19 and establishing OSH measures and proper hygiene onsite, it also reduces vulnerability to the pandemic.

Through a local resource-based approach, community participation is promoted in designing and planning for the utilization of locally available skills, technology, materials, and appropriate work methods. Community consultations and project orientations to local government units were conducted to mitigate the unintended social impacts, prevent social exclusion and increase accountability of the duty bearers.



The Project has become even more relevant during the COVID-19 crisis as it provides the essentials: decent jobs, improved access to safe water for health promotion and prevention of diseases, social protection, and occupational safety and health (OSH). In addition, to specifically mitigate the impact of the pandemic, the Project partnered with the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) for the implementation of a Community Emergency Employment Programme (CEEP) to provide short-term income and social protection to 2,027 informal sector workers. The MOLE was engaged in the design, implementation and evaluation of the emergency employment scheme.

#### **Key achievements:**

- Improved access to safe and reliable water supply for the target communities:
  - ▶ 5 Water System Sub-projects completed and turned over, benefitting 3,757 households and 5,800 school children
  - Construction is ongoing in 3 water sites
  - Community preparation is ongoing in 3 sites (5 already completed, 11 in total)
- 2. Short-term employment provided to 3,112 indigenous peoples, small farmers, informal settlers, informal sector workers, and returning combatants; 859 (28%) are women; 1,280 (41%) are former combatants:
  - ▶ Water Project 1,085 employment generated; 270 (25%) are women; 378 (35%) are Indigenous People and 24 (3%) are former combatants

- Community Emergency Employment Programme (CEEP) - 2,027 emergency employment provided to informal sector workers; 589 (29%) are women; 1,246 (61%) are former combatants
- Workers paid based on the minimum wage, with social protection. Occupational safety and health observed
- 3. Communities organized with a skilled pool of workforce prepared to address demands for local construction works:
  - ▶ 6 Community contractors capacitated in the technical, social, financial and administrative procedures in constructing quality water systems
  - Workers trained with skills in plumbing and masonry
  - ► Local communities capable of proper use and maintenance of their water supply system with support from local government units
- 4. Environmental and social safeguards followed to minimize environmental and social risks. Environmental protection and conservation measures integrated in the project activities.
- 5. Regional coordination and collaboration with the BARMM government and its relevant ministries through the creation of a Project Advisory and Review Committee (PARC).

For more information: ILO Office in Manila



# The role of employers and business membership organizations in conflict and disaster settings

The private sector, through its networks, experience and resources, can not only support but also lead prevention and rebuilding efforts in conflict and disaster-affected zones. In conflict situations, numerous examples are available where businesses continue to provide vital goods and services, and contribute to restoring social cohesion by making their workplaces inclusive. In disaster situations, the private sector is known for delivering humanitarian assistance in the immediate aftermath of disaster, such as restoring power and communication lines or providing an area for warehousing relief goods.

The business community, as expressed through employer and business membership organizations (EBMOs), have an inherent interest in stability. During situations of fragility, EBMOs have a critical opportunity to exercise their representative strength by influencing governments and collaborating with workers' organizations to adopt constructive policies that support businesses so they can continue operations, provide jobs, and contribute to local economic development. EBMOs are uniquely positioned to positively contribute to this fundamental development challenge because of their inclusivity, power, size, partnership and provision of key skills.

Countries like Thailand that are heavily impacted by the changing climate are experiencing increased frequency of natural disasters that have devastating effects on business and communities. It is critical that representative employers and business membership organizations, working with government and other stakeholders. scale up their efforts to effectively plan, coordinate and execute disaster planning and relief efforts.

 Pran Siamwalla,
 Member of Board, Employers' Confederation of Thailand



# **Success story:** New Zealand employers contributing to recover Canterbury after the 2010-11 earthquakes

Following the earthquakes in 2010-11, the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce (CECC) in Christchurch, New Zealand collaborated with the Canterbury Development Corporation (CDC) to support the recovery of business. This collaboration led to the establishment of a public-private partnership, "Recovery Canterbury", a temporary disaster recovery organization that aimed to achieve four goals: help Canterbury business survive, revive and thrive post-earthquake; accelerate business recovery and enhance business capability for future growth; provide a mechanism to connect government support to business effectively; and maintain economic activity in the region. By the end of its operation in April 2013, Recovery Canterbury had offered a range of services to over 7,000 earthquake-affected businesses, distributed NZ\$6.1 million grants, saved 617jobs and kept NZ\$39 million in the economy.

# The role of workers' organizations in promoting peace and resilience

Peace and tranquillity are amongst the most important factors allowing trade unions to carry out their objectives, which are improving workers' rights and defending workers' interests. Conflicts and disasters both destroy the livelihoods of people and offer opportunities to rebuild societies. Workers' organizations have a direct interest in this and therefore in maintaining peace, in preventing or preparing for disaster, and in managing the aftermath of conflict or disaster.

Social dialogue and tripartism are central to any efforts to deal with conflict and disaster – yet it is precisely this tripartite set-up that is put to the test in crisis situations. During periods of disasters, the capacities of government ministries, employers' and workers' organizations are severely reduced, as is their ability to work together effectively.

It is against this backdrop that trade unions believe that they can contribute to reducing the causes of conflict, manage situations of disaster and also be effectively involved in assisting post-crisis countries to return to normality. In fact, the experience of unions in resolving conflict at the workplace, and in bridging divided communities is an asset that could be employed in resolving crisis situations at the local, national, and regional levels.



### **Success story:** The Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet

A key element of Tunisia's popular uprisings in 2011 – which came to be called the Jasmine Revolution – was a group of four societal institutions that decided to work together to bring about constitutional change. It involved the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT), the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA), the Tunisian Human Rights League and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers. The crucial role of this Quartet in ensuring a peaceful transition following the fall of Ben Ali's regime is a testimony to the importance of workers' organizations in times of political change, and the significance of well-functioning social dialogue involving both workers' and employers' organizations. The Quartet was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015.

# For further information on the Jobs for Peace and Resilience (JPR) flagship programme:

Coordination Support Unit for Peace and Resilience (CSPR) jpr@ilo.org

# For further information on the ILO's technical approaches for JPR:

#### **Employment-intensive investments**

▶ Job Creation through Public Investment Unit (JCPI) eiip@ilo.org

### **Employment services**

Labour Market Transitions and Employment Services Unit emp\_policy@ilo.org

### Enterprise and cooperative support

- Cooperatives Unit (COOP) coop@ilo.org
- Small and Medium Enteprises Unit (SME) sme@ilo.org

### Skills and lifelong learning

Skills and Employability Branch (SKILLS) skills@ilo.org

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