



International
Labour
Organization



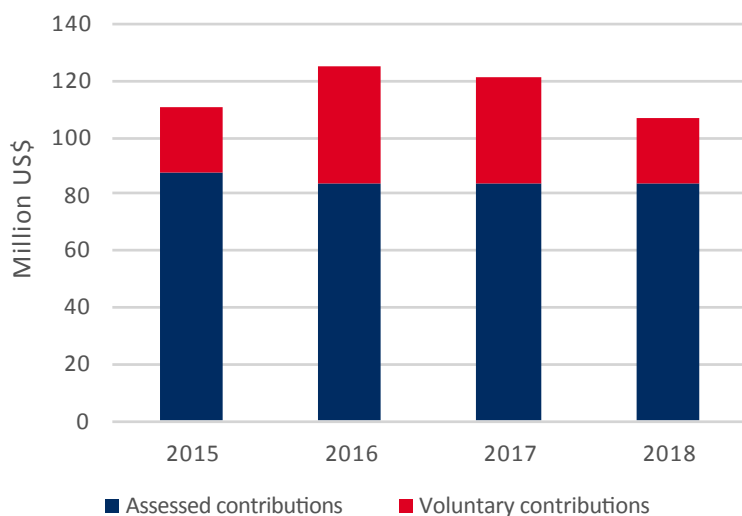
The United States ILO Cooperation

The United States is a key partner of the ILO in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. The US Government has ratified fourteen ILO Conventions, including two Fundamental Conventions on the Abolition of Forced Labour and on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the Governance Convention on Tripartite Consultation and 11 Technical Conventions.

The United States and the ILO have a long-shared common interest in ensuring global peace, prosperity and respect for universal human rights. Working with the ILO to promote social and economic well-being by improving living and working conditions worldwide, the US Government is the largest development partner of the ILO

and contributes to its regular budget through assessed contributions and development cooperation programme. In 2018, assessed contributions from the US Government amounted to US\$ 83.6 million and contributions to ILO's voluntarily funded development cooperation projects totalled over US\$ 23 million.

US Financial Contributions to the ILO, 2015-2018



KEY ILO PARTNERS IN THE US GOVERNMENT

1- The United States Department of Labor (USDOL), within which the ILO works closely with the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), including

- The Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking;
- The Office of Trade and Labor Affairs; and
- The Office of International Relations.

2- The United States Department of State (USDOS) is a key partner supporting programmes that promote workers' rights and combat human trafficking. For these purposes, the ILO works with USDOS's

- Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL);
- Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM);
- Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA); and
- The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP).

3- United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is committed to a range of development issues that are consistent with ILO priorities and work. Although decision-making on development activities is embedded in their field offices, the ILO communicates with the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment.

A Selection of US-supported Initiatives

Better Work



Since 2009, USDOL has allocated over US\$ 29 million to [Better Work](#), the [ILO's flagship programme](#) to improve working conditions in the garment industry and make the sector more competitive. Cambodia and Haiti are two of the countries where Better Work receives funding from USDOL. As of 2018, 557 active factories were registered with Better Factories Cambodia benefitting over 600,000 workers. Furthermore, [Better Factories Cambodia](#) produces an average of 40 assessment reports for garment factories per month, representing a significant contribution to ensuring decent work conditions. Through its advisory services, Better Factories Cambodia supported over 160 factories to implement improvement plans in 2018. In Haiti, Better Work has improved working conditions for over 53,000 workers in 32 factories. [Better Work Haiti](#) also offers workshops to reinforce best practices, including practical information on preventing and addressing sexual harassment in garment factories. Audio messages are also used to educate workers and stakeholders on labour rights as well as the prevention of sexual harassment. Worldwide, Better Work has contributed to reducing the gender pay gap by up to 17%, improving women's access to prenatal care by up to 26% and reducing sexual harassment by up to 18%.

Equipping Sri Lanka to Counter Trafficking in Persons

In Sri Lanka, USDOS and the ILO are working to reduce human trafficking through [EQUIP: Equipping Sri Lanka to Counter Trafficking in Persons](#). Its three pronged approach of Protection, Prevention, and Prosecution has successfully engaged the Government,

which ratified the [2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention](#) at the beginning of 2019. The project is also providing training to Migrant Development Officers on victim identification and referral services to ensure effective protection of victims. Based on rigorous studies,

the project has found key insights on the national legal frameworks for forced labour and the presence of trafficking and forced labour in the country. These findings have been captured in campaign materials such as comic books and street dramas to reach a wider audience.

Enabling Communities and Stakeholders to Address Forced Labour in Myanmar

USAID and the ILO joined forces to address forced labour in Myanmar. From the outset, the project led an awareness campaign nation-wide to give confidence that forced labour can indeed be addressed. The project is also building the capacity of local civil society organisations and Trade Unions to provide victims with the knowledge and tools to prevent and address forced labour. The project works with local authorities, which is key given that local authorities themselves are forced by the Army to enact forced labour in a number of communities. Bringing together local authorities and community members, the project promotes dialogue that increase community members' confidence in local authorities, which in turn increase local authorities' sensitivity to issues of forced labour. These activities have contributed to a decline in the number of perpetrators of forced labour as local authorities realised their role is to support victims in the prevention and elimination of forced labour.



Promoting Decent Work in Uzbekistan's Agricultural Sector

USDOL is supporting the [ILO Decent Work Country Programme \(DWCP\)](#) in Uzbekistan through a project that is strengthening national institutions to ensure decent working conditions and access to social protection, particularly in the agricultural sector. To this end, the ILO works closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, as well as other key institutions, to equip them with the tools and knowledge to identify, prevent and continuously reduce child and forced labour in the country.



Addressing Child Labour in Coffee Supply Chain in Honduras

USDOL and ILO are working together to develop social compliance tools for businesses to prevent and reduce child labour in the coffee supply chain in Honduras. These tools will be based on the Comply Chain methodology

developed by USDOL's Bureau of International Labor Affairs. The project is working closely with the Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFE) and the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP), among other key stakeholders,

to effectively address child labour and ensure its sustainability. Having reached an agreement with IHCAFE and COHEP at the end of 2018, the project was officially launched in February 2019.

CONTRIBUTING TO CHILD LABOUR AND FORCED LABOUR REDUCTION IN 78 COUNTRIES

The USDOL-ILO technical cooperation began in February 1995, with USDOL providing US\$2.1 million to implement pilot projects in Bangladesh, Brazil, the Philippines, and Thailand to demonstrate how to effectively tackle child labour. The ILO flagship programme IPEC+ has since developed a more holistic approach to promoting the sustainable reduction of child labour. Between 2004 and 2018, the USDOL has supported the reduction of child and forced labour in 78 countries through programs addressing the root causes of child labour.

Formalizing Access to the Labour Market for Refugees and Host Communities in Jordan



USDOS is supporting ILO's [activities to enhance Jordanians' and refugees' access to the formal labour market in selected governorates in Jordan](#). The ILO has designed Recognition of Prior Learning training programmes for 14 occupations, which have been used to certify the skills of over 6,000 workers. Furthermore, five Guidance and Support Offices have been set up across the country to facilitate the issuance of work permits, complemented by mobile units to allow workers in remote areas to apply and renew work permits on the spot. These units also provide career counselling, job referrals and placements, and awareness sessions on labour rights. Over 27,000 workers have valid work permits thanks to these offices and mobile units. This is complemented by a web-based e-counselling app, which is a first of its kind integrated platform offering workers online access to job and training opportunities. The project's "Women Do Business" programme, provides women with business management skills.

Combatting Child Labour in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Cobalt Industry

With funding from USDOL, the ILO is starting activities to combat child labour in the Democratic Republic of Congo's cobalt industry. The main objective of this project is to develop a cohesive and comprehensive approach

to bring forth structural changes in policies regarding child labour. The project is engaging with relevant ministries and key stakeholders to identify and map processes and programmes, responsible markets and

supply chains in the cobalt industry. In this way, the project is also advancing existing efforts in combatting child labour by way of identifying areas of synergy and cooperation.

Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods and Social Cohesion in Mauritania

The ILO and USDOS are improving the employability of refugees and young people from host communities. During the first two phases, trainings were focused on specific professions within the construction sector including technical training and safety and security trainings; financial education was included across all trainings. The project is implementing a study on the use of renewable energy as a potential means of providing energy to the Mbera Camp and host communities, which would contribute to decreasing tensions between refugees and host communities and enhancing opportunities for local development in the region. The project's first trainees built a vocational training centre, ensuring a continuous development of skills in the region.



Enhancing the Labour Inspectorate System in the Philippines



[USDOL and the ILO are enhancing the labour inspectorate system in the Philippines](#) to improve workplace compliance with national labour laws. Working closely with the Philippines' Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the project has contributed to the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health law and is

continuing to provide technical expertise on its implementation. In 2018, 54 labour inspectors and support staff at the central level were trained on the conduct of accident investigations; 92 labour inspectors received training to reinforce the quality of inspections and improve inspection report writing; and 51 DOLE Regional Directors and selected Field Directors participated in a three-day Executive Course on "Managing the Labour Inspectorate towards Strategic Labour Laws Compliance." Union leaders, educators and paralegals also received training on the mainstreaming of compliance with labour laws into their education, membership and advocacy programmes. The project is enhancing the country's labour inspection management information system (MIS), which now allows for the electronic gathering, generation of inspection-related data, performance tracking and the monitoring of cases. DOLE central and regional offices are using the revamped MIS to generate region/sector or issue specific compliance reports from the more than 58,000 inspection visits conducted in 2018.

Vanilla-Growing Communities Free of Child Labour in Madagascar

In Madagascar, the ILO-USDOL partnership is focused on eliminating child labour in vanilla-growing communities within the Sava region. The project is producing the "Procedures Manual to Enforce Child Labour Laws in Sava Region" and has recently published the [Code of Conduct Guide](#) for vanilla exporters; its launch was met with a commitment from the largest vanilla exporter in the country (Trimeta) to combat child labour with the project "Trimeta against child labour." The project is also

increasing the capacity of law enforcement agencies and service providers responsible for the care of victims through trainings, workshops and related awareness raising activities. Finally, the project is enhancing the capacity of the Regional Child Labour Committee, so that it effectively coordinates and creates synergies across child labour law enforcement entities at the regional level.

276 POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES ADOPTED IN 60 COUNTRIES

Since 1995, the ILO-USDOL partnership has supported the production of widely cited and reliable statistics, thematic research studies and research tools as well as global estimates for child labour and forced labour. The partnership's global reports and evidence-based studies inform global efforts to combat child labour and related areas of work such as youth employment and social protection. For 15 years, the partnership has also assisted 60 countries to develop, adopt and implement policies with a direct and indirect impact on child labour, such as national child labour elimination strategies and policies, national action plans for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and regional or sectoral plans and policies.

Contact

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

Tel: +41 22 799 7239 / Fax: +41 22 799 6668
E-mail: pardev@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/pardev
<https://www.ilo.org/dashboard>

DEPARTMENT
OF PARTNERSHIPS
AND FIELD SUPPORT