



International  
Labour  
Organization



# Republic of Korea ILO Cooperation

▶ July 2023

The Republic of Korea has been a member State of the ILO since 1991 and has ratified a total of 32 Conventions, including four Fundamental, three Governance and 20 Technical Conventions.

The Republic of Korea has a long-standing relationship with the ILO in the field of development cooperation. It supports the ILO's mandate by contributing to both its core budget and its development cooperation programmes.

The ILO works closely with the [Ministry of Employment and Labour](#) within the framework of the [ILO/ Korea Partnership Programme](#) first established in 2004. Renewed for the period 2021-2023, this partnership supports projects that strengthen social protection floors, occupational safety and health frameworks, public employment services and technical, and vocational education and training.

In addition, the Ministry of Employment Labour provides strategic funding to implement a Social and Solidarity Economy programme in Asia that seeks to tackle the challenges related to employment and basic

services provision as well as to support social cohesion.

In 2022, the Ministry also provided additional contribution to support BetterWork Bangladesh focusing on gender equality as well as the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.

The [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#), with the [Korea International Cooperation Agency \(KOICA\)](#) provides further support in the area of skills development and economic diversification in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Specifically, this cooperation addresses skills mismatch and strengthens national, regional and sector level capacity to design skill strategies.

Furthermore, the ILO benefits from Korean expertise through the country's participation in the Junior Professional Officer programme as well as the secondment of Korean officials and specialists from the Korean Experts Programme.

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The Republic of Korea's international cooperation is based on a people-centred approach to peace and prosperity. Its development assistance focuses on the following sectors:

- Education
- Health
- Governance
- Agriculture
- Forestry and fisheries
- Technology
- Energy

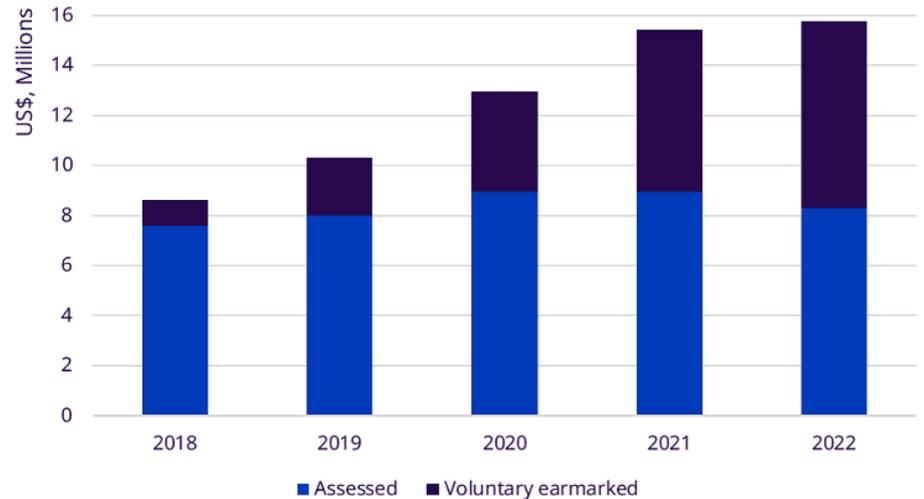
In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Republic of Korea launched a mid-term strategy to promote human rights, civil participation, survival and livelihoods in partner countries, and it has provided US\$6 million in immediate humanitarian assistance to the international humanitarian community.

## The Republic of Korea's financial contribution to the ILO

The Republic of Korea funds the ILO through:

- **Assessed contributions**, which are paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. The Republic of Korea provided **US\$ 41.8 million** between 2018 and 2022.
- **Voluntary contributions** earmarked to priority programmes, regions and projects. Between 2018 and 2022, the Republic of Korea's contributions totalled more than **US\$ 21.2 million**.

### The Republic of Korea's total contribution to the ILO 2018-2022



### Strengthening the impact of employment policies and supporting the creation of ICT-based jobs for young people and women in Tunisia



In partnership with KOICA, the project aims to support the labour market participation of young women and men in Tunisia, in line with the country's National

Employment Strategy that was elaborated with the support of the ILO. For the first time, the country has equipped itself with a comprehensive framework orienting the efforts of all ministries and stakeholders for more concerted and effective action on employment. The project facilitates the provision of high-end technical support and policy advice as well as institution and capacity development – including through specific expertise of Korean labour market specialists – to translate the Employment Strategy into concrete results for Tunisian youth. The ILO is supporting direct job creation in the ICT sector in the regions of Tunis, Sousse and Sfax via an ILO value chain development approach, with a particular focus on enterprise creation.

### Empowering women for resilient economies and peaceful communities in the refugee-affected regions of East and Adamawa in Cameroon

Thanks to a contribution of nearly US\$ 8 million from KOICA, the project is working to revitalize economies and enhance social cohesion between refugees and host communities through women's entrepreneurship development and economic empowerment in productive agro-ecological value chains of cassava, maize and poultry through local economic development; women's entrepreneurship; and social protection, AIDS and gender-based violence.

The four-year project covers 16 communes in two regions of Cameroon. It will benefit 5,000 women and men refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and members of refugee-hosting communities, of which at least 65% are women, and 50% are refugees. The ILO works in partnership with UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, local NGOs, financial institutions, the private sector and unions among others.



## ▶ Promoting Sustainable Enterprises in India (PSEI)



Launched in December 2020 to enable Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India to sustainably integrate into global supply chains in alignment with the Decent Work agenda and generate more and better quality jobs, the project, [Promoting Sustainable Enterprises in India \(PSEI\)](#), benefits from US\$2.4 million in support from KOICA. The 26-month project aims to strengthen local development strategies in India, with a focus on market

system and value chain development in the food processing and garments sector. In addition to building the capacity of policymakers and associates to design and implement evidence-based gender and market-responsive MSME policy initiatives, the project also promotes improved multi-stakeholder dialogue and local institutional capacity.

The project leverages ILO enterprise development tools, [Start and Improve Your Business \(SIYB\)](#), and [Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises \(SCORE\)](#) to support entrepreneurship development and productivity enhancement. These efforts are also focused on improving working conditions in targeted MSMEs to enhance sectoral competitiveness. The project will facilitate learning between the Republic of Korea and India as well as bring in global experiences on private-sector led local development strategies, sectoral policies, and sustainable enterprise.

## ▶ Strengthening the Social and Solidarity Economy Knowledge Base

The [Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy \(SSE\) Knowledge Base](#) project seeks to generate sound and convincing evidence about the size, reach and socio-economic importance of the SSE, including cooperatives.

Through its first component, a continuation of Phase I (2019-21), the project focuses on strengthening understanding around the SSE in Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Thailand and Viet Nam. The project is mapping the SSE landscape in these five countries, informing and facilitating policy dialogue on the SSE at the national and regional levels.

The second component of the project contributes to implementing the [Guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives](#) and includes country case studies



on the Republic of Korea, Italy, Tanzania, Türkiye and Costa Rica. Findings from the studies will inform a Manual concerning statistics of cooperatives, offering practical guidance for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data on cooperatives.

## ▶ Improving Occupational Safety and Health Qualifications Frameworks

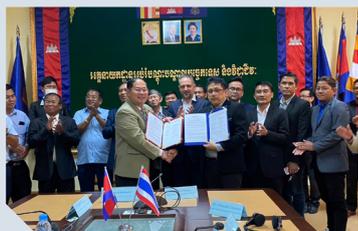


Thanks to the support of the Republic of Korea, the ILO conducts research to build knowledge on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) qualification frameworks and standards as good practices to ensure that OSH professionals have the qualifications to meet the needs of countries and enterprises are often lacking. Based on [recently published findings](#), the project is developing a tool to help countries assess their own framework and identify gaps and areas for improvements to ensure the availability and suitability of qualified OSH professionals. This initiative is critical in the context of the [ILC 2022 adopting a resolution to include a safe and healthy work environment in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at work](#). The project is part of the ILO Flagship Programme [Safety + Health for All](#).

## ► Better Work Bangladesh (Phase II and III): Gender

Better Work Bangladesh aims to sustainably improve working conditions as well as business competitiveness. With the support of the Republic of Korea, Better Work Bangladesh aims to strengthen female workers' voice and representation, ensuring their input and leadership on labour issues in the workplace. The second goal is to establish an enabling environment for women's participation and advance in the workplace. To this end, the programme will mainstream the Gender Equality and Returns (GEAR) into programme implementation and roll it out to the export processing zones. Furthermore, the programme will scale up its Mothers@Work programme by capacitating the labour inspectors on its core standards and checklist through a series of trainings and joint visits to partner factories.

## ► Improved mechanisms for skills recognition and TVET digitisation in ASEAN



With support from the Republic of Korea, the ILO has made significant strides in the Mutual Recognition of Skills (MRS) initiatives, recognized as key regional endeavours

for skills recognition in ASEAN. Through the ILO/Korea Partnership Programmes, strong relationships were established with constituents, skills development/TVET focal points, and the ASEAN Secretariat. The ongoing phase, "Improved mechanisms for skills recognition

and TVET digitisation in ASEAN," streamlines processes, increases efficiency, ensures relatively smoother skills recognition procedures to international referencing across ASEAN by using the ASEAN Guiding Principles and leverages digital technologies for TVET advancement to empower individuals to acquire relevant and future-oriented skills. Knowledge sharing and partnership building within ASEAN are integral components of the project. By facilitating collaboration and the exchange of best practices, the project strengthens the region's skills development capacity. The bilateral agreements signed between countries underscores their commitment to collaborative efforts and the pursuit of the project's objectives.

## ► Supporting the Implementation of Sustainable Social Protection Floors for the Workers and their Families in ASEAN – Phase III

The project "Supporting the Implementation of Sustainable Social Protection Floors for Workers and their Families in ASEAN," supported by the Korean Ministry of Employment and Labor, aims to strengthen social protection systems in ASEAN. Specifically targeting Lao PDR, the project addresses social security barriers, extends coverage to more workers and reduces administrative obstacles through research, actuarial valuation, capacity building, awareness events and support for amending the national Social Security Law. Regionally, tripartite meetings facilitate knowledge exchange on formalizing workers in emerging work arrangements, while a collaborative regional training workshop with Korean partners focuses on employment insurance and injury insurance (EI/EII) to enhance policy design, operations and service quality strategies. These efforts contribute to enhancing social protection systems, promoting formalization and building capacity in the labour and social welfare sector.



## ► Support to the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

The financial support from the Government of Korea towards the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions empowers the ILO, as a lead coordinating agency of the Accelerator, with the initial development phase and the roll out of this new inter-agency global initiative. This includes the launching of the Technical Support Facility (TSF) of the Global Accelerator as well as enabling the engagement of the ILO and the Accelerator's partners in the pathfinder countries at the technical level. The project also complements and develops synergies with other ILO projects and activities, both at global level and in supporting country level operations.

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