



# Denmark

## ILO Cooperation



Denmark has been an ILO member State since the organization's creation in 1919 and is a key partner of the ILO in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Denmark has ratified the eight Fundamental Conventions, the four Priority Conventions, and 60 Technical Conventions.

### Denmark's Contribution to the ILO's Priorities

Denmark and the ILO have a longstanding, strategic relationship aimed at promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Denmark was one of the first development partners to provide fully un-earmarked contributions to the ILO through the [Regular Budget Supplementary Account \(RBSA\)](#). In addition, Denmark supports ILO's flagship program [Better Work](#). Under the Danish Neighbourhood Programme, large-scale

projects are implemented in Ukraine and Georgia. Support is also provided through Danish Embassies, such as for a social dialogue and industrial relations project in Bangladesh, and the recently completed project on advocacy for responsible business development in Nepal, which was part of the Danish programme for inclusive growth in Nepal.



### DENMARK'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ILO'S PRIORITIES

The [World 2030](#) sets out Denmark's development policy, informed by the following strategic goals:

- (1) Security and development;
- (2) Migration and development;
- (3) Inclusive, sustainable growth and development; and
- (4) Freedom and development.

Denmark's development policy priorities for 2019-2020 are:

- Conflict-affected areas
- Africa - fragility, migration and business/free trade
- Green profile
- Women/equal opportunity
- Multilateralism

Target countries:

- Poor, fragile countries/regions: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Palestine and Somalia, Syria and neighbouring countries, Sahel, and the Horn of Africa
- Poor, stable countries: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Myanmar, Tanzania, Uganda
- Transition and growth economies: Ghana, Indonesia, South Africa, Ukraine, Georgia, Vietnam, Egypt, Brazil, Colombia, China, Mexico and Turkey and other middle-income countries.

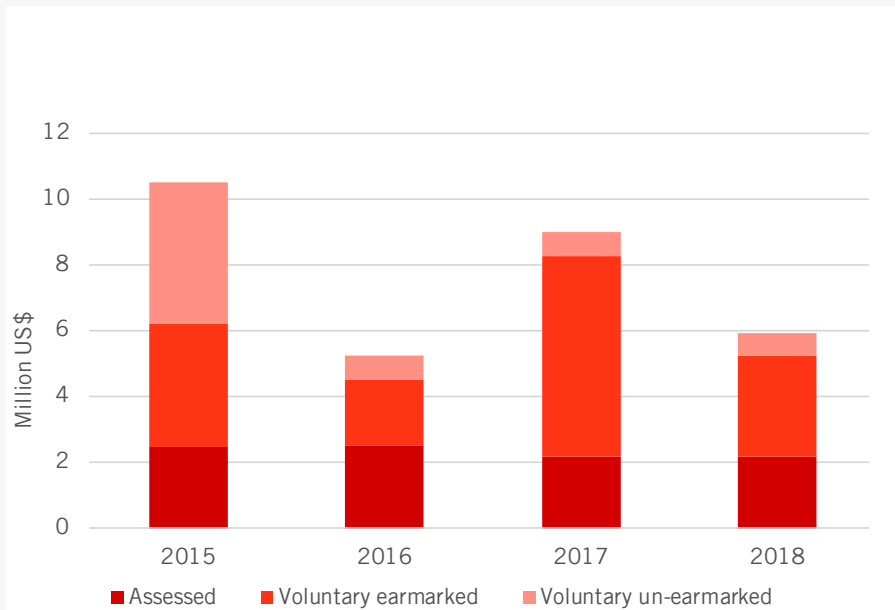
The bulk of available funds will go to the first two categories, with emphasis on fragile countries and regions characterized by fragility. In 2017, Denmark provided US\$ 2.5 billion in ODA, amounting to 0.7% of the country's gross national income.

## DENMARK'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ILO

Denmark funds the ILO through:

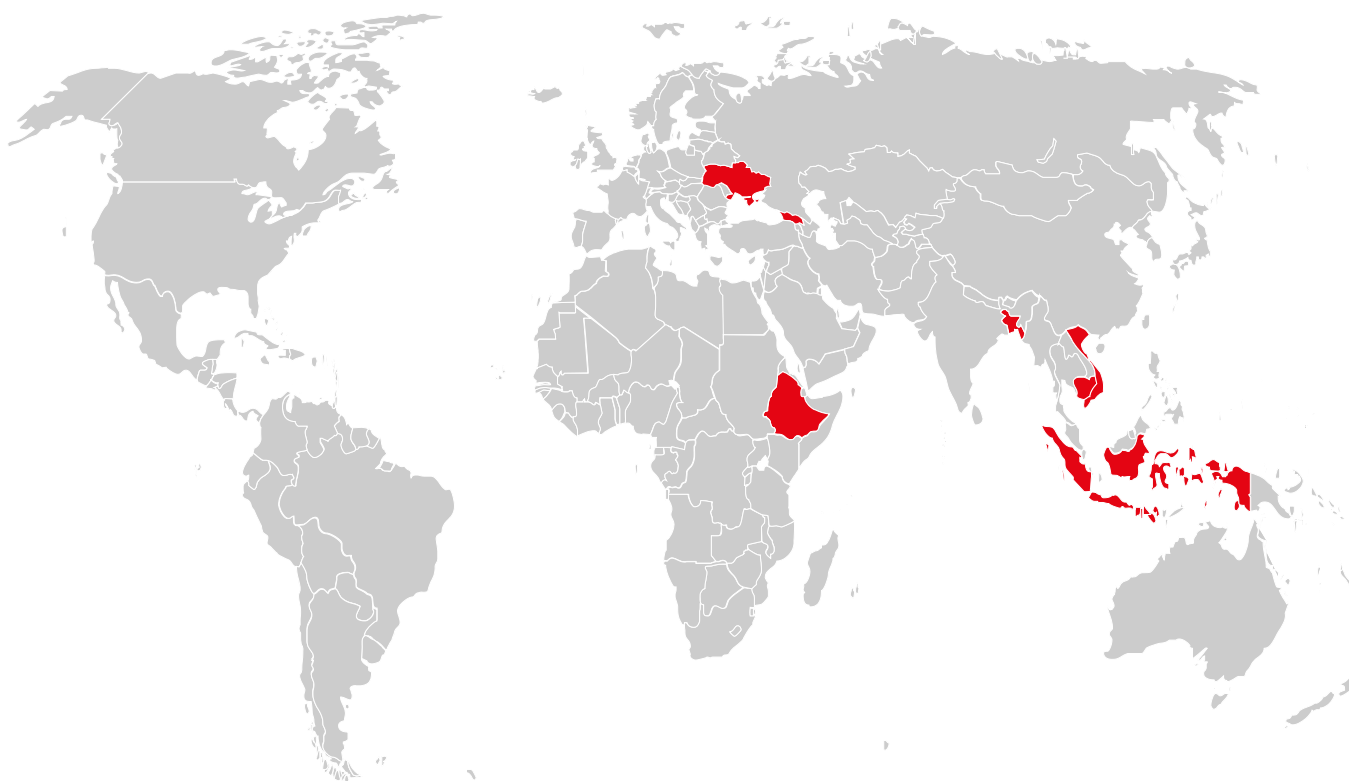
1. Assessed contributions, paid by all ILO Member States by virtue of their membership. In 2018, Denmark's assessed contribution to the ILO's regular budget exceeded US\$ 2.1 million.
2. Un-earmarked voluntary contributions, provided by 8 ILO donors, as a pool of flexible resources allocated by the ILO to strategy areas and emerging priorities. In 2015-2018, Denmark's voluntary contributions to the ILO exceeded US\$ 8.6 million.
3. Voluntary contributions earmarked to priority projects and programs. In 2015-2018, Denmark contributed over US\$ 14.9 million.

## Denmark's Financial Contributions to the ILO



## Countries Receiving Voluntary Funds from Denmark

Denmark's contributions support ILO development cooperation in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Indonesia, Ukraine and Viet Nam, where the ILO promotes social dialogue, decent working conditions and inclusive labour markets.



## Results from Projects Funded by Denmark

### Better Work



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As a partnership between the ILO and the International Finance Corporation, [Better Work](#) brings together governments, global brands, factory owners, and unions and workers to improve working conditions in the garment industry and make the sector more competitive.

Driven by a model that combines factory assessments, training, advisory, advocacy and research, the programme is active in some 1,700 factories employing more than 2,4 million workers across eight countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Nicaragua and Viet Nam.

An independent impact assessment showed that Better Work has created a significant and positive impact on working conditions such as abusive practices, weekly pay, contracts and working hours. The study also showed that Better Work increased productivity in participating factories by up to 22% and increased profitability by 25%.

Denmark is a major contributor to Better Work and is represented on the programme's Advisory Committee.

### Sustainable and Inclusive Development in Georgia

The Inclusive Labour Markets for Job Creation in Georgia project is part of the Danish Neighbourhood Programme 2017-2021. Its goal is to strengthen labour market institutions in Georgia by supporting the implementation of a strategic plan of the National Tripartite Commission.

The project is focussed on three thematic areas: (a) regulatory labour market institutions, (b) labour market administration, and (c) entrepreneurship

and enterprise development.

Achievements of the project include the development of a National Labour Market and Employment Strategy. The capacity of the National Statistics Office was strengthened, resulting in concrete recommendations to improve key decent work indicators. Twenty-two participants from the government and social partners completed an intensive training program on alternative dispute resolution through

labour mediation. It was the first time that this successful certification course was organised in Georgia. Other training activities included the ILO Participatory Gender Auditor Facilitator certification course, and a course on responsible business conduct provided in collaboration with the Human Rights Secretariat of the Administration of the Government of Georgia (HRS).

### Inclusive Labour Markets for Job Creation in Ukraine

Also part of the Danish Neighbourhood Programme 2017-2021, [this project is creating inclusive job opportunities in Ukraine](#), through the strengthening of employment services and labour market institutions, to better align skills development with labour market demand, and improve social dialogue.

To this end, career counsellors of the State Employment Service of Ukraine were trained on local employment and partnership. The project also carried out an analysis of Ukraine's legal framework to identify gaps in the implementation of important ILO Conventions related to Employment Services.

Seventeen trainers from Vocational and Educational Training Centres and the Institute of Personnel Training of the State Employment Service completed the [Start and Improve Your Business Training](#). With the continued mentorship from the ILO, they will implement this training to potential new entrepreneurs. Lastly, an action plan to improve the effectiveness of social dialogue was developed. Following a needs-assessment by Danish social partners, the ILO is supporting social partners in Ukraine to improve their services. Trade union leaders and lawyers from across Ukraine learned how to use international Labour Standards and the ILO's supervisory machinery to address deficiencies in workers' rights.



## Promoting Social Dialogue and Industrial Relations in the Bangladesh Ready-Made Garment Industry

Following major garment factory accidents in 2012 and 2013 that highlighted safety concerns, the fast-growing Ready-Made Garment sector in Bangladesh began a much-needed reform process to improve working conditions and rights at work including workers' and employers' right to

freedom of association, collective bargaining and to dialogue at the workplace.

The [governments of Denmark and Sweden joined forces to support ILO's initiative](#) to respond to this challenge by i) improving social dialogue, workplace cooperation

and grievance handling, ii) establishing an effective mechanism for conciliation and arbitration and iii) enhancing the capacity of employers' and workers' organizations to dialogue and prevent and resolve disputes.

## Advocacy for Rights and Good Corporate Governance in Nepal



Since 2015, the project has worked on advocacy for policy dialogue, sustainability and public awareness and improved competitiveness in four value chains:

ginger, dairy, cardamom and orthodox tea. Through the modifications of more than 80 policies, laws and regulations, the development of a code of conduct on responsible business, and the implementation of policies and practices to improve working conditions and promote decent work in four value chains. This project has improved the enabling environment for business and investment in Nepal.

The Advocacy Challenge Fund successfully supported private sector organizations and other agencies to conduct evidence based

advocacy and public-private dialogue for improved policy and regulations to support value chains. This engagement was an effective and efficient means of ensuring support and buy-in from the private sector.

Formal and informal private sector representatives and local bodies in Nepal's new governance structure were empowered to voice their concerns as stakeholders during dialogues at the national level, resulting in stronger policy coherence of the federal, province and local interests.

## Un-earmarked Voluntary Contributions (RBSA): Promoting Decent Work in Viet Nam

Responding to a request from the Ministry of Labour, the ILO has been supporting the Government of Viet Nam's National Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the project "Enhancing implementation of the 2030 agenda in Viet Nam" funded by [un-earmarked voluntary contributions made by eight donors including Denmark](#). The project has contributed to the achievement of several milestones, including the development and institutionalization of the Viet Nam Sustainable Development Statistical Indicators (VSDGI). This list includes 158 indicators drawing a roadmap for Viet Nam to achieve the 17 SDGs by 2030, making it one of the first countries in the world to have a nationally-owned, comprehensive tool to monitor progress on the SDGs. The project also helped modernize Viet Nam's statistical and administrative data systems, which are now in line with the most advanced international guidelines. The modernization of these systems benefited the 2019 National Population Census, a process that takes place every ten years. Thanks to ILO support, the 2019 Population Census includes a section on economic activity which will make it possible to extract valuable information on labour and employment. This progress translates into a wealth

of relevant and robust data available to policy-makers to keep moving towards the country's priority objectives.



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