

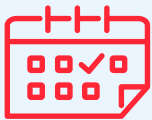


► Strengthening the Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia



January 2022

► At a glance



Duration

July 2021 –
December 2023



Donor

Government of
Republic of Korea



Geographical coverage

Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan,
Laos, Mongolia,
Thailand, Vietnam

► What is this project about?

The concept of the social and solidarity economy (SSE) is attracting attention because of its potential to create quality jobs, promote social inclusion and sustainable development that benefits everyone. In the absence of legal and policy frameworks, however, it can be difficult for policymakers to distinguish SSE organizations from traditional businesses and support them adequately.

To overcome this challenge, the project aims to help policymakers, workers' and employers' organizations and practitioners better understand the SSE's contribution to decent work and sustainable development and develop SSE policies and/or mainstream SSE in their policies and programmes. This initiative is a continuation of the first phase, and is part of a larger project on [Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy Knowledge Base](#).

► What is the social and solidarity economy?

The social and solidarity economy has been defined as a “concept designating enterprises and organizations, in particular cooperatives, mutual benefit societies, associations, foundations, and social enterprises, which have the specific feature of producing goods, services and knowledge while pursuing both economic and social aims and fostering solidarity.”¹ In Asia, the SSE encompasses cooperatives, associations, community self-help groups and mutual aid organizations with a long history in the region. It also includes social

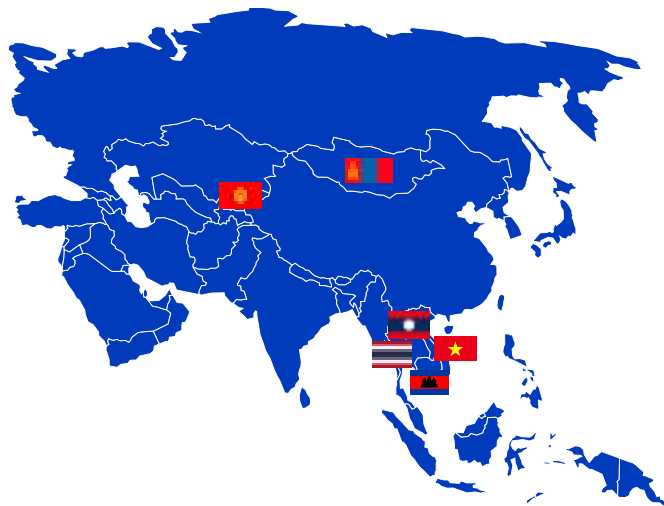
¹ [Plan of Action for the Promotion of Social Economy Enterprises and Organizations in Africa, 2009](#)

enterprises, a new type of business that blends social objectives with income generating activity, and organizations representing informal economy workers. The origins of the SSE can be traced to the principles of solidarity, reciprocity and mutuality deeply rooted in the region's cultures and traditions.

► Focus

The second phase of the project focuses on the following countries:²

- Cambodia
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Mongolia
- Thailand
- Vietnam



► How will this project be implemented?

The project will be carried out through two areas of work:

Research: The SSE landscape will be mapped using an analytical tool, and a case study will be undertaken for each country.

Capacity building: Capacity building activities will be carried out for the policymakers, workers' and employers' organizations and practitioners in the six countries to deepen their understanding of opportunities and challenges on the SSE and strengthening their technical capacities to develop and/or mainstream the SSE in their policies and programmes.

Research	Capacity-building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Refine the analytical research framework ► Map the SSE landscape in all six countries and carry out case studies ► Develop a normative SSE model that can be identified in all twelve countries in the first and second phases of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Design and implement SSE capacity-building activities ► Establish a regional community of practice for SSE ► Implement national follow-up activities

A national consultant, a researcher at a national university and/or research center will lead the mapping effort in each of the six countries selected countries supported by national advisory committees.

A comprehensive report capturing all findings and lessons from the six countries will be produced with the guidance of the regional advisory committee by 2023.

The ILO will organize a research conference to present the key findings, and a capacity-building workshop to foster social dialogue, knowledge sharing and collaboration among government officials, representatives of workers' and employers' organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

The findings from the project will contribute to reaching a common understanding on the SSE and a normative model for SSE that can be identified across all twelve countries.

² The six countries from the first phase of the project are: China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. The policy briefs based on the mapping of country case studies are available [here](#).

► Who are the target beneficiaries?

The project aims to help:

- Policymakers to become acquainted with institutional and legal frameworks needed for the SSE to thrive in their countries;
- Employers' and workers' organizations, cooperative and wider SSE institutions to be better informed about the scope, nature, limitations, and opportunities around the SSE; and
- The staff of relevant ILO departments and field offices that are working with ILO constituents to develop and strengthen SSE policies in Asia and beyond.

To find out more about the project, see [Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia](#).

For more information on the initiative, contact ILO's Cooperatives Unit: coop@ilo.org

Contact details

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

T: +41 22 799 7239
ilo.org/coop