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Policy Development Section  
*Technical Cooperation Segment*

POL

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### SIXTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

## Regional perspectives on development cooperation: The Arab States

#### Purpose of the document

The Governing Body is invited to request the Office to expand its development cooperation programme in the Arab States and to develop a regional resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the development cooperation strategy for the period 2015–17 (to be revised in November 2015) (see the draft decision in paragraph 51).

**Relevant strategic objective:** Governance, support and management (Outcome 1: Effective and efficient utilization of all ILO resources).

**Policy implications:** None.

**Legal implications:** None.

**Financial implications:** None.

**Follow-up action required:** A proposal will be developed for a strategy to mobilize development cooperation resources for the Arab States region.

**Author unit:** Regional Office for Arab States.

**Related documents:** GB.306/5; GB.306/TC/5; GB.313/POL/7; GB.316/POL/5; GB.316/POL/6; GB.316/POL/7; GB.317/POL/6; GB.317/POL/8; GB.319/POL/6; GB.319/POL/7; GB.320/INS/5/1; GB.320/INS/5/2; GB.320/POL/9; GB.322/POL/6; GB.322/POL/7(Rev.1); GB.323/POL/5; ILO: *The situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories*, Report of the Director-General (Appendix), International Labour Conference, 103rd Session, Geneva, 2014.



## I. Introduction

1. The Arab States region is diverse, comprising countries at different levels of development. The ILO Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) serves 11 member States and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. This includes three low- and middle-income economies (Syrian Arab Republic, Occupied Palestinian Territory and Yemen), three upper-middle income economies (Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon), and six high-income economies (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates). The total population of the region is close to 152 million (UN data, 2015).
2. Six Arab countries and territories (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) covered by the Regional Office are recipients of official development assistance (ODA). The majority of these recipients are crisis or post-crisis countries. In middle-income countries such as Iraq, multilateral cooperation is increasingly conditioned on the establishment of co-financing mechanisms with the Government.

**Table 1. ODA trends for ILO ROAS ODA countries, 2008–13**<sup>1</sup>

Country	Net ODA receipts (US\$ millions)					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Iraq	9 884	2 791	2 192	1 908	1 301	1 541
Jordan	738	740	954	979	1 417	1 408
Lebanon	1 070	580	448	474	710	626
Occupied Palestinian Territory	2 470	2 817	2 519	2 442	2 001	2 610
Syrian Arab Republic	157	208	135	335	1 672	3 627
Yemen	430	558	664	476	709	1 004

3. The past few years, especially in the aftermath of the Arab Spring, many countries of the region have been affected by political instability, social unrest and conflict, the developmental implications of which are still unfolding. Undoubtedly the events in the region are based on and have resulted in a wide range of socio-economic challenges with major repercussions for the labour market. This has had an impact on the demands from constituents and subsequently the focus of ILO development cooperation.
4. The Global Jobs Pact and the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, together with the Arab Decade for Employment (2010–20) provide the framework for ILO interventions in the region. The ILO Middle East and North Africa (MENA) strategy, which was launched in 2011, outlined the vision for a common ILO response to the Arab uprisings. It was revised in 2013 to take into account medium-term priorities for transition and reform.<sup>2</sup> Key areas identified for interregional cooperation include youth employment, women empowerment, social dialogue, social protection and migration.

<sup>1</sup> Data provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/genericdocument/wcms\\_176850.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/genericdocument/wcms_176850.pdf).

5. Promoting more and better jobs for inclusive growth is one of the eight areas of critical importance in the Programme and Budget for 2014–15. In line with the programme and budget, and considering the centrality of employment and decent work to the Arab uprisings, employment for stability and socio-economic progress was also one of the main goals articulated in the MENA strategy, and is one of the ILO's main objectives in the Arab States.
6. Social dialogue constitutes one of the region's greatest deficit areas that has also been strongly reflected in the demands of the Arab uprisings. Where it exists, social dialogue has not been fully institutionalized or sustained. Even though all countries have ratified all or at least some of the ILO Conventions which pertain to social dialogue, freedom of association and collective bargaining, there are important deficits in implementation and enforcement. In response, the ILO has been working on promoting social dialogue through building the capacities of workers' and employers' organizations to play a prominent role in any new development paradigm for the region.
7. Against the backdrop of the Syrian crisis and its humanitarian ramifications, both the countries receiving Syrian refugees (Lebanon and Jordan) and the UN system have emphasized the importance of adopting an integrated approach to addressing this crisis that underscores the interrelatedness between humanitarian and developmental support. Global attention to the Syrian crisis, however, has not been matched by an equal level of development partner support from inside the Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries. The ILO developed its own strategy in 2013 to minimize the potential negative impact of the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan and Lebanon. This strategy is development-led and geared towards enhancing the resilience and self-reliance of Syrian refugees and their host communities while preserving the social and economic stability of both countries.
8. The current sharp decline in oil prices presents an entirely new fiscal dynamic for the countries of this region. Gulf Cooperation Council countries, which have yet to adopt a more private sector-led growth, have greater vulnerability to any downturn in oil prices, despite massive reserves. In the medium to long term, this may prompt those countries (such as Kuwait and Oman) to accelerate the pace of industrial policy development and labour market reforms. For non-oil exporting countries, low oil prices constitute a relief for their expensive subsidy systems and may provide an opportunity to implement subsidy reform. Several of the region's governments had already begun to overhaul their subsidy systems, led by Jordan which abolished all fuel subsidies in November 2012.

## **II. Trends in development cooperation in the region, 2003–14**<sup>3</sup>

9. During the period 2003–14, the total amount of extra-budgetary funds approved for technical cooperation projects (XBTC approvals) in the Arab States was US\$75.96 million (see table 2).

<sup>3</sup> Any data for 2014 included in this paper is to be considered preliminary.

**Table 2. Extra-Budgetary Technical Cooperation (XBTC) approvals and delivery rates, 2003–14**  
(in US\$ thousands, does not include Regular Budget Supplementary Account)

Arab States	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Approvals	261	4 325	1 562	2 282	8 823	13 427	9 533	7 714	8 222	6 695	4 115	9 004
Delivery rate (%)	55.5	55.6	49.2	48.1	46.5	39.5	64.7	78.6	66.5	78.0	80.1	87.1

10. Between 2003 and 2014, development cooperation projects in the Arab States had a total expenditure of approximately \$60 million. The annual amount of XBTC expenditure almost increased five-fold from \$1.6 million in 2003 to more than \$6.9 million in 2014, marking a steady increase in XBTC expenditure over the past decade. The delivery rate of the ROAS also increased over the same period from a mere 55.5 per cent in 2003 to 87.1 per cent in 2014.
11. With \$15.14 million spent during the biennium 2012–13 on XBTC resources, the Regional Office had the seventh largest volume of expenditure out of the 44 administrative units in the field. An additional \$4 million from the Regular Budget Supplementary Account, the Regular Budget for Technical Cooperation and the regular budget were administered by the Office to support development cooperation interventions in the region.
12. The extra-budgetary resources for development cooperation in the Arab States came from bilateral donors, direct trust funds, multilateral bodies and the private sector. On average, the United States was the largest development partner to the region, with approximately 20 per cent of total funds during the period 2008–14. The UN system, including multi-partner trust funds and joint programmes, and the European Commission ranked second and third, with approximately 19 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. The appendix shows the top ten development partners for the Arab States over the period 2008–14.
13. Even though it has not been reflected in financial terms, South–South and triangular cooperation has recently been emerging in the region. A number of South–South and triangular cooperation networks, workshops and initiatives were initiated and showcased in Doha in 2014 during the Arab States Regional South–South Development Expo of the United Nations. Promising areas of focus include youth employment and cooperatives.
14. The ILO’s current XBTC portfolio (as at end December 2014) is composed of 43 ongoing XBTC projects for a total amount of \$22.3 million, marking a decrease from the overall development cooperation portfolio of approximately \$40.47 million between 2012 and 2013.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The size of the portfolio has been fluctuating due to the closure of some projects towards the end of the year. In 2014, the number of active projects was 47 with a total portfolio of \$35,246,091.

Figure 1(a). Number of projects by country and territory in 2014

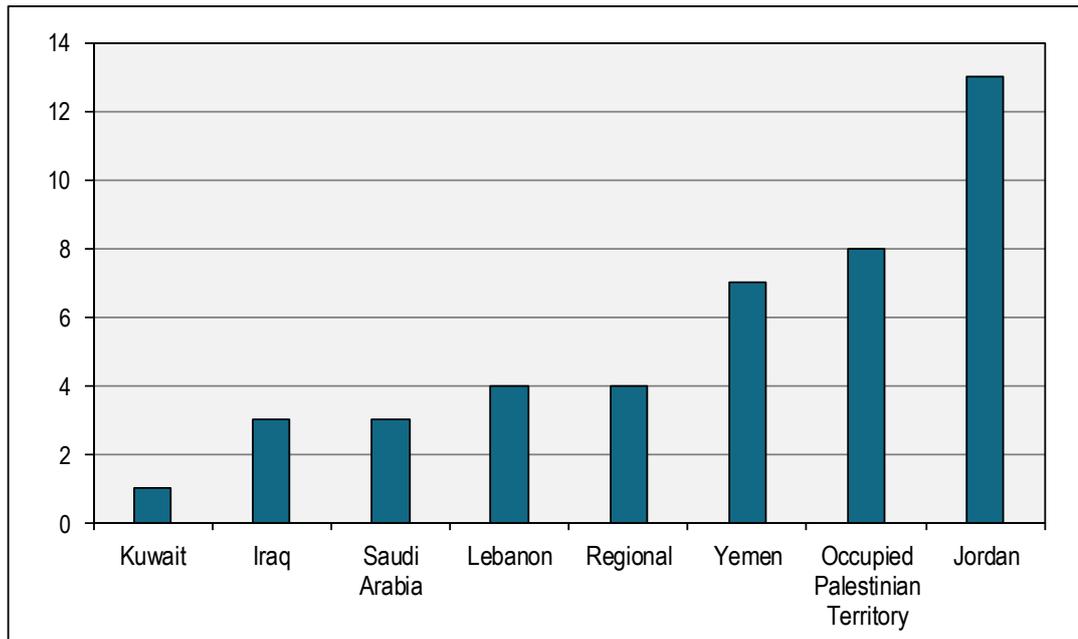
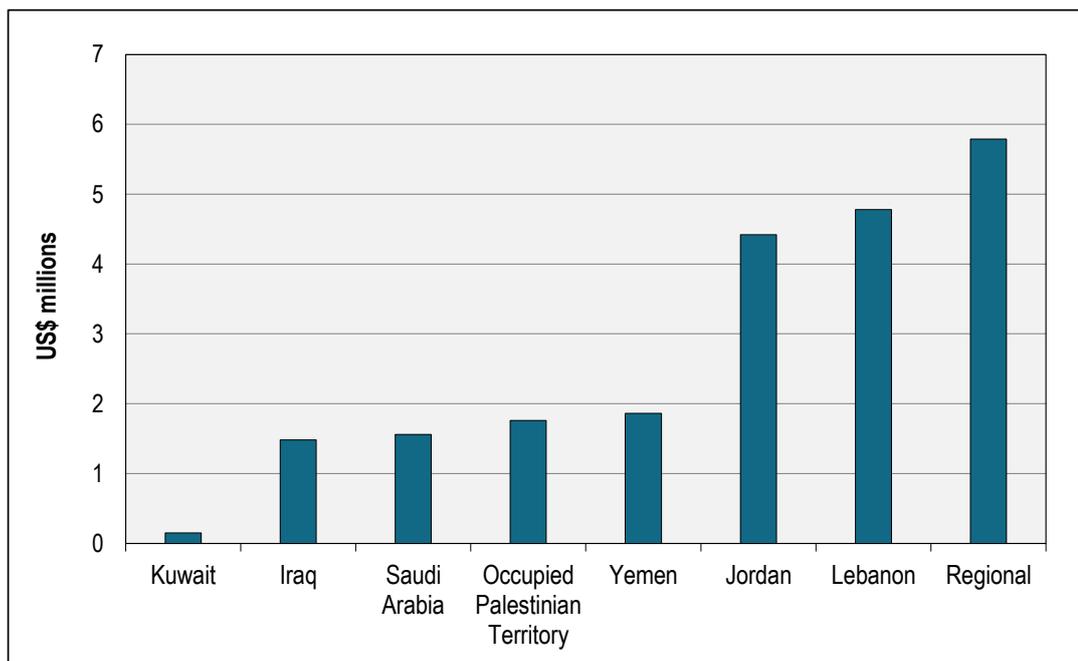


Figure 1(b). Size of XBTC portfolio by country and territory in 2014

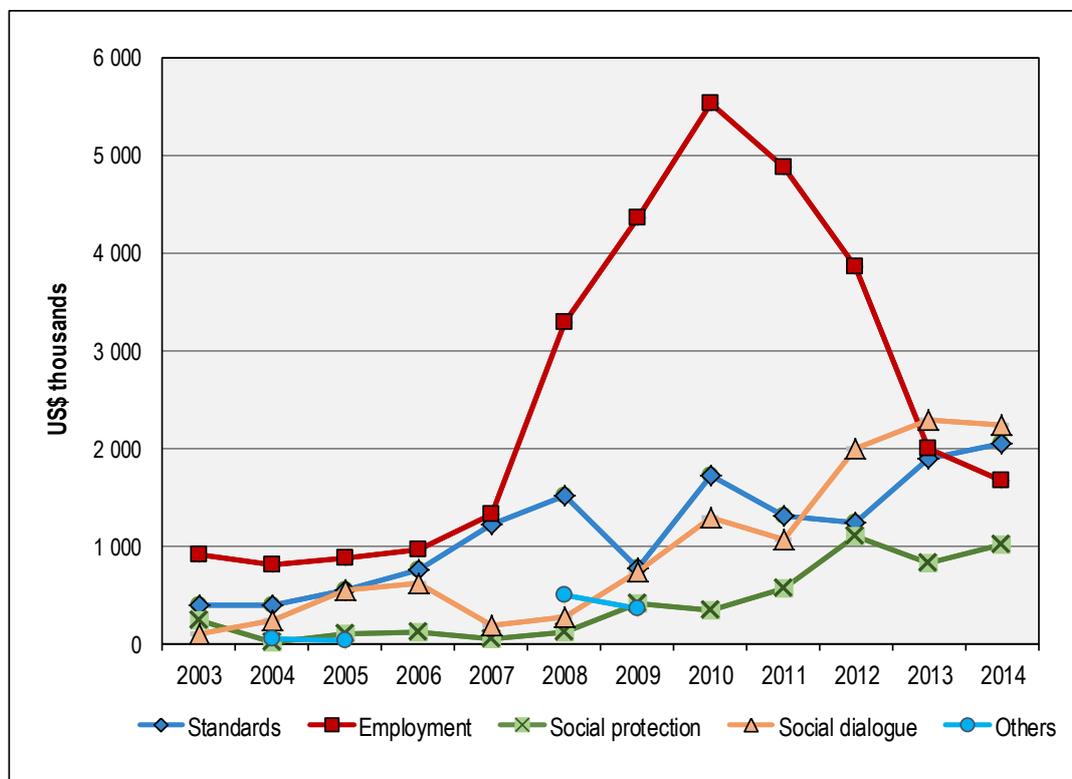


15. In terms of the four strategic objectives, the value of expenditure in 2014 is higher than the 2003 baseline value for all of them (see figure 2). With a 25-fold increase over the period under review, the social dialogue objective had the highest expenditure in 2014 and has increased the most, particularly since 2010.<sup>5</sup> The labour standards objective ranked second in terms of its value of expenditure in 2014 and increased during the period under review (six-fold) and followed a similar pattern as social dialogue did (sharp increase in

<sup>5</sup> This increase is mainly due to an increased demand by constituents to work in the area of social dialogue following the onset of the Arab uprisings and the subsequent increase in development partner funding.

expenditure between 2012 and 2014). The employment objective reached a peak in 2010,<sup>6</sup> but then steadily decreased afterwards, ranking third in terms of its value of expenditure in 2014 (1.8 times its 2003 value). Finally, social protection ranked fourth in terms of its expenditure in 2014 (4.5 times its 2003 value).

**Figure 2. XBTC expenditure by strategic objective, 2003–14**



### III. Results achieved: Some examples

16. Fully-fledged Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) are currently being implemented in Jordan (2012–15) and Oman (2014–16). Through its DWCP in Jordan, the ILO is working with the Government, and the workers' and employers' organizations to promote better working conditions and rights at work, social security and employment with a focus on youth employment. The DWCP in Oman prioritizes the integration of the national labour force into the economy (Omanization), social protection and social dialogue. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the social partners endorsed a Decent Work Programme for 2013–16, prioritizing technical assistance in the areas of labour market governance, employment and social protection. The ILO is also supporting the economic and political transition in Yemen, with an ILO framework of cooperation in place for 2013–15 focused on labour market governance, economic recovery, female participation in the labour force and social protection. New DWCPs for Bahrain and Yemen may be considered in 2015. Frameworks for cooperation with Lebanon and Qatar are also under way.

<sup>6</sup> This peak in 2010 was mainly triggered by the approval of a number of UN funds (MDG Achievement Fund and trust funds) in Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Iraq of which ILO was part.

## Promoting decent employment, particularly for youth

17. In its efforts to promote decent employment, particularly for young people, the ILO has trained over 1,700 Palestinian youth in the Know About Business programme during its pilot phase, developing their entrepreneurial skills for self-employment as a career option. As of August 2014, over 160 teachers have been trained in the delivery of the programme, 12 of whom have received additional training and now qualify as national key facilitators. Following the success of the pilot programme, the ministries of labour and of education and higher education have taken the decision to nationalize the Know About Business programme to cover all vocational training centres, industrial schools and technical colleges.
18. In Jordan, the ILO, in collaboration with the International Youth Foundation, implemented a pilot initiative for upgrading informal apprenticeships in small and micro-enterprises in Amman's auto repair sector. Trainees between the ages of 18 and 27 years benefited from this programme, most of whom found employment and became officially certified. These licenses will facilitate mobility through the national recognition of graduate skills by both employers and training institutions.
19. In Yemen, the ILO, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, supported the development of the National Youth Employment Action Plan, endorsed by the Council of Ministers in September 2013. The ILO also supported the launch of the Mubadara training programme, piloting the first entrepreneurship training programme at the university level in a total of eight Yemeni universities. Mubadara equips graduates with key business skills and techniques to establish a sustainable enterprise.

## Enhancing labour market information

20. The ILO assisted the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in Yemen in undertaking its first labour force survey in 2014. A special module on labour migration was also added to the survey to generate labour market information on specific aspects of migrant labour market outcomes. As part of this initiative, the ILO supported the Ministry in developing in-house capacity to analyse and disseminate labour market information.
21. In Lebanon, the ILO is providing technical support to the Central Administration of Statistics to implement the first Lebanese Labour Force and Households' Living Conditions Survey. The overall objective of the Survey is to improve the quantity and quality of statistical information, with specific focus on the impact of the Syrian crisis in Lebanon. Implementation of the Survey began in September 2014 and will take 24 months. It is the largest household survey to be carried out in Lebanon, and for the first time will also be at the sub-district level.
22. The ILO is supporting Gulf Cooperation Council countries in improving labour market information systems and devising active labour market policies that encourage private sector participation for nationals.
23. In Saudi Arabia, the ILO supports the Ministry of Labor's efforts to ensure policy coherence of economic, labour and social policies with the larger objective of the Saudization of the labour market. To inform this process, the ILO prepared a country scan reviewing all existing and planned economic, labour and social policies. The Ministry of Labor helped implement a number of key recommendations that came out of the report, including establishing a high-level inter-ministerial committee to review the employment impact of all relevant national policies. As part of this work, the ILO is currently providing a comprehensive capacity-building package to the Ministry of Labor which includes wage

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policy and social dialogue. The ILO is also working closely with the Human Resources Development Fund to develop a Saudi national occupation classification system.

## Improving social protection

24. With ILO technical assistance, Jordan achieved several milestones in the area of social security, including the ratification of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), and the endorsement of a new social security law in 2014. The new law extends social security to all enterprises and introduces maternity insurance (previously provided under a temporary law), as well as making provisions for the long-term financial sustainability of the pension scheme. The ILO is also supporting the Social Security Corporation in Jordan to develop a comprehensive social security system and to increase social security coverage. Between 2003 and 2012, the percentage of the labour force insured by the Social Security Corporation increased from 36 per cent in 2003 to 57 per cent in 2012.
25. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the ILO supported the establishment of the Tripartite National Social Security Committee, headed by the Prime Minister. The Committee will develop the first social security system for private sector workers and their families, as well as the new social security law based on international labour standards and best practices. The ILO launched an actuarial study examining different scenarios for the introduction of an old-age, disability and survivors' pension scheme, maternity insurance and an employment injury scheme. Tripartite consensus around the policy framework for the new social security system was reached in December 2013 and the new social security law, which is being drafted with the assistance of the ILO, is expected to be finalized and submitted to the Council of Ministers for adoption in the first half of 2015. In addition, the ILO is supporting the process of setting up an independent social security institution, governed by a tripartite board, which will administer and implement the new national social security system for private sector workers. The ILO is also providing technical assistance to the Palestinian Authority in ensuring the viability of the public sector pension scheme.
26. With ILO technical assistance, the Government of Saudi Arabia formally adopted an unemployment insurance scheme, introducing new legislation to this effect in January 2014. This new scheme provides for employer and employee contributions of 1 per cent of their base salary to finance the unemployment insurance benefit for up to six months. The introduction of an unemployment insurance scheme effectively makes Saudi Arabia the second country in the region to have adopted an unemployment insurance scheme based on the principle of solidarity and pooling of risk, after Bahrain.
27. In Oman, the ILO is providing technical assistance for the ratification of Convention No. 102 and assessing the feasibility of introducing an unemployment insurance scheme.
28. The ILO is supporting the progressive establishment of a national social protection floor in Jordan, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and more recently Lebanon. In 2012, Jordan launched its national social protection floor and has subsequently set up a tripartite advisory board with the assistance of the ILO. Through a financial assessment, different options and ways to progressively implement the social protection floor in Jordan have been proposed.
29. During its regional seminar on social protection in the Arab region (May 2014), the ILO identified country-specific strategies for expanding social protection and building national social protection floors. The seminar resulted in regional buy-in for more inclusive social protection policies and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World

Health Organization were introduced as partners in the social protection floor coalition. As a follow-up to the seminar, the ILO will be working closely with different partners to develop a comprehensive and regionally harmonized social security database for Arab countries.

### **Improving international labour standards for migrant workers**

- 30.** In its efforts to promote international labour standards, including for migrant workers, the ILO has secured (as of August 2014) the official participation of 63 factories representing over 95 per cent of the garment sector labour force in its Better Work Jordan programme. With the assistance of the ILO, a landmark collective bargaining agreement in the garment sector was signed in 2013, securing better representation for tens of thousands of migrant workers. In 2014, Better Work Jordan established the Al Hassan Workers' Center, the first recreational center of its kind in Jordan catering to migrant garment workers. In addition to a computer room, gym and outdoor sports facilities, the center also offers courses in women's leadership, English and computer literacy and provides legal advice and trade union support services.
- 31.** In Lebanon, the ILO is working to promote the rights of women migrant domestic workers, playing a leading role in supporting the Government on several policy and legal issues related to their rights and working conditions, including the implementation of a unified standard contract, the regulation of private placement agencies and the promotion of the right to organize for domestic workers.
- 32.** In Jordan, the ILO is working with the National Committee on Pay Equity on a national advocacy campaign targeting policy-makers and community leaders aiming to promote equal pay for work of equal value. To better assess the gender pay gap in the labour market, the ILO conducted a study on the gender pay gap in the private education sector in Jordan. This initiative is based on the findings of a comprehensive legal review, conducted in 2013 with ILO technical support, which recommended legal amendments to promote equal remuneration for all workers, in line with the ILO's Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100).

### **Combating child labour**

- 33.** With ILO assistance, Lebanon launched, in 2013, its first tripartite National Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016. In addition to its technical support in the roll-out of the National Action Plan, the ILO is also supporting the implementation of a national survey on child labour in Lebanon in 2014–15.
- 34.** In Jordan, the ILO is providing technical support for the nationwide implementation of the National Framework to Combat Child Labour, launched in 2011. The Framework sets out the legislative environment and coordination mechanisms between the relevant ministries, including through the improvement of child labour case referral systems and the creation of a child labour database.
- 35.** In Yemen, the ILO, in collaboration with the Central Statistical Organization, completed its first National Child Labour Survey in 2010. The survey revealed that 1.6 million of the 7.7 million children in this age group are employed. In response to these alarming figures, the ILO aims at supporting preventive and rehabilitation programmes for child labourers through strengthening the capacity of tripartite partners and mainstreaming child labour in the work of UN agencies.

## Promoting social dialogue

36. In its efforts to promote social dialogue and tripartism at the regional level, the ILO launched a socio-economic and legal literacy training programme which aims to strengthen the capacity of workers' organizations to participate effectively in policy debates and better represent workers' interests and rights.
37. The ILO is also working in Lebanon, Oman, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Jordan, Yemen and Saudi Arabia on a regional project to enhance the capacity of employers' organizations in the Arab region in evidence-based policy-making. Strengthening the capacity of the courts to develop proactive national policies and contributing effectively to policy-making processes is expected to build the enabling environment for sustainable enterprise growth.

## Responding to the Syrian refugee crisis

38. Syrians are the largest refugee population in both Lebanon and Jordan, with close to 1.2 million refugees registered or waiting for registration in Lebanon, and over 600,000 in Jordan (the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, January 2015 update). The ILO response has been development-oriented in its support of refugees and host communities with an overarching goal of preserving social and economic stability. To this end, the ILO is working in both countries to support job-rich policy development, promote livelihood and income-generating opportunities in host communities affected by the Syrian refugee crisis, and address worst forms of child labour and unacceptable forms of work.
39. In Jordan, the ILO is focused on local-level interventions that stimulate job creation and business growth targeting the Syrian refugee hosting communities of the Northern Governorates of Irbid and Mafraq. The ILO is also facilitating participatory value chain analysis among communities hosting Syrian refugees to guide participatory action programmes in support of livelihood opportunities for these communities. Moreover, the ILO, in partnership with the Government of Jordan and the Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies, will release in the first quarter of 2015 the first comprehensive assessment of the implications of the influx of Syrian refugees on the Jordanian labour market.
40. In Lebanon, the ILO's interventions are focused on enhancing the resilience of both producers (individuals and groups) and workers affected by the Syrian refugee crisis in rural areas in the North. To this end, the ILO is supporting the creation of better jobs in agriculture and agriculture-related sectors, supporting the scale up of value chains for improved production and market linkages.
41. To address worst forms of child labour and unacceptable forms of work, the ILO has been working in both countries to support evidence-based policy-making and strengthen institutional capacity and coordination. In Jordan, the ILO conducted two rapid assessments in the agriculture and urban informal sectors in host communities and is supporting the establishment of a technical subcommittee on Syrian child labour under the auspices of the National Child Labor Committee. In Lebanon, the ILO conducted a survey of working street children, most of them Syrian refugees, together with UNICEF and Save the Children and launched the National Action Plan on the elimination of worst forms of child labour.

## IV. Prospects

42. The overarching programme framework and priorities for the ILO in the Arab States are focused on participatory and inclusive social dialogue, enhanced social protection, and strengthened mechanisms for the protection of vulnerable workers including women, migrant and domestic workers and persons with disabilities. The ILO is also working to promote evidence-based employment policies and active labour market programmes, with a more innovative focus on youth, entrepreneurship and skills development. Through its Decent Work Agenda and tripartite structure, the ILO continues to promote employment-led and inclusive sustainable economic growth.
43. The overall unstable political situation across the region is not conducive to sustainable policy development. Because of the difficulty of accessing countries and territories such as Iraq, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, the effective delivery of ILO programmes remains a challenge.
44. In the past, funding for employment-centred projects in crisis-affected countries such as Lebanon and Iraq had been mostly channelled through multi-donor trust funds that supported socio-economic recovery. With 30 per cent of all funds approved in the region, the UN system was the largest contributor over the period 2007–12. The progressive closure of these trust funds has seen the UN share of allocations drop from 50 per cent between 2007 and 2009 to less than 10 per cent in subsequent years. The establishment of new multi-donor trust funds is now under discussion, particularly as part of a regional response to the Syrian refugee crisis.
45. Knowledge sharing, results-based management and stronger communication to ensure visibility of ILO work on the ground continue to be major challenges, as highlighted in project evaluations and DWCP review reports. The management of large development cooperation portfolios in countries in which the ILO does not have a country office represents a further challenge. To address these challenges, increasing rigorous monitoring systems of all ROAS projects are being implemented to ensure delivery against targets. The ROAS is also working to promote a more programmatic approach to development cooperation, ensuring more effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to oversee the project management cycle and capture good practices and lessons learned.
46. The Syrian refugee crisis and its ramifications both inside the country and in neighbouring countries have shifted the attention of development partners towards much needed humanitarian support. Recently however, both host countries (Lebanon and Jordan) and the UN system have begun putting greater emphasis on an integrated approach to addressing the crisis that underscores the interrelatedness between humanitarian and developmental support. In this context, the UN launched, at the end of 2014, a Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) 2015–16 which integrates both development and humanitarian aspects. This will increase demand and create opportunities for ILO support in the areas of jobs and livelihood creation, improvement of conditions of work and elimination of the worst forms of child labour. This will have to be backed by policy advice based on robust data and evidence-based research to support economic resilience.
47. Looking ahead, and given the increasingly volatile situation in Iraq, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (particularly in relation to the latest humanitarian crisis in Gaza) the ILO will seek to enhance its preparedness and capacity to work in fragile emergency situations. As part of its development-led strategy, the ILO will continue to promote resilience in emergency and crisis situations through decent work and promotion of sustainable local economic development, while increasing its focus on emergency employment services, employment intensive and cash-for-work

programmes, and piloting of social protection floor schemes in host communities affected by crisis (such as child benefits and cash transfers).

48. The ILO will also develop its regional capacity to respond to the much needed services in the Arab States in the areas of labour inspection and labour administration. It will furthermore work to address demands from Gulf states for policy coherence, including the nexus between industrial, employment and labour migration policies, which are expected to increase in the light of the recent sharp drop in oil prices. The ILO will continue to address the challenges faced by both migrant workers and Gulf Cooperation Council countries. ILO work in this regard will support reducing labour mobility costs, preventing abuse in the recruitment process, protecting workers' rights, and improving regulation and oversight of private recruitment and placement agencies. These ILO efforts could provide a framework for the countries concerned to work towards more efficient and fair recruitment modalities for migrant workers.
49. In accordance with the ILO's Development Cooperation Strategy 2015–17, a resource mobilization strategy for the Arab States is currently being developed to support the regional efforts in responding to the crises in the region and address the constituents' demands in the different countries. The objective of the strategy is two-fold: diversify resource mobilization through enhancing partnerships with a wider and larger group of development partners and strengthen internal capacity and put in place mechanisms for resource mobilization. One way to meet the first objective is through exploring partnerships with the private sector and foundations, particularly the ones that are either based in or have a strong presence in the region (such as foundations in the Gulf countries), exploring South–South cooperation, and embarking on public–private partnership agreements, in line with the ILO's agreed policy and guiding principles.
50. The ILO will continue to work closely with United Nations partners within the overall framework of UN system-wide coherence, particularly in relation to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, UN Strategic Frameworks, One UN Funds, and UN frameworks related to the crisis (such as 3RP). In 2015, the Jordan United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2015–17 (which supersedes the third UNDAF) will be rolled out, as well as three UN strategic frameworks for Kuwait, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia which are expected to be finalized and approved. Moreover, the 3RP along with the Jordan National Resilience Plan and the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2015–16 were launched at the end of 2014 and will be implemented (subject to available funds) starting in 2015. The ILO has been and is expected to continue to be actively engaged in all these mechanisms which present additional opportunities for expanding development cooperation. The ILO will also continue to be actively engaged at the regional and country levels in the post-2015 consultations, including the process led by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to support the League of Arab States in formulating an Arab perspective on the post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, the ILO has recently drafted a paper on the employment and decent work component of the proposed sustainable development goal 8 which addresses inclusive growth and decent work, which will feed into the Arab Sustainable Development Report.

### **Draft decision**

51. *The Governing Body requests the Office to expand its development cooperation programme in the Arab States and to develop a regional resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the ILO's Development Cooperation Strategy 2015–17 (to be revised in November 2015).*



## Appendix

### Top ten ILO development partners for the Arab States, 2008–14 (XBTC approvals in US\$ thousands)

Development partner	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
UN organization and agencies	1 215	7 579	582	1 331	134	719	817	<b>12 429</b>
United States	3 158	–	4 088	3 078	1 000	–	995	<b>12 319</b>
European Commission	–	–	486	2 122	–	–	4 789	<b>7 396</b>
Switzerland	–	–	972	983	2 249	500	–	<b>4 703</b>
Domestic development funding	1 050	–	121	294	2 388	505	169	<b>4 527</b>
Canada	2 159	889	575	–	204	176	284	<b>4 286</b>
Italy	3 786	–	–	–	–	–	–	<b>3 786</b>
Kuwait	–	–	500	–	–	1 000	500	<b>2 000</b>
Public–private partnerships	221	300	134	265	120	394	269	<b>1 703</b>
Norway	–	–	–	–	–	822	814	<b>1 635</b>