



International
Labour
Organization

Ireland ILO Cooperation



Ireland has been an ILO Member State since 1923 and is a long-standing partner in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Ireland has ratified a considerable number of ILO Conventions, including the eight fundamental Conventions, three priority Conventions – on labour inspection, tripartite consultation, and employment policy – and 62 of the 177 technical Conventions.

Ireland's contribution to ILO priorities

Ireland signed a Partnership agreement in 2001 that regulates voluntary contributions to the ILO. It provides a coherent, predictable and structured framework for cooperation.

The Partnership builds upon the close alignment between the development cooperation priorities of Ireland and the ILO's objective of securing sustainable livelihoods and decent work for women and men globally.



IRELAND'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The vision of Ireland's development assistance is a sustainable and just world, where people are empowered to overcome poverty and hunger and fully realise their rights and potential.

Three priority goals are **(1)** Reduced hunger, stronger resilience, **(2)** Inclusive and sustainable economic growth, **(3)** Better governance, human rights and accountability.

In order to deliver on the goals, six priority areas for action guide Irish development cooperation:

1. Global hunger
2. Fragile states
3. Climate change and development
4. Essential services, including education, HIV and AIDS, health and social protection
5. Trade and economic growth
6. Human rights and accountability

Ireland's main geographical focus is on sub-Saharan Africa. Key partner countries:

- Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia.

Other countries:

- Liberia, Occupied Palestinian territory, South Africa, Timor Leste and Zimbabwe.

Ireland allocated 0.45% of its gross national product to official development assistance (ODA) in 2013, which amounted to € 619 million. Multilateral ODA amounted to 34% of Irish ODA.*

*Source: Development Co-operation Report 2014, OECD

The Partnership Programme, 2012-15

The Ireland-ILO Partnership Programme 2012-15 provides thematic funding, lightly earmarked at the level of selected Decent Work Outcomes, which are the backbone of the ILO's Strategic Policy Framework 2010-2015.

During Phase II of the Partnership Programme in 2014-15, Ireland's funding of €6 million is contributing to results in **17 countries**. Some highlights follow.

► Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda: supporting women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship

2,141 women in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda were trained on basic business management ("GET Ahead") since mid-2014.

70 per cent of the women reached lived in rural areas and almost 40 per cent were young women.

Based on findings that many women lack information when wanting to access markets, all three countries joined forces to develop an easy-to-use information package on how to trade within the East African Community, which will be distributed to project partners and stakeholders in 2015.

► Ethiopia: strengthening media reporting on disability



Media training builds capacity, skills and confidence among journalists to enable effective reporting on disability.

Until recently disability had been among the least covered topics by the Ethiopian media. Journalists have attributed this to a lack of knowledge combined with limited understanding of appropriate language and terminology.

The ILO organized a workshop aimed at building the media's capacity to effectively report on disability. Some 30 journalists representing TV, radio and print attended the training designed to fill knowledge and information gaps and offer new angles to cover stories

on disabilities. A "Pocket Guide to Reporting on Disability in Ethiopia", a resource tool for media professionals, was subsequently developed in close consultation with journalists and disability advocates, and distributed.

Today more and more media outlets are taking on the issue of disability with greater confidence and helping to promote positive views of the abilities of people with disabilities.

"The ILO training changed my knowledge and approach to disability reporting in a drastic way"

Gedle, a young journalist with visual impairment

► Ghana: strengthening sectoral trade unions to address child labour in the informal economy

ILO activities in Ghana were directed towards the strengthening of the capacity of national employers' and trade union centres and their major affiliates to engage in social dialogue and strengthen consultation mechanisms.



Schoolchildren who were child labourers and trafficked children who are being monitored for school attendance.

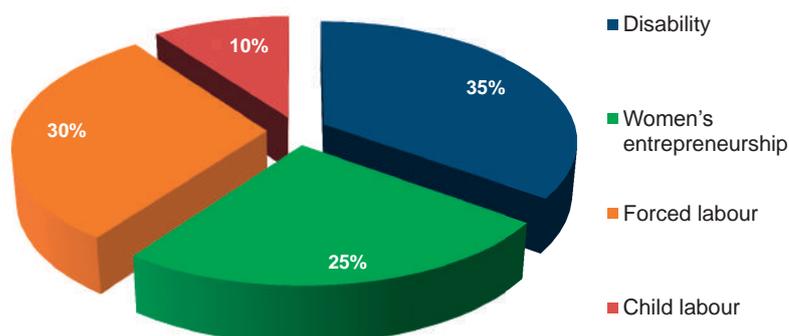
The Irish Aid-funded programme focuses on piloting models to support the integration of child labour concerns into the organizing agendas of informal workers' organizations and formal economy trade union organizations. The direct beneficiaries are the workers' organizations and businesses operating in the informal and semi-informal economy in the fishing sector in Tokor, where workers and children are most vulnerable and where the capacity for self-representation and thus for engagement in social dialogue is most lacking.

► China: a step closer to the ratification of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)

After many years of ILO effort and support, the decision taken by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China in December 2013 on the abolition of re-education through labour system (RETL) created new scope for the ratification of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) by China. Historically, this had been the main obstacle to ratification.

Thanks to Irish Aid support in phase I, 2012-13, the ILO was able to assist China on RETL reform by organizing an inter-ministerial tripartite meeting on the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and on the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105). During the ongoing phase II, the ILO has been providing support to preparations for the ratification, which will continue in 2015.

Partnership Programme, 2012-2015 (Phase II 2014-15) Allocations by theme



Support beyond the Partnership

Building social protection floors in Southern Africa

Over the last two decades Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia have registered unprecedented and fast economic growth, not always translated into equal progress in poverty reduction.

There is a large consensus now that social protection is a key instrument to accelerate the reduction of poverty and promotion of human capital development. The three countries are in the process of establishing sound policy and institutional frameworks to deliver mechanisms of social protection efficiently. ILO adds value through its capacity and unique expertise at the macro level in the areas of social protection financing and the establishment of a rights-based legal and institutional framework, inspired by international social security standards.

With Irish Aid support, the ILO provides technical assistance to the ongoing processes of national dialogue for implementing the building blocks of domestically owned and funded national social protection floors. Grounded in a regional peer learning process, the project delivers practical assistance with economic feasibility studies, legal expertise, and advice on the governance of implementing national social protection floors. This allows countries to build tools to plan, budget and monitor the performance of national social protection programmes. Thus, systems are able to provide effective national responses to protect households from social risks and economic shocks, while strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable and ensuring their social inclusion.

Social protection floors are nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees that should ensure as a minimum that, over the life cycle, all in need have access to essential health care and to basic income security, which together secure effective access to goods and services defined as necessary at the national level.

At the country level, the project is implemented in close cooperation with other UN agencies and bilateral partners active in social protection, including Irish Aid. The project will also ensure wider dissemination of its findings to other southern African countries, promoting a South-South learning approach.



FACTS AND FIGURES ON IRELAND'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ILO

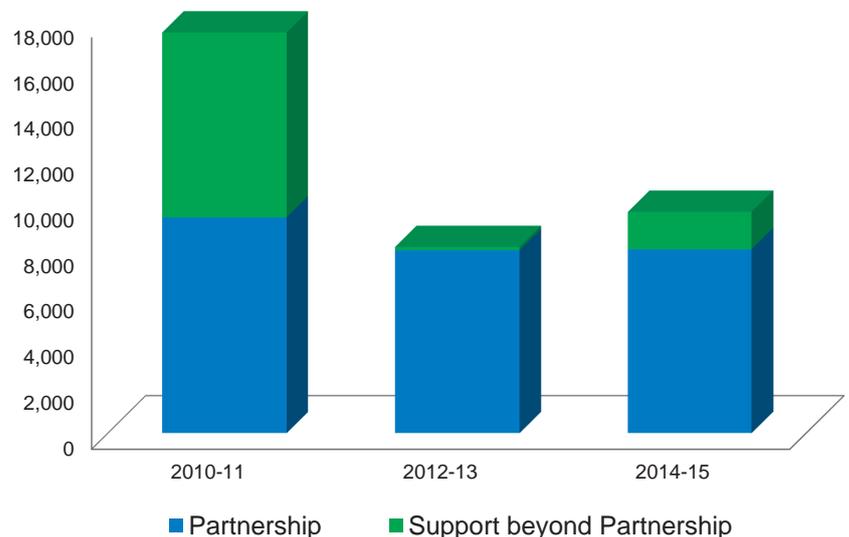
Ireland finances the ILO through the Regular Budget (RB) and Extra-Budgetary Technical Cooperation (XBTC).

Regular Budget contributions are payable by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. In 2014-15 Ireland provided **US\$ 3.3 million**.

Extra-Budgetary Technical Cooperation (XBTC) voluntary contributions support specific global and national projects and programmes. This includes an **annual Irish contribution of €3 million for the Partnership Programme and additional funding for country-level projects**.

Total voluntary contributions by Ireland to the ILO between 2010 and 2015 amounted to **US\$ 35.3 million**, making Ireland **the eighth largest governmental donor**.

Ireland's voluntary contributions to the ILO, 2010–2015 (US\$ '000)



Viet Nam: Better Work

Better Work is a partnership between the ILO and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) that improves the lives of workers and their families by driving sector-wide, sustainable improvements in adherence to core ILO labour standards and national labour law, and promoting business competitiveness in major garment producing industries.

Approximately 1,000 garment factories are engaged, employing over 1,000,000 workers in Cambodia, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Lesotho, Nicaragua and Viet Nam, where Irish Aid contributes to Better Work.



KEY RESULTS IN VIET NAM

300 factories with **385,000** workers received support to improve compliance with labour standards and working conditions.

A 5% improvement in compliance is associated with a 10% increase in worker income, a 9% increase in the remittances that workers send home, and a 3% improvement in workers' health. Workers in factories with higher compliance also receive 7% more training.

Profits are higher in Better Work Viet Nam factories where workers report better working conditions. The extent to which factories use their productive capacity has increased by 15%. In addition, Better Work factories are moving up the value chain, producing higher value-added products, such as suits and jackets. The percentage of Better Work factories that are preferred suppliers in global supply chains increased by over 20%.

A case study shows that **improvements in working conditions have a direct impact on business performance**. Increased social dialogue resulted in reduced staff turnover and absenteeism. There were no strikes in over nine years, translating into high levels of productivity and significant cost savings.

Timor-Leste: business opportunities and support services (BOSS)

The Timorese Government attaches great importance to developing a vibrant private sector through increased domestic and foreign investment. Yet the private sector is still underdeveloped, characterized by small, individually owned, self-financed, agro-based and informal enterprises. The sector is unable to provide rural households with productive employment and sustainable income.

Irish Aid funds the BOSS Project, which is supporting the Institute for Business Support (IADE) and other relevant stakeholders to deliver need/market oriented services to micro and small enterprises (MSEs) and contractors, develop value chains in horticulture, cattle and tourism, promote better coordination and alignment of private sector initia-

tives, and contribute to sound private sector development.

Among the results achieved by the project, IADE's BDS portfolio has been expanded and now includes a range of business development services such as training and counselling, business information and promotion, business matchmaking and the Business Innovation Facility, all accessible to MSEs nationwide. In addition, former subsistence vegetable farmers now have reliable access to input, technical assistance and markets through partnership with lead firms. District tourism groups have also been established in two key tourism locations to support the local community to improve their services and attract more visitors.



Farmers in Ermera, Maubisse and Manatuto can now produce organic vegetables in the rainy season because of the application of plastic tunnels, a novelty in Timor Leste.

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