



## ▶ ILO work under the Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus in the Arab States, with a focus on Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (2022)

### ▶ Background

For over ten years since the Syria crisis, the ILO in the Arab States region has gained solid experience in designing and implementing evidence-based interventions in addressing complex crises with humanitarian, social and economic dimensions. Its work has greatly evolved, with evidence-based programming and operating interventions that create employment and promote decent work conditions, social protection and social dialogue.

The ILO is working to position itself strongly as an important agency with the Decent Work mandate in the Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus (HDPN). Deliverables in 2023 include [The Case of EIIP in Iraq: A Documentation Report \(ilo.org\)](#), “The Peace and Conflict Analysis” currently being developed in Yemen, and policy guidance and recommendations on social cohesion through Decent Work in the countries surrounding Syria.

In addition, the ILO has recently reinstated its physical presence in Syria with the appointment of an ILO country coordinator, in efforts to re-establish an ILO programme in the country that can play a role in the UN’s broader Nexus programming. Through its employment-intensive investment (EII) approach, the ILO is set to implement an emergency employment scheme in the Aleppo region to help restore the livelihoods of people affected by the devastating earthquakes which struck Türkiye and Syria.

The ILO has been an important partner to governments in the region even prior to the Syria crisis. The ILO remains the partner of choice for constituents, given its mandate and persistent issues facing job growth and access to decent work and forcibly displaced populations in countries facing crisis.

The Director General’s Priorities for 2024-25 envisage continued effective and efficient management systems and strengthened accountability frameworks. This includes the reinforcement of ILO’s work on crisis and post-crisis situations. Building on the experience of implementing large-scale crisis responses in the region, there is an opportunity towards more strategic systems and working methods to improve ILO’s support services to constituents at the country level, in line with the Programme and Budget proposals for 2024-25.

A shift away from humanitarian assistance does not necessarily mean an increase in development funding. This will have implications on UN-agencies, including the ILO in countries such as Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, which would lead to an operational refocus from direct support/direct implementation, towards greater technical assistance, policy and institutional capacity strengthening as core activities, and link to activities that support resilience and self-reliance.

There will also be a geographical shift, as well as that of activities, many of which have to-date focused on areas related to forcibly displaced populations. This shift would direct efforts towards crisis affected areas including protracted conflict crisis, climate change and earthquakes especially in Yemen, Iraq and Syria.

## ► Possibilities to scale up in 2023

The ILO's engagement in the region in crisis and post-crisis context is proposed to be centred around three broad areas to address challenges identified by ILO's constituents, key stakeholders and the labour market.

- **Labour supply:** reducing the barriers of entering the labour market for forcibly displaced and affected populations and enhancing market-relevant skills in the labour force
- **Labour demand:** supporting job creation through EIIP/Public Employment Programmes, economic diversification, business growth, and formalisation
- **Quality of work:** enhancing respect for decent work in employment and social dialogue and improving social cohesion.

The outcomes of the three proposed technical thematic areas will be designed to stimulate interdisciplinary, integrated, and collaborative policy responses that draw on expertise from different technical areas of the ILO's work.

### ILO achievements in numbers - Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) interventions in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and occupied Palestinian territory (in 2022)



Number of worker days (2022)  
**529,705**



Number of workers by gender and nationality (2022)

Host Community (%) **5,902** | Female (%) **2,629** | SYR(%) **4,976** | PWD (%) **555**



Number of trainings, capacity building, workshops etc **320**



Number of individuals who have benefitted from capacity building **2,350**



Number of manuals produced **5**



Number of local partners **20**

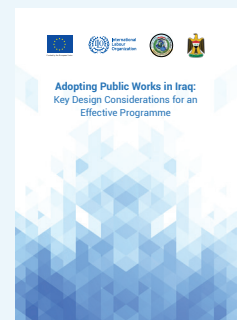


Total number of worker days created since the establishment of EIIP in the region between 2016 and 2022 **2,261,022**

## Publications

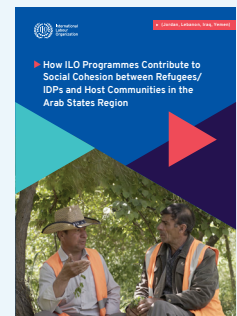
### Adopting Public Works in Iraq: Key Design Considerations for an Effective Programme

The objective of this paper is to outline factors and challenges that need to be taken into account in designing and integrating a public works programme within the social protection landscape in Iraq, in line with the Government of Iraq's objectives and informed by international best practices.



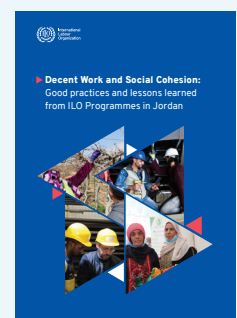
### How ILO Programmes Contribute to Social Cohesion between Refugees/ IDPs and Host Communities in the Arab States Region

This research was developed by the ILO to gain some knowledge on the current contribution of ILO programmes to social cohesion at the level of direct beneficiaries, collect lessons learned and practices, and identify concrete steps towards enhancing the mainstreaming of social cohesion in programme design, implementation, and monitoring.



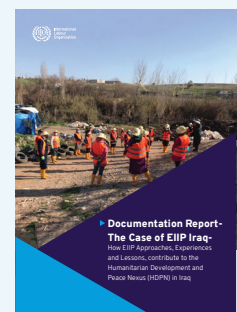
### Decent Work and Social Cohesion: Good practices and lessons learned from ILO Programmes in Jordan

This report complements a regional report on the current contribution of ILO programmes to social cohesion at the level of direct beneficiaries, collect lessons learned and practices, and identify concrete steps towards enhancing the mainstreaming of social cohesion in programme design, implementation, and monitoring.



### The Case of EIIP in Iraq: A Documentation Report

This paper intends to describe the EIIP model offered in Iraq and illustrate the results, experiences, and lessons, of how the EIIP approach contributes to the HDP Nexus, in order to inform future programme design and the application of such an approach.



## Stories and testimonies from workers and stakeholders

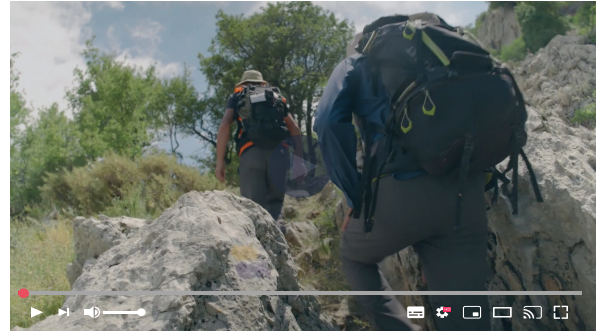
### He is from Syria, and I am from Iraq. But we work together like brothers

ILO labour intensive programme brings communities together in Iraq.



### ILO/LMTA Trail Conservation & Employment Project- Lebanon Mountain Trail Association

This project aims to conduct trail maintenance and upgrades on 33 sections of the LMT by providing short-term employment for more than 1,300 beneficiaries in 2021-2022.



### A new partnership boosts workers' voices and labour rights in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

The ILO has embarked on the new partnership with the Kurdistan United Workers Unions to improve working conditions and address the needs of workers at Employment Intensive Investment Programme sites in Dohuk.



### Employment Intensive Approaches create decent jobs in cultural heritage development

A joint ILO/EU/UNESCO project is supporting the conservation and rehabilitation of cultural heritage at the World Heritage Site of the Erbil Citadel. The ILO is applying Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) approaches to create decent jobs for around 1,000 workers.



### Cultural preservation and decent work at Erbil's Citadel

The ILO and UNESCO, with the support of the European Union, are working together to restore, preserve and promote cultural heritage at the World Heritage Site of the Erbil Citadel, while promoting decent work through employment-intensive approaches.



### ILO and the Erbil Polytechnic University partner to develop local skills in Employment Intensive methods

The new partnership will include the development of technical manuals and guidelines to implement a certification programme that supports the recognition of acquired skills for future assignments in the cultural heritage sector.



### Towards a More Inclusive Economy - Immediate Job Generation for Refugee & Host Communities in Jordan

This project supports a more inclusive and accessible green labour market for vulnerable Syrian refugees and Jordanian men, women and persons with disabilities.



### ILO visits Aleppo's damaged neighbourhoods in preparation for emergency employment scheme

With parts of the Syrian city severely hit by the February 6 earthquake that struck Türkiye and Syria, the ILO is preparing to help restore livelihoods in affected communities.



## ► Annex 1: ILO achievements per country

Indicators		Lebanon	Iraq	Jordan	Yemen	OPT
<b>Number of worker days (2022)</b>		215,753	32,000	281,952	0	0
<b>Total number of worker days created since the beginning of project</b>		726,214	44,000	1,490,808	0	0
<b>Number of workers by gender and nationality (2022)</b>	Host Community (%)	2,371	253	3,278	0	0
	SYR(%)	2,278	38	2,660	0	0
	Female (%)	790	72	1,767	0	0
	PWD (%)	168	100	287	0	0
<b>Number of trainings, capacity building, workshops etc</b>		170	20	127	2	1
<b>Number of individuals who have benefitted from capacity building</b>		470	310	1,500	45	25