

Project Brief



International
Labour
Organization



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

From the Crisis towards Decent and Safe Jobs

Sustainable regional development for job generation and social justice in the framework of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs)

Project duration: *January 2010 - December 2013*

Countries covered: *Central Asia – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; South Caucasus – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, with CIS structures involved in regional actions*

Lead Office: *ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia*

Donor: *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland*

Budget: *4,000,000 Euro*

Background

In June 2008 the International Labour Organization unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. This landmark Declaration is a powerful reaffirmation of ILO

values in the context of globalization. Global Jobs Pact adopted in 2009 guides national and international policies aimed at stimulating economic recovery, generating jobs and providing protection to working people and their families in the time of economic crisis.



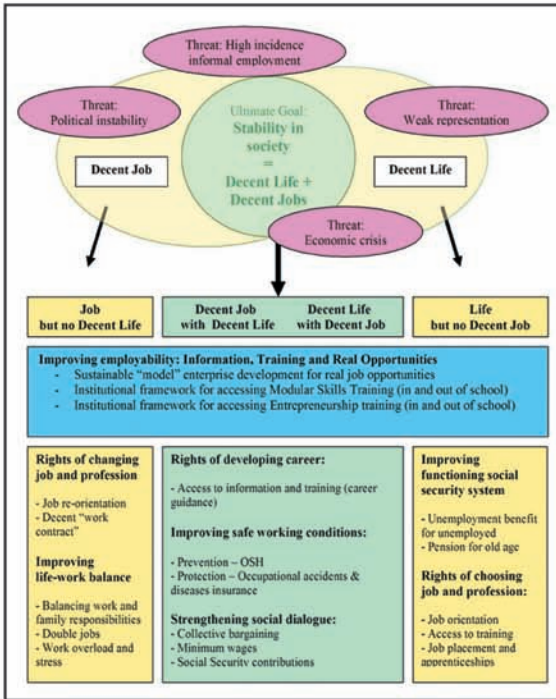
Photo: ILO

"The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation is a clear commitment to make decent work a reality for all people. The solution to the current crisis should fully respect this commitment."

Tarja Halonen, President of Finland

ILO's objective – Decent Work – is strongly promoted through the **Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs)** developed with the three constituents – government, workers, and employers – and jointly signed. The Programmes ensure the national commitment and focus both national and international resources towards three labour related priorities in each country.

Integrated Approach



ILO has signed DWCPs with five countries in the region and discussions are going on with two other. The main priorities are:

- increasing employment opportunities;
- modernising the occupational safety and health systems;
- improving social protection and social security.

The pursuit of all three aims is based on a systematic and integrated approach that includes:

- employment promotion through integrated employment strategies and their implementation;
- occupational safety and health (OSH): introduction of coherent OSH management systems at enterprises (ILO-OSH 2001);
- social security: situational analysis, awareness raising and capacity building, and targeted interventions.

DWCPs and Wider Europe Initiative (WEI)

The practical implementation of Decent and Safe Work, and Social justice for a Fair Globalisation in the project countries is fully in line with Finland's Wider Europe Initiative (WEI).

A Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) is the main instrument for ILO cooperation over a period of four to six years in a specific country.

DWCPs aim to promote decent work as a national objective and assist constituents to advance towards that objective.

The content of DWCPs varies from country to country based on national circumstances. DWCPs are focused on national priorities, as well as on principles of tripartism, social dialogue and respect for international labour standards. They are closely aligned with national development strategies, including Poverty Reduction Strategies and UN Development Assistance Frameworks, where applicable.

DWCPs guide the most effective and efficient use of resources – both human and financial – to generate the greatest possible results. They encourage strategic partnerships, leveraging of resources and resource mobilization.

Wider Europe Initiative (WEI) is a new long-term framework programme for development cooperation and strengthening stability and security in the CIS countries, initiated by Paavo Vayrynen, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development.



Decent and safe jobs are the basis for poverty reduction; good governance and social protection are prerequisites for social security.

The main priorities in the DWCPs and the ILO project are supporting the following WEI themes:

- Security:** decent and safe job creation and poverty reduction are prerequisites for security by providing a legal income (decreasing the economic incentives for drug crops and smuggling) and social stability (less breeding ground for extremism);

- Trade and development:** "working out of poverty", training in entrepreneurship, business to business cooperation, and green jobs and trade with ecological products can speed up the recovery from the financial crisis. Diminishing red tape and promoting good governance are crucial both for trade and development;

- Energy and environment:** implementation of the DWCPs puts an emphasis on sustainable enterprise promotion and improved

working conditions; employment promotion and OSH systems are therefore introduced that will lead to productivity improvement with a positive impact on the environment (such as waste management, reduced and alternative energy consumption, reduced use of chemicals);

- Social sustainability:** proper living and working conditions and social protection, "social justice" lays at the heart of ILOs Decent Work agenda. There is a huge deficit in these areas in the WEI countries, which DWCPs' social sector priorities can help to overcome.

Project Beneficiaries

The ultimate beneficiaries are the unemployed and working women and men, both in formal and informal economy in the capital cities, in smaller towns and in the rural areas. All, especially the most vulnerable groups (youth, women, disabled), should benefit from an integrated, more effective policy response to achieving decent and productive work for both women and men in times of crisis, as informal economy operations are at the rise.

Project Objectives

The main **development objective** of the project is to support employment, occupational safety and security in the society and sustainable social development through the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) taking into account the priorities in each country.

The **immediate objectives** reflect the three project pillars - employment promotion, OSH and social security:



Immediate objectives	Outputs
1. Employment opportunities are increased, especially in the crisis resistant sectors with high potential for sustainable growth and the creation of green jobs.	Employment policy recommendations developed for career guidance, job placement and apprenticeship programmes.
	Country analysis carried out on growth sectors with potential for sustainable enterprise promotion and job creation, followed by employment services.
	Micro projects in place for providing best practice on INTRO and job placement.
2. Working conditions for men and women will be improved by introducing modern OSH systems at the national and enterprise level, and new approaches to self-improvement of local working, living and environmental conditions in the informal economy. The process is based on tri-partite cooperation and on modern protection systems adapted for each country.	National OSH systems are developed and implementation started.
	Modern OSH management systems introduced at enterprises
	Best practices and new tools to improve working conditions and health in SMEs and informal economy are applied (including HIV/AIDS in the workplace).
3. The minimum level of social protection, in case of job losses, occupational accidents and diseases as well as to achieve a proper life-work balance, will be increased by developing social security schemes and good governance, in dialogue with the social partners and expert organisations.	Unemployment insurance schemes analysed and revised.
	Occupational accidents and diseases insurance (OADI) schemes analysed and revised.
	Work and family balance and responsibilities further mainstreamed based on the principles of gender equality.

Institutional Framework

The project institutional framework is founded on **National Advisory Groups** in each project country, comprising of representatives of the ILO, Government, Trade Unions, Employers, representatives from

relevant sectors and the local administration. These are supported by the ILO **Executive Team**, supervised by the Director of the ILO Office and the Project Advisory Group (ILO specialists (Executive Team) and Donor representatives).



Photo: ILO

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