



International
Labour
Organization



▶ Japan ILO Cooperation

▶ April 2023

Japan is a founding Member State of the ILO, and a valued partner in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Japan has ratified 50 Conventions, including eight Fundamental, three Governance and 39 Technical Conventions.

Japan's contribution to the ILO

A key partner in the promotion of social justice and decent work, Japan supports the ILO's mandate by contributing to both its core budget and its development cooperation programmes.

The ILO works closely with the [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare \(MHLW\)](#). This collaboration aims primarily to support fair globalization, contributing to poverty reduction, advancing occupational safety and health (OSH), promoting international labour standards and social dialogue.

MHLW provides strategic funding to implement development, research and crisis-response programmes, chiefly through a multi-bilateral programme and a lightly-earmarked funding facility to build Social Safety Nets in Asia and the Pacific. The Ministry further supports the work of the [ILO's International Training Centre](#) in Turin to strengthen the capacity of actors in the world of work.

[The Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(MOFA\)](#) provides further support in the area of prevention and response to crisis and fragility, both directly and through the [UN Trust Fund for Human Security](#). This cooperation includes livelihood-oriented emergency response to both

humanitarian and environmental crises. The ILO also collaborates with the [Japanese International Cooperation Agency \(JICA\)](#) for technical interventions at the local level. In April 2023, the ILO has the opportunity to launch a second project on global supply chains collaborating with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) with a focus on Asia. "Skills Development and Responsible Business Conduct for Transitions" project aims at increasing better jobs and trade opportunities through assistance in skills development to enhance workers' responsiveness for structural transformation and promotion of responsible business conduct.

The collaboration extends to the Japanese private sector, such as [Fast Retailing](#), the holding company of the Japanese apparel retailer UNIQLO, which supports a global programme to promote employment and social protection in Indonesia.

Furthermore, the ILO benefits from Japanese expertise through the country's participation in the Junior Professional Officer programme as well as the secondment of Japanese officials from the MHLW, appointed to the ILO Geneva HQ, Regional Office in Bangkok and International Training Centre in Turin.

Japan's international assistance priorities

Japan contributes proactively to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community.

The priority areas for Japanese international assistance are:

- Poverty reduction and quality growth: education, health and population, water and sanitation, agriculture and rural development, infrastructure and ICT.
- Peace building and humanitarian assistance
- Resilient international community: environment, energy, climate change and disaster risk reduction
- Gender equality and human security.

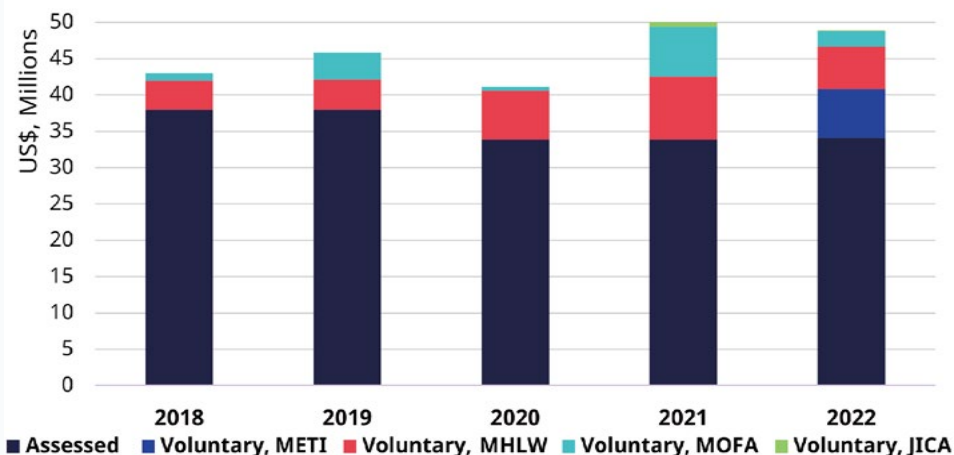
In 2021, Japan provided US\$ 17.6 billion in Official Development Assistance, which represents 0.34 % of its gross national income, making Japan the third largest donor country in absolute terms and the largest in Asia (source: OECD Development Co-operation Profiles, 2022).

Japan's financial contribution to the ILO

Japan funds the ILO through:

- **Assessed contributions**, which are paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. Japan provided US\$ **177.8 million** between 2018 and 2022.
- **Voluntary contributions** earmarked to priority programmes, regions and projects. Between 2018 and 2022, Japan's voluntary contributions totalled more than **US\$ 50.9 million**.

Japan's total contributions to the ILO 2018-2022, US\$, Millions



Promoting and Building Social Protection in Asia (4th phase) (2021-24)



The Project aims to assist Indonesia and Viet Nam to build comprehensive and sustainable social protection systems for all residents both in the formal and informal economy as well as to establish and improve unemployment insurance schemes while ensuring their linkage to public employment services and vocational training programmes to facilitate a return to work.

In Indonesia, the project helped develop the implementing regulations for the unemployment insurance scheme. With the project's recommendations on creating a single window service for accepting benefit claims, providing job counselling and referring job seekers to training programmes, the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration of Indonesia (MOM) established an online single window platform, called [Siap Kerja](#). The unemployment insurance scheme started paying benefits in February 2022.

In Viet Nam, the project supported coverage expansion of the social protection system to insufficiently covered groups and those at risk of being left behind. In 2022 the Ministry of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs of Viet Nam (MOLISA) finalized a proposal to revise the Employment Law and submitted it to the National Assembly for approval in 2023.

Safety + Health for All Workers in South Asia (2020-23)

This sub-regional initiative takes a comprehensive approach to promoting Safe and healthy working environments for all. Focused on improving OSH systems and frameworks at national and state/provincial level and building the capacities of stakeholders, the project is enabling better working conditions for the workers in South Asia. The interventions are rooted in international labour standards, especially the five fundamental principles and rights at work, including safety and health at work.

The project is working on developing and strengthening national, provincial and workplace and industry level practices and initiatives to promote the safety and health of workers, especially in the plantation sector in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka notably through improved representation of workers in the smallholdings and of women workers. It is also supporting development of the National OSH Program in Nepal and ratification of

OSH conventions in project countries. Social partners in the three project countries have prioritized the agenda to promote safety and health, with OSH and gender committees being set-up in the enterprises and small holders in partnership with sectoral employers' and workers associations in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Training of Trainers has been conducted for government, employers and unions to promote safety and health in the workplace using ILO's participatory methodology of WIND (Work Improvements in Neighbourhood Development) and WISE (Work Improvements in Small Enterprises).



► Consolidation and dissemination of OSH knowledge at global level (2021-2024)

As part of Japan's broader commitment to supporting the ILO's Safety + Health for All Flagship Programme, the MHLW supported the development of a Knowledge Management Platform with more than 400 knowledge products on OSH and labour inspection to share knowledge and foster collaboration among OSH projects. A knowledge management strategy is being designed to create, store and share actionable knowledge. To fill knowledge gaps on OSH, research is ongoing on good practices in national systems for recording and notifying occupational accidents and diseases as well as on the effects of ratification of the ILO's OSH conventions on occupational fatality rates. The project is also documenting the ILO's good practices on OSH in response to crisis situations to better prepare and respond to possible future crises.

► The Fund for Building Social Safety Nets in Asia and the Pacific (SSN Fund) (2011-24)

The MHLW established the SSN Fund in 2011 in collaboration with the ILO, recognizing the importance of social safety nets in Asia and the Pacific in responding to financial crisis, unemployment and natural disasters. The Fund, with a small-scale but flexible and rapid funding mechanism, has supported over 70 projects to develop social protection schemes and improve OSH as well as encourage employment through skills development and entrepreneurship.

Although economic activities in the region have been picking up steadily after the COVID-19 pandemic, the informal sector, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), still requires significant livelihood support for vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth. The fund is contributing to these sectors through entrepreneurship and livelihood support activities in Cambodia, Laos People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and Sri Lanka.



► Building Youth Capacity and Network in Asia Pacific (2022-24)



With the SSN Fund, the ILO has provided entrepreneurship and soft skills training for over 10,000 youth and vulnerable people in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste. The support has helped business incubation, youth's access to formal employment, and formation of self-help groups in vulnerable communities. In partnership with tripartite constituents and development partners including AIESEC, Impact Hub and Japan International Labour Foundation, the ILO plans to support 50,000 youth and vulnerable people in Asia and the Pacific through activity-based learning programmes by March 2024.

► Training programmes at the International Training Centre of the ILO (2021-26)

Within the scope of the cooperation framework between the ILO and the MHLW, Japan provides financial and technical support to the training activities of the ILO's International Training Centre in Turin (ITCILO). Thanks to this generous contribution, the Centre has expanded its outreach in the Asia and the Pacific region and developed training activities on employment and skills development policies and practices, OSH and labour inspections. A key element of this cooperation framework is the secondment of two Japanese experts to the ITCILO to strengthen its technical programmes. In turn, this exchange has allowed Japan and their seconded experts to benefit from international exposure in their technical areas of expertise, while practising innovative, adult learning methodologies and cutting-edge digital learning and collaboration solutions.

► Building Responsible Value Chains in Asia through the Promotion of Decent Work in Business Operations (2022-2024)

The project funded by the METI is implemented in the context of an increasing demand on companies and their supply chains to respect human rights and labour rights in their operations. The project is active in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan and Viet Nam. Based on the experience of the ILO Better Work programme in creating a path for sustainable compliance and of the ILO Multinational Enterprises and Enterprise Engagement Unit (MULTI) in supporting constituents to use the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration) as a framework for action, this programme aims to support enterprises' efforts to promote compliance with national laws and respect for the principles of international standards. The activities



include compiling business cases and good practices to promote responsible business and labour practices in supply chains and raising awareness on responsible business practices among enterprises, including buyers and suppliers, and relevant stakeholders in the garment, electronics and automotive sectors.

► Promotion of an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises and decent jobs for women and youth in the Agricultural Sector (2023-24)

The project in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is funded by the MOFA and aims to contribute to more sustainable and decent jobs in the agricultural sector. Through inclusive markets, system innovations and value chain development in the food and agricultural sector, the project will help produce more sustainable and decent jobs by creating linkages between innovation, productivity and environmental sustainability. It will particularly contribute to the United Nations Sustainable

Development Cooperation Framework and Decent Work Priority on promoting greater access to economic opportunities that are inclusive, resilient, and sustainable including decent employment and livelihoods opportunities in an empowered private sector. Additionally, it aims to support Palestinian national efforts to advance decent work for all, particularly for youth and women, under the framework of the National Employment Strategy 2021-2025 (NES).

► Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on Child Labour in Lao People's Democratic Republic

Focusing on developing the capacity of tripartite organizations in Lao PDR to collect national data on child labour and analyze the impact of COVID-19 on child labour and working children (5-17 years old), the project is implemented by the ILO in cooperation with JICA. The ILO is enhancing national capacity and institutionalizing the technical expertise of the Lao Statistic Bureau (LSB) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) on national survey design and implementation. The

project has also supported the implementation of the Second National Child Labour Survey as well as the Third National Labour Force Survey, which were conducted from April to 15 May 2022 in 18 provinces of Lao PDR, covering 697 sampling villages with total of 51,355 sampling population, including 25,600 men and 25,755 women. The results of the survey will significantly contribute to updating child labour and labour market data, informing national policy formulation.



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