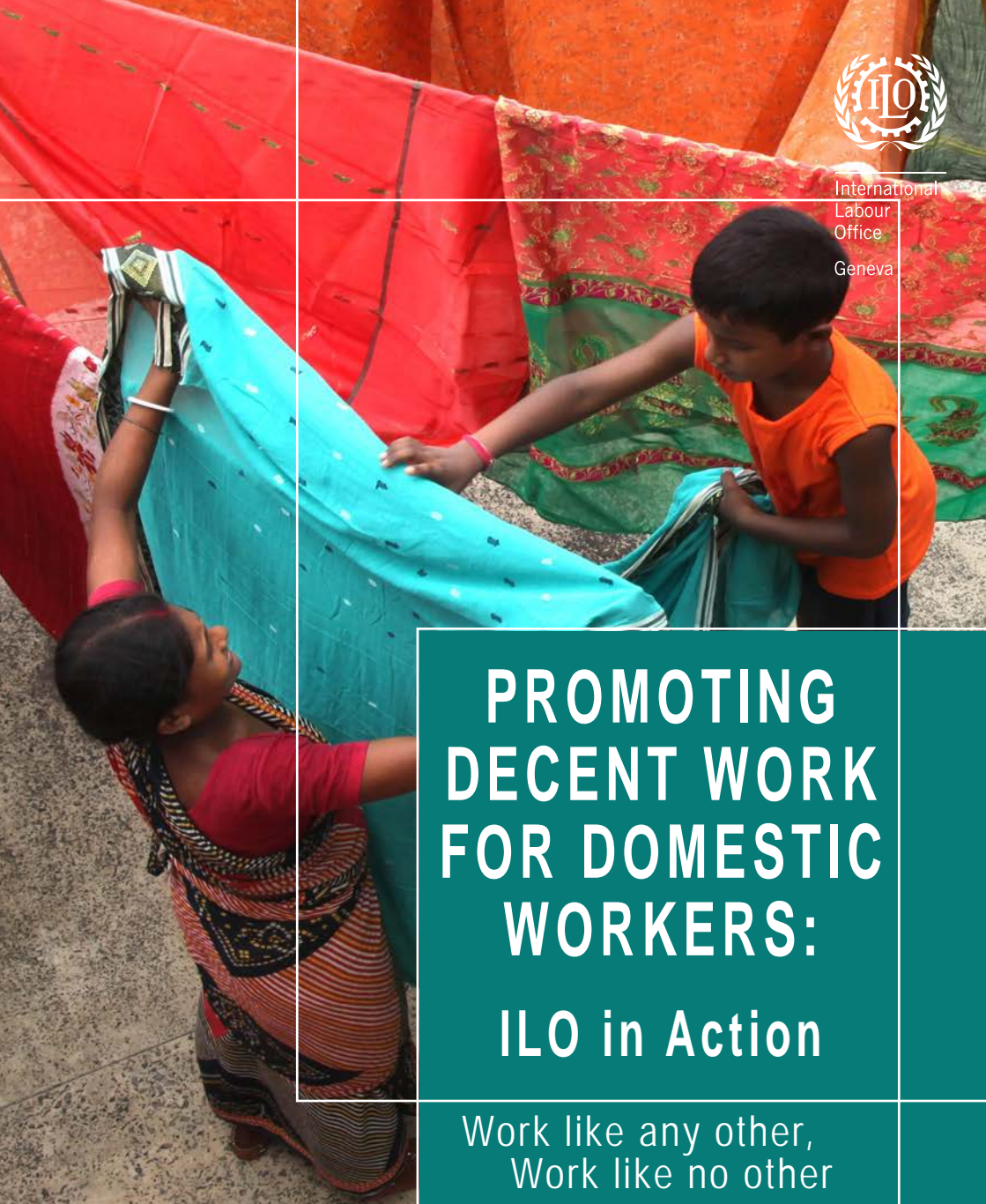




International
Labour
Office
Geneva

A photograph showing a woman in a red top and patterned sari on the left, and a young boy in an orange t-shirt on the right. They are both focused on handling a large piece of light blue fabric with white polka dots. In the background, there are large pieces of red and patterned fabric hanging against a wall. The scene appears to be an outdoor or semi-outdoor workspace.

PROMOTING DECENT WORK FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS: ILO in Action

Work like any other,
Work like no other



Domestic workers all over the world are still deprived of their right to fair, humane, safe and secure working conditions, and often are exempt from labour law. The International Labour Organization's programme on domestic workers is addressing the excessive working hours, the low wages, the lack of maternity protection, the vulnerabilities of migrant domestic workers, and the issues of child labour and forced labour, amongst others.



FIVE KEY AREAS OF WORK

The ILO is working with constituents in more than 30 countries in five key areas of work.



52.6 million people work as domestic workers.

83 % of domestic workers are women.

29.9 % of domestic workers are completely excluded from national labour legislation.

45 % have no entitlement to weekly rest periods or paid annual leave.

17.2 million children aged 5-17 years were engaged in domestic work in the world in 2012.

more than a third of women domestic workers are not entitled to maternity protection.

more than half of all domestic workers have no limitation on their weekly normal hours of work under national legislation.

just over half of all domestic workers currently enjoy minimum wage coverage.



1

Technical assistance: strengthening national institutions, including support for legal reforms

The ILO provides support to countries aiming to either comprehensively reform legislation on domestic work, or amend individual policies on issues such as minimum wage, working time, health insurance and pensions. Reforms can also target a specific category of domestic workers such as migrants, children or those in forced labour conditions. Once laws or policies are in place, the ILO assists key government institutions to ensure that they are effectively implemented and enforced.



2

Helping strengthen domestic workers' and employers' organizations

Representative, independent, sustainable organizations of employers and workers are fundamental to effective policy dialogue and implementation. Domestic workers and their employers are still on the path towards forming such organizations. The ILO provides capacity building to strengthening their role in organizing, collective bargaining and social dialogue.

Raising awareness on domestic workers' rights



To make decent work a reality for domestic workers, each employer and each domestic worker must be aware of their rights and responsibilities, and domestic work must be recognized as real work. To this end, the ILO supports awareness-raising campaigns in a number of countries. The ILO is working together with trade unions, domestic workers' organizations and other civil society organizations.



Supporting ratification and implementation of Convention No. 189

The ILO is the guardian of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), a historical milestone towards bringing domestic workers under the umbrella of labour law and establishing minimum labour protections. The ILO supports countries that pursue the ratification of the Convention. So far it has provided assistance to Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, the Philippines and Uruguay.

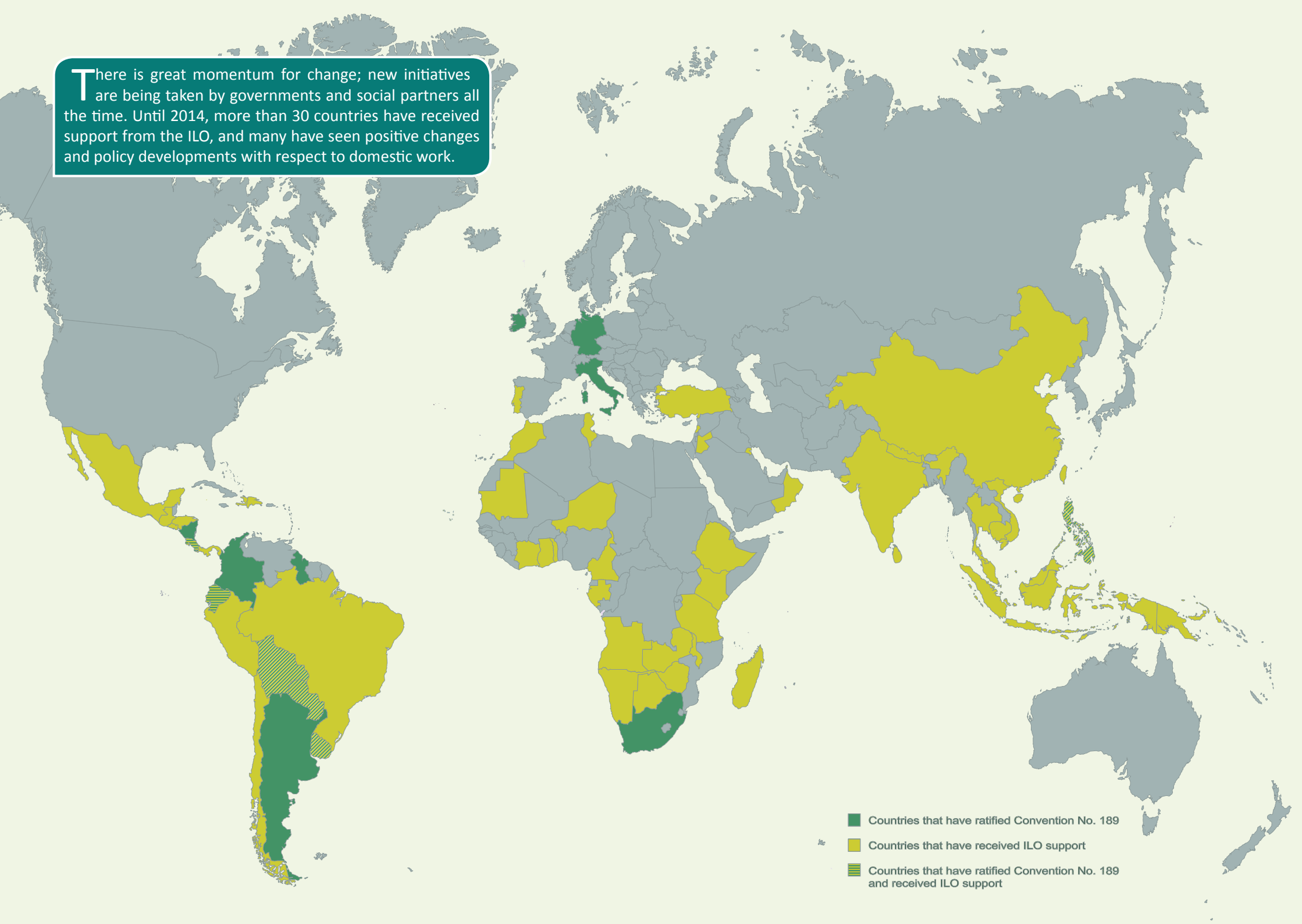


Building the knowledge base on domestic work

As countries take steps to formalise employment and improve working conditions in domestic work, the demand for improved knowledge about 'what works and why' has increased. The ILO is addressing these knowledge gaps by: assessing country experiences, evaluating effects of policies, carrying out empirical research, and making these informations widely available to national constituents and other partners. Opportunities are also created for constituents to share good practices and knowledge based on their own experience in making decent work a reality for domestic workers.



There is great momentum for change; new initiatives are being taken by governments and social partners all the time. Until 2014, more than 30 countries have received support from the ILO, and many have seen positive changes and policy developments with respect to domestic work.



- Countries that have ratified Convention No. 189
- Countries that have received ILO support
- ▨ Countries that have ratified Convention No. 189 and received ILO support

The ILO has worked to fill the knowledge gaps on domestic work in a broad range of policy areas, including:

Working time, wages, child domestic work, trafficking & forced labour, organizing domestic workers...

For more information about the ILO's work on domestic workers see

www.ilo.org/domesticworkers

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