

# ▶ Denmark ILO cooperation

June 2023

Denmark is a founding Member State of the ILO, and a key partner of the ILO in promoting the **Decent Work Agenda**. Denmark has ratified all ten Fundamental Conventions, the four Priority Conventions, and 59 Technical Conventions.

## ▶ Denmark's contribution to the ILO's priorities

Denmark and the ILO have a longstanding, strategic relationship aimed at promoting the Decent Work Agenda. Denmark was one of the first development partners to provide fully un-earmarked contributions to the ILO through the Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA). In addition, Denmark supports ILO's flagship program Better Work. Under the Danish Neighbourhood Programme, large-scale projects are implemented in Ukraine and Georgia. Support is also provided through Danish Embassies, such as for a social dialogue and industrial relations project in Bangladesh. Denmark is an enduring partner of the ILO's work on social dialogue and industrial relations in Bangladesh and will continue its support through the Team Europe Initiative "Advancing Decent Work in Bangladesh", starting in the summer of 2023.



## Denmark's development cooperation priorities

In its strategy "The World 2030," Denmark sets out four strategic development cooperation goals:

1. Security and development – Peace, stability and protection
2. Migration and development
3. Inclusive, sustainable growth and development
4. Freedom and development – democracy, human rights and gender equality

Target countries:

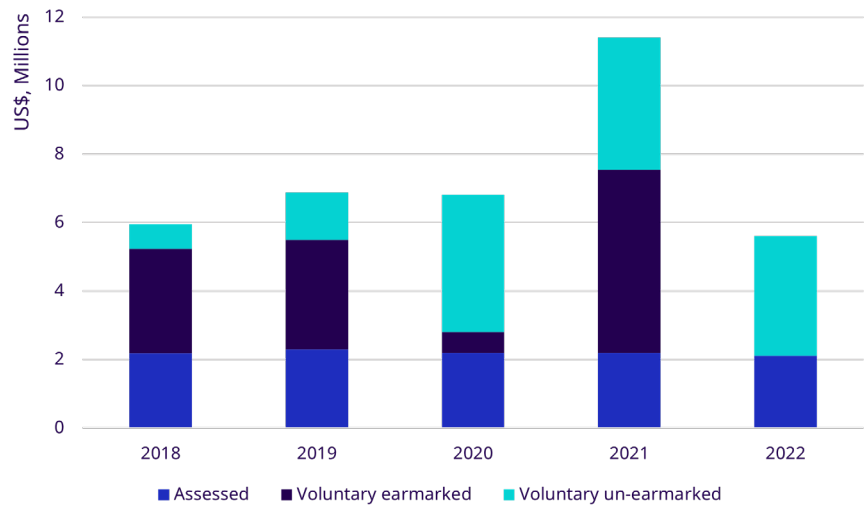
- ▶ Poor, fragile countries/ regions: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Palestine and Somalia, Syria and neighbouring countries, Sahel, and the Horn of Africa
- ▶ Poor, stable countries: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Myanmar, Tanzania, Uganda
- ▶ Transition and growth economies: Ghana, Indonesia, South Africa, Ukraine, Georgia, Vietnam, Egypt, Brazil, Colombia, China, Mexico and Türkiye and other middle-income countries.

The bulk of available Denmark's development cooperation assistance will be dedicated to the first two categories, with a particular emphasis on fragile countries and regions characterized by fragility.

## DENMARK'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- ▶ **Assessed contributions**, paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership, constitute the ILO's core funding or regular budget. Between 2018 and 2022, Denmark's assessed contribution to the ILO's regular budget exceeded US\$ 10.9 million.
- ▶ **Voluntary core funding contributions** provided by eight ILO donors as a pool of un-earmarked, flexible resources allocated by the ILO to strategic areas and emerging priorities. From 2018-2022, Denmark contributed US\$ 12.2 million
- ▶ **Voluntary contributions** provided as earmarked funds for priority programmes and projects in addition to assessed contributions. Total voluntary contributions by Denmark to the ILO between 2018 and 2022 reached over US\$ 37.2 million.

### Denmark's Overall Contributions to the ILO, 2018-22



From 2018-2022, voluntary contributions from Denmark to the ILO totalled US\$ 36.6 million. Currently, Denmark supports an array of important global programmes, such as the Promoting Social Dialogue and Harmonious Industrial Relations in the Bangladesh Ready-Made Garment Industry (SDIR) Project and the Junior Professional Officer programme in addition to ILO programmes in Georgia and Ukraine.

## ▶ Active Denmark funded projects





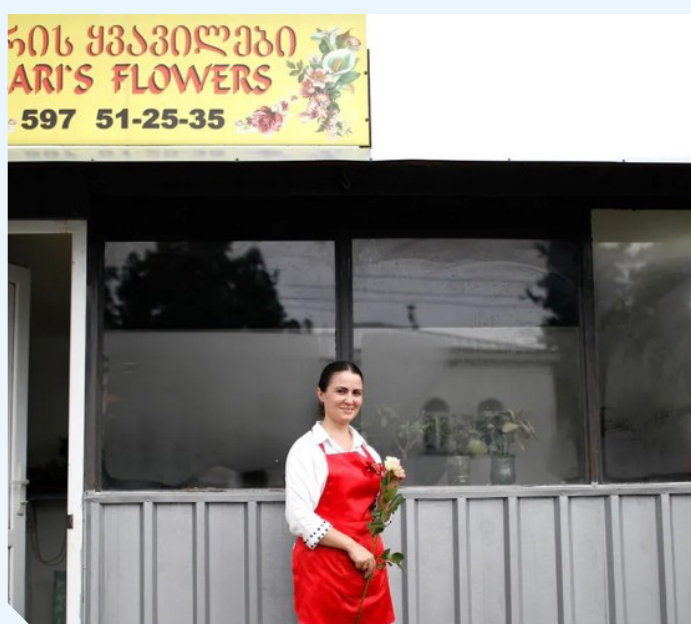
## ► Inclusive labour markets for job creation (ILMJC) in Georgia

“The ILMJC development cooperation project in Georgia has helped improve the implementation of, and compliance with local labour laws and international labour standards by enhancing knowledge, strengthening instruments, supporting advocacy and facilitating cooperation to the benefit of constituents, judges and legal practitioners. More than 600 businesses received services from the Georgian Employers’ Association (GEA) using ILO materials. Meanwhile, the Labour Inspection Office was able to better respond to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in 10,793 sites remaining in compliance. For workers, an increased awareness of new amendments to the Labour Code contributed to positive collective bargaining outcomes on pay. The use of the International Labour Standards (ILS) in Georgia’s judiciary also increased by more than 100%, fostered by extensive capacity-building efforts for judges, legal practitioners and government officials. The Supreme Court judgments using ILS increased almost three-fold, from 5% in 2020 to 14% in 2021. The ILMJC project also enhanced the Government’s application of labour code amendments by supporting the drafting of new bylaws.

The ILMJC project also provided technical expertise to the Georgian Tripartite Social Partnership Commission (TSPC), supporting the Work Plan items with research, and regulatory impact assessments as well as facilitating working group meetings. The ILMJC project contributed to the development of the Georgian Trade Union Confederation (GTUC) and Georgian Employers Association (GEA)’s capacity to engage in tripartite dialogue, including at the territorial level. Danish partner organisations, Danish Industry, Danish Trade Union Development Agency (DTDA, and New Development Fund (NDF) had the opportunity to transfer their respective organizations’ knowledge and experience to Georgian social partners to improve industrial relations in Georgia. Finally, the project in Georgia helped promote youth entrepreneurship. Different government agencies now have access to 30 Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) trainers to further advance business education among potential entrepreneurs in Georgia. In total, more than 550 entrepreneurs received training through the project and at least 20 of young entrepreneurs have registered their businesses.

When you write a project proposal, you have to calculate everything and really think it through. I already had a metal structure for a greenhouse at home, which would mean I would need less money to make it operational, and this worked to my advantage. With this first project proposal, I received a small grant and bought the plastic sheeting to cover the greenhouse..”

► **Mariam Kobalia**, a 25-year-old entrepreneur from Georgia



## ► Inclusive Labour Markets for Job Creation in Ukraine (2017-2022)

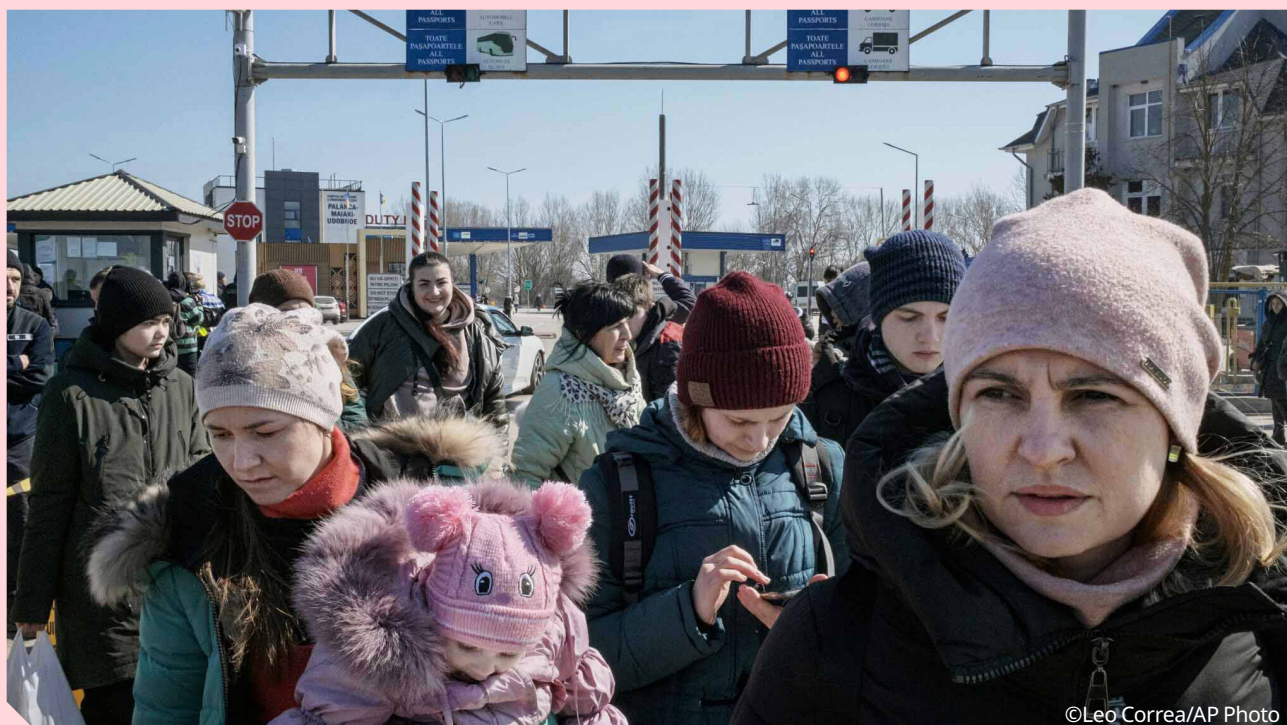
In early 2022, the ILO and Denmark announced their solidarity with the government, workers, and employers of Ukraine. In his statement, the ILO's Director General condemned the Russian Federation's aggression towards Ukraine. Consequently, the ILO Governing Body adopted a resolution on the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, expressing unwavering support for the tripartite constituents of Ukraine. Accordingly, the budget of the five-year ILO-Danish «Inclusive Labour Markets in Ukraine» project budget was immediately repurposed to provide humanitarian assistance. The ILO is working with the Government of Ukraine to adapt the programme to respond effectively to the dramatically changed context and meet the urgency of its needs.

Through the Danish International Development agency, the project assists the government and social partners in their efforts to improve labour market governance by strengthening employment services and other labour market institutions, aligning skills development systems with market demand and improving tripartite social dialogue. Ukraine's main labour market challenges are the limited range and effectiveness of labour market policies, centralized employment policymaking, skills mismatch in the labour market, insufficiently developed entrepreneurship, the presence of an informal economy and underdeveloped social dialogue.

During its first five years of implementation, the project has supported the alignment of Ukraine's Public Employment Services with the ILO's technical recommendations, which focus on individual, tailor-made service delivery and the division of service provision for the unemployed and hard-to-employ population and for employers.

One of the ILO's tools for the decentralization of employment policies, Local Employment Partnerships (LEP), was successfully piloted in several regions in Ukraine. The LEP initiative helped better align the skills demanded by employers for one occupation (cooks) with improvements in the curriculum. Additionally, this LEP in Kherson developed occupational standards for cooks, which were later adopted by Ukraine's Ministry of Economy in both industry practices and national educational standards.

The ILO's flagship entrepreneurship training programme, Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB), was successfully integrated into the Government's policies on entrepreneurship development. The project also developed a paper, on the "Modernization of Social Dialogue in Ukraine to meet the modern challenges of socio-economic policy."



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