



United Kingdom ILO Cooperation

▶ November 2023



As one of the founding member States of the ILO, the United Kingdom (UK) has been a valued partner of the ILO since 1919. The UK has ratified 89 Conventions including the eight fundamental ILO Conventions as well as two Protocols. Apart from its Regular Budget assessed contributions made by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), is a major contributor to the ILO development cooperation programme.

The UK contribution to ILO priorities

The UK and the ILO have a common interest in promoting social justice, respecting international labour standards, and reducing extreme poverty. The UK places great emphasis on the areas of job creation, unlocking the potential of girls and women, combating modern slavery, ending child exploitation and child labour – all of which reflect the ILO’s core mandate.

The FCDO works in many countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, some of which are at risk from fragility. Programmes reflect a strong focus on gender equality.

UK development cooperation priorities

The four strategic objectives of the UK’s official development assistance are:

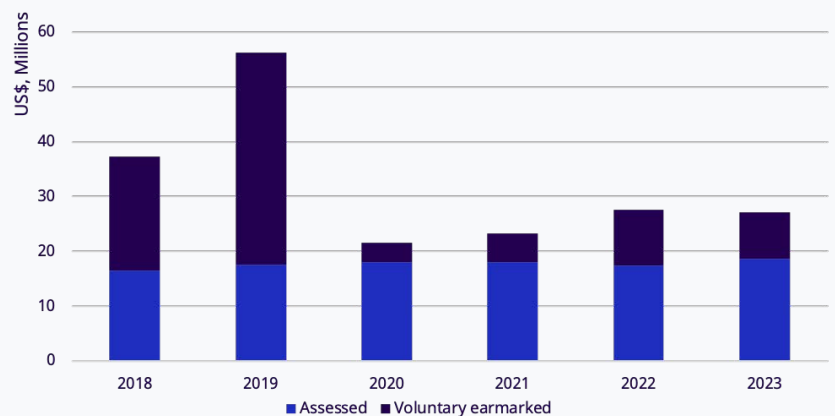
- **Deliver** honest and reliable investment supporting partner countries to grow their economies sustainably.
- **Provide** women and girls with the freedom they need to succeed, unlocking their future potential, educating girls, supporting their empowerment and protecting them against violence.
- **Provide** life-saving humanitarian assistance driving a more effective international response to humanitarian crises.
- **Take forward** the work on climate change, nature and global health.

FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE UNITED KINGDOM’S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The UK funds the ILO through:

- **Assessed contributions:** paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. From 2018 to 2023,* the UK contributed over **US\$ 106.6 million**.
- **Voluntary contributions:** earmarked funds for priority programmes and projects. From 2018 to 2023,* the UK contributed over **US\$ 86.8 million**.

UK’s financial contributions to the ILO development cooperation programme, 2018-2023*



*2023 data as at 31 October 2023.

► Asia Regional Child Labour Programme

The [Asia Regional Child Labour Project \(ARC\)](#) is a multi-year initiative dedicated to reducing vulnerability to child labour and enhancing the protection of children from exploitation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan. It is designed to support these countries step up the eradication of child labour, particularly its worst forms, in Asia and contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 by 2025.

The project has expanded the evidence base on child labour to enable stakeholders to design appropriate interventions and institute needed policy reforms. The project has also facilitated increased capacities of countries' constituents to ratify relevant conventions, ensure policies are aligned and effectively implemented, and improve access to social protection schemes.

It has developed the models for tackling child labour at the local level by working with communities, local governments and other actors to pursue both area-based and sector-focused integrated approaches.



The project collaborated with government entities and workers' and employers' organizations as well as other stakeholders in the pursuit of these activities, while also building their capacities to sustain project results.

► Programme on fair recruitment and decent work for women migrant workers in South Asia and the Middle East - Phase II

The COVID-19 pandemic and other associated crises have significantly worsened job security, affecting women most acutely. The protracted crisis, together with other more regular drivers of migration (e.g., agricultural and employment crises) have seriously affected migration trends. Vulnerability to forced labour and trafficking, key parameters that the [Work in Freedom \(WIF\)](#) programme seeks to address, has unequivocally increased, making the programme even more relevant for women and adolescent girls seeking work related mobility with choice.

The programme adapted its activities in response to evolving operational conditions, ensuring that its work remains centred around the protection of women from forced labour and trafficking. Over a ten-year period, the programme has reached over 770,000 women and girls in local communities; helped 113,000 migrant women join local unions and support groups in their destinations; and published more than 30 studies and research papers providing new evidence to policymakers.



► The Skills for Prosperity (S4P) Egypt

The Skills for Prosperity (S4P) Egypt- Higher Education for Life and Work (HELW) project aims to build skills of young people, with a particular focus on women and vulnerable groups to improve their employability in the labour market. The project works with public universities and employers to enhance skills and career guidance to Egyptian youth, with an emphasis on STEM fields.

Between 2020 and 2023, the project built the capacities of Egypt's Ministry of Education and helped improving employability technologies through the creation of specialized platforms for 7 public universities that innovatively bring together employers and students. More than 120,000 young people benefited from using the platform.



► Better Regional Migration Management



The [Regional BRMM](#) programme focuses on improving labour migration governance in East and Horn of Africa by promoting evidence-based policies, enhancing migrant workers' qualifications and skills, and actively engaging social partners.

Following phase I, the programme continued support on improving labour migration statistics in the region, promoting and measuring access to social protection benefits for migrant workers, developing skills of potential and returned migrants and promoting recognition of skills and prior learning, and enhancing engagement of tripartite partners in policy development in line with international labour standards.

For instance, The Programme strengthened the labour market information system in Ethiopia and Uganda to ensure its effective functioning and accessibility of appropriate infrastructure required to collect data. This provides policymakers with up-to-date and forward-looking information for the formulation and monitoring of policies and actions that have an impact on the local economy.

► Evidence generation to support labour market post-disaster recovery – Türkiye

The earthquakes of February 2023 killed more than 50,000 people and left more than 1.5 million homeless in south-eastern Türkiye. Little is known about the effects of the earthquake on the labour market even though increases in informality, child labour and increased barriers to access to decent work for women and people with disabilities are believed to have taken place.

The ILO as a firm believer on evidence-based policy making has designed surveys to interview more than 5,000 families still living in the area, 1,000 families that left the region and 1,000 companies so as to learn the living and working conditions currently existing and the problems and needs of local entrepreneurs. This should shape national policies and direct future ILO projects in the area.

► Estidama++ Fund – Extension of Coverage and Formalization in Jordan



[Estidama++ Fund](#) aims to strengthen the resilience of informal workers in Jordan and ensure protection against life cycle risks through extending social security coverage, in line with international labour and social security standards and national strategies and frameworks for social protection. This multi-donor programme promotes formalization in the most vulnerable sectors in the Jordanian economy providing contribution subsidies and coverage reward to Jordanian and non-Jordanian, informal workers, including refugees.

Estidama++ also aims to increase awareness of social security to ensure workers' and employers' understanding of the system and its processes and the benefits they can access at different moments.

Estidama++'s contribution subsidy mechanism is an innovative model designed to address affordability constraints for workers with limited contributory capacity. A robust monitoring framework will ensure a feedback loop to inform programme development, enabling the Estidama++ approach to be trialled, evaluated, and adjusted continually.

In the long-term, the intervention will strengthen the overarching policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to support the extension of coverage for inclusion of vulnerable workers in the social security system as well as broader reforms of the social security system to ensure comprehensiveness, adequacy, affordability, and sustainability for all workers. The fund is expected to reach 32,000 Jordanian and non-Jordanian workers, with a focus on women and refugees.

► Skills for Prosperity in Southeast Asia



The [Skills for Prosperity in South-East Asia Programme \(SfP-SEA\)](#) operates in [Malaysia](#), [Indonesia](#) and the [Philippines](#) with the goal of enhancing national capabilities in skills development and technical vocational education and training (TVET) systems. Its mission is to promote sustainable and inclusive growth, alleviate poverty, and tackle inequalities.

To enhance employment opportunities and support just transitions for workers and TVET graduates, the programme has contributed to improving national policies, strategies, and institutional capacities to anticipate future skills demands and develop demand-driven, sector-specific skills strategies.

This is to ensure that the demands and the policies and strategies adapt to changing skills needs, encourage greater industry involvement in skills programmes design and delivery, enhance access and participation to lifelong learning for vulnerable groups, strengthen work-based learning, and improve competency standards, qualifications, and curricula to facilitate just transitions.

The programme also focuses on enhancing teachers' pedagogical capacities and through this TVET relevance and quality. The Programme has directly aided over 19,000 beneficiaries, with more than 50% being women, and indirectly reached 117,000 more.

Contact Details

International Labour Organization
Route des Morillons 4
CH-1211 Geneva 22 Switzerland

T: +41 22 799 7370
E: partnerships@ilo.org
ilo.org/partnerships