



International
Labour
Organization



Kuwait ILO Cooperation

Kuwait is an ILO member State that has ratified 19 ILO Conventions, including seven Fundamental Conventions, two of the Governance Conventions, and ten Technical Conventions. Kuwait has also committed to promoting decent work and social justice in the Arab States and in particular to supporting ILO programmes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Kuwait's contributions to the ILO

Since 2009, the Government of Kuwait has supported the efforts of the ILO to promote the Decent Work Agenda in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). To date, the Government of Kuwait has contributed a total of US\$ 5 Million to address decent work deficits in the OPT.

Kuwait has the longest experience in tripartite participation among the Arab States, with long-standing national tripartite consultative bodies. Through its country office in Kuwait, the ILO continues to support the Government of Kuwait in various areas, including labour inspection, labour law and domestic workers' rights as well as migrant and forced labour.



PROGRAMME SUPPORTED BY KUWAIT IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

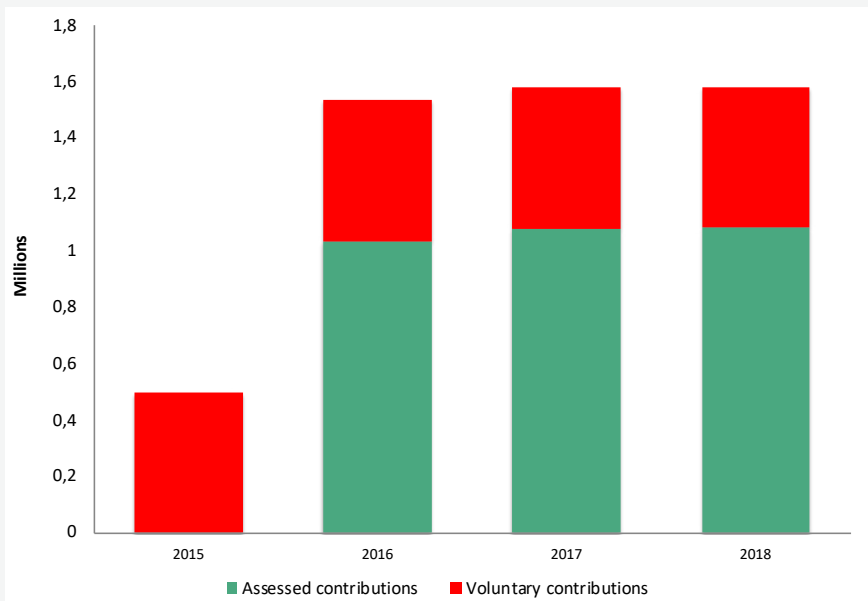
With the launch of the Decent Work Programme 2018-22, the ILO is continuing to use Kuwaiti support to leverage other resources in support of decent work in the OPT, with a particular focus on the following areas:

- Enhancing employment and livelihood opportunities for Palestinian women and men
- Strengthening labour governance, collective bargaining and improved social dialogue mechanisms
- Supporting the implementation and development of the Palestinian social security system and the extension of social protection to all.

FACTS AND FIGURES ON KUWAIT'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ILO

- **Assessed contributions:** paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership, which constitute the ILO's core funding or regular budget. From 2015 to 2018 Kuwait contributed over US\$ 3.1 Million.
- **Voluntary, non-core funding contributions:** provided as earmarked funds for priority programmes and projects in addition to assessed contributions. From 2015 to 2018, Kuwait contributed US\$ 2 Million.

Kuwait's Overall Contributions to the ILO



Supporting Livelihoods and Job Opportunities

As part of its focus on enhancing employment and livelihood opportunities for Palestinian women and men, the ILO has continued to undertake a comprehensive programme of interventions to address the employment challenges in the OPT, which are particularly acute in the Gaza Strip. This includes ILO support:

1. For establishing an inter-ministerial committee and a national technical task force to formulate a national action plan for employment, which will utilize the findings from an Employment Policy Diagnostic Study conducted and published by the ILO in early 2018.
2. To the Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection (PFESP) for the development of its Strategic Plan, 2018-2021.
3. To the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute in 2018-2019 to enhance their capacities to produce statistical data, forecasts and analysis needed for better planning and policy development in the fields of employment and labour. This partnership resulted in the development of a labour chapter in the Economic Monitor report, to include labour market forecasts and provide data and analysis in the context of the new global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in relation to decent work.
4. For the new cooperative sector governance system in 2019. This included creating a detailed roadmap and proposal for the establishment of the new Cooperative Works Agency (CWA), which is set to be the governing body of the cooperative sector and host its regulatory and promotional services. Following the

adoption of the Cooperative Law in November 2017, the ILO finalized an institutional assessment of the legal, organizational, and technical development requirements for the effective implementation of the law, towards the operationalization of the CWA.



In 2019, the ILO will continue to support the capacity building of key stakeholders, including cooperative societies and unions as well as the CWA's core staff and that of its subsidiary educational and financial wings the Cooperative Development Institute and the Cooperative Development Fund, respectively.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

A Labour Force Survey conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) showed that the overall unemployment rate reached 29.1% in the fourth quarter of 2018, with the rate for women reaching 48.3%. In line with regional trends and despite their higher education levels, only 21.4% of women in the OPT participate in the labour market. In addition, the gender wage gap persists despite substantive gains women have made in recent years in terms of education and employment experience.

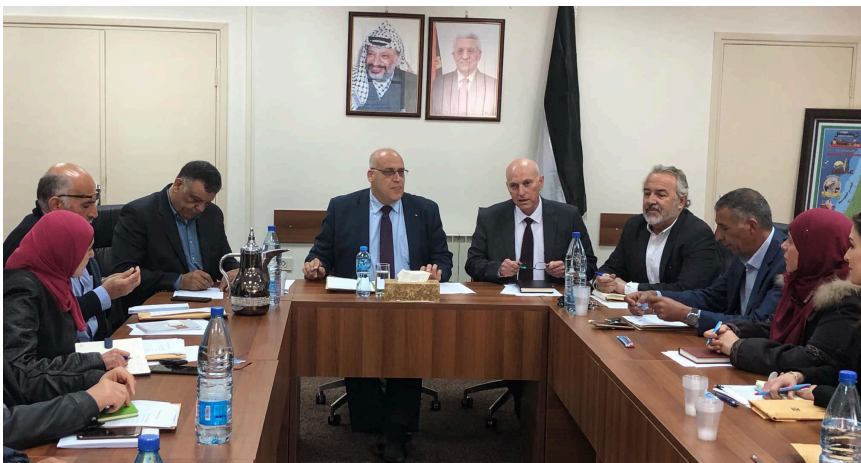
Many national tripartite committees (government, employer, and worker representatives) were established to negotiate urgent issues of common interests and have resulted in concrete achievements, notably the adoption of the minimum wage. In light of the challenging economic and labour market circumstances, the need to reform the current Palestinian Labour Law, revise existing minimum wage legislation and foster effective bipartite negotiations are seen as key priority areas for the ILO, key priorities for the ILO. Current work includes supporting the reform of wage policies to promote the protection of women workers in particular sectors where they receive low wages.

To promote the improved access of women to the labour market by addressing labour market governance deficits, the ILO has worked with the National Committee for Women's Employment to ensure the full inclusion of women's labour rights in the Trade Union Law and in labour law reform process. The ILO has also supported the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions

(PGFTU) to launch an awareness raising campaign focusing on decent work for women workers and their right to organize to increase women unionization and identify bottlenecks that impede women from joining unions. The campaign reached more than 2,000 women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who will become union affiliates, and the PGFTU was able to collect enough data to establish a database on women workers across sectors that provides insight about their working, interests and perceptions towards their enrolment in trade unions.



Improving Labour Market Governance and Labour Rights



The ILO continued to support the strengthening of labour market governance in the OPT, including the re-initiation of the Labour Law reform process. Following initial separate meetings with tripartite constituents in May 2018, a workshop with the PGFTU was held in

July 2018 to facilitate the formulation of the workers' position on the labour law. The ILO provided similar support to the Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (FPCCIA) for the formulation of the employers' position paper. In addition

to assisting social partners, the ILO conducted a desk review of the Labour Law and prepared a technical note analysing the core areas of the law, including a comprehensive gender perspective of the law.

The ILO also continued to provide further technical assistance to ILO tripartite constituents to support their institutional development. Key areas of work included enhancing their ability to use social dialogue to contribute to compliance with national labour legislation and relevant International Labour Standards in a gender responsive manner. The ILO also played a key role in facilitating a series of meetings throughout 2018, which resulted in a tripartite consensus by government, worker and employer representatives on a final draft of the trade union law to be submitted to the Council of Ministers.

Development of a Comprehensive Social Security System

The ILO continued to support the establishment of the Palestinian Social Security Corporation (PSSC) through both direct financial and technical support, in line with international standards and good practices. The PSSC was officially inaugurated in April 2018 and the ILO has provided essential support that included assisting with the development of a situational analysis and organizational matrix for the PSSC, administrative support, the provision of client-centred services and a web services report. ILO also worked to improve capacities of

PSSC management, supporting them to define the roles and responsibilities of the Director General and key managers. PSSC Headquarters and a Branch Office in Ramallah were established and operationalized with ILO support.

Following demonstrations in 2018 related to the Palestinian Authority's Social Security Law No.19, the ILO presented a Technical Note to the tripartite Board of Directors in March 2019, which assessed the legal and financial implications of the proposed amendments. The ILO is

developing a work plan and defining its upcoming interventions supporting the establishment of a comprehensive social security system and its administration, including the social protection floor.

Additionally, the ILO started conducting an actuarial valuation of the public sector pension scheme to assist the Board of the Palestinian Pension Agency (PPA) in ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the Fund.



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