



▶ Core Voluntary Funding (RBSA) for ILO development cooperation

▶ June 2023

The Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) has emerged as a key funding modality through which the ILO and its development partners can advance the Decent Work Agenda and the associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the ILO's unearmarked, voluntary core funding modality, RBSA is a critical element of the ILO resource mix.

The flexibility that comes with unearmarked resources allows the Office to respond in areas and countries where opportunities for results emerge and other resources are not readily available.

In this iteration of the RBSA factsheet examples of work underway and completed are detailed in the stories that follow:

- ▶ Yemen: Supporting semi-governmental public works project in enhancing their capacity and their own manuals to transfer from cash for work into ILO's employment intensive investment approach
- ▶ Nepal: Enhancing skills of women and workers in the informal economy, harnessing the potential of green transition: Towards human-centred recovery from COVID-19
- ▶ Peru: Improving market management to promote the transition to formalization among women traders in Lima and Cusco
- ▶ Moldova: New mobile application protects workers' rights
- ▶ Botswana: Sustainable and resilient enterprises training of trainers in Botswana
- ▶ Comoros: Supporting the blue economy in the Comoros
- ▶ Liberia: Strengthened institutional capacities in Liberia for ratification, domestication and reporting on International Labour Standards

▶ Contributions to ILO Core voluntary funding (RBSA)¹

FUNDING PARTNER	2016-17	2018-19	2020-21	2022-23
 Belgium	8 155	6 850	6 976	3 006
 Denmark	2 928	2 840	7 880	3 504
 France	-	-	588	249
 Germany	2 641	1 722	1 161	1 052
 Italy	447	455	478	426
 Luxembourg	2 140	2 539	3 035	2 175
 Netherlands	5 464	5 855	5 862	4 362
 Norway	3 307	3 616	3 395	3 855
 Sweden	4 215	3 473	5 032	1 585
TOTAL	29 297	27 350	34 407	20 214

¹Data as at 15 June 2023 in US\$ thousands

▶ RBSA-funded areas of work

The ILO allocates RBSA resources to boost Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) in a variety of ways, including to:

- Launch innovative initiatives
- Rapidly address emerging needs
- Expand the scope and/or scale of existing programmes
- Mainstream cross-cutting issues in labour policies and programmes
- Leverage greater funding from other sources
- Increase sustainability of ILO assistance through partnerships with UN agencies

▶ RBSA allocations 2021 - 2023*



SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS: HOW RBSA IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON THE GROUND

▶ Yemen: Supporting the transition from cash for work to Employment Intensive Investment

Through its [Employment Intensive Investment Program \(EIIP\)](#) and [decent employment for women in Yemen](#), the ILO in Yemen supported semi-governmental institution Public Works Project (PWP) to update and enhance their existing cash for work manuals and Community Contracting Manuals. This revision included integrating the ILO's Emergency Employment approaches and principles as well as a reinforced focus on women, Environmental and Social Safeguarding (ESS) and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH). The ILO supported PWP staff to build their capacity to design and implement EIIP. The ILO supported the development of a data management application in the Management Information System (MIS) for emergency employment to integrate the new manuals. The ILO and the Ministry of Social Affairs & Labour (MOSAL) in Yemen launched training workshops for MOSAL staff and inspectors, with participation of Social Fund for Development (SFD) and the Public Works Project (PWP), that to reinforce their understanding of International Labour Standards and principles including OSH at

work in crisis settings. The first training workshop was launched in Aden, with another set to follow in Sana'a. A total of 82 inspectors and staff working in OSH-related areas from 22 governorates across Yemen will be trained. In addition, the training workshops include assessment of occupational risks, introduction about occupational diseases, and improvement of OSH in Yemen. The ILO and PWP also [launched training on community contracting](#) for Yemeni women seeking to be community contractors, start their own businesses or find employment within EIIPs implemented in the country. More than 50 women from ten governorates were also trained on gender-responsive community contracting, a procurement tool empowering communities by ensuring they have an executive role in the identification, planning and implementation of development initiatives. The workshops also include training on the basics of the EIIP approach, decent work principles, and on the basic principles of emergency employment, ESS, and OSH.

► Comoros: Supporting the blue economy

In the Comoros, the ILO used RBSA funding to support its constituents towards a just transition in the blue economy through policy level interventions, include supporting the development of a Rapid Situation Analysis on the linkages between climate, environmental protection, and decent work; an Assessment of the enabling environment for sustainable enterprises; policy guidance on the fisheries, coastal tourism and waste management sectors for employers' and workers' organizations; and adoption of the action plan for the promotion of decent work in the blue economy (2023-2027) and the tripartite declaration for its implementation.

As a result of this RBSA funded intervention, 15 trainers were certified in the [Sustainable and Resilient Enterprises \(SURE\) Programme](#); 144 Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) active in the blue economy benefited from the SURE Programme and developed strategic plans for resilience during crises; 10 teachers from training institutions and nine agents from incubator enterprises certified in the [Start and Improve Your Business Programme \(SIYB\)](#); 60 potential young entrepreneurs in sectors related to the blue economy trained in the [Start Your Business \(SYB\)](#) module; 80 women trained in the smoking and drying techniques for fish and octopus; and four new cooperatives launched. Through ILO support, women members of the 'Saveur de Malé' cooperative can now transform their seafood products, improve their livelihoods, and become financially independent.



► Liberia: Strengthened institutional capacities for ratification, domestication and reporting on ILS

Against the backdrop of several concerns raised about the violation of workers' rights, increased termination of employment contracts and a growing rate of child labour arising from the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, the ILO intervention aims to ensure the ratification of ILO Conventions [No. 100](#) on equal pay, [No. 138](#) on minimum working age and the [1986 Amendment to the ILO Constitution](#) as well as other technical Conventions. The ratification instruments for C100, C138 and the 1986 Amendment were deposited

in June 2022 during the 2022 International Labour Conference. The intervention is also supporting the Government to prepare an amended draft Decent Work bill that was submitted to the Parliament for approval/enactment and to ensure that Liberia consistently meets its reporting obligations on ratified and other conventions to the ILO. Thanks to the intervention's support, the Government and social partners submitted their outstanding reports according to Article 22 before the deadline in 2021.

► Botswana: Sustainable and resilient enterprises training of trainers



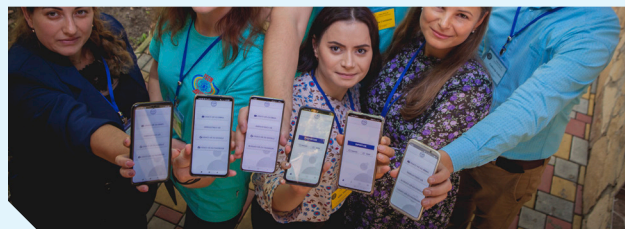
Through RBSA, and with the technical support of the ILO's International Training Centre (ITC-ILO), the ILO conducted a training of trainers for the [SURE programme](#) in Botswana. The SURE programme addresses the growing need for resilience-building amongst Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and seeks to strengthen the capacities of SMEs to prepare, respond and adapt to the impact of hazards such as climate change induced disasters, conflict and

pandemics, among others. SMEs that participate in the SURE training programme develop Business Resilience Strategies that are tailored to their unique business profile and risk exposure. With its focus on business resilience, the SURE methodology goes beyond classical business continuity planning and introduces aspects of business adaptation, digital transformation and staff development to help SMEs become agile, shore up vulnerabilities and build the necessary human elements that are key to business resilience. This intervention implemented a three-phase training programme that provided in-person training to 26 participants, followed by a second phase where 20 of the trainees were able to successfully conduct SURE trainings. Upon submission of their training reports, these trainees are then formally certified in the third phase.

▶ Moldova: New mobile application protects workers' rights

RBSA supported the launch of a new mobile application to strengthen labour rights and enable trade union members to report workers' rights violations to the unions and the State Labour Inspectorate, in line with the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, amended in 2022 to include OSH. Launching at the end of September 2022, this app supports Moldovan Trade Unions to uphold basic human values, contributing to eliminating labour rights violations and employment-related discrimination. "Workers' Rights" is a user-friendly tool, informing users about changes in labour legislation, OSH regulations and social insurance as well as trade union services. When a case is being

reported through the app, it collects membership status, the industry, the type of labour law violation and information about the worker reporting the case. Based on the information provided, the National Confederation of Trade Unions from Moldova decides whether to share a case with the Labour Inspectorate.



▶ Nepal: Enhancing skills of women and workers in the informal economy and the green transition

The ILO RBSA-Skills Programme in Nepal supports recovery from the COVID-19 crisis through skills development, with a particular focus on enhancing the skills of women and workers in the informal economy. The Programme has supported the Tripartite Committee for Skills Development in Nepal to design, develop and implement a work-based learning programme led by the national Employers' Organization, with the support of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI), Federation of Nepalese Cottage and Small Industries (FNCSI) and Federation of Woman Entrepreneurs' Associations of Nepal (FWEAN). This work-based training was provided to over 300 people in agriculture, tourism, construction and manufacturing, with an additional 200 trainees to receive training by the end of December 2023. Working with ILO constituents, the intervention organized job fairs in three provinces in May 2023 and provided technical assistance for the recognition of competencies acquired informally and harnessing the green transition. The ILO, in collaboration with the intervention's partners, organized awareness raising sessions on skills testing, recognition of prior learning (RPL), work-based learning/non-formal apprenticeship programmes in April 2023. Furthermore, the programme conducted policy dialogue and delivered a capacity building programme on Greening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (G-TVET), utilizing ILO's [Greening TVET and Skills Development: A Practical Guidance Tool](#) for mainstreaming and integrating skills for green transitions in national competency standards and in TVET curricula, for environmental sustainability.

▶ Peru: Improving market management to promote the transition to formalization among women traders

During the COVID-19 pandemic, wholesale markets were essential spaces for food provision in Peru. In Lima and Cusco, approximately 70 per cent of traders in these markets are women, 41 per cent earn less than the minimum wage and only 12 per cent contribute to a pension fund. To support the formalization of these women traders, the ILO leveraged RBSA to provide technical assistance to the local governments of San Sebastian (Cusco) and Ate (Lima) to increase the productive and management capacity of these workers as well as provided them with services, such as childcare spaces, facilitating women's full participation in their businesses. The Municipality of San Sebastian implemented [GET Ahead](#) for women traders and reinforced management capacities through the Wholesale Market



Managers Program (GEMA), in collaboration with FAO and the Ministry of Production. With GEMA, the Ministry of Production helped municipalities coordinate their efforts with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations to implement childcare spaces as part of market management. With GET Ahead, over 50 women traders from these markets developed their business plans and competed to access seed capital to implement their improvement proposals. One of them is Yanet Deza, a food trader, who reduced her production costs and, consequently, the final price of her menus by 15 per cent. She now generates a personal monthly income of US\$ 1,400 and can better project her income. Thanks to this stability, Yanet was able to secure a loan for a refrigerator and continue improving her business while also incentivizing formalization.

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