

# The ILO and UNDAF in PNG

## About the ILO and its mandate

The International Labour Organization is the UN specialized agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. It was founded in 1919 and it became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946.

In order to pursue its founding mission of promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, the ILO has actively worked towards the achievement of four pillars of work: (i) Promoting and **realizing standards and fundamental principles and rights at work**; (ii) Creating greater opportunities for women and men to secure **decent employment and income**; (iii) Enhancing the coverage and effectiveness of **social protection** for all; (iv) Strengthening **tripartism and social dialogue**.

Within the UN system, the ILO has a unique tripartite structure with workers and employers participating as equal partners with governments in the work of its governing organs. The ILO promotes the development of independent employers' and workers' organizations and provides training and advisory services to those organizations.

## The ILO and UNDAF

The ILO's work in countries is delivered in accordance with Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs). DWCPs have two basic objectives. They **promote decent work** as a key component of national development strategies. At the same time they organise ILO knowledge, instruments, advocacy and cooperation at the service of tripartite constituents in a **results-based framework** to advance the Decent Work Agenda within the fields of comparative advantage of the Organization.

There is a very important, mutually reinforcing relationship between the DWCPs and the UNDAF in ensuring strategic alignment between the ILO and the other agencies in the UN system. DWCPs are prepared with close regard to the UNDAF, and efforts are continually made to consider how decent work goals can be articulated to reinforce, complement and broaden UNDAF commitments.

In PNG, the DWCP is a three year document from 2013-2015, which is currently in the process of being reviewed. Based on tripartite consultations including a review of the previous DWCP, it has been agreed that the following Country Programme priorities be established.

- **Priority 1:** Completion and implementation of national labour law reform, including migration law and policy
- **Priority 2:** A national employment strategy and implementation framework that creates and improves access for young women and men to decent employment
- **Priority 3:** Tripartite capacity is strengthened.

The relationship between the priorities and outcomes is summarised in the table below.

## The connection between the ILO's work and UNDAF in PNG

<b>Completion and implementation of national labour law reform</b>	
<p>The partners in PNG have identified the importance of modernising labour legislation to ensure that there is a sound framework underpinning industrial relations in PNG which provides for gender equity, safe workplaces, fair and productive employment relationships, protections for migrant workers and more broadly, good labour market governance.</p> <p>The key outcomes under this priority are the enactment of the Employment Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act; an improved labour inspection / occupational health and safety inspection system; as well as a legal framework to ensuring the elimination of child labour, and the protection of migrant workers.</p>	<p>The work under this priority is closely linked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>UNDAF Cluster 1: Governance for Equitable Development</b> which promotes improvements in good governance and the leadership of development planning processes. Ensuring that workers in PNG are safe and have their rights protected, is an important foundation for making PNG “a safer, more secure and stable nation upon which its citizens can make real strides towards sustainable development.” (UNDAF)</li> <li>• <b>UNDAF Cluster 2: Social Justice, Protection and Gender Equality</b> through development of legislation to protect children from unacceptable forms of labour – an objective closely linked to Ensuring that children are able to attend school, rather than being pushed into the workforce, is critical if PNG is to become a society where children, and their families, can enjoy their social rights.</li> </ul>
<b>A national employment strategy and implementation framework that creates and improves access for young women and men to decent employment</b>	
<p>In light of the challenge of high unemployment and underemployment in PNG, ILO's partners have consistently requested support for the development and implementation of a national employment policy; as well as entrepreneurship education to be introduced and institutionalised in schools and TVET institutions</p> <p>An important priority aspect of this priority is also ensuring that business training and support is available for out-of-school young men and women, including marginalised and disabled youths and strengthened national mechanisms to support business.</p>	<p>The work under this priority is closely linked with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>UNDAF Cluster 1: Governance for Equitable Development</b>, as the right to decent work is a critical foundation for ensuring equitable development.</li> <li>• <b>UNDAF Cluster 3: Access to Basic Services</b>, as access to education services including entrepreneurship education can be of critical importance in providing livelihoods in PNG, and leading to “longer, healthier and more productive lives.” (UNDAF)</li> </ul>
<b>Tripartite capacity is strengthened</b>	
<p>Tripartism – the involvement of government, worker and employer representatives in decent work issues – is a fundamental tenet of the ILO's mandate. As well as the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations, the ILO works to strengthen the capacity of the PNG Trade Union Congress, the Employers' Federation of PNG and the National Tripartite Consultative Council. This work helps to ensure that these organizations can provide meaningful services and to recruit new members; can meet regularly to resolve issues; and help to ensure good governance in employment issues.</p>	<p>The work under this priority is closely linked with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>UNDAF Cluster 2: Social Justice, Protection and Gender Equality</b>, in particular because unions are critical civil society organizations to ensure that protection of the rights of workers. The work of both unions and employers can help to ensure that PNG “citizens are able to enjoy political, economic and social rights, free from discrimination and irrespective of gender, ethnicity or geographical isolation” (UNDAF).</li> </ul>

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