



ILOPasifika update

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Advancing social justice, promoting decent work
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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Uncertain and uneven recovery expected following unprecedented labour market crisis

The latest analysis of the labour market impact of COVID-19 by the ILO, records massive damage to working time and income, with prospects for a recovery in 2021 slow, uneven and uncertain unless early improvements are supported by human-centred recovery policies.

New annual estimates in the seventh edition of the ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work confirm the massive impact that labour markets suffered in 2020. The latest figures show that 8.8 per cent of global working hours were lost for the whole of last year (relative to the fourth quarter of 2019), equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs¹. This is approximately four times greater than the number lost during the 2009 global financial crisis.

The signs of recovery we see are encouraging, but they are fragile and highly uncertain, and we must remember that no country or group can recover alone.

Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General

These lost working hours are accounted for either by reduced working hours for those in employment or “unprecedented” levels of employment loss, hitting 114 million people. Significantly, 71 per cent of these employment losses (81 million people) came in the form of inactivity, rather than unemployment, meaning that people left the labour market because they were unable to work, perhaps because of pandemic restrictions, or simply ceased to look for work. Looking at unemployment alone drastically understates the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market.

Rethinking new strategies for Pacific communities Covid-19 and social protection

In December 2020, a joint ILO / Fiji National University (FNU) international workshop on **Social Protection and COVID-19: Rethinking new strategies for Pacific communities**, brought together over fifty representatives from the Government, workers’ and employers’ organisations, international organisations, and academic institutions from the Pacific and Caribbean regions.

Governments and international organizations are today taking rapid steps to mitigate against the economic and social impact of COVID-19. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the role of well-designed, implemented and coordinated social protection systems in protecting people throughout their lives, including in the Pacific Island countries, where the pandemic only adds to, and compounds, prevailing existential threats to the economy, society, and livelihood.

Ms. Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa, ILO Regional Director for the Asia and Pacific said “The ILO has launched a Global Flagship Programme on ‘Building Social Protection Floors for All’ partnering with governments, workers’ and employers’ representatives as well as a wide range

of other stakeholders. The Flagship Programme will deliver accelerated technical assistance to help countries, including those in the Pacific, expand social protection coverage with the aim of leaving no one behind.”

“The COVID-19 crisis has been a wake-up call. The ILO considers social protection as an indispensable part of any coordinated policy response to the pandemic. Policymakers need to build on the momentum generated by growing public awareness of the importance of social protection and the urgency of investing in it as a society, to ensure preparedness for future crises”, said Matin Karimli, Director, ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries.



Ms. Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa
ILO Regional Director for the Asia and Pacific

Upcoming Campaign

World Day for Safety and Health at Work 28th April 2021

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work will focus on strategies to strengthen national occupational safety and health (OSH) systems to build resilience, in order to face crises now and in the future, drawing on lessons learned and experiences from the world of work.



#MyILO

This year marks my 27th year here in ILO. I have seen many changes in the Pacific. My work with ILO has given me the opportunity to contribute to many programmes and projects which have had huge impacts on peoples lives.

Mr. Sheik Hussain, Finance and Operations Asst. ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries



ILO convened a high-level meeting with key-stakeholders to discuss the way forward on elimination of child labour in Fiji



Participants gather for group photo



From left to right: Victoria Yee (ILO), Latileta Kurabui (FTUC), Jotika Sharma (FTUC), Elena Gerasimova (ILO)



Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation signs a pledge board

Suva (ILO NEWS) - Child labour has decreased by 38 per cent in the last decade but 152 million children are still affected globally. The COVID-19 pandemic has considerably worsened the situation, but joint and decisive action can reverse this trend.

The opening session of the meeting on 'Taking the next steps to eliminate Child Labour in Fiji - The Country Outlook and the Way Forward' was attended by the representatives of the Fijian Government, workers' and employers' organizations, UN agencies, diplomatic corps and civil society.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. Matin Karimli, Director of the ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries said, "Fiji has achieved serious success in elimination of Child Labour thanks to effective collaboration on the implementation of the ILO project Tackling Child Labour through Education Programme (TACKLE) from 2008 to 2017 funded by the EU. Fiji has adopted legislation to prohibit employment and work of children and undertook other important and necessary steps. The fight against child labour requires strong partnerships at global, regional, national and community level. It requires collaboration between Government, Workers and Employers Organisations, Civil Society organisations, families, and international organisations. The UN International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour 2021 provides us this great opportunity to make sound

progress within the ILO MAP-16 project funded by the US Department of Labour."

In her keynote address, Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation said, "We all have to make it our business to ensure children are in schools and not engaging in labour. Providing for the family is only the responsibility of adults – not children. If we stay true to our pledge as a nation and strengthen our strategies for implementing programs, policies and legislations around child labor better, we will not only improve the lives of our children today, but also secure the lives of future generations. I am pleased to announce that the Fijian Government is pledging the following agendas in relation to the elimination of Child Labour in Fiji: Formulation of a national child labour policy, Review of the Current National Employment Policy, Finalization of the National Occupational Health Services Strategic Plan and Formulation of Paperless Labour Inspection Program."

In his keynote address, Mr. Sanaka Samarasinha, UN Resident Co-ordinator said, "I commend the considerable work of the government of Fiji. The work on child labour in Fiji has progressed and has resulted in Fiji accumulating considerable child labour expertise and experience in aligning national legislation with international standards relevant to children. The United Nations reiterates its firm commitment to supporting

Fiji and Pacific Island governments towards progressive realization of the rights of children in your countries."

In his keynote address, Mr. Antone Greubel, Charge d'Affaires, US Embassy in Fiji said, "The United States is and will continue to be on the front lines of this fight. We are committed to helping to end forced and exploitative labour of children, in all its forms, around the world. For more than 25 years, the U.S. Department of Labour has been a leader in the fight to eradicate child labour globally and has partnered with governments and NGOs to raise awareness of this issue and to enact policy changes to prohibit and prevent the exploitation of children for labour."

A statement by Mr. Sheldon Yett, UNICEF Pacific Representative and a presentation by Ms. Bharati Pflug, ILO Senior Specialist on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work concluded the opening session. The technical sessions of the event were focused on the application of the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138) and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and the discussion on the draft National Action Plan to Eliminate Child Labour and Worst Forms of Child Labour.



QUIZ - test your knowledge on Child Labour

1. The total number of children in child labour has decreased by 38% since the year 2000.

True/ False

2. Child labour affects how many children worldwide?

- A. 40 million children
- B. 152 million children
- C. 80 million children

3. All work done by children should be classified as child labour that is to be targeted for elimination.

True / False

4. Who can take action to end child labour

- A. Governments only
- B. Business only
- C. Workers only
- D. All of us

5. Which sector has the most children in child labour?

- A. Agriculture
- B. Mining
- C. Manufacturing
- D. Other

6. When did ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour achieve universal ratification?

- A. 1999
- B. 2015
- C. 2020

1. Answer: True
 2. Answer: 152 million children are affected by child labour across the world.
 3. False: Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling, is generally regarded as being something positive. The term "child labour" is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.
 4. Answer: All of us have a role to play to help end child labour. Learn more on endchildlabour2021.org
 5. Answer: A. Agriculture. Worldwide 71 percent of all children in child labour in the age group 5-17 years work in agriculture, including farming, fishing, aquaculture, forestry, and livestock.
 6. Correct: 2020

Make persons with disabilities a priority during COVID-19 recovery in the Pacific



The signing ceremony was part of the events to observe International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2020

The ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries and the Pacific Disability Forum strengthened collaboration with the signing of a letter of intent, to continue to work in partnership to promote gender-responsive skills development, employment promotion and enterprise development for people with disabilities in the Pacific Islands.

The signing ceremony was part of the joint UN / PDF programme of events to observe International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2020 – Building Back Better: towards a disability- inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world held in Suva, Fiji on the 2nd December 2020, and followed the signing of “Principles of Engagement” between Mr. Sanaka Samarasinha, UN Resident Coordinator for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, RMI, Palau, FSM, Vanuatu, Nauru and Kiribati and Mr. Setareki Seru Macanawai, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Disability Forum

The ILO Global Business and Disability Network say targeted and mainstream actions need to be taken to ensure that disability issues are addressed in pandemic recovery plans. Persons with disabilities should always be consulted on COVID-19 recovery measures, so their insights and experiences are taken into account.

Fiji - Strengthening Career Guidance Services as a National Response to the Impact of COVID-19



Focus group discussions

The ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries organized a focus group meeting to discuss the current challenges in career guidance and to assess, identify and define new areas for further improvement to the existing services and to the ILO My Guide to employment – For young people in the Pacific. Based on the findings of the meetings, the Office has received sufficient inputs from constituents and relevant actors to identify new methodologies, case studies and tools that help to shape modern, flexible and effective services to take part in the national response to the impact of COVID-19 on employment. The meeting led by Kinan Albahnasi, ILO Decent Work & Employment Specialist, was attended by 14 participants from ILO constituents and relevant key stakeholders from similar backgrounds or experiences to discuss specific topics related to the improvement of career guidance services in Fiji.

Identifying COVID-19 recovery priorities in Samoa



Dr. Simona Marinescu, UN Resident Coordinator Cook Islands, Niue Samoa, and Tokelau addresses the meeting.

The ILO social partners Samoa Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Samoa Workers Congress (SWC) convened a two day bipartite meeting for COVID-19 recovery.

Using the evidence from the findings and policy recommendations of their Rapid Assessment, the meeting objectives are to identify (a) recovery priorities for advocacy to Government including for the review of the National Employment Policy (NEP), (b) internal priorities for implementation and (c) potential bipartite recovery action.

An interactive session with Dr. Simona Marinescu, UN Resident Coordinator for Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau & Niue to understand engagement with the wider UN mechanism was held for the first time.

This meeting was technically supported by the ILO Pacific Office and ILO's Bureau for Workers ILO Actrav and Employers Activities (ACTEMP).

Understand, promote and protect the rights of migrant workers for Tuvalu and Kiribati



Marine Training Centre in Tarawa, Kiribati

The ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries held consultations with Tuvalu and Kiribati ILO tripartite partners respectively to discuss standard employment contracts (SECs) for migrant workers and relevant human rights and labour standards across key sectors such as fisheries and horticulture. Together this work will improve the rights of migrant workers and is part of the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCCMHS) programme.

Over 800 jobs lost in first six months of Samoa state of emergency

Published by Talamua Online News/Pacnews, 4th March 2021



Downtown Apia, the capital city of Samoa.

Over 800 jobs were lost in the first six months of the Covid-19 State of Emergency in Samoa, which is a year old this month. This is a finding of a Covid-19 Rapid Assessment Impact survey conducted on 119 private companies by the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Apia between December 2019 and June 2020.

"It is quite an impact on the private sector business who could not continue due to the effects of Covid-19. Hugely affected is the tourism sector especially for those in the car rental businesses, tour guides and hotel suppliers," said the ILO National coordinator in Samoa, Tomasi Peni.

Between December 2019 and June 2020, 893 lost jobs with 152 remaining as employees and if things return to normal, 86% of companies would not increase employment rolls again. The startling figures prompted ILO and partners to call a bipartite meeting with employers and employees last month to address the issue.

"We try to organize the employers and employees without the presence of the government so they could speak freely in identifying their priorities, or where they need to prioritize for the next in-country program for Samoa 2021-2024,

He said they are also working on the Employment Policy 2021-2025. The main goal, according to Mr. Peni, is that at the end of the day, both the employer and employee can sit together and create one action plan, one voice and one document to present to the government. ILO can assist with the companies Covid-19 recovery programs and the companies need to provide the set of priorities and action plans they think is most needed.

Samoa may not be directly affected by Covid-19, but people are feeling the impact through different aspects of life.

Pacific Women Continue To Carry Burden Of Informal Business Sector: United Nations

Published in The Vanuatu Daily Post, 11th March 2021



Market vendor in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

As the world marks its second International Women's Day on March 8th since the onset of COVID-19, United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres did not mince his words during his annual statement. "The COVID-19 pandemic has erased decades of progress towards gender equality," he said. "From high job losses to exploding burdens of unpaid care, from disrupted schooling to an escalating crisis of domestic violence and exploitation, women's lives have been upended and their rights eroded."

Common livelihoods for women in the Pacific such as market vending, farming, fishing and daily wage earning, have been particularly devastated, as they make up the informal sector where income is not secure and there is no insurance, paid leave or safety nets. When there are economic shocks and people can't trade, women with informal businesses such as market vendors, have no other way to access money.

Informal sector growth

Published in The Fiji Times, 6th March 2021

THE informal sector has grown significantly over the past 10 months caused by the economic impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic. In Fiji, many of those employed in the tourism and aviation industry saw their lives completely changed with many joining the informal sector through microbusinesses and agro farming with the aim to become entrepreneurs and economically self-sustainable.

ILO Project Coordinator, Edward Bernard said after a rapid assessment by ILO focusing on the impact of COVID on employment and livelihoods, they found that there was a large shift of workers into the informal sector.

Strengthening business sustainability in informal sector

Published in The Fiji Times, 11th March 2021

As the informal sector continues to swell because of job losses and reduced working hours, the United Nations (UN) has embarked on a project aimed at supporting economic recovery through strengthening the long-term sustainability of businesses in the informal sector of Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu. This was highlighted in a joint statement on the occasion of the International Women's Day by the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The statement highlighted that in Fiji, women crafters who were the sole breadwinners in household have experienced more home responsibilities, particularly with children and grandchildren or great-grandchildren being confined. "One crafter shared that she has now used up all her savings and has borrowed money and is now bartering to access the raw materials she needs," the statement said.



A Fijian woman setting up her fruit stall.

Informal Sectors of Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu Key to COVID-19 Economic Recovery



Informal sector micro enterprises continue to swell due to job losses and reduced working hours.

(ILO News) - "With Fiji entering the second year of a COVID-19-altered world, the outlook for its tourism industry remains bleak. Personal income and employment continue to be a serious priority for the ILO, with more than 66.2% of Fijian workers now expected to be working in the informal employment sector." These were the words of ILO Project Officer, Edward Bernard, during a series of workshops targeted at the creative and agriculture sectors.

As the informal sector continues to swell due to job losses and reduced working hours, the United Nations has embarked on a project aimed at supporting economic recovery through strengthening the long-term sustainability of businesses in the informal sector of Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Informal employment is usually characterized by a lack of structure, including non-regular working hours and a lack of access to secure benefits, welfare protection or representation. However, as it accounts for more than half of all jobs in Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu, it has quickly been identified as a key driver for economic recovery across the Pacific region in the post-COVID19 era.

A joint initiative between the ILO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the new UN project convened a series of meetings this week that brought together Key Business Development Service Providers including the Fiji National

Provident Fund, Vodafone, Ministry of Commerce, Tourism, Trade and Transport, as well as informal sector farmers and creative artist associations such as the Fiji Arts Council and Pacific Islands Farmers Network.

"The focus of this week has been on informing the development of innovative national services," said Mr. Bernard. "We want to make business development services as accessible as possible to informal sector micro enterprises; particularly those made vulnerable by COVID-19 in the creative and agriculture sectors. This is an important step in creating financial stability, amongst this fast-growing segment of society, thereby fueling a swifter economic recovery"

In the course of the next few months, three specific types of services will be tailored for and delivered to affected micro enterprises, including business training, business advisory services and business mentoring.

This initiative is implemented in the context of a joint project entitled "**Inclusive Economic Recovery through Sustainable Enterprises in the Informal Economies of Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu**", and funded by the UN Secretary General's Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) for COVID-19 recovery.



UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund
#RecoverBetterTogether

Business training for redundant tourism workers in Fiji



Mentoring session by Women Entrepreneurs & Business Council - WEBC



Mentoring session by Women Entrepreneurs & Business Council - WEBC

In response to a training needs analysis (TNA) and the 2020 Rapid Assessment on the impact of COVID-19, a final round of business training, advisory and mentoring has been completed.

The training was delivered by the ILO supported bipartite COVID-19 recovery initiative titled Transition to Business (T2B) led by the FTUC and Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation (FCEF).

80% of redundant workers who had started micro business indicated in a TNA conducted by the ILO and Fiji Trades Union Congress-FTUC that they have never received any business training.

The pilot initiative targeted 39 redundant tourism sector workers of which 70% were women and have a total of 84 children and 40 adults entirely dependent on them.

The T2B initiative also supported 20 of the women micro entrepreneurs become members of the Women Entrepreneurs & Business Council - WEBC allowing them to increase their networks, receive further mentoring and access further business development services (BDS).

The training component included business finance, marketing, record keeping and business continuity planning and was supported by FCEF's Fiji Enterprise Engine. Business advisory was supported by Business Link Pacific based within FCEF.

ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment at Work C190 - Fiji Validation Workshop



Opening session at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji

The ILO held a validation workshop for stakeholders in Suva, Fiji, on the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment at Work C.190, aiming to assess the scope of required law & policy reform. Ratification of C.190 is the first step toward elimination of Violence and Harassment in the world of work in Fiji.

The ILO is providing technical assistance in various forms, including drafting national legislation and help countries address problems in legislation and practice in compliance with international labour standards. One of the forms of the technical assistance are legal reviews to assess compliance of national legislation, policies and practices with ILO Conventions.

Violence and harassment in the world of work remains a widespread phenomenon, present in all countries and disregarding sectors, occupations and work arrangements.

With the adoption of the C.190, the global community has made it clear that Violence and Harassment will not be tolerated and must end.

In 2020 Samoa has committed to ratify C190, and a few more countries in the Pacific are considering the perspectives for the ratification.(February 2021)

Highlights of recent events and trainings

Pacific Countries participate in Labour migration e-academy training



ITCILO completed a six week long e-academy on labour migration in bringing on board 47 participants from 11 Pacific countries. The e-academy on labour migration (e-LMA) offered participants a unique opportunity to benefit from a diversified training package, exploring fair and effective labour migration governance, linkages between migration and sustainable development, and instruments and mechanisms for protecting migrants' and their families' rights.

At the end of the training, participants were able to significantly increase their knowledge and understanding on key issues and policies regarding labour migration at the global and regional level, and also from a gender perspective.

It also created an opportunity to promote migration-development linkages, human security and rights-based approaches to labour migration policies and programmes at national, regional and international levels. (December 2020)

Solomon Islands launches Rapid Assessment Report on the impact of COVID-19 on Employment and Business



Food stall in Solomon Islands

The ILO supported Rapid Assessment report on the Impact of COVID-19 on Employment & Businesses in Solomon Islands has been launched, as part of the COVID-19 MPTF project 'Supporting Solomon Islands marketplaces to respond to twin crises of COVID-19 & Tropical Cyclone Harold'.

The ILO looks forward to working closely with its tripartite partners and with support from other UN agencies and development partners that we will be able to into place actions from the recommendation provided by this report that will benefit the entire country.

Organizing in the informal sector



The ILO hosted a webinar on "Organizing in the informal sector, in the context of COVID-19" to equip Pacific unions on strategies and best practices, as Pacific Workers Organizations embark on reaching out to informal sector workers. Technically supported by the Bureau for Workers' Activities ILO ACTRAV, the Alliance of Workers in the Informal Economy/Sector shared their experiences, challenges and success in the Philippines.

The objective of this initiative is to give informal sector workers, particularly in the creative industries and agriculture, an identity and voice at national policy level.

The webinar was organised in the context of a UN United Nations in the Pacific funded COVID-19 recovery project titled "Inclusive Economic Recovery through Sustainable Enterprises in the Informal Economies" jointly implemented by the ILO, UNESCO, UNDP & IFAD. (February 2021)

Good and effective governance training

Published by Fiji One TV News, 29 September 2020



Online participants - Good and effective Governance online workshop.

Members of the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) Board and staff participated in an online training by the ILO's International Training Centre Programme for Employers Activities (ITC-ILO/ACTEMP)). The ITC is the training arm of the ILO and runs training, learning and capacity development services for governments, employers' organizations, workers' organizations and other national and international partners in support of Decent Work and sustainable development. It is based in Turin, Italy.

The online workshop was on Good and effective Governance for PIPSO. It is a training area that was identified by the Board to be held as PIPSO is undergoing organisational reforms, and timely to undertake such a training as a refresher.

Leading up to the workshop, ITC conducted a survey with present and past PIPSO Board members, and the feedback and results helped formulate and tailor the workshop content specifically for PIPSO.

The three-hour workshop covered the principles, and the institutions and instruments of good governance and included specificities pertaining to and to apply to Employers and Business Member Organizations like PIPSO, and its members. It was especially interesting to hear of similar challenges being faced by EBMO's in other regions and the lessons and best practices shared.

PIPSO CEO Alisi Tuqa extended her gratitude to ITC and ILO ACTEMP and added that, "this workshop supports and complements the work PIPSO is doing internally, and reinforced by the cooperation agreement signed recently to further promote a more structured, strategic and sustainable approach to capacity building of Employer and Business Membership Organisations in the region."

ILO supports Cook Islands to publish and launch Labour Force Survey



Congratulations to Cook Islands on the Launch of the Labour Force Survey Report. The report findings will serve, among others, to better policy-making for COVID-19 socio-economic recovery.

To access the report visit: <http://intaff.gov.ck>

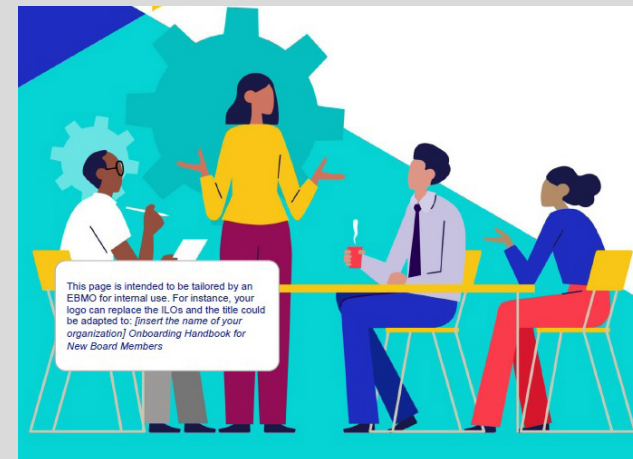
Customer Relations Management (CRM) customized software for Pacific EMBO's



The ILO and ITC-ILO launched a new collaboration to make available to Pacific EBMOs the customized Customer Relations Management (CRM) software for Employers' Organizations. In this first phase of the collaboration, eight Pacific EBMOs will receive a version of the software tailored to their organization's needs, training on its use, and guidance and support to undertake and respond to business process reviews and strategies for success.

The CRM software aims to support Pacific EBMO to have stronger capacities to retain, expand and involve membership in their work; to professionalize their way of managing relations with members; to improve their communication with companies; and to have more effective systems and dashboards to share information internally. (March 2021)

Data collection challenges and opportunities



ILO has published a guide for Pacific EBMOs on the prospects for collecting and effectively using data on wages and productivity. The publication reviews the definitions of these concepts and examines case studies from other employer and business membership organizations on collecting wage and productivity data.

It also assesses the opportunities and challenges that these types of organizations face in data collection and use, and it reviews deployment strategies for data collection tools. Work is now getting underway with EBMO in Fiji and Samoa to pilot the survey instrument and provide feedback on practical application. (March 2021)

Programme and project highlights

Papua New Guinea - Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade STREIT Project Update

With 2020 and the challenges faced with Covid-19, the Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade (STREIT) Project in PNG has successfully set up office in Wewak, East Sepik Province, PNG, and more staff will be joining the team in 2021.

Community Contract documents have been completed with support from the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and ILO Headquarters.

Road Inventory and Condition Surveying has been conducted on approximately 200km feeder and ring roads in addition to community mobilization, sensitization and selection of Road Maintenance Groups (RMGs).

RMGs practical demonstration training on routine road maintenance and distribution of tools, equipment and safety gear has started. GIS/mapping, including digitization and mapping of relevant data to help support the project is well underway.

The ILO STREIT 2021 workplan is being developed in close coordination with the Provincial, District and Local Level Governments by identifying unfunded priority roads that support the agricultural value chain for cocoa, vanilla and fisheries, and where necessary realigning the plans to void duplication of interventions by both parties.



Road Maintenance Groups in Wewak PNG



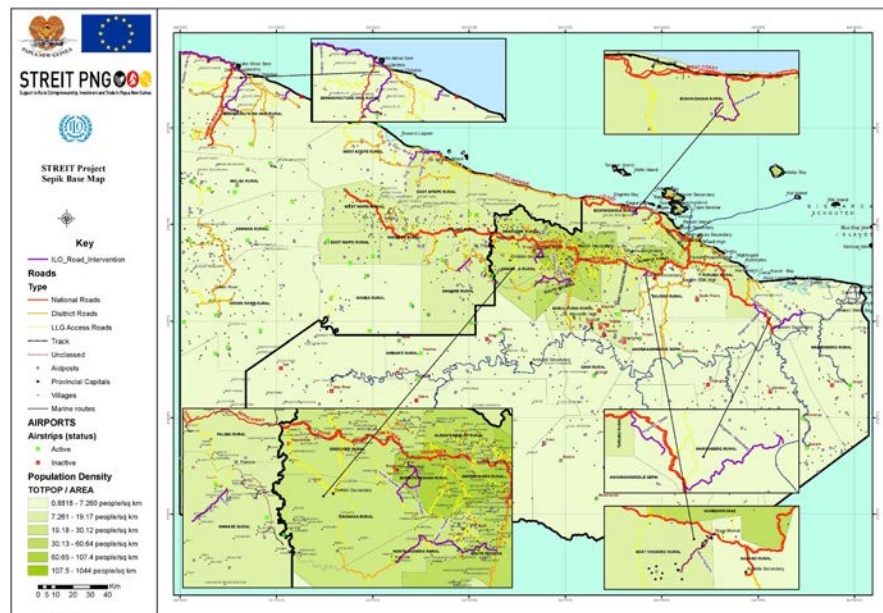
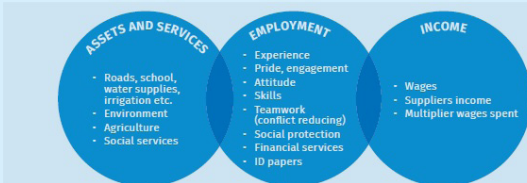
Road Maintenance Groups in Wewak PNG

Did you know?

The impact of Employment Intensive Investment Programmes (EIIP) work is two-fold. In the short term, there are immediate effects resulting from the programme's job creation activities, which provide much needed cash income to households who often rely on informal work and subsistence farming for their livelihoods.

This income can be used to enhance people's quality of life, such as by improving their farming practices, upgrading housing, increasing assets, financing health and education, and paying off their debts. It can also be used to improve households' resilience to external threats, such as floods, droughts and other calamities. In addition, these income-generating activities have multiplier effects through an increased spending on goods and services in the surrounding areas.

Benefit of EIIP Projects



ILO road intervention map Sepik basin

The European Union co-funded programme "Support to Rural Entrepreneurship, Investment and Trade in Papua New Guinea (STREIT)" is implemented under the leadership of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in partnership with the ILO, ITU, UNCDF and UNDP, and in close collaboration with the Government of PNG and local partners.

Measurement, Awareness Raising, and Policy Engagement - MAP 16 Fiji project update

Raising Child Labour awareness in Fiji

The ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries in collaboration with Save the Children Fund with support from the Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation (FCEF); Fiji Trade Unions Congress (FTUC); Homes of Hope; Ministry of Employment, Productivity, and Industrial Relations; Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and Fiji Council of Social Services convened an outreach and advocacy programme in Qauia Village.

The outreach programme provided a safe space for mothers to enquire on business startups, the youths were referred to National Employment Centre to discuss employment opportunities, the elderly and single mothers were referred to the Department of Social Welfare, young mothers were informed of the services provided by the Homes of Hope.

The Fiji Council of Social Services provided a background on the services provided in terms of micro-finance. The Fiji Trade Union Congress provided a background on their role on the fight against child labour and in assisting teachers to be equipped with the correct information on the subject of child labour.

The awareness session enabled parents and care givers to be informed on current legislations, which outlines the protection of children including if children are to work, that there are provisions that must be followed. This outreach activity was attended by church, community leaders, youths and women from the community.



Supporting Fiji's Child Labour Policies

Key stakeholder at a tripartite workshop deliberated on the draft Fiji National Child Labour Policy; List of Light Work for Children and List of Artistic, Performing and Entertainment Industries and List of Hazardous Occupations Prohibited to Children under 18 Years of Age Order of 2013.

The consultation covers priorities (1) and (2) of the MAP 16 Project which are: (1) Support is provided to the development of Fiji National Child Labour Policy; (2) The legal framework on child labour in Fiji is up-to-date and in line with relevant international conventions.



Let's Unite for 2021 - The UN International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour



20th November 2020 marked Universal Children's Day, The ILO Pacific Office Map16 Project used the occasion to initiate a call for Action to TAKE A STAND to protect children's rights, amongst ILO colleagues and UN staff in Suva, Fiji to raise awareness on the Let's unite for 2021 - the UN International Year for the elimination of Child Labour.



Elena Gerasimova, Decent Work and International Labour Standards specialist and Victoria Yee, MAP16 project officer on the FijiOne Breakfast show, speaking on the launch of the 1st UN International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour #EndChildLabour2021 (January 2021)

Take Action to End Child Labour

It's time to move from commitments to action

2021 is the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, We are making progress. Child labour has decreased by 38% in the last decade. But, 152 million children are still in child labour. It's time to accelerate the pace of progress. It's time to inspire legislative and practical actions to eliminate child labour for good.

Stakeholders at all levels

Are you ready to submit your 2021 Action Pledge?
The deadline is 30 March 2021

We are calling on all stakeholders to choose a specific action that contributes to ending child labour and which can be achieved by December 2021. These actions, or 2021 Action Pledges as we call them, will pave the way to ending child labour by 2025. We expect thousands of 2021 Action Pledges, in line with our three-pillar strategy:



Get started here:

<https://endchildlabour2021.org/take-action/stakeholders/>



Practical guide tips

Think carefully about what your country, organization or you yourself want to share so that others can learn from your experiences.

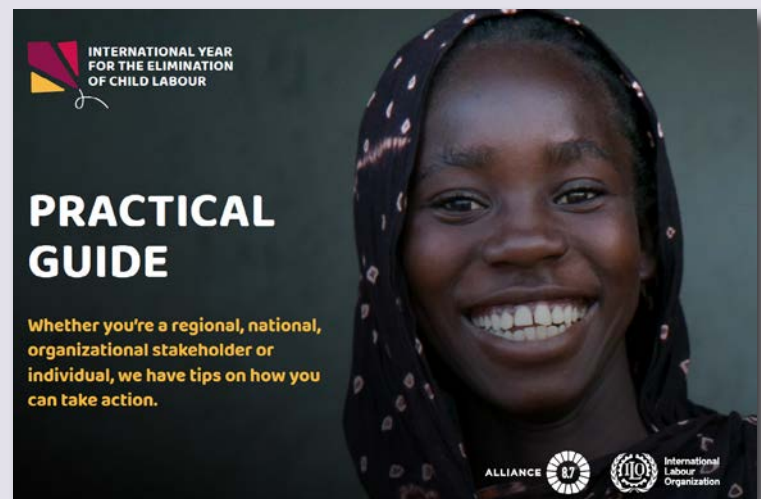
When choosing an Action Pledge, ask yourself:

- What one action would you be most proud of?
- Which specific steps will need to be taken and what resources need to be mobilized to achieve this action by the end of 2021?
- How will you assess that the pledge has been fulfilled?

When formulating your Action Pledge, you will need to answer the following questions in the submission form:

- Name of your Action Pledge (max 20 words)
- How will you implement your 2021 Action Pledge?
- How will your Action Pledge contribute to ending child labour by 2025? (max 100 words)
- How will you communicate about this 2021 Action Pledge?

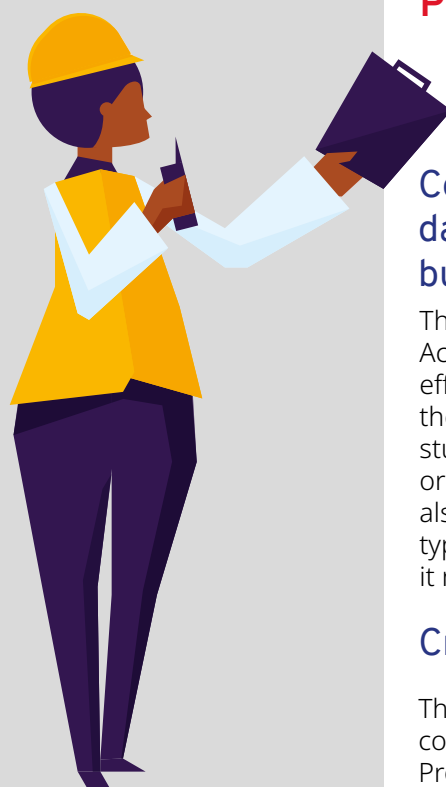
*This last one is key as regular communication about the implementation process will not only inspire others to follow your lead but will also show how these commitments are turned into real action.



Use the practical guide to find examples of 2021 Action Pledges tailored to each stakeholder group, as well as tips on how to inspire others and scale up.

<https://endchildlabour2021.org/practical-guide/>

For **pledge assistance** please contact:
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Publications and information material

The ILO publishes a wide range of books, reports, working papers, training manuals, videos and multi-media material, relevant to the Pacific. They can be downloaded directly from the ILO CO-Suva website <https://www.ilo.org/suva> or send your requests for e-copies to: suva@ilo.org

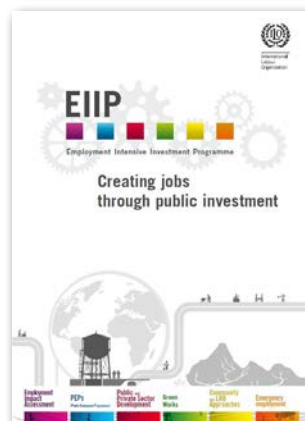
Collecting and using wage and productivity data - A guide for Pacific employers and business membership organizations

This guide, produced by the Bureau for Employers' Activities, examines the prospects for collecting and effectively using data on wages and productivity. It reviews the definitions of these concepts and examines case studies from other employer and business membership organizations on collecting wage and productivity data. It also assesses the opportunities and challenges that these types of organizations face in data collection and use, and it reviews deployment strategies for data collection tools.



Creating jobs through public investment

This document provides information about the main components of the Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) of the ILO, namely Employment Impact Assessment, Public Employment Programmes (PEPs), Public and Private Sector Development, Green Works, Community and Local Resource-Based Approaches, and Emergency Employment.



COVID-19: ILO Monitor - 7th edition

Uncertain and uneven recovery expected following unprecedented labour market crisis

The latest analysis of the labour market impact of COVID-19 by the ILO, records massive damage to working time and income, with prospects for a recovery in 2021 slow, uneven and uncertain unless early improvements are supported by human-centred recovery policies.



Onboarding handbook for board members of small employer and business membership organizations

This handbook will assist small employer and business membership organizations (EBMOs) to transition towards more structured and formal governance measures. It contains information about the business of representing business and general best practices for EBMO governance.



DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is published by ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries, the opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official views of ILO.

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