



International
Labour
Organization



Brazil ILO Cooperation

► March 2023

Brazil is a founding member State of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and a key partner in the promotion of the Decent Work Agenda. Brazil has ratified 98 Conventions, including eight Fundamental, three Governance and 87 Technical Conventions.

Brazil's contribution to the ILO

Brazil's many successes in a range of public policy areas – such as combatting child and forced labour – have received growing attention from the international community. This has led other developing countries to explore new areas of collaboration with Brazil as a development partner.

From 2005 Brazil has contributed more than US\$ 30 million to the ILO for projects in Brazil itself, through direct trust funds, but also in more than 35 developing countries, within the context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), all with the aim of pursuing the ILO's four strategic objectives, namely rights at work, employment, social protection, and social dialogue.

Although, initially, the focus of SSTC endeavours has been on fighting child labour and promoting social protection, there has been a shift to include other decent work areas, such as eliminating forced labour, promoting green jobs, sectoral matters, fundamental principles and rights at work, promoting gender equality and migration.

A legal framework agreement was signed in March 2009 by the ILO Director-General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, entitled the "[Complementary Agreement to the Technical Cooperation Agreement with Latin American and African Countries for the Implementation of the ILO - Brazil Partnership Programme for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation.](#)" In 2023, Brazil has renewed its commitment to the promotion of social justice and decent work.

Brazil's development cooperation priorities

One of [the Brazilian Government's priorities](#) is the promotion of South-South cooperation to find short- and medium-term solutions to combat hunger and poverty and to foster decent work and the conditions necessary to improve human development indexes worldwide. Based on solidarity diplomacy, egalitarian and horizontal partnerships and non-conditionality, Brazilian cooperation has been increasingly recognized by developing countries for its ease of implementation. The experience gained from facing similar challenges on the road to development makes Brazilian expertise and technology not only effective but also has the potential to be adapted to the reality of other developing nations.

►► The dream of a country of equal opportunities, of a generous country, committed to good humanitarian, environmental and social justice causes, of a country that walks towards development and takes good care of its people, is the dream that we need to realize in practice and in a very concrete way in our work and in our lives.”

► Maria Laura Da Rocha Silva, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil

► ILO- Brazil South-South cooperation at a glance

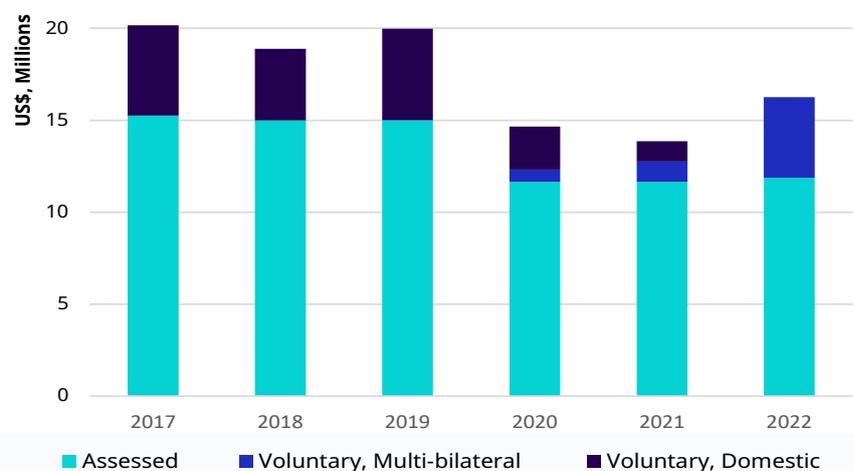
The South-South Cooperation initiative between Brazil and the ILO began following an [Agreement from 1987](#) that included cooperation between Brazil, Latin America, and Africa. It is also within the framework of the overall United Nations South-South Cooperation impetus (Nairobi, 2009) and the ILO's Strategy (2012) for the promotion of SSTC. Initial consultations and activities with the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC) took place in 2005, during the South-South cooperation programme's inception phase. In 2005, initial activities took place, with the aforementioned Complementary Agreement finalized in 2009. This agreement organized the cooperation under the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda, giving priority to promoting the fundamental principles and rights at work and social protection for all. It still serves as an umbrella for all ILO-Brazil initiatives.

Brazil's financial contribution to the ILO

Brazil funds the ILO through:

- **Assessed contributions**, which are paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. Brazil provided **US\$ 80.4 million** between 2017 and 2022.
- **Voluntary contributions** earmarked to priority programmes, regions and projects both within Brazil (domestic funding) and in other countries (multi-bilateral funding). Between 2017 and 2022, Brazil's voluntary contributions totalled **US\$ 23.4 million**.

► Brazil's total contributions to the ILO 2017-2022, US\$, Millions



► Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour (2014 - ongoing)

This initiative was established in 2014 as an intergovernmental cooperation instrument that builds on more than 20 years of regional experience on the prevention and eradication of child labour. Its objective is to foster innovative strategies against child labour and contribute to achieving Target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda. The initiative's role in information and knowledge generation and in facilitating targeted exchanges and collaboration between governments, workers, the private sector, and civil society actors has been a catalyst for South-South cooperation becoming a primary modality for development cooperation between regional stakeholders. This regional Initiative was also

able to recognize a common demand for capacity-building within the Caribbean to address the school to work transition and identified Brazil as the most appropriate service provider based on its experience and good practices in apprenticeships and child labour inspections.



► Global Conferences on Combatting Child Labour and Forced Labour: From Brasilia (2013) to Durban (2022)

Brazil hosted the [Third Global Conference on Child Labour](#) in October 2013 with the logistical support of the ILO. Participants of this global conference agreed to the Brasilia Declaration, which stresses the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation to promote the acceleration of the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

The last edition of this Global Conference took place in May 2022 in Durban, South Africa, where the Government of Brazil and the ILO co-organized two side events: 1) "South-South Cooperation: Good Practices of Labour Inspection on the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour," with the participation of the Labour Inspectorates of Uruguay, Cape Verde, Peru and Portugal, and 2) "The use of technology as a tool for eradicating child labour: IPÊ Child Labour Reporting System".

► **Consolidating the progress of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, especially in the Caribbean region (2021-2024)**

With the objective of contributing to the consolidation of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free from Child Labour, the project aims for Brazil to contribute once again to tangible progress in the area of child labour in the countries of Latin America, especially the Caribbean, sharing its experience in labour inspection, data generation and local articulation policy for national efforts to combat child labour. To this end, the two aforementioned events at the Fifth Global Conference on Combating Child Labour and Forced Labour were organized within the framework of this project. In addition, in June 2022, the South-South Cooperation webinar series took place with the aim of deepening discussions on this topic and recording Brazilian experiences of interest to each of the participating countries.

► **Strengthening strategies to prevent and eradicate child labour, slave labour and trafficking in persons (2022-25) in Latin America and the Caribbean**



The project promotes the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in the Latin American and Caribbean, in close collaboration with Ministry of Social Development of Brazil. Through a pilot test being carried out in Brazil, the country's knowledge of child labour, forced labour and human trafficking will be expanded to enhance the responsiveness of social assistance policies, considering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This knowledge will be disseminated through the Latin American and Caribbean Free of Child Labour Regional Initiative by sharing best practices and successful case studies. It also intends to form a South-South child protection network focused on borders.

► **Promoting decent work in cotton producing countries in Africa and Latin America (2014-2024)**

South-South cooperation for the promotion of decent work in five cotton-producing countries in Africa and Latin America is an umbrella project which aims to promote decent work through the systematization, sharing and adaptation of Brazilian experiences. To this effect, the Government of Brazil and the ILO have organized prospecting missions, executing, and monitoring South-South Trilateral technical cooperation activities, which are being implemented as defined in country-projects formulated in partnership with the cooperating countries. The main results of the project include: i) massive campaigns to end child labour in Paraguay, focusing on agriculture, and in Peru, on occupational health and safety; ii) the creation of a Mobile Group to Combat Child Labour in Mali; (iii) a new statute and strategy for the National Forum of Cotton Producers (FONPA) in Mozambique; and (iv) a new national project related to

cotton production under development in Tanzania. These actions are aligned with country development strategies and integrated with South-South cooperation initiatives between the Brazilian Government and other nations. This is one of the largest South-South Cooperation projects, with a budget of US\$ 8.0 million.



► **Brazil-India Cooperation on Social Protection (2022-2023)**

India and Brazil, members of BRICS group, are two leading emerging economies in their regions. Concerning the landscape of social protection, Brazil has an advanced social protection system that includes universal health protection and the ratification of C102 in 2009. This SSC provides an opportunity for India to learn more about some good practices on social protection in Brazil, especially in the topic of income redistribution through public financing mechanisms. India's large population could benefit greatly, especially in this moment of strong economic growth, from a gradual redesign of its social protection policies/strategies and of its social protection financing mechanisms. As a result of this expanded inter-regional cooperation network, Brazil and India will be able to showcase their successful social protection practices and benefit from good practices in other countries. This initiative is funded by the South-South allocation to the regional budget.

► Promote Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work through South-South Cooperation (2023- 26)

The project “Consolidation of the Brazil-ILO South-South Cooperation Program for the Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work” aims to expand, consolidate the results, and diversify the actors of the Brazil-ILO Trilateral South-South Cooperation Program in three developing countries in Africa and Latin America. To achieve target 8.7, it is paramount that Labour Inspections evolve, acting in a planned and participative strategic manner, with a proactive approach, with the definition of priorities, according to diagnosis of the causes of non-compliance. Through the systematisation of Brazilian experiences, their exchange and adaptation in the countries involved, the Brazilian government and the ILO will establish missions of prospection, execution, and monitoring of the development of trilateral South-South cooperation activities to be implemented through



projects developed in partnership with the countries concerned. The project will also promote Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) as a new fundamental principle and right at work, while stimulating peer learning in the Americas and Africa. This initiative will have a total budget of US\$4 million for a 48-months period of implementation.

► Partnership with the federal Labour Prosecutions Service (MPT) (2016 – ongoing)

The MPT is a key institution in the field of labour legislation in Brazil. One of its mechanisms of action includes imposing fines and distributing compensation to repair the damage caused to victims of labour rights violations. In 2016, the Labour Prosecutor’s Office of the MPT and the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean signed a Cooperation Agreement according to which the MPT allocates the resources derived from fines or indemnities to the ILO to support projects aimed at promoting decent work in Brazil,

empowering vulnerable groups -such as immigrants, LGBTQIA+ groups and traditional populations- and communities and preventing child and forced labour.

The Agreement has led to the expansion of the knowledge base to support the strategic orientation of labour inspections and contribute to improving safety and health in the workplace. Training was also developed and delivered, and quality information on labour rights was developed and disseminated to reduce vulnerabilities.

► Enhancing the capacities of Labour Inspectorates to eradicate child labour in Portuguese Speaking Countries in Africa (2022-2023)



In March 2021, the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) adopted a Declaration and Plan of Action to Combat Child Labour, 2021-2025 and approved an agreement to join Alliance 8.7, the global partnership to catalyse action on SDG Target 8.7 on eradicating forced labour, ending modern slavery and human trafficking and the elimination of child labour, including its worst forms. In 2023, the project will assess with partners how best to integrate work on OSH as well as facilitate a knowledge sharing space for the dissemination and understanding of the guidelines. This activity is funded by a South-South allocation from the Government of Brazil to the regional budget and is aimed at building and reinforcing partnerships between Labour Inspectorates of the participant countries to enhance their capacities to identify, prevent and remedy child labour cases. This is done with the collaboration of ITC-Turin and ILO Partnerships' Department.

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