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NEW EVIDENCE

What works to support women becoming better entrepreneurs? Recent evidence from an ILO program in Kenya

A recently finalized 4 year impact assessment has found encouraging results on the effectiveness of ILO's training interventions to support women entrepreneurs. The training program (GET Ahead) significantly improves beneficiaries' income in the long run. The randomized control trial with a sample of 3500 women entrepreneurs shows that three years after the training the weekly sales increase by 18% and the weekly profits by 15%. There is also a positive impact on subjective well-being and mental health. The cost benefit analysis shows that the cost of the training per participant of USD 200 is recovered in 1.5 years only accounting for the increase in profits. For more see [here](#).

New ILO Series of Policy Briefs on What Works in SME Development

We have come out with a new series of policy briefs presenting key evidence from ILO on what works and what does not work in promoting SMEs. The objective is to present the results of solid impact research in a concise and readable way, written for policy makers and practitioners who don't have time to read long academic papers. You can find the first two briefs [here](#).

PROJECT NEWS



Chinese work safety agency will scale up ILO SCORE training program

As part of their strategy to improve compliance of SMEs on occupational safety regulations the State Administration for Work Safety in China (SAWS) will roll out SCORE training modules on workplace cooperation and occupational safety and health to 1000 SMEs in Zhejiang province in the next two years. [SCORE](#) (Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises) is a practical training and in-factory consulting programme that improves productivity and working conditions in SMEs. The programme receives financial support from Norway and Switzerland.

Youth employment project in Cabo Verde

The new 3.6 million USD program will support the Cape-Verdean government to improve vocational and entrepreneurship training. The entrepreneurship component will build on the ILO's training package [Start and Improve Your Business \(SIYB\)](#). The joint ILO/UNDP project receives funding from Luxembourg.

MOZTRABALHA Project kicks-off in Mozambique

The ILO and the Government of Mozambique with funding from Sweden have launched a new five-year project on the promotion of Decent Work for Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Transformation in Mozambique, also known as the “MOZTRABALHA” project. The project will look to create and improve employment outcomes in both urban and rural areas by implementing employment-intensive market infrastructure investments, stimulating Green Jobs through SME development, and creating employment opportunities for women and female-headed households.

Youth and Women Empowerment Project (YWEP) in Zimbabwe

Kicking off in June 2017, the 3-year AfDB-funded Youth and Women Empowerment Project (YWEP) in Zimbabwe aims to create employment opportunities for women and youth in vulnerable economic situations. To help shape the project's interventions, ILO just completed a rapid market assessment of the target sectors and made recommendations for addressing the issues preventing enterprise and job growth for the target group.

Event on the role of cooperation for the future of work

On the eve of the symposium “Future of Work We Want: A Global Dialogue”, ILO organized a discussion on the role of cooperation in a changing world of work at the Headquarters in Geneva on 5th April 2017. The speakers included researchers who highlighted the contributions and potential of cooperation for the future of work. The lively discussion from the audience on issues such as regulatory frameworks for cooperatives, governance challenges and coop-trade union relations reconfirmed the relevance and importance of the topic for further exploration. The ILO will continue its active engagement on this topic in close coordination with its constituents and in partnership with the cooperative movement. [More](#)

ILO and UNFCCC team up to boost action on just transition and decent work in the context of climate change

GENEVA / BONN 14 March – An agreement to promote decent work and a ‘just transition’ of the workforce towards sustainable economies and societies for all has been signed by the UN’s labour and climate change organizations. The move follows the adoption and entry-into-force of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate agreement that aims to deliver a climate stable future for every man, woman and child. [More](#)

World green economy leaders look for ways to spark a new green revolution

Bonn 27 March - Leading economists, CEOs, ministers, heads of UN agencies and high-level representatives from nongovernmental organizations meet in Berlin on 27-28 March 2017 to boost the green economy and set a path to the 2030 Agenda. Countries have donated close to €15 million so far while Uruguay and Guyana have joined the Partnership for Action on Green Economy. [More](#)

A just transition to environmental sustainability added as new cross-cutting policy driver in ILO Programme and Budget

Geneva - The 329th session of the ILO Governing Body approved in March 2017 proposals to add a just transition to environmental sustainability as a new fourth cross-cutting policy driver in the 2018-19 ILO Programme and Budget, alongside the established themes of international labour standards, social dialogue, and gender

equality and non-discrimination, for the International Labour Conference in June 2017 to adopt a resolution on the matter. [More](#)

FRESH OFF THE NEW PRESS



Procurement from SMEs in Global Supply Chains: What are the good practices?

This series of four case studies is part of the ILO's research on procurement practices from small and medium enterprises in global supply chains. The case studies are providing practical examples of procurement practices put into place by lead firms with the explicit objective of having a positive impact on their SME suppliers in developing countries. For more see [here](#).



ILO-UNHCR "Guide to market-based livelihood interventions for refugees"

This guide takes a new and more holistic approach in securing refugee livelihoods. It shows how to do market and value chain analysis in order to identify sustainable job opportunities for refugees. The guide draws on experiences and lessons learnt from joint UNHCR-ILO assessments in Costa Rica, Egypt, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa and Zambia. For more see [here](#).

Supporting women entrepreneurs in East Africa to do cross border trade

The East African Community Secretariat (EAC) launched "A Simplified Guide for Micro and Small-Scale Women Cross Border Traders and Service Providers within the East African Community". The five modules help women traders better understand and comply with rules and regulations within the region. The guide was developed by the ILO's Women's Entrepreneurship Development and Economic Empowerment with support from Irish Aid. For more see [here](#).

The Science in Adaptive Management: Learning from natural science to help us better navigate through market systems projects

'Adaptive management' is all the rage in international development circles, and particularly within those that operate in market systems development. But to avoid it

from becoming yet another buzzword with little impact significance – we must learn from the experiences of those that have used the approach before. [This paper](#) looks to tap into those experiences in the field of natural resource science while relating them to the often tricky nature of managing a market systems development project.



Creating shared value in the Dominican Republic banana industry: A market systems analysis of plantation business performance and worker wage

Have you ever tried to advocate that an employer pays its workers better wages? It's certainly no easy feat. Many employers would like to pay workers more, but in a competitive business environment with tight margins, it is often difficult to justify increases to a core operating cost, particularly when that means paying above the market rate. But what if you could make the argument, with evidence, that paying better wages is actually better for business? The Lab, in collaboration with the Fairtrade Foundation, set-out to do just that in the Dominican Republic. By using a market systems analysis, the Lab identified key operating constraints to banana plantations and potential “win-win” solutions that can lead to improved business performance and better worker’s wages. For more see [here](#).



Action Research in Peru Wraps Up

The Lab’s action research initiative to improve working conditions in Peru’s wood and furniture sector came to a close in January 2017. Based on one year of action research the Lab managed to work with public agencies to provide employers a financial incentive for improving working conditions on forestry plantations, jump-start a program assisting workers without formal education to find more secure and better paid employment, provide coverage to workers insufficiently protected by health insurance, and unlock the potential of export markets. For more see [here](#).



Green Business Booklet

Green business plays an essential role in the move towards a more sustainable model of development and in responding to challenges such as climate change. For the entrepreneur, it makes business sense too, given the benefits – including access to markets, improved productivity and cost savings -

that can be derived from going green. The Green Business Booklet helps aspiring entrepreneurs to come up with a green business idea and existing entrepreneurs to green their businesses. It is part of the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) series of products and Green Jobs packages, and was produced jointly by the Enterprises Department and Decent Work Team for South Asia. The booklet can be downloaded from [here](#) and [here](#).

Public policies for the Social and Solidarity Economy: Towards an enabling environment: The case of South Africa

[This report](#) analyses the overall context and the evolution of the process that has fostered a favourable policy framework for Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in South Africa. The SSE refer to a growing field of economic activities comprising organizations and companies which are driven by values and practices associated with basic needs, inclusion, equity and sustainability. Many governments have prioritised the strengthening of the SSE in their national strategies particularly in relation to employment generation. The ILO has a long tradition and extensive experience on SSE. As part of a broader study on SSE Public Policies, the ILO have elaborated some cases which outline main features of public policies for SSE including legal frameworks, government policies, development programmes and institutional reforms. Following four case studies for [the Philippines](#), [Europe](#), [Brazil](#) and [Nicaragua](#), this report reviews the case of South Africa where specific public policies have been formulated to support SSE.

The Future of Work Issue Note “Cooperation in a changing world of work: Towards a cooperative future”

ILO’s Future of Work Issue Note Series looks at the changes that are taking place in the world of work. This note, sixth in the series, highlights the role of cooperative way of doing business as a way to respond to technological, demographic, economic and environmental changes that are affecting the world of work. This issue note is available in [English](#), [Arabic](#) and [Japanese](#).

Providing Care through Cooperatives 2: Literature Review and Case Studies

Cooperatives are emerging as an innovative type of care provider, particularly in the absence of viable public or other private options. [This report](#) was produced as part of a

research initiative on the provision of care through cooperatives. The second part of the research complements the findings of an [earlier report](#) that focused on findings from survey and interviews. The new report presents 16 brief case studies of cooperatives from all the continents providing care, in addition to a literature review.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ILO/OECD course on productivity and working conditions in SMEs

The new ILO/OECD course on productivity and working conditions in SMEs tested for the first time last year in ASEAN will be replicated for Latin American countries from 18 to 21 September 2017 in Lima, Peru. The course is for senior officials of ministries, SME agencies, and productivity boards covering measurement concepts, drivers of productivity, and enterprise level interventions.

COPAC Technical Working Group Meeting

On 11th to 12th May 2017, the ILO will organize a technical working group meeting on cooperative statistics as a new chair of the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives ([COPAC](#)). In its 76th Annual Board meeting on 29th March 2017 in Geneva, COPAC welcomed the ILO as an incoming chair for the next two years and re-committed to continued collaboration on advocating for cooperative enterprises, with a specific focus on the ongoing joint work for cooperative statistics.

The 8th Edition of the ILO Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy

On 26th to 30th June 2017, the ILO will organize [the 8th ILO Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy](#) (SSE) in Seoul, Republic of Korea in collaboration with the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF). The main objective of the Academy is to generate a better understanding of the concept of SSE and its possible contribution to social innovation in the world of work. The 8th edition's theme is "Innovative Ecosystem for SSE Public Policies - A Contribution to the Future of Work". For further information, you can check the [ILO Academy's website](#). In case you want to participate, please apply from [here](#).

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