



Closing knowledge gaps on labour market programmes: Advancing evidence for data, design, monitoring and delivery in developing countries

An ILO–World Bank collaboration to generate high-quality, comparable data on active labour market programmes, advancing evidence-based policies that support decent jobs, social protection, and inclusive development



International
Labour
Organization



GLOBAL
ACCELERATOR
JOBS / SOCIAL PROTECTION / JUST TRANSITIONS



WORLD BANK GROUP
Social Protection



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Government
of Ireland
International
Development
Programme



KOREA
Sharing Hope Sharing Future



MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA
Y COOPERACIÓN



Cooperación
Española

Why it matters

Active labour market policies and programmes (ALMPs)—e.g., employment services, training, employment subsidies, entrepreneurship promotion, and public works—are instrumental in promoting decent jobs and universal social protection, and are increasingly deployed in developing countries. However, comparable and quality data on ALMPs is mostly limited to high-income countries while data for developing countries is rarely available, fragmented and outdated. This represents a major knowledge gap to understand how ALMPS are designed, financed, implemented and monitored in developing countries.

Without reliable and comparable data, policymakers and practitioners lack the knowledge and insights required to develop labour-effective market programmes, allocate resources efficiently, and align interventions with national development priorities.

How We Work: A Joint, Coherent Methodology

The ILO and World Bank apply a harmonized methodology to collect ALMP data across selected developing countries, with an initial focus on the Global Accelerator pathfinder countries. The approach combines qualitative and quantitative data and information, to be disseminated in existing institutional platforms:

- ILO's Employment Policy Gateway
- World Bank's ASPIRE Database

The data and information collected cover key aspects of labour market programmes: their type, design, coverage, delivery mechanisms, financing, target groups, and links to social protection, amongst others.

A joint technical task force oversees coordination, quality assurance, and alignment with institutional standards.

Partners: ILO Employment Policy, Job Creation and Livelihoods Department and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice

Donors: Germany, Spain, and Ireland through the M-GA, and the Republic of Korea, which supports data development of the global data repository at the ILO

Geographical Focus:

- **ILO:** Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Colombia, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Vietnam
- **World Bank:** Brazil, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Republic of Congo, Tunisia, Uzbekistan

Duration: March - December 2025

Core Activities

The ILO and the World Bank are working together to:

- **Map and classify** active labour market programmes, institutions, organizations, implementing agencies, and funding sources.
- **Collect structured data and information**, both quantitative and qualitative, on programme characteristics, including design, coverage, budget, target groups, service delivery mechanisms, and types of support.
- **Document inclusion** of income support, and articulation with social protection measures.
- **Apply rigorous validation and curation** processes to maintain data quality and comparability across contexts with high informality.
- **Conduct deep-dive assessments** to analyze delivery systems, financing structures, institutional arrangements, and policy coherence.

A Strategic Partnership for Global Impact

This initiative is part of the Multistakeholder Engagement to Implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (M-GA)—a joint platform that brings together the United Nations and the World Bank to help countries accelerate progress toward universal social protection and decent, productive employment.

Through the M-GA's global knowledge workstream, the ILO and the World Bank have partnered to strengthen the evidence base on ALMPs in low- and middle-income countries through the harmonization of concepts, tools and methods.

What the initiative delivers

Data & Tools:

- Shared data collection guide including common taxonomies, indicators, and instruments
- Systematic and internationally comparable data on ALMPs in developing countries, capturing key indicators such as coverage, cost, programme types, and implementation modalities
- Report

Evidence for Policy Making

- Actionable knowledge products: Dashboards, briefs, reports, and inputs for policy dialogue
- Better informed policy making and resource allocation

Contact details:

- ILO Employment Policy, Job Creation and Livelihoods Department
- World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice