ILO Green Jobs Programme

Conference on “The Role of Green Industries in Promoting Socio-Economic Development in the Arab Countries”

Shaza Al-Jondi, ILO Regional Office for Arab States
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• **Green Economy and the role of Just Transition**

  – Greening the economy and industry will entail major transitions in the labour market with risks of Job losses

  • Globally 38% of all workers are employed in carbon intensive sectors
  • Workers in carbon intensive sectors are, on average, relatively low skilled, and thus at risk
  • Currently up to 1.5 billion people are in vulnerable jobs, while over 200 million are unemployed
  • Badly-managed transitions will lead to increased and prolonged unemployment and permanent wage cuts
• Green Economy and Just Transition (cont.)

  – Greening also has the potential to provide many new job opportunities
    • Green sectors, such as renewable energies and green construction, are often more labour-intensive than brown sectors
    • New green technologies can generate entirely new occupations, products and income opportunities

  – Policies for Just Transition to maximize employment benefits
    • Well-designed labour market and social policies; job-friendly green taxes, subsidies and investment programmes
    • Skills adaptation and upgrading; early identification, training within firms, adapted vocational training
    • Social dialogue and policies to strengthen decent work
• **The ILO supports a Just Transition towards a Green Economy through the Green Jobs Programme**

  – The Green Jobs Programme was launched in 2007 by ILO, UNEP, ITUC and IOE in order to address two defining challenges of the 21st century:
    • Averting dangerous and potentially unmanageable climate change and protecting the natural environment which supports life on earth
    • Providing decent work and thus well-being and dignity for all in the face of rapid population growth

  – Places emphasis on employment, skills and decent work as central avenues to achieve environmentally sustainable development
• Green Jobs can broadly be defined as direct employment in economic sectors and activities which reduces their net environmental impact, ultimately, to levels that are environmentally sustainable.

• This includes jobs that protect or restore ecosystems and biodiversity; reduce energy, materials and water consumption through high-efficiency strategies; de-carbonise the economy, and minimize or altogether avoid generation of waste and pollution.

• Green Jobs need to be **decent work**, offering adequate wages, safe working conditions, job security and workers rights.

- Globally, several millions of green jobs already exist
- 2.3 million jobs in renewable energies (Germany, USA, Brazil, China, India, Spain, Denmark)
- The global market for environmental products and services is projected to double from $1,370 billion at present to $2,740 billion in 2020
- Sectors with great potentials for generating green jobs include renewable energies, transportation, green construction, organic agriculture, sustainable forestry, and recycling in industries
• Shades of Green

**Materials**

- Durability and reparability of products; extended reuse
- Extended producer responsibility, product take-back, remanufacturing
- Recycling

**Transport**

- Non-motorized transport
- Public transport
- More fuel-efficient vehicles

**Buildings**

- Zero-emission buildings
- Solar heating and cooling, solar panels
- Energy-efficient lightning and appliances
Green Jobs and Decent Work

- **Green, but not decent**
  - Electronics recycling, without adequate safety
  - Low-wage installers of solar panels
  - Exploited biofuels plantation labourers

- **Green and decent**
  - Unionized wind and solar power jobs
  - Green Architects and energy-auditors
  - Well-paid public transit employees

- **Neither green nor decent**
  - Coal mining, lacking adequate safety measures
  - Women workers in the cut flower industry in Africa and Latin America

- **Decent, but not green**
  - Unionized car manufacturing workers
  - Airline pilots
Promoting Green Jobs

Avenues for promoting Green Jobs

1. Greening and promotion of Decent Work within carbon intensive sectors (e.g. switch from coal to gas in light industrial production, and promotion of ILO core labour standards)
2. Support additional employment in emerging green sectors (e.g. production of solar panels, fuel-efficient cookers, etc.)
3. Promotion of Decent Work in existing green sectors (e.g. promotion of ILO core labour standards in plastics recycling)

ILO Tools

- Research, policy and social dialogue
- Skills for Green Jobs
- Value-Chain Development for Green Jobs
- Green Entrepreneurship and SMEs
Unemployment remains high in the Arab region despite improvements in some countries
ILO Green Jobs Programme in the Arab States

- **Lebanon:** Assessment of Green Jobs potentials in four economic sectors, namely: energy, construction, waste management, and agriculture and forestry
- **Syria:** Creating green job opportunities for young people in poor rural areas (developing skills in solar thermal applications) – part of a UN joint MDGs initiative
- **Gaza:** ILO collaborated with UNRWA in 2009 with the aim of empowering the local community to build their own earth shelters. (19,000 w/days and 59 homes constructed)
• Green Jobs Programme in Lebanon
  – ILO-UNDP Assessment on green jobs potentials in Lebanon
    • Energy (renewable energies and energy-efficiency)
    • Agriculture and Forestry (organic agriculture, IPM and reforestation)
    • Construction (green building construction/LEED)
    • Waste management (solid waste management, hazardous waste and wastewater treatment)
  – Focus on current and expected green jobs in 2020
  – Emphasis on sectoral development, policies and legislation, private sector involvement, and skills needs
• **Findings**

- Energy
- Waste Management
- Agriculture

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- Reforestation
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• **Recommendations**

- Further research and awareness raising on green jobs potentials in Lebanon
- Advocacy for the development and enforcement of environmental and employment policies and investments that foster green economy and jobs
- Investing in human capital and skills training for green jobs
• Green Jobs Kick-Off Workshop in Beirut – ILO, UNDP and ESCWA (July 2011)
  
  – Broad participation, including ministries and social partners, NGOs, academia, UN Agencies and Donors
  
  – Outcomes and follow-up actions:
    • Establish a community of practice of stakeholders to promote green jobs in Lebanon
    • Support SMEs in green sectors (Ministry of Economy and Trade)
    • Vocational training for green jobs (Ministry of Education)
    • Green Jobs Pilot project in Lebanon and further research