



Evaluation Summary



International
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2018-2020 ILO/Korea Partnership Programme funded projects in ASEAN, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam

Independent Final Evaluation

Quick Facts

Countries:	<i>ASEAN countries</i>
Final Evaluation:	<i>June-July 2020</i>
Evaluation Mode:	<i>Independent</i>
Administrative Office:	<i>ROAP</i>
Technical Office:	<i>DWT-Bangkok</i>
Evaluation Manager:	<i>Rattanaporn Pounpattana</i>
Evaluation Consultant:	<i>Pierre Mahy</i>
Project Code:	<i>RAS/17/50/KOR- RAS/17/51/KOR – RAS/17/53/KOR</i>
Donor(s) & Budget:	<i>Korea (US\$ 3,000,000)</i>

Keywords:

Background & Context

Summary of the project purpose, logic and structure

The 2018-2020 cycle of the ILO/Korea Partnership Programme defines Employment and Labour Policy, Social Protection, Human Resource Development and Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) as priority areas. The new programme covers Global projects (managed by ILO Headquarters) as well as Asia/Pacific

Regional projects (managed by ILO-ROAP). The Asia/Pacific projects are:

- Promoting ASEAN initiatives in TVET and Skills for inclusive future (US\$ 800.000)
- Supporting the implementation of sustainable social protection floors for the workers and their families in ASEAN – phase II (US\$ 900.000)
- Establishing and Enhancing an Overall OSH framework in Myanmar and Lao PDR (US\$ 300.000)

Besides the stronger focus on three areas (Skills, Social Protection and OSH) and on a number of selected countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam – the CLMV countries) the programme also aims at developing closer ties with Korean Partner institutions.

Present Situation of the Project

The projects' time frame was defined from 1 April 2018 to 31 December 2020 (33 months). At the time of the evaluation most activities were on hold due to the COVID-19 situation.

Purpose, scope and clients of the evaluation

The evaluation covers all three Asia-Pacific Regional projects. The scope of the Evaluation was from the project start until May 2020. It was carried out from June 8 to July 22, 2020 by external consultants in accordance with the ILO evaluation policy based on the UN Evaluation Norms and Standards, following ILO

Evaluation Guidelines and Support Guidance Documentation.

The primary clients of this evaluation are the ILO/Korea Partnership Programme team, the ILO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ROAP), the Decent Work Team-Bangkok, and the Ministry of Employment and Labour/Republic of Korea. Secondary clients are tripartite constituents, the project counterparts, and partner institutions in Korea.

Methodology of evaluation

The evaluation involved a desk study and Skype interviews with informants who could not be met in person due to the COVID-19 situation. A set of evaluation questions was proposed in the Terms of Reference, which the evaluator slightly edited and completed during the Inception phase. The evaluation also undertook a satisfaction survey among constituents in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand by means of a self-administered survey tool using a purposive sampling technique to assess the degree of satisfaction of constituents on the different aspects of the programme (design, communication, needs and priorities, results, etc.).

Main Findings & Conclusions

After 15 years of ILO/Korea partnership, the 2018-2020 programme was again based on the mutual interest of the ILO and the Republic of Korea to renew their cooperation for another 3-year cycle with a strong focus on Skills, Social Protection and OSH, while targeting in priority Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar which all three are among Korea's priority partner countries.

The three projects fall in line with the countries' respective strategic policies and development plans, as well as with the Decent Work Country Plans.

Overall, work is in progress:

- The Skills project makes good progress towards planned results and mutual recognition of skills has been put on the agenda of several ASEAN countries, besides those involved in the pilot scheme. MRS still is a learning process, but the project contributes to improve skills systems in the target countries. Political engagement at high level is needed to formalize recognition of skills and ultimately impact on employment.

- The Social Protection project consolidates and develops further the achievements of the previous phase in Cambodia and in Myanmar while strengthening tripartite dialogue aiming at further policy developments.
- The OSH project has made progress in providing a modest but useful contribution to the OSH developments in Lao PDR and Myanmar.

All three projects have directly or indirectly contributed to policy developments; they are clearly praised for their contribution to capacity building and institutional development, as reflected in the satisfaction survey undertaken in the framework of the evaluation. The projects are also commended for their adequacy to meet needs and priorities of constituents as well as national priorities. Only a few weaknesses have been highlighted among which the limited ability of projects to encourage beneficiaries to build on achievements without external support, and the low level of impact they are expected to achieve.

44.5% of the total budget has been disbursed up to 31/12/2019 while 64% of the implementation time has been consumed. The disbursements on project basis are 36.7% for RAS/17/50/KOR, 47.2% for RAS/17/51/KOR and 50.4% for RAS/17/53/KOR.

The funds engaged so far have allowed to deliver against the expected outputs in a satisfactory way, though the projects are now facing delays in implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic which puts on hold many activities.

The expected impact of three projects can be summarized as follows:

- The Skills project will have an impact once the MRS pilot is completed and joint recognition between Thailand and the CLM countries has been technically achieved and politically endorsed
- The Social Protection project will impact on final beneficiaries once laws and decrees developed with the support of the project will be implemented
- The OSH project, because of its limited resources provides added value to the much larger projects which jointly will have an impact

In summary, impact has yet to come. Indicators are pointing in the right direction, but more time (and support) is needed to consolidate and finalize the “construction sites” of the projects and hence achieve social and economic impact.

Emphasize gender mainstreaming when designing the next programme

The COVID-19 pandemic now affects the implementation of the projects and delays the delivery of activities. New priorities have emerged at short notice for governments and social partners in order to assist millions of people affected by the economic downturn, but the world is expected to return to normal sooner or later and work will resume with however a stronger commitment of all parties to pay more attention to safety, health and social protection.

Due to delays in implementation resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, the current contractual end date of the projects needs to be reviewed in order to allow objectives to be met or closely met.

Recommendations

Main recommendations and follow-up

1. Consider extending the project for at least 6 months; alternatively shift balance of activities not implemented to new projects under the next programme cycle
2. Define more precise indicators of achievement for all three projects
3. Boost the support to beneficiaries in Lao PDR to address their demand for urgent external assistance
4. Strengthen relationship with ASEAN Secretariat to better link with regional priorities and needs and collaborate with the new ASEAN-Korea TVET project to strengthen TVET regional mechanism
5. Strengthen ownership of projects among beneficiaries
6. Prepare exit strategies of all three projects in preparation of a possible new cycle
7. Define options for future projects under a new 3-year cycle
8. Enhance expertise of Korea in further projects