

ITEM 7: PSI UNION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORTS

ONGOING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 2023 IN THE REGION



ENGLISH SPEAKING SUB-REGION– PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Projects Undertaken in the Sub-Region 2022

The region had a total of 11 projects cutting across various sectors and countries in the region:

- ✓ Gender Based Violence in Sub Saharan Africa;
- ✓ Promoting transparency and decent work in supply chains in electricity, water and waste services in sub-sahara africa promoting transparency and decent work in supply chains in electricity, water and waste services in sub-sahara africa;
- ✓ Organising workers for trade union unity of action, density and quality public services;
- ✓ Building Trade Union Capacities;
- ✓ Quality Public Services for a Just Transition to Climate Change;
- ✓ Building trade union capacity to defend the human rights of IDPs to quality public services;
- ✓ Strengthening the capacities of Public Services unions to fight sexual harassment at work;
- ✓ Strengthening unions for quality public health systems in West-Africa;
- ✓ Tax justice and trade campaigns;
- ✓ Digitalisation;

Projects on climate change have seen union in respective countries engage policy makers and also undertake research to appreciate how this impact on the community, access to quality public services and the how women and girls have been more impacted to address the importance of just transition that is all inclusive. The project on GBV has given platform for the affiliates to engage with their governments on the importance of ratification C190 and also putting in place national policies to address the vice of GBV both ta domestic level and workplaces.

Affiliates have also had opportunity to engage on the challenges of privatization in energy, water and waste sector in countries like Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria. Coalitions with CSOs have been made due to this engagement of having a holistic approach including networking with other actors to challenge the narratives of PPPs. Unions have also been able to provide PPEs to waste workers and called for reforms including policies on waste management that includes provision for decent work for the waste workers. On the project of IDPs and health workers, unions have pushed for improved condition of living and access to quality public health care for all irrespective of their status including in the IDP camps. PSI unions were able to collaborate with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs who came to Nigeria at the invitation of PSI. The presence of the Special Rapporteur highlighted the role of public service unions in defending IDP rights and brought weight towards the passage of the IDP Policy.

In terms of trade and digitalisation, affiliates have had opportunities to engage on the issue of tax exemption in Special economic zones in Ghana and Nigeria where several media releases were

issued on trade unions position on tax exemption in these SEZ. In terms of digitalisation affiliates have been trained on different techniques to increase their recruitment and negotiating power. Some of the projects have come to the end of their lifecycle in 2022 and will be replaced by new project especially in East Africa where the project Organising workers for trade union unity of action, density and quality public services will be replaced by gender equity campaigns.

❖ SOUTHERN AFRICA SUB-REGION– PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Projects

In addition to these broader campaigns, a number of projects have been running in different countries. My colleagues, Sandra and Naadira will give brief overviews of the work we are doing within the project frameworks.

❖ FRENCH SPEAKING AFRICA SUB-REGION –PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Projects and activities

Six (6) countries in the Francophone sub-region benefit from the interventions of the trade union strengthening projects. The Senegal project is in a pilot phase.

These countries are: Burkina, Cameroon, Niger, DRC, Chad and Senegal

1) In Burkina

- ✓ **Funding: UtoU**
- ✓ **The aim of the project** is to make public health sector unions more financially viable and united for action.

This is for a development objective that offers the population access to social justice and equality through the delivery of quality public services by a staff whose unions are democratically organised and united for a common interest.

- ✓ **Direct targets:** Health workers; trade union leaders.
- ✓ **Indirect targets:** Populations of Burkina Faso
- ✓ **Main activities:** Capacity building workshops; Forum for trade union unity; Awareness campaigns for health students; Recruitment and organisation of health unions.

2) In Cameroon

- ✓ **Funding: CUPE/FORSA**
- ✓ **Objective:** This project called Cameroon water focuses on the mechanism of resistance to the development in the country of an alliance for public water for all in collaboration with CSOs and also on the development of a broad network of actors who want the drinking water distribution system in Cameroon.
- ✓ **Activities:** Media coverage of the project; press conferences (in Douala and Yaoundé); competition on the best advocacy for public water; lobbying visit and networking

3) In Niger

- ✓ **Funding: UtoU**
- ✓ **Objective:** The project aims to strengthen trade unions for public health systems with the participation of SUSAS.
- ✓ **Activities:** Planning and evaluation workshop; Training in communication skills (traditional communication/social networking); Setting up regional women's and youth committees; Women's and youth conferences; Recruitment of new members;
- ✓ **Expected results:** they are oriented towards a strong and active representation of young workers and women workers in SUSAS, through the Activities: of recruitment and organisation.

4) In the DRC

- ✓ **Funding: FORSA**
- ✓ **Objective:** The project aims to make SOLSICO strong and able to influence health policy and its implementation in the workplace.
- ✓ **Activities:** They are mainly focused on youth and women as well as trade union leaders: Organising and recruiting; Capacity building of young workers; Regional conferences in two provinces Kinshasa and Bandundu on the importance of trade unions; Training on communication

5) In Chad

- ✓ **Funding: UtoU**
- ✓ **The project objective:** to strengthen public service unions for quality public services, decent work and social dialogue in Chad.
- ✓ **Direct targets:** Health workers; trade union leaders.
- ✓ **Indirect targets:** Populations of Burkina Faso
- ✓ **Main activities:** Capacity building workshops; Forum for trade union unity; Awareness campaigns for students in vocational schools and institutes; Recruitment campaign and organisation of health unions; Lobbying and advocacy; Implementation of an academy for women and young workers.
- ✓ **Expected results1 :** Increased financial sustainability and internal management capacity of trade unions in a fully transparent manner.
- ✓ **Expected result 2:** Strengthened unity of action of trade unions through coordination and lobbying on trade union and human rights and towards social dialogue achieved.

6) In Senegal

- ✓ **Funding: SASK**
- ✓ **Objective:** to get the government to ratify the C190
- ✓ **Activities:** Training on the C190; Lobbying and advocacy for its ratification

NB: Under FNV funding, Cameroon and DRC are supported by a pilot project for intervention in conflict zones, the direct targets of which are health workers working in these armed conflict zones.

In conclusion, all projects are at the end of their implementation period and have all been evaluated by the end of 2022. However, a project on Community Health Workers has been announced which will cover two countries, Mali and Niger, from this year 2023, and we are waiting for them to start.

❖ ARAB COUNTRIES SUB-REGION– ACTIVITIES

Projects, activities and objectives

A. Projects with U2U

1. **Strengthening Organizational and campaigning capacities of PSI Affiliates in Egypt**

The project aims are to assist independent trade unions resist repression, and to build the leadership organizational and action capacities so as to resist repression and defend workers' rights.

PSI was able to support its affiliates to face the government attack on independent unions, where expertise is provided on Non-violent actions to resist the regime harassment, to plan and conduct campaigns for the respect of the national constitution as well as the international convention on trade union rights. The project contributed within 3 years to strengthen the affiliates' capacities in terms of building alliances, campaigning for addressing the labor conditions in the informal sector, the occupational health and safety at the health sector.

2. **Human Rights, Trade Unions and Quality Public Services for Refugees and Migrant Workers**, the project objective is to develop the capacity of public service trade unions to address migration and refugee issues from a rights-based perspective in four countries: Lebanon, Jordan, Algeria and Tunisia. Public service union leaders and members have an increased understanding of migrant and refugee rights and are promoting inclusion and fighting racism and xenophobia within their unions. They have joined sub regional networks and alliances to promote the rights of migrants and refugees at the national level. The Unions engage in regional and global policy on migrant and refugee rights in alliances with other GUFs and civil society allies. Since the beginning this project faced many challenges: the majority of refugees are in less developed countries that were already from multidimensional crisis.

Public service union leaders and members have an increased understanding of migrant and refugee rights and are promoting inclusion and fighting racism and xenophobia within their unions. They have joined sub regional networks and alliances to promote the rights of migrants and refugees at the national level. The Unions engage in regional and global policy on migrant and refugee rights in alliances with other GUFs and civil society allies. Since the beginning this project faced many challenges: the majority of refugees are in less developed countries that were already from multidimensional crisis.

3. **The project on Strengthening organizational capacities of women trade unionists**, is a regional project that includes all countries in the sub region (except the Gulf Countries) aims developing Women Trade union leadership campaigning and organizing skills to implement campaigns against gender discrimination in law in the MENA region. Women workers among PSI affiliates acquired high campaigning skills, women membership increased in some countries in the last 2 years, and women at decision making positions within PSI affiliates increased. In the countries covered by the project women are campaigning for the modification of discriminatory laws (one law in each country). In addition, most countries are carrying out advocacy and building alliances for the ratification of the ILO C 190.

4. **The project entitled Building Trade Union Capacities and Quality Public Services for a Just Transition to Climate Change (coordinated by Sandra Van Niekerk)**, is a regional project

for Africa and Arab Countries. Tunisia affiliates are part of the project. They succeeded to formulate a sector-based response to the adaptation process and continue to raise the awareness of the affiliates on the impact of Climate change on Quality Public Services, Jobs security and on women. *(PSI affiliates in Tunisia)*

B. Projects with FNV

1. **The Social dialogue project started in 2020, in order to strengthen the capacities of PSI affiliates, on the use of social dialogue, as a tool to defend workers' rights.** It aims at identifying strategic opportunities to revitalize social dialogue institutions in Jordan and Lebanon. To this end a study has been carried out with the aim at providing the necessary information and analysis for affiliated unions in both countries to assess the current reality of social dialogue and collective bargaining in the light of the legal, political, economic and social situation. In addition, it will help to strengthen and improve their capacity in order to participate actively in social dialogue and collective bargaining. *(PSI affiliates in Lebanon and Jordan)*
2. **The project, campaigning for the ratification of ILO Convention C190 Against violence and harassment in the workplace** is a one-year pilot project for Tunisia and Egypt, and consists on:
 - Providing Women and men workers in Egypt and Tunisia with a good understanding of the content of the C190.
 - Raising the awareness of women and men workers on the negative impact of Gender based violence on the society in general and on the world of work in particular.
 - Raising the awareness on the importance of the Ratification of the C190 that will constitute a strong and coherent legal framework.

Building alliances with GUFs and CSOs at the national regional and international Level. *(PSI affiliates in Tunisia and Egypt)*

-
- C. **At the sectoral level**, with a view to build cooperation between unions in the Western and southern Mediterranean countries and in line with the Resolution 45 of PSI's 2017 Congress, PSI implemented a Project with the Municipalities sector in Tunisia. The project focused on waste management workers and will help the affiliates to ensure safe working conditions, statutory recognition for their profession, it also promotes the decentralization for better quality Public Services.

D. The project promoting the rights of Health workers in Conflict Zones, started in 2022 in Palestine.

A Research describing the situation of health workers in Gaza and the West Bank is launched that will be followed by workshops to introduce the international standards on the right to health and the protection of health workers, in terms of social projection, Occupational safety and Health and the provision of Quality health services in an environment free from hazards and danger.

Human Rights, Trade Unions and Quality Public Services for Refugees and Migrant Workers

<https://publicservices.international/resources/videos/mena-refugees-project-roundtable-discussion-in-jordan?id=13480&lang=en>

<https://publicservices.international/resources/news/mena-refugees-project-roundtable-discussion-and-field-visit?id=13475&lang=en>

Strengthening organizational capacities of women trade unionists

<https://publicservices.international/resources/videos/ratifyc190?id=12621&lang=en>

<https://publicservices.international/resources/news/workshops-on-evaluation-and-management-of-lobbying-and-advocacy-campaigns?id=13308&lang=en>

<https://publicservices.international/resources/news/advanced-workshop-for-the-mobilisation-and-organisation-of-women-unionists?id=13323&lang=en>

<https://publicservices.international/resources/news/womens-workshop-in-jordan?id=13340&lang=en>

Social dialogue

<https://publicservices.international/resources/news/psis-tunisian-affiliates-created-a-play-on-gbv?id=13485&lang=en>

<https://publicservices.international/resources/news/workshop-with-psi-lebanese-affiliates?id=13339&lang=en>