

ILO's full answer to our questions :

The ILO initiated its cooperation program with the Government of Turkmenistan in 2023, following recommendations from our supervisory bodies regarding concerns over the implementation of ILO Convention No. 105 on the Abolition of Forced Labour. In 2023, ILO efforts focused on gaining a deeper understanding of the situation on the ground while also supporting strengthening institutional capacity to support legislative reforms and labour governance.

At the start of 2024, the ILO entered into an ambitious cooperation framework with the Government for 2024–2025. Under the current framework, ILO support includes a broad range of technical assistance regarding legislation, institutional capacity, and systems to ensure the prevention of forced and child labour. Another crucial aspect of the ILO's work in Turkmenistan is the observance of recruitment and working conditions during the cotton harvest. This observance process is carried out in accordance with ILO protocols and ethical standards. Importantly, ILO observers do not act as inspectors or law enforcement; their access is based on consent, and participation is voluntary. Any concerns that arise during the observance are discussed directly with the government. The ILO approach is guided by the "do-no-harm" principle.

The ILO's 2023 observance was the first of its kind in Turkmenistan and the findings contributed to the design of the ILO-Turkmenistan cooperation currently being implemented.