



## International Day of Cooperatives - 4 July

Everyone deserves the right to a good life. However, that is not always the case. As inequalities in the income levels continue to rise, it is good to know and contribute towards solutions aimed at addressing those inequalities. One of such critical solutions are cooperatives. Cooperatives are people-centred enterprises owned, controlled and run, by and for their members to realise their common economic, social, cultural needs and aspirations.

The international day of cooperatives is an annual celebration which underscores the contributions made by the cooperative movement in solving major problems addressed by the United Nations. The day is relevant because the business models of cooperatives are embedded in certain aspects of sustainable development as their core, ethical values and principles.

Cooperatives are usually created by producers, consumers, workers and businesses with the objective or potential to create jobs focused on poverty eradication- SDG 1, the provision of protection against gender based violence- SDG 10 and the empowerment of persons through job creation- SDG 8.

According to recent estimates cooperatives around the world employ or are the main source of income for more than 279 million people, which is almost 10% of the world's total working population. Beyond this, other studies have shown that compared with employment in other sectors, cooperative jobs tend to be more sustainable over time, they show smaller gap earnings between higher and lower paid positions and are more evenly distributed between rural and urban areas.

### Transforming our world: A Cooperatives 2030 series

- A brief on SDG 6 - ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all ([Learn more](#)),
- A brief on SDG 7 - ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all ([Learn more](#)),
- A brief on SDG 11 - making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable ([Learn more](#)),
- A brief on SDG 12 - ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns ([Learn more](#)),
- A brief on SDG 15 - protecting and restoring land resources - ([Learn more](#)),

### TAKE ACTION

- AROUNDTHEWORLD.COOP | Bhabishya Nirman Sana Kishan from Nepal ([Watch now](#)),
- Coops 4 Decent work ([Watch now](#)),
- COPAC: a multi stakeholder dedicated to supporting and championing cooperative enterprises in sustainable development ([Learn more](#)),
- Empowered women in Ghana - Ojoba Women's Shea Butter Cooperative helping 517 rural women: ([Watch now](#))

