

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL & PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

Healthy and sustainable economic growth is only possible if workers are valued as contributing to a united humanity and paid a living wage.

NOTICING

The economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, rising inflation, supply chain disruptions, and the conflict in Ukraine has pushed millions into poverty and diminished living standards around the world. Informal workers, women, and young people have been disproportionately affected. Women continue to be paid 19% less than men; they are also more likely to work in the informal economy where they are unprotected by labor regulations.

INTERPRETING/EMPATHIZING

In their book, *Compassion at Work*, Monica Worline and Jane Dutton explain, “there’s always pain in the room.” The world is never free of suffering, but organizations that cultivate deep systems of compassion can prevent situations from worsening and can improve productivity and social and economic benefits. Decent work also requires acknowledging the human need to rest and recreate—over 745,000 people die every year due to strokes and heart disease related to overworking. A compassion lens challenges the prioritization of labour over mental and physical wellbeing.

TAKING ACTION

[Doughnut economic principles](#) can help us conceptualize sustainable growth by meeting the needs of all people within the means of the living planet. The Doughnut consists

of two concentric rings: a social foundation, to ensure that no one falls short on life's essentials, and an ecological ceiling, to ensure that humanity does not overshoot planetary boundaries that protect Earth's life-supporting systems. Between these boundaries lies a doughnut-shaped space that is ecologically safe and socially just, where humanity can thrive.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



266

MILLION WAGE EARNERS ARE NOT PAID A MINIMUM WAGE

1 IN 10

CHILDREN GLOBALLY ARE ENGAGED IN CHILD LABOR

MORE THAN

60%

OF WORKERS LACK AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT