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# ► Safety + Health for All

An ILO Flagship Programme

Key facts and figures (2016-2020)

# **Safety + Health for All**

An ILO Flagship Programme

Key facts and figures (2016–2020)

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# Safe and healthy work: a right of every worker and a foundation of sustainable development

Every year, 2.78 million workers die from occupational accidents and work-related diseases (of which 2.4 million are disease-related) and an additional 374 million workers suffer from non-fatal occupational accidents. The Safety + Health for All programme, one of the five global flagship programmes of the International Labour Organization (ILO), responds to this urgent challenge. In the context of a global COVID-19 pandemic, the right of every worker to a safe and healthy work environment has become ever more important.

Safety + Health for All seeks to improve the health and safety of workers worldwide. The programme plays a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on decent work and economic growth. It also contributes to the SDGs on good health and well-being and on responsible consumption and production.

The programme pays particular attention to the hurdles developing countries face; high-risk sectors such as agriculture and construction; workers in vulnerable conditions such as women, young workers and migrant workers; small and medium enterprises; and global supply chains.

The Safety + Health for All strategy is about building knowledge, capacities and conducive national frameworks, and shoring up demand for safety and health at work. The programme brings together the social partners and stakeholders in an inclusive, collaborative and coordinated approach at all stages. It supports and builds on the ILO's ongoing work to promote occupational safety and health (OSH), tapping the ILO's multidisciplinary expertise and joining forces with other flagship programmes.

The Vision Zero Fund (VZF) is an integral part of the programme. This initiative, established by the G7 and endorsed by the G20, seeks to increase collective public and private action to foster and enhance concrete activities to prevent occupational accidents and diseases in selected businesses operating in low- and lower-middle income countries, benefiting from tools and intervention models developed under Safety + Health for All.

# Why safety + health for all?

Everyone has the right to safety and health at work, and a safe and healthy workforce is the foundation of sustainable development. In the context of a global COVID-19 pandemic, this right has become ever more important.

Still, millions of workers continue to die or suffer from occupational accidents and diseases annually. Not only does this have an economic cost; it causes immeasurable human suffering.

**2.78** million workers die from work-related injury and diseases per year

That is 7,500 deaths every day:

1,000 from occupational accidents



6,500 from work related diseases

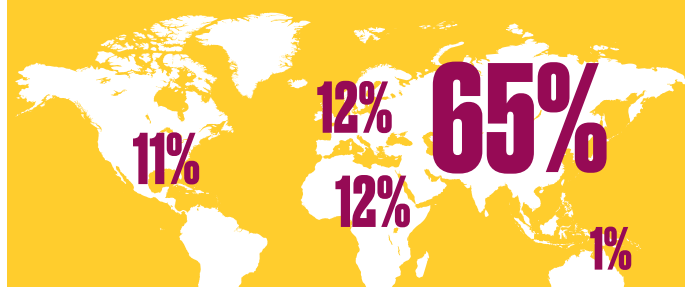


Occupational accidents and diseases result in an annual 4% loss in global GDP

**4%**


**374** million workers suffer from non-fatal work-related injury & illness every year

Distribution of work-related mortality by region:



► Sex, age and status can increase workers' vulnerability to OSH risks.

**Women Workers are**  
**26%** less likely to be employed than men



Women's jobs are often concentrated in the lowest paid jobs and often working as temporary or seasonal workers. The precarious nature of many women's work makes them especially vulnerable to sexual harassment and violence.

**Young Workers**  
 Workers between 15 and 24 suffer the highest rate of work-related injuries.

**40%** higher non-fatal injury incidence in the EU than older workers

**Migrant Workers**  
**164** million people migrated for work from 2013–17



Most migrants are employed in the three “D” jobs (dirty, dangerous and demeaning) in often informal and/or unregulated sectors such as agriculture, construction or domestic work with little respect for labour rights and other protections.

**Workers in the Informal Economy**

**>60%** of the world's employed population works in the informal economy.


Informal economy workers often work in the most hazardous jobs, conditions and circumstances across all economic sectors including construction and agriculture.

► **Workers in hazardous sectors and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises also face pressing needs**


### Construction & Agriculture

The construction and agriculture sectors are some of the world’s largest and most dangerous sectors. At least 60,000 construction workers and 170,000 agricultural workers die each year. Agricultural and construction workers suffer the most from climate change and related heat stress.

Working hours to be lost due to heat stress in 2030:



Sector	Percentage
Agriculture	60%
Construction	19%




### 9%

of all small and medium sized enterprises and micro-enterprises worldwide operate in the formal economy.

### Workers employed by SMEs

suffer a significantly greater number of work-related injuries and diseases than workers employed by larger enterprises notably due to a lack of proper OSH management systems.





In order to address the safety and health needs of the workforce by cultivating a global culture of prevention, the ILO has established Safety + Health for All as one of its five flagship programmes. It was proposed by the Director-General and endorsed by the Governing Body in October 2015.

▀▀ Deaths, injuries and diseases from work are certainly not inevitable. We can and we must reduce and eliminate them. Precisely for these reasons, safety and health have been at the heart of the ILO from the outset.

Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General



Rubber plantation worker in Myanmar, © M. Fossat

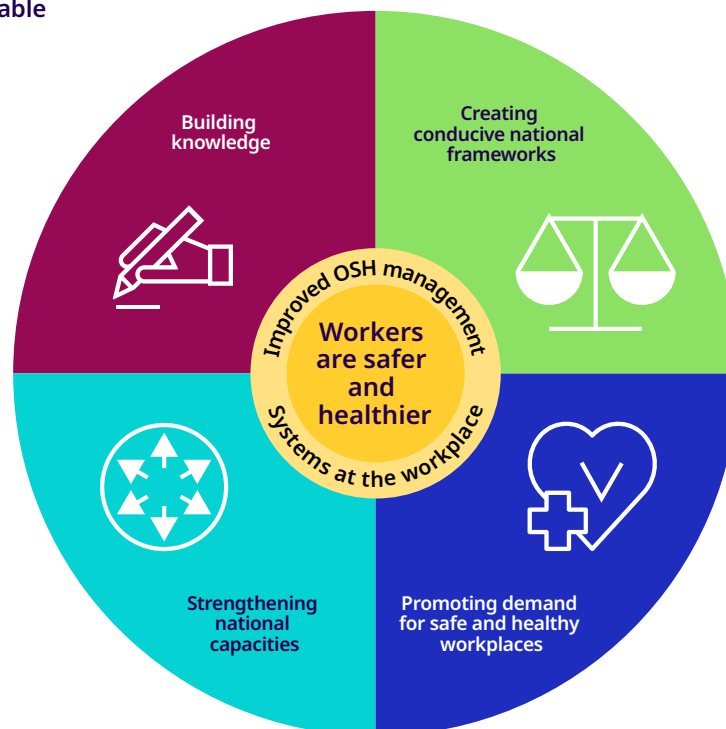


# An inclusive strategy to improve workers' safety and health

The objective of the ILO's Safety + Health for All programme is to improve workers' safety and health worldwide.

To achieve this goal, the programme mobilizes government institutions, employers' organizations, workers' organizations and other key stakeholders to implement strategic interventions at enterprise, sectoral, national and global level.

- ▶ Accurate and credible information on the extent of injuries, diseases and deaths due to occupational risk factors, drivers and constraints, and potential solutions is available
- ▶ National OSH governance, policy and legal frameworks are upgraded



- ▶ Capacities of OSH-related organizations and institutions, including social partners, which support the development of OSH policies and/or provide OSH-related services directly to employers or workers, are enhanced
- ▶ Public awareness is raised and political advocacy is strengthened

## Implementation of key ILO Conventions: Turning OSH principles into action and results for workers

The protection of workers' safety and health is a core ILO priority. In its preamble, the ILO Constitution (1919) lays down the principle that workers should be protected from sickness, disease and injury arising from their employment. This principle is reasserted in the Declaration of Philadelphia (1944), which stipulates that the ILO should develop programmes to achieve "adequate protection for the life and health of workers in all occupations".

The ILO's standards framework reflects this priority, and Safety + Health for All directly supports Member States in implementing key Conventions:

- ▶ the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155);
- ▶ the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187);
- ▶ the Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161);
- ▶ the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81);
- ▶ sectoral Conventions such as the Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988 (No. 167), and the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184).

## Sustainable Development Goals

Safety + Health for All also contributes to the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, directly in terms of Goal 8 (decent work), target 8.8 (safe working environment), and indirectly in terms of Goal 3 (healthy lives), target 3.9 (hazardous environment), and Goal 12 (responsible production and consumption).



# Social partners at the core of building a culture of OSH prevention

Workers' and employer's organizations have a fundamental role to play in building a culture of prevention at global, national and workplace level. Safety + Health for All has therefore been striving to work collaboratively with workers, employers and their representatives to promote social dialogue and participation at all levels.

## At global level

At global level, social partners are members of the Global Tripartite Advisory Committee (GTAC) and the Vision Zero Fund Advisory Committee. In this role, they provide advice and ask any questions relevant to the effectiveness or impact of the programme's operations.

The Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health Branch of the ILO (LABADMIN/OSH) consults with the Bureaus for Employers' and Workers' Activities (ACT/EMP and ACTRAV) regarding the development of global tools such as the methodology for identifying constraints and incentives for OSH improvements in global supply chains. In some cases, tools are developed jointly. For example, the Guide for Employers and Business Membership Organizations (EBMOs) on building a strategy for improved OSH performance, which results from a joint effort with ACT/EMP. A similar guide will be developed for workers with ACTRAV.

In addition, some programme initiatives aim at improving the participation of social partners in OSH-related policy debates. For example, the "SAICM beyond 2020" project seeks to enhance the role and engagement of ministries of labour, employers' and workers' organizations in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a comprehensive international policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world.



## At country level

At country level, social partners are members of individual tripartite project advisory committees. This enables them to monitor the development and implementation of project strategies and provide advice on the implementation of project activities. Project advisory committee meetings also provide a forum for dialogue and the exchange of information on relevant occupational safety and health matters. These committees are a vehicle to promote and sometimes maintain social dialogue.

For example, in **Mexico**, the project in the coffee value chain is now a standing item on the agenda of the National Consultative Commission on OSH, which has improved awareness of OSH conditions in the sector and brought about a renewed commitment by stakeholders to improving OSH outcomes in the value chain.

In **Myanmar**, OSH features prominently on the agenda of the National Tripartite Dialogue Forum, which was established in 2015 and has become the primary platform for tripartite dialogue on labour issues in the country. Even when two major trade union federations suspended their participation in the Forum in early 2019 over a disagreement with the government on the draft Labour Organization Law and the Dispute Settlement Law, tripartite discussions on OSH nevertheless continued outside the Forum. This is a testament to the relationship of trust that Flagship/VZF project staff had built up with the constituents and reflects the commitment of Myanmar constituents to improving OSH outcomes.

In **the Philippines**, the ILO has built the capacity of 137 government, workers', employers' and young people's representatives serving on tripartite councils established in the country's 16 regional administrative units. The aim was to enable them to routinely address OSH issues and promote and enforce compliance with OSH laws and regulations, with a focus on young workers. The training featured sessions on international labour standards on OSH and national OSH policies. To ensure follow-through action after the training, the action plans developed by the participants now form part of the regular agenda for the tripartite councils' discussions.

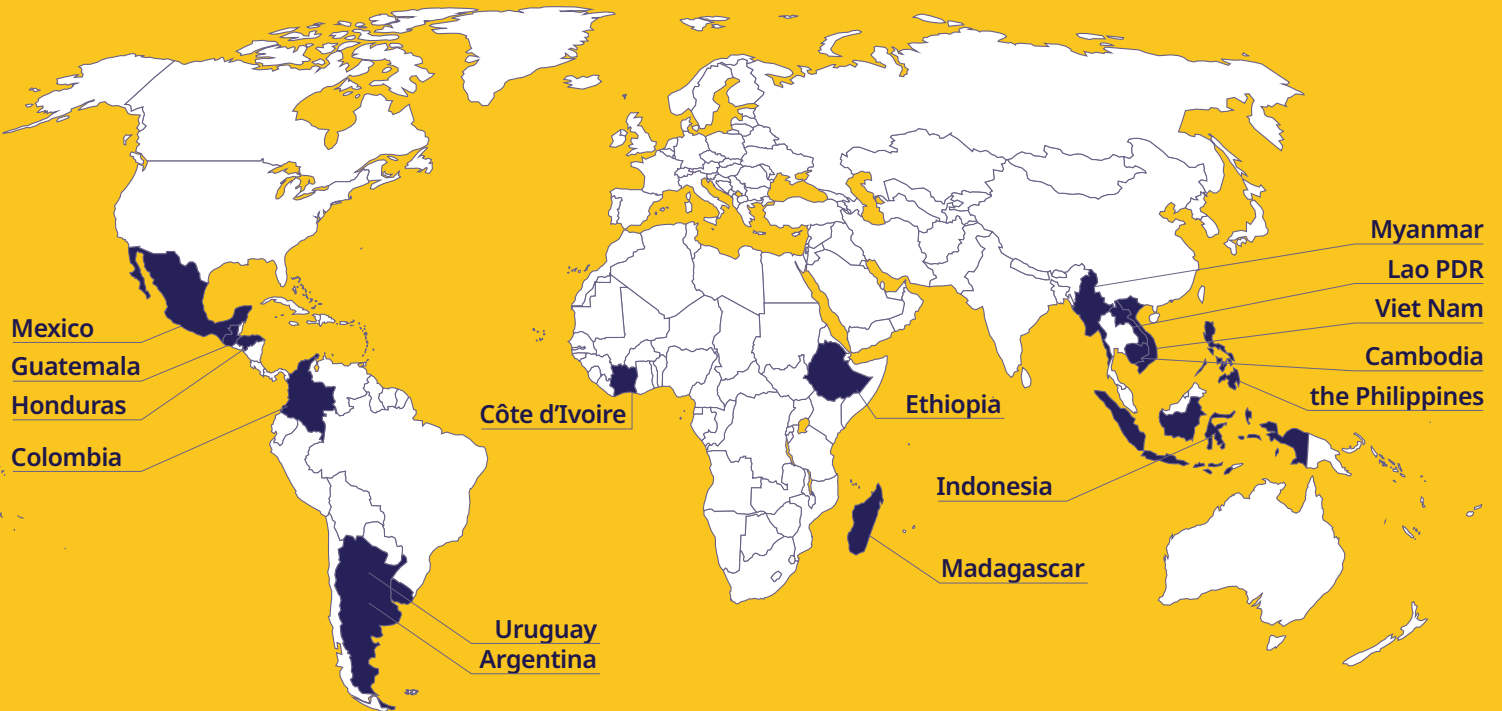
Beyond their role in the projects' governance structures, social partners are direct beneficiaries of Safety + Health for All projects as organizations that provide OSH training to their members. They are also systematically involved in OSH policy and legal reform processes. They are particularly vital in the creation and proper functioning of national and regional tripartite OSH councils. At workplace level, projects support the establishment and functioning of bipartite OSH committees and build the capacity of employers' and workers' organizations to promote OSH and enhance their ability to deliver OSH services to their members.

Last but not least, social partners can also be implementers. In **Lao People's Democratic Republic** for instance, the VZF project has signed implementation agreements with the Lao National Chamber of Industry and Commerce (LNCCI), and the Lao Federation of Trade Unions (LFTU) for them to directly implement OSH training activities in the agriculture and garment sectors, as well as to monitor the functioning of OSH committees and share good practices on OSH in the garment industry.

In **Uruguay**, the project contributed to strengthening tripartite relations focused on OSH issues. The National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (CONASSAT) launched a massive national tripartite OSH campaign focusing on young workers and their employers. During the project evaluation, CONASSAT members commented that this initiative strengthened their ability to work together, which is important because they represent different constituents with different priorities and agendas. They noted that OSH was an excellent topic to bring them together to work on common objectives. One representative explained that this was the first time CONASSAT members worked together on a project with concrete products. Following this successful initiative, government institutions and social partners agreed to launch other tripartite campaigns on OSH in the future.



## Participating countries\*



\* in addition the VZF programme collaborates with ILO's Better Work programme to address the direct and indirect health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam.

### Safety + Health for All uses the following criteria to select participating countries:

- ▶ Developing economies and least-developed countries are prioritized.
- ▶ The national government, employers' and workers' organizations must have expressed their commitment to promoting OSH in the proposed target country.
- ▶ OSH must have been identified as a priority in the ILO's Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) for that country as well as in other ILO and/or national policy documents.
- ▶ The proposed country of intervention must offer the possibility for linkages to be created with other development initiatives, thus maximizing the use of resources.
- ▶ The security situation, political stability and other external factors are assessed to minimize risks.





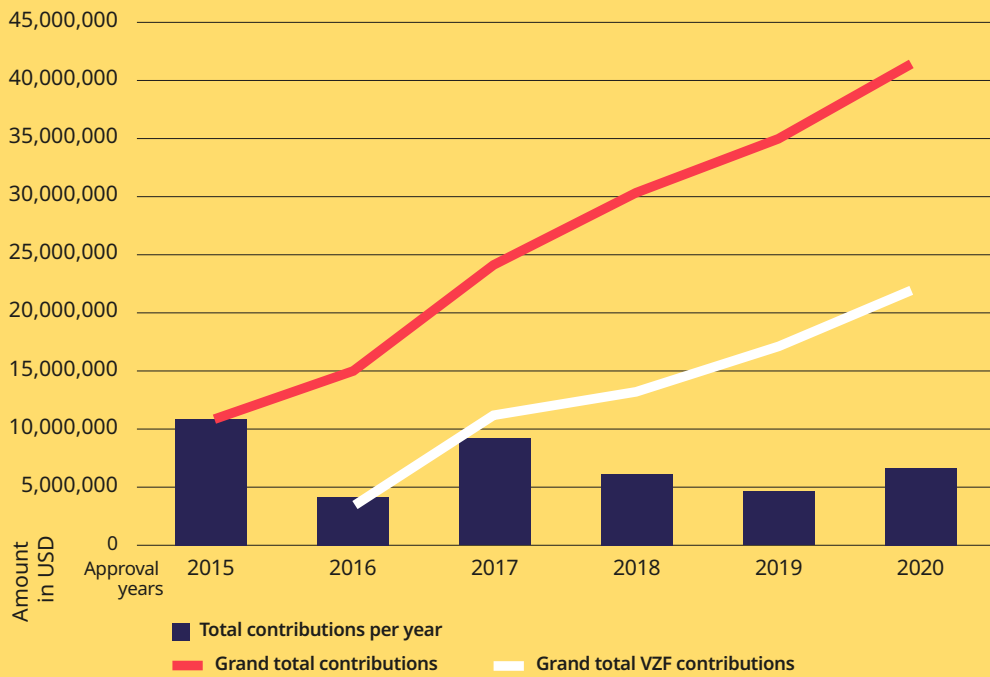
Agriculture worker in Côte D'Ivoire, © M.Fossat

**Additional criteria are taken into consideration to select global supply chains to be targeted by the VZF initiative. Supply chains must:**

- ▶ have significant OSH deficits;
- ▶ be employment intensive;
- ▶ be ones where VZF intervention is likely to have a positive impact on OSH conditions;
- ▶ be relevant to the responsible business practices of national and international companies.

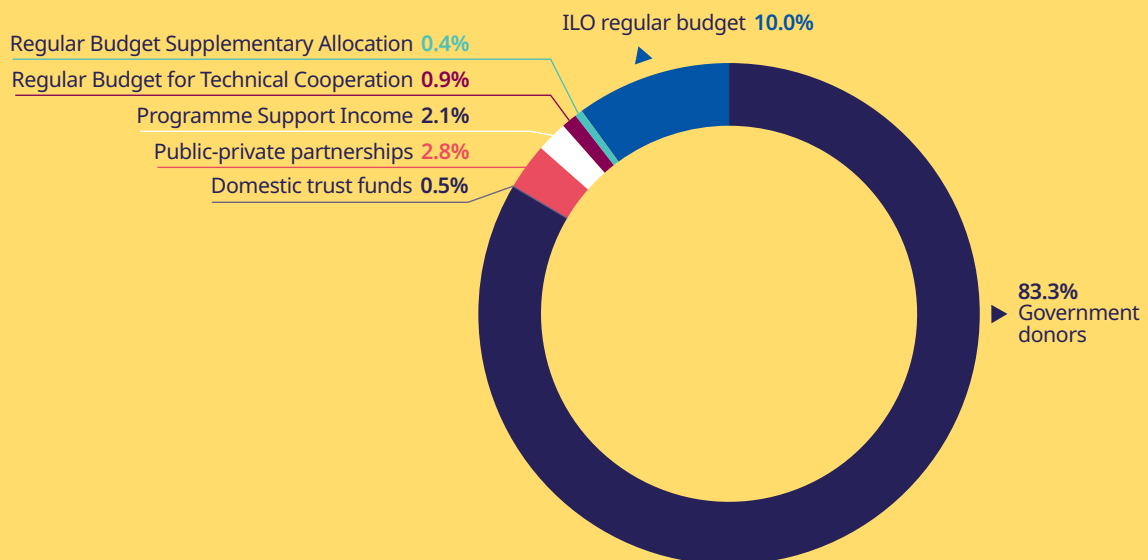
# Financing Safety + Health for All

► Safety + Health for All funding, 2015–2020 (in USD)\*



\* Contribution counted until October 2020

► Total Safety + Health for All funding by source and funding type (in USD)



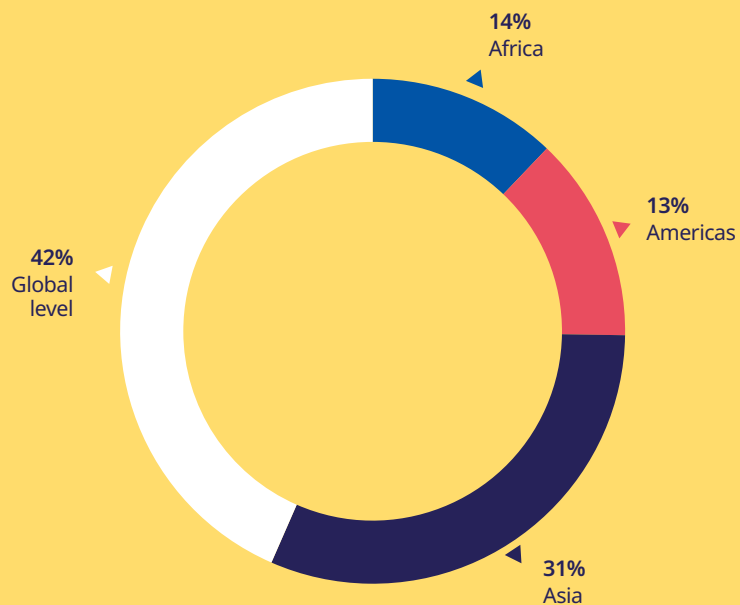




Agriculture workers in Myanmar @ M. Fossat

## Allocating resources

► Share of Safety + Health for All funding per region (% of funding)





# Addressing COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global public health crisis that has disrupted the economies and societies of most countries. Unsafe workplaces have become clusters of contagion with severe effects on workers' health and spill-over effects on communities, making the issue of safety and health at work more relevant than ever before.

To help combat the pandemic, the Safety + Health for All flagship programme, notably through the VZF, has raised additional funds or reallocated existing funds to assist constituents in strengthening safety and health, in particular by assessing immediate needs, developing technical materials, training constituents and providing direct assistance to workplaces. These funds have ensured that workers, employers and their families in the garment and agriculture value chains in VZF project countries (Colombia, Ethiopia, Honduras, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mexico and Myanmar) have increased protection from the direct and indirect health risks of COVID-19.

The programme is also working closely with the Better Work Programme to assist Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam in supporting garment factories in the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 occupational risks.

In total, 2,337,000 workers are benefiting directly or indirectly from the programme's COVID-19 response with its focus on OSH through workplace prevention and mitigation measures such as providing personal protective and disinfection equipment, conducting awareness-raising and training activities and preparing quarantine centres, for example.

At global level, the programme has developed or co-developed various technical tools that have been widely disseminated:

- ▶ A [guide for small and medium-sized enterprises](#) (SMEs) on preventing and mitigating COVID-19, available in several languages;
- ▶ Guidelines on **rapid needs assessment and response plan preparation for country-level interventions** to assist project staff to engage with constituents on their immediate and longer-term needs;
- ▶ A [guide](#) and **five OSH protocols** to prevent and mitigate the COVID-19 outbreak in the **agricultural sector**.

Other tools developed by the Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health Branch of the ILO (LABADMIN/OSH) have been translated into the languages spoken in the countries where the programme operates. These are being used to provide assistance to constituents:

- ▶ [Prevention and Mitigation of COVID-19 at Work - Action checklist](#)
- ▶ [A safe and healthy return to work during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- ▶ [Safe Return to Work: Ten Action Points](#)

# Key results

During its first phase (2016–2020), Safety + Health for All has been active in **15 countries**, potentially benefiting over **60 million workers** directly and indirectly.

## 1. Building knowledge of occupational safety and health (OSH)

Evidence-based knowledge of OSH is necessary to raise awareness, foster commitment, inform policy development, improve prevention strategies and support global, national and regional initiatives.

Research has mainly focused on the following areas:

- ▶ **Assessing the drivers and constraints for OSH improvements in global supply chains.** The programme has developed a methodology to understand how global supply chains operate in their entirety in order to formulate context-appropriate interventions and improve OSH outcomes within and beyond the value chain. Colombia ([coffee](#)), Honduras ([coffee](#)), Indonesia ([palm oil](#)), Lao People's Democratic Republic ([coffee](#)), Madagascar ([textile](#) and [lychee](#)), Mexico ([coffee](#)) and Myanmar ([ginger](#) and [garment](#)) have used it in various value chains in the agriculture, textile and garment sectors. In each value chain, research findings have fed into the strategy for engaging with the various stakeholders and the design of interventions to prevent occupational fatalities, injury and disease effectively. Links have been made between compliance with OSH standards and competitiveness in the value chain. At the national level, support has been given to social partners and institutions to strengthen their OSH capacities. Further research is being undertaken in Madagascar and Myanmar with a focus on the construction value chain.
- ▶ **Identifying entry points for private-sector commitment to OSH.** To better understand why and how global buyers can impact OSH down their value chains, the programme has conducted specific research on OSH within the sustainable sourcing policies of multinational enterprises in the agriculture and textile value chains. Interviews were conducted with 35 multinationals, 16 private compliance initiatives and ten auditing firms located in producer countries. Interviews with key informants and focus group discussions took place in Colombia, Indonesia, Madagascar and Myanmar, in addition to workplace observations. Results were presented in a knowledge-sharing event held in Geneva in July 2018.
- ▶ **Estimating the burden of work-related diseases and injuries.** Globally, the reporting, collection and analysis of data on work-related fatalities, injuries and diseases is grossly deficient and fails to provide an accurate picture of the magnitude of OSH challenges. A new methodology has been jointly developed with the World Health Organization (WHO) for estimating the burden of work-related disease and injury. The methodology will allow the number of deaths and years of healthy lives lost due to exposure to occupational risk factors, disaggregated by sex and age, to be estimated at the global, regional and country levels. The new estimates are planned to be released in late 2020. The new estimation methodology was developed with support from 15 governments (through ministries for health and labour) and 200 individual experts from 35 countries, covering all WHO and ILO regions, as well as intergovernmental organizations, including the European Union and African Union, and professional networks such as the International Commission on Occupational Health.

- **Understanding OSH conditions of young workers.** The incidence of non-fatal injury at work is higher among young workers (ages 15-24) than adult workers, making it essential to have an in-depth understanding of their OSH vulnerability. A total of [16 studies have been carried out in seven target countries](#) (Argentina, Colombia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Uruguay and Viet Nam), some with a focus on high-risk sectors including agriculture and construction, to identify risk factors specific to young workers, work hazards and risks to which young workers are frequently exposed, and young workers' particular needs. The studies have served to inform policymaking and guide development of training programmes and other capacity-building activities. Findings have also been used to design and implement OSH awareness campaigns. Dissemination activities with workers, employers and government officials have helped increase understanding of the issue and commitment to engaging in promoting safety and health for young workers.
- **Launching the Database on Occupational Safety and Health Agencies, Institutions and Organizations (INTEROSH).** OSH agencies, institutions and organizations (AIOs) are key players in OSH research, service delivery and awareness-raising. The database contains information on the functions, governance modalities, resources, research priorities, strategy, service delivery, public awareness-raising activities and international networking practices of 159 national AIOs from 67 countries, and 15 international AIOs. Organizations featured in this database include governmental agencies, research institutes, professional associations and other civil society organizations, workers' or employers' organizations, and national or sector-based consultative bodies actively engaged in undertaking prevention and developing and sharing knowledge to that end. Through the platform, users are able to promote their work, share good practices and achievements, discuss similarities and challenges, and expand their networks. The database also serves to guide the ILO and other development actors in implementing strategic interventions to support global and regional OSH initiatives. It can be used to devise tailored strategies and projects to enhance organizational, relational and technical capacities, with a priority focus on low- and middle-income countries.
- **Understanding how to enhance OSH in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).** Workers employed by SMEs suffer a greater number of work-related injuries and diseases than workers employed by larger enterprises, notably due to a lack of proper OSH management systems. Under Safety + Health for All, research has sought to enhance interventions by the ILO and potential stakeholders to promote the safety and health of workers in SMEs. As a first step, the ILO documented lessons learned and good practices from existing delivery mechanisms to improve OSH in SMEs. A total of 38 national initiatives and three national strategies from 25 developed and developing countries were identified and analysed. Additionally, six in-depth case studies were conducted in Cameroon, China, Colombia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Tunisia with the aim of increasing understanding of the OSH-related challenges faced by SMEs and the results/impact of local initiatives on them. Research findings are now being used to develop a "how to" guide for constituents on improving OSH in SMEs and to upgrade existing ILO tools (Work Improvement in Neighbourhood Development (WIND), Work Improvement on Small Construction Sites (WISCON) and Work Improvement in Small Enterprises (WISE)) with a view to better respond to SMEs' current needs and challenges with regard to OSH and productivity.
- **ILO participatory action-oriented training (PAOT) tools were upgraded to better respond to SMEs' current challenges in improving OSH.** A virtual platform including all PAOT tools has been developed by the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO) and is now used for the distance learning phase of its [regular training programme on OSH in SMEs](#).



Workers processing palm fruits in Colombia, © M. Fossat

## 2. Strengthening OSH frameworks in target countries

With support from Safety + Health for All, **seven countries** have strengthened their national OSH frameworks based on international labour standards by adopting new or enhanced policies, programmes and/or legislation.

In **Argentina**, the programme supported a new [National OSH Action Plan](#) in 2019, focusing on the safety and health of young workers.

In **Cambodia**, the programme has supported the development of the second National OSH Master Plan (2018–2022) that provides a roadmap for the Government to deliver on six OSH-related objectives. The programme is also supporting the update of the national OSH profile and national OSH policy. It has also had significant inputs into the text of four *prakas* (ministerial regulations) that relate to working at height, use of personal protective equipment, accommodation for workers and social security coverage, currently under review by the Labour Advisory Committee.

In **Colombia**, an OSH survey has been developed to assess the health and working conditions of the most vulnerable workers in the coffee value chain (temporary or seasonal workers). The survey was validated by the tripartite constituents and applied in three coffee regions within the country, covering a total of 625 temporary coffee growers. Analysis of the results is underway with the partners and will inform the development of national OSH action plans by end-2020.

In **Indonesia**, the programme has supported the development and adoption of the first [national OSH profile](#). On this basis, the Ministry of Manpower has drafted a National OSH Programme (2020–2024) and the Ministry of Health has started to develop an Occupational Health Roadmap (2020–2024), although approval has been delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. With ILO support, the Ministry of Manpower also issued Regulation No. 5 (2018) on an Occupational Safety and Health Environment requiring workplaces to identify and address chemical, biological, ergonomic and psychological risks.



In **Madagascar**, a five-year action plan has been adopted to facilitate coordinated and/or joint interventions by stakeholders in the OSH system. In this framework, following a decision taken by the Council of Ministers, labour inspectors and social security inspectors carried out joint visits to factories. As a result, 558 employers, accounting for 12,172 workers, have been registered with the social security authorities.

In **Myanmar**, a new [OSH Law](#) was enacted on 15 March 2019. The OSH Law was informed by the development of the national OSH profile (2018) supported by the ILO. It also benefited from extensive consultations with tripartite constituents facilitated by the programme, notably through the establishment of a tripartite and inter-ministerial working group. The programme provided technical support and guidance to the Ministry of Labour in drafting the new law and to high-level policy makers, including by holding briefing workshops with members of Parliament from both the lower and upper houses. The new law extends OSH coverage to the informal economy and sectors that were previously excluded, including agriculture and construction. It provides for the establishment of a tripartite National OSH Council that will coordinate OSH core compliance and promotional activities. It includes new requirements for bipartite workplace safety and health committees to be set up and OSH personnel (safety officers) to be hired at enterprise level. It imposes obligations on employers to establish OSH management systems that include risk assessment and training. The new law supports the creation of a unified legal and policy framework for OSH focused on building a culture of prevention. The ILO is continuing to work together with constituents to support the development of a new National OSH Programme and an accompanying National OSH Action Plan, as well as the drafting of regulations to implement the new OSH law.

In **the Philippines**, a new [OSH law](#) and implementing rules and regulations were issued in 2018 following technical assistance from Safety + Health for All. The law extends to workers in the informal economy. Provisions include penalties for violating OSH standards as well as refusing entry to labour inspectors and delaying and obstructing them in the exercise of their powers. The new OSH law also provides for OSH training programmes for the social partners and sets up a National OSH Inter-government Collaboration and Cooperation Committee.

In **Viet Nam**, the ILO provided assistance to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs in developing three OSH decrees and two OSH circulars guiding the implementation of the OSH Law which was adopted in 2015 and took effect in June 2016. These decrees and circulars address various aspects of OSH, including the recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases, OSH training, inspections, administrative fines for OSH violations, and risk assessments. The new legal framework extends to the informal economy. As a result, a larger number of enterprises now pay for OSH training, undertake risk assessments and implement OSH management systems; labour/OSH inspections are also now conducted in informal settings.



Garment workers in Viet Nam, © M. Fossat

### 3. Enhancing capacities at country level to address OSH issues

Through project interventions, capacities of a wide variety of institutions and organizations with an OSH mandate have been strengthened in all 15 countries, in the following areas:

#### National OSH data collection and reporting systems

In two countries, Safety + Health for All has led to stronger national OSH data recording and notification systems.

In **Myanmar**, OSH data is being collected for the first time at the national level through the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The programme worked with the Department of Labour of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the LFS Committee to include OSH data as part of the regular LFS, starting with the LFS 2019, to improve the accuracy of national data on occupational injuries and diseases. The project supported the development of OSH questionnaires and a training manual for data collectors. It trained 20 national staff members of the Department of Labour on the OSH module, covering LFS data entry and processing. The integration of OSH questions into the national LFS provides data to support the development, analysis, planning and implementation of national OSH strategies.

In **the Philippines**, staff from national institutions with a mandate to collect, analyse, use and disseminate OSH data (namely, the Bureau of Working Conditions, the Occupational Safety and Health Centre and the Employees' Compensation Commission) have been trained to improve their skills and competencies. This training was organized jointly with the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute. As a result, the Bureau of Working Conditions is now better equipped to revise and update the notification and reporting forms that enterprises submit as a compliance requirement. The Occupational

Safety and Health Centre has improved its basic OSH training for safety officers in relation to notification and reporting requirements. The Employees' Compensation Commission now analyses employees' compensation sickness claims in order to produce regular reports that should inform OSH policy-making. In addition, the programme has supported an assessment of the country's recording and notification system in order to identify potential gaps that need to be filled if the new OSH law is to be effectively implemented.

## Labour inspectorates

Reactive and routine inspections are not enough to achieve effective and efficient enforcement and sustained compliance with national OSH legislation. Instead, more proactive, targeted and tailored strategies can effectively engage stakeholders inside and outside government to empower workers to exercise their rights and motivate employers to fulfil their duty to prevent work-related fatalities, injuries and diseases.

The **Strategic Compliance Intervention Model** developed by the ILO seeks to empower labour market institutions—labour inspectorates and others—to contribute to greater compliance with national labour legislation, including on OSH. The intervention model is a fit-for-purpose and fit-for-context approach that supports partners to reflect on current practice and to formulate, sequence, and operationalize a strategic compliance plan. These plans are developed in consultation with social partners and other institutions; they include priorities, objectives and courses of action for improving compliance with labour legislation, as well as indicators to assess progress. Each plan is developed based on priority compliance issues identified.

Specific training has been provided to labour inspectorates in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Myanmar, the Philippines, Uruguay and Viet Nam. Strategic Compliance Plans with a focus on OSH have been developed in Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

In **Ethiopia**, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has established a strategic compliance task team covering four priority sectors (agriculture, construction, garments/textiles and services). Some 200 enterprises across the four sectors are included in a case tracking sheet to ensure that the initial inspections, follow-up inspections, instances of total/partial/no correction and enforcement actions in each case are tracked.

In **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, the Labour Inspection Division has formed a "core task team" to conduct inspections in the garment sector and agriculture, notably on plantations and large commercial farms, focusing on OSH issues.

In **Madagascar**, a task force of 12 labour inspectors was initially established and received training on how to carry out inspection visits on safety and health, including in the informal economy. A training plan for all inspectors in the Malagasy labour inspectorate was then developed and members of the task force provided training to the entire labour inspectorate (245 inspectors throughout the country) in groups. In order to address the COVID-19 crisis, newly capacitated labour inspectors were able to carry out inspection visits during the lockdown in factories that were still operating. Between March and September 2020, 687 companies employing 19,061 workers in the region around the capital city were inspected, including garment factories. Inspections focused on information and prevention measures to face the COVID-19 pandemic.

In **Uruguay**, 84 labour inspectors have undertaken a six-module training programme on OSH issues, and inspection checklists have been developed. Specific inspection campaigns on musculoskeletal disorders, chemicals and the construction sector have been designed and implemented. A new module entitled "Inspection and prevention of biological risks at work" is being created to enhance the role of labour inspectors in the fight against COVID-19.





Women sorting lychees in Madagascar, © Groupement des Exportateurs de Litchis (GEL)

In **Viet Nam**, 189 officials from the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs at provincial, district and commune levels were trained to better enforce the OSH Law. These officials subsequently provided training for around 5,600 workers from different enterprises in industrial zones in provinces and cities.

## Enhancing the capacity of social partners to address OSH issues

Under Safety + Health for All, the ILO is assisting social partners in initiating and sustaining mechanisms to promote continued improvement in national OSH systems. With increased OSH capacities, workers' and employers' organizations are able to participate in social dialogue on OSH at national, regional and enterprise levels. They can promote better OSH policies and programmes, and greater OSH compliance in the workplace.

With this perspective, a [guide to support national and sector employers' organizations to enhance their OSH capacities](#) was developed jointly with the ILO's Bureau for Employers' Activities (ACT/EMP). The guide provides employers' organizations with a better understanding of the functions of the national OSH system and the roles of the different actors involved. It provides guidance on identifying their members' capacities and the challenges and needs related to improving OSH at the workplace level. The guide includes a set of theoretical and practical resources to support users, as well as a selection of cases from various regions highlighting existing services provided by employers' organizations. A similar guide is being developed for workers' organizations jointly with the ILO's Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV).

In all 15 target countries, support has been provided to increase social partners' knowledge of OSH and reinforce their capacities to promote OSH, participate in risk management and promote compliance with OSH laws and regulations. They have received training and participated in workshops on various topics



including workplace hazards and risks, risk assessment, OSH legal rights and obligations, OSH joint committees and OSH management systems. Many participants have trained as trainers, and they are now able to share what they learned with other members of their organization.

In **Argentina**, the programme has worked with 17 vocational training centres belonging to the UOCRA Foundation (the Construction Union) to better integrate OSH into the training they provide. An OSH focal point has been identified in each participating vocational training centre.

In **Colombia**, the Colombian National Coffee Federation has been conducting OSH training for its members for many years. With the support of the programme, an assessment of the outcomes of these training activities has been conducted by the Federation. The results of the assessment are used to design proposals to further strengthen the training activities.

In **Cambodia**, based on the Work Improvement on Small Construction Sites (WISCON) methodology, training of trainers was provided for trade union leaders and trainers in the construction sector, followed by training for supervisors of construction sites. New training material on OSH focusing on high-rise buildings is being developed, based on the Cambodian context.

In **Madagascar**, at their request, 40 employers from the textile sector – all members of the Group of Export Processing Zone Companies and Partners – received initial training on the importance of OSH in improving their economic performance and better responding to social and environmental challenges. Employers subsequently requested the ILO to provide them with training on OSH management. Similarly, textile workers from the Workers' Conference of Madagascar and the largest inter-occupational trade union bodies were made aware of the importance of risk assessment in enterprises and compliance with the general principles of workplace accident and occupational disease prevention. Following this awareness-raising, they agreed to take part in training based on an approach consisting in the formation of a Workers' OSH Task Force comprising 14 trade unionists, which then received training on the main principles of risk prevention and the main risk categories.

In **Myanmar**, master trainers from both employers' and workers' organizations in the construction sector – namely, the Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar (CTUM), the Myanmar Infrastructure, Craft and Service (MICS) and the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneur Association (MCEA) – have been trained on OSH, in order to promote initiatives and practices that can be applied affectively in workplaces. These include the use of self-assessment tools with a focus on OSH, internal OSH audits, establishment of OSH joint committees, deployment of OSH representatives and promotion of social dialogue. Training courses were provided by these organizations and as a result, 333 representatives of workers' organizations and 59 representatives of employers' organizations have received training on OSH, particularly regarding young workers. Representatives of one of the employers' organizations report that trade union members who participated in the training now have increased awareness and knowledge of OSH issues. They have also observed significant changes on some construction sites, including the use of personal protective equipment such as welding goggles, body harnesses and painting masks. Representatives from one of the key employers' organizations credited the ILO for improving the level of OSH awareness and knowledge among its engineers who serve as trainers. The organization has trained its site engineers, who are expected to make tangible changes in the workplace to reduce occupational risks.

In **the Philippines**, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines designed and implemented a training programme to increase the capacities of employers and business membership organizations to promote OSH compliance among their members. Eighty-nine participants were trained. The training programme now forms part of the Confederation's regular offerings to its members.

In **Viet Nam**, 146 members of workers' and employers' organizations (the Viet Nam Farmers' Union, the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour) and joint OSH committees in the agriculture and construction sectors were trained on OSH and risk assessment. These members subsequently delivered training to farmers, construction workers and employers respectively. The Farmers' Union indicates that, as a result, local farmers are applying their knowledge in their daily work. The General Confederation of Labour reports that 60 OSH improvement initiatives were implemented by construction enterprises in 2018. These actions were simple and low-cost but contributed to improving working conditions and raising OSH awareness among employers and



Woman picking coffee in Lao PDR, © VZF

workers. At provincial level, 700 trade union officials, OSH officers and workers in different enterprises received training from trained members of the General Confederation of Labour. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry reports that master trainers further trained 50 representatives of construction enterprises in Bình Thuận province. They also delivered training on OSH law and risk assessment in 300 enterprises specializing in chemicals, garments and footwear in 2018. All three organizations continued to offer training to their members in 2019. For example, the Farmers' Union organized 20 OSH training courses in 2019 and 26 in 2020 for their farmer members in different provinces.

## OSH training organizations

The national OSH system in different countries is made up of a wide variety of organizations and institutions. These deliver OSH-related services directly to employers and workers and/or provide support for the development of sound prevention practices. Safety + Health for All has built the capacities of selected actors in the **15 participating countries**.

### ► National OSH training institutions

In **Myanmar**, the ILO has supported the establishment of a National Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre. In 2017, the VZF – with support from the G7 – facilitated contact between the Governments of Myanmar and Japan, which resulted in a grant from Japan to build the Training Centre's facility in Yangon. In 2019, the VZF supported the visit of a nine-person tripartite delegation from Myanmar to the Institute for Work and Health of German Social Accident Insurance in Dresden, Germany. Led by the Director-General of the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department, and including the Joint Secretary-General of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry



and the President of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar, the delegation worked closely with technical experts from the ILO and German Social Accident Insurance to develop a comprehensive business plan for the Training Centre. The Training Centre was officially inaugurated in August 2019, and started offering training courses soon afterwards. The ILO will continue to support it to ensure that it becomes a national centre of excellence.

### ► Agricultural extension services

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the National Rural Development Agency (ANADER) has received support to mainstream OSH into their training programme for rural extension workers. Training sessions were organized in the Agency's training centre, and the training materials were tested in farmer field schools in 13 of the Agency's intervention areas. This step mobilized around 100 cocoa producers and involved 65 Agency staff. The Agency has adopted a comprehensive training plan for its staff that will be implemented in 150 farmer field schools around the country's 40 cocoa production zones.

In **Myanmar**, four OSH training sessions for agriculture extension agents of the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation have been conducted focusing on: OSH-related knowledge and skills; risk assessment; transfer of OSH know-how to farmers and farmworkers; tools and methodologies to mainstream OSH into training provided to employers' and workers' organizations; and a better understanding of how farmworkers and other employees can ensure the safety and health of those exposed to hazards in agricultural workplaces. A total of 180 agriculture extension agents attended the four training activities in three districts of Myanmar.

### ► Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions

In order to increase young workers' OSH competencies and to prepare them to join the labour force, Safety + Health for All has supported TVET and other training institutions in Argentina, Colombia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Uruguay, and Viet Nam to develop OSH content and mainstream it into existing curricula and courses. The ILO has also supported the integration of OSH into national qualifications frameworks in Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam. These frameworks detail the competencies required for particular occupations.

In **Argentina**, the programme has worked with the National Education Institution for Vocational Training (INET) to mainstream OSH into the vocational training reference frameworks linked to the agricultural sector. The Institution has nation-wide coverage and every TVET centre that is affiliated to it puts together their curricula following the Institution's reference frameworks. Consequently, all TVET centres affiliated to the INET have included OSH in their curricula.

In **Colombia**, a certificate course on labour formalization and OSH in the palm oil sector has been created jointly with a regional university. It targets young current and future palm oil workers and apprentices. More than 70 young participants and 25 young people over 24 years of age have participated in the training programme, which aims to promote labour formalization and improve OSH for young palm oil workers.

In **Myanmar**, the ILO has supported the State Agriculture Institute (SAI) in integrating OSH into the existing TVET curriculum in all of its six subjects (agronomy, agro-chemistry, animal science, farm mechanics, horticulture and plant protection) for the first time. 118 teachers have been trained to teach the new curriculum that has been rolled out to all of Myanmar's 14 vocational agriculture institutions. Around 6,000 students enrolled in courses that use the new curriculum across the 14 institutions in 2020, and 2,000 students have already graduated from such courses.

Also in **Myanmar**, support has been provided to the Industry Training Centre (ITC) in Sinda, Bago region to mainstream OSH into its curricula. OSH has been integrated into all eight courses offered by the Centre, namely: machine tool operator; tool and die maker; machinery fitter; motor vehicle mechanic;



Construction worker in Myanmar, @ M. Fossat

electrical fitter; electrical machine maker; pattern maker; and mechanical draughtsman. The curricula now include the basic OSH concepts of risk assessment, emergency preparedness and response, and incident reporting and investigation. Training manuals incorporate training on specific hazards and risks for each trade. Teachers are sharing their experience with others. To ensure sustainability, a School OSH Committee has been formed to implement the OSH policy. 170 students enrolled in a two-year course (2019-2021) that use the new curriculum, and 140 students from the Centre graduated from such courses in 2019.

In **Uruguay**, Safety + Health for All, with support from the ILO's Inter-American Centre for Knowledge Development in Vocational Training (ILO/CINTERFOR), has supported the Council of Professional Technical Education of the Labour University of Uruguay (UTU) to incorporate OSH content into its two-year forest technician degree in Tacuarembó. The ILO has also collaborated with the National Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (INEFOP) to incorporate OSH content into its gastronomy course. In the old training curriculum, OSH issues were addressed in one discipline, focusing only on the legal aspects of OSH. In the new curriculum, OSH is an integral component of professional knowledge and is included in all aspects of vocational training in each discipline. Some 519 students have already graduated from courses applying the new curriculum. Based on this successful experience, CINTERFOR has taken the initiative of developing a distance learning course, based on the methodologies contained in the training guides that have already been developed. This course will be available in November 2020, both for Uruguay and for all Latin American and Caribbean countries.

In **Viet Nam**, two OSH training manuals have been developed and mainstreamed into two short vocational training programmes in collaboration with the Directorate of Vocational Education and Training. Some 303 vocational teachers in charge of short vocational training programmes have already been trained and 366 students are currently enrolled in two short vocational training programmes: industrial sewing, and refrigeration and air-conditioning. The Directorate has allocated funds to provide OSH training to vocational teachers over the 2021–2025 period.



### ► Upgrading the capacity of national stakeholders to improve OSH for young workers

A training course on **National Strategies to Ensure OSH for Young Workers** has been developed in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO). The objective is to strengthen stakeholders' capacity to plan, develop and manage efforts to improve national OSH systems so that they can effectively protect young workers. 27 persons attended the course, 12 men and 15 women, coming from Argentina, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Uruguay and Viet Nam. They were representing governments, workers' and employers' organizations.

A self-training package has also been developed to strengthen the capacity of governments, employers, workers and their organizations to improve OSH for young workers through the assessment, development and implementation of strategies and actions within national OSH systems. "[Improving OSH for young workers: A self-training package](#)" adopts a modular approach set out in five booklets, covering key topics such as OSH vulnerabilities faced by young workers; international labour standards promoting OSH for young workers; national OSH frameworks supporting OSH for young workers; assessment of the national context and development of practical strategies and actions; and a framework for identifying hazards and managing risks faced by young workers.

## Occupational health services

According to the Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161), enterprise-level occupational health services are entrusted with essentially preventive functions and are responsible for advising the employer, workers and their representatives in the enterprise on maintaining a safe and healthy working environment.

Under Safety + Health for All, the ILO has developed a **Participatory Assessment Tool on Occupational Health Services**, based on Convention No. 161. This tool helps users to acquire an in-depth understanding of the occupational health services system, including its legal and political framework, functions, coverage, resources, financing and governance. The assessment identifies gaps, constraints and opportunities with a view to improving the functioning of occupational health services and expanding their coverage to all workers in all undertakings and branches of economic activity. To date, occupational health services assessments have been conducted in Colombia and Madagascar. Similar occupational health services assessments will soon be carried out in Mexico and Myanmar.



Group of workers using new tool to scrap cocoa beans in Côte D'Ivoire, @ M. Fossat

## 4. Targeted workplace interventions

Improved OSH outcomes are dependent on employers instituting OSH management systems and implementing specific controls. In this regard, projects have provided services, primarily training, to targeted workplaces either directly or through intermediary organizations. These interventions have led to the adoption of OSH systems and controls in farms and factories. These include cocoa farms in Côte d'Ivoire, coffee farms in Lao People's Democratic Republic, lychee farms and treatment plants in Madagascar, ginger farming, processing and warehousing in Myanmar and farms in Viet Nam.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, three cocoa cooperatives and community organizations in the Mbatto district have received Work Improvement in Neighbourhood Development (WIND) training adapted to the sector's needs. WIND is a participatory and action-oriented training programme that encourages and empowers those working in agriculture to sustainably improve their living and working conditions. Twenty people from three communities received training and transferred knowledge to their communities. The training covered innovative work practices that can help prevent work-related fatalities, injury and disease. In particular, a new tool for scraping cocoa beans without using machetes and knives was developed by farmers with the programme's support. Cocoa producers in the beneficiary communities progressively adopted the new tool and its use was extended to three additional communities. Some farmers who participated in the training are improving their bicycles or creating new equipment to make it easier to transport heavy loads. As recommended during the training, new plantings of crops such as cocoa, palm and rubber follow a linear pattern. Notable changes have been made in the communities' living conditions with the construction of 20 improved stoves, use of solar energy to light houses and the introduction of better tools to reduce ergonomic problems. Three safe disposal sites for cans and empty boxes of phytosanitary products have been built in the three pilot communities.



In **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, the VZF is supporting a factory improvement scheme for ten garment factories in collaboration with the Labour Inspectorate. Under this scheme, labour inspectors visit the factories regularly to provide advice on OSH risk prevention and protection measures. Eight out of ten factories have implemented at least one improvement measure such as installing safety warning and emergency exit signs, providing personal protective equipment (such as masks) to workers and installing fire alarm systems. In addition, all ten pilot factories have established bipartite workplace OSH committees, covering a total of about 5,800 workers. OSH committee members indicate that they have gained a better understanding of OSH-related issues on the factory floor (signage, access to exits, personal protective equipment, guards for moving machinery parts and removal of electrical wiring hazards were examples given); that they feel more confident in raising OSH concerns with their supervisors; and that they are better able to advise and share information with co-workers.

Also in **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, 80 farmers in four villages in Champasak province received OSH training provided by the Agriculture Research Centre (ARC) under the VZF project. The farmers trained have implemented workplace improvement measures such as storing chemicals outside their homes, using protective equipment when cutting grass, improving their posture when carrying heavy loads, "cleaning-up" their farm environment to avoid trip hazards and make it easier to detect snakes, and carrying a first aid kit when working on the farm or plantation.

In **Madagascar**, pilot activities have been implemented resulting in improved capacities to prevent work-related fatalities, injuries and diseases in the lychee supply chain. On lychee plantations, maintenance trimmings were performed to keep trees at low heights so workers did not need to climb them, thereby reducing falls. To facilitate lychee harvesting, improved versions of traditional transport baskets (*garaba*) were designed, making them easier to handle and reducing ergonomic risks and cuts. Two export enterprises agreed to finance producers' purchase of these improved baskets. A total of 1,800 new baskets were used during the 2018 harvest and a decrease in the number of reported cuts was recorded. The programme supported training on OSH prevention for managers of lychee processing plants which are members of the Lychee Exporters Group before the harvest season for two consecutive years. In 2017, Madagascar was struck by a plague epidemic. The project helped export companies to set up procedures to prevent contamination and deal with suspected cases, thus reassuring international purchasers, who maintained their orders. Finally, 1,100 seasonal lychee workers have been enrolled with occupational health services and have benefited from training and information on OSH as well as health surveillance during the lychee harvesting season.

Similarly, in **Myanmar**, local capacities were improved to enhance OSH conditions in the ginger supply chain in Shan state. 459 ginger farmers in seven townships have been trained on OSH prevention in collaboration with Winrock International. The training also aimed to raise the awareness of farmers of the dangers of agrochemicals, tool safety, safe handling of inputs and exposure hazards (especially heat). It was observed that several communities implemented the recommendations on tool and pesticide storage after the training. The farmers adopted measures in respect of ergonomics (adapting baskets for lighter load carrying), tool safety (using bamboo racks), heat safety (avoiding exposure at noon) and safe use of agrochemicals (reading labels, respecting re-entry and post-harvest intervals, using personal protective equipment, practising proper storage and container disposal and transitioning to organic farming for those in farmer groups). Also, 20 participants from two ginger processing companies, under construction at the time, participated in lean factory design training delivered by the Kaizen Institute. As a result, OSH was mainstreamed into their factory design. Finally, six participants from three ginger warehouses participated in training delivered by the Kaizen Institute on productivity enhancement. Thanks to this training, concrete and documented actions to improve OSH in the ginger global supply chain have been adopted in one large trading house, benefiting 25 workers. Workers now have access to a sorting table that has enhanced their working posture (they no longer need to squat for long periods), and dust inhalation from sorting has been decreased by installing a mesh. Porters now have access to a trolley that prevents them from lifting heavy weights, which previously resulted in ergonomic problems such as repetitive strain injuries.



Construction worker in Viet Nam, © M. Fossat

In **Viet Nam**, with support from Safety + Health for All, the Viet Nam Farmers' Union (VFU) has facilitated OSH training for around 100 local farmers at tea production and processing villages in Phú Thọ province. Applying ILO WIND participatory action-oriented training and the risk management approach, the Union customized the training content to fit local farmers' actual needs by identifying key areas, including manual handling and transportation, chemical safety, work organization and electrical safety. According to the Union, the training was effective at improving the OSH knowledge of small-scale tea producers. More than 100 practical OSH improvements have been introduced, such as better ventilation systems, protective covers on conveyor belt motors and use of personal protective equipment including masks and gloves.

Also in **Viet Nam**, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs together with the Ministry of Health and the Farmers' Union has implemented a pilot programme to improve working conditions in selected craft villages in Hưng Yên province, focusing on wood carving and bronze casting. Forty-nine young workers took part in participatory action-oriented training. The training was blended with knowledge and skills relating to risk management (identifying workplace hazards, risks and preventive measures). Training materials were customized to address participants' actual needs depending on the specific OSH hazards and risks present in craft villages. As a result, villagers voluntarily implemented OSH initiatives to improve their working conditions. They were encouraged to start with simple and low-cost actions, for example, clearing passageways, covering dangerous moving machine parts and improving ventilation systems, so as to foster their motivation to make continuous improvements. Since the training, Ministry staff have continued to provide direct coaching to the villagers on a monthly basis. This has included a series of visits to map specific OSH hazards and risks in the workplace, develop a plan for OSH improvements and provide practical guidance on how to make changes based on the OSH problems identified. Follow-up activities have also included providing encouragement, monitoring to ensure local people keep their commitment to making continuous improvements, and taking "before" and "after" pictures for sharing and dissemination. The Ministry has extended its intervention to other wood carving villages in Hải Dương province and stone carving villages in Thừa Thiên-Huế province.



Further efforts are being undertaken in all participating countries to improve OSH compliance at the workplace. For example in **Colombia**, a study was carried out to better understand occupational accidents and illnesses perceptions and to identify good practices in the Colombian coffee sector. The data collected will be used to develop a policy brief that will inform sectoral discussions on strategies to improve OSH practices at the workplace.

## 5. Bolstering demand for safety and health at work

### Increased global awareness of occupational risks faced by young workers

Considerable progress has been made in increasing global awareness of particular risks faced by young workers and ultimately in generating stronger demand for safer and healthier workplaces.

The ILO has initiated and supported global, national and regional campaigns with the aim of creating a culture of prevention among young people and raising awareness among all actors who may play a role in protecting young workers. Youth organizations and young workers have become highly engaged, and platforms have been created for their voices to be heard. A range of innovative information, communication and education materials has been produced and broadly disseminated at all levels. Much of the material has been translated into local languages and made available online. Significant national and international media coverage and social media mobilization has highlighted the importance of improving OSH for young workers.

To further promote OSH awareness and knowledge sharing, a [Youth4OSH Portal](#) has been launched. This is an online platform to support networks and organizations in promoting OSH awareness and prevention actions among young workers and employers, and in generating public demand for improvements in national OSH systems. The portal was developed to serve stakeholders in target countries (**Indonesia, the Philippines, Myanmar** and **Viet Nam**) who can share information and resources on young people and their OSH-related concerns. The platform contains practical and user-friendly information for young workers, factsheets for young workers and employers, animated videos and links to relevant resources and tools. The Indonesian national OSH council has been capacitated to act as the platform's administrator and content manager.



Garment factory worker in Ethiopia, © VZF

## Youth Champions: Productive and empowered

As part of the XXI World Congress on Safety and Health in the Workplace (Singapore, 2017), the ILO organized a “**SafeYouth@Work Congress**” to initiate a global campaign on OSH for young workers. Some 125 “**Youth Champions**” (60 of them women) from 28 countries took part in the event. They were chosen through an open application process, which included original media submissions dealing with the safety and health of young workers. Prior to their journey to Singapore, workshops were held with Youth Champions selected in **Côte d’Ivoire, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines** and **Viet Nam** to provide additional information on OSH and help them prepare for the Congress.

As young workers and entrepreneurs, they have taken practical steps in promoting OSH in wider society and increasing the demand for safer and healthier workplaces for young people. In **the Philippines**, Youth Champions developed “OSHnopoly”, an educational board game that teaches players how to identify and eliminate workplace risks in a fun and creative way. Six Youth Champions from **the Philippines** founded “AYOSH” (Advancement of Youth for Occupational Safety and Health). AYOSH is a youth-led independent organization committed to the advancement of the young people’s agenda in employment and labour. To date, AYOSH has contributed to multiple OSH activities including participation in the SafeYouth@Work action plan, three SafeJams, the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, seven OSH for Youth talks, a social media campaign on OSH for young workers, and the development of the OSHnopoly board game. In **Indonesia**, the ILO in collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower and other social partners launched the Indonesian version of the board game. The ILO has been conducting a series of trial sessions of OSHnopoly involving young people, young workers, young unionists and Youth Champions from various organizations. In addition to that, National OSH Council established Youth Section in its organization to empower the Youth Champions in promoting OSH among the youth. The youth section is organizing a weekly webinar on various issues related to OSH. In **Viet Nam**, another Youth Champion founded the project OSH4ALL, with support from the ILO. The project provided OSH knowledge to students in

secondary schools. More than ten youth representatives, including students and young workers, actively participated in the project through attending OSH training and developing training materials. The project helped attract public attention to the importance of OSH for young workers.

## Increased awareness on chemical safety

Every year, around 1 million workers die from exposure to hazardous substances, including dust, vapours and fumes. Safety + Health for All has published a series of materials to highlight the main contributions and strategic advantages of the ILO in current global efforts to combat chemical hazards, as part of its effort to strengthen the involvement of world-of-work actors in international chemicals management. These materials include an analysis of relevant ILO conventions and synergies with other international frameworks on the sound management of chemicals as well as a brochure that provides a detailed summary of the ILO's engagement in the area of chemicals and waste.

Specific initiatives have also been implemented at country level.

In **Madagascar**, research on the exposure of cotton field workers to chemical products has been conducted in collaboration with the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA). Results from this research will help define an action plan to reduce exposure and promote safe handling of chemical products in the workplace, in households and at community level.

In **Myanmar**, 43 input retailers participated in a workshop conducted by the VZF in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. The workshops aimed to: (a) raise awareness of the nature of different pesticides and the need to read labels and follow instructions carefully; (b) raise awareness of the health, environmental and financial risks of spraying chemical inputs without any prior information; (c) explore how input dealers can help farmers to use pesticides and agrochemicals properly and safely; and (d) distribute posters in three local languages to be displayed in agrochemical shops.

In **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, in order to address chemical safety in the coffee sector, the VZF project stakeholder working group in Champasak province conducted a survey among agrochemical input providers in Pakse city and Paksong district to identify the types of chemicals used by coffee farmers and chemical safety deficits in the shops of input providers. The survey found that 80 per cent of all shops in Pakse and Paksong district had one or more chemical safety non-compliance issues, mostly with respect to non- or inadequate labelling of products and unsafe storage of chemicals. Follow-up measures include: (i) development of a chemical safety training brochure; (ii) development of chemical safety training material for agrochemical input providers and coffee farmers; and (iii) implementation of chemical safety training for coffee farmers and agrochemical shop staff.

# A focus on OSH in global supply chains



About 60 per cent of global trade today is organized within global supply chains (GSCs). While the contribution of GSCs to global economic growth and job opportunities is evident, their impact on the living and working conditions of workers in developing countries raises important concerns. The ILO has noted that failures at all levels within GSCs have contributed to decent work deficits in a variety of areas, including occupational safety and health. Paradoxically, supply chain relations can also create opportunities to address these effects and contribute to better safety and health outcomes for workers. While current efforts to improve working conditions in GSCs (such as private compliance initiatives) have resulted in some successes, these have been episodic, unstable and uneven because they often fail to address the root causes of non-compliance. It has become clear that in order to address the most serious and entrenched OSH deficits in global supply chains, a new paradigm is required – one that involves the collective action, influence and resources of all major stakeholders in supply chains.

In 2015, the G7 established the Vision Zero Fund (VZF), which received the endorsement of the G20 in 2017. Administered by the ILO as an integral part of the flagship programme Safety + Health for All, the VZF aims to eliminate work-related deaths, injuries and diseases in global supply chains around the world. Its main objective is to improve OSH practices and conditions in sectors that link to GSCs, and to strengthen institutional frameworks, including labour inspectorates and employment injury insurance schemes, in countries linked to GSCs. The VZF contributes to the ILO's Programme of Action on Decent Work in Global Supply Chains, and its [five-year strategy](#) is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (in particular Goals 3 and 8).

The VZF is currently operational in eight countries across three continents and in three supply chains, namely agriculture, construction and garments/textiles. It works primarily in low-income countries, and a pre-condition for funding is the commitment of countries and stakeholders to prevention and the implementation of minimum labour, environmental and safety standards. To date, activities have directly benefited almost 40,000 government officials, employers, workers and their organizations, ultimately improving the safety and health of an estimated 5,670,596 workers.

To achieve its main objective, the VZF implements a strategy entitled "collective action for safe and healthy supply chains". This strategy is defined as a "multi-stakeholder approach that involves governments, workers and trade unions, employers (both national, transnational and global) and their organizations, multilateral organizations, civil society and development agencies, working together so that each meets its responsibilities consistent with organizational roles, to implement an agreed plan or set of actions to reduce severe or fatal work accidents, injuries or diseases in global supply chains". The VZF operates under the principle that it is only when all relevant stakeholders assume some level of responsibility that the root causes of OSH deficits in GSCs can be addressed in an effective and sustainable way.

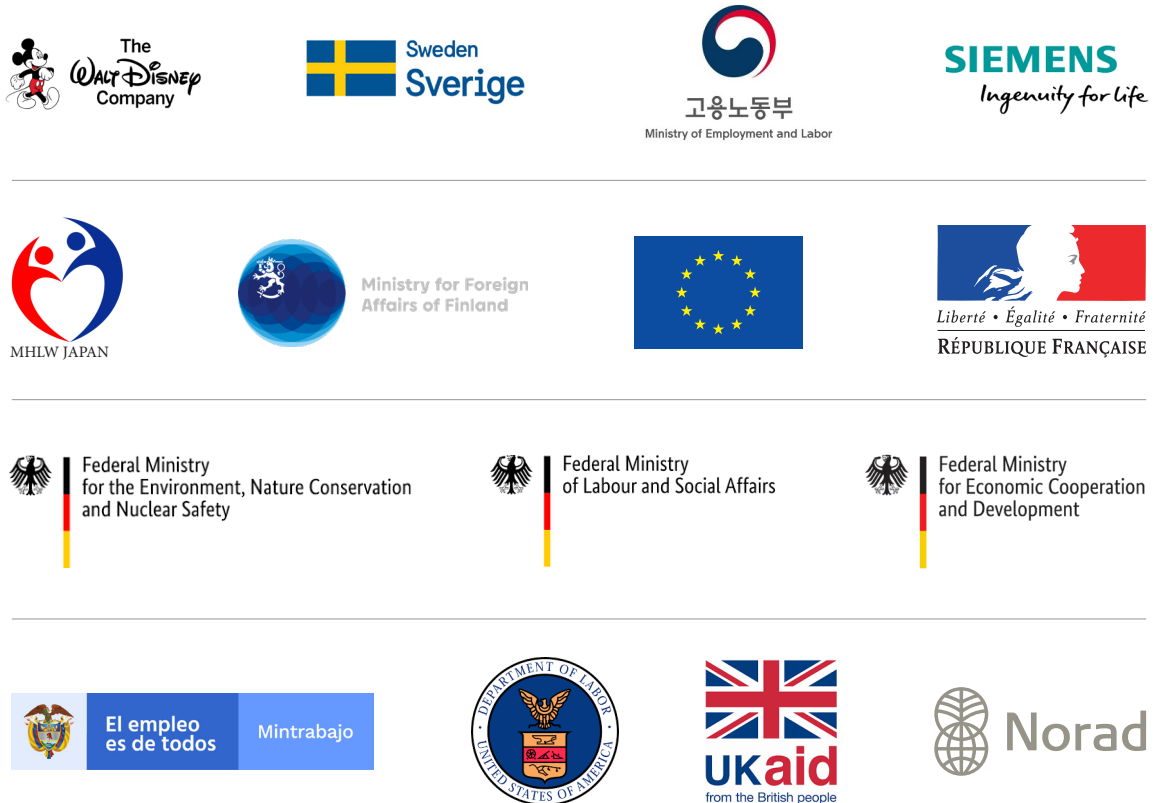


# Development partners: key actors for change

Safety + Health for All is a priority for the ILO, which uses its technical expertise and its own core funding contributed by member States (known as “regular resources”) to support the programme. Because they are not earmarked, regular resources allow Safety + Health for All to respond quickly to emerging challenges and invest in innovative solutions to tackle occupational safety and health issues.

However, the programme’s funding also depends on extra-budgetary contributions that support specific projects and initiatives. Safety + Health for All has built strategic partnerships with both the public and private sectors along with civil society and development organizations and other United Nations agencies. In addition, the programme receives in-kind contributions to support the implementation of its various projects and initiatives through the funding of junior professional officer positions and the secondments of civil servants from various ministries of labour. The results achieved by Safety + Health for All reflect the diversity and strength of these alliances, as well as a continuing effort to maximize resources through efficient and effective operations worldwide.

The ILO wishes to acknowledge contributions received to implement the Safety + Health for All flagship programme from public and private partners, namely Colombia, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States as well as the Walt Disney Company and Siemens.



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