



Better Work, a unique partnership programme of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), brings together government, employers, workers and international buyers to improve labour standards compliance and competitiveness in global supply chains.

The programme aims to make improvements in working conditions and workplace cooperation, combining independent enterprise-level assessments of labour standards compliance with advisory and training services to promote continuous progress.

Better Work country programmes are organized to work closely with existing IFC and ILO initiatives, particularly those focusing on private-sector development and capacity building in public-sector labour administration and employers' and workers' organizations.

The Better Work global programme is responsible for quality assurance, tool development and the scoping and design of new country programmes. Better Work country programmes are designed to become financially self-supporting, local institutions over time. The Better Work global programme remains engaged in assuring quality of ongoing operations once country programmes become independent.

SCOPING AND PROGRAMME DESIGN

Better Work conducts a scoping and selection process prior to engaging in:

- new country programmes implementing services in established Better Work sectors
- expansion of the Better Work programme into new sectors.

As part of the scoping, Better Work examines a variety of criteria in a given national industry, including **needs** (for example, high rates of non-compliance) and **feasibility** (such as the economic potential of the industry and the engagement of national stakeholders in the global supply chain).

When Better Work designs a country programme, support from the relevant employers' and workers' organizations, the national government and international buyers is a core requirement for moving forward. IFC and ILO require this support in order to ensure the success and sustainability of the programme

WHAT BETTER WORK DOES AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

Better Work strives to create local, sustainable institutions that promote compliance with labour standards, while increasing the competitiveness of industry. In large markets, where the industrial base can support such actions, the aim is for Better Work country programmes to become independent and self-financing over time.

Core project activities include:

- **Thorough workplace assessments** that examine compliance with international labour standards and national labour law.

- **Advisory services** to help employers and workers jointly create and implement improvement plans that address non-compliance issues, as well as offer guidance on management systems.
- **Tailored training services** to support workplace cooperation and address specific issues, such as supervisory skills, human resource systems, and occupational safety and health.
- **Online information management** that consolidates compliance and remediation data from each enterprise, and facilitates sharing that information quickly and easily with international buyers.
- **Stakeholder engagement** that encourages sustainable, shared solutions supported by government, employers, unions and workers, and international buyers.
- **Public reporting** that presents aggregate non-compliance data from all participating factories in a Better Work country programme, and allows comparison across countries according to specific indicators.

WHERE IS BETTER WORK?

The following countries have ongoing Better Work programmes in the apparel sector*:

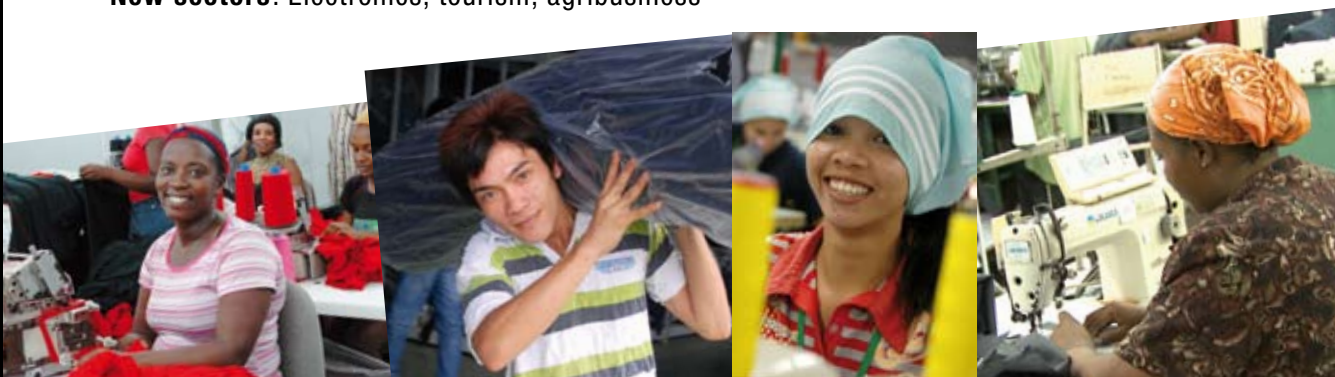
- **Cambodia:** Reaching 250,000 workers in 280 factories (covering all exporting factories in the country); 80–90% of workers in the garment sector are women; developed in 2001 as ILO's Better Factories Cambodia project in conjunction with a US-Cambodia trade agreement offering increased market access in exchange for improved labour standards compliance; will transition to a Better Work programme in 2011.
- **Haiti:** Reaching 26,000 workers in 21 factories; 73% of workers in the garment sector are women; developed in response to a US-Haiti trade agreement in 2008 (HOPE II Act).
- **Indonesia:** (new in 2010) Goal is to reach 200,000 workers in 350 factories within 5 years; approximately 85% of workers in the garment sector are women.
- **Jordan:** Reaching 43,000 workers in 80 factories (following scale up to cover full industry); approximately 75% of workers in the garment sector are migrants and 56% are women.
- **Lesotho:** (new in 2010) Will reach approximately 40,000 workers in 40 factories (covering all exporting factories in the country); 80–85% of workers in the garment sector are women, approximately 43% of workers are HIV positive.
- **Nicaragua:** (new in 2010) Goal is to reach 50,000 workers in 70 factories; 63% of workers in the garment sector are women.
- **Vietnam:** Reaching 150,000 workers in 63 factories in Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding areas; goal is to reach 700 factories covering 700,000 workers within 5 years; 80% of workers in the garment sector are women.

* Figures above for Better Work represent data current as of July 2010. National labour statistics represent most-recent available figures as of July 2010.

WHERE IS BETTER WORK GOING?

The scoping and selection process is either underway or being considered for Better Work programmes in the following:

- **New countries:** Bangladesh, Morocco
- **New sectors:** Electronics, tourism, agribusiness



BETTER WORK

www.betterwork.org