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Filling data and knowledge gaps on occupational safety and health in global supply chains

Overview of publications



The goal of Vision Zero Fund is to prevent work-related deaths, injuries and diseases in global supply chains. To do so, the Fund involves a wide range of stakeholders to address the root causes of the most serious occupational safety and health (OSH) deficits in global supply chains. Currently, Vision Zero Fund implements projects in seven countries: Colombia,

Ethiopia, Honduras, Madagascar, Mexico, Myanmar and Viet Nam, and in three supply chains, namely garment/textiles, agricultural and construction. This document provides an overview of the publications developed or supported by Vision Zero Fund through the project "Improving data and knowledge on OSH in global supply chains."



Quick facts

Filling data and knowledge gaps on occupational safety and health in global supply chains

Donor	European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
Duration	December 2019 – January 2022
Number of countries covered	8
Number of publications	13
National and regional outreach events	5

1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Knowledge and data on OSH are essential for the development of effective strategies to ensure safer and healthier supply chains. The Fund conducts research to fill pressing knowledge gaps and has developed a [platform](#) to share key findings and research tools.

Through the project “Filling data and knowledge gaps on occupational safety and health in global supply chains”, the Fund pursued two main goals.

The first goal is to make reliable, up-to-date and sex-disaggregated data available on the frequency of occupational fatal and non-fatal accidents, injuries and diseases in Vision Zero Fund project countries.

Globally, the available data and statistics on occupational injuries and diseases fail to provide an accurate picture of the scale and nature of the impact of OSH. Underreporting of occupational accidents and diseases is common and national reporting systems frequently do not cover all workers, such as those in the informal economy. Access to more reliable data is essential to raise awareness of the importance of OSH measures, to foster commitment and establish priorities, to

inform OSH policies, and to develop prevention strategies.

The second goal of the project is to generate actionable knowledge on OSH and global supply chains to support industry public and private stakeholders’ decision-making and that inform the development of industry-wide strategies to sustainably address the most persistent OSH challenges.

To date, research on OSH in global supply chains remains limited and fragmented. There is a dearth of knowledge on ways in which to leverage the potential of global supply chains to improve OSH conditions. To help to fill this gap, the project developed and implemented a strategy to improve the knowledge base on OSH and global supply chains, using a gender sensitive approach.

Driven by multiple global disruptive forces, global supply chains are undergoing profound changes. The project focused on the impact of two of these forces on safety and health in global supply chains, namely climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.



Coffee cherry harvesting in Viet Nam, ILO 2021

2. KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

The project developed or contributed to the following 13 knowledge products, the details of which can be found below.

OSH DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Reporting, Recording and Notification of Occupational Accidents and Diseases: a brief guide for workers

September 2021, available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#). Related videos are available [here](#).



The purpose of this brief is to assist workers in understanding their role in implementing a recording and notification system in the workplace, and to help them fulfil their responsibilities to report occupational accidents and diseases.

While it is the employer's responsibility to establish and implement the system for recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases at the workplace, workers have important roles and duties, such as reporting occupational accidents, occupational diseases, commuting accidents and reporting dangerous occurrences to their supervisors, as well as supporting the development and implementation of preventive measures.

Reporting, Recording and Notification of Occupational Accidents and Diseases: a brief guide for employers

September 2021, available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#). Related videos are available [here](#).



The brief provides information to help employers and managers improve and promote reporting, recording, and notification of occupational accidents and diseases in their workplace. Preventing occupational accidents

and diseases is key for the productivity and sustainability of a business. Effective prevention can be achieved by designing and implementing evidence-based policies and strategies, based on data and information on occupational accidents and diseases, commuting accidents and dangerous occurrences.

WHO/ILO Joint Estimates of the Work-related Burden of Disease and Injury, 2000-2016: Global Monitoring Report

September 2021, available in [English](#)



The project contributed to the development of the joint WHO/ILO methodology to estimate the work-related burden of disease and injury and to produce new estimates. Estimates for 16 pairs of occupational risk factor and outcome show

that work-related diseases and injuries were responsible for the deaths of 1.9 million people in 2016. According to the WHO/ILO Joint Estimates of the Work-related Burden of Disease and Injury, 2000-2016: Global Monitoring Report, the majority of work-related deaths were due to respiratory and cardiovascular disease. A [visualization of country level disease burden, with gender and age breakdowns](#), is also available on [WHO website](#).

New estimates on exposure to long working hours received significant media exposure, including coverage by the BBC, New York Times, and CNBC. The findings were also published in the [Environment International Scientific Journal](#).

Quick guide on sources and use of statistics on occupational safety and health

December 2020, available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#)



This guide overviews the main aspects of occupational safety and health statistics, including their relevance and uses. It discusses international standards governing occupational safety and health statistics and describes the most

commonly used occupational safety and health indicators. The guide also reviews the various types of potential sources of occupational safety and health statistics, highlighting their respective advantages and disadvantages. Finally, it identifies the main challenges surrounding the compilation, dissemination and interpretation of occupational safety and health statistics.

This publication is a useful reference tool for those generating occupational safety and health data and statistics, researchers, labour market analysts, social partners, and data users interested in occupational safety and health.

Collecting data on occupational safety and health: A mapping of different types of household and establishment surveys

May 2022, available in [English](#)



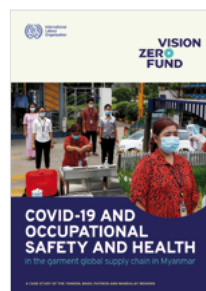
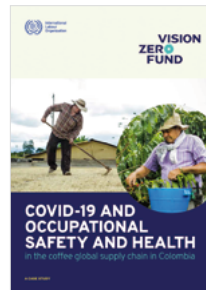
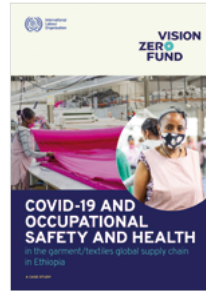
The report provides an overview of the different types and content of household and establishment surveys, with the aim to inform and support countries in the development of such surveys, and more

specifically, in selecting the most appropriate question-set to achieve their purpose. The report is intended for a non-technical audience drawn from staff in government agencies, political decision-makers and their advisers, employers, workers and their representatives. The report will also be a useful resource for practitioners as well as for Vision Zero Fund country teams to support countries in the development of these types of surveys.

KNOWLEDGE ON OSH IN GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS

COVID-19 pandemic and OSH in agriculture and textile/garment global supply chains.

December 2021, Case studies from [Ethiopia](#), [Colombia](#) and [Myanmar](#) are available in English.



The case studies document and analyse, in three Vision Zero Fund project countries, OSH measures and actions taken by stakeholders within selected global supply chains to prevent exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 in workplaces. The focus is on measures and actions implemented in three supply chains; coffee in Colombia; garment /textiles in Ethiopia; and garment in Myanmar. Findings from the research provide evidence on how OSH measures mitigated the effects of the pandemic, but also identify entry points for the development of effective strategies to ensure safer and healthier supply chains. The findings also support the the development of policies and strategies to address future pandemics.

Synthesis reviews of the findings from Vision Zero Fund assessments of drivers and constraints for OSH improvement in the agriculture and garment supply chains.

September 2021, Synthesis reviews are available in [English](#) and [French](#) (agricultural); [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#) (garment).



These synthesis reviews compile evidence related to OSH vulnerability profiles and on drivers and constraints for OSH improvements in agricultural global supply chains and in garment factories.



The reviews identify and discuss drivers and constraints that are common and/or unique across sectors and countries, and will inform the development of new and improved strategies to improve OSH in agricultural and textile/

garment global supply chains. The reviews also identify persistent research gaps and contain recommendations for future research.

Effects of climate change on occupational safety and health in global supply chains with focus on agriculture and construction

An initial literature review was conducted on the effects of climate change on OSH in global supply chains, with a focus on agricultural and construction supply chains. Its purpose is to identify knowledge gaps and opportunities for future research. This research will inform the Fund's next five-year strategy and a pilot project to protect workers against climate change induced heat stress. For more information, contact vzf@ilo.org.

A summary of the publications' key findings was produced by the project and can be found [here](#).

THE WAY FORWARD

The Fund's current strategy ("Collective Action for Safe and Healthy Supply Chains 2019-2023") acknowledges that sustainable and meaningful OSH improvements in global supply chains require the collective action, influence and resources of all major stakeholders. For the model of collective action to function effectively, it is imperative that timely, relevant and accurate OSH knowledge, data and statistics are available to establish baselines, assess risks, design intervention models, allocate resources and responsibilities and assess interventions' impact.

This project contributed to filling various knowledge gaps related to occupational safety and health in global supply chains. It contributed to data collection through several initiatives, including the development of practical guides for employers and workers and a study on the different types and content of household and established surveys. In addition, it conducted synthesis reviews to identify the main drivers and constraints for OSH improvement in the agricultural and garment/textile sector to inform the development of new and improved strategies. The project also

produced studies on two of the most significant disruptive forces impacting on OSH in global supply chains, namely COVID-19 and climate change.

Nevertheless, despite these gains, knowledge gaps remain. Comprehensive and up-to-date research on global supply chains in relation to decent work and OSH remains limited. Current efforts are fragmented and numerous key issues remain unaddressed.

To this end, the Fund has commissioned a global report on occupational safety and health in global supply chains. The report will be launched during the Fund's next High-Level Forum in 2023 and inform the Fund's new five-year strategy (2024-2028). It will provide an international review of the published research literature along with other relevant published information currently available, including evidence from the Vision Zero Fund projects. The report will complement the Fund's work on identifying these drivers and opportunities, highlight remaining challenges and identify areas in which both further research and policy development are needed.



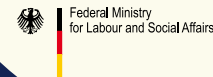
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Vision Zero Fund is part of **Safety + Health for All**, an ILO flagship programme building a culture of safe, healthy work.