



International
Labour
Organization

Annual Progress Report

REPORTING PERIOD

1 OCTOBER 2020 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

VISION
ZERO
FUND





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Lychee processing factory in Madagascar, ILO 2017

FOREWORD

As a multi-stakeholder initiative focused on collective action, Vision Zero Fund is committed to keeping all stakeholders working at the crossroads of occupational safety and health and global supply chains fully informed about the Fund's goals, accomplishments, lessons learned, and future opportunities. This Annual Progress Report reflects this commitment.

During the year under review, we were able to make real progress toward advancing our goal of zero severe and fatal work-related accidents, injuries and diseases. In addition to continuing to implement innovative ways to address the urgent challenge of worker safety and health in our project countries (including mitigating the impact of COVID-19), we have also advanced on several strategic priorities such as knowledge generation and dissemination (most notably by hosting the Fund's first High-Level Forum),

strengthening our collective action framework and engagement with the private sector, and refining the Fund's approach to gender equality. We have also captured lessons learned during the past five years in thematic case studies and documented the Fund's impact on individual beneficiaries through the development of human-centered stories.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to collaborating with you to ensure that safe and health workplaces become a reality for all workers around the world.

Ockert Dupper
Global Programme Manager
Vision Zero Fund



Tomato farmer in Mexico, 2021

OVERVIEW

Vision Zero Fund (VZF) had a particularly busy year, expanding its country programmes, hosting its first [High-Level Forum](#) and generating much-needed knowledge and tools to improve occupational safety and health (OSH) in global supply chains. The Fund built on its initial response to COVID-19, supporting its stakeholders in implementing prevention and mitigation measures at the workplace, and conducting research on the specific OSH challenges posed by the pandemic.

During the period under review – 1 October 2020–30 September 2021 – Vision Zero Fund implemented projects in eight countries, with a focus on the agriculture, construction and garment / textiles global supply chains. It mobilized almost USD 10.5 million in new funding for improving OSH and helping prevent and reduce the unacceptable number of workplace-related deaths, injuries and diseases. In all, the Fund has directly and indirectly benefited more than 7 million workers since its inception in 2016.

Our Mission: GETTING TO ZERO



Every year, 1.9 million people die from exposure to risk factors at the workplace.¹ The figure represents a decrease in OSH related deaths per population – which might be attributable to workplace safety and health improvements – but remains unacceptably high. Many of these deaths are preventable.

Vision Zero Fund aims to advance towards the vision of zero severe and fatal work-related accidents, injuries and diseases. An initiative of the G7,

endorsed by the G20, and operational since 2016, the Fund seeks to address the root causes of the most serious OSH deficits in global supply chains. The Fund brings together governments, employers' and workers' organizations, companies, and other stakeholders and works at global, country and workplace levels. The Fund is part of the ILO's Flagship Programme [Safety + Health for All](#) and is situated within the Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health (LABADMIN/OSH) Branch of the ILO.

1. [WHO/ILO joint estimates of the work-related burden of disease and injury](#). The research was produced with Vision Zero Fund's financial support.



Every year
2.78 million
WORKERS
DIE FROM OCCUPATIONAL
ACCIDENTS AND WORK-
RELATED DISEASES

WHERE WE WORK



Mexico

DURATION: 2019-2024

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS: Coffee, tomatoes, chili peppers

Honduras

DURATION: 2019-2022

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN: Coffee

Colombia

DURATION: 2019-2022

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN: Coffee

Ethiopia

DURATION: 2019-2022

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN: Garment and textiles



In addition to the global level work, Vision Zero Fund worked in Colombia, Ethiopia, Honduras, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mexico, Myanmar and Vietnam, during the period under review.

It also collaborated with the ILO’s Better Work Programme in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in the garment global supply chain.



Myanmar

DURATION: 2016-2023
 GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS: Garment and textiles, ginger, construction

Vietnam

DURATION: 2020-2022
 GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS: Coffee

Lao PDR

DURATION: 2018-2021
 GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS: Garment and textiles, coffee

Madagascar

DURATION: 2017-2022
 GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS: Garment and textiles, lychee, construction



OUR WORK AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

Vision Zero Fund's Global Secretariat generated and shared knowledge, developed and refined the Fund's strategic approach and led key activities at global level, including organising its first High-Level Forum.

Vision Zero Fund, with support from the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), developed a strategic approach to knowledge management to facilitate the systematic sharing of information between country projects. [Safety + Health for All](#) has now joined this initiative, expanding its scope to include all of the flagship's projects.

Our response to COVID-19

Based on its OSH expertise and its relationship of trust with ILO constituents, the Fund was able to respond and adapt rapidly to the COVID-19 pandemic. At global level, it redoubled its resource mobilization efforts and developed, co-developed and adapted technical tools, such as an action checklist [for small- and medium-sized enterprises](#) (SMEs), which are used around the world.

Vision Zero Fund country teams implemented tailor-made actions to mitigate the consequences of COVID-19 and limit disruptions in global supply chains.

With the support of its development partners (donors), the Fund was able to reallocate existing global level funding to support COVID-19-related activities in the targeted supply chain in Myanmar, Colombia, Honduras and Mexico.

The German government provided additional financial support for short-term COVID-19 related activities in the garment supply chain in seven countries: Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam. Activities were implemented in collaboration with the ILO's [Better Work Programme](#). Beneficiary countries implemented a [tool for the development of country-level interventions](#), developed by the Secretariat, to ensure that COVID-19 measures were targeted and responded to the needs of constituents.

Support provided by the Fund and Better Work in the above-mentioned seven countries, included:

- supporting more than 2,600 factories through awareness generation and support measures;
- reaching 4.3 million workers, as well as members of their families and communities, by raising awareness on infection prevention and protection, behaviour change and dealing with stress and anxiety;
- providing personal protective equipment (PPE) kits and protective masks to 50,000 vulnerable workers and service providers;
- supporting more than 850 factories in complying with government guidelines and directly supporting 550 factories in conducting risk assessments and developing preparedness plans;
- providing training to nearly 4,700 people on COVID-19 risks and prevention measures.

Being heard and building support

The Fund organized, supported and participated in 11 global, regional and national events, which enhanced its visibility, promoted OSH knowledge and awareness, and encouraged discussions among stakeholders. The events included:

- [Vision Zero Fund High-Level Forum](#) (virtual, February 2021). The three-day event brought together over 18,000 delegates from 90 countries. It addressed challenges and

opportunities for progress – notably in view of the COVID-19 pandemic – presented the Fund's work and highlighted the importance of collective action.

- UN Global Compact (UNGC) Academy (May 2021). The Fund Programme Manager participated in an [event on OSH in global supply chains](#) and contributed to a [brief](#) on the topic.
- EU Infopoint (webinar, September 2021). The Fund presented its work and results.
- XXII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work (September 2021). The Fund organized and participated in a symposium on OSH in global supply chains.
- Side event to the XXII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work (September 2021). The Fund organized a webinar to present its work to OSH decision-makers and specialists. The event was attended by more than 3,000 participants.

Generating and disseminating knowledge

To date, Vision Zero Fund has produced over 70 research assessments, knowledge, training and

communication products, including fact sheets, guides, handbooks, training modules, checklists, posters and pamphlets. The Fund published 31 of those products during the period under review, including:

- a [quick guide on sources and use of statistics on occupational safety and health](#) (2020);
- A [brief guide for workers](#) and another for [employers](#) on reporting, recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases. These guides were customized to the legislation in Honduras, where an OSH specialist is training technicians to roll them out in farms and coffee processing factories. Discussions are also taking place with national authorities in Ethiopia and Vietnam for the adaptation of the guides;
- [Vision Zero Fund High-level Forum 2021 Report](#) (2021);
- a global toolkit – [Improving OSH in the Coffee Supply Chain](#) – developed by the Secretariat and the projects in Colombia, Honduras, Lao PDR and Mexico.

The Fund provided financial support for the [WHO/ILO joint estimates of the work-related burden of disease and injury](#), which were published in September 2021. The document



Vision Zero Fund training of coffee farmers, Lao PDR, ILO 2021

estimates that 1.9 million people died of work-related diseases and injuries in 2016, most of them as a result respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. The [WHO website](#) provides a country-by-country [visualization of the disease burden](#) with gender and age breakdowns.

New estimates on exposure to long working hours received significant media coverage, including from the BBC, the New York Times and CNBC. The findings were published in May 2021 in the [Environment International](#) scientific journal.

The Vision Zero Fund website includes a public learning platform – [Insights](#) – for the dissemination of reports, tools and research papers that shine a light on current developments and provide guidance on best practices for safe work in supply chains around the world.

Engaging the private sector

The Steering Committee approved the Fund's new private sector engagement strategy. The strategy looks at the different ways the private sector can engage with Vision Zero Fund, including through financial and in-kind contributions, joint research and participation in stakeholder events. It also acknowledges that pursuing multi-stakeholder and corporate social responsibility initiatives, like the UN Global Compact, enables the Fund to influence global discussions on OSH. VZF Viet Nam is the first country project that developed its own private sector engagement approach based on the global framework strategy.

Building collective action, advancing gender equality

Vision Zero Fund developed two documents on strategic aspects of its work and approach:

- [Collective action for safer and healthier supply chains](#) provides information on the framework used to mobilize stakeholders to take collective action for safer and healthier supply chains, particularly at country level.
- [Vision Zero Fund approach to gender equality](#) outlines how the Fund contributes to advancing gender equality. It provides guidance on ensuring gender responsiveness in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects.

Following up on the outcomes of the 2021 High-Level Forum, the Secretariat developed a roadmap of actions leading to the next High-Level Forum, to be held in 2023. It calls for:

- promoting innovation;
- scaling up effective responses;
- assisting efforts to build back better;
- forging new partnerships and attracting new donors.

Assessing how we're doing

Vision Zero Fund completed an [independent mid-term cluster evaluation](#) of its work at global and country-levels.

An evaluability assessment was conducted for the BMZ-funded COVID-19 response project in the garment sector, an internal evaluation of phase 2 of the project in Madagascar was initiated, and an internal evaluation of the global research project is planned for the last quarter of 2021.

Vision Zero Fund published a [Results Book](#) that presents its achievements, summarizes case studies and contains [human interest stories](#).

The Fund also updated its theory of change to reflect major global developments, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and to follow up on evaluation findings, particularly with respect to improving integration of gender equality considerations, the role of constituents and private sector engagement.

THEORY OF CHANGE



Zero severe and fatal work related accidents, injuries and diseases in global supply chains (GSCs)

IMPACT

Sphere of interest

Strengthened eco-system of OSH regulations, services, promotion and culture involving businesses in global supply chains, governments, trade unions and other national level actors as well as workplace initiatives by employers and workers

OUTCOMES

Sphere of influence

Global and national stakeholders confirm their commitment to OSH by taking action to enhance OSH in global supply chains

Strengthened system of OSH services, legislation, policy, availability of data and compliance in targeted countries

Female and male workers in targeted global supply chains and countries benefit from reduced exposure to OSH hazards and improved access to employment injury insurance

OUTPUTS

Sphere of control

Knowledge on and tools for OSH in global supply chains made available through briefs, research, forums and platforms

Improved capacity of practitioners and policy-makers to promote and enforce OSH and to contribute to OSH data collection and use

Improved capacity of employers' and workers' organisations as well as other key actors to strengthen OSH at the workplaces, using inclusive and gender responsive approaches

Tripartite social dialogue structures, processes and capacities strengthened in relation to OSH legal frameworks and action plans

Vision Zero Fund's approach

- A collective action approach through which key stakeholders in the OSH ecosystem are mobilised and their commitment and capacity strengthened to jointly address underlying causes to poor OSH outcomes in a gender-responsive manner
- Evidence-based and sector- specific interventions based on assessment of OSH drivers and constraints in GSCs
- Engagement with multi-stakeholder platforms, sectoral forums and business networks in the informal economy for their promotion of OSH in GSCs

- Regular information-sharing with MNEs in GSCs on global and national level
- Promote and foster recognition of the benefits of OSH for sustainable and productive business practices
- Strategic partnerships to reach vulnerable workers in targeted sectors
- Synergies with other workplace level programmes
- Workplace data, evidence and experiences inform national-level and global initiatives

Governance

The Secretariat convened three meetings of the Global Steering Committee, the decision-making body, and three meetings of the Global Advisory Committee, which gives a voice to employers' and workers' representatives. As part of the Safety + Health for All Flagship Programme, it also participated in the Global Tripartite Advisory Committee for the Flagship Programme on OSH.

Funding

During the reporting period, Vision Zero Fund secured more than USD10.5 million in new funding. Since 2016, the Fund has received almost \$28.5 million in direct and indirect contributions from ten different donors – BMAS, BMZ, France, the European Commission (DG

INTPA and DG Employment), USDOL, DFID, Norway, Sweden, and Siemens. All project delivery rates are on track in relation to their start/end dates.

Expanding and extending

During the reporting period, Vision Zero Fund initiated operations in Vietnam (coffee supply chain) and expanded operations to cover two additional agricultural sub-sectors in Mexico (chili peppers and tomatoes) and a new supply chain in Madagascar (construction).

The two global level projects – one focused on COVID-19 and another on research – were granted no-cost extensions of five and six months respectively.



Coffee processing worker in Viet Nam, ILO 2021

COUNTRY LEVEL OPERATIONS

The Fund's country projects improved the capacity of policymakers and practitioners to gather and analyse OSH data and to develop strategies, and strengthened labour inspectors' ability to conduct OSH inspections. They also improved the coverage of employment injury insurance (EII), social security and occupational health services, particularly for vulnerable groups such as migrant and seasonal workers.

Vision Zero Fund trained employers, workers and partner organizations on OSH, provided training of trainers, and developed and disseminated OSH training and promotional materials. Activities were adapted to include COVID-19 mitigation measures. In Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Madagascar and Myanmar, the Fund collaborated with other ILO initiatives, such as Better Work and [SCORE](#), to maximize impact. The collaboration with Better Work also was instrumental in expanding COVID-19 response activities to Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam – where the Fund does not have active projects in the garment sector.

The Fund developed and adapted training materials and modules, including virtual trainings, trainings of trainers and online dissemination of COVID-19 mitigation materials. The ILO's [Work Improvement in Neighbourhood Development \(WIND\)](#) package was adapted to the local context in Lao PDR and in Latin America.

A training module – [Improving occupational safety and health in small and medium-sized enterprises](#), produced by the Secretariat, LABADMIN/OSH, SCORE and Better Work, was introduced in several countries. VZF projects in Ethiopia and Myanmar and ILO projects – primarily SCORE – in Ghana, Peru and Bolivia started using the module in 2021. The module, which provides basic OSH training to workers in SMEs, consists of a participants' handbook and a trainers' manual. In Ethiopia, to date, four OSH experts were trained as master trainers, 28 SCORE trainers were introduced to the module and 282 participants were reached. The UN Global Compact also [promotes the module](#) to its more than 12,000 members.

Africa

Ethiopia

COVID-19

VZF Ethiopia, supported by the German-funded COVID-19 response project, provided financial and technical assistance to support factories in addressing COVID-19 safety and health issues. Measures included:

- establishing and strengthening tripartite COVID-19 task forces in 37 factories and COVID-19 protection task forces at regional and local levels in SNNPR and Oromia;
- consultations on prevention and control;
- capacity development of 15 OSH committees in factories in industrial parks;
- facilitating COVID-19 prevention inspections in 97 workplaces. Workshops were held with inspectors to ensure comprehensive inspections, with a focus on pandemic-related issues;
- ensuring COVID-19 prevention measures are enforced near the industrial parks and developing an awareness-raising campaign in industrial parks and local communities;
- designing and delivering COVID-19 disinfection training for factories' sanitation teams.

VZF Ethiopia collaborated with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) to mark the World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2021. Awareness-raising activities were organized and a tripartite panel discussion was held to



Garment workers in Ethiopia, ILO 2021

review the COVID-19 response, identify gaps and recommend solutions. A tripartite committee was established to oversee COVID-19 response operations.

MOLSA approved a concept note for the revision of the OSH directive of Ethiopia. An external agency was selected for the assignment and will work under the supervision of the VZF team and supported by LABADMIN/OSH technical specialists.

Capacity development

An online training was provided to 30 social security agencies and ILO constituents to improve the employment injury system for the compensation, care and rehabilitation of injured and sick workers. The training was conducted with partners, including ILO-ITC and the Global Programme on Employment Injury Insurance and Protection (GEIP) in October 2020. The training, as well as two ILO/GEIP technical reports developed earlier, helped identify the major issues for improvement of the EII system.

An offline virtual training was developed and 28 labour inspectors were trained on OSH and inspections of working conditions.

Madagascar

COVID-19

VZF Madagascar supported the development of strategic compliance plans for the labour inspectorate in the textile and construction sectors, to inform and train companies on COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures and reduce workers' exposure. The project supported the Tripartite Task Force in implementing the strategy in the garment sector. Labour inspectors visited 76 factories as part of an awareness campaign on OSH and COVID-19 mitigation measures. The Task Force also provided recommendations to employers on improvement of OSH practices.

The VZF team provided labour inspectors with equipment to conduct inspections (helmets, face shields, visors, gloves, safety vests and safety shoes).

The project collaborated with the WHO country office and the Ministry of Public Health to strengthen the capacity of employers' organizations, workers' organizations and occupational physicians to implement COVID-19 mitigation measures at the workplace. More

than 300 people (126 women) benefited from the capacity-building exercise since December 2020.

The employers' organization GEFP, supported by Vision Zero Fund and LABADMIN/OSH, adopted an action plan to strengthen the capacity of its members on OSH and COVID-19 mitigation.

VZF Madagascar and staff from the WHO country office visited textile factories to promote COVID-19 vaccination. The project, in collaboration with WHO and the Ministry of Public Health, facilitated the vaccination of more than 6,700 people between May and June 2021.

The ILO country office and VZF Madagascar facilitated a conference on the impact of COVID-19 on the world of work. Around 245 National School of Administration of Madagascar (ENAM) students attended the event.

Capacity development

In December 2020, the project organized workshop trainings with trade unions in three regions. A total of 93 representatives (23 women) of trade unions and informal economy platforms² were trained on risks in the garment sector, risk assessment, principles of prevention and national OSH standards.

A training was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour in June 2021 for 57 occupational physicians from 11 regional occupational health services. The training covered topics related to OSH, COVID-19 and HIV.

With the support of the VZF team, the ILO country office signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National School of Administration of Madagascar ENAM. The MoU calls for the inclusion of decent work topics – including OSH – in ENAM's training programme. A similar agreement was signed with the National School of Magistrates and Clerks (ENMG). The VZF team will support the development of the training material on OSH.

² Informal economy platforms are associations that bring together workers in the informal sector.

Promoting OSH Conventions

On World Day for Safety and Health at Work, VZF Madagascar held a workshop, whose 71 participants (29 women) adopted a roadmap to guide the ratification and implementation of the ILO's OSH Conventions (Nos. 155, 161 and 187). The project completed an analysis of the gaps between national OSH legislation and the three Conventions to recommend steps to align the legislation with the Conventions and promote ratification.

Labour inspection

The project supported the implementation of a strategic plan for labour inspections in the garment sector. Labour inspectors visited 113 companies employing almost 63,900 workers, and conducted three awareness-raising campaigns, benefiting 1,323 workers and 141 employers.



Construction worker in Madagascar, ILO 2020

Asia

Lao PDR

COVID-19

Training on COVID-19 mitigation was provided, with support from the German-funded project, to 56 workers (50 per cent women) from 23 export-oriented factories – 46 per cent of the country's garment factories. This helped strengthen prevention measures in workers' dormitories and benefited workers who had returned to work. Masks, sanitizers and disinfectant liquids were provided to nearly 9,700 workers (85 per cent women) from 15 factories.

Ensuring sustainability

The project ended on 31 March 2021. As part of its sustainability and exit strategy, VZF Laos supported the design of a new ILO project focused on rural development, to be funded by the EU Delegation in the country. The project includes an OSH component that will help strengthen and expand the results achieved by the Fund in the coffee sector.

VZF Laos organized six governance meetings, with an overall attendance of 127 (37 per cent women). The meetings focused primarily on the sustainability of project interventions. Participants identified activities they want to continue to implement beyond the duration of the project, such as the rollout of OSH training to coffee farmers, the continuation of OSH Committee training in the garment sector and convening regular tripartite stakeholder meetings on OSH at national and provincial level.

Capacity development

The project supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in organizing a training on the national OSH decree for representatives from provincial labour offices, the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) and the Lao Federation of Trade Unions (LFTU).

The project, in cooperation with the [ILO-Luxembourg Project](#), continued to provide support to the Lao Social Security Office (LSSO) to conduct awareness-raising campaigns on the benefits of social security membership. The project also supported LSSO in the development of five animated videos on medical care, sickness, maternity, work injury and loss of work.

Labour inspection

There were notable improvements in the quality of inspections conducted by labour inspectors trained under the project and in the documentation of identified issues. Non-compliance findings were well documented and detailed, and demonstrate that the inspectors put into practice their training on the OSH checklist for agricultural workplaces. Findings include OSH gaps regarding machine safety, electrical installations, vehicle safety, use of agrochemicals, hygiene and welfare facilities, worker protection/PPE use and access to first aid.

Myanmar

Generating and disseminating knowledge

Vision Zero Fund finalized three publications:

- [Vision Zero Fund Myanmar: Outcomes and practices assessment 2017-2020](#);
- an agrochemical safety assessment in the form of a note on [pesticide safety](#), which describes programmatic options to reduce health risks from the use of agrochemicals, and a note on [banning hazardous pesticides](#) that describes how to transition to safer agrochemicals;
- an assessment of OSH drivers and constraints in the construction global supply chain in Myanmar. Despite several challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the events of 1 February 2021, the document was finalized and is being prepared for publication.

VZF Myanmar focused on implementing direct training and awareness programmes on OSH. In the ginger sector, 645 people (484



women) were trained on OSH and COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures. The project collaborated with civil society partners, farmers' federations and cooperatives, as well as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to deliver the training.

A draft curriculum for OSH advisory services tailored to the garment industry was completed in September 2021 in Burmese and English. The document is based on the [OSH training package](#) for SMEs. Nearly 50 OSH trainers and advisers have been identified and are ready to be trained. The same approach is being pursued in the construction sector.

Social Security

VZF Myanmar worked on scaling-up the employment injury insurance pilot project completed in early 2020. It adapted the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) based on feedback from the pilot. The Social Security Board (SSB) found the SOPs relevant and applicable to its other schemes as well. As a result, at the request of the SSB, the final SOP includes sickness benefits and other cash benefits, thus benefiting a larger number of social security beneficiaries than initially intended. In addition, streamlined procedures were scaled up for EII and for all cash benefits. Scaling-up activities, such as identification of new townships for implementation and SSB staff training, were put on hold due to COVID-19 and the events of 1 February 2021.





Vietnam

COVID-19

VZF Vietnam is supporting implementation of capacity-building measures for COVID-19 prevention. Twenty companies from the coffee sector participated in four trainings organized by the project, with support from the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI).

Vision Zero Fund, together with the Global Coffee Platform (GCP),³ coffee stakeholders and multinational enterprises, supports an intervention plan of the Viet Nam Coffee Coordination Board (VCCB) to achieve a safe harvesting season against the background of the pandemic. In particular, the project will contribute to building the COVID-19 prevention capacity of different groups, including coffee farmers, collectors and health and safety officers in coffee processing facilities.

At the request of VCCB, the project will provide technical advice on the adaptation of the ILO's COVID-19 awareness-raising materials for workplaces in coffee cultivation and processing,

and conduct training of trainers for select groups, including agricultural extension officers, lead farmers, district collectors, and health and safety officers from processing companies.

Generating and disseminating knowledge

VZF Vietnam and VCCI organized a multi-stakeholder consultation in January 2021 to introduce the project to constituents, partners and private sector actors.

The project is finalizing a cooperation agreement with the Vietnam chapter of the GCP. The agreement will include a range of areas of potential collaboration, including OSH capacity-building efforts, knowledge sharing and learning, as well as data collection and research. The cooperation is expected to strengthen the project's effectiveness in terms of impact, scale and sustainability

Viet Nam is developing practical and user-friendly training materials based on the ILO's WIND methodology. The materials will be tailor-made for the Vietnam coffee sector and incorporate COVID-19 prevention content. OSH learning materials for coffee processing companies will also be developed.

³ GCP is a multi-stakeholder membership association of coffee producers, traders, roasters, retailers, sustainability standards, civil society and others, united under a common vision to work collectively towards a thriving, sustainable coffee sector.

Latin America

Generating and disseminating knowledge

Colombia

In collaboration with the Colombian Safety Council, the project developed a policy study that was used to develop the first draft of the national normative and policy study on occupational health services.

The project also designed an OSH [survey](#) to assess the health and working conditions of temporary and seasonal workers, the most vulnerable in the coffee supply chain. It was validated by the tripartite constituents and applied in three coffee regions. Findings were used to support the drafting of a national plan to strengthen OSH in the coffee supply chain, developed by the National Federation of Coffee Growers (FNC) in consultation with the Ministry of Labour.

[A methodology for identifying OSH hazards and assessing risks in the coffee sector](#) was published in late 2020. This tool aims to assist coffee farmers in managing OSH risks. It is distributed as part of a package that also contains a fold-out poster and cards to help identify hazards. The project also supported the development of a mobile application (App) to expand the tool's reach.

Honduras

The WIND virtual training course for trainers began on 1 March 2021, with 61 technicians from the IHCAFE and technicians from employers' and workers' organizations and the Ministry of Labor.

Mexico

The project developed a chatbot, integrated in a social media page, which collects data and information on OSH-related working conditions from workers normally not covered by standard survey methods. This innovative means of gathering data from the lowest tiers of the value chain was featured in an [UN Innovation Update](#), a publication of the [UN Innovation Network](#).

Following a formal request, the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS), which offers training to workers and small agricultural producers throughout Mexico, incorporated the WIND training adapted by the project into its training curriculum.

An assessment conducted by the project identified the need to improve the visibility of women in Mexico's coffee sector as a priority. Accordingly, the project partnered with AMECAFE, the [International Women in Coffee Alliance](#) (IWCA), the Secretary of Labour, the Secretary of Agriculture and PREVENCIÓNAR (an OSH platform) to develop and deliver a targeted OSH training programme. The programme was adapted from the WIND training package to the realities faced by women coffee producers in Mexico, including literacy levels, time availability, and access to transportation and to equipment like phones and internet. The project and IMSS delivered training to master trainers, who in turn provided training to women coffee producers. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, numerous virtual and in-person trainings took place, benefiting women producers from Veracruz, Hidalgo and Puebla regions.



Coffee farmer in Colombia, ILO 2019

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

Gender mainstreaming

Several evaluations highlighted the need to improve the integration of gender into all the Fund's activities. To address this, Vision Zero Fund:

- discussed possible improvements with gender specialists and with members of the ILO's Gender Equality and Diversity division;
- assessed how gender can be integrated into the Fund's OSH assessment, providing recommendations for improvement;
- developed a [thematic brief for enhancing projects' responsiveness to gender equality](#).

Private sector engagement

To strengthen engagement with multinational enterprises (MNEs), Vision Zero Fund:

- engages in conversations with global buyers about becoming donors;
- places increasing emphasis on engagement with industry associations or multi-stakeholder initiatives with broad private sector membership;
- developed a Private Sector Engagement Strategy to standardize its approach. In addition to funding, the strategy foresees other forms of engagement that leverage the presence, knowledge and influence of MNEs to improve safety and health in global supply chains;
- has engaged with local suppliers and representatives of global buyers since its inception. Among others, this has helped local business owners improve OSH conditions, promoted social dialogue, facilitated access to private sector data and expertise, and enhanced the impact of the Fund's awareness-raising campaigns.

Socio-political context

Political instability and safety concerns in Ethiopia and Myanmar led to delays in the

implementation of planned activities.

To address the challenges, Vision Zero Fund:

- adjusted the project workplan in Ethiopia to limit the impact of political instability on overall delivery;
- Following the military takeover in February 2021 in Myanmar, the project team adjusted its workplan to prioritize activities that can be directly delivered to project beneficiaries, strengthen the rule of law, protect human rights and preserve democratic space, in line with guidance from the UN Country Team.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted programme implementation, mainly through delays and cancellations of planned activities due to restrictions on movement, lockdowns and suspension of travel of staff and consultants. All countries faced new demands.

To address the challenges, Vision Zero Fund:

- used an adaptive management approach that allowed for the rapid modification of workplans;
- reallocated funds to address new priorities, submitted no-cost extension requests and reprogrammed some funds towards COVID-19 prevention activities;
- held meetings online and developed virtual guides;
- conducted a virtual design mission for the VZF Vietnam project and virtual orientation mission for the new project team in Mexico. Half the project team worked remotely for the initial months of the project;
- adjusted to limited IT infrastructure and skills in Lao PDR and Madagascar, communicating with partners by telephone, prioritizing work where immediate partner involvement was less crucial, and/or postponed activities;
- put in place precautions, such as provision of PPE, when field work was possible;
- identified capacity-building needs on OSH and COVID-19 mitigation when activities could resume.



Briseida Venegas Ramos, coffee farmer in Mexico, Vision Zero Fund impact story 2021

COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Vision Zero Fund launched its new [website](#) on Safe Day 2021. The website was designed to give the Fund more visibility and make its knowledge products more accessible. It was also the main platform to roll out the new branding of the Fund. The website includes a section that portrays the “[life stories](#)” of five direct beneficiaries, their commitment to OSH and their views on the Fund’s impact.



THE WAY FORWARD

Since 2016, Vision Zero Fund has evolved from a G-7 initiative into an effective and credible global programme with a unique strategic approach, a robust results-based management framework, an effective governance structure and a sound financial footing. The Fund has a diverse portfolio of country projects that have benefited some of the most vulnerable women and men working in some of the world's most hazardous sectors.

During the final two years of its [2019-2023 strategy](#), the Fund will continue to build on its achievements and focus on the following priorities:

- **strengthen its sustainability** and attract new partners, in particular from the private sector and civil society;
- work closely with members of the Steering Committee to **attract additional financial and political support** for the Fund, in particular from members of the G7;
- place greater emphasis on addressing the **impact of climate change on the safety and health of workers** in its project countries, including implementing pilot projects that will inform the Fund's next five-year strategy;
- strengthen the implementation of its **private sector engagement strategy**, including through partnerships with business associations and global corporate social responsibility initiatives to achieve scale;
- build on its strong response to the **COVID-19 pandemic** by transitioning from the provision of emergency relief to helping enterprises and countries establish robust emergency relief systems to address future crises;
- strengthen its **collective action model** through implementation of its [collective action guidelines](#);
- promote **gender mainstreaming** through the implementation of its [gender equality guidelines](#) to ensure that the specific gender realities of women and men are considered in the design and implementation of the Fund's activities;
- continue to strengthen its **monitoring and evaluation**, including through the development and testing of qualitative indicators to facilitate aggregation of results;
- continue to facilitate and participate in **global discussions** on the improvement of OSH in global supply chains, and strengthen the Fund's role as **convener of stakeholders**, including organising the Fund's second High-Level Forum in 2023;
- enhance efforts to develop **high-quality research outputs**, including the publication in 2023 of a global report on safety and health in global supply chains;
- continue to **develop and implement innovative low-cost solutions** to address safety and health deficits in global supply chains. This includes the use of digitalization to collect OSH data from the most vulnerable workers, deliver trainings in remote areas, raise awareness and strengthen national institutions;
- resources permitting, expand to **new countries and sectors** and **deepening work in existing sectors**, in particular in the coffee supply chain;
- continue to facilitate cross sectoral learnings and **south-south collaboration**;
- further enhance **communication** to increase visibility;
- continue to strengthen **coordination and collaboration** with other ILO departments, programmes and units, in particular with Better Work, SCORE, SECTOR and ENTERPRISE, and with other UN agencies.

VISION ZERO FUND

Vision Zero Fund brings together governments, employers' and workers' organizations, companies, and other stakeholders to advance towards the vision of achieving zero severe and fatal work-related accidents, injuries and diseases in global supply chains. The Fund works at global, country and workplace levels, and currently focuses on the agriculture, construction and garment supply chains. It is an initiative of the G7, and has been endorsed by the G20. The International Labour Organization (ILO) administers the Fund and implements its projects.

International Labour Organization

Labour Administration, Labour Inspection
and Occupational Safety and Health Branch
(LABADMIN/OSH)

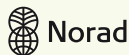
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Vision Zero Fund is part of Safety & Health for All,
an ILO flagship programme building a culture of
safe, healthy work.