

VISION ZERO FUND

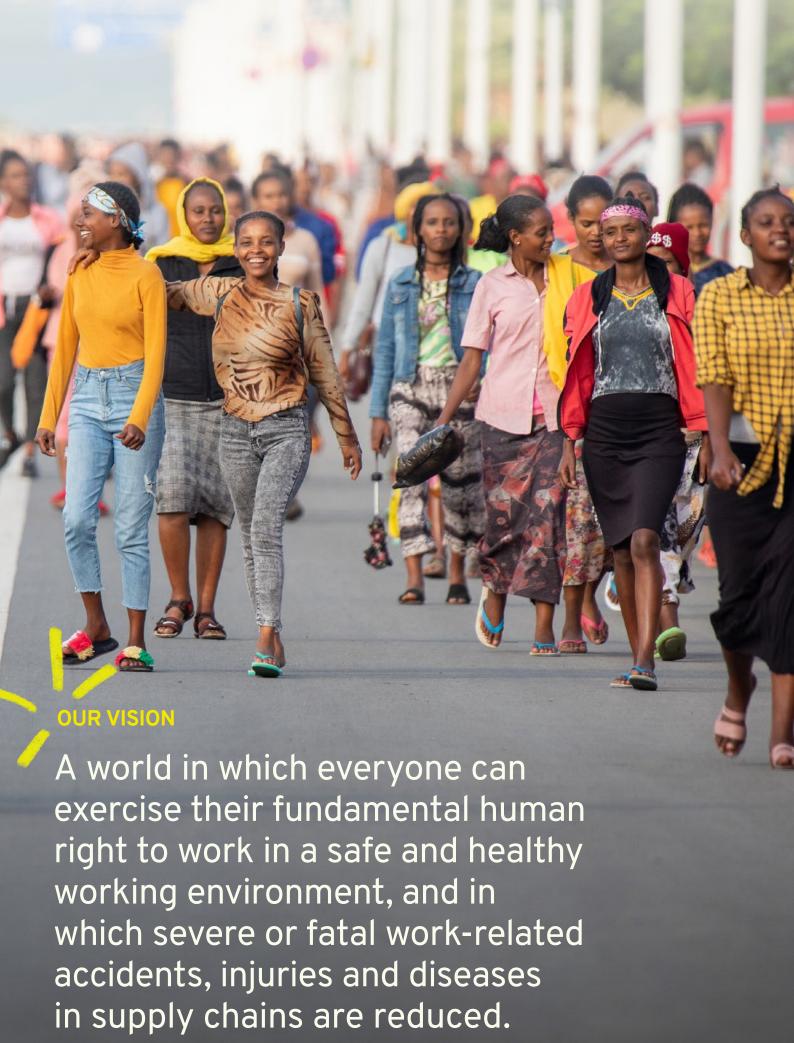






2023 PROGRESS REPORT

Realizing the right to a safe and healthy working environment in supply chains through collective action





2023 has been a particularly memorable year for the Fund. We made progress on several global and country-level priorities, benefitting more than eight million workers in the garment, construction, and agricultural supply chains.

The Fund is grateful for the new financial contributions that it received from the European Commission, Germany and the United States, and from our private sector partners Nestle, Nike and Siemens. The All Japan Coffee Association joined the Fund this year and will support our work in the coffee sector in Colombia. We also established formal partnerships with the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) and the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV).

Our work on new thematic areas have picked up significant pace. In the area of climate change, the Fund commissioned research in Viet Nam and Madagascar that will inform future project activities, and started implementing a methodology to measure heat exposure and heat stress among workers in the tomato and chili pepper sectors in Mexico.

In collaboration with Nike, the Fund made great progress in its efforts to address fatalities and injuries resulting from commuting accidents in the garment supply chain. We developed a practical guide that employers and workers can use to improve commuting safety at the workplace level, and piloted it in Ethiopia and Egypt.

This year, we also launched a global communication campaign to promote the right to a safe and healthy environment in the coffee supply chain. The #CoffeePeople campaign reached more than 25 million people through social media and was localised in three of the world's biggest coffee producing countries: Brazil, Uganda and Viet Nam.

The country-level work of Vision Zero Fund continues to make good progress:

- The Fund supported Madagascar to ratify ILO Conventions No. 155, 161 & 187.
- VZF Mexico finalised a study on the OSH knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of women workers in the chili and tomato supply chains in Jalisco.
- VZF Ethiopia supported the updating of the country's occupational disease list and the development and validation of a new National OSH Directive.
- VZF Viet Nam delivered training on reporting, recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases for employers and managers.

The Fund participated in several global events this year, including the ORP Foundation's XXXIII International Conference in Bilbao, Spain, where we were honoured to accept the International ORP Recognition Award for our commitment to building safe and healthy supply chains around the world.

With a new global strategy that will be launched at our second VZF Forum in 2024, we look forward to continuing our efforts to improve practices at workplace level; strengthen institutional, legal and policy frameworks; and convene supply chain actors to address safety and health challenges jointly and collectively. We hope you will join us in our efforts.

Ockert Dupper
Global Programme Manager, Vision Zero Fund

2023 programme overview

Addressing the effects of climate change on worker health

Following up on the mandate received from the G7 in 2022 to pilot activities on the impact of climate change on OSH, the Secretariat supported research on the impact of climate change on the health of cotton farmers in Madagascar and on the health of agricultural subsistence farmers in Viet Nam that will inform future project activities.

In addition, the Secretariat continued to support the VZF project team in Mexico in its efforts to measure heat exposure and stress among workers in the tomato and chili pepper sectors, and the perceived and direct impacts on their health and productivity. Findings will be used to design, implement and monitor workplace adaptation measures to reduce or mitigate workers' exposure to heat. Proposals regarding possible regulatory and legal improvements to address occupational heat stress at the national level will also be developed.

Expanding into a new agricultural supply chain

We initiated an assessment of the drivers and constraints for OSH improvement in the sugar cane sector in Colombia. Bilateral meetings were conducted with sectoral stakeholders to present the research methodology and secure sectoral support. Selected intervention models based on the assessment will be implemented in 2024.

Expanding our work in the coffee supply chain

The Fund's global project "Improving safety and health in the global coffee supply chain" concluded at the end of December 2023. A second phase of funding has been secured, which will enable the project to continue activities until mid-2025. As part of the project, a successful awareness raising campaign was implemented to promote OSH as a fundamental principle and right at work.



Forging new partnerships with the International Coffee Organisation and the German Social Accident Insurance

The Fund established formal partnerships with the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) and the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), which provides numerous advantages.

The collaboration with ICO enabled the Fund to reach a diverse range of coffee stakeholders and to amplify the messages of the global #CoffeePeople campaign. ICO's decision to designate the campaign theme as the official theme for the 2023 International Coffee Day ensured that OSH remained high on the sectoral agenda.

The partnership with DGUV provides the Fund with access to a wide range of technical expertise on OSH and employment injury insurance, and helps to strengthen its response to the various challenges faced by governments, employers and workers around the world.

Monitoring and reporting on our progress

The independent cluster evaluation (i-eval Discovery) of VZF Latin America and Viet Nam projects was finalized in March 2023. The evaluation findings confirmed that the projects were relevant, and the intervention design was logical, enabling the projects to achieve their stated objectives. The evaluation highlighted the merits of the collective action approach, which was demonstrated through the active and mutually complementary role played by various constituents and partners.

With reference to farm visits conducted by the evaluation team, the report noted several significant changes such as increased awareness among farmers on the importance of OSH, increased use of PPE, and the development of OSH related protocols and implementation of preventive measures by farms.

The efforts made by the projects to integrate gender into knowledge products and training activities and to develop alliances with women's organizations were also acknowledged.

The Fund was also part of the strategic independent evaluation of the Safety + Health for All Flagship programme (i-eval Discovery). It acknowledged the relevance and effectiveness of VZF projects among stakeholders, including the response to COVID-19 crisis. Efforts towards increased visibility, gendermainstreaming, and initiatives to integrate climate change concerns into OSH were particularly appreciated.

VZF country projects continue to use the online monitoring tool and the specific tools developed by the Safety + Health for All Programme to measure key performance indicators and aggregate data at the global level. As the Fund enters a new strategic period, further adjustments will be made to the performance framework to ensure that the action areas and indicators are closely aligned and able to inform the Flagship strategy, as well the ILO Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health 2024–30.



Improving commuter safety with Nike

The Fund made good progress on its collaboration with Nike, Inc. to improve commuting safety. We developed an easyto-use and practical guidance document that employers and workers can use to assess commuting practices and develop action plans to improve commuting safety at workplace level. The guidance document was piloted in Egypt and Ethiopia, where the Fund also conducted rapid assessments on commuting safety that further served to inform the adaptation of the guidance document. In 2024, a virtual training package based on the guidance document will be developed and made available to stakeholders around the world.

The Fund also documented the experience of the Cambodian Transportation Working Group, an initiative coordinated by Better Factories Cambodia that brought together brands and stakeholders to improve commuting safety for garment and footwear workers. Published as a case study, it includes lessons learned and recommendations for other countries seeking to implement similar initiatives.

Continuing partnerships with Nestlé and Siemens

The Fund continues to partner with Nestlé to improve workplace and social conditions for coffee farmers in Viet Nam. The collaboration focuses on researching working conditions on farms and among collectors, as well as designing measures to address the identified areas for improvement. Farmers and collectors also benefit from awareness-raising and training opportunities. So far, more than 18,000 farmers have completed occupational safety and health training activities.

Siemens contributed additional financial support to the Fund, and discussions are underway to allocate the funding to a new Vision Zero Fund project in Egypt to improve occupational safety and health in the construction sector. A scoping mission was conducted in February 2023, and it is expected that pilot activities in the country will start during the second half of 2024.







In collaboration with Nike, we developed an easy-to-use guidance document to **improve commuting safety,** and successfully piloted it in Ethiopia and Egypt.



PROGRESS UPDATE

Strengthening global, regional and national enabling environments for the promotion of safe and healthy working conditions

In VZF project countries, enabling environments to promote OSH in supply chains were advanced at both the regional and global levels through the generation and dissemination of targeted research and knowledge, awareness-raising, the establishment of strategic partnerships, and the promotion of south-south collaboration. We encouraged essential multi-stakeholder, tripartite dialogues at different levels through the Fund's unique model of collective action.

Participating on the global stage

This year, the Fund participated in six important global events that enhanced the visibility of the Fund, promoting knowledge and awareness of the importance of safety and health in supply chains.

ORP XXXIII International Conference

(Bilbao, Spain, April 2023): During the event, the Fund received the *International ORP Recognition Award* in acknowledgement of its commitment to building safe and healthy global supply chains and to achieving real improvements in the health and safety of some of the most vulnerable group of workers. The Fund's global programme manager, technical officer and former VZF Myanmar project manager also participated in a session dedicated to the Fund's work, including addressing the impact of climate change on workers' safety and health.



International Conference on Occupational Heat Stress:

"Implementation of Practices, Sharing of Experiences" (Doha, Qatar, May 2023): The objective of this international conference was to exchange scientific knowledge on the impact of occupational heat stress, and to present prevention and mitigation policy responses and good practices. The Fund's global programme manager presented the conclusions to the two-day event.

Trade, Investment and Decent Work in Asia (Bangkok, May 2023). The Fund's global programme manager and the VZF Viet Nam project manager participated in this course, which was organised by the ILO Research Department in collaboration with ILO-ITC and ILO RO-Bangkok.

World of Coffee Conference (Bengaluru, India, October 2023). The event's theme was aligned with the global coffee campaign, which was referenced during the opening session in remarks delivered by the ILO's Assistant Director-General, Manuela Tomei. The Fund's senior programme and operations officer participated as a discussant in the panel discussion on "Coffee social sustainability challenges". Our team's booth at the conference raised visibility of the #CoffeePeople Campaign and the work of the Fund in the sector.

International Conference on the Environment, Work and Health in the 21st Century: Strategies and Solutions to a Global Crisis (Bologna, Italy, October 2023). The Fund's global programme manager participated in a panel discussion entitled, "Solutions and challenges for prevention of heat-associated occupational illnesses".

23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work (Sydney, Australia, November 2023). The Fund's global programme manager participated in two panel discussions: "Our Precarious Planet: Climate Change and OSH" and "Safety is Good Business: People, Planet, Profit". First held in 1955, the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work is one of the largest international conferences for work health and safety. The Fund's manager also participated in a podcast produced by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) to raise awareness of the importance of safety and health in supply chains, and promote the Fund's collective action model to a large, diverse audience.



Putting OSH on the agenda across the coffee supply chain

In 2023, the Fund launched a global communication campaign to promote the right to a safe and healthy environment in the coffee supply chain. The goals of this #CoffeePeople campaign were to raise awareness about occupational safety and health, scale up good practices, and mobilize collective action. The campaign reached more than 25 million people through social media and was localised in three of the world's biggest coffee producing countries (Brazil, Uganda and Viet Nam).

Prior to the implementation of this global campaign, understanding of the importance of coffee workers' occupational safety and health was limited, and OSH was not considered a priority.

The campaign positioned OSH high on the sector's agenda in 2023, as illustrated by the designation of the theme "Joining forces for a safety coffee supply chain" as the official theme of International Coffee Day.

The campaign was also prominently featured at the 2023 World Coffee Conference held in India in September during which the ILO Assistant Director-General for Governance, Rights and Dialogue delivered the opening remarks.

The social media challenge was supported by high-level officials, including the ILO Director General, the President of the International Organization of Employers (IOE), Ministers from Germany and Brazil, UN agencies in various coffee-producing countries, sectoral organizations and brands, and ILO constituents.

VZF knowledge products and tools were downloaded five times more after the campaign than before the campaign. Following the implementation of the campaign, 96% of respondents reported that the campaign had been useful to advance occupational safety and health in the coffee supply chain; and 56% of respondents said they had changed or were planning to change the way that they work to integrate at least one aspect they learned from the #CoffeePeople campaign activities into their work.

Addressing the campaign's call to action, 10 global organizations, including leading private sector entities and development partners, pledged to implement concrete actions to improve coffee workers' OSH using the action-oriented "Collective action kit: Actions to promote and realize the right to a safe and healthy working environment in the coffee supply chain" toolkit as reference.





Improving the safety of commuters in the garment sector

This year, Vision Zero Fund signed a new partnership agreement with Nike, Inc. to continue implementation of commuting safety activities in the garment sector. This includes scaling the implementation of the trainings on the action manual and checklist for employers and workers in the garment and footwear sector to enhance workers' commuting safety; and supporting the implementation of action plans developed in Ethiopia and Egypt following the pilot exercises.

Building capacity in Ethiopia

Building the capacity of government institutions to conduct OSH activities was one of the key achievements this year. The Fund supported government institutions to undertake specific OSH capacity building activities and expand OSH services based on identified gaps in the regions. In addition, the Fund supported the finalization of the National Occupational Safety and Health Directive and the Occupational Disease List. This will enable precise, up-to-date data to support effective policymaking on OSH topics.

Promoting gender equality in Mexico

The project participated in the first National Congress of Presidents from Local Congresses held in Jalisco, during which it presented its efforts to promote gender equality, including the development of a profile of women workers in agriculture. The project also presented the results of a legislative gap analysis regarding the Violence and Harassment Convention (C. 190). This analysis served as the basis for participants to design a work plan to support the implementation of the Convention, which Mexico ratified in 2022.

Raising awareness in Viet Nam

The overall environment at institutional and workplace levels to promote OSH through community engagement in the coffee supply chain and in agriculture has improved significantly in Viet Nam. Project activities increased awareness and knowledge on OSH challenges and needs in the coffee supply chain, notably those of farm workers in the informal economy. As a result, multi-stakeholder initiatives, NGOs and companies have integrated OSH into their supply chains.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) also demonstrated commitment to improve OSH conditions for smallholder farmers by introducing OSH chapters into its national training curricula for Robusta and Arabica coffee cultivation. The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), while still focusing primarily on promoting OSH through application of the OSH Law in the formal economy, has started the process of extending OSH risk protection to agricultural workers in the informal economy.

Strengthening the enabling environment in Madagascar

In June, with technical and financial support from VZF Madagascar and specialists from the LABADMIN/OSH Branch in Geneva, Madagascar ratified ILO Conventions No. 155, 161 & 187. The National OSH profile of Madagascar initiated in 2022 was also finalised, adopted and published. Additionally, a study on the role and impact of masculinity on the safety and health of workers and an assessment of the qualification system of OSH professionals in Madagascar were conducted.

The project also supported the Madagascar Export Processing Zone Association (GEFP) in developing a Charter for the Promotion of OSH. In 2023, 61 companies became signatories, and visits to signatories' factories by OSH experts have commenced. To mark the celebration of World Day for Safety and Health at Work, a TV debate was organized between tripartite representatives on achievements, challenges, and opportunities resulting from the decision to include OSH among ILO's fundamental principles and rights at work. Promotional videos (in French and Malagasy) and posters were also produced and disseminated.



PROGRESS UPDATE

Improving legal and policy frameworks to enhance OSH protection, prevention and compensation

Throughout the year, we improved the capacity of policymakers and practitioners to gather and analyse OSH data, and to develop context-appropriate strategies and solutions in the garment, textile and agriculture sectors. Our projects improved the coverage of employment injury insurance, social security, and occupational health services, in particular for vulnerable groups such as migrant and seasonal workers.

Developing a national OSH profile in Mexico

This project developed a first draft of a National OSH Profile that includes an analysis of all applicable national legislation regarding OSH; ILO's Conventions on OSH ratified by Mexico; national mechanisms for the establishment, implementation and monitoring of OSH policies; mandatory and voluntary OSH management systems; coordination, cooperation and collaboration mechanisms; national resources for the implementation of OSH policies; OSH statistics; employers' and workers' organizations OHS programs; specific OSH programmes; and strengths, needs and areas of opportunity to improve OSH in Mexico. National tripartite stakeholders participated in roundtable discussions that informed the profile.

Strengthening national systems in Viet Nam

When the Fund started activities in Viet Nam, the country already had a robust national legal and policy framework on OSH. Its 2015 OSH Law also protects workers in the informal economy. The project therefore focused on interventions to strengthen the already existing national OSH system through promoting improvement in OSH data collection; training of MOLISA staff on OSH in agriculture; providing comments and recommendations on the development of a decree on voluntary occupational accident insurance; and technical input into a national review of OSH policy implementation during the last decade, which will serve as a key input for the upcoming review of the OSH Law in 2025.





Supporting the ratification of OSH Conventions in Madagascar

In June, Madagascar ratified ILO Conventions No. 155, 161 & 187. The instruments of ratification were officially deposited by the President of Madagascar with the ILO DG during the ILC 2023. The Fund supported the process of ratification through technical and financial means. The project also supported the ILO country office and the Presidency in the preparation of informational videos and in the elaboration of the national policy and programme on OSH.

The project is supporting the Ministry of Labour in its collaboration with social partners to develop OSH regulations, taking into consideration the recognition of OSH as a fundamental principle and right at work; and the ILO is working with the Government to submit six decrees to the national labour council for review. Additionally, the project is supporting the Ministry of Labour in assessing the financial capacity of temporary and seasonal workers to contribute to occupational health services.

Following the signing of an agreement with the "Centre National Emploi et Formation en BTP – CNEF BTP" in March, the Fund promoted the integration of OSH within training – notably in nine training institutes and schools supported by the Centre. As of October, 524 companies were visited. With the Fund's support, the inspection team assessed working conditions, OSH conditions, presence of child labour as well as the process of formalization.

Providing training in Ethiopia

Labour experts', board members', labour divisions' and arbitrators' knowledge of National Labour Law, OSH, and Arbitration Techniques improved due to training and peer-to-peer learning. Thirty labour inspectors and OSH professionals from six different regions were trained on the use of hazard testing and monitoring equipment. Twenty-four institutions undertook capacity building trainings on the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health on Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear. This improved OSH management systems and the capacity of key stakeholders to promote OSH in the context of sustainable development.

The Code of Practice was translated into local languages to promote its wider utilization. Following a nationwide needs assessment, the Fund assisted Gondar University to develop a PhD curriculum on Occupational Safety and Health and to revise the existing BSc curriculum.



PROGRESS UPDATE

Improving the application of effective OSH prevention, protection and compensation

In 2023, Vision Zero Fund was instrumental in training employers, workers and partner organizations on OSH; supporting the rollout of OSH knowledge by partner organizations to end beneficiaries through educating trainers and mainstreaming OSH principles in the trainings delivered; and developing and disseminating OSH training and promotional materials at the workplace level.

Scaling training in Viet Nam

Farmers trained on OSH started applying their learnings by implementing improvement measures in Viet Nam. A pool of dedicated OSH trainers (including OSH practitioners from companies, agricultural extension workers, and members of the Women's and Farmers' Union) continued to provide training to their communities in 2023 after project support ended. The training was also integrated into the regular service offerings of the private sector and NGOs, who continued to roll out training through their structures and networks. These activities promote the adoption and scaling of good OSH practices in the coffee supply chain.

Establishing enterprise structures in Ethiopia

High-risk enterprises identified through Better Work assessments in Dire Dawa established structures for OSH operations at the enterprise level. More than 100 employers, workers and government leaders were trained on proclamation 1156/11, Labor Inspection and OSH policy. This activity was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Skills, and the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions.

Training stakeholders in Mexico

Throughout 2023, the project delivered several trainings on different OSH topics to government officials, employers, and workers, promoting OSH and capacity building among project stakeholders. The project also developed promotion materials that were disseminated through ILO's social networks and delivered to employers and workers in Mexico.

Supporting workers' organizations in Madagascar

In collaboration with the ILO's Trade for Decent Work Project, our project supported the two main workers' organizations in Madagascar to design a training programme for workers' representatives that strengthened the knowledge and capacity of 1116 workers' representatives from four sectors (construction, vanilla, textiles and mines) and six regions. The programme was launched in April by the Minister of Labour.

The project supported the "Groupement des Exportateurs du Litchi -GEL" in organizing a three-day capacity building workshop for employers and worker's representatives on OSH in collaboration with two occupational health services. It also supported the national centre for employment training to strengthen training staff on OSH; and the Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education and Training to integrate OSH into training curricula and programmes and to develop a training module on OSH for secondary students in the construction sector.



Ensuring communication and visibility to amplify OSH efforts in supply chains

Vision Zero Fund continues to place emphasis on convincing, effective and timely communication at the global and country levels.

The Fund's LinkedIn page remains an effective communication channel since it was introduced in early 2023, attracting 838 unique visitors and 634 new followers. More than 250 posts were created that received more than 45,000 impressions and prompted 1,570 reactions.

The website is still the Fund's main means of communication and saw significant traffic increase during 2023, primarily due to the global #CoffeePeople campaign. The website was also updated at the end of 2023 to include a page dedicated to the Fund's 2024 Forum.

Sharing knowledge through the #CoffeePeople Campaign

A Vision Zero Fund webpage, a flyer and newsletters were produced to bring visibility to the campaign. We also implemented communication activities as tools for change, following a "Communication for Development (C4D)" approach. Partnering with the ITC-ILO Communications and advocacy team was key. Through ITC-ILO, the Fund delivered C4D training courses to ILO constituents and coffee stakeholders in Brazil, Uganda and Viet Nam, equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to implement such a campaign along the coffee supply chain, but also with a tool that can be applied in other supply chains or to other decent work topics. In December,

the Fund sent out a final newsletter that contained an overview of the campaign results in the form of an "outreach and impact report".

Raising awareness in Mexico

Our project developed a communication strategy to promote the ILO's work on OSH and raise awareness of labour rights through social media like Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram and public media. The communication strategy has three focus areas: communication for development, digital marketing, and public relations. Project meetings, training sessions, and visits to some of the selected workplaces in Jalisco were disseminated through the ILO's Mexico Country Office official X and Instagram accounts.

A specific OSH awareness campaign was launched in commemoration of the international World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2023. A total of 53 awareness-raising materials were developed. It is estimated that the ILO's publications reached more than 24,000 people. Thirty-three press releases were also published, reaching nearly 30 million people. Additionally, the project developed a short video published on YouTube summarizing the project's activities and focusing on the promotion of OSH as a fundamental principle and right at work.



Looking ahead

This year, the Fund made significant progress in its mission to eliminate work-related accidents and diseases in supply chains. Our achievements are evident in multifaceted initiatives, ranging from the enhancement of legal frameworks to private sector engagement. Notably, we have responded in dynamic and innovative ways to emerging challenges, in particular the intersection of climate change with OSH.

Our collaborative efforts with partners like Nike and initiatives like the #CoffeePeople campaign highlight our dedication to a safer and more sustainable future. Emphasizing gender responsiveness, the Fund has integrated a comprehensive approach to address the unique challenges faced by women in the workforce, aiming for inclusive and equitable workplaces. We will also expand our sectoral scope to the electronics sector in Viet Nam in 2024.

By building upon the solid foundation of our achievements, the Fund's new five-year strategy – 2024-2028, "Realizing the right to a safe and healthy working environment in supply chains through collective action" – aims to amplify our strengths, leverage invaluable lessons learned, and address new and emerging work-related safety and health risks and challenges. It will be launched at the Fund's Forum in April 2024.

One of our main priorities for 2024 will be to use the momentum created by the launch of the new Strategy and the Forum to mobilize additional financial resources and forge strategic partnerships that will place the Fund on a sound financial and operational footing for the next five years. The Fund will also continue to incrementally seek cost-effectiveness options and full complementarity with other parts of the Safety + Health for All flagship programme.

As the Vision Zero Fund continues its impactful journey, we will strive to remain a leader of collective efforts toward the goal of zero work-related accidents and diseases in supply chains.



VISION ZERO FUND

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



