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Improving Safety and Health in the agricultural global supply chains (Phase II) - A Vision Zero Fund project

Summary of the achievements (1 March 2024 – 30 November 2024)

Introduction

Between March and November 2024, with co-funding from the European Union, the ILO Vision Zero Fund implemented activities for improving occupational safety and health (OSH) in the coffee and sugarcane supply chains. These activities built on the [results](#) of the [#CoffeePeople campaign](#), and were carried out at both the global level and in selected countries, including Brazil, Colombia, Uganda, and Vietnam.

Key achievements to date include^a:

- Ten (10) awareness-raising events conducted at global and country levels, including film screenings, SafeDay celebrations, and International Coffee Day activities.
- Three (3) research documents completed: two focusing on sugarcane in Colombia and one on cooperatives in Uganda.
- Two (2) learning and training activities delivered: one webinar and one in-person training session.
- Four (4) sectoral multistakeholder workshops (three in Colombia and 1 in Uganda); and
- An estimated 880 people (45% women) were reached directly through these activities, with an additional 20,000 people reached via the coffee campaign in Colombia.

^a The partnership with the International Coffee Organization (ICO) has been instrumental in advancing the Fund's activities in the coffee sector, particularly at the global level and in Colombia. In Colombia, the implementation of the #FamiliasCafeteras campaign received partial funding from the All Japan Coffee Association. Detailed information on the activities carried out and the results achieved under the ICO-AJCA-ILO collaboration can be found [here](#).

Summary of the activities

Outcome 1: Global and national stakeholders enhanced commitment to promoting OSH in the coffee supply chain.

Awareness raising and learning

- **#CoffeePeople documentary screenings.** The Action organized a total of eight in-person screenings of the [#CoffeePeople documentary](#): four at **global level** (Geneva, Copenhagen - at the World of Coffee Expo-, Brussels and Turin) and four at **country level** (Ethiopia, two in Uganda – one in Kampala and in a coffee-growing district -, and [Vietnam](#)). Overall, the events were attended by 340 people (50% women) representing governments from coffee producing and consuming countries, employer`s and workers` organizations, NGOs, other international organizations, and coffee growers themselves, among others. All events were followed by panel discussions with representatives from the European Commission, the International Trade Union Confederation, the International Coffee Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Specialty Coffee Association (SCA), UNICEF and the International Trade Centre and country-level constituents, as relevant. In addition, during the reporting period, the documentary received a total of 113 online views. In **Vietnam**, 89% of screening participants rated the event quality as "Excellent". Pre- and post-event assessments showed an increased understanding of sustainable development standards, including child labour and non-discrimination; improved knowledge of OSH hazards in agricultural workplaces; decent work principles, with correct responses to the survey questions increasing from 88% to 95%. In **Uganda**, during the tripartite panel discussion following the screening of the documentary, the government representative confirmed the Government`s intention to ratify C187. Shortly after the event, the Government sent a letter to the ILO to request support for updating the implementation of OSH activities linked to advancing the ratification process. In **Turin**, the documentary was screened at the ILO International Training Centre on the International Coffee Day. During the subsequent panel discussion, speakers reflected on the activities, results and lessons learned from the planning and implementation of the #CoffeePeople campaign, as an example of the effective use of communication for development.

- **Audiovisual materials.** During the [Vision Zero Fund Forum](#) that took place in Geneva in April, the Fund launched a [photo exhibition](#) featuring coffee workers in Brazil, Vietnam, and Uganda. The exhibition seeks to reveal the human stories behind every cup of coffee and highlight the importance of ensuring their right to a safe and healthy working environment. The exhibition was also displayed at the ITC ILO and is available online. A [9-minute version of the documentary](#) was produced and streamed during the sectoral events organized by the International Coffee Organization in September and by the Swiss Trade Coffee Association in October 2024. This shorter version has been created for use in capacity development activities. A 3-minute version of the documentary exclusively focusing on Uganda was also produced for targeted communication and awareness raising activities.
- **#CoffeePeople campaign “spin off”.** In collaboration with the ILO Sectoral Department, the Action provided support for the adaptation of the global [#CoffeePeople campaign](#) to **Colombia**. The country campaign, entitled [#FamiliasCafeteras](#), was officially launched on Safe Day, featuring a dedicated webpage, a brief campaign outline, social media assets, an “official” video, and a campaign video to promote FPRWs in the coffee sector. A joint press release was issued by the ILO, ICO, the Colombian Ministry of Labour, and the Government of Huila, which received extensive coverage from national and international sectoral media, such as the [Global Coffee Report](#) and [Comunicaffe](#). By May 2024, the campaign messages had reached over 20,000 people. In June, local stakeholders marked the San Pedro y San Pablo festivities with a parade float (“carroza”) carrying the campaign’s messages. The video [“what would the ideal coffee sector look like?”](#), that brings together representatives from Government, employers’ and workers’ organizations, and coffee growers, was viewed 675 times.
- **International Coffee Day activities.** At the occasion of International Coffee Day (ICD, October 1st), the #CoffeePeople documentary was [streamed on ILO live](#). The online event was promoted jointly with the International Coffee Organization (ICO). In addition, the Fund prepared a document entitled [“Guidelines for hosting a documentary screening”](#) to support stakeholders in their efforts to raise awareness and promote decent work for workers across the coffee supply chain by organizing, promoting and hosting their own screenings, beyond ICD.

- **Safeday activities.** In **Uganda**, over 200 women and men took part in a 5km [Safeday run](#) organized by the National Union of Cooperative Commercial Agricultural and Allied Workers (NUCCA AW) with support from this Action. The race advocated for coffee workers' right to a safe and healthy workplace environment. Members of parliament, coffee workers, farmers, consumers, and other stakeholders united to call for the ratification of fundamental OSH Conventions. Following the race, participants attended a panel discussion that highlighted the importance of advancing OSH fundamental Convention ratifications to improve OSH in the coffee supply chain.
- **Events.** In March 2024, the Fund organized the [webinar "Promoting decent work in the coffee supply chain: Good practices, opportunities, and challenges"](#). During the webinar, a representative from the Colombian Government, from the Ugandan employers' organization and from the Brazilian workers' organization discussed the opportunities and challenges in progressing toward the realization of decent work for all coffee workers. The webinar was joined by 113 participants from various coffee producing countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America. In June, Ockert Dupper, Global Manager of the Vision Zero Fund, was part of a panel discussion on current sustainability challenges and solutions in the coffee supply chain at the [event "Sustainability in the Coffee Value Chain: From Awareness to Action."](#) organized by the International Trade Centre (ITC) in Geneva. During the event, Mr. Dupper presented the work being done under this Action.

Research

- In Uganda, in collaboration with the ILO COOP unit, the ILO Accel II project, and the [CLEAR Supply Chains project](#), Vision Zero Fund is conducting the study: "Needs assessment for fighting child labour and improving occupational safety and health in the coffee and tea supply chains in **Uganda** through cooperative development". The [validation workshop](#) of the study took place in Kampala on November 19th. The workshop brought together 40 representatives from government, employers' and workers' organizations, cooperatives, coffee multi-stakeholder initiatives, international and civil society organizations working in the coffee supply chain. Participants discussed the important role that cooperatives play in ensuring farmers' compliance with fundamental principles and rights at work, and how cooperatives can support their members to implement

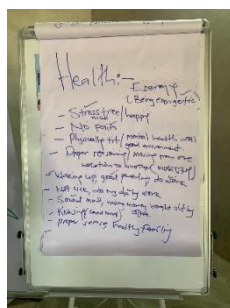
good OSH practices and eliminate child labour. The findings of the study will inform the adaptation of the ILO's "Practical Occupational Safety and Health Training for Cooperatives in Agriculture," a training tool for partners providing advisory and training services for cooperatives. Cooperatives training will take place during Q1/Q2 2025.

- In **Brazil**, the Action is laying the groundwork for a similar study of coffee cooperatives in the Mina Gerais coffee growing region. The study is scheduled to begin early 2025.



Capacity development

- On November 20th, Vision Zero Fund, jointly with the National Union of Cooperative Commercial Agricultural and Allied Workers (NUCCAW), delivered [practical, participatory action-oriented training](#) to 109 (40% women) coffee growers from three regions in **Uganda**, namely, Bukomansimbi and Masaka and Kalungu. The training content and awareness raising materials were developed in close collaboration with NUCCAW, who was primarily responsible for the identification of and outreach to potential participants. Participants showed a keen interest in [learning safe practices](#) at work, in particular with regards to safe lifting and chemicals management. Participants received a ["2025 Calendar"](#) with illustrations showing safe work practices including lifting, chemical management, physical environment, and maternity protection, and that includes key messages in relation to fundamental principles and rights at work.



Outcome 2: Global and national stakeholders enhanced commitment to promoting OSH in the sugar cane supply chain.

- The Action supported activities to [validate the assessment of the drivers and constraints for OSH improvement in the sugarcane supply chain in Colombia](#). Initial research had been conducted by Vision Zero Fund late 2023. Preliminary findings were validated with national stakeholders in June 2024 during a [workshop](#) held in Cali, which was attended by **38 people (60% women)**. In November, a follow-up meeting with **12 sectoral representatives** was conducted to prioritize the intervention models.



- The Action also produced a **study on the socio-demographic, health and working conditions of vulnerable workers in the supply chain in Colombia**, namely, those producing *panela*, a traditional, unrefined cane sugar popular in Colombia. The study compiled information from 139 producers in the sector (49.6% women). Study findings were validated in November during a [workshop](#) attended by **30 sectoral representatives (72% women)**. Based on the results of these studies, VZF prepared a roadmap with activities to strengthen the capacities of the stakeholders along the supply chain through the design of tools and capacity development activities for improving health and working conditions in the

sector. Following completion of the studies and validation of the intervention models, the Action is working on the training materials for the capacity development activities to take place in 2025.

Future activities

- Between **1 December 2024 and 31 May 2025**, the Fund will: (i) publish the needs assessment for fighting child labour and improving occupational safety and health in the coffee supply chains through cooperative development in **Uganda** and **Brazil**; (ii) publish the sugar cane and *panela* studies in **Colombia**; and (iii) organize at least two **global** webinars to share and discuss the policy implications of research findings in both the coffee and sugar cane supply chains.

More information: Visit [this webpage](#) or contact María Munaretto, Project Coordinator, at munaretto@ilo.org.



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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.