



# FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY RISK PROFILING

## GARMENT & FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY

Cambodia • Haiti • Indonesia • Jordan • Lesotho • Nicaragua • Vietnam

Funded by



International Labour  
Organization

Implemented by



## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The **IFC Fire and Life Safety Project** aims to support the Better Work Programme, a partnership project of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), in its objective to improve labour conditions and standards compliance of participating garment and footwear factories in developing countries. The project will provide assistance to Better Work specifically in reviewing its tools and approaches to assessing and remediating fire and building safety issues in each of the countries in which it operates.

This project was initiated in the aftermath of the collapse of the Rana Plaza Building, a commercial structure housing a garment factory in Bangladesh, resulting to several injuries and a death toll of 1,127. The shortcomings of factories operating in the industry were placed in the public limelight and there emerged a clamor for improved working conditions and better compliance on factory safety standards. With the help of key stakeholders, the project will help to prevent or mitigate the impact of future incidents like the April 2013 Bangladesh disaster by



conducting sectoral-level risk assessments on fire and building safety in garment and footwear factories to develop respective risk profiles for each country.

## METHODOLOGY



## MAJOR ACTIVITIES

**Research and Desk Review** – An initial research and review for each country involved shall be conducted to gather existing and available data on fire and building safety.

**Benchmarking** – A set of international standards shall be defined to be used as basis for analyzing local standards in each country and as reference to formulate an assessment checklist.

**Report Review** – Factory assessment reports and other published reports from each Better Work country programme shall be reviewed to provide information on fire and building safety issues.

**Site Selection** – In preparation for the site inspection, site selection criteria shall be established to identify a sample set of factories for each Better Work country programme.

**Stakeholder Discussions** – Key stakeholders shall be interviewed to gather more information and better understand the current scenario of building and fire safety in the sector/s of interest.

**Site Inspection** – *Country specific site inspections focusing on fire and life safety shall be conducted using an exhaustive assessment checklist and procedures including visual inspection and non-destructive structural tests.*

**Data Compilation** – All data gathered from the initial review and the conducted discussions/assessments shall be compiled to develop the sectoral-level risk profile.

**Lesson-Learnt Discussion Workshop** – Workshops shall be organized in selected countries out of the seven to discuss in detail the key findings and recommendations put forth in the risk profile reports.

**Turnover and Closure** – After the workshop, all final reports and documents shall be turned over to the client.

## WHAT IS SITE INSPECTION?

- Visual inspection based on an assessment checklist (Fire & Building Safety)
- Short interviews with key personnel
- Basic non-destructive structural safety tests (Rebound Hammer, Ultrasonic Pulse Velocity and Rebar Scanning)
- Development of assessment report containing results and recommendations

## HOW WILL THE FACTORY BENEFIT?

- Access to the result of the assessment report
- Inclusion to an “invitation only” Lesson-Learnt Workshop (Fire & Building Safety) with key stakeholders
- Access to the Vietnam Risk Profile on Fire & Life Safety (Garment Industry)
- More support and access to information from ILO & BFC in the future

## SUPPORT NEEDED

Support from companies/factories involved in the Better Work Programme is needed for the implementation of the project by allowing a one-day site inspection to be conducted within their premises. The factories' cooperation is indispensable to promote and uphold the industries' efficiency and workers' well being.

*The Site Inspection activity is NOT an AUDIT or a FAULT-FINDING EXERCISE. It is merely an assessment to understand the current state when it comes to fire and building safety readiness of the sector/s of interest.*

*The Site Assessment Checklist to be used will be shared in advance with the factory prior to the site inspection.*



## International Finance Corporation (IFC)

IFC is a member of the World Bank Group. It finances and provides advice for private sector ventures and projects in developing countries in partnership with private investors and, through its advisory work, helps governments create conditions that stimulate the flow of both domestic and foreign private savings and investment.



International Labour  
Organization

## International Labour Organization (ILO)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the tripartite UN agency that brings together governments, employers and workers of its 183 member states in common action to promote decent work throughout the world. The main aims of the ILO are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.



## Better Work Programme

Better Work is an innovative partnership programme between the ILO and the IFC. Operational since 2009, the programme aims to improve both compliance with labour standards and competitiveness in global supply chains. Better Work aims to have a significant and direct impact through its own country-based programmes in the garment sector, as well as indirect impact through its influence, knowledge sharing and partnerships.



## ECC International

ECC International is a leading people and process improvement solutions provider in Southeast Asia, focused on process improvement, process automation solutions and learning solutions. With HQ in the Philippines, ECCI operates in 5 countries across South and Southeast Asia including Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and India.

## Contact Information

### INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

4, route des Morillons  
CH-1211 Geneva 22  
Switzerland  
T: +41 22 799 8675  
F: +41 22 799 6516  
<http://www.ilo.org/>

### INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (IFC)

2121 Pennsylvania  
Avenue, NW Washington,  
DC 20433 USA  
T: (202) 473-3800  
F: (202) 974-4384  
<http://www.ifc.org/>

### BETTER WORK

ILO  
4, route des Morillons  
CH-1211 Geneva 22 Switzerland  
IFC  
2121 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20433 USA  
T: +41 22 799 7814  
<http://betterwork.org/>

### ECC INTERNATIONAL

Level 5, A & V Crystal Tower,  
105 Esteban St., Legaspi Village,  
1229 Makati City, Philippines  
T: (+632) 403 8668  
F: (+632) 403 8358  
[www.eccigroup.com](http://www.eccigroup.com)

#### Disclaimer:

"This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the IFC. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of ECC International and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the IFC & ILO."