

**ILO  
Flagship  
Programme**

# OSH-GAP

**OCCUPATIONAL  
SAFETY AND HEALTH**

**GLOBAL ACTION  
FOR PREVENTION**



International  
Labour  
Organization



## Why an ILO global flagship programme on OSH?

Safe and healthy work is a fundamental human right and safe and healthy workplaces are a foundation of sustainable development. Yet based on the most recent ILO estimates, 2.78 million workers continue to die each year from work-related injuries and illnesses. Those injuries and illnesses continue to cause, in addition to incalculable human suffering, significant economic losses for workers and their families, businesses and national economies as a whole. The global economic impact of the failure to

adequately invest in occupational safety and health (OSH) is currently estimated to be 3.94 per cent of the global GDP per year. In response to estimates such as these and the growing body of evidence demonstrating the importance of OSH to sustainable development, the demand to improve OSH in the world's workplaces has grown significantly in the past decade.

The vast majority of all work-related deaths annually are not the result of the catastrophic accidents that frequently capture the world's attention but are the result of routine exposures to workplace hazards - [pointing to the overwhelming need for a proactive systems-based approach to OSH that promotes prevention](#).

The ILO global flagship programme, OSH – Global Action for Prevention (OSH-GAP) directly responds to the growing demand for improvements in OSH and the requests of ILO member states and social partners for assistance to strengthen national and enterprise level OSH systems as prescribed by key ILO OSH Conventions, including Convention 187 (Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health) and Convention 155 (Occupational Safety and Health).

### OSH-GAP OBJECTIVE

Seeking to reduce the incidence of work-related deaths, injuries and illnesses and to promote a culture of prevention in occupational safety and health, the OSH-GAP operationalizes the ILO's commitment to secure the fundamental right of all workers to safe and healthy work and to further global sustainable development goals by improving the safety and health of the world's workplaces.

### OSH-GAP AREAS OF FOCUS

OSH-GAP focuses on specific OSH challenges:

- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) – which represent over 99% of all enterprises
- Hazardous sectors: construction and agriculture
- Workers with increased vulnerability to OSH injuries and illnesses: young workers aged 15-24, women and migrant workers
- Global Supply Chains – which account for over 70% of all global trade today

### PROGRAMME STRATEGY

The OSH-GAP addresses critical building blocks for improving the safety and health of work and workplaces: [OSH capacities](#), [OSH knowledge](#), [OSH expertise and networks](#) and the [demand for OSH](#). OSH-GAP strives to bring together social partners and stakeholders in an inclusive, collaborative and coordinated approach at all stages.

### BUILDING OSH CAPACITIES

The OSH-GAP assists countries to implement proactive systems-based approaches to safety and health using an outcome-oriented intervention framework. This framework is centred on a set of inter-connected OSH capacities needed to achieve reductions in the incidence of work-related injuries and illnesses and advance a culture of prevention.



- 2006 - **ILO adopts Convention 187 setting out Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health.**
- 2008 - **Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work** global leaders representing governments, employers, workers, international organizations and other key stakeholders commit to promoting a culture of prevention.
- 2014 - **G20 leaders issue** "Statement on Safer and Healthier Workplaces" in **Melbourne Declaration**.
- 2015 - **Ankara Declaration, Hangzhou Communiqué (2016), and Hamburg Declaration (2017)** strengthen commitments and support creation of ILO's global programme on OSH (**OSH-GAP**), the **G7 Vision Zero Fund** and **G20 OSH Expert Network**.
- 2015 - **United Nations adopts 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**



## These inter-connected OSH capacities include:

- Legal, regulatory and adjudicative frameworks that address and integrate OSH
- Enforcement of and compliance with OSH in workplaces, leveraging public and private initiatives
- Employer and worker competencies that are necessary to improve OSH in workplaces
- Social dialogue to support OSH
- Public and private financial resources for investment in OSH
- Occupational health services delivered by public and private sectors
- Employment injury insurance programs supporting prevention of work-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses
- OSH professionals, institutions and networks that support dissemination and utilization of OSH knowledge
- OSH indicators and implementation of mechanisms for effective OSH data collection
- Demand for safety and health of workers and workplaces



### OSH-GAP initiatives:

- Development of process and tools to assist countries in assessing current OSH capacities, gaps, and opportunities for improving OSH capacities (Global)
- Design of guidance and tools to support countries in drafting laws and regulations that effectively address and integrate OSH in national legal frameworks, including core OSH laws and technical regulations (Global)
- Piloting strategies to scale up and integrate OSH training in the construction sector (Cambodia)
- Mainstreaming OSH into Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and enhancing OSH competency among young workers (Myanmar, Viet Nam)

## BUILDING OSH KNOWLEDGE

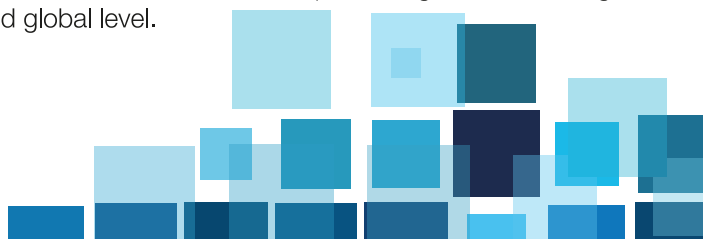
The OSH-GAP is identifying the needs and creating the methodologies and tools for the development, collection and utilization of OSH knowledge, information and data. Timely, relevant and reliable OSH knowledge, information and data provide the necessary foundation for design and implementation of OSH policies, legal frameworks, systems, programmes and interventions, and importantly, the means to monitor and evaluate their effectiveness.

### OSH-GAP initiatives:

- Development and piloting of research methodology and tools to identify constraints and drivers to improving OSH in global supply chains (GSCs - Colombia, Indonesia, Madagascar)
- Development of OSH indicators for preventive action, and innovative tools to improve the collection of reliable OSH data
  - o OSH National Performance Index, for systematic and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of national OSH system effectiveness (Global)
  - o Confidence Level Index to assess national OSH notification and recording systems ability to produce reliable OSH data (Global)

## BUILDING OSH EXPERTISE AND NETWORKS

Strong international and regional networks and their member OSH experts and institutions are key to the effective development and exchange of knowledge, information and data and development of scalable and sustainable interventions. The OSH-GAP supports existing networks with technical support and expertise and fosters creation of new networks promoting OSH knowledge exchange at regional and global level.



OSH-GAP initiatives:

- Global survey establishing a comprehensive compilation of OSH institutions, organizations and agencies (Global)
- Development of regional OSH network profiles (Regional)
- Promotion of young worker/employer/entrepreneur networks in support of a culture of prevention and the development of scalable and sustainable interventions (Global)
- Administrative and operational support for creation of G20 OSH Expert Network (Global)

## BUILDING DEMAND FOR OSH

Accessible and practical information is critical to raising employer, worker and other stakeholder awareness and understanding about OSH hazards and risks in workplaces. The presentation and dissemination of information in a manner that meets their needs, attracts their attention, encourages their engagement, and promotes the sharing of the information with others is critical to building a demand for OSH.

OSH-GAP initiatives:

- The SafeYouth@Work and Youth4OSH initiatives are working to inform and empower young workers and entrepreneurs to drive improvements in OSH through the development of youth OSH champions (Global and Multi-country)
- Launch of global action plan of action and awareness campaign on OSH for Youth at World Congress 2017 - closely linked to ILO SafeDay Campaign 2018 (Global)
- Knowledge-Attitude-Behaviour Surveys on OSH to establish baseline information and inform effective outreach strategies focusing on young workers (Global)

## VISION ZERO FUND

As an integral part of the ILO's global flagship programme on OSH, the Vision Zero Fund (VZF) has a particular strategic focus – VZF initiatives strive to realize the goal of zero work-related fatalities and severe injuries and diseases, by improving occupational safety and health practices and conditions in sectors linked to global supply chains. The Fund also seeks to strengthen key OSH capacities such as the capacity of labour inspectorates and employment injury insurance schemes in countries linked to global supply chains. The VZF constitutes a special vehicle for GSC-related OSH work within the OSH-GAP, while adapting and implementing intervention models developed under the global programme.

## COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ILO FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES

The OSH-GAP is one of five ILO Flagship Programmes. The OSH-GAP works to identify opportunities, including joint initiatives, to strengthen capacities of national institutions and promote decent work. The OSH-GAP works closely with the IPEC+ Programme on eliminating hazardous work for children aged 15-17 years old, and the Better Work Programme to improve working conditions in the garment industry, among other ILO global flagship programmes.

**Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and  
Occupational Safety and Health Branch (LABADMIN/OSH)  
Governance Department  
International Labour Office**

Route des Morillons 4, CH-1211 Geneva, 22 Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0) 22 799 6715

Email: [labadmin-osh@ilo.org](mailto:labadmin-osh@ilo.org)

Website: [www.ilo.org/labadmin-osh](http://www.ilo.org/labadmin-osh)

