



OSH in Global Supply Chains



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ILO-EU project to improve knowledge base on safety and health in global supply chains to support G20 work on safer workplaces

Within the framework of the Occupational Safety and Health - Global Action for Prevention (OSH-GAP) Flagship Programme, the project aims at identifying constraints and drivers for the improvement of occupational safety and health (OSH) in global supply chains (GSCs).

According to ILO estimates, 60 to 80 per cent of global trade involves global supply chains. While the contribution of these trade mechanisms to global economic growth and job opportunities is evident, their impact on the working conditions and safety and health of workers involved in GSCs in developing countries raises concern. Though there is great potential to harness the growing power of GSCs towards better OSH of their workers, examples of successful initiatives to do so remain limited.

In order to identify constraints and drivers for OSH improvement in agricultural GSCs, the ILO will carry out case studies in Colombia, Indonesia and Madagascar. A research methodology for the case studies will be designed with research partners, allowing for cross-country comparisons. Throughout its implementation, the project will coordinate closely with other relevant ILO projects at global and country levels.



The project directly links to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on *decent work and economic growth* and its findings will further contribute to SDGs on *good health and well-being* and on *responsible consumption and production*.

Focus on food and agriculture

Agricultural GSCs represent a high percentage of global trade in value and in volume.

The agricultural sector is estimated to make up a third of global employment and over half of total employment in many developing economies. Between 2000 and 2013, the share of GSC-related jobs in total employment in agriculture increased by over five percent in emerging economies indicating the growing integration of the sector in GSCs.

Employment patterns are often characterized by more vulnerability, poor working conditions and inadequate OSH, making the sector particularly relevant for the project.



Project sequencing



Expected results

The case studies will document the reality of safety and health practices in supply chains at country level, thereby gathering information on second or third tier suppliers. This research will contribute in:

- Closing current knowledge gaps.
- Identifying the necessary measures to improve OSH in GSCs.
- Designing intervention models for action.

Potential outcomes

Based on the results of this research project and subject to additional resource mobilization, the ILO, its constituents and other relevant stakeholders will be in a position to:

- Implement interventions emerging from the research to improve OSH within GSCs.
- Conduct the research methodology on OSH in GSCs in other countries and sectors, so as to increase the available knowledge on the topic and strengthen the capacity of decision-makers within governments, employers' and workers' organizations and companies to harness the performance of GSCs towards OSH improvement.

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