

# NEWSLETTER

Quarterly | July 2023 | Issue 15



Dear Readers,

We hope you are doing well.

We are excited to share this newsletter with you, summarizing last quarter's highlights and reflecting on the first half of 2023. We also reached a major milestone by launching the program in Indonesia. In addition, we continued to strengthen the delivery and operations of LABS, along with the associated firms. We conducted National Stakeholder Committee meetings in India and Vietnam, where important aspects on post-graduation monitoring and national-level outreach of the program was discussed.

LABS also hosted the first session of Platform for Safety in Apparel and Footwear Industry (PSAFI) in India in April 2023, to provide a trusted, neutral space for the different actors to discuss and exchange ideas and insights on addressing safety issues in India's apparel and footwear industry.

We hope you enjoy reading these updates and look forward to any feedback you may have!

## PROGRESS SO FAR

▶ **425**

**Factories onboarded**

India: 136

Vietnam: 215

Cambodia: 72

Indonesia: 02

▶ **408**

**Assessments conducted**

India: 127

Vietnam: 211

Cambodia: 70

▶ **704**

**Safety training conducted**

India: 189

Vietnam: 447

Cambodia: 68

▶ **849,542**

**Workers reached**

India: 167,793

Vietnam: 507,447

Cambodia: 169,475

Indonesia: 4,827

# Life and Building Safety (LABS) Initiative Expands to Indonesia

LABS Initiative launched in Indonesia on May 10, 2023. More than 220 representatives from the government, CSOs and private sector companies participated in the event. Some participating organizations include Ministry of State Secretariat, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs, DKI Jakarta Provincial Fire and Rescue Service, West Java Province Fire and Disaster Management Service, H&M, PUMA, Fruit of Loom, Amazon and Tom Tailor.

The Initiative will operate in all major production hubs of Indonesia and is expected to benefit approximately 2,75,000 workers.



# Remediations



**104** successfully graduated from the program

India	17
Vietnam	87

Most of the factories registered with LABS have been assessed and the focus is now towards improving remediations, and supporting the factories in successfully graduating. So far, 104 factories have successfully graduated from the program by remediating all issues that are identified during assessments. In addition, LABS Self-Assessment checklist has also been developed and shared with the graduated factories.

## Fire

### India

Data below represents 96 factories where 271 follow-up visits were conducted

- **99%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **96%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on the evacuation pathways
- **97%** of the factories have installed illuminated exit signages
- **89%** of the factories removed the locking mechanisms from exit doors

### Vietnam

Data below represents 196 factories where 491 follow-up visits were conducted

- **100%** of the factories removed the temporary obstacles on the evacuation pathways
- **91%** of the factories provided additional emergency lighting
- **93%** of the factories added fire alarms
- **78%** of the factories installed extra fire detectors
- **93%** of the factories remediated issues related to exit doors

### Cambodia

Data below represents 45 factories where 66 follow-up visits were conducted

- **92%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **97%** of the factories removed the temporary obstacles on the evacuation pathways
- **63%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- 47% of the factories removed the locking mechanisms from exit doors

## Electrical

### India

- **90%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **98%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **96%** of the factories provided earthing connections for electrical components

### Vietnam

- **93%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **98%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures observed in electrical panels and DBs
- **100%** of the factories remediated issues regarding the Supplies to Life Safety Systems
- **88%** of the factories provided protective earthing connections

### Cambodia

- **89%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **85%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **83%** of the factories provided earthing connections for the electrical components

## Structural

### India

- **78%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **79%** of the factories eliminated the corrosion in non-engineered structures (such as MS Shed)
- **82%** of the factories removed the wall dampness

### Vietnam

- **85%** of the factories remediated the missing/incomplete bracing in steel buildings
- **82%** of the factories repaired the visible distress in structural members (e.g., cracks on columns, beams, or slabs)
- **74%** of the factories provided the Allowable Loading Plans throughout the factory building

### Cambodia

- **91%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **96%** of the factories eliminated the corrosion in non-engineered structures
- **87%** of the factories removed the wall dampness

“ With a detailed Safety Training and Assessment program, LABS helped our factory to improve the safety conditions in our factory buildings related to Structural, Electrical, and Fire Safety. Without safety risks, our workers will feel more secure to have a good working performance. Most especially, in the time when the economy is gradually recovering after the Covid-19 epidemic, LABS is also one of the important bridges to help our company propagate and connect to more buyers. This is a stepping stone to help the business brand be raised to a new level. ”

Nhat Tri , Senior CSR officer (Unisoll Vina factory)

# Safety Training

**57**

**Safety Training**

sessions were conducted in Q1, 2023.

There were 57 Safety Trainings during the quarter with 1,261 representatives from factory management, the OHS Committee, HR and maintenance departments, and workers from the production area.

**1,261**

**people trained**

	People trained	Training
India	<b>327</b>	<b>12</b>
Vietnam	<b>713</b>	<b>34</b>
Cambodia	<b>221</b>	<b>11</b>



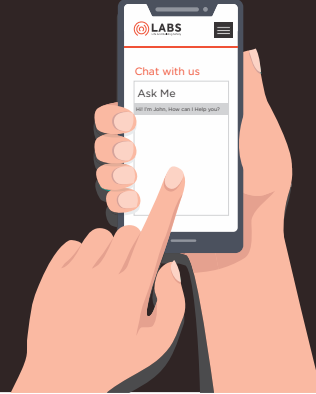
“ Over the past years, we never engaged like this before. Probably it’s very helpful, especially the worker’s safety, overall acceleration of trust-building and assurance to our daily acts. For the fire safety, overhead signage was not provided at the end indicating change of direction, but now it has been corrected. Replacing the locks on inside of the doors with a new locking mechanism that allow for easy opening from the inside without the use of a key. The key is regulation and enforcement is implemented properly and to mitigate preventable fire, electrical and building safety. Thank you.”

So Chanthy, Maintenance Worker, Taieasy International Co., Ltd.

# LABS Chat Platform

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**The LABS Chat Platform** was launched in April, 2023 in India, Vietnam, and Cambodia. New visual materials were developed to increase workers' awareness on LABS Chat Platform. These materials, including posters and stickers, were sent to factories in each country - 50 factories in India, 130 factories in Vietnam, and 22 factories in Cambodia thus far!



## Key Outreach and Events

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### National Stakeholder Committee meeting

Vietnam | April 19, 2023

#### Key discussion points

- Remediation rates at factories increased and workers, engineers, and factories improved their capacity to maintain and scale responsible production methods with enhanced accountability
- All NSC members agreed and supported the promotion of best practices regarding safety and building protection through education, training, and certification programs. LABS continues to hold the National Safety Webinar, an annual event, to provide a platform for LABS and non-LABS factories to raise awareness and promote safety in the industry
- In addition to continuing cooperation between stakeholders, a new checklist (based on the Graduation Checklist) for independent inspections of factory safety was implemented
- LABS and Better Work are collaborating on technical guidelines for factories to promote responsible production
- The LABS Initiative continues to highlight the importance of a balanced representation of gender within the Apparel and Footwear Industry by continuously addressing gender stereotypes within the supply chain, promoting gender diversity in leadership positions among participating factories, and facilitating meetings to resolve gender issues

## Platform for Safety in Apparel and Footwear Industry (PSAFI) Launch

New Delhi, India | April 28, 2023



- PSAFI was launched in an event on April 28, 2023, in New Delhi, India, with discussions on topics such as “How Various Stakeholders in the Supply Chain Look at Worker Safety” and “What more needs to be done to provide Safer Working Conditions”. The event united experts, stakeholders, and representatives from the industry, government, and workers’ organizations to chart a path towards a safer and more sustainable future for the apparel and footwear industry in India.
- PSAFI invites all interested parties, including industry professionals, policymakers, workers’ representatives, and other stakeholders to join the platform and contribute to the collective efforts in improving safety in the apparel and footwear industry in India.

## National Stakeholder Committee meeting - India

New Delhi, India | May 22, 2023



### Key discussion points

- Continuous improvement and engagement with factories who have graduated from the LABS program to improve business practices
- Inputs on PSAFI
- EU due-diligence legislation and the role LABS can play

## LABS Gender Strategy

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- Review of all LABS policies and procedures was conducted in April 2023 with an objective to integrate gender lens and promote opportunities, drivers of change and positive gender dynamics. Policies including Safety Training Policy, Associated Firms Policy and Criteria for Factory Graduation were updated.
- LABS internal team went through a training on Gender Sensitization on June 15.
- Orientation of all Associated Firms (Inspection Firms, Safety Training Firms & Quality Assurance Firms) on Gender will be conducted in July 2023.
- Slides for training women on participating and contributing in OHS Committees will be incorporated in the Safety Training Modules in July 2023
- For all Associated Firms, it has been made mandatory that the proposed team shall consist of at least one woman member

## Incidents in Apparel Sector

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### Vietnam

- **April 16, 2023**

A fire broke out at Kookil Textile Vietnam factory, damaging 2,000m<sup>2</sup> of the production



Source: <https://vietnamnet.vn/chay-rui-xuong-san-xuat-va-li-tui-xach-rong-2000-met-vuong-o-long-an-2133170.html>



## Cambodia

- **May 20, 2023**

A fire engulfed an embroidery factory (M Star Embroidery) in Phnom Penh at 1:40am, causing damage/loss to 10 embroidery machines, materials, supplies, and 30% damage to the 1,500m<sup>2</sup> warehouse building. The cause of the fire (no injuries or deaths reported), is under investigation.



Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501293839/in-pictures-fire-engulfs-phnom-penh-factory/?p=1293839>

- **June 30, 2023**

A factory fire erupted at Willis Electric, a factory manufacturing Christmas trees, lights, and outdoor decor located in Bavet Special Economic Zone in Svay Rieng Province. Cause of fire under investigation.

Source: Ministry of Interior, National Fire Police

## Annexures

### Factory Details

#### India

##### Assessments

1. Shree Bharat International Pvt., Ltd.

##### Safety Trainings

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. JAK Group Pvt., Ltd. 729                | 7. Pratibha Syntex – Unit 2                    |
| 2. Shree Bharat International Pvt., Ltd.   | 8. Matrix Clothing – Unit 1                    |
| 3. Texport Industries Pvt., Ltd.           | 9. Matrix Clothing – Unit 197                  |
| 4. Texport Industries Pvt., Ltd. – Unit 08 | 10. Nahar Spinning Mills Ltd. – 427            |
| 5. Pearl Global Industries Ltd. – BPK      | 11. Ambattur Clothing Pvt., Ltd. – D15 and D16 |
| 6. Pratibha Syntex – Unit 6                | 12. Shahi Exports Pvt., Ltd. – Unit 27         |

## Vietnam

### Assessments

1. Hung Long Garment and Service Joint Stock Company – Production Facility No. 2

### Safety Trainings

1. Triple Garment (Vietnam) Co., Ltd.
2. Tan De 7
3. Tan De 9
4. Vina Kyung Seung Trading Co., Ltd.
5. Ftn Vietnam Co., Ltd.
6. Vit Garment Co., Ltd.
7. Celebrity Fashion Vina Company Limited
8. Colltex Garment Mfy Co., Ltd.
9. Quang Viet (Long An) Co., Ltd.
10. Hansae Tg Co., Ltd.
11. Vietnam Style Fashion Accessories Co., Ltd.
12. Tien Hung Joint Stock Company
13. Eins Vina Co., Ltd.
14. Bao Hung Joint Stock Company
15. Seshin Vn2 Co., Ltd.
16. Hoa Tho Textile – Garment Joint Stock Corporation
17. Leader Garment (Vietnam) Co., Ltd.
18. Viet Pan Pacific World Co., Ltd.
19. Bac Giang Lng Garment Corporation
20. Kwang Viet Garment Co., Ltd.
21. Peak Outdoor Co., Ltd.
22. Hung Yen Garment Corporation – Joint Stock Company
23. Hansae Tn Co., Ltd.
24. Araviet Co., Ltd. (2063282)
25. New Wide Garment (Vietnam) Co., Ltd.
26. Hansae Vietnam Co., Ltd.
27. Eversun Footwear Co., Ltd.
28. Song Hong Garment JSC – Factory 7, 8, 9, 10
29. Din Sen Vietnam Enterprise Co., Ltd. (Long An)
30. Branch Of Phong Phu International JSC – Quang Tri Export Garment Factory
31. Ha Bac Export Garment Joint Stock Company
32. Haiantex JSC
33. Thien Son Hung Yen Co., Ltd.
34. Pro-Sports Giao Thuy JSC

## Cambodia

### Assessments

1. Sun Grace Sports (Cambodia) Co., Ltd.
2. Lin Wen Chih Sunbow Enterprise Co., Ltd.

### Safety Trainings

1. In Fong (Cambodia) Garment Co., Ltd.
2. Grand Textiles (Cambodia) Co., Ltd.
3. New Wide (Cambodia) Garment Co., Ltd.
4. Yi Da Manufacturer Co., Ltd.
5. Wing Star Shoes Co., Ltd.
6. Y & W Garment Co., Ltd.
7. NEX-T Apparel (Cambodia) Co., Ltd.
8. Walt Technology (Cambodia) Co., Ltd.
9. Jade Sun Garment (Cambodia) Co., Ltd.
10. Splendor Industry Co., Ltd.
11. Di Seta (Cambodia) Co., Ltd.

“ After participating in LABS Safety Training in our factory on Fire, Electrical and Structural safety i have learnt about things that i need to look while working in factory it has boost up my confidence now i am always ready to support and implement safety. Thanks for the Shahi Exports Pvt. Ltd. Management and LABS Team for educating us to be safe. ”

**Mamta**, Checker, Shahi Exports Pvt. Ltd.



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LABS is committed to transparency and, along with this newsletter will also publish results regularly on the Website: [www.labsinitiative.com](http://www.labsinitiative.com)

For any questions or comments, please email at: [info@labsinitiative.com](mailto:info@labsinitiative.com)

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