

# NEWSLETTER

Quarterly | January 2024 | Issue 17



Dear Readers,

We wish you a very Happy New Year!

As we step into 2024, we are pleased to bring you the latest edition of the Life and Building Safety (LABS) Initiative's Quarterly Newsletter. It is with immense pride and gratitude that we share a monumental achievement: by the end of 2023, our initiative reached an incredible milestone of one million workers globally! This accomplishment is a testament to our collective efforts and dedication and the industry's willingness to embrace safer practices.

In 2023, our focus on operational excellence propelled us forward. We actively worked towards enhancing LABS Standards, forging partnerships, and making a tangible impact on the lives of textile-industry workers.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities that 2024 holds for us. We aspire to build upon the momentum of 2023, continually improving and expanding our reach to make an even greater impact on the well-being of workers worldwide.

## PROGRESS SO FAR

▶ **501**

Factories onboarded

India: **149**

Vietnam: **228**

Cambodia: **87**

Indonesia: **37**

▶ **487**

Assessments conducted

India: **145**

Vietnam: **225**

Cambodia: **82**

Indonesia: **35**

▶ **882**

Safety training conducted

India: **242**

Vietnam: **515**

Cambodia: **100**

Indonesia: **25**

▶ **1,015,820**

Workers reached

India: **185,939**

Vietnam: **522,145**

Cambodia: **190,320**

Indonesia: **117,416**

**122** Factories graduated

India: **23** | Vietnam: **99**

# Improving field level impact

## Assessments



Factories were assessed across India, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (Q4) of 2023.

	Assessments	QA Assessments	Total
India	7	2	9
Vietnam	5	1	6
Cambodia	3	1	4
Indonesia	24	1	25

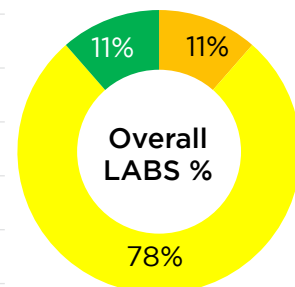
### Common assessment findings



#### Structural Safety

- Uneven floor-load distribution on suspended floors
- Exposed reinforcement on roof slab
- Cracks on structural and non-structural members (e.g., concrete beams, columns, and walls)
- Absence of documentation (e.g., structural diagrams, geo-technical reports, floor-load plans, and soil reports)

Assessment	India	Vietnam	Cambodia	Indonesia
Red/Amber	-	-	-	-
Amber	-	-	-	5
Yellow	5	3	3	18
Green	2	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>



“ Participating in the LABS program gives our company the opportunity to review the safety work at our factory, helping the company improve safety issues in a more systematic and sustainable way. In particular, LABS creates a business advantage for the factory based on the criteria of ensuring a safe working environment for workers. LABS brings benefits to businesses and workers in general, and also improves awareness and safety knowledge applied in work and life for program participants. ”



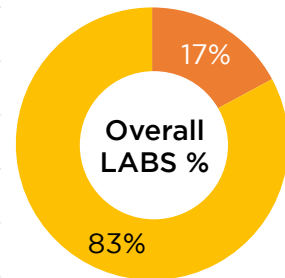
Bui Thi Phuong Lan – CSR Manager (Poong in Vina Factory)



## Fire Safety

- Rolling shutters on exit doors
- Centralized fire-alarm system unavailable
- Insufficient emergency lights on escape paths
- Fire-rated doors and fire-rated enclosures lacking
- Overhead signages missing on escape paths

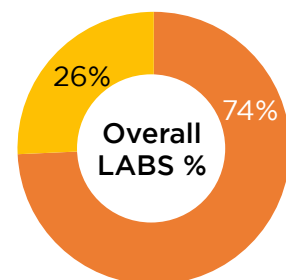
Assessment	India	Vietnam	Cambodia	Indonesia
Red/Amber	-	-	-	6
Amber	7	4	3	18
Yellow	-	-	-	-
Green	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>



## Electrical Safety

- Flammable coating inside distribution panels
- Heavy lint and dust inside switchboards/distribution boards (DBs)
- Earthing to DBs, MS roof truss, transformer fencing, and battery bank racks not provided
- Lightning protection system not installed
- Numerous hotspots with high temperatures

Assessment	India	Vietnam	Cambodia	Indonesia
Red/Amber	7	2	2	17
Amber	-	2	1	7
Yellow	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>



## Remediations

### India

Data below comprises 102 factories where 320 follow-up visits were conducted

#### Fire Safety:

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

#### Electrical Safety:

- **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

#### Structural Safety:

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

### Vietnam

Data below comprises 214 factories where 620 follow-up visits were conducted

#### Fire Safety:

- **93%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- 100% of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **92%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **97%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

#### Electrical Safety:

- 96% of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **99%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **93%** of the factories provided earthing connections for electrical components

#### Structural Safety:

- **78%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **85%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures (such as MS Shed)
- **79%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness



## Cambodia

Data below comprises 56 factories where 128 follow-up visits were conducted

### Fire Safety:

- **97%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **100%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **77%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **83%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

### Electrical Safety:

- **93%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **88%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **89%** of the factories provided earthing connections for electrical components

### Structural Safety:

- **93%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **97%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures
- **92%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness

## Safety Training

**87**

### Safety Training

sessions were conducted in Q4, 2023.

There were 87 Safety Trainings during Q4 with 2,405 representatives from factory management, the OHS Committee, HR and maintenance departments, and workers from the production area.

**2,405**

people trained

	Training	People trained
India	<b>31</b>	<b>1,078</b>
Vietnam	<b>20</b>	<b>428</b>
Cambodia	<b>13</b>	<b>311</b>
Indonesia	<b>23</b>	<b>588</b>



## LABS Chat Platform

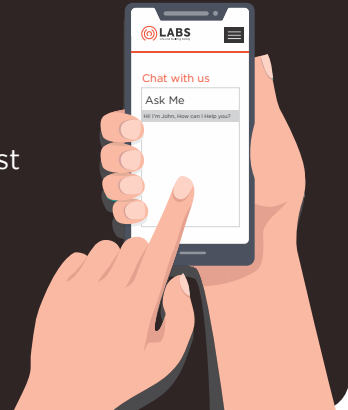
LABS has a toll-free Helpline (in Vietnam, India and Cambodia) and a LABS Chat platform (in Vietnam, India, Cambodia and Indonesia) to enable workers to raise their concerns of unsafe working conditions.

### India

- One non-LABS case was reported by a factory worker regarding his resignation
- LABS Helpline interactive voice response (IVR) now incorporates Tamil as a supplemental language to assist additional workers

### Vietnam

- Four non-LABS cases were reported regarding unpleasant workplace interactions, overtime, unfair fines, and difficult management personnel



## Key Outreach and Events

### Meeting with Secretary General of Apparel Export Promotional Council (AEPC)

November 17, 2023 - India

A meeting was held to examine expanding NSC membership and conducting safety workshops for factories associated with AEPC.

### National Stakeholder Committee (NSC) meeting - India

November 20, 2023 - India

The NSC members considered implementing safety management systems effectively and increasing the visibility and reach of the program throughout the industry.



## National Stakeholder Committee (NSC) meeting - Vietnam

December 8, 2023 - Vietnam

### Key discussion points

- The committee will support the development of a safety management system (SMS) and handbook for fire, electrical, and structural safety. The handbook, accessible to both LABS and non-LABS members, will contribute to enhancing safety practices across the apparel and footwear industry.
- Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) and Vietnam Leather, Footwear and Handbag Association (LEFASO) will continue supporting LABS in organizing a workshop at the national level to promote fire, electrical, and structural safety for apparel and footwear factories in Vietnam.
- LABS was invited to the National Safety Training in all major cities in Vietnam. Hosted by the Ministry of Construction (MOC), this exchange of best practices will further promote the industry's safety standards.
- LABS Standards will be promoted on the websites of MOC, VCCI, VITAS, and LEFASO, allowing wider access for the technical document to be viewed and implemented. Final translations and reviews are in progress.
- VCCI/VBCSD has a corporate sustainability index (CSI) to promote sustainable businesses in Vietnam; they expressed interest in the LABS program. LABS team will further explore opportunities to synergize with VCCI/VBCSD to better support businesses and the apparel industry in Vietnam.





## National Stakeholder Committee (NSC) meeting - Indonesia

December 4, 2023 - Indonesia



### Key discussion points

- Increasing the number of NSC representatives from the Indonesian Export Association, Chamber of Trade, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the National Disaster Management Agency.
- Adopting LABS Standards by DKI Jakarta Regional Disaster Management Agency; this is a breakthrough for showcasing LABS Standards for nationwide implementation.
- Collaborating with the Indonesia Textile Association to build safety awareness for non-LABS factories.

“ Ever since I have connected with the program of LABS and have been given the training on awareness, I pay attention to small things at my workplace – like passage blocks, loose wires, items placed under the electrical appliances, etc. I also take care at home that there should not be any loose electrical wire and there should not be any material under it which can cause fire and if for some reason a fire occurs then I also now know how to control it or escape. I also encourage my colleagues to keep in mind about small things related to safety and not ignore them. ”



Sunil Kumar - Checker (Matrix Clothing PVT LTD - Unit 2)



## Meeting with DKI Jakarta Disaster Management Agency

December 5, 2023 - Indonesia

This meeting gauged DKI's disaster-management plans and risk-mitigation strategies, and identified emergency responsible agencies for imminent-danger situations. An MoU will be signed with DKI to develop and enhance the building-assessment module through the adaptation of relevant sections of LABS Standards.



## Meeting with Director of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Testing

December 18, 2023 - Indonesia

A meeting was conducted with Mr. Muhamad Idham (Director of OSH Testing, Directorate General on Labor and OSH Inspection and Development, Ministry of Manpower). Mr. Idham approved publishing the LABS Methodology and Standards on the Indonesian OSH Association's website.



# Incidents in Apparel Sector

## India

- **October 25, 2023:**

Fire at a dyeing factory in Maharashtra's Bhiwandi was extinguished with no casualties

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/fire-breaks-out-at-dyeing-factory-in-maharashtras-bhiwandi-watch-11698207384474.html>



- **October 25, 2023:**

Fire erupted at a textile factory in Surat

Source: <https://www.deccanherald.com/india/gujarat/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-dyeing-factory-in-surat-2728581>



- **October 12, 2023**

A massive fire erupted at a shoe factory in Delhi's Peeragarhi area



Source: <https://businesstoday.in/latest/trends/story/watch-massive-fire-breaks-out-at-shoe-factory-in-delhis-peeragarhi-401669-2023-10-12>

- **December 19, 2023**

A fire in a Gzb factory injured one worker

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ghaziabad/https/example-com/fire-breaks-out-in-gzb-factory/articleshow/106107243.cms>

- **December 18, 2023**

A fire broke out the Shahi Export Factory located in Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Source: <https://www.amarujala.com/delhi-ncr/ghaziabad/massive-fire-broke-out-in-a-textile-factory-in-sahibabad-2023-12-18>

# Annexures

## Factory Details

### India

#### Assessments

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Soundaraa Knit Wears    | 5. Radiaant Expovision PVT LTD         |
| 2. Kitex Garments Limited  | 6. Alok Industries Limited             |
| 3. IGT Exports Limited     | 7. First Steps Baby Wear India PVT LTD |
| 4. Vamani Overseas PVT LTD |  |

#### QA Assessments

- |                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Devgiri Exports | 2. Synthesis Home Textiles PVT LTD |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|

#### Safety Trainings

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Centex Exports Fabric Unit                  | 16. Orient Fashions Exports PVT LTD - C17 |
| 2. Infiloom India PVT LTD                      | 17. Tets N Rai International              |
| 3. JAK Group PVT LTD - Unit 704                | 18. Vamani Overseas PVT LTD               |
| 4. Indian Designs Exports PVT LTD - Unit 04    | 19. Atlantic Apparels PVT LTD             |
| 5. Indian Designs Exports PVT LTD - Unit 05    | 20. Royal Classic Mills PVT LTD - Unit 6  |
| 6. Pearl Global Industries Ltd - 446           | 21. Carnival Clothing Company             |
| 7. Precise Seamless Apparels PVT LTD           | 22. Royal Classic Mills PVT LTD - Unit 5  |
| 8. Pee Empro Exports PVT LTD - Unit 13         | 23. Shri Ajay Knittex LLP                 |
| 9. Nakulan Tex LLP                             | 24. AKAI Garments                         |
| 10. Jay Jay Mills India PVT LTD - SSM Unit     | 25. Gokaldas Exports LTD - Unit 01        |
| 11. Cradle Clothing                            | 26. Elangovan Textiles LLP                |
| 12. Shahi Exports PVT LTD - Unit 12            | 27. Yellow Jerseys LLP                    |
| 13. Penguin Apparels PVT LTD                   | 28. 1947 - Unit 01                        |
| 14. Silver Spark Apparels Limited              | 29. 1947 - Unit 02                        |
| 15. Orient Fashions Exports PVT LTD - Daffodil | 30. WearWell-I                            |
|  | 31. Shahi Exports PVT LTD - Unit 33       |

## Vietnam

### Assessments

1. Thuan Phuong Long An Ltd
2. Speed Motion Vietnam Company Limited
3. Garment Great Way Co Ltd - 105639
4. Dong Tien Joint Stock Company - 119660
5. Primacy (Vietnam) Enterprise CO LTD - 48258

### QA Assessments

1. Namyang Delta CO LTD

### Re Assessments

1. Regina Miracle International Vietnam Co Ltd - Factory C

### Safety Trainings

1. Bao Hung Joint Stock Company
2. WINGSBURG VIETNAM CO LTD
3. GG Hai Duong CO LTD
4. Namyang Delta CO LTD
5. Song Hong Garment JSC - Song Hong 7: Factory 11, 12, 13, 14
6. DAEHAN GLOBAL THANH HOA CO LTD
7. Speed Motion Vietnam Company Limited
8. TAINAN ENTERPRISES (VIETNAM) CO LTD
9. SUNG HWA VINA CO LTD
10. GARMENT GREAT WAY COMPANY LIMITED
11. Ha Bac Export Garment JSC - Minh Duc Branch
12. VINATEX DA NANG JSC - UNG QUAT GARMENT FACTORY Branch
13. Alena Vietnam Footwear Limited
14. Branch of THUAN PHUONG EMBROIDERIES GARMENTS CO LTD
15. NY Hoa Viet CO LTD
16. MINH ANH KHOAI CHAU GARMENT JSC
17. Vinatex Bac Lieu Garment Manufactory
18. THAI BINH JINMAO CRAFTS LIMITED COMPANY
19. DONG TIEN JOINT STOCK COMPANY
20. Primacy (Vietnam) Enterprise CO LTD



## Cambodia

### Assessments

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. F.U.G Garment (Cambodia) CO LTD      | 3. Foot Forward (Cambodia) Socks CO LTD |
| 2. Hong Cen Max Leather Products CO LTD |   |

### QA Assessments

- Hong Cen Max Leather Products CO LTD

### Safety Trainings

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Neo Meridian Industries Garments (Cambodia) CO LTD | 7. Sabrina (Cambodia) Garment Manufacturing Corp. |
| 2. Hermo (Cambodia) CO LTD                            | 8. Hoplok (Cambodia) CO LTD                       |
| 3. SEES Global Cambodia CO LTD                        | 9. Pontus Footwear Ltd.                           |
| 4. CPCG International CO LTD                          | 10. Lin Wen Chih Sunbow Enterprises CO LTD        |
| 5. Hung Hsing Garment (Cambodia) CO LTD               | 11. Kaichi (Cambodia) Ware Ltd.                   |
| 6. Branch of Wilson Leather (Cambodia) CO LTD         | 12. Hong Cen Max Leather Products CO LTD          |
|   | 13. Glory Knitwear Ltd.                           |

## Indonesia

### Assessments

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. PT Ghim Li                            | 12. PT Uwu Jump Indonesia                |
| 2. PT Muara Tunggal                      | 13. PT Kaho Indah Citra Garment 1        |
| 3. PT Greentex Indonesia Utama II        | 14. PT Shinwon Indonesia                 |
| 4. PT Blue Rose Narado                   | 15. PT Willbes Global                    |
| 5. PT Yakjin Jaya Indonesia              | 16. PT. Eagle Nice Indonesia             |
| 6. PT Pungkook Indonesia One (Grobogan)  | 17. PT Pan Brothers Tbk - Unit 9         |
| 7. PT Yakjin Jaya Indonesia II           | 18. PT Glory Industrial Semarang         |
| 8. PT Yongjin Jaya Indonesia - Factory 1 | 19. PT Glory Industrial Semarang - Demak |
| 9. PT Great Apparel Indonesia            | 20. PT Anggun Kreasi Garmen              |
| 10. PT Kanindo Makmur Jaya - Factory II  | 21. PT Apparel One Indonesia 2           |
| 11. PT Kanaan Global Indonesia           | 22. PT Sun Suka Abadi                    |
|  | 23. PT Citra Unggul Perkasa Garment      |
|  | 24. PT Dasan Pan Pacific Indonesia       |

## QA Assessments

1. PT Formosa Bag Indonesia

## Safety Trainings

1. PT Sejin Global Indonesia
2. PT Pungkook Indonesia One
3. PT Handsome
4. Solvei8
5. PT Daehan Global - Sukabumi
6. PT Formosa Bag Indonesia
7. PT Greentex Indonesia Utama II
8. PT JMTech Busana Global
9. PT Bintang Baru Sukses
10. PT Yakjin Jaya Indonesia II
11. PT Yakjin Jaya Indonesia
12. PT Pungkook Indonesia One (Grobogan)
13. PT Great Apparel Indonesia
14. PT Muara Tunggal
15. PT Kanaan Global Indonesia
16. PT Kanindo Makmur Jaya - Factory II
17. PT Yongjin Jaya Indonesia - Factory 1
18. PT Uwu Jump Indonesia
19. PT Shinwon Indonesia
20. PT Willbes Global
21. PT Blue Rose Narado
22. PT Ghim Li
23. PT Pan Brothers Tbk - Unit 9



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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)

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