## TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT TITLE</th>
<th>BETTER WORK LESOTHO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REGION/COUNTRY</td>
<td>AFRICA/Lesotho</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROJECT DURATION</td>
<td>September 30, 2009 – March 1, 2015</td>
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<td>FUNDING LEVEL</td>
<td>USD 3,460,000</td>
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### PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED

Harsh working conditions in garment factories have been for years at the center of a large and growing debate about globalization and labor standards. Low wages, long hours, high temperatures, excessive noise, poor air quality, unsanitary conditions, and abuse (both verbal and physical) are often cited as evidence of non-compliance labor practices which characterize production in developing countries such as Lesotho. Lesotho is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranked 138 out of 177 countries on the Human Development Index. The apparel industry, which has been built on the preferential trade opportunities created by the US African Growth & Opportunity Act (AGOA), is the largest employer in Lesotho, as it accounts for nearly 50 percent of the formally employed workforce. Eighty to 85% of jobs in the garment sector are held by women. Surveys within the sector show 43% of employees are HIV-positive. Lesotho’s export to the US market, and is now exporting increasingly higher volumes to the European Union and South Africa. Lesotho is known as the “jeans capital of the Africa”, producing 26 million pairs of denim jeans a year.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To support decent work in the apparel sector by:

- monitoring compliance with national labor law and international labor standards;
- strengthening government’s ability to conduct labor inspections; and
- increasing the capacity of worker and employer representatives to engage in social dialogue.

### PROJECT STRATEGY

Better Work is an innovative program that improves working conditions in global supply chains by combining
labor monitoring and training to apparel factories around the world. The Better Work strategy focuses on market incentives for both producers and buyers, as labor law compliance increases competitiveness and international firms are driven by the need to protect their reputation and image. By monitoring garment factories' compliance with international labor standards, Better Work informs major brands and buyers of labor conditions in the sector. Multinational apparel brands use that information to help determine where they place their orders. Better Work also develops the competitiveness of the sector by providing technical assistance to factories that need to improve their compliance with international labor standards and national labor laws.

PROJECT IMPACT/RESULTS

- Better Work is active in 24 apparel and footwear factories in Lesotho, benefiting 20,500 workers, 85% of which are women.

- 13 of those factories have established a factory-specific worker-management group (Performance Improvement Consultative Committees - PICCs) to develop, implement and monitor factory improvement plans to address areas of non-compliance identified by Better Work.

GRANTEE
International Labor Organization (ILO)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS
International Finance Corporation (IFC)

CONTACT INFORMATION
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Last update, August 2013