

# TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

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<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>BETTER WORK VIETNAM — UNION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT</b>
<b>REGION/COUNTRY</b>	EAST ASIA & PACIFIC/Vietnam
<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	December 31, 2010 – December 30, 2016
<b>FUNDING LEVEL</b>	USD 1,314,000
<b>PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED</b>	<p>Harsh working conditions in garment factories have been at the center of a large and growing debate about globalization and labor standards for years. 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-compliant labor practices which characterize production in developing countries such as Vietnam.</p> <p><b><u>National Context</u></b></p> <p>In 2009, Better Work Vietnam (BWV) was launched in the apparel industry in Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong and Dong Nai Provinces. The rapid growth of the apparel sector has coincided with increased numbers of labor disputes. The amended Labor Code and Trade Union Act law (adopted in 2012) provide for an increased union role in collective bargaining and dispute resolution democratic representation. However, workers lack effective voice in factories and the unions lacked capacity to democratically represent workers at the factory level. Because the Better Work program requires active participation of workers and their organizations through Performance Improvement Consultative Committees (PICCs) to ensure that compliance plans are appropriately designed and implemented, USDOL funded the Union Capacity Development project.</p>
<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b>	To support decent work in the apparel sector by increasing the capacity of unions to effectively represent workers in textile export workplaces.
<b>PROJECT STRATEGY</b>	The capacity-building efforts directed at worker representatives in the factories are aimed at building

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skills and confidence in the social dialogue process at the factory level to support improvements in compliance with national labor law consistent with International Labor Standards. This effort supports the overall implementation of the Better Work model in Vietnam, with better representation of workers and peaceful resolution of labor disputes.

## **PROJECT IMPACT/RESULTS**

DOL exclusively funds the union capacity building component of the Better Work Vietnam project. The program has helped train workers to better identify and remediate violations. Through a training of trainers approach, the project improved the overall union's ability of to effectively represent the workers.

## **GRANTEE**

International Labor Organization (ILO)

## **IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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