

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	BETTER WORK JORDAN
REGION/COUNTRY	MENA/Jordan
PROJECT DURATION	October 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016
FUNDING LEVEL	USD 1,900,000
PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED	<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.</p> <p><u>Country Context</u></p> <p>Better Work Jordan was established in 2008. Following the international financial crisis, the government of Jordan decided to mandate participation in Better Work Jordan for all garment-sector factories, to demonstrate commitment to compliance and attract investment. The sector now accounts for nearly 17% of Jordan’s total exports. Three quarters of the industry’s more than 45,000 workers are migrant workers from South and South-East Asia – the majority is from India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.</p>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>To support decent work in the apparel sector by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<p>Better Work combines labor monitoring and training to apparel factories around the world. The strategy focuses on market incentives for both producers and buyers, as labor law compliance increases competitiveness and international firms are driven by</p>

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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. The program also educates workers and managers on labor rights and responsibilities, and provides a space for factory level social dialogue, through Performance Improvement Consultative Committees (PICCs), which include managers and workers.

PROJECT IMPACT/RESULTS

- ✓ Better Work is active in 75 apparel factories in Jordan, benefiting approximately 55,000 workers.
- ✓ Better Work has contributed to workplace improvements. For example, the use of yelling as a punishment is down 77% since the start of the program, and there is 100% compliance in paying minimum wages, leave, and social security among factories that have been in the program for more than 2 years.
- ✓ Following training by Better Work and the ILO, employers' associations and the trade union signed a groundbreaking Collective Bargaining Agreement covering the full garment sector. It includes provisions on regulating working hours, wages and bonuses, improving health, and a commitment to treat all workers equally (the agreement protects Jordanian and migrant workers)

GRANTEE

International Labor Organization (ILO)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Trade and Labor Affairs Division of Technical Assistance and Cooperation (202) 693-4900

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