

STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND IMPROVE WELL-BEING OF FEMALE FACTORY WORKERS IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Background

Vietnam's apparel and footwear industry suffered significant COVID-19 impacts, with export values dropping by 10.2% and 9.6%. Surveyed firms made labor cost reductions: 90% reduced overtime, 62% cut allowances, 55.8% furloughed workers without pay, and 15% laid off up to 20% of their staff. Workers, especially women, faced job loss, lack of insurance, increased unpaid care work, limited access to health services, and higher risk of gender-based violence. On average, workers lost 33% of income, with a 59% drop for the laid-off.

Women workers experienced a 27% income reduction compared to 19% for men currently working, and 63% compared to 51% for those who lost jobs. Limited job opportunities, information access, and required skills posed challenges for workers. Many face poverty risks, thus finding new jobs and income is crucial.

Workers' voices were seldom heard; only 20% knew about cost-cutting measures, and 15% of union members voiced grievances about it through enterprise unions.



Objectives

Workers' awareness of rights and well-being is strengthened through collective action

Workers' economic resilience is strengthened to cope with the COVID-19 situation

Key activities

The capacity of EKATA (Empowerment, Knowledge and Transformative Action) members in Ho Chi Minh City is improved to sustain the dialogue with relevant stakeholders

Workers have increased technological capacity and access to job/income generation opportunities through digital platform

10 monthly group meeting will be organized to provide workers with knowledge of labor rights and skills improvement so that they can mobilize their fellow workers for practical collective action

A digital platform developed by CARE will be further improved with added functions

03 small grants will be given to workers for developing communication mechanism with the factories and local authorities so that they can maintain the regular dialogue and make it a possible alternative option to facilitate issues between workers and relevant stakeholders

A group of 100 workers will be coached to effectively use all functions of the platform through 06 training courses on digital literacy

A communication campaign will be launched to support a positive shift in public perception towards female factory workers, including their need for a healthy workplace and community, aiming to reach 1,000,000 people

Participants

100 female workers (EKATA members) and 10 relevant stakeholders

Indirect: 2,000 workers at the local factories and 1,000,000 people reach through the campaign

Timeframe

1st March 2022 - 31st October 2023

Location

Ho Chi Minh city

Donors



Partners



NOBLAND