

Focus on IAG's work

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Improving labour and social standards in the Pakistani textile industry

Problem

With the increasing importance of global supply chains, the social responsibility of manufacturing companies at home and abroad is also growing. More and more individuals insured by the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions are working in multinational companies. The proportion of products and work equipment imported from abroad is also steadily increasing. Against this background and that of Vision Zero – a world without severe or fatal occupational accidents and diseases – the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) is committed to prevention in an international context under the guiding principle of "good work worldwide".

The textile and garment sector in Punjab Province is Pakistan's largest industry, employing around 15 million people. Working conditions are characterized by poor occupational safety and inadequate dialogue between management, employees and state institutions.

Activities

The IAG's activities are part of the programme launched by the German government for safe supply chains in the textile industry. On behalf of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the DGUV has been consulting with the Ministry of Labour of Pakistan since 2018.



Signing of the Dresden Declaration, Islamabad, October 2019

The aim of these efforts is to raise labour and social standards in the textile industry in the province of Punjab. During the project, which has a term of several years, the IAG is conducting training programmes in cooperation with the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions for the energy, textile, electrical and media products sectors (BG ETEM) and the raw materials and chemical industry (BG RCI). Guidance is provided in the form of study trips, further training on specific specialist topics, work shadowing, coaching and online conferences.

Key topics of consultation are:

- Development of an organization and staff for an occupational safety and health training institute
- Development of a professional profile and training curriculum for labour inspectors

- Monitoring of accidents and occupational diseases in conjunction with dedicated prevention campaigns
- Network and change management in the interests of good corporate and governmental governance

The next phase includes plans, in response to a request by the GIZ, to expand the range of joint activities, for example with the development of a professional profile and a training curriculum for company OSH professionals.

Results and Application

As a result of a study visit to the IAG by representatives of major Pakistani companies and the Pakistani government, the Dresden Declaration was adopted in Islamabad in October 2019. In this declaration, the private sector and the ministries of labour and commerce formulated a sustainable occupational safety and health strategy for Pakistan, including measurable intermediate targets for Vision Zero and a culture of prevention.

Since February 2020, all newly recruited labour inspectors in Pakistan have received training in accordance with the new curriculum.

The IAG is thus contributing to the efforts of the international community to make global supply chains sustainable. Safety and health are being promoted at workplaces in Pakistan, and a foundation is being laid for improved standards. Experts within and outside the country, companies, manufacturers of international brand goods, ministries and wider society all benefit from these developments.

The exchange of German and Pakistani experts also contributes to the transfer of knowledge on occupational safety and health at a global level.

The experience gained by the IAG in the course of the project will be of benefit to future consultancy projects.

Close networks and intensive dialogue support the Pakistani textile sector and government in implementing sustainable models for occupational safety and health across the board. Under the leadership of the GIZ, the IAG project is creating the conditions and capacities for the dialogue required for this purpose: it brings stakeholders together, builds trust, and equips them to work for greater knowledge transfer in the context of global supply chains.

Area of Application

Besides Pakistan, other countries in South and South-East Asia in which the DGUV and IAG are involved in parallel consultancy projects include Myanmar, Cambodia, China and Bangladesh. Conversely, those involved on the German side are also passing on the experience they have gained in training to labour inspectors and OSH professionals in Germany.

Additional Information

- [GIZ website](#) on the project
- [BMZ website](#) on the programme for safe supply chains in the textile industry

Expert Assistance

IAG, Unit Management