CARE International in Lao PDR

We seek a world of hope, tolerance and social justice, where poverty have been overcome and people live in dignity and security.



Protections and Choice for Marginalized Urban Women in Vientiane Capital, Champasack and Savannakhet Provinces, Phase III



Garment factory workers are safe in the workplaces.

GLIMPSE



Location Vientiane Capital, Savannakhet, and Champasack Provinces

TimeFrame January 2022 - March 2023

Benificiaries Direct 435 people, women 348 (80%)

Partners

Lao Federation of Trade Unions, Department of Propaganda and Training

DONOR

The joint ILO-UN Women Safe and Fair Programme as part of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative)

BACKGROUND

CARE International in Lao PDR has undertaken to implement the Protection and Choice for Marginalized Urban Women Phase II since 2018 until June 2021. The main activities of the project include 1) to support garment factories to have effective workplace mechanism to respond to sexual harassment in target factories, 2) to strengthen capacity and experience of Partner and garment factory workers to improve labor protection and 3) to strengthen the national regulatory environment of factories to promote mechanisms to address Sexual Harassment (SH) in the workplace.

SAFE and FAIR: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region (2018-2022) is part of the multi-year EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls. SAFE and FAIR is implemented by the ILO, UN Women and UNODC, led by the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The programme delivers technical assistance and support with the overall objective of making labour migration safe and fair for all women in the ASEAN region. It engages with ASEAN Member States' government authorities; ASEAN institutions: workers' organizations; employers and agencies; civil society recruitment organizations; community-based organizations; families and communities; research institutions and academia, media networks, youth, and the general public and supports programming in ten countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam).

OBJECTIVES

Reduce the risks of migration through increasing access to authoritative information and integrated support services for female returned and future women migrants to enhance their financial independence and address GBV, including sexual harassment



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OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Strengthen financial management skills for female migrant workers, including those who have returned and who wants to work abroad

- Establish 10 VSLA groups at target factories with 20-25 members per group, 80% female
- Establish 10 VSLA groups for returned migrant women through Migration Resources Centers (MRC) with 20-25 members per group (80% female)
- •Women leadership trainings for 150 VSLA committee members (both at factory and MRCs)
- Financial literacy, basic financial management, and business skills trainings for 400 VSLA members (80% female), MRC and factory staff
- Capacity Strengthening for 15 partner staff on women leadership, VSLA group forming, financial literacy, basic financial management, and business skills training

Activity 2: Capacity building to prevent and respond to sexual violence (including sexual harassment in the workplace and in the community) to female migrant workers, including those who returned and want to work abroad

- Implementation on STOP package for 400 workers (80% female) and returned migrants (at MRC) using VSLA as the platforms to implement it
- Implementation on Community Dialogue Tool (CDT) sessions for 600 workers (80% female) (at the factory), and Return migrants (at MRC) using VSL as the platforms to implement it
- Engagement sessions held with average of 20 male family members to promote improved relations at household level
- Design, produce, and disseminate IEC materials on referrals information relating to GBV and SH for returnee women migrant workers and factory workers

RESULTS

Result 1: Returned and potential women migrant workers have increased financial resources, control and independence.

Result 2: Returned migrant women are empowered to prevent and response gender based-violence (including Sexual Harassment).



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