



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency
Tổ chức Di cư Quốc tế IOM – Cơ quan Di cư Liên Hợp Quốc

Consultation Workshop: Enhancing Business Capacity on Responsible Business Practices and Labour Migration in Viet Nam

Date: Thursday, 10 June 2021

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 (2 hours)

Background

In 2015, internal migrant workers constituted a substantial part of Viet Nam's population (13.6 per cent) with female migrant workers making up to 52.4 per cent.¹ Even though internal migrant workers contribute to the socio-economic development in Viet Nam, they face difficulties to access health, education, social protection, housing and digital services, or access loans. On average, internal migrant workers have lower income, are employed in temporary forms of work, lack formal employment contracts.² COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the pre-existing vulnerabilities of internal migrant workers, who face higher risks of lay-offs or reduction in working hours and income.³

While the Government bears the primary duty to protect the rights of all workers, including migrant workers, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, businesses have a responsibility to respect workers' rights, as well as prevent, address and remedy rights abuses in business operations. In addition, new regulations such as the UK Modern Slavery Act, the Australian Modern Slavery Act, German National Action Plan on Implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as well as trade and investment agreements require business to be proactive in ensuring business ethics, human rights due diligence and social responsibility.

The expansion of transnational production networks of multinational companies in Viet Nam, new regulatory frameworks on conducting business ethically, as well as procurement and contracting requirements of trade and investment agreements have all strengthened compliance requirements for Vietnamese companies looking to enter international supply chains. Hence, it is a necessity that businesses in Viet Nam understand international standards and legal frameworks on responsible business practices, are aware of vulnerabilities of different groups of workers including migrant workers, and are able to identify and address the risks to uphold the rights of workers.

In this context, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission in Viet Nam, in partnership with the German Government, implements an initiative aimed at enhancing business capacity on responsible business practices and labour migration in Viet Nam through the development of an e-learning module.

¹ The General Statistics Office and UNFPA (2016), *The 2015 National Internal Migration Survey: Major Findings*

² Ibid

³ ILO (2020), *Quick impact assessment of COVID-19 pandemic on the key economic sectors: Responses, adjustment and resilience of business and workers*

Workshop Objectives

The consultation workshop seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- discuss progress, challenges, needs and experiences of workers and businesses in Viet Nam;
- share good practices related to responsible business practices and safe and fair labour migration;
- discuss an outline of the IOM's e-learning module (please refer to [Annex A](#) for details).

Draft Agenda (version 1 June 2021, subject to further change)

Time	Agenda Item
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome and workshop house rules <i>IOM representative will introduce the workshop agenda, speakers, facilitation and house rules, test simultaneous interpretation</i>
9:10– 9:20	Opening remarks <i>Mihyung Park, Chief of Mission, IOM Viet Nam</i> <i>Dr. Josefine Wallat, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ho Chi Minh City</i>
9:20 – 10:00	Session 1: Understanding and addressing risks of forced labour and human trafficking in operations and supply chains through responsible business practices In this session, representatives of VCCI, business and worker representatives will share about progress, opportunities and challenges in advancing responsible business practices in Viet Nam. This will be followed by an open floor for all interested participants to share about relevant initiatives.
10:00-10:10	Break
10:10 – 10:20	Session 2: Addressing the risks of forced labour and human trafficking: an outline of the e-learning module (<i>please refer to Annex A for details</i>) IOM Viet Nam will present an outline of the e-learning module to enhance the capacity of Vietnamese businesses to prevent and mitigate the risk of forced labour and human trafficking in operations and supply chains for participants' feedback in the next session
10:20 – 10:50	Session 3: Making e-learning work Participants are invited to share feedback and suggestions to the proposed e-learning module, as well as share business needs, expectations and recommendations to develop a practical and user-friendly e-learning module for international and local businesses in Viet Nam, as well as the opportunities for joining efforts and scaling up responsible business practices in the future

10:50 – 11:00	Wrap-up and next steps IOM Viet Nam representative will share the planned timeline for developing, testing and roll out of the e-learning programme
---------------	---

The workshop welcomes the participation of representative from Vietnamese Government, Diplomatic Missions, UN Agencies, industry and business associations, international and Vietnamese companies.

Annex A

Tentative outline of the IOM Viet Nam e-learning module “Enhancing Business Capacity on Responsible Business Practices and Labour Migration in Viet Nam” (self-paced, interactive training)

E-Learning module objectives

The objectives of the e-learning module include:

- Strengthen business’ awareness on responsible business practices, internal labour migration, forced labour and human trafficking risks
- Support business to identify forced labour and human trafficking risks in own operations and supply chains
- Help businesses develop solutions to address these risks and provide remedy to harm caused by business operations

Expected outcomes:

Following the completion of e-learning module, the learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate better understanding of responsible business practices, labour migration, forced labour and human trafficking risks, and relevant international standards and applicable legal frameworks
- Demonstrate better understanding of why migrant workers are disproportionately more vulnerable and how to identify the risks of forced labour and human trafficking
- Identify actions to prevent and mitigate the risks of forced labour and human trafficking in own operations and supply chains, and provide remedy when harm has occurred

Proposed Sessions:

Session	Content of the Module
Session 1	Introduction to responsible business practices
Session 2	Understanding forced labour and human trafficking
Session 3	Vulnerabilities of different groups of workers, including migrant workers, to forced labour and human trafficking
Session 4	What can business do to identify and address the risks of forced labour and human trafficking?