

# NEWSLETTER

Quarterly | July 2026 | Issue 27



Welcome to the second quarter (Q2) 2026 Edition of the LABS Quarterly Newsletter!

In the second quarter, the LABS program focused on two main goals: strengthening factory safety through sustained implementation and embedding safety into national systems for the long term.

Across India, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Indonesia, the program prioritized assessments, remediation efforts, follow-up visits, and safety trainings to mitigate critical risks – specifically in structural integrity, fire safety, and electrical hazards.

We also deepened collaboration with governments, industry associations, brands, and national stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and drive systemic change, which helped advance the integration of LABS methodologies into regulatory frameworks, fostering a stronger culture of prevention across the textile sector.

During Q2, 58 Safety Trainings were conducted, reaching more than 1,500 participants, and National Stakeholder Committee (NSC) meetings reinforced partnerships in all four countries.

Thank you for your ongoing support and interest in the LABS program. We hope you enjoy reading this edition.

## PROGRESS SO FAR

► **688**

**Factories onboarded**

India: **201**

Vietnam: **275**

Cambodia: **135**

Indonesia: **77**

► **669**

**Assessments conducted**

India: **193**

Vietnam: **270**

Cambodia: **130**

Indonesia: **76**

► **1,601**

**Safety training conducted**

India: **402**

Vietnam: **743**

Cambodia: **289**

Indonesia: **167**

► **1,334,696**

**Workers reached**

India: **251,687**

Vietnam: **581,946**

Cambodia: **257,135**

Indonesia: **243,928**

► **253**

**Factories graduated**

India: **80**

Vietnam: **137**

Cambodia: **25**

Indonesia: **11**

# Improving field level impact

## Factory graduations



## Assessments



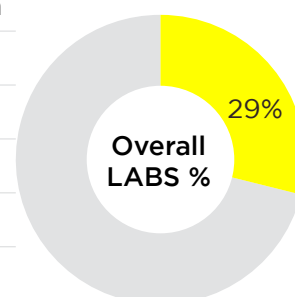
## Common assessment findings



### Structural Safety

- Uneven floor-load distribution on suspended floors
- Exposed reinforcement on roof slab
- Cracks on structural and non-structural members (e.g., concrete beams, columns, and walls)
- Absence of documentation (e.g., structural diagrams, geo-technical reports, floor-load plans, and soil reports)

| Assessment | India | Vietnam | Cambodia | Indonesia |
|------------|-------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Red/Amber  | -     | -       | -        | -         |
| Amber      | -     | -       | -        | -         |
| Yellow     | 1     | -       | 1        | -         |
| Green      | -     | -       | -        | -         |
| Total      | 1     | -       | 1        | -         |

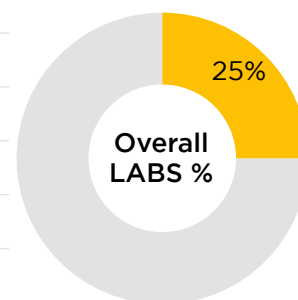




## Fire Safety

- Rolling shutters on exit doors
- Centralized fire-alarm system unavailable
- Insufficient emergency lights on escape paths
- Fire-rated doors and fire-rated enclosures lacking
- Overhead signages missing on escape paths

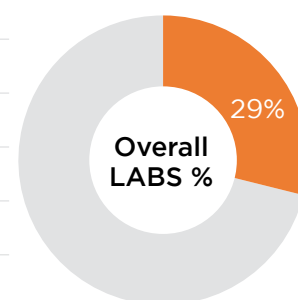
| Assessment   | India    | Vietnam  | Cambodia | Indonesia |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Red/Amber    | -        | -        | -        | -         |
| Amber        | 1        | -        | 1        | -         |
| Yellow       | -        | -        | -        | -         |
| Green        | -        | -        | -        | -         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>-</b>  |



## Electrical Safety

- Flammable coating inside distribution panels
- Heavy lint and dust inside switchboards/distribution boards (DBs)
- Earthing to DBs, MS roof truss, transformer fencing, and battery bank racks not provided
- Lightning-protection system not supplied
- Numerous hotspots with high temperatures ranging from 73°C to 120°C

| Assessment   | India    | Vietnam  | Cambodia | Indonesia |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Red/Amber    | 1        | -        | 1        | -         |
| Amber        | -        | -        | -        | -         |
| Yellow       | -        | -        | -        | -         |
| Green        | -        | -        | -        | -         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>-</b>  |



“ With LABS, remediation is no longer confusing. Their team guides us step by step, shares practical knowledge, and always answers our questions. That support is what helped our factory move faster. ”

Asep Saepudin Nur (PT Shinwon Indonesia - Compliance Assistant Manager)



## Remediations

### India

Data comprises 131 factories where 651 follow-up visits were conducted

#### Fire Safety:

- **94%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **98%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **94%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **93%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

#### Electrical Safety:

- **95%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **97%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **93%** of the factories provided earthing connections for the electrical components

#### Structural Safety:

- **84%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **83%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures (such as MS Shed)
- **80%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness

### Vietnam

Data comprises 213 factories where 1,136 follow-up visits were conducted

#### Fire Safety:

- **96%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **100%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **94%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **98%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

#### Electrical Safety:

- **94%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **99%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **94%** of the factories provided earthing connections for the electrical components

#### Structural Safety:

- **89%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **87%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures (such as MS Shed)
- **82%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness

## Cambodia

Data comprises 86 factories where 512 follow-up visits were conducted

### Fire Safety:

- **91%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **98%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **86%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **93%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

### Electrical Safety:

- **87%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **60%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **70%** of the factories provided earthing connections for the electrical components

### Structural Safety:

- **52%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **70%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures
- **50%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness

## Indonesia

Data comprises 65 factories where 336 follow-up visits were conducted

### Fire Safety:

- **53%** of the factories installed emergency lights
- **86%** of the factories removed temporary obstacles on evacuation pathways
- **54%** of the factories installed illuminated exit signages
- **60%** of the factories removed locking mechanisms from exit doors

### Electrical Safety:

- **80%** of the factories removed lint and dust from electrical panels and DBs
- **69%** of the factories reduced the high temperatures in electrical panels and DBs
- **60%** of the factories provided earthing connections for the electrical components

### Structural Safety:

- **46%** of the factories mended cracks in beams and columns
- **73%** of the factories removed the corrosion in non-engineered structures
- **50%** of the factories eliminated the wall dampness



## Safety Training

# 58

### Safety Training

sessions were conducted in Q2, 2026.

There were 58 Safety Trainings conducted during Q2 with 1,512 representatives from factory management, the OHS Committee, HR and maintenance departments, and workers from the production area.

# 1,512

### People Trained

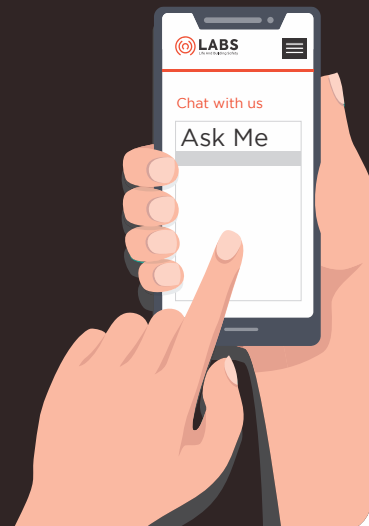
|           | Training  | People trained |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| India     | <b>12</b> | <b>391</b>     |
| Vietnam   | <b>23</b> | <b>575</b>     |
| Cambodia  | <b>13</b> | <b>291</b>     |
| Indonesia | <b>10</b> | <b>255</b>     |



## REPORTING PLATFORM UPDATES

LABS operates a toll-free Helpline (in Vietnam, India, and Cambodia) and a LABS Chat platform (in Vietnam, India, Cambodia, and Indonesia) for workers to report unsafe working conditions. Ten non-LABS cases were reported during Q2:

- **India:** Three cases reported involved working-condition violations, denial of weekly rest periods, unpaid wages, and excessive heat exposure from an unidentified factory
- **Vietnam:** Three cases included equipment inquiries, limitations in available work hours, and inadequate cooling systems
- **Cambodia:** Four cases covered mandatory break violations, harassment and discrimination complaints, alleged supervisor misconduct, forced overtime incidents, layoffs, and unsanitary water conditions.



## Key Outreach and Events

### India

#### National Stakeholder Committee (NSC) Meeting – India

June 19, 2026

The NSC advanced the implementation of the **LABS India Embedding Roadmap 2026–2030**. This strategy established a phased plan to integrate LABS safety methodologies into the National Building Code (NBC) and key government mandates through regulatory engagement, sector guidance, pilot implementation, and institutional integration.

#### Good Practices Sharing Session for Factories

June 19, 2026

LABS India hosted a Good Practices Sharing Session that brought together 86 participants. Attendees exchanged practical approaches adopted by graduated factories to address fire, electrical, and structural remediation findings. The session fostered continuous learning among teams while strengthening overall safety performance across participating factories.

#### Joint Factory Visit and Shadow Assessment

June 9–11, 2026

The LABS India team completed regional visits in Northern India, followed by shadow assessments in Southern India to ensure quality assurance and standard alignment on the LABS methodology. These assessments facilitated critical knowledge sharing and promoted consistent implementation of safety protocols across all factories.

### Vietnam

#### NSC Meeting — Vietnam

May 27, 2026

The Vietnam NSC aligned on program priorities for the remainder of 2026; key areas included sustaining safety initiatives beyond remediation efforts, strengthening worker engagement and a proactive safety culture, and advancing sector-wide collaboration across the sector while ensuring policy alignment with national goals.

#### Meeting with the Ministry of Construction

May 28, 2026

The LABS Vietnam team met with the Ministry of Construction to discuss the 2026–2027 embedding plan. The Ministry expressed strong support for developing new electrical and structural-safety guidelines using the LABS methodology.

### **Joint Factory Visit with Target**

May 29, 2026

The LABS Vietnam team conducted a joint factory visit with Target to reinforce the importance of workplace safety, reaffirmed shared commitments to factory-level support, and strengthened overall safety culture at the facility level.

### **Safety Training for Factories in Collaboration with VITAS and TFL**

June 23, 2026

In partnership with the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) and TFL, LABS conducted a safety-training session covering textile, garment, and footwear factories. The agenda included raising awareness of structural, electrical, and fire-safety risks; sharing best practices for safety-management systems; promoting OSH compliance; and providing practical guidance to improve performance on these critical areas.

## **Cambodia**

### **Follow-Up Meeting with the American Eagle Outfitters (AEO)**

April 15, 2026

LABS held a follow-up meeting with the United States and Bangladesh global teams from the AEO, which focused on continuing discussions regarding program alignment and potential collaboration opportunities across sourcing countries.

### **NSC Meeting — Cambodia**

May 13, 2026

The Cambodia NSC convened alongside key stakeholders including the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction; the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training; the Cambodian Garment Training Institute; and GIZ FABRIC Cambodia as a new member organization.

### **Cambodia-EU Public-Private Sector Dialogue**

June 23, 2026

The LABS Country Manager participated in the fourth Cambodia-EU Public-Private Sector Dialogue. A side meeting was held with H.E. Youn Heng, Deputy Secretary General of the Cambodian Investment Board within the Council for the Development of Cambodia to discuss investment and regulatory developments relevant to the garment sector.



## Indonesia

### Meeting with Indonesia Conformity Assessors Association

April 16, 2026

The LABS Country Manager met with Mr. Irham Budiman, Chairman of the Indonesia Conformity Assessors Association, alongside other association officials to introduce the LABS initiative and extend an invitation to join the upcoming sixth LABS NSC Meeting in Jakarta.

### NSC Meeting — Indonesia

May 19, 2026

This meeting produced strong cross-sector consensus across nine advisory areas. Key outcomes included the pursuit of enforceable regulatory instruments over SNI standards; LABS contributions to fire-safety capacity development and revisions to Perda DKI No. 8/2008; bridging the SME gap through SKKNI; and a shared commitment shifting from administrative compliance toward a culture of safety leadership and prevention.

### Meeting with Indonesian Occupational Health and Safety Association

May 25, 2026

The LABS Country Manager met with Sahat Silalahi, Deputy Chairman of the Indonesian Occupational Health and Safety Association to discuss the role and impact of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committees (P2K3) in LABS factories. Plans were developed for a factory survey to capture deeper insights into committee function, management participation, and program outputs.

### Advisory Meeting on Safety Management Systems (SMSs)

June 4, 2026

The LABS Country Manager held an advisory meeting with Mr. Sahat Silalahi regarding the SMS framework. Inputs covered risk profiling; OSH-committee membership mapping; equipment hazard identification; and work-process risk mapping — all aimed at making the SMS practical and actionable for each factory level.

### VF Responsible Sourcing Office (RSO) Workshop

June 29, 2026

The LABS Country Manager presented at a one-day VF RSO Workshop to help factories strengthen their understanding of LABS Methodology and Standard. The session focused on fire safety and Priority 1 electrical findings while referencing applicable national standards to reinforce urgency for remediation in these disciplines.

# Incidents in Apparel Sector

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## India

- **April 1, 2026:** A massive fire broke out at the Gopi Knitting textile and nylon factory in Surat, Gujarat. Cause under investigation; no casualties reported.
  - **April 17, 2026:** A major fire at a shoe factory in Narela, Delhi; the factory was operating without a valid NOC; no injuries reported.
  - **May 17, 2026:** Firefighters extinguished a fire at a garment-manufacturing factory in Noida that spread to three neighboring industrial units; no confirmed casualties.
  - **June 25, 2026:** No casualties were reported after a fire at a textile factory in Ludhiana burned for 19 hours. The multi-story unit reportedly had a lapsed fire NOC, no sprinklers, and blocked exit points.
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## Vietnam

- **May 12, 2026:** Fire spread rapidly in the production area of G&E Vietnam CO LTD, Nhon Trach 6 Industrial Park, Dong Nai Province; the cause is under investigation.
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## Cambodia

- **April 18, 2026:** Fire at a factory in Choam Chao, Phnom Penh, caused by a short circuit in the electrical panel; no injuries reported.
  - **April 19, 2026:** Fire at a bottling factory in Prek Leap, Phnom Penh; a subsequent fire broke out at the same site a week later; the cause is under investigation.
  - **May 29, 2026:** Fire at a hardlines factory in the Tai Seng Special Economic Zone, Svay Rieng; investigations into the cause is underway.
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## Indonesia

- **April 26, 2026:** Fire at a teak furniture factory in Maribaya, Tegal, burned for six hours; no casualties reported.
- **May 18, 2026:** A massive fire engulfed a plastic warehouse in Cengkareng, West Jakarta; casualties and losses are unknown.
- **June 21, 2026:** Fire at a rubber-sandal factory in Kota Tangerang burned for nine hours, scorching approximately 1,000 square meters. Complicated by flammable raw materials and chemicals on-site, the fire spread to a gas-storage area; no casualties reported.

# Annexures

## Factory Details

### India

#### Safety Trainings

- |                                          |                                                        |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Global Garments (Unit II)             | 7. A.V. Thomas Allied Products PVT LTD (Gerugambakkam) |
| 2. Trident Limited (Bath Linen Division) | 8. Silver Spark Apparel LTD (Unit 1)                   |
| 3. Trident Limited (Bed Linen Division)  | 9. First Steps Babywear PVT LTD (Unit VI)              |
| 4. C&R Textiles PVT LTD                  | 10. S.P. Apparels LTD                                  |
| 5. Pearl Global Exports PVT LTD          | 11. Indus Tree Craft PVT LTD                           |
| 6. Arvind Limited (Yeshwanthpur)         | 12. Young Brand Apparels PVT LTD                       |

#### Assessment

1. Gokaldas Exports Limited (Unit VI)

### Vietnam

#### Safety Trainings

- |                                                            |                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Thuan Phuong Long An Garment CO LTD                     | 13. Long Khai Join Stock Company (Da Nang Branch)                                |
| 2. Wingsburg Vietnam CO LTD                                | 14. Thien An Phat Textile Garment Investment Joint Stock Company (Factory No. 1) |
| 3. SSV Export Garment CO LTD                               | 15. Tien Hung Joint Stock Company                                                |
| 4. Hue Textile Garment Joint Stock Company                 | 16. Hung Yen Garment Corporation - Joint Stock Company                           |
| 5. Hue Textile Garment Joint Stock Company (Factory No. 4) | 17. Mido-Vina International CO LTD                                               |
| 6. FTN Vietnam CO LTD                                      | 18. Lala Factory CO LTD                                                          |
| 7. Dinsen Vietnam (Long An) Enterprise CO LTD              | 19. C.M.C Vina CO LTD                                                            |
| 8. Hue Textile Garment Joint Stock Company                 | 20. Jasan Textile & Dyeing (Vietnam) CO LTD                                      |
| 9. Thien Son Garment CO LTD                                | 21. Regina Miracle International Vietnam (Factory C)                             |
| 10. Bao Hung Joint Stock Company                           | 22. Vina-PT Daehan Global Garment Joint Stock Company                            |
| 11. Bac Giang LGG Garment Corporation                      | 23. Yi Da Vietnam CO LTD                                                         |
| 12. Pou Li Vietnam CO LTD                                  |                                                                                  |

### Assessment

1. Lala Factory CO LTD

### Re-Assessment

1. Leader Garment (Vietnam) CO LTD

## Cambodia

### Safety Trainings

- |                                                              |                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Makalot Garments (Cambodia) CO LTD (Branch 1)             | 6. J.S.D. Textile (Cambodia) CO LTD     |
| 2. Milanna Leatherware M.F.Y. (Cambodia) CO LTD              | 7. Quality Textiles CO LTD              |
| 3. CG Glory (Cambodia) Manufacturing CO LTD                  | 8. Ming Yang Industry (Cambodia) CO LTD |
| 4. Orient International Enterprise (Cambodia) Garment CO LTD | 9. Hengwin (Cambodia) Garment CO LTD    |
| 5. Sun Hsu Garment CO LTD                                    | 10. Qi Heng Xin Factory CO LTD          |
|                                                              | 11. Yakjin (Cambodia) Inc.              |
|                                                              | 12. YTC (Cambodia) Corporation          |
|                                                              | 13. Daeseung-Cambo CO LTD               |

### Assessment

1. Ming Yang Industry (Cambodia) CO LTD

### QA Assessment

1. Ming Yang Industry (Cambodia) CO LTD

### Re-Assessments

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Indochine Apparel (Cambodia) LTD | 3. A W Cashmere (Cambodia) CO LTD |
| 2. J.S.D. Textile (Cambodia) CO LTD | 4. Qi Heng Xin Factory CO LTD     |
|                                     | 5. Yong De Wei Garment PTY LTD    |

“Through our association with LABS Programme we have strengthened our SASES system and improved workplace practises across the factory. The process has enabled us to identify the deviation against standard and to implement permanent corrective action, enhance compliance with required standard. This program protects employees from Fire , Electrical Hazard and Structural Collaspe and other workplace Hazard. This programme Reduces major risk of Accident ,Injuries and fatalities.”

Ajaychakkaravarthi, Helper, S.P.Apparels Ltd



## Indonesia

### Safety Trainings

- |                                    |                                        |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. PT Glory Industrial Semarang II | 6. PT Handsome                         |
| 2. PT Shinwon Indonesia            | 7. PT Le Baek Indonesia                |
| 3. PT Willbes Global               | 8. PT TMNC Manufacturing International |
| 4. PT Leetex Garment Indonesia     | 9. PT Sadua Indo                       |
| 5. PT Hoga Reksha Garment          | 10. PT C-Site Texpia                   |

“ This LABS programme helps to create a safest workplace and improves audit performance and protects both Employees and Business Operation. This Programme increases Employee Confidence by providing safer working environment. This System promotes a strong culture of Safety and continuous improvement in the entire Factory. This system strengthens emergency Preparedness with regular drills and trained emergency response teams. This system improves Structural integrity through inspection and maintenance. ”

Abina, Helper, S.P.Apparels Ltd



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LABS is committed to transparency and, along with this newsletter will also publish results regularly on the Website: [www.labsinitiative.com](http://www.labsinitiative.com)  
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