

# ADVANCING RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAINS



## A Global Partnership between Japan and UNDP

In March 2022, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched a global partnership to advance responsible business practices in global supply chains. This initiative underscores the critical role of responsible business conduct in upholding human rights standards, ensuring business respect for human rights and enhancing business competitiveness globally. By promoting responsible supply chains, the partnership not only mitigates risks but also fosters long-term sustainability in global commerce. Since its inception, significant progress has been made in strengthening human rights standards and fostering responsible business conduct in Japan and 20 target countries.

Through the project, nearly 2,100 businesses have been trained to strengthen their understanding of business and human rights and implement human rights due diligence in their operations and supply chains. Additionally, governments in 15 countries have advanced policies aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, reflecting a growing commitment to responsible business practices that respect human rights. Support from the Government of Japan played a pivotal role in the adoption of NAPs in Nepal and Kyrgyzstan and in advancing NAP processes in Ghana, Mexico and Mozambique.

The Japan-UNDP collaboration highlights the importance of international cooperation in fostering responsible supply chains and ethical business conduct. It supports respect for human rights in global commerce, enhances business competitiveness and risk management across supply chains, and lays a strong foundation for future progress.

### KEY RESULTS



**2,100+**  
companies trained or  
guided on HRDD



Policy progress in  
**15 countries**



**20,000**  
stakeholders engaged



### PROJECT FOCUS COUNTRIES



### OUTPUT 1

Preserving the competitiveness of Japanese companies by promoting human rights due diligence throughout their supply chains

*Geographical scope: Brazil, Cambodia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine and Viet Nam*

### OUTPUT 2

Advancing responsible business policies to level the playing field in countries where Japanese companies operate

*Geographical scope: Brazil, Cambodia, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Tunisia, Türkiye, and Ukraine*

### OUTPUT 3

*(starting in the third year of the partnership)*

In response to the need for more collective action, Japanese companies, governments of target countries, and other stakeholders are assisted in their efforts to broaden their capacity to respect human rights

# OUTPUT 1

## B+HR ACADEMY

The B+HR Academy, a flagship of the partnership, offers a three-part guidance solution supporting Japanese businesses, their partners and suppliers in implementing human rights due diligence (HRDD) in their operations and supply chains.

By bringing together assessments of salient human rights risks in each country with national and international business and human rights expertise, the B+HR Academy offers companies training opportunities and guidance sessions on how to address human rights risks in the unique context in which they, and their partners and suppliers, operate.

The B+HR Academy was designed to support the growing interest among businesses to undertake HRDD, contribute to more responsible global supply chains, and stay competitive in the global market. Throughout the project, the Academy's network has expanded to include over 3,400 business representatives from more than 2,100 companies, including many small and medium-sized enterprises. Beyond equipping businesses with the knowledge to uphold their responsibility to respect human rights, the B+HR Academy also provided a platform for exchange and networking among businesses interested in advancing corporate respect for human rights.



**2,100+**  
COMPANIES  
trained on

**HUMAN RIGHTS  
DUE DILIGENCE**



**3,400+**  
people trained



**130+**  
training sessions on  
business and human rights  
and human rights due  
diligence



**320**  
individual guidance  
sessions



**18**  
country context assessments  
available for companies to consult



**180**  
knowledge products  
developed

### B+HR ACADEMY RESULTS BY REGION\*

#### ARAB STATES

1 country  
6 B+HR Academy training sessions  
25+ companies  
8 Japanese companies  
160+ professionals trained

#### EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

4 countries  
20 B+HR Academy training sessions  
250+ companies  
60+ Japanese companies  
440+ professionals trained

#### LATIN AMERICA

2 countries  
8 B+HR Academy training sessions  
100+ companies  
55+ Japanese companies  
180+ professionals trained

#### AFRICA

2 countries  
5 B+HR Academy training sessions  
60+ companies  
20+ Japanese companies  
70+ professionals trained

#### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

7 countries  
62 B+HR Academy training sessions  
1,050+ companies  
630+ Japanese companies  
1,700+ professionals trained

\* Data in this graphic as of 31 December 2023

## OUTPUT 2

# POLICY SUPPORT

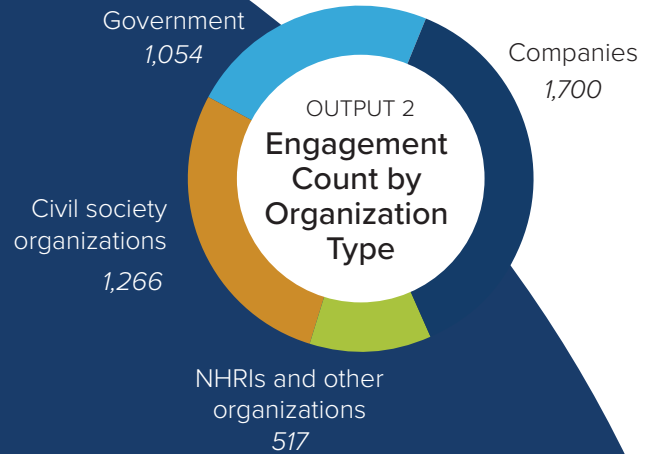
States help create a level playing field by establishing standards that respect human rights. Through policy action like national action plans, they outline common standards for doing business that encourage responsible action by businesses operating in their countries. Japan's approach to these standards has inspired how other nations think about business responsibility.

Through partnership with the Government of Japan, UNDP worked in 15 countries to support the promotion of business and human rights through the implementation of the UNGPs. These efforts included advocating for the adoption of national action plans on business and human rights (NAPs), technical assistance for the development of baseline assessments, facilitating peer-learning opportunities, and developing NAP monitoring facilitates in those countries where NAPs have already been adopted.

Policy progress in support of the implementation of the UNGPs in

## 15 countries

- 9** countries supported in advancing their UNGPs implementation status  
*Brazil, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mexico, Nepal, Tunisia, and Ukraine*
- 4** countries supported in obtaining official commitments to implement the UNGPs through national action plans on business and human rights  
*Cambodia, Lao PDR, Tunisia, and Kyrgyzstan*
- 5** countries supported in developing draft national action plans (NAPs) and inclusive consultation processes  
*Brazil, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, and Nepal*
- 2** countries supported in integrating business and human rights into other policies  
*Kazakhstan: updated Action Plan on Human Rights and the Rule of Law*  
*Ukraine: draft chapter on BHR within their National Human Rights Strategy*
- 6** national baseline assessments delivered or updated  
*Brazil, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mexico, and Türkiye*
- 3** countries supported in NAP decentralization and NAP monitoring and implementation support packages  
*Kenya, Pakistan and Peru*



### ORGANIZED

# 214

national-level events

- 84** stakeholder consultations
- 36** capacity building sessions
- 75** awareness-raising events
- 19** NAP coordination meetings

From 2022-2024

### SUPPORTED

## 6 regional forums

Asia Pacific, South Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Africa, and Southeast Africa

with

## 4,500+ stakeholders

# B+HR ACADEMY in JAPAN

UNDP complemented training for Japanese companies, suppliers and partners in target countries with training for companies based in Japan. Through the B+HR Academy, UNDP supported more than 120 companies in Japan in understanding both the growing expectations of businesses to address human rights risks, as well as how to put practices like human rights due diligence (HRDD) in place across their operations and supply chains.

## B+HR ACADEMY snapshots



6

ROUNDS OF  
B+HR ACADEMY



121

COMPANIES  
TRAINED



50

INDIVIDUAL  
GUIDANCE  
SESSIONS



2

STOCKTAKING  
EVENTS and  
2 DIALOGUES



## ACTION FROM THE TOP

Senior leadership of Japanese companies join CEO round table in Tokyo

In October 2023, senior executives from seven of Japan's largest multinational companies joined the CEO Round Table on Business and Human Rights in Tokyo.

The round table aimed to foster collaboration among companies demonstrating a strong commitment to human rights and the implementation of HRDD, enabling them to share their practices and challenges. This collaboration aims to have a greater impact on specific issues related to HRDD and accelerate the implementation of HRDD across these companies and throughout their supply chains.

Through discussions with international and national experts, it was reaffirmed that top-level commitments are essential for promoting human rights due diligence (HRDD).



The partnership between UNDP and the Government of Japan continues, reinforcing Japan's commitment to championing business and human rights. With UNDP's support and insights from stakeholders, this collaboration will keep evolving to drive even more effective solutions for responsible business practices. Suggestions on how to further enhance this effort from partners and stakeholders are welcome. Please contact us at [biz.humanrights@undp.org](mailto:biz.humanrights@undp.org).