

# **Gender Analysis of the Impact of the Global Economic Slowdown on Labor Markets in Export- Oriented Sectors in Asia**

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# Labor Market Channels

- Recognizing export industries where women are predominantly employed
  - 2 to 5 women per man ratio in garment, textiles and electronics in Thailand, Philippines, and Viet Nam (ILO 2009)
  - Move from formal to informal sectors; expansion of informal sector to include more males
  - Return migration and decline in remittances
- Disproportionate impact on women and girls' welfare
  - Shock absorbing capacity of households depend on unpaid care work of women and girls
  - Burden of social unrest through increased domestic violence but also extent of public/government response that reaches the poor
- Declining access to credit
  - Tight credit market results in difficulty for women to access to microfinance

# Target Countries

<u>country</u>	<u>city.area</u>	<u>sector</u>	<u>financed by</u>
Bangladesh	Dhaka	migrant workers	ILO
Cambodia	Phnom Penh	textile	ILO
Cambodia	Siem Reap	tourism	ADB
PR China	Shenzhen, Wenzhou	furniture, toys, electronics, garments	ADB
Malaysia	Klang Valley (around KL/Petaling Jaya/Shah Alam/Bangi)	automobile parts	ADB
Indonesia	Jakarta	furniture, tourism	GDC
Philippines	Manila	call centers, electronics	ADB
Thailand	TBD	automobile accessories	ILO
Uzbekistan/ Kyrgyzstan	TBD	migrants	GDC
Viet Nam	TBD	shoe, leather, food	GDC

# Methodology and Timeline

- Workers, household and enterprise surveys
- Focus Group Discussions and other PRA methods
- Use of existing data and emerging research findings
- International consultants to work with National Research Institutes
- Field research June-July; Reports in September
- Findings and recommendations to be presented in the 3rd China-ASEAN Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction/ 4th ASEAN+3 High Level Seminar on Poverty Reduction (ASEAN, ADB, PRC and Viet Nam) in Hanoi on 28-30 September 2009