

ANTI SWEATSHOP INITIATIVE

Many workers around the globe continue to work under dreadful conditions in what have come to be known as "sweatshops." The Global Civil Society Strengthening (GCSS) Anti-Sweatshop Initiative's objective is to strengthen South-South and North-South linkages between organizations within the Anti-Sweatshop movement for the ultimate purpose of redressing the negative effects of globalization and improving conditions for workers in sweatshops. Small grants have been provided to four non-profit, non-governmental organizations working to improve sweatshop labor conditions, in El Salvador, Mexico, South China, and India.

The organizations and activities funded through the grants program are:

Asia Monitor Resource Center (AMRC), Hong Kong

The Center has conducted a ground breaking study on working conditions in the electronic export processing zones in India. Through a dissemination workshop, networks and linkages will be developed for continued work and possible campaigning on labor conditions in the electronics sector.

Casa de la Mujer-Grupo Factor X, Tijuana, Mexico

This grant supported a capacity building training for women's rights groups working with maquiladora workers on the Mexican border and an evaluation of the series of trainings. The outputs were recommendations and design for future trainings.

China Working Women's Network (CWWN), Hong Kong

The CWWN established the Occupational Safety and Health Resources and Education Center for South China (OSHREC) under this grant. The center, which is the first of its kind in Shenzhou, promotes female migrant workers rights related to occupational safety and health.

Grupo de Monitoreo Independiente de El Salvador (GMIES), San Salvador, El Salvador

In order to strengthen the ability of social organizations in Central America to affect the global discussion on codes of conduct and alternative compliance monitoring mechanisms, GMIES has established a web site with monthly summaries of developments for Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Visit: <http://www.gmies.org.sv/gmies/>

Core funding for the project is five years, from 2001 to 2006. AED is currently developing the second stage of the grants program. The project has been designed and implemented by AED's Center for Civil Society and Governance.

AED Washington Contact:

Martina Ban
Senior Operations & Finance Manager
E-mail: mban@aed.org
Tel. 202.884.8675

1825 Connecticut Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009
Web site: www.aed-ccsg.org
Fax 202.884.8442

USAID GCSS Contact:

Maria Barrón
Cognizant Technical Officer
Center for Democracy and Governance
E-mail: mbarron@usaid.gov
USAID/Washington
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523
Tel: 202.712.0399

