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TEXSUN, a Leading Firm Responding to HIV in Guatemala



Training workshop taught by USAID|PASCA LMG, in which the scope of the HIV business policy is made known.

Photograph: USAID|PASCA LMG.



Training workshop in which TEXSUN's HIV workplace policy was disseminated.

Photograph: USAID|PASCA.

As accompaniment to Guatemala's Clothing and Textile Industry Association's –VESTEX– implementation of the HIV Sectoral Policy, with USAID|PASCA LMG technical assistance, the TEXSUN company became interested in the issues and joined the efforts by signing a letter adhering to the corporate social responsibility commitment. In this letter, it stated its decision to contribute to the national response to HIV by promoting actions aimed at prevention, reducing stigma, and discrimination, and ensuring compliance with the human rights of the firm's workers.

TEXSUN is a maquila textile-exporting firm. It has approximately seven hundred workers, among them administrative staff, production managers, and operators ranging from 20 to 45 years of age; 75% of them are women. It is a family firm interested in productivity and in promoting the welfare of its personnel. In this context, it has set up and equipped a training area, where it started the process to implement its HIV policy. USAID|PASCA LMG contributed by making the company's HIV policy known to 350 workers who were trained.

At the workshops, TEXSUN directors and workers ratified their commitment to creating an HIV stigma- and discrimination-free environment and learned about the role of the company to safeguard confidentiality, promote prevention, and establish alliances to provide services, among others.

Through its coordination with VESTEX, this company seeks to comply with Recommendation Number 200 of the International Labor Organization; they are coordinating with the Ministry of Labor to implement the National HIV Strategic Plan.

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