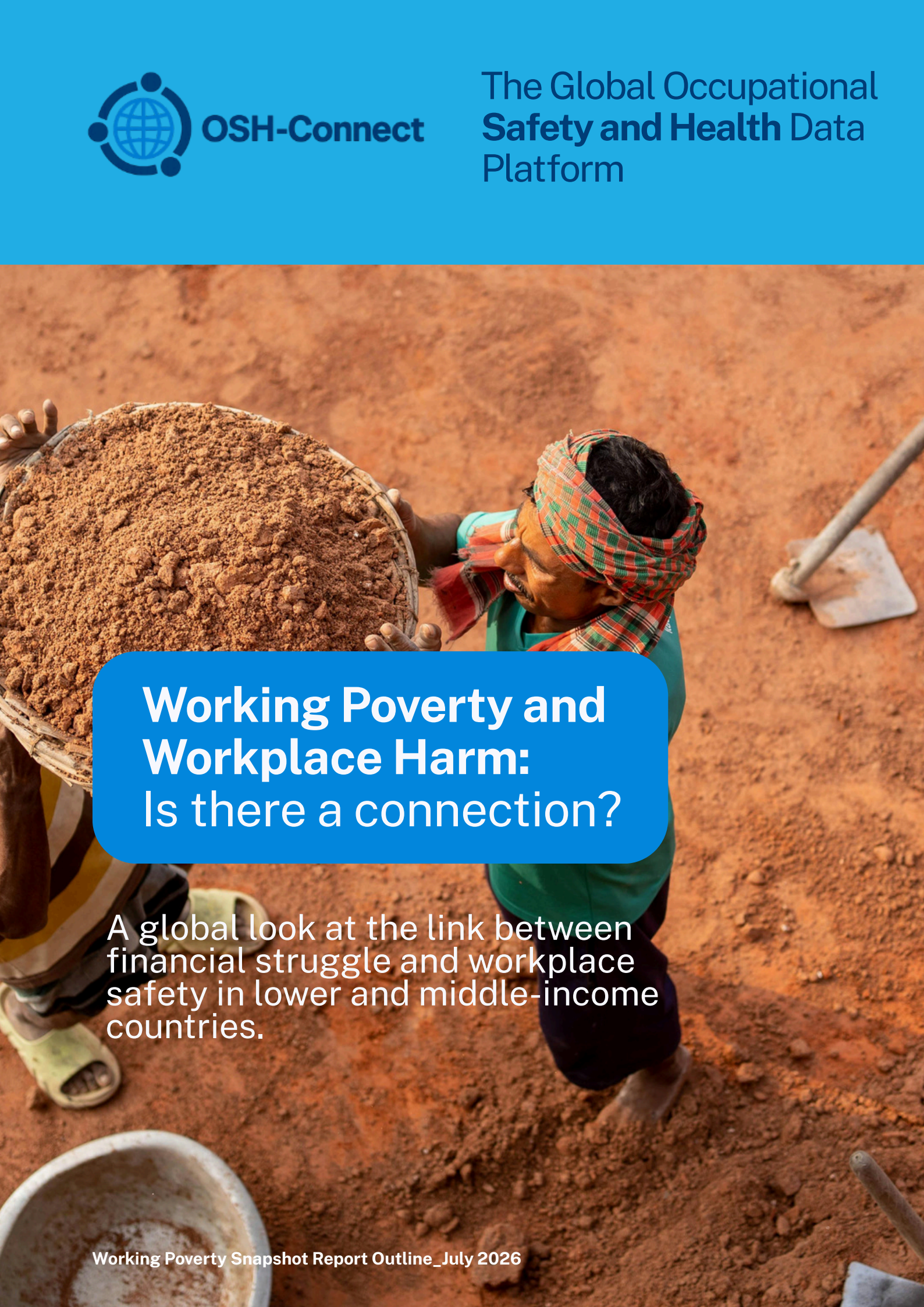




Working Poverty and Workplace Harm: Is there a connection?

A global look at the link between financial struggle and workplace safety in lower and middle-income countries.

Section 1

The Global Landscape of Working Poverty

OSH-Connect is creating a publicly available **single-source global database** of country-level OSH statistics that will help turn complex data into actionable insights to improve risk management and worker health globally.

Working poverty and workplace harms, such as workplace injury and exposure to violence at work, are inter-related.

Workers in low-wage roles face higher risks of workplace harms due to working in less safe conditions and lower rates of health and safety training. Conversely, injury at work often results in lost wages, medical bills, and reduced earning capacity, contributing to some workers facing financial insecurity.

The societal conditions which contribute to higher rates of working poverty may also contribute to less safe workplaces, such as a high proportion of informal workers and limited industrial regulation.

Documenting the relationship between workplace harms and working poverty can help prompt actions and policy to reduce their prevalence and impacts.

This report analyses data collected in 2019-2021 from **104** predominantly lower and middle-income countries spanning all **6 World Health Regions**.



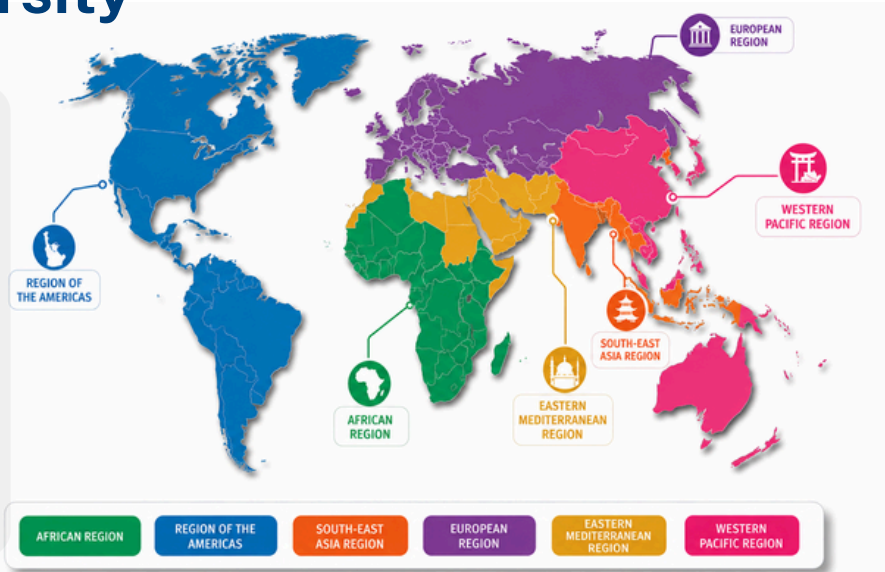
The data is from the OSH-Connect project, compiled by Monash University with funding from the Lloyd's Register Foundation.



Section 1

Regional Diversity

The data includes perspectives from Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Western Pacific, and South-East Asia.



WHAT IS WORKING POVERTY?



Between 2015-2022 the ILO defined the working poverty rate as below **USD \$1.90 PPP**.



HOW MUCH DOES IT AFFECT WORKERS?

The median working poverty rate across the 104 nations included in this analysis is

2.7%



Rates vary markedly between nations.



WHY THIS MATTERS

This report investigates the relationship between having **high numbers of workers in poverty** and the risk of occupational injury and **violence and harassment**.



HIGH NUMBERS OF WORKERS IN POVERTY

More workers earn less than USD \$1.90 PPP per day.



GREATER RISK OF WORKPLACE HARMS

- Occupational injuries
- Violence and harassment



IMPLICATIONS

Addressing working poverty is essential for safer, healthier, and more dignified work for all.

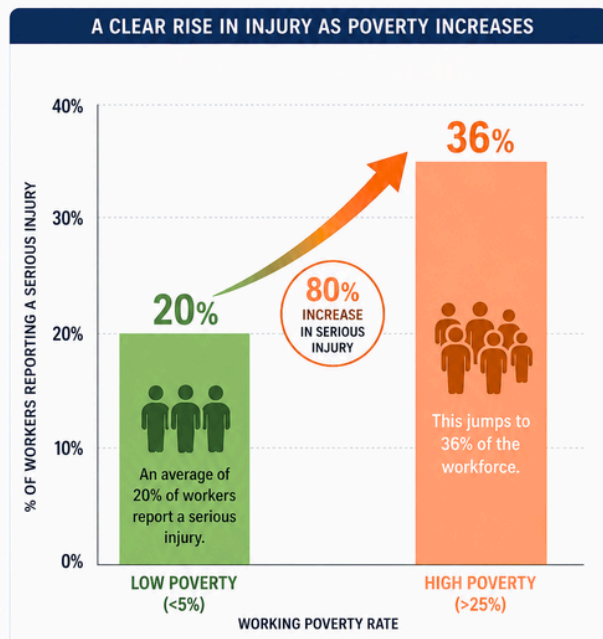
Section 2

Poverty and the Risk of Serious Injury at Work

0.51

Moderate Correlation

Between working poverty rate and reported serious injuries at work.



High levels of working poverty

Are moderately associated with a higher risk of serious workplace injury.

IN THE 10 COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST RATE OF INJURIES

The median working poverty rate is

13.6%



These countries have much higher levels of working poverty.

IN THE 10 COUNTRIES WITH THE LOWEST RATE OF INJURIES

The median working poverty rate is

0.7%



These countries have much lower levels of working poverty.



NOTABLY, THE **20**

countries with the lowest reported injury rates

all have working poverty rates below the **2.7%** median.



Section 3

Poverty and the Experience of Violence/Harassment at Work

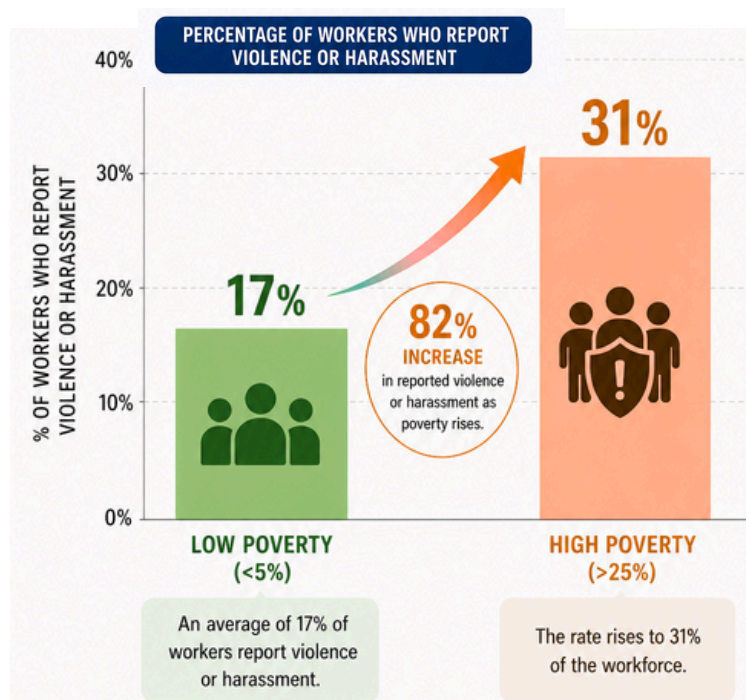
Economic vulnerability is also related to other important occupational safety outcomes.

0.49

Moderate Correlation

Between poverty rate and experience of violence or harassment at work.

*Violence or harassment includes physical, psychological, and sexual violence or harassment.



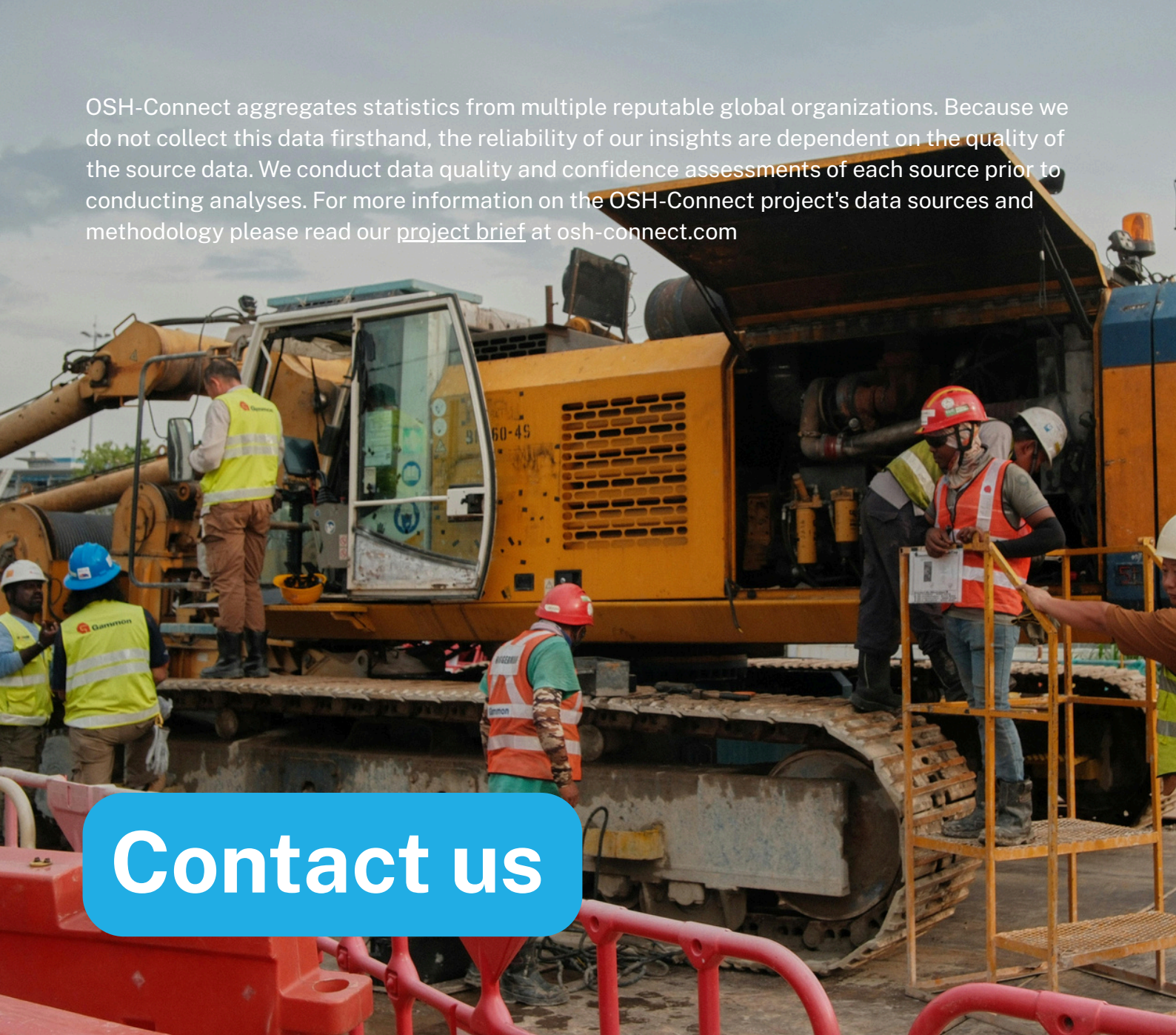
High levels of working poverty

Are moderately associated with a higher rate of workplace violence and harassment.

In this global dataset, every single country with a **"very high" (>20%) working poverty rate** reported **above-average levels of workplace violence or harassment (>20%)**.



OSH-Connect aggregates statistics from multiple reputable global organizations. Because we do not collect this data firsthand, the reliability of our insights are dependent on the quality of the source data. We conduct data quality and confidence assessments of each source prior to conducting analyses. For more information on the OSH-Connect project's data sources and methodology please read our [project brief](#) at osh-connect.com



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This project is funded by the
Lloyd's Register Foundation

