

Adidas In Cambodia

“Mara is a 25-year-old Cambodian garment worker, sewing products for Adidas. She moved away from her village in a rural province to look for garment work in Phnom Penh in order to support her widowed mother and six siblings, following the death of her father. She told researchers about the pressure at the factory:

‘Our supervisor asks us to work faster, to sew accurately, and to meet the targets set. My target is 120 trousers per hour. For this, I earn between US \$1.25 and \$1.50. In the normal working day I have to sew 960 pairs. If I do not meet this, my monthly incentive bonus of US \$5 is cut. I even hold off from going to the bathroom to meet my target. When we want to go to the bathroom during working hours, the supervisor must stamp our production cards.

Overtime starts at 4pm and runs till 6pm. Sometimes we don’t stop till 8 pm. If I work that late, I am frightened of the dark. Many motodup (motorbike taxis) ask to take me home. I do not want to go with them, so I run back to my room.

If I work all the overtime shifts, I get around US \$60-65 per month. If not, I get around US \$55. Of this, I spend US \$5 on rent for my room and send between US \$10 and \$20 to my family. The rest goes on food and medicine. I cannot save anything from my salary.’ “

Source: www.fairolympics.org

Play Fair at the Olympics Report, published in 2004

(This report is the result of extensive collaboration between Oxfam, the Clean Clothes Campaign, Global Unions, especially the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation.) pg. 43