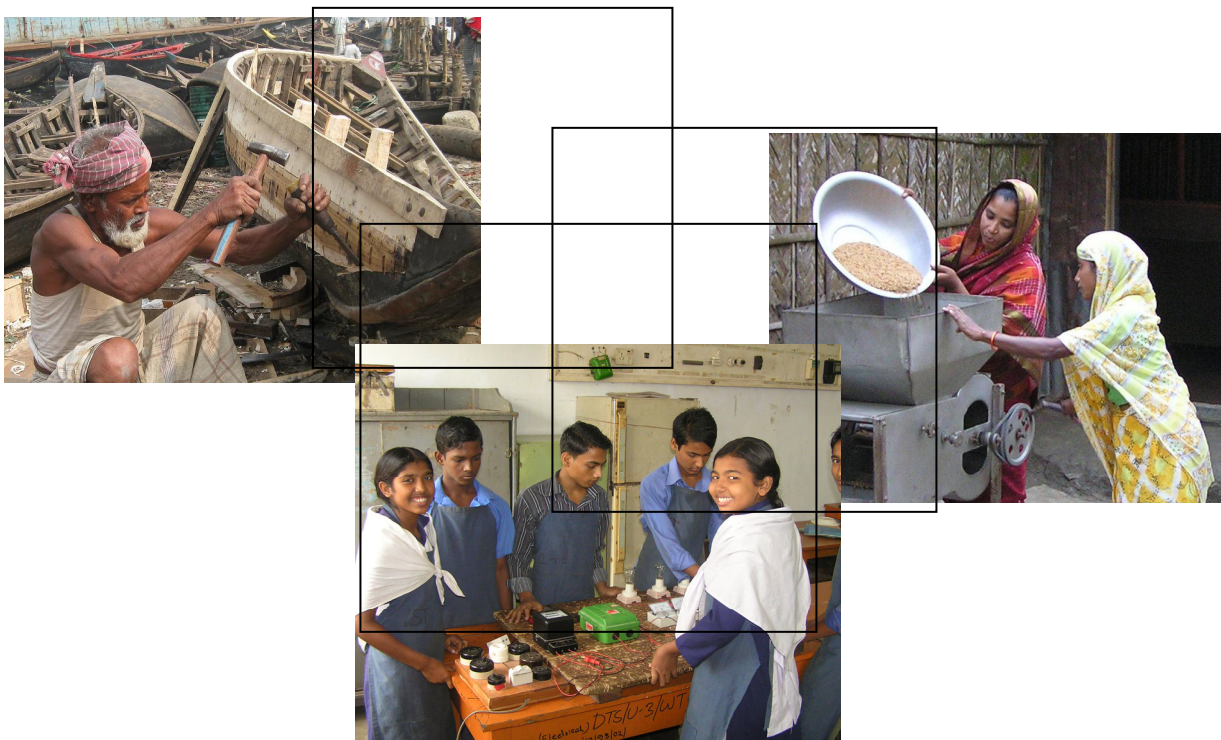




International
Labour
Organization

Bangladesh Decent Work Country Programme



ASIAN 2006
DECENT WORK
DECADE 2015

Bangladesh Decent Work Country Programme

Bangladesh Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) was developed and has been implemented for the period of 2006-2009, focussing on four key outcomes:

- Improving skills training and entrepreneurship for enhanced employability and livelihoods.
- Improving coverage of social protection and rights for workers in selected sectors, including for migrants.
- Combating child labour with priority focus on the worst forms of child labour (WFCL).
- Strengthening social dialogue.

The Bangladesh DWCP contributes to the achievement of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2006-2010 especially in the areas of Education and Pro-Poor Growth, Social Protection, and Gender Equality and Advancement of Women.

Improving skills training and entrepreneurship for enhanced employability and livelihoods

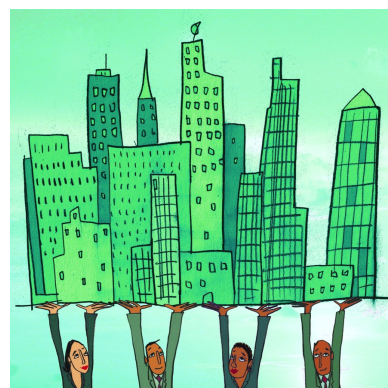
Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Reform

Education and training are crucial to ensure sustainable economic and social development. Investment in the skills and employability of workers contributes to the improvement of productivity and competitiveness. With funding from the European Commission (EC), the ILO contributes to reducing poverty through reforms of the TVET system so that more people will acquire employable skills to obtain jobs and generate income. Reforms take place in the areas of national skills policy, competency-based curricula and a national technical and vocational qualifications framework (NTVQF), strengthened quality assurance, improved TVET institutions and teachers training, improved workplace learning, and increased access of the underprivileged groups, such as female labour, informal economy workers, indigenous population, and people with disabilities to skills training.



Green Jobs

Sustained enterprise growth is essential to employment creation. Both enterprise growth and employment creation must integrate decent work and must be environmentally friendly to protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity for the future generations. The ILO works towards the promotion of sustainable, environmentally friendly green jobs and the creation of linkage between employment promotion and sustainable development. In Bangladesh, the current green jobs initiatives focus on expanding employment opportunities for women and men in the renewable energy, waste management, agriculture, construction and transportation sub-sectors.



Improving coverage of social protection and rights for workers in selected sectors, including for migrants



Security and productivity through safety and health at work

Work-related accidents and diseases continue to be a serious problem in Bangladesh. It is estimated that 11,700 workers suffer fatal accidents and a further 24,500 die from work related diseases across all sectors each year in Bangladesh. In response, the ILO/Japan project on Promoting National Occupational Safety and Health Policy Framework in Bangladesh started with aims to contribute to improve safety and health, and working conditions at the workplace. Other initiatives include improving occupational safety and health standards and ensuring compliance to core labour standards in the ready-made garment (RMG) and ship-recycling sectors.



Protecting migrant labourers' rights

The total number of Bangladeshi migrant workers is now estimated at 5.39 million. Their contribution to the country's economy has been enormous. In the 2007/08 financial year, Bangladesh earned remittances of USD7.91 billion, representing 10 per cent of GDP. While they make huge contribution to both host countries and home communities, many of these migrant workers lack protection under the law and are vulnerable to exploitation and poor working conditions.

As the only United Nations agency with a constitutional mandate to protect migrant workers, the ILO works with International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and other key partners to promote effective governance and management of labour migration, protect migrant workers, and promote migration-development linkages and international cooperation and multilateral processes under the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration.

Promoting indigenous and tribal people's rights



Bangladesh is home to around 2 million indigenous people from 50 or more different ethnic groups with their distinct language, culture and heritage. As in other parts of the world, indigenous people in Bangladesh are among the most marginalized and excluded groups in society. Poverty and unemployment levels are high and their rich, vibrant and colourful cultures are increasingly being eroded due to a number of factors such as loss of land and forest/natural resource rights, displacement for purpose of modernization and industrialization, and discrimination. As a signatory to the ILO Convention 107 on Indigenous and Tribal Populations, the Government of Bangladesh and ILO together with other partners are working to promote indigenous and tribal people's rights.

Combating child labour with priority focus on the worst forms of child labour

Eliminating child labour and the worst forms of child labour

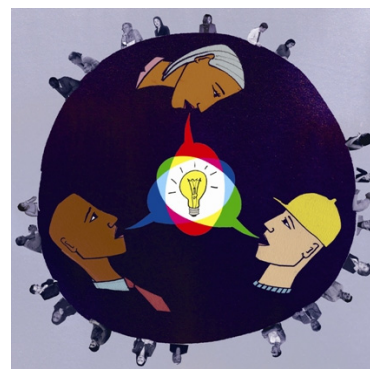
The Government of Bangladesh ratified the ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in 2001. Although prohibited by the Labour Act (2006), nearly 3.2 million children aged 5-17 work in Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2003). Out of these child labourers, 1.3 million are engaged in hazardous work. The vast majority of them are found in informal sectors, relegating workers in general and child labourers in particular to hazardous and exploitative working conditions. To address these conditions, the ILO International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), ADB and UNICEF supported the Government of Bangladesh in developing a National Time-Bound Programme (TBP) towards eliminating all forms of worst forms of child labour by 2015. The programme strategies include development and implementation of the regulatory and monitoring mechanisms, and provision of non-formal education, skills development training for children trapped in the WFCL, socio-economic empowerment programmes for their families, and workplace improvement programmes. The current ILO Urban Informal Economy project, supported by the Government of the Netherlands, contributes to the National TBP. It focuses on strengthening the knowledge base and preparing models that regulate, monitor and address hazardous child labour in an urban informal economy for country replication.



Strengthening social dialogue

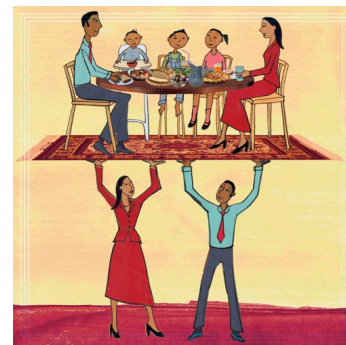
Strengthening social dialogue and mainstreaming decent work

In recognition of the importance of strong government, employers' and workers' organizations to achieve decent work through the ILO's four strategic objectives, the ILO Dhaka office builds the capacity and encourages social dialogue at all levels by ILO tripartite constituents. Key activities include supporting the tripartite constituents in implementing the Labour Act 2006, promoting the international labour standards, and mainstreaming decent work in their policies and programmes. In addition, the ILO supports participation of the tripartite constituents and partner agencies in various training programmes organized by the ILO International Training Centre, Turin Italy, to strengthen their capacities.



Promoting gender equality in the world of work

Decent work and income for all women and men is a must for fair globalization and effective poverty reduction. Intensive economic growth rates and globalization have brought increased employment opportunities for many young women in Bangladesh. However, a persistent gender gap in labour force participation and employment rates exists reflecting women's unequal access to decent and productive employment opportunities. Employment opportunities for women cluster around occupations that are often difficult and unacceptable.



The ILO responds to the cross-cutting priority of gender equality promotion and gender mainstreaming, and works to build capacity of ILO constituents to prevent trafficking, promote domestic workers' rights, and address sexual harassment and violence against women in workplace. Key activities include the implementation of the UN Joint Programme on Violence against Women, preparation for and support to setting up an international instrument to protect domestic workers which will be discussed at the International Labour Conference (ILC) in 2010, with a view to adopting a relevant convention in 2011.