

Improving Working Conditions in the Ready-Made Garment Sector in Bangladesh Programme

AT A GLANCE

PARTNERS:

Government of Bangladesh

- Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Department of Inspections for Factories and Establishments (DIFE)

Employers' Organizations

- Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA)
- Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA)
- Bangladesh Employer's Federation (BEF)

Workers' Organizations

- National Coordination Committee for Worker's Education (NCCWE)
- IndustriALL Bangladesh Council (IBC)

DONOR: Canada, the Netherlands and United Kingdom

DURATION: 22 October 2013 – 30 June 2023

Geographical Focus: Bangladesh

CONTEXT



ILO Bangladesh launched its "Improving Working Conditions in the Ready Made Garment (RMG) Sector" programme in September 2013 following several major garment factory accidents.

The programme contributes to improved safe and decent working condition to ensure competitiveness in the garment as well as other sectors of Bangladesh.

In its 1st phase, the programme supported the implementation of a National Tripartite Plan of Action which was developed in close collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh, as well as employers' and workers' organizations.

To continue the process of enhancing workplace safety in the RMG sector, a 2nd phase of the programme was launched in July 2017.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The 1st phase of the programme laid emphasis on building and fire safety assessments; labour inspection reforms; occupational safety and health; rehabilitation and skills training for Rana Plaza survivors and the launch of Better Work Bangladesh

The 2nd phase of the programme focuses on four strategic areas, namely

- Ensuring factory safety through remediation.
- Supporting the government to effectively regulate industrial safety and continue labour inspection reform.
- Improving Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in both policy and practice.
- Improving factory compliance and productivity through Better Work Bangladesh.

In addition, the programme works toward governance building and enhancing communications capacity of key regulatory bodies. It supports policies and regulations to be more gender responsive and promotes better awareness of gender-related health and safety issues.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Inspection of over 1,500 garment factories for structural, fire and electrical safety.
- Development and harmonization of national standards and protocols relating to building inspections and remediation.
- Increased capacity of the Department of Inspections for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) to carry out labour inspection in a systematic, credible and accountable manner.
- Training of 800,000 garment workers on safety.
- Support to Government and employers to form OSH units which further lead to establishment of Safety Committees in factories.
- Creation of a body of trade union OSH trainers.
- Assisting 300 Rana Plaza survivors to reintegrate into the workforce.
- Launch of Better Work Bangladesh to enhance compliance in the RMG sector as a means to improve productivity.