

## Improving Labour Law Compliance and Building Sound Labour Practices in the

### Export Oriented Shrimp Sector in Bangladesh

#### AT A GLANCE

##### PARTNERS:

##### Government of Bangladesh

- Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE)
- Department of Fisheries and Livestock (DoFL)

##### Employers' Organizations

- Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF), Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters Association (BFFEA)

##### Workers' Organizations

- National Coordination Committee of Workers Education

**DONOR:** Government of Bangladesh

**DURATION:** 1 August 2013 - 31 December 2015

**Geographical Focus:** Bangladesh

#### PHOTO



The processed/frozen shrimp industry is one of the largest export industries in Bangladesh. The shrimp industry provides direct employment to over 60,000 people who in turn support well over 3.5 million dependents. It is estimated that 80% of the export processing workers are women.

The objective of the project is to support government, industry, and labour to improve labour practices and compliance with labour standards in the shrimp processing industry of Bangladesh.

The Shrimp project aims to promote better compliance with the international labour standards, particularly fundamental principles and rights at work in the export oriented shrimp processing.

#### ACTIVITIES

Activities carried out by the project include:

- A comprehensive study on the supply chain, labour practice and occupational safety and health;
- 800 workers, employers and their representatives trained to increase their understanding and skills as well as tools provided to implement fundamental labour rights in the workplace;
- To implement mass education and information programs with shrimp processing workers relating to the rights and responsibilities of workers and employers;
- Conduct educational outreach campaign through Pot songs to some 15,000 workers and employers;
- Tools piloted by the project to support labour law compliance and enhance labour inspection;
- Cooperation built amongst national and international stakeholders.

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Achievements of the project to date include:

- Training Need Analysis (TNA) for different levels of shrimp sector workers identified and draft training manual developed
- Facilitated master training program for 90 Social compliance officers and potential trainers from currently operational factories in Khulna and Chittagong region. The master trainers will conduct workers' training program for 30 workers in each factory.
- Draft labour inspection checklist focusing on shrimp sector being developed.
- Information, education and campaign program developed including picture drama and radio show.
- 2,700 workers being trained by the project in basic rights.
- Research work on supply chain, labour practice and occupational safety and health analysis is ongoing and will have finished by August 2015.