

# Bangladesh National Skills Development Council (NSDC)

## FACT SHEET



International  
Labour  
Organization



European Union

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### CONCEPT OVERVIEW

The National Skills Development Council (NSDC) is the apex authority on skills in Bangladesh. It is headed by the Prime Minister and is responsible for setting the national skills development agenda. The NSDC provides an important tripartite forum where representatives of government, employers, workers and civil society can work together to provide leadership and clear direction to skills development in Bangladesh.

Membership of the NSDC is being reviewed to ensure regional and national industry representation alongside national youth and disability organizations, to ensure that the actual people receiving skills training are represented at the highest level.

### HOW IT WORKS

The NSDC has an Executive Committee (ECNSDC) which is co-chaired by a private sector representative and the Secretary of the Ministry of Education. It also has a Secretariat, which supports ECNSDC and NSDC operations, including the review and monitoring of the National Skills Development Policy and Action Plan. Both the NSDC and the ECNSDC are non-establishment bodies consisting of part-time members from ministries and business, so the actual overseeing and monitoring of the activities of training providers is done by the Secretariat.

The NSDC is introducing specific mechanisms to improve coordination of skills development across Bangladesh. This includes establishing Skills Development Consultative Committees in each division. These committees will promote public/private partnerships and support the NSDC Secretariat to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the NSDC Action Plan.

The NSDC is an important partner of the TVET Reform Project, implemented by the Government of Bangladesh with the support of the ILO and funded by the European Union. The project is working towards reforming technical and vocational education and training in Bangladesh.

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| <b>Vision</b>                  | Executive Committee of the National Skills Development Council |
| <b>Direction</b>               | National Skills Development Council                            |
| <b>Management (national)</b>   | National Skills Development Council Secretariat                |
| <b>Management (divisional)</b> | Skills Development Consultative Committees                     |



## WHY IT IS NEEDED

Many of the challenges facing skills development in Bangladesh arise from the current structure and management of the skill development system. This includes:

**Limited coordination between agencies**, meaning multiple institutions are delivering the same skills while no institutions are delivering other, much-needed skills

**Weak linkages between institutions and the labour market**, meaning training does not necessarily lead to a job

**Insufficient capacity in key agencies**, meaning a lack of support is available to institutions and industry

**A lack of regulation**, meaning quality is not always consistent and

**Limited planning of delivery and infrastructure development**, particularly at the district and upazila levels, meaning the sector is reactive and not able to take advantage of new opportunities.

To tackle these challenges, two key organizations are being strengthened; the Bangladesh Technical Education Board and the NSDC. The NSDC will coordinate the provision of skills development, ensure that public institutions are best utilised to maximise effective use of resources, and will implement arrangements so that private providers can access public facilities to increase the scope of skills training.

## RESULTS ACHIEVED

- The NSDC Action Plan and NSDC Road Map have been developed and approved by the ECNSDC.
- The National Skills Data System has been created and is being operationalised.
- The NSDC Secretariat is functioning and providing services.
- Fourteen NSDP dissemination workshops have been conducted in different districts and divisions. The workshops have helped stakeholders understand the National Skills Development Policy, what it means for them and why it is important for Bangladesh.
- A mechanism for collaboratively funding skills development in Bangladesh is being piloted.
- Two workshops have been held with a wide range of stakeholders to promote the National Strategy on the Promotion of Gender Equality in TVET.



(Above) An instructor watching a student complete an electrical procedure during an on-the-job component of a training programme (Below) A satisfied visitor tastes fresh yoghurt prepared by a group of NTVQ programme apprentices at Dhaka Polytechnic.



## NEXT STEPS

- The establishment of Skills Development Divisional Level Consultative Committees will be finalised
- Operational guidelines (through the NSDC Act), policies and procedures will be finalised
- The coordination cell for rehabilitation of Rana Plaza victims has been established and will continue to provide services.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

To get skilled and get involved in skills development in Bangladesh, contact the TVET Reform Project at ILO Dhaka via email using [tvetreform@ilo.org](mailto:tvetreform@ilo.org), on the web: [ilo.org/tvet](http://ilo.org/tvet) or visit the Bureau of Manpower, Education and Training (BMET) on the web: [www.bmet.org.bd/](http://www.bmet.org.bd/).