



# Remediation of ready-made garment factories in Bangladesh

Following the collapse of Rana Plaza in April 2013, a major priority was to inspect ready-made garment (RMG) factories for structural, electrical and fire safety. By December 2015, 3780 export-oriented garment factories had been inspected. The Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety and the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety inspected factories that their members source from. The remaining factories were assessed by the Government of Bangladesh's National Initiative supported by the ILO's Improving Working Conditions in the Ready Made Garment Sector Programme funded by Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Once the inspection phase was completed emphasis switched to remediation. Two buyer platforms, the Accord and Alliance worked with their supplier factories. The Government of Bangladesh established a Remediation Coordination Cell (RCC) in May 2017 which is overseeing remediation of factories under the National Initiative and will eventually absorb the non-remediated factories of Accord and Alliance when it has the full capacity to do so. The RCC will ultimately evolve into an Industrial Safety Unit.

## Roles of key stakeholders in remediation process

### Factory Owners

Factory owners will play a major role in the remediation process. It is the responsibility of factory owners to undertake the various remediation steps and to liaise with government agencies when necessary.

### Employers' organizations

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) will support the remediation process by encouraging factory owners to carry out required remediation work while also taking steps against any factory that does not carry out remediation as required.

### Government of Bangladesh

The government of Bangladesh will ensure coordination between regulatory bodies as well as remediation initiatives taken by factories. The government will execute its legal mandate to ensure enforcement of national laws on building safety and occupational safety and health. Furthermore, the government will ensure transparency in the remediation process and availability of remediation data.

### Workers' organizations

Workers organizations will help monitor the process of remediation in factories and act as a channel through which workers can convey any concerns in this regard.

## Benefits of Remediation

Factory owners should see remediation as an investment which ensures that their businesses comply with all relevant safety standards. Remediation will help business continuity by boosting the trust of buyers and may lead to more work orders. It will also assure workers that the factories in which they work are safe and thus create greater workplace harmony.

For the government, remediation will enhance the image of the Bangladesh RMG industry as a safe sourcing destination. Consequently this will help to attract more foreign direct investment.

## Legal basis for remediation

According to article 61 (2) of the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (amendment 2013), if it appears to a labour inspector that the use of any building or part of a building or any part of the ways, machinery or plant (including internal electrical fittings) in the establishment involves imminent danger to human life or safety, the inspector may serve on the concerned employer a written order

prohibiting the use of the establishment until it has been properly repaired or altered.

In addition, a government-appointed Review Panel, headed by the Inspector General of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) can authorize the closure of a factory for safety reasons on the recommendation of a vetted engineering team.

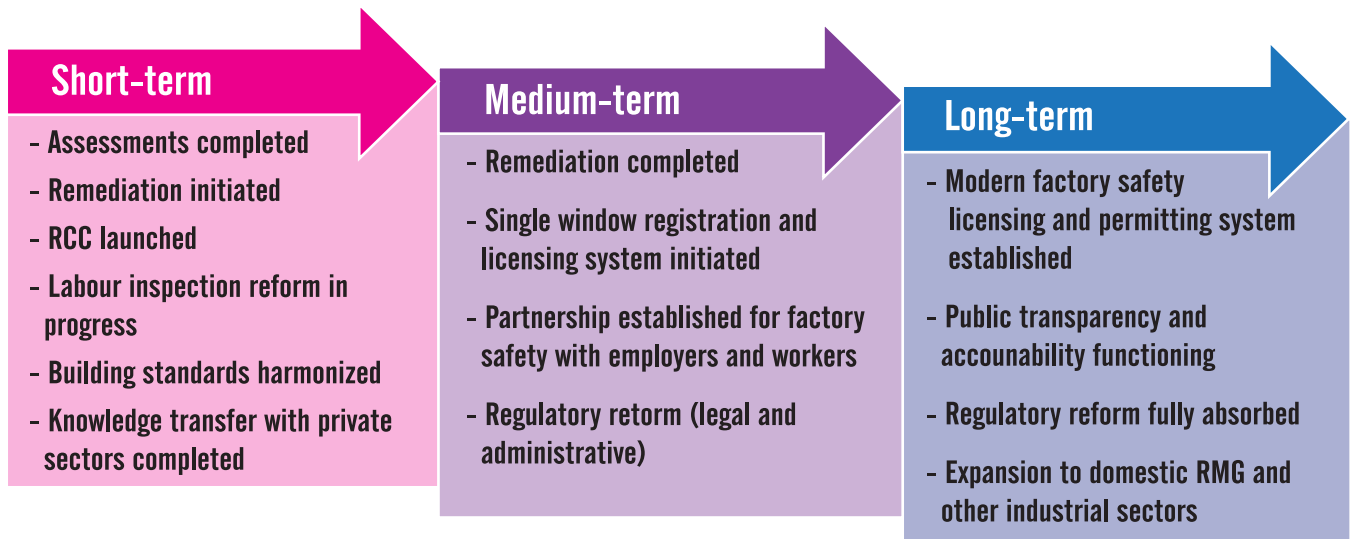
## Remediation Strategy

Bangladesh government's remediation strategy for the ready-made garment (RMG) sector is anchored in its commitments outlined in the National Tripartite Plan of Action on Fire Safety and Structural Integrity (NTPA, July 2013) and the Sustainability Compact for the RMG sector (July 2013).

The objective of this strategy is to ensure safe and decent working conditions in the RMG sector of Bangladesh.

Additionally, the initiative will help foster business competitiveness and assist the country in its pursuit to achieve inclusive economic growth.

## Goals of Bangladesh government's remediation strategy



For more info visit: <http://rcc.dife.gov.bd>