

SECTOR COOPERATION ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH BETWEEN BANGLADESH & DENMARK Annual report for 2018



Project description

The ready-made garment sector is very important for the economy in Bangladesh. After the collapse of the factory building Rana Plaza in 2013, all investors in the textile and garment industry and buyers (including some Danish buyers) demanded a safe production. The main objective of the project is to improve the health and safety for workers in Bangladesh through the strengthening of the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) and the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE). As an additional benefit, the project is expected to improve the competitiveness of Danish companies in and outside Bangladesh.

Key activities in 2018

DIFE internal training program

A strong focus has been on making four of DIFE's Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) expert teams ready to conduct the training of DIFE's inspectors on machinery safety, accident prevention, chemical safety and ergonomics all over the country in 2019.

New topics

Two more OSH topics have been taken up: Crane safety and boiler safety. DIFE now has its own crane and boiler safety expert teams.

More inspection guidelines

Four more inspection guidelines have been developed: Crane safety, boiler safety and two related to dialogue on inspections. These are handled in a technical committee under the National OSH-Council.

Study Tour in Denmark

30 colleagues from MoLE and DIFE visited the Danish Working Environment Authority in May. They learned about OSH-topics from Danish experts, they visited the Ministry of Employment and the Danish National Research Centre, and they joined the Danish inspectors on live inspections. Beside all the knowledge shared, the benefits of the visit was bonding, sharing great moments and having fun.

9 students 6 weeks in Denmark

Danida Fellowship Centre is supporting the project by granting shorter and longer courses. Beside 4 master students, 9 students had 6 weeks at Aalborg University joining a multidisciplinary OSH-course.

Development of project proposal

During 2018, the proposal for a phase 2 was developed after consultations with the Bangladeshi project partners and the Danish fashion sector.

Launch

Phase 2 launched on November 15th 2018 with attendance of the project partners and stakeholders from Denmark and Bangladesh. Phase 2 will run until the end of 2021.

New Sector Counsellor

Soeren Albertsen took up his position on April 1st 2018. He has established a good working relationship with project partners and stakeholders and has supported synergies with other projects and been involved in development of the DIFE internal training concept.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2018

DIFE internal training program

For the sustainability, it is crucial that DIFE has the capability to maintain and develop the skills of the inspectors. It has been satisfying that DIFE has prepared a training plan for 2019. The expectations are high.

Inspection guidelines

The involvement of social partners is essential to ensure a healthy and safe labour market, why it is an important step, that the tripartite National OSH-Council has approved 29 Inspection guidelines.

Status: SSC Preparation Project (Phase 2) under implementation.

Partners: Ministry of Labour and Employment, Bangladesh and the Ministry of Employment, Denmark

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