Global Gateway

BANGLADESH - Decent Work

#GLOBALGATEWAY   #TEAMEUROPE

TEAM EUROPE PROPOSAL

Skills and Employment:

- Employment policy focused on decent jobs creation and labour market regulation
- Demand-driven skills training systems
- Employment and business development services
- Integrated labour market information system
- Incentives for entrepreneurship, formalization and development of MSMEs
- Enabling Environment for Jobs and Labour Rights
- Social protection mechanisms in line with minimum international standards
- Improved working environment, health and safety measures in the workplace and dispute resolution mechanisms
- Better system of governance of labour institutions
- Social dialogue

Social protection in line with minimum international standards

Demand-driven skills training and life-long opportunities with involvement of the private sector

Quality basic education

Employment services

- Advisory and placement
- Information on the demand & supply sides
- Labour market information system, web portal
- Labour Market Researchers

MODALITIES/TOOLS

Budget support

Blending / Guarantees Technical Assistance

Collaboration with civil society organisations

Collaboration with financial institutions

Twinning

KEY DELIVERABLES

Textile value chain

1. Enhancement of the Bangladeshi readymade garment (RMG) sector, to make it a) Safer, b) Greener and c) a decent place to work through providing financial and technical support. TEI Decent work in Bangladesh is contributing to implement the EU-GoB National Action Plan in Labour sector, followed up clolsely by DG EMPL and DG TRADE.

2. COVID-19 action to support Garment workers during the crisis with Germany (TE). Under an ongoing EUR 247 million budget support operation on "National Social Security Strategy" reforms, a specific "Social Protection Programme for Unemployed and Distressed Workers" in the export-oriented sector was established with support from Germany. This cash transfer programme is aimed at providing a monthly cash transfer to any worker who was employed in the RMG, leathergoods and footwear industries prior to the onset of Covid-19 and who lost their job for a number of reasons. The programme is underpinned by a Management Information System (MIS) verifying the beneficiaries' identity through an interface with the National ID MIS; the national data repository of social safety net schemes' beneficiaries; and with IBAS ++ (national MIS which allows the payroll validation and ultimately the release of cash transfers directly to workers'accounts). Concrete deliverable: (i) cash transfer programme providing a monthly cash transfer for a maximum of 3 months to any worker who was employed in the RMG, leathergoods and footwear industries prior to the onset of Covid-19 and who lost their job for a number of reasons; (ii) fully digitalised workers database (curently non-existing in Bangladesh).

TRANSFORMATIONAL POTENTIAL

- Unlocking the potential "demographic dividend" through the creation of decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities
- Possibility to move to the GSP+ regime, if relevant international conventions are ratified and implemented, including on labour rights

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Youth

(15-24 year old) =
1/5 of the population

- High unemployment rate among youth and especially among those with higher levels of education.

Ready Made Garment (RMG) sector

- Employs approximately 4 million people, mostly women (60-70%)
- Contributes more than 11% of the country's GDP and 80% of the total exports

National policy context:

- 8th Five Year Plan
- National Skills Development Policy (NSDP)
- National Jobs Strategy
- National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)
- ILO key conventions on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No.182) ratified in 2001
- National child labour elimination policy
- National Action Plan & Roadmap on the Labour Sector of Bangladesh

Working conditions

- Labour inspection, occupational safety and health (OSH) systems need enhancement
- Freedom of association and collective bargaining rights and practice need reinforcement

- Gender discrepancy both in education outcomes and pay gap
- Lack of unemployment insurance and social protection
- Fragmented Skills Development sector, with limited involvement of private sector

- Skill mismatch between labour supply and demand
- Lack of information on training opportunities and the job market

GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT AND RELEVANT SDGs

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
1 NO POVERTY
5 GENDER EQUALITY
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

After graduation from the LDC status (expected in 2026), Bangladesh will no longer benefit from LDC-specific International Support Measures, including preferential trade schemes such as the EU's Everything But Arms (EBA).

- EU's EBA enhanced engagement
- ILO's Decent Work Agenda supervisory mechanisms
- Medium- and long-term COVID-19 impacts on the Bangladesh economy and jobs

**SDGs included based on a new JRC electronic text mining tool, which identifies SDGs (targets)