Consultative meeting with the Trade Union leaders on the health and wellbeing of the RMG workers

On February 26, 2019, a consultative meeting with Trade Union leaders of the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) sector took place at CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. Over 20 leaders and representatives’ from different Trade Union working in the RMG sector took part in the meeting and shared their opinions on the health and wellbeing of the RMG workers. The meeting was organized under the Working with Women II Project funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Ms. Farhtheeba Rahat Khan, Team Leader, Working with Women Project- II welcomed the Trade Union leaders, and called the leaders for their support to the project’s effort in promoting health and wellbeing of the garments workers while briefing objectives of the meeting. Ms. Najma Akter, Director and Project Coordinator, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) delivered a presentation on Workplace Laws & Policy related to health & wellbeing in the RMG sector; while Mr. Jamal Uddin, Inclusive Business Advisor, Working with Women Project- II presented the three inclusive business models under the project: Power Plus, Health Insurance Plus, Menstrual Hygiene Management.

Mr. Z M Kamrul Ahmed, President, Bangladesh Textile & Garment Workers League (BTGWL) said, “I realize these are good initiatives and helpful for the RMG workers; we should raise awareness at large as health is the rights of the workers”.

Mr. Abul Hossain, President, Textile and Garments Workers Federation (TGWF) emphasized on prioritizing the rights-based approach and including workers’ health insurance in the labour law.

Mr. Wajedul Islam, General Secretary, Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, encouraged the Trade Union Leaders to work side by side with the government and NGOs. “Considering health care is the rights of the labour, we should be united and seek government attention on this” - he added.
Quarterly Meeting with Garment Factories’ Management

On 11th February 2019 SNV organized quarterly meet with all partner factories working with the Shojag Coalition. The meeting was held at Marino Royal Hotel, Uttara, Dhaka.

Shojag- an initiative to end gender-based violence in the RMG industries- funded by Global Fund for Women, is implemented by coalition partners Naripokko, SNV, BLAST and Christian Aid.

Partners’ Meeting on Facilitating Access to Health for Factory Workers through Insurance System

On 12th February 2019 SNV organized meeting with partners under the Health Insurance initiative supported by Carrefour Foundation at Hotel High Garden, Uttara, Dhaka. Meeting focused on field challenges and way forward to mitigate those. An extensive orientation plan was discussed with various workers’ committee in the factories to ensure a common understanding and smooth functioning of the Health Insurance Scheme.

SNV joins hand with MFO in Garment Worker Diaries

A new partnership has been established under the Working with Women project-II, to support the Garment Worker Diaries initiative undertaken by Microfinance Opportunities (MFO) and the South Asia Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM). Credible data on the work hours, income, expenses, and financial tools use by the workers will be collected to get at a clear picture of the economic condition of female workers employed in the ready-made garment industry. This data once available will help the government and other stakeholders in framing policies and programs to improve the lives of these workers. SNV received additional grants from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to support this initiative.

Upcoming:

Sustainable Apparel Summit: 17th April 2019

SNV in partnership with Dutch-Bangla Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DBCCI), is going to organize a Sustainable Apparel Summit on April 17, 2019 in Dhaka. The main agenda of the summit is to aware the stakeholders about the sustainability agenda and best practices to improve the health and wellbeing of the workers.

Disclaimer:
The author’s views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the SNV Netherlands Development Organisation or the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.