

Skills for Self-Monitoring and Compliance with Clean and Fair Production in the Textile Industry (SCAIP)

Background

The textile industry is an important sector for Bangladesh's economy, accounting for 84 percent of total export (2022). Bangladesh is the world's second largest textile producing country after China. Furthermore, the sector employs around 4 million people, out of which 53 percent are women.

These figures clearly show the importance of the textile industry for Bangladesh. However, compliance with social and environmental standards needs to be further improved. Workers' rights are in particular neglected. Gaps in the environmental regulation and violation of rules affect communities and put workers at risk.

The Ready-Made-Garment Sustainability Council (RSC), established in 2020, is a non-profit tripartite multistakeholder initiative. It includes representatives of workers (national and international trade unions), the industry (ready-made garment industry associations) and signatory brands. As a private national initiative, it aims to carry forward the significant accomplishments in workplace safety achieved by the Bangladesh Accord with a vision to make the textile industry a safe and better place to work.

Although the RSC adopted the mandate and organisational structure of the Accord, it seeks to extend the Accord's scope of work. While the RSC currently encompasses relevant topics around building safety as well as labour rights, gender equality and education for workers, an expansion to environmental issues is envisaged. The RSC strives to adopt a holistic approach, incorporating both social and environmental standards into its work.

Thus, the RSC considers the full range of sustainability issues regarding workplace safety in Bangladesh's textile industry.

Project name	Skills for Self-Monitoring and Compliance with Clean and Fair Production in the Textile Industry (SCAIP)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Commissioned value	7.0 million Euro
Project region	Bangladesh
Partner ministry	Ministry of Commerce (MoC)
Implementing partner	Ready-Made Garment Sustainability Council (RSC)
SDG contribution	Gender Equality (SDG 5), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)
Duration	November 2022 – October 2026

Objective

The SCAIP project supports the capacities of the RSC to improve its monitoring of safety, labour and environmental standards in the textile sector in Bangladesh.

Approach

The SCAIP project supports the RSC through capacity development measures, organisational development and improved digital systems for inspections to ensure transparent and reliable





inspections and auditing. In addition, SCAIP promotes the establishment of an interconnected cooperation mechanism between the RSC and the national Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) and Department of Environment (DoE). This will improve effectiveness and efficiency of the inspection system. Furthermore, the project extends and develops new training materials and advisory services in compliance with international standards, strengthens support services for workers and improves their skills to drive sustainability in factories.

Areas of intervention and envisaged activities

1. Capacity Development of the RSC

- Advising on strategic organisational capacities and implantation planning
- Assisting to develop a training strategy for the capacity development of the RSC's staff
- Supporting to develop digital reporting processes and improved data management systems

2. Cooperation between the RSC and state inspection authorities

- Advising on establishing structures for cooperation between the RSC and state inspection authorities
- Supporting structured dialogue to share knowledge and identify ways of cooperation
- Analysing the legal framework to identify possible cooperation formats and evaluating lessons learned in cooperation with private organisations and state institutions

3. Advisory and training services for a fair and clean production

- Strengthening the knowledge of workers on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in the textile industry
- Supporting the development of training courses for RSC engineers to provide enhanced services
- Advising on developing training courses on the management of grievance and redress mechanisms with a specific emphasis on gender-based violence

Expected results

Synergies between the RSC and state inspection authorities lead to coherence and an efficient and effective inspection system. With strengthened capacities, the RSC will be enabled to fulfil its mandate and increase support for and compliance with safety, labour and environmental standards in the textile sector. Due to the tripartite structure of the RSC, manufacturers and buyers share responsibility to make a contribution towards fair and clean production and to adhere to due diligence obligations in the textile supply chains. The enhancement of factory compliance with national legislations and international sustainability standards will protect human rights and the environment. Workers especially benefit from transparent and reliable monitoring of safety, social and environmental standards that correspond to redress measures and accident prevention in factories.

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Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
space should be reduced one pointSkills for Self-Monitoring and Compliance with Clean and Fair Production in the Textile Industry (SCAIP)
GIZ Bangladesh
PO Box 6091, Gulshan 1
Phone +880 2 5506 8744-52, +880 9 666 701 000
Fax +880 2 5506 8753
giz-bangladesh@giz.de
www.giz.de/bangladesh

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Text

Emilly Lam

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