

## ILAB Technical Assistance Project Summary

<b>Project Title</b>	Better Work Bangladesh – Design Phase (BWDP)
<b>Region/Country</b>	Bangladesh
<b>Project Duration</b>	May 2011 – September 2013
<b>Funding Level</b>	\$685,000.00
<b>Implementer</b>	International Labor Organization (ILO)
<b>Background/Problem to be Addressed</b>	The government of Bangladesh, employer and worker organizations, and other stakeholders have expressed an interest in establishing a Better Work program for the ready-made garment (RMG) sector, which is the primary driver for Bangladesh’s export industry. Better Work is a joint partnership of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) that uses market incentives—the interest of international firms in maintaining their reputation—to help garment-sector stakeholders improve compliance with labor standards, primarily in developing countries. It has not been established, however, that Bangladesh has met all of the conditions required to ensure a successful design, start-up and implementation of the Better Work program.
<b>Project objectives</b>	<p>The overall goal of the project is to obtain demonstrated support by the Government of Bangladesh and other key stakeholders to establish and operate a Better Work country program in Bangladesh’s RMG sector and to meet all of the enabling conditions required to ensure successful implementation of a Better Work country program. Specific objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bangladesh stakeholders fully understand the Better Work program and endorse its goals and objectives;</li> <li>2. The Better Work program’s design meets specific and measurable objectives to improve labor standards and competitiveness in the RMG sector; and</li> <li>3. The technical groundwork for program implementation is established.</li> </ol>
<b>Summary of Activities</b>	<p>The ILO is working in partnership with the Bangladeshi Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) and other key government agencies, and employer and worker organizations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase stakeholders’ understanding of Better Work requirements and the need for Bangladesh to meet all of the enabling conditions required to implement the country program;</li> <li>• Develop a draft plan for a Better Work country program, including establishing specific and measurable objectives, and deeper stakeholder commitment to the elements of a draft plan;</li> <li>• Reform the Bangladeshi labor code and address fire safety issues in the RMG sector; and</li> <li>• Adapt the Better Work Compliance Assessment Tool (CAT) to the Bangladesh’s national labor law.</li> </ul>