



Monitoring
RANA PLAZA
Follow-ups
A Civil Society Initiative



CENTRE FOR POLICY DIALOGUE (CPD)
B A N G L A D E S H
a civil society think tank



The podium at the first dialogue emphasised on consolidation of efforts from various stakeholders to address the unfulfilled immediate needs of the Rana Plaza victims

Following hundred days since the tragic incident, CPD along with its partners organised the first national dialogue of the initiative on 3 August 2013 titled **100 Days of Rana Plaza Tragedy: A Report on Commitments and Delivery** where various industry stakeholders deliberated on the first monitoring report. The key focus was on evaluation of the progress in terms of delivering the commitments towards addressing immediate concerns such as rescue operations, buried deceased workers, immediate treatment for the injured, financial support to the victims and their families, legal initiatives following the tragedy, and identifying structural weaknesses of the sector with regard to workplace safety and security.

The key focus of the first Report was on evaluation of the progress in terms of delivering the commitments towards addressing immediate concerns

The dialogue discussion covered some of the key obstacles against implementing a planned industrialisation process, labour law and legal measures, bringing the responsible behind RMG disasters to justice, ensuring effectiveness of local governance institutions and procedures, trade unionism and depoliticising trade unions to ensure workers' rights. Compensation, an issue that is still pending for the victims to date, was also discussed in the first dialogue.

Recommendations from various stakeholders in the audience, including Members of Parliament, civil society organisations, representatives from business chambers and trade unions, human



A victim sharing the story of her survival

rights organisations, NGOs and media were focused towards consolidating the efforts from various parts of the society to immediately address the unfulfilled needs of the affected in the tragedy. These comprised ensuring transparency on the financial support provided to the victims through the Prime Minister's Office, formation of a task force by combining related stakeholders for close monitoring, and ascertaining the exact number of affected, missing and deceased workers. Long-term measures included: maintaining detailed database of workers, and provision of insurance, provident and development fund.

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Emergence of these topics accordingly mounted pressure on the responsible authorities so that appropriate and adequate actions are taken.



The second dialogue discussants underscored that despite significant efforts the implementation status of post-Rana Plaza deliverables was rather mixed

The second dialogue titled **Rana Plaza Tragedy and Beyond: An Update on Commitments and Delivery**, held on 26 January 2014, convened a similar group of stakeholders involved in current initiatives to discuss on the second monitoring report. The second one was framed towards addressing short to medium-term concerns, such as ensuring compensation to victims and families, provisions of long-term treatment, support to the victims' children, progress of legal initiatives initially discussed and measures that have been taken for improvement of structural weaknesses, particularly relating to fire and building safety issues.

Activities under the National Tripartite Plan of Action, the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety and the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh were also noted in the second monitoring initiative. During the discussion, a number of victims of the tragedy and a rescue worker also shared their hardships as a result of the incident. The workers shared to what extent they were compensated and rehabilitated, and urged speedy fulfilment of unmet promises for all of their co-workers.

Speakers at the dialogue urged to address the immediate need for transparency and accountability as regards the promises made



*Victims attending the second dialogue described their
on looking depressing future and rehabilitation prospect*

towards disbursing compensation and humanitarian aid for workers, treatment and rehabilitation.

In this connection, it may be mentioned here that following the dialogue, the Prime Minister's Office announced that they are going to disclose an account of humanitarian aid collection and disbursement towards the victims of Rana Plaza tragedy on 28 January 2014.

Following the second dialogue, the Prime Minister's Office announced that they are going to disclose an account of humanitarian aid collection and disbursement towards the victims of Rana Plaza tragedy

Some of the issues that are still pending to achieve adequate progress include compensation, transparency and coordination of relief efforts towards victims, and the preparation of an official list of victims and family members. This independent monitoring initiative is playing an essential role in keeping these issues alive and has been providing a platform for collaboration amongst key stakeholders to effectively heal the deep scar that has been left on the Bangladeshi RMG sector.



*The dialogues were attended by various segments of
representatives of the society*

Activities of the Initiative

18 May 2013 First Discussion Meeting with Partners of the Rana Plaza Initiative

22 July 2013 Second Discussion Meeting with Initiative Partners on Follow-up of Rana Plaza Tragedy

3 August 2013 Dialogue on রানা প্লাজা দুর্ঘটনার ১০০ দিন: প্রতিশ্রুতি ও বাস্তবায়নের চিত্র (100 Days of Rana Plaza Tragedy: A Report on Commitments and Delivery)

21 August 2013 Policy Dialogue with Development Partners on 100 Days of Rana Plaza Tragedy

19 January 2014 Third Discussion Meeting with Initiative Partners on Follow-up of Rana Plaza Tragedy

26 January 2014 Dialogue on রানা প্লাজা দুর্ঘটনা ও পরবর্তী পদক্ষেপসমূহ: প্রতিশ্রুতি ও বাস্তবায়নের সর্বশেষ পরিস্থিতি (Rana Plaza Tragedy and Beyond: An Update on Commitments and Delivery)

2 April 2014 Expert Group Meeting with National Tripartite Committee, Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety, and Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh on Post-Rana Plaza Development and Future Agenda

3 April 2014 Expert Group Meeting with BGMEA, BKMEA and BEPZA on Post-Rana Plaza Development and Future Agenda

7 April 2014 Expert Group Meeting with Development Partners on Post-Rana Plaza Development and Future Agenda

9 April 2014 Fourth Discussion Meeting with Initiative Partners on Follow-up of Rana Plaza Tragedy

CPD Publications related to Post-Rana Plaza Monitoring

Independent Monitoring Reports

100 Days of Rana Plaza Tragedy: A Report on Commitments and Delivery (September 2013)

Rana Plaza Tragedy and Beyond: A Follow-up on Commitments and Delivery (January 2014)

Newspaper Editorials, Op-Eds and Interviews

শ্রমিক অধিকার: প্রতিশ্রুতি বাস্তবায়ন কত দূর?

Khondaker Golam Moazzem. *Prothom Alo*, 26 January 2014

রাজনৈতিক অস্থিরতা কাটলে পোশাকশিল্প এগিয়ে যাবে

Khondaker Golam Moazzem. *Kaler Kantho*, 12 January 2014

রূপান্তরের জন্য আলোকিত দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি ও নতুন ভাবনা দরকার

Mustafizur Rahman. *Prothom Alo*, 6 November 2013

RMG Sector: Navigating the Challenging Times Ahead

Mustafizur Rahman. *The Daily Star*, 3 November 2013

Lessons from Rana Plaza

Rehman Sobhan. August 2013

পোশাকশিল্পে ওয়েকআপ কল: যথাযথ সাড়ায় সম্ভাবনার জানালা খুলে যাবে

Mustafizur Rahman. *Samakal*, 22 May 2013

তৈরি পোশাক খাত: এগোনোর পথ

Fahmida Khatun. *Prothom Alo*, 10 May 2013

আন্তর্জাতিক উৎপাদন চেইনে শ্রমিকের অংশগ্রহণ কতটুকু আশীর্বাদের?

Khondaker Golam Moazzem. *Bonik Barta*, 1 May 2013

শ্রমিক স্বার্থ দেখার কেউ নেই

Debapriya Bhattacharya. *Samakal*, 28 November 2012

পোশাক শিল্পে নারীশ্রমিকের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়ন: তিন দশকের অভিজ্ঞতা

Khondaker Golam Moazzem. *Bonik Barta*, 8 March 2012

About the Initiative

The Rana Plaza tragedy of 24 April 2013 shook the country as well as the international community to the core. The collapse of the building that took lives of 1,134 RMG workers was the worst man-made disaster in the country's history.

Following this tragedy there were unprecedented expressions of compassion, solidarity and support on the part of concerned citizens of the country. There was also an outpouring of commitments, financial and otherwise, from local and global institutions, groups and individuals.

However, once the immediate concerns were over and the memory started to fade, the pace of delivery on the commitments appears to have lost the momentum. In order to keep the issue alive, and to bring transparency and social and collective accountability in the process of implementing the deliverables, CPD has launched an initiative to follow up and report, on a regular basis, on the delivery status of the commitments made by involved stakeholders. It is hoped that this initiative will also give voice to the affected RMG workers and their families.

In undertaking this initiative CPD is partnering with a number of civil society organisations in Bangladesh. They are – Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Dhaka Ahsania Mission, ActionAid Bangladesh, Campaign for Mass Education (CAMPE), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), The Daily Star, Naripokkho, Nijera Kori, Prothom Alo, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Manusher Jonno Foundation and Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (SHUJAN). Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor, University of Asia Pacific and Mr Habibullah N Karim, Chairman, Terratech Limited joined the initiative as distinguished individuals and made valuable contribution towards its implementation.

As part of this monitoring exercise CPD and its partners have so far convened two national dialogues, four expert group meetings with development partners, trade bodies and RMG sector monitoring authorities as well as four follow-up meetings with the partnering organisations on the progress of post-Rana Plaza deliverables during the last one year.

With inputs from all stakeholders, the outcome of the monitoring process has been compiled into two independent monitoring reports, authored by CPD researchers.



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