BILS English Bulletin
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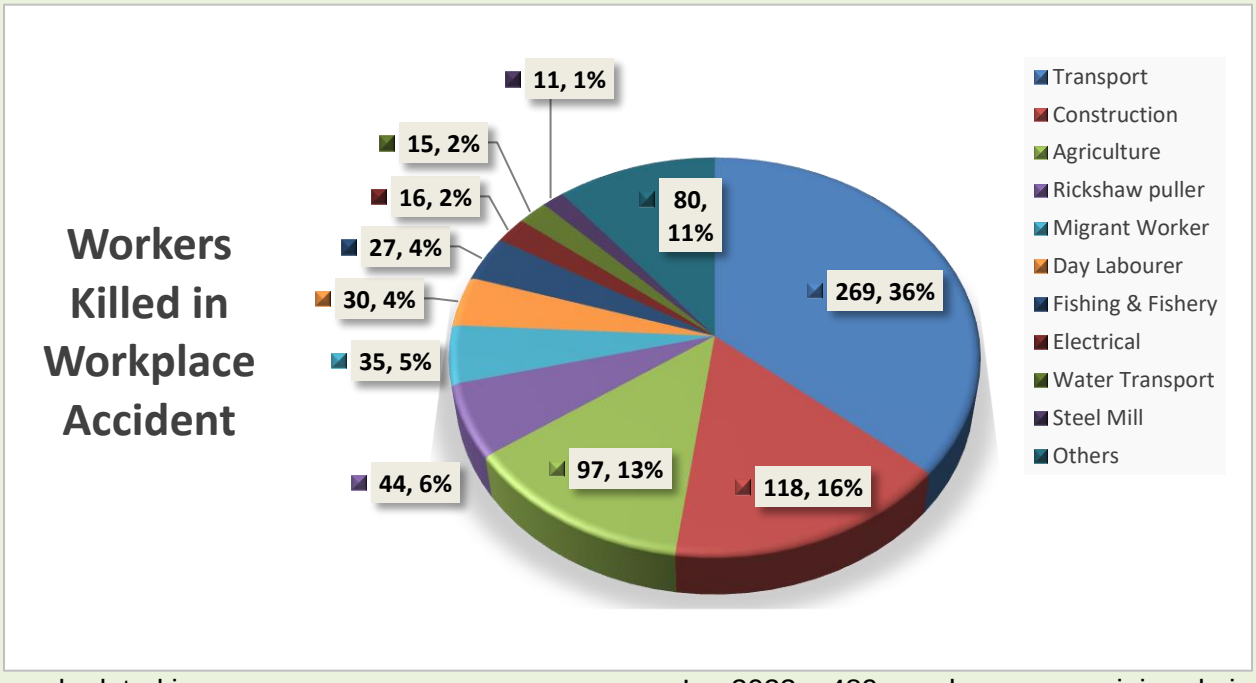
BILS Survey on Workplace Situation-2023

At least 742 workers killed and 489 injured at workplace in Bangladesh

In 2023 at workplace in Bangladesh, at least 742 workers killed and 489 injured in different kind of accidents. This information revealed from national newspaper survey conducted by BILS in 2023. It is also found in the survey that 157 workers also killed and 127 injured due to workplace torture. There were 171 labour unrest in various sectors, out of which 110 labour unrest occurred in the garment sector. The survey highlighted accidents, torture, labour unrest and related issues.



According to survey data, 742 workers died in workplace accidents in 2023 (28% less than in 2022), of which 739 (99%) were men and 3 (1%) were women workers. By sector, the highest number of 269 (36%) workers died in the transport sector. The construction sector had the second highest number of worker deaths at 118 (15%). The third highest number of 97(13%) workers died in the agriculture sector. Besides 44 rickshaw puller (less than 5%), 35 in migrant workers, 35 day labourers, 27 fish and fishery workers, 16 electrical workers, 15 in water transport sector, 11 steel mills workers and 80 workers in other sectors were killed.

In 2023, 489 workers were injured in workplace accidents, of which 429 (87%) were men and 60 (12%) were women workers. Maximum 114 (23%) workers were injured in the ready-made garment industry. 85 people (17%) were injured in

the second highest fishing and fishery. In the third largest construction sector, 65 (13%) workers were injured. Besides, 41 people (8%) in the transport sector, 39 (7%) in the water transport sector, 33 (6%) in the shop workers, 24 (4%) in the oxygen factory, 15 (3%) day labourers, 13 (2%) in the manufacturing industry, 13 (2%) in the workshop workers, 12 (2%) in agriculture and 35 workers in other sectors were injured.

Road accident, falling from top, explosion, fire, earthquake, electrocution, lightning, sinking of trawler in stormy sea, injury from falling object, fall on head, poisonous gas, marine accident, wall/roof collapse, cylinder explosion, attacked by jungle animal etc. are some of the causes of accidents at work.

According to the survey, in 2022, 1034 workers were killed and 1037 workers were injured in the workplace, of which 1027 (99%) were men and 7 (1%) were women workers.

According to the survey based on newspapers, 306 workers were victims of workplace torture in 2023. Among them 278 (91%) are men and 28 (9%) are women workers. Of the 306 people, 157 were killed, 127 were injured, 16 were missing, 3 was reported as a suicide, and 3 abducted were later recovered by the police. All of the abductees were construction workers.

The highest number of 74 labour victims were in the rickshaw and auto rickshaw workers, of which 66 were killed and 8 injured. The second highest 54 workers were in the transport sector, out of which 21 were killed and 33 were injured. The third highest 26 workers were in the fishing and fishery out of which 2 were killed, 15 injured and 9 were kidnapped. 26 security guards were tortured, of which 14 were killed, 9 injured and 3 were missing and 23 domestic workers were victims of violence, of which 11 were killed, 10 were injured, and 2 case of suicide was reported. Besides, 10 workers in the agricultural sector were subjected to torture, of which all were killed.

Types of workplace violence include physical abuse, rape, stabbing, murder, mysterious death, kidnapping, beating etc.

According to the survey, 194 workers were subjected to torture outside the workplace in 2023. Among them, 145 people were killed, 33 were injured, 6 person was missing, and 10 people were reported to have committed suicide. Out of 194, 151 (78%) are men and 43 (22%) are women workers.

At least 48 of the workers were subjected to violence outside the workplace in ready-made garment industry, out of which 34 were killed, 11 injured, 3 were missing. The second highest number of 34 labour victims were in the agricultural sector, of which 31 were killed, 3 were injured. The third highest number of 18 labour victims were in rickshaw and auto rickshaw workers, of which 15 were killed, 1 injured, and 2 committed suicide. 13 workers were subjected to torture in the construction sector, out of which 9 were killed, 1 injured, 1 committed suicide and 2 were missing. 11 day labourers were tortured, out of which 9 were killed, 2 were injured. Besides, 3 domestic workers were subjected to violence outside the workplace, out of which 1 killed and 2 were injured.

Types of harassment outside the workplace include physical abuse, rape, gang rape,

sexual harassment, stabbing, murder, mysterious death, kidnapping, beating etc.

According to the survey, 330 workers were subjected to torture outside the workplace in 2022, of which 213 were killed, 74 injured, 1 missing and 42 reported to committed suicide. Out of 330, 252 (76%) were men and 78 (24%) were women.

In 2023, a total of 171 labour unrest occurred in various sectors. The highest number of 110 (64%) incidents of labour unrest occurred in the garment sector. The second highest incidence of labour dissatisfaction at 7 (4%) occurred in the beedi industry and 7 (4%) in the tea industry. The third highest number of 5 (3%) cases of labour unrest occurred in the railway. Apart from this, 4 incidents of labour dissatisfaction occurred in textile industry, 3 in transport, 3 in media, 3 in manufacturing industry, 3 in fertilizer factory, 3 in coal, 3 in cleaning sector and 20 in other sectors.

According to the survey, the highest 59 (33%) cases of worker dissatisfaction occurred due to salary arrears. Apart from this, 34 (20%) cases of worker dissatisfaction occurred due to demands, 27 (15%) due to demands for opening of closed factories, 8 due to protest of workers death, 7 due to demands for bonuses, 6 due to lay-offs, 5 due to demands for overtime and 17 due to other demands.

2 workers were killed while protesting. Among the killed was 1 man and 1 woman workers. 157 ready-made garments workers and 10 textile mill workers were injured. Among of them 72 were men and 95 were women workers.

Patterns of labour unrest included demonstrations (69, 40%), highway blockades (28, 16%), human blockades (17, 10%), vandalism (18, 9%), walkouts (12, 7%), rallies (5, 3%), distribution of memorandums, hunger strikes, assembly etc.

Workshop on Capacity Building

Capacity Building Workshop

BILS organised two need assessment workshops to develop a training manual for the capacity building of women and youth TU leaders on basic IT skills. About 45 women and youth TU leaders have received the training course in two batches. Two-day long programme in two batches was held on March 24 and 31, 2024, at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Auditorium, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The consultant was Mir Attaqui Masruruzzaman and his team SOMASHTE.

Project Steering Committee Member Shakil Akhter Chowdhury and ILO Programme Officer (Training and Gender) Shipra Chowdhury attended and observed the

sessions. In addition, BILS Director Kohinoor Mahmood, BILS Project Coordinator Ashis K. Acharjee, and other officials were present at the programme.

Capacity Building Training

Capacity Building Training

BILS organised a capacity-building training workshop held on 9 February 2024, at BILS Seminar Hall in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, to mobilise women and youth leaders of the tannery sector. Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Tannery Workers Union and Secretary of the BILS Executive Council presided over the meeting. Abdul Malek, General Secretary of the Tannery Workers Union, provided the opening speech, and BILS Director Nazma Yesmin delivered the welcome remarks. BILS Project Coordinator Chowdhury Borhan Uddin presented the introduction of the project activities. Sajjad Hossain was present as a resource person in the programme. A total of 20 women and youth leaders participated in the training programme. Among them were five women and fifteenmen.

Coordination Meeting

Coordination meeting

BILS organised a project coordination meeting on developing a sustainable leather industry in Bangladesh on February 4, 2024, at the Dhaka Ahsania Mission Auditorium, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. BILS Director Nazma Yesmin delivered the welcome speech at the meeting, and Kamrul Ahsan, programme manager of Solidar Swiss provided an opening speech. This meeting was conducted by OSHE Foundation Director Md. Alam Hossain. A total of 16 people participated in the meeting. Among them were 4 women and 12 men.

Project Launching Programme of Support for Effective and Inclusive Trade Unions in Bangladesh

Project Launching Programme

The Project Launching Programme of "Support for Effective and Inclusive Trade Unions in Bangladesh" was organised by BILS to orient the stakeholders on the project initiatives and to seek suggestions and opinions for better implementation of the project on 29 February 2024 at Six Season Hotel, Gulshan, Dhaka. BILS Vice Chairperson Shirin Akhter Presided over the programme and BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed delivered the Welcome Speech, while SKOP Joint Convener & BILS Advisory Council Member Noor Kutub Alam Mannan provided the Opening Remarks. WRC Former Chairman and BILS Executive Member Md. Shakil Akhter Chowdhury stated that this project will assist women and youth TU leaders in developing and improving their leadership skills. Gender representation is necessary. Youth and women leaders should emerge for the next generation, remarked Neeran Ramjuthan, Programme Manager for Labour Administration and Working Conditions (LAWC) at the ILO. Dr. Christian Bochmann, Commission Manager, Higher Education and Leadership Development for Sustainable Textiles in Bangladesh (HELD)-GIZ emphasised the importance of high-quality education for young people and female trade union leaders.

BILS ED Providing Welcome Speech

Following the inaugural session, WRC Manager Rafiqul Alam and BILS Project Coordinator Ashis K. Acharjee gave separate presentations on the project orientation, outlining the specific goals, objectives, and activities.

Afterwards the project orientation and introductory lectures, a panel discussion with the theme "Strengthening the Capacity of Trade Unions in an Effective and Inclusive Way" was held. The discussion panel was moderated by BILS Director Kohinoor Mahmood, with discussion panelists including Professor Dr. Jakir Hossain of the Institute of Bangladesh Studies, University of Rajshahi, and Member, Advisory Council, BILS; Abul Kalam Azad, Joint General Secretary, BTUC, and Secretary, Executive Council, BILS; Ashaduzzaman, Youth Committee General Secretary, BFTUC; and Fahmina Kashem, Chairperson, WRC Women Committee.

During the discussion session, Ashaduzzaman, the youth TU leader, stated, "BILS is a valuable resource for me as it provided me with numerous trainings to enhance my skills in labour andtrade union issues and to develop my capacity building. Additionally, I think that through the project's activities, the young TU leaders will be able to train them and use it as a means of sharing their knowledge with the TU sector". Fahmina Kashem emphasised that women's leadership should grow to support their capacity building, and it is our duty to identify any gaps so that we can effectively address them. According to Abul Kalam Azad, TU responsible leaders should make use of labour force and overcome all obstacles in order to improve their leadership abilities

Panel Discussion

and ensure their sustainability in the long run. According to Dr. Jakir, there are a few obstacles, including the labour market, the legal system, owners' lack of enthusiasm, prejudice against women in leadership

roles, and skill shortages. These need to be addressed before the system may expand.

Study Circle for Tannery Sector Workers

BILS organised a series of study circles held in January, February and March 2024, of Tannery workers' rights, employment and injury insurance at the Tannery Workers Union Office, Hemayetpur, Savar and Hazaribagh, Dhaka,

Study Circle for Tannery Workers'

Tannery Workers Union (TWU) President Mr. Abul Kalam Azad and General Secretary Mr. Abdul Malek provided valuable opinions, suggestions, and guidance to the meeting. Besides, one of the organisers and trainers, Md. Abdur Rahim, co-editor Mr. Kamal Hossain, trainer Mohammad Ali, sports and cultural editor Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, secretary and trainer of the union office Mr. Sheikh Akram Hossain, and TM Liakat Hossain conducted the meetings. Chowdhury Borhan Uddin, coordinator of the project, was present on behalf of the BILS. A total of 47 people including 10 women and 37 men attended each programme.

Celebrations of the National Independence Day

BILS Chattogram youth trade union leadership organised a rally and presented wreaths on the premises of the Shahid Minar of Municipal Model High School on March 26, 2024, on National Independence Day in Chattogram.

Rally and Placed wreath on National Independence Day

In the observance programme, 30 participants from different NTUCs took part.

Inception Workshop on Strengthening Due Diligence Implementation

Inception Workshop on Strengthening Due Diligence Implementation in the Textile Sector in Bangladesh Project

BILS organised two Labour Law Working Committee meetings that were held on January 17 and 21, 2024, at the BILS seminar hall under the BILS-MFNV project. Through the meetings, Labour Law Working Committee members were able to consolidate their recommendations on the Labour Law Amendment and submit their core recommendations to the government accordinglyBILS and Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO, in collaboration with FEMNET, organized an Inception Workshop of "Strengthening Due Diligence Implementation in the Textile Sector in Bangladesh" project at the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) Auditorium, Topkhana Road, Dhaka, on February 27, 2024.

The event was chaired by BILS Vice Chairman Amirul Haque Amin, while ESDO Chairperson and former secretary of the government of Bangladesh Syed Marghub Murshed was present as a special guest. The event was moderated by Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Ph.D., Secretary General, ESDO. Among others, SKOP Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewel, BILS Secretary as well as G-SKOP Representative Shakil Akhter Chowdhury, Industrial Bangladesh Council General Secretary Kutubuddin Ahmed, BILS Advisory Council Member and former secretary of the Ministry of Labour & Employment Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment Hazera Khatun, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Industry Noor E Khaza Alamin, Programme Manager of Labour Administration & Working Condition

of ILO Dhaka Office Neeran Ramjuthan, Senior Technical Adviser of ESDO Prof. Dr. Abul Hashem, Member of Ashulia Union Parishad, Mohammad Ali, ESDO Executive Director Siddika Sultana, BILS Director Nazma Yesmin, Senior Officer of BILS, Md. Syaduzzaman Mithu, addressed at the event.

BILS and ESDO introduced the project, the concepts, and the usage of Worker-based monitoring and Community-based monitoring throughout the project and shared overall implementation plan with the stakeholders. Throughout the program, the discussants provided their recommendations and expressed their willingness to support this project implementation.

Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO

Objectives:

- Presenting the possible results of the project activities and implementation to the stakeholders.

Nazma Yesmin, Director, BILS speaking

- Developing relationships with all stakeholders by introducing the project and implementation activities.
- Enhancing collaboration with relevant stakeholders to implement future initiatives.
- Empowering the concerned container groups to implement the project activities

ESDO Secretary General Dr. Shahriar Hossain started this session and requested Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO and Nazma Yesmin, Director of BILS to provide their Welcome speech. Siddika Sultana, the Executive Director of ESDO, initiated her welcome speech by expressing gratitude to all honorable guests and participants from ESDO and BILS for the Inception Workshop. She said that this Inception Workshop of this project has been organized to inform about the project activities and to receive recommendations

regarding participants' overall cooperation in implementation. As this project covers topics like workers' health, occupational safety, environmental hazards, and the Due Diligence Act, and also WBM, CBM which are very new concepts for Bangladesh, they need support from all participants to make the project successful.

During her welcome speech, Nazma Yesmin, Director of BILS, extended her heartfelt gratitude to all esteemed guests and participants for attending the Inception Workshop on the "Strengthening Due Diligence Implementation in the Textile Sector in Bangladesh Project." She emphasized the significance of the workshop, stating that its purpose was to provide comprehensive insights into the project's activities and to garner recommendations on ensuring participants' overall cooperation in its implementation. Recognizing that the concepts of WBM (Worker-Based Monitoring) and CBM (Community-Based Monitorin Monitoring) are novel in Bangladesh, she underscored the importance of collective support from all participants to ensure the project's success.

Participants:

Senior officers of various ministries and departments of the Government of Bangladesh, Local public representatives, Trade unions, Organization leaders, Researchers, Civil society organizations, NGOs and Representatives from German Embassy and International Organizations.

BILS organized a meeting with the RMG-related Project Advisory Committee on March 24, 2024 at 11:30 AM at BILS Seminar Hall to discuss the formation of the core group and also project-related issues.

Project Advisory Committee Meeting

BILS Officials with Advisory Committee Members

BILS Project Coordinator Syaduzzaman Mithu presented the project details and core group formation requirements. After the presentation participants discussed the group formation as well as gave suggestions regarding decent work check data collection and also training workshop with the Trade Union.

Celebrations of International Women's Day

Human Chain on Women's Day 2024

"Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress" bringing this slogan in the forefront, Gender Platform-GP Bangladesh observed the International Women's Day-2024 on 8 March 2024 with full of enthusiasms. To celebrate the day, GP organized Human Chain and colourful procession (brining posters, banners with specific demands) in front of the National Press Club. To enact the Law against Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, urged to ratify the ILC 190 were the main demands from GP.

Apart from this, BILS-LRSC observed International Women's Day-2024 on 8th March organizing a rally and discussion meeting at Dampara, Chattoghram. The event was festive, participatory and colourful. A total number of 162 persons, all of them were women activists from different NTUC's took part in the event. Runu Mojumder, an educationist and women rights defender of Chattogram region was the chief guest while all trade union senior leadership and female leaders took part in the rally and discussion.

The International Women's Day-2024 meeting was presided over by BLF Chattogram Women's Committee president Gulzar Begum. The meeting was moderated by BJSD Chattogram president Shahenewaz Chowdhury. The meeting was addressed among others by BILS-LRSC CC Committee Chairman labour leader A M Nazimuddin, BILS-LRSC CC Committee Member-Secretary Md. Safar Ali, Women leadership from various NTUS's likewise Nasrin Akter from JSL, Rekha Barua from BFTUC, Nazma Akter from BMSF,

Rally & Discussion Meeting on International Women's Day-2024

Shahana Akter from JSJ, Aleya Begum from BJSF.

Speakers in the discussion opined that, International Women's Day is always an inspiration for all the women all over the globe. The essence of day teaches all to be more united and fight for upholding rights, dignities and entitlements for women. It is needed to be more active and vocal to ensure female workers rights being inspired by the International Women's Day, the speakers added.

Team Meeting with Trade Union Activists

BILS organised four separate team meetings held on March 10, 11, 27, and 28th, 2024, at the Golden Inn Hotel, Chattogram. 78 trade union activists' youth and women organisers took part in the team meetings individually. Each meeting was day-long and discussed the experiences gathered in 2023 and the activities plan for 2024. The team meetings covered the issues of the ongoing activities of BILS-LRSC under the ongoing project phase.

Team Meeting with Trade Union Activists

Participants in the team meetings from different NTUCs expressed their experiences and expectations during these events. The meetings also focused on organising the unorganised and providing legal support and assistance to the victim workers in the Chattogram region.

Different sessions during the team meetings were conducted by BILS-LRSC CC Committee Chairman and Labour Leader A. M. Nazimuddin, BILS-LRSC Senior Officer Pahari Bhattacharjee, and Rizwanur Rahman Khan.

A leadership consultation meeting on the work plan was held on March 25, 2024, at the Rose Garden Hotel at Police Plaza, Chattogram. The meeting specifically discussed the planning for observing May Day 2024 at Chattogram and accomplishing some of the 2nd quarter planned activities under the ongoing BILS-DGB-BW project.

Consultation Meeting with NTUC Activists

BILS Officials with NTUC Leaders

The consultation meeting was presided over by BILS life member and BJSD Chattogram general secretary trade union leader Kazi Sheijh Nurullah Bahar. The meeting was addressed among others by Kaji Anwarul Huq and K M Shahidullah from BFTUC; Kazi Altaf Hossein and Nazma Akter from BMSF; Shahenewaz Chowdhury, BJSD; Uzzal Bishwash, Nasrin Akter, and Javed Alam from JSL; Md. Nurul Absur Bhuyan and Golzar Begum, BLF; A K M Mominul Islam and Shahana Akter, JSJ; Jaheduddin Shahin, BJSF. The meeting was moderated by BILS-LRSC officer Pahari Bhattacharjee.

A total of 20 NTUC leaders and activists from Chattogram took part in the meeting and provided organisational support and assistance to BILS for accomplishing the ongoing activities under the project to ensure decent work and social justice for workers in selected sectors at Chattogram.

Lobby Meeting with DIFE

BILS Organised a lobby meeting with DIFE Chattogram officials was held at the Chattogram DIFE office under BILS-LRSC project activities on 31st March 2024, at Agrabad, Chattogram. A total of 10 trade union leaders and BILS officials took part in the lobby meeting. DIG of DIFE Chattogram, Mr. Shipon Chowdhury,

BILS Officials & TU Leaders with DIG of DIFE

discussed with the trade union leadership the role of DIFE in Chattogram in protecting workers' rights.

The meeting was attended, among others, by BILS officials Pahari Bhattacharjee and Rizwanur Rahman Khan, BILS Youth Trade Union Network members, and leaders. Uzzal Bishwash and Lutfunnahar Sonia from JSL; Robiul Huq Shimul, BLF; Advocate Md. Iqbal Hossain, BJSD; Fazlul Kabir Mintu, TUC; and K M Shahidullah, BFTUC, were present at the meeting.

BILS Chattogram youth trade union leadership organised a rally and presented wreaths on the premises of the Shahid Minar of Municipal Model High School on March 26, 2024, on National Independence Day in Chattogram.

Human Chain on Placed Demands

Human Chain on Placed Demands

BILS organised a human chain programme at Chattogram Press Club premises, on March 29, 2024 demanding workers' wages, bonuses, and other dues to be paid by the employers before the Eid-Ul-Fitre, one of the biggest religious festivals of the Muslim community in the country. The programme was attended by 63 men and women trade union activists.

Courtyard Meeting with Workers

BILS organised courtyard meetings to strengthen trade unions and ensure decent work and social justice for workers in the selected sectors.

Twenty Courtyard sessions were completed, and related monitoring work was done in the January–March 2024 period. Fifteen workers participated in each courtyard session, which was coordinated

Human Chain on Placed Demands

by three NTUC activists from a trade union federation under the BILS-LRSC project.

Apart from the above-mentioned activities and events, in the period of January to March 2024, BILS-LRSC provided legal support to victim workers in five separate cases. Desk support for workers was given accordingly, and BILS-LRSC published 1 leaflet and 1 poster on International Women's Day 2024. 20 courtyard sessions were completed, and monitoring work was done. The quarterly BILS-LRSC Bulletin and publication of BILS-LRSC press clippings were accomplished during the period of January–March 2024.

Consultation Meeting on Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change

Consultation Meeting

BILS with the cooperation of GIZ, organized a consultation meeting on the presentation of the results of the research titled 'Assessing Exposure and Vulnerabilities of RMG Workers to Climate Change and Environmental Causes' on February 10, 2024 at the Dhaka Ahsania Mission Auditorium in Dhanmondi.

BILS Vice Chairman Md. Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan presided over the meeting and the leaders, researchers, academicians and journalist, leaders of SKOP and BILS associated National Trade Union Federations were present.

This research work was recently completed under Strengthening Trade Unions' Capacities for a Green Social Dialogue in Bangladesh's RMG Sector Program operated by BILS. Basically, this research was conducted in the areas adjacent to garment factories in the labor-intensive areas of Gazipur and Tongi, and in the residential areas and communities of garment workers.

National Dialogue on Assessing Exposure and Vulnerabilities of RMG Workers

A national dialogue and the presentation of a research report titled, "Assessing Exposure and Vulnerabilities of RMG Workers to Climate Change and Environmental Impact and the Role of TUs" was held on 6 March 2024, at CIRDAP Auditorium in the capital. The main objective of the research and national dialogue was to build the capacity of trade unions to promote green social dialogue in the garment industry.

National Dialogue Assessing Exposure and Vulnerabilities of RMG Workers to Climate Change and Environmental Impact and the Role of TUs

BILS Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed chaired the session of the event, while Member of the University Grants Commission Prof. Dr. Abu Taher was present as a Special Guest. BILS Deputy Director and Principal Researcher Manirul Islam presented the information obtained in the study through a power-point presentation. Deputy Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment Md. Raja Mia, Senior Assistant Secretary of Ministry of Commerce Nazmul Haque, Assistant Director of Department of Environment Md. Mirza Asadul Kibria, Assistant Inspector General of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments Dr. Biswajit Roy, Commission Manager of GIZ STILE Project Dr. Michael Klode, International Climate Finance Expert Md Zakir Hussain Khan, SKOP Joint Coordinator Naimul Ahsan Jewell, IBC General Secretary Kutubuddin Ahmed, BILS Executive Council Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, BILS Director Nazma Yesmin, representatives of BGMEA and of BEF, leaders of national level trade unions, human rights organizations and public and private organizations, economists, lawyers and journalists among others spoke on the occasion. The speakers said that the government, local government, owners and trade unions should work together to reduce the impact of environment and climate change on the garment industry. In addition, they specifically mentioned the need to work at the policy-making level to c reate social and environmental standards for workers.

At the event, BILS Deputy Director Monirul Islam said, "Earlier, poverty used to cause migration. But, in this study, we found that climate change issues like floods, storms, heavy rainfall, drought, etc, are directly affecting the lives of garment workers."

Dialogue in Gazipur with local level stakeholders on Climate Change and Environmental Study

Presentation of the research report titled “Assessing Exposure and Vulnerabilities of RMG Workers to Climate Change and Environmental Impact and the Role of TUs” and local dialogue was held on 10 March 2024 at Bangladesh Open University, Seminar Hall. Azmat Ulla Khan, Chairman, Gazipur Development Authority spoke as the chief guest on the occasion, while Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan, Secretary, Executive Council, BILS was on the chair. BILS Deputy Director and

Dialogue with Local – Level Stakeholder on Climate Change & Environmental Issue

Dialogue with Local – Level Stakeholder on Climate Change & Environmental Issue

Chief Researcher Monirul Islam presented the information obtained in the research through Power Point presentation.

The chief guest said in his written speech that Gazipur is currently one of the main industrial cities of Bangladesh. Gazipur Development Authority has been established based on the Gazipur Development Authority Act 2020 with a view to planned development, urban planning and developmental activities. One of the main goals of this organization is to build modern and well-planned cities. Responsibilities and functions of the organization include formulation of master plan, development, control of unplanned development, removal of illegal structures, ensuring housing for homeless slum dwellers, creation of civic amenities, promotion of investment and adoption of public welfare schemes. At the same time, prevention of global warming, reduction of carbon emissions are included.

Maqbul Hossain, Research Officer of Environment Department, Jalal Khan, Assistant Inspector of Factories and Institutions Inspection Department, Nazma Yesmin, BILS Director, Local Commissioner, National Level Trade Union and Human Rights Organization, Government and Private Institutions, Economists, Lawyers, Journalists and other professional organizations spoke on the occasion. The speakers said that the government, local government, owners and trade unions should work together to reduce the impact of environment and

Participants of the Social Dialogue Programme with the Local – Level Stakeholder

climate change on the garment industry. In addition, they specifically mention the need to work at the policy-making level to create social and environmental standards for workers.