



Seeking accountability of actors benefitting from COVID related financial stimulus package funds for impact of their actions on business and workers wellbeing





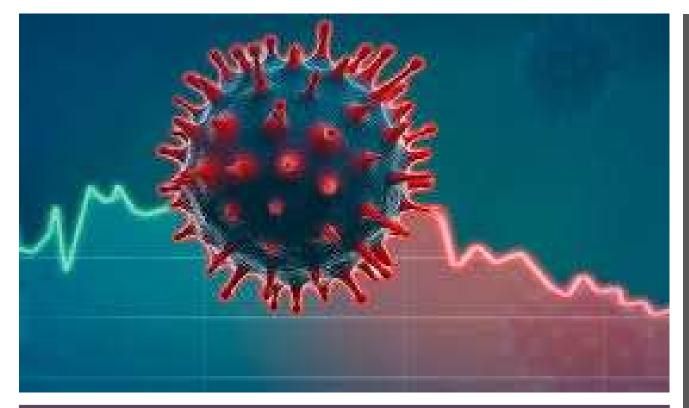


Duration and Implementation

October 2020 May 2021



Supported by FORGE – Funders Organised for Rights in the Global Economy (is a collaborative of philanthropic donors, working together towards a global economy that works for all people and the planet, shaped by and accountable to worker- and community-led movements)



Objective

Seeking accountability of those providing and receiving bailouts, stimulus and recovery funds for their actions in the context of this crisis, in terms of conditions of companies, workers and communities, focusing on those worst impacted by Covid-19-induced economic crises.

Image: The Business Post

Expected results

- 1. Evidence on the impact of the stimulus package received by the factories documented and disseminated
- 2. Identification and documentation of management strategies to avail of and utilise stimulus funds
- 3. Documentation and acknowledgement of good practices of compliance with labour law in COVID situation
- 4. Identification and documentation of labour issues in factories receiving stimulus and areas of reform needed in the labour law in pandemic situation
- 5. Stakeholder responsibilities to ensure best use of stimulus packages identified and promoted through dialogues and interactions

Deliverables 4

Dialogues with BGMEA and DIFE/MoLE on the evidence gathered on challenges and successes in following conditions of the stimulus package and labour rights

April -May

April

Dec-

Mar

Deliverables 3

Review of the labour rights complaints and cases occurring in stimulus receiving package, recommendation formulation

Deliverables 2

- Good practices dissemination
- Consultations with RMG company management

Feb -April

Deliverables 1

Collection of information of employers and workers awareness of conditions for stimulus packages and labour law provisions under COVID

1. Evidence on the impact of the stimulus package received by the factories documented and disseminated:

- Collect information from BGMEA and BKMEA and Bangladesh Bank on factories receiving stimulus.
- Collect information from DIFE, trade unions, industrial police, Shojag Sathi (Human Rights Defenders developed in the previous project phase by SHOJAG in 5 large compliant factories) and factories on retrenchment and lay offs in those factories.
- CPD research with factories receiving/not receiving stimulus with interviews with management and workers.
- Consultation workshops with factory management (who receive stimulus package) to understand challenges and achievement in accessing and using stimulus package

2. Labour rights issues in factories receiving stimulus identified and documented and areas of reform needed in the labour law identified

- Provision of legal aid for complaints by workers from factories receiving financial stimulus.
- Workers will be encouraged to apply by creating awareness among workers of their rights and entitlements under stimulus condition through mobile messaging, facebook and Sromik Jiggasha app
- Legal cases- those are filed in the labour court during this pandemic situation on the issue of retrenchment, lay-off and termination and also forceful suspension will be analysed by legal expert.
- The findings of the analysis will be shared with the labour ministry and other stakeholders.



- Promote the experiences and profiles of the factories following the conditions of the stimulus package and the labour law in national and international fora.
 - Engaging in discussion with management of these factories as champions of reforms (for corporate accountability).
 - Dissemination through TV talk show, live on social media (factory and management) and print media

3. Documentation and acknowledgement of good practices of compliance with labour law in COVID situation in RMG sector

4. Various stakeholders' responsibilities promoted through dialogues and interactions

- Relationship building with BGMEA,
 BKMEA and DIFE /MoLE
- Continuation of relationship with existing factories and following up to the complaints on Sexual Harassment
- Developing relationship with factories receiving stimulus and open to reform
- Public events to disseminate evidence, results of legal analysis and best practices to trade associations and government bodies