

LABOUR NEWS

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BANGLADESH EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION



Bangladesh Employers' Federation

Chamber Building

122-124, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Phone : +880-2-223385208-10 & +880-2-223354129-31 (PABX)

Email : sg@mccibd.org, Web : <http://bef.org.bd>

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GOOD WORKPLACE HOUSEKEEPING: WHAT IS IT? AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?



You may have heard the term good workplace housekeeping but haven't really understood what it means, or how it applies to you, your job, and your workplace. Good housekeeping in the workplace is a set of guidelines and best practices designed to keep workers safe and healthy, and to prevent accidents.

It's important to practice good housekeeping at work because it can help reduce the risk of injuries, and makes for a more efficient and pleasant work environment. A tidy workplace is a safe workplace.

What is good housekeeping?

Good housekeeping in the workplace is a set of practices aimed at creating a clean, orderly and safe work environment. It encompasses everything from keeping floors free of debris to ensuring that dangerous chemicals are properly labeled and stored. It also includes maintaining a tidy workstation, proper ergonomics and good personal hygiene.

Here are some key points:

- Keeping the workplace clean and free of clutter
- Putting things away in their proper place
- Disposing of waste properly
- Keeping walkways and exits clear
- Following health and safety guidelines
- Reporting any hazard or potential hazard to a supervisor

Good workplace housekeeping is not just about keeping things tidy – it's about being proactive in preventing accidents and creating a safe work environment. By following these guidelines, you can help make your workplace safer for everyone.

Why is good workplace housekeeping important?

Housekeeping is an essential part of keeping your workplace clean and tidy. It means keeping the work environment free of clutter, keeping workstations neat and organised, construction sites clear of tools and materials and maintaining proper housekeeping standards at all times so that the risk of accidents occurring is reduced to a minimum.

Housekeeping shouldn't be ignored. Leaving messes for other people to clean up shows a lack of respect and could cause harm to yourself or other workers.

Good housekeeping is one of the basic elements of a safe working environment.

Cleaning your workplace on a regular basis is no different from caring for your home; both are important areas of responsibility that should be taken seriously.

What is the purpose of good workplace housekeeping?

Workplace housekeeping reduces the risk of accidents and injuries occurring. Clutter, dirt, spills and other hazards can cause accidents, while a well-maintained environment ensures that any risks to health and safety have been identified and dealt with before they become problems.

Poor workplace housekeeping can cause:



- Slips, trips and falls;
- Muscularskeletal injuries
- Incidents involving falling objects;
- Workers cutting themselves on dangerous tools left lying around the workplace;
- Accidents involving chemicals or hazardous substances;

- Trips and falls caused by spills;
- Health problems caused by dust, fumes or other contaminants circulating in the air;
- Workplace vandalism;
- Damage to tools, equipment and materials;
- Damage to the building;
- Damage to vehicles and IT equipment.

Good housekeeping reduces absenteeism, increases efficiency and improves productivity. A clean working environment boosts morale and shows how much you care about your employees.

Good workplace housekeeping practices include:

- All tools, equipment and materials are to be stored away when not in use
- Rubbish and waste materials are to be disposed of appropriately
- All walkways are to be clear of leads, tools, equipment and materials
- Puddles and spills on floors should be cleaned up as soon as possible
- Boxes, tool, equipment and materials should not be stacked to a height whereby they become unstable
- Excess paperwork (or anything else) should not be stored on the edge of desks, tables or on the floor
- Any maintenance concerns of flooring or lighting communicated to your supervisor or manager
- Any damaged electrical equipment should be immediately reported to your manager
- don't leave a mess for someone else to clean up.

How can I implement a good housekeeping program?

By implementing a good housekeeping program in your workplace, you can ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in maintaining a clean and tidy work environment.

A good workplace housekeeping program should include:



- assigning specific cleaning tasks to individual employees
- providing adequate storage facilities for tools, equipment and materials
- regular inspections of the workplace to identify hazards and potential risks
- a system for reporting maintenance concerns
- regular toolbox talks
- regular cleaning and waste disposal schedules
- Signage as a reminder to employees

Good workplace housekeeping requires the commitment of everyone in the organization from senior management down to the individual worker. By promoting a culture of good housekeeping throughout the workplace, you can ensure that your workplace is a safe and healthy environment for all.

Remember! Good workplace housekeeping is important because it:

- Creates safe work practices;
- Reduce risks of accidents and injuries occurring;
- Protect workers from illness and diseases caused by poor hygiene or exposure to dangerous substances or conditions;
- And protects tools, equipment and property from damage resulting from accidents.

A few basic principles can help you to maintain a healthy and hygienic environment at all times.

Good Workplace Housekeeping Toolbox Talk



Giving a safety toolbox talk to your staff is a simple and effective approach to raising awareness of good workplace housekeeping practices.

A toolbox talk is a short safety meeting that focuses on a specific safety topic. They can be used to remind workers of the importance of good housekeeping in the workplace and to provide them with practical tips on how to maintain a clean and safe work environment.

Read 5 Toolbox Talk hints and tips to make your life easier to learn how to give useful, relevant and engaging toolbox talks.

How often should I give a Workplace Housekeeping toolbox talk?

A workplace housekeeping toolbox talk should be given on a regular basis to ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in maintaining a clean and safe work environment. Toolbox talks in general should be done weekly, but more frequent talks may be needed if there are concerns about specific hazards in the workplace.

Regular toolbox talks also improve safety culture within an organization as they show that management is committed to safety and are willing to invest time in raising awareness of safety issues.

BEF EVENTS



WORKSHOP ON PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVES FOR PROMOTING DECENT JOBS IN VALUE CHAINS IN BANGLADESH

BEF, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), organized a workshop titled “BEF-ILO Workshop on Private Sector Perspectives for Promoting Decent Jobs in Value Chains in Bangladesh” at its Gulshan office on 17 October 2023. Mr. Gunjan Bahadur Dallakoti, Enterprise Specialist, ILO Country Office, Dhaka, and Mr. Ferdous Ahmed, Consultant, BEF, gave two presentations. These were followed up by guided technical discussions. Mr. Farooq Ahmed, Secretary-General and CEO, BEF, moderated the event. Representatives from BEF member firms, development partners, line associations, and officials of the BEF and the ILO attended the event.



DISCUSSION ON CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE INDUSTRY SKILLS COUNCILS (ISCS)

BEF organized a discussion on capacity building of the Industry Skills Councils (ISCs) on 21 October 2023 at the Federation’s Gulshan office. BEF President Mr. Ardashir Kabir presided over the discussion. Various representatives from different Industry Skills Councils participated at the discussion.

HOME NEWS

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR 1993 PEOPLE CREATED IN UTTARA EPZ



Chinese company Bangladesh Boyang Textile Co. Ltd is going to set up a textile and home textile manufacturing plant in Uttara EPZ with an investment of US\$23.15 million and create employment opportunities for 1993 people. Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) signed an agreement with the company to this effect recently. The company will produce annually 50 million meters of linen/cotton woven & denim fabrics and 3 million pieces of home textile like pillow cases, bed sheets and tablecloths.

REMITTANCE DROPPED BY 12.67% IN SEPTEMBER 2023



According to the Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, the inflow of remittance dropped by 12.67 percent to US\$1.34 billion in September 2023, the third month of the current fiscal year, from US\$1.54 billion in the same month of the previous fiscal year. The inflow of remittance in September was the lowest in the review

period. The remittance inflow was US\$1.97 billion in July and US\$1.60 billion in August.

Monthly Trends in Remittances

Month	Remittances (million US\$)		Change (%)
	FY24 ^P	FY23 ^R	
July	1973	2096	-5.87
August	1599	2037	-21.50
September	1344	1539	- 12.67
Total of July - Septembe	4916	5672	-13.33

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised

Source: Bangladesh Bank (BB)

On the other hand, the inflow of remittance in the first quarter of the current fiscal year (July-September of FY24) also decreased by 13.33 per cent to US\$4.92 billion from US\$5.67 billion in the correspondent period in FY23. Reduced inflow of remittance might be the outcome of persistent high inflation around the world over the past year, along with the uncertainty about the exchange rate in the near future.

REMITTANCE ROADSHOWS AT FOUR PLACES IN NEW YORK, USA ARRANGED



IFIC Bank recently arranged remittance roadshows at four places in New York, USA to encourage fast, easy, and secure remittance exchange through legitimate banking channels. The places were Queens, Jamaica, Bronx and Brooklyn. IFIC Bank directors ARM Nazmus Sakib, Md Golam Mostofa, Sudhanshu Sekhar Biswas and Quamrun nahar ahmed director took part at different events of the roadshows. IFIC Bank Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Shah A Sarwar, Deputy Managing Director Syed Mustafi Shafi and Mohammed Mokammel haq joined the roadshows. Shah A Sarwar participated questions and answers sessions for giving clear concepts to NRBs.

PROGRAM TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT REMITTANCE INFLOW THROUGH BANKING CHANNELS



Chowmuhoni Branch of BRAC Bank hosted a customer engagement program to raise awareness about remittance inflow through banking channels. At the event, the officials of the bank emphasized the importance of remittance through legal channels to ensure benefits to the economy. BRAC Bank officials discussed the benefits of remittance inflow through the appropriate channels, the contribution of remitters to the national economy and the services BRAC Bank provides to remittance clients. They also informed that the beneficiaries are entitled to receive a 2.5% government incentive instantly for the remittance through the banking channel.

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF CMSMES IN BANGLADESH



In a recent policy dialogue organized by the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Foundation of Bangladesh and the ILO, participants called for support to CMSMEs to address the twin challenges of productivity and competitiveness. Productivity could be improved through policy support, regulatory reform, appropriate and adequate institutional set up, technology transfer and human capability development.

There was consensus that export-oriented CMSMEs could improve their competitiveness by adopting international best practices and compliance to labor standards on business and human rights, responsible business conduct, and environmental, social and governance (ESG) guidelines to increase their share of both domestic and international markets. They however need capacity building to understand and comply with the standards and requirements.

Access to finance remains a key challenge, particularly for the cottage and micro-enterprises. Recommendations included looking beyond traditional low-cost financing to diversifying financial products and services to include equity financing, blended financing, venture financing and so on. Financial institutions will require technical support to develop such products and enabling policies to support their roll-out. There is need to work with business associations to raise awareness on innovative financing products to create effective demand and promote their utilization among CMSMEs. Financial risks in the sector could be mitigated by expanding wholesale credit facilities, like one provided by the SME Foundation, and the development of a credit rating system for the sector.

Bangladesh should also consider developing an online one-stop service portal for CMSMEs to provide information on registration, regulation, and formalization of these enterprises. Existing models in the Asia-Pacific region go further to include services like business and entrepreneurship training, technology transfer, market linkages, and business-to-business networking. Such a portal requires authoritative institutional arrangements built through inter-ministerial coordination and extensive promotion for effective uptake.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PAKISTAN: REMITTANCES HIT 6-MONTH PEAK AT \$2.2 BILLION



The remittances sent home by overseas Pakistanis hit a six-month high at \$2.20 billion in September 2023 compared to \$2.09 billion in the previous month, as expatriates increasingly used official channels following a government crackdown on currency smugglers and the illicit Hawala-Hundi traders. The increase is expected to provide support to the rupee in maintaining its winning streak against the US dollar in both inter-bank and open markets. On a year-on-year basis, however, the remittances dropped 11% in September compared to \$2.48 billion in the same month of last year. Overall, in the first quarter (Jul-Sept) of current fiscal year, the inflows dipped 20% to \$6.33 billion compared to \$7.89 billion in the same period of the previous year.

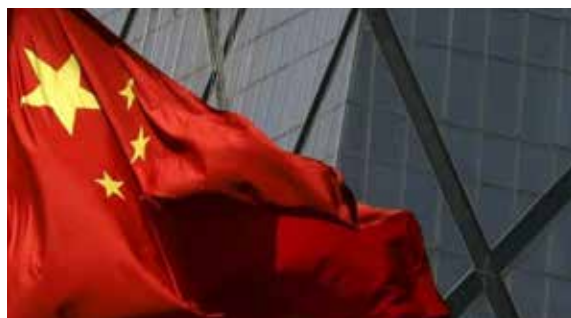
According to State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) data, the flow of remittances from Saudi Arabia increased 10% to \$538 million in September compared to \$491 million in the previous month of August. Expatriates dispatched 30% more remittances at \$400 million from the UAE in the month under review compared to \$308 million in the previous month. The non-resident Pakistanis sent \$311 million from the UK, 6% higher compared to \$308 million in the prior month. Receipts from the USA remained stable at \$263 million on a month-on-month basis.

INDIA: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS TO 1-YEAR LOW IN SEPTEMBER



India's unemployment rate dropped to a one-year low in September 2023 as joblessness in rural areas fell despite weak monsoon rains. The overall joblessness rate slid to 7.09% in the month, from 8.10% in August, data from private research firm Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy showed. That's the lowest reading since September last year. Rural unemployment dropped to 6.20%, from 7.11% in August, while urban unemployment rate fell to 8.94% from 10.09% in the same period.

CHINA: CURBS ON FOREIGN TRAVEL BY BANKERS, STATE WORKERS TIGHTENED



Chinese civil servants and employees of state-linked enterprises are facing tighter constraints on private travel abroad and scrutiny of their foreign connections, according to official notices, as the country wages a campaign against foreign influence. The curbs were widened since 2021 to include bans on overseas travel, tighter limits on trips' frequency and duration, onerous approval processes, and pre-departure confidentiality training. The measures were unrelated to COVID-19.

GERMANY: UNEMPLOYMENT ROSE IN SEPTEMBER BUT LESS THAN EXPECTED



German unemployment rose in September but was less than expected, slowly showing the first cracks in what had been a very resilient labor market. The

Federal Labour Office said that the number of people out of work increased by 10,000 in seasonally adjusted terms to 2.642 million. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected that figure to rise by 15,000. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate remained stable at 5.7% in September when there were 761,000 job openings, 113,000 fewer than a year ago.

USA: TIGHT JOB MARKET REBALANCES POWER BETWEEN BUSINESS AND LABOR



The US economy is contending with a wave of union activism unseen in decades as organized labor seizes a rare opportunity to play hardball in a tight employment market. Sectors experiencing unrest include automobiles, health care, restaurants, defense, airlines, technology and the performing arts. In some cases, employees have threatened to walk out, but didn't actually strike. Workers haven't had much leverage for decades, and certainly not in the aftermath of the 2008-2008 recession," said a professor of labor relations at Rutgers University.

NOKIA: UP TO 14,000 JOBS TO BE CUT AFTER PROFITS DROP



Finnish telecom giant Nokia said that it could cut its workforce by as many as 14,000 after its third quarter results showed a drop in profits. The layoffs are expected to reduce the firm's employees to 72,000, reducing costs by up to 1.2 billion euros (\$1.14 billion) by 2026, it said.

ELECTROLUX: 3,000 JOBS CUTS AS SALES FALL



Swedish home appliances maker Electrolux plans to cut some 3,000 jobs as it reported lower sales in the third quarter. Against the background of continued weak consumer demand and competitive pressure in the market, Electrolux Group is stepping up its cost reduction efforts to restore margins, the company said in a statement. The company reported a near eight percent drop in sales to 33.4 billion kronor (\$3 billion) in the third quarter compared to the same period the previous year.

ROLLS-ROYCE: UP TO 2,500 ROLES TO BE CUT IN LATEST EFFICIENCY DRIVE



Rolls-Royce said it would cut up to 2,500 jobs as its new chief executive seeks to build a more efficient business, the latest boss to attempt to revamp one of Britain's most prestigious engineering companies. Over the last decade, Rolls-Royce, whose engines and systems are used on the Airbus A350 and Boeing 787 as well as ships, submarines and in power generation, has been through several restructurings, axing more than 13,000 jobs.

ILO NEWS

ILO DIRECTOR-GENERAL CALLS FOR GREATER INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNDER FISCAL STRESS



The ILO Director-General called for swifter assistance to debt-distressed developing countries so they can continue funding social protection and decent work.

In statements delivered at the World Bank / International Monetary Fund meeting, taking place in Marrakech, Morocco, he stressed that more needs to be done to address developing countries' limited financial resources by pursuing additional debt restructuring and relief and global financial system reform. He added that in low- and middle-income countries the ILO does not foresee rapid improvements in employment before 2025.

"The fiscal position of low-income countries requires particular attention as the tightening of monetary policies in advanced economies is severely impacting their external balances and increasing their debt vulnerabilities. This, combined with surges in food and energy prices, considerably narrows the scope for governments' spending in sustainable investments and in social protection," the Director-General told the World Bank Development Committee.

UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PROTECTION NEEDED FOR PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO THE NEXT PANDEMIC



The key role of social protection in supporting pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR), as well as overall health, has been highlighted at a high-level meeting organized jointly by the ILO and the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva during 4-5 October 2023.

The workshop, Epidemics and pandemic prevention preparedness and response: How to maximize the health impact of social protection systems, reviewed the impact social protection had in reducing the socio-economic damage of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public health and social measures, such as lockdowns and business closures. It also considered evidence gathered from the global responses to tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

Delegates agreed that robust social protection systems are a core component of PPR and should play a prominent role in a new global architecture for PPR legal frameworks, financing and implementation. Their recommendations – which will be put out for broader consultation before approval later this year – emphasize the interconnectedness and interdependence of universal health coverage (UHC) and universal social protection (USP).

STATISTICIANS ADOPT NEW STANDARDS ON MEASURING INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT



The 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) has adopted new standards on the informal economy that will enable countries to collect better data and make better policies for workers employed in the informal economy. The resolution was passed at the centennial ICLS, held at the headquarters of the ILO in Geneva, Switzerland, between 11-20 October.

Two billion people worldwide work in the informal economy, often with no labor protections or social security coverage and in poor working conditions. Yet, little is known about these workers and their circumstances, hampering the ability of governments to develop targeted policies or track policy effectiveness.

The new standards will provide an extensive range of definitions of key concepts, enabling the generation of high-quality information while allowing some flexibility to reflect different realities in the systems and laws of countries.

Three additional resolutions were endorsed during the conference to bring existing standards into line with recent developments in the world of work. These cover the measurement of employment-related income, statistics on household income and expenditure, and statistics on work, employment and labor underutilization.

The conference also agreed to pursue future work, such as updating the classification of occupations, labor migration, digital platform work and skills and care work.

WOMEN MISSING OUT ON BENEFITS OF LABOR MARKET GROWTH IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Considerable gender gaps between male and female workers remain in Asia-Pacific labor markets where women are not benefitting as much as men from employment opportunities in growing sectors offering higher pay and better conditions, according to a new report. The joint report of the ILO and Asian Development Bank – *Where women work in Asia and*

the Pacific: Implications for policies, equity and inclusive growth – examines trends over the past three decades in sectoral employment of men and women in the Asia and the Pacific region and discusses what these mean in the broader context of gender equality, inclusive growth and social justice.

It highlights how the gap in labor market participation rates between men and women, at close to 25 percentage points, remains above the global level. This is largely due to the high and persistent gap of almost 50 percentage points in the South Asia sub-region.

Women continue to be concentrated in low value-added sectors such as agriculture and the retail trade – where decent work deficits are among the highest. The most dynamic sectors in the Asia and the Pacific region for job growth over the past three decades have almost all seen significantly more job gains for men than women. In the sector with the most dynamic growth – IT and other information services – only one in four jobs (25 percent) went to women. Only in accommodations and food services activities did more than half of the job growth accrue to women.

The report highlights how significant differences exist in sectoral employment rates across Asia and the Pacific. The agriculture sector employs 30 percent of women workers in the Asia-Pacific region, but this figure rises to more than 57 percent in the South Asia sub-region – nearly three times the share in the East Asia sub-region, and more than ten times the share in the Pacific sub-region.

To address the inequalities, a comprehensive approach is required that sees measures taken to foster gender equality within the broader labor market – to make sure that growth works for everyone – such as gender-responsive fiscal policies, government spending and social protection measures.

The report also calls for dedicated efforts to remove the barriers that different groups of women face in pursuing occupations in non-traditional, higher-paying sectors and finally taking targeted action to improve working conditions in the sectors where women are concentrated, in agriculture and retail, for example.

INDONESIA: ILO PROMOTES INVESTMENT IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT



In responding to the industrial transitions as well as the digital transformation and green transition of economy, particularly in Indonesia, the ILO has a new regional project in Indonesia titled “Skills Development and Responsible Business Conduct”. Funded by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, the project aims at supporting a human-centered recovery from recent disruptions in the global supply chains.

Running until the year of 2025, the project covers two countries: Indonesia with a focus on electrical and electronics industry and Thailand with a focus on the automotive sector. In both countries, the project aims to provide skills development of workers, promote responsible business conduct (RBC) and promote an environment that contributes to a transition to resilient value chains in Indonesia.

In addition, the project will improve the quality of in-house training for upskilling and reskilling including the quality of work-based learning in the workplace (for example: apprenticeship, internship and on-the-job training programs) through work-based learning guideline development, training, social dialogue and industrial relations, which in turn will contribute to improved working conditions and overall enterprise performance and productivity.

KOREA SHOWCASES TVET DIGITALIZATION TO SOUTH-EAST ASIAN COUNTERPARTS



Government, worker, and employer representatives from South-East Asia visited South Korea recently to see how digitalization is benefitting the country's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system and how it contributes to job creation and economic growth of the Korean economy.

17 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam took part in the one-week visit to see firsthand how TVET digitalization can provide solutions to skills development challenges in the region and support the digital transformation of ASEAN Member States skills systems and economies.

They spent time at a variety of organizations and establishments including SK Telecom TECH Academy, the Korean Skills Quality Authority (KSQA), Korea Polytechnics' AI department, Goorm (a public/private partnership digital training model) and KOREATECH.

Following the visit, the participants met to map out an action plan on how they would put to use what they had learned to tackle the challenges and further the opportunities of their respective TVET systems.

The visit, which took place during 10-15 September 2023, was supported by the ILO's Improving mechanisms for skills recognition and TVET digitization in ASEAN project which forms part of the ILO/Korea Partnership Programme. It was also supported by the Korean Ministry for Labour and Employment and KOREATECH.

MALAYSIA: ILO AND PSMB (HRD CORP) JOIN HANDS TO PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING AND EMPLOYABILITY



The ILO and Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB) – also known as the Human Resources Development Corporation (HRD Corp) – have entered into an agreement to bolster human resource development in Malaysia. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) exchanged recently during the National Human Capital Conference & Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur will see HRD Corp and ILO collaborate to promote lifelong learning, employability, and sustainable economic and social development in the country.

They will work together to enhance the skills and competencies of workers in Malaysia, with a focus on vulnerable groups. Particular emphasis will be placed on inclusive and sustainable investment in education, training, and lifelong learning. ILO and HRD Corp will also share knowledge and best practices to promote social inclusion in Malaysia's skills and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) systems. The collaboration is expected to have a significant impact on the skills development and employability of individuals in Malaysia.

LAOS: TOWARDS STRONGER HEALTH INSURANCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM



The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) embarked on a landmark revision of its legal framework on health insurance and social security, on its path towards achieving universal coverage. The ILO is supporting these efforts through its regional Luxembourg-funded project, "Building social protection floors for all: support to the extension of social health protection in Asia."

Work is ongoing towards a milestone enactment of a revised Law on Social Security and the Law on Health Insurance in the third quarter of 2024. The aim is to establish a comprehensive, coordinated, effective and adequate social security and health insurance legal framework in the country.

Over the years, laudable progress has been made towards this objective in Laos. In particular, the country's social health protection landscape has changed dramatically over the past two decades and great strides have been made towards the country's goal of achieving Universal Health Coverage. This has been achieved through the gradual harmonization of previously fragmented social health protection administration through the implementation of a National Health Insurance scheme. As a result, according to the Ministry of Health, 94 percent of the population currently benefit from social health protection coverage.

Despite the achievements to date, there are remaining challenges to overcome to ensure equitable access to health care for all citizens, without financial hardship.

Although legal coverage is high, out-of-pocket expenditures represent 49 percent of current health expenditures, which leaves households vulnerable to the risk of catastrophic health spending due to accidents or ill health. This risk is exacerbated by an increased prevalence of non-communicable diseases and population ageing.

Besides, compliance with the contributory scheme for workers in the formal sector is a challenge, undermining the financial sustainability of the national health insurance scheme. Inequalities in access to health care facilities and doctors are also prevalent in the context of a largely rural, remote population.

STATISTICS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: NATIONAL

(Base: 2005-06=100)

Period	General Index	Index by expenditure group								
		1. Food	2. Non-Food	I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Health	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment,	VIII. Misc. Goods & Services
2013-14	195.08	209.79	176.23	194.77	163.47	206.14	164.06	167.20	164.38	193.75
2014-15	207.58	223.80	186.79	204.50	171.80	214.45	180.77	181.78	168.02	204.21
2015-16	219.86	234.77	200.66	233.38	182.74	227.39	199.94	201.34	171.01	211.61
2016-17	231-82	248.90	209.92	243.56	194.01	235.85	206.70	210.78	177.56	217.51
2017-18	245.22	266.64	217.76	255.24	200.25	249.68	209.28	218.80	183.65	223.81
2018-19	258.65	281.33	229.58	277.64	206.98	265.25	215.31	235.23	186.72	239.87
2019-20	273.26	296.86	243.00	290.00	220.70	282.67	230.07	248.48	190.13	259.27
2020-21	288.44	313.86	255.85	298.14	228.29	298.15	247.86	271.45	193.61	288.53
2021-22	306.18	332.86	271.98	320.14	232.43	320.30	253.62	313.00	202.60	312.28
2022-23	109.02	108.71	109.39	106.71	108.25	109.68	114.09	109.67	108.58	112.05
2023										
March	339.07	368.09	301.87	345.29	253.40	355.94	304.94	350.41	218.77	362.65
April (base: 2021 22= 100)	111.45	111.26	111.60	108.03	111.71	113.80	108.05	110.11	114.40	111.60
May (base: 2021 22= 100)	111.06	109.62	112.22	108.20	112.40	113.93	109.50	110.38	114.65	111.87
June (base: 2021 22 = 100)	112.46	112.25	112.63	108.40	113.39	114.03	109.52	110.52	114.94	111.96
July (base:202122=100)	112.89	112.74	113.02	108.88	113.84	114.22	109.92	110.64	115.53	112.60
August(base:202122=100)	117.06	120.08	114.61	112.53	113.80	119.77	110.50	115.73	118.69	114.60

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: RURAL
(Base: 2005-06=100)

Period	General Index	Index by expenditure group								
		1. Food & Beverage	2. Non-Food	I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Medical Care & Health Expenses	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment,	VIII. Misc. Goods & Services
2013-14	196.90	207.72	179.69	200.61	164.05	197.62	168.87	166.01	179.72	199.74
2014-15	209.10	221.02	190.13	214.07	171.34	209.29	187.18	174.09	183.84	212.34
2015-16	220.10	230.31	203.86	242.26	179.19	222.11	211.04	188.69	187.84	221.12
2016-17	231.02	243.08	211.83	253.51	187.45	229.57	219.35	193.71	194.81	226.47
2017-18	244.17	259.86	219.21	263.96	192.89	246.23	221.15	197.24	201.31	233.72
2018-19	256.74	273.55	230.01	282.76	198.99	261.30	225.86	207.51	205.05	253.71
2019-20	271.20	289.08	242.74	292.21	212.44	277.56	242.40	217.05	208.93	275.65
2020-21	286.37	306.40	254.51	298.86	220.23	286.65	264.04	234.11	214.52	305.80
2021-22	304.76	326.34	270.42	318.29	223.88	308.52	269.97	274.69	225.50	332.14
2022-23	109.08	108.79	109.54	106.63	109.32	108.99	116.61	108.62	108.10	111.24
2023										
March	338.48	362.10	300.90	345.17	246.04	338.43	336.34	303.92	241.99	381.83
April (base: 2021-22= 100)	111.56	111.21	111.42	106.61	112.57	114.57	107.84	110.42	113.98	111.59
May (base: 2021-22= 100)	111.16	110.10	112.16	106.77	113.38	114.70	109.33	110.50	114.25	111.87
June (base: 2021-22= 100)	112.55	112.47	112.62	107.00	114.54	114.81	109.34	110.68	114.63	111.96
July (base: 2021-22= 100)	112.95	112.80	113.09	107.44	115.25	115.02	109.75	110.85	115.40	112.63
August(base :202122=100)	116.87	119.76	114.13	110.43	115.52	121.02	110.07	115.43	117.42	112.78

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: URBAN

(Base: 2005-06=100)

Period	General Index	Index by expenditure group								
		1. Food	2. Non-Food	I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Health	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment,	VIII. Misc. Goods & Services
2013-14	199.73	214.85	171.61	183.66	162.80	221.11	155.82	168.52	147.83	186.37
2014-15	204.76	230.56	182.32	197.93	172.33	223.53	169.80	190.26	150.95	194.16
2015-16	219.31	245.66	196.39	216.50	186.86	236.67	180.93	215.50	152.84	199.87
2016-17	233.29	263.09	207.38	224.66	201.60	246.87	185.05	229.59	158.93	206.45
2017-18	247.17	283.19	215.83	238.67	208.77	255.74	188.96	242.55	164.59	211.57
2018-19	262.17	300.30	229.00	267.92	216.22	272.20	197.25	265.77	166.95	222.78
2019-20	277.06	315.83	243.34	285.82	230.27	291.66	208.97	283.12	169.81	239.06
2020-21	292.27	332.08	257.64	296.78	237.63	318.36	220.17	312.59	171.05	267.20
2021-22	308.81	348.75	274.07	323.66	242.32	341.00	225.63	355.22	177.90	287.76
2022-23	108.87	108.52	109.13	106.87	107.07	110.75	108.92	110.56	109.33	113.16
2023										
March	340.16	382.70	303.15	345.52	261.93	386.72	251.21	401.65	193.72	338.97
April (base: 2021-22=100)	111.09	110.35	111.56	110.47	110.71	112.38	108.46	109.78	115.40	111.41
May (base: 2021-22=100)	110.73	108.63	112.03	110.63	111.26	112.52	109.85	110.24	115.61	111.67
June (base:2021-22=100)	112.15	111.76	112.40	111.09	112.04	112.61	109.87	110.36	115.74	111.77
July (base:2021-22=100)	112.65	112.62	112.67	111.65	112.18	112.77	110.26	110.43	116.01	112.35
August (base: 2021-22=100)	117.21	120.76	115.00	116.52	111.79	117.49	111.37	116.39	120.90	116.69

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

WAGE RATE INDEX BY SECTORS: BANGLADESH

(Base: 2010-11=100)

Sector	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	June '23	July '23	August '23
General	170.39	180.83	191.80	211.19	110.38	111.10
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.35	6.12	6.06	7.39	7.52	7.58
percentage change (over previous month)				0.17	0.24	0.65
1. Agriculture	170.28	181.16	192.21	211.50	110.39	111.19
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.48	6.39	6.10	7.47	7.72	7.89
percentage change (over previous month)				0.09	0.32	0.73
i) Agriculture	170.32	181.23	192.39	211.83	110.37	111.20
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.51	6.41	6.16	7.52	7.69	7.90
percentage change (over previous month)				0.08	0.24	0.75
ii) Fish	168.58	177.84	1183.06	194.40	110.58	110.94
percentage change (Point to Point)	4.97	5.49	2.95	4.59	8.59	8.22
percentage change (over previous month)				0.46	4.13	0.32
2. Industry	168.24	177.52	187.83	206.67	110.12	110.75
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.99	5.51	5.85	7.00	6.96	6.90
percentage change (over previous month)				0.26	0.13	0.57
i) Construction	160.17	167.24	174.62	188.78	109.90	110.50
percentage change (Point to Point)	4.77	4.42	4.41	5.79	7.39	7.56
percentage change (over previous month)				0.35	1.66	0.55
ii) Production	184.65	198.37	214.87	242.95	111.68	112.49
percentage change (Point to Point)	8.21	7.43	8.30	8.96	7.43	7.11
percentage change (over previous month)				0.12	-1.22	0.73
3. Service	175.33	185.99	199.42	219.00	111.33	112.00
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.41	6.07	6.32	7.76	8.14	8.10
percentage change (over previous month)				0.34	0.53	0.60

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

WAGE RATE INDEX BY SECTORS: DHAKA DIVISION
(Base: 2010-11 = 100)

Sector	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	June '23	July '23	August '23
General	169.90	179.99	189.42	204.68	107.41	108.51
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.81	5.93	5.25	5.95	5.22	5.80
percentage change (over previous month)				0.15	-0.59	1.03
1. Agriculture	170.57	181.52	190.78	206.32	105.90	107.21
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.01	6.41	5.11	6.25	3.97	4.71
percentage change (over previous month)				0.09	-2.08	1.24
i) Agriculture	170.56	181.51	190.80	206.40	105.88	107.19
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.02	6.41	5.13	6.27	3.95	4.69
percentage change (over previous month)				0.09	-2.13	1.25
ii) Fish	171.45	182.40	187.35	196.16	110.91	111.43
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.00	6.38	2.74	3.76	9.76	9.56
percentage change (over previous month)				0.16	5.93	0.46
2. Industry	165.60	173.94	182.93	197.43	108.67	109.51
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.47	5.03	5.17	5.63	6.21	6.56
percentage change (over previous month)				0.25	0.69	0.77
i) Construction	160.30	167.38	173.84	185.40	108.39	109.27
percentage change (Point to Point)	4.67	4.41	3.86	4.93	6.49	7.12
percentage change (over previous month)				0.31	1.62	0.81
ii) Production	176.81	187.79	202.14	222.83	111.21	111.67
percentage change (Point to Point)	7.04	6.22	7.63	6.89	7.66	7.22
percentage change (over previous month)				0.13	0.89	0.42
3. Service	178.06	188.95	200.28	216.21	105.35	107.09
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.75	6.11	6.00	5.44	2.80	4.13
percentage change (over previous month)				0.16	-2.42	1.66

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

PRODUCTION OF SOME SELECTED INDUSTRIAL ITEMS ON LARGE SCALE (BASE YEAR : 2015-16)

Description of items of industry	Unit	No .of reporting industries (selected)	2019-20 (p)	2020-21 (p)	Apr-23 (p)	Mar-23 (p)	May-23 (p)
Manufacture of Food Products							
Processing and preserving of meat	M.T.	2	838	963	1081	1235	1215
Processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and molluscs	M.T.	*	4150	4210	3756	2230	2510
Processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables	000 Litre	3	23420	24580	33552	26540	27214
Mfg of vegetable and animal oils and fats	M.T.	2	135145	141040	139223	172974	153894
Mfg of dairy products	000 Kg	*	5338	5700	6615	6960	7092
Mfg of rice / rice milling	M.T.	2	162	180	200	174	168
Mfg of bakery products	M.T.	1	2720	2750	2937	2035	2040
Mfg of sugar, cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	M.T.	16	6277	6027	0	0	0
Mfg of macaroni, noodles, couscous and similar farinaceous products,	M.T.	*	54	57	64	65	67
Mfg of processing of tea and coffee	M.T.	3	7494	9214	7420	5077	5077
Mfg of other food products n.e.c. (Salt)	M.T.	*	132	146	417	1198	723
Mfg of Prepared animal feeds	M.T.	2	84451	87670	92896	85733	78520
Mfg of Beverages							
Mfg of soft drinks	000 Doz Bottle	4	6920	6958	10043	25073	23485
Mfg of Tobacco products							
Mfg of tobacco products (cigarettes & others)	Million No	2	6445	7082	7553	13504	13449
Mfg of bidies, Zadra and quivam, Tobacco manufacture n.e.c.	Million No	5	1620	1710	1010	2191	1943
Mfg of Textile							
Preparation and spinning of textile fibres	M.T.	7	2190	2320	2309	3145	3196
Weaving of textiles, Silk & Synthetic	000 Mitre	4+	886030	952014	1157480	1250110	1260012
Finishing of textiles (dyeing, bleaching etc.)	000 Mitre	*	10969	11204	12585	20646	20544
Mfg of Jute textiles, Pressing and baling of jute and other fibres, spooling and thread ball	M.T.	95	39578	41587	28779	16295	38210
Mfg of Knitted and crocheted fabrics, made-up textile articles, except apparel, carpets and rugs, cordage, rope, twine and netting other textiles n.e.c.(Goods designer, embroidery)	M.T.	*	574055	605341	787243	1967692	1809874
Mfg of Wearing Apparel (Ready made garment)							
Mfg of Wearing apparel, except fur apparel	Million TK	*	130277	141630	146135	136148	145552
Mfg of Knitted and crocheted apparel, articles of fur and crocheted apparel	Million TK	*	133545	164821	162549	160999	188863
Mfg of Leather and Related products							
Tanning and dressing of leather; dressing and dyeing of fur	000 Sq. M	*	7894	8661	7703	3424	3358
Mfg of luggage, handbags and the like, saddlery and harness	Dozen	3	1354	1410	1565	1650	1545
Manufacture of footwear	000 Pair	5	292	297	324	640	608

Description of items of industry	Unit	No .of reporting industries (selected)	2019-20 (p)	2020-21 (p)	Apr-23 (p)	Mar-23 (p)	May-23 (p)
Mfg of Wood and Products							
Sawmilling, wood-based panels, wooden containers, bamboo & cane Products, other products of wood & articles of cork, straw & plaiting materials	000 sq. M	3	178594	186797	170313	186251	163999
Mfg of Paper and Paper Products							
Manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard	M.T.	2	4825	5150	6465	4321	4402
Mfg of other articles of paper and 'paperboard	M.T.	2	8360	8683	11856	12978	12689
Printing and Reproduction of Recorded Media							
Printing, Service activities related to printing, Reproduction of recorded media	000 No	2	6806	7205	7231	9584	9472.8408
Manufacture of Coke and Refined Petroleum Products							
Manufacture of refined petroleum products	M.T.	1	92569	110698	133570	123840	123840
Manufacture of Chemicals and Chemical Products							
Manufacture of basic chemicals (Compressed Liquid Gas)	C. No	1	1209	1105	1217	1065	1069
Mfg of fertilizers and nitrogen compounds; plastics & synthetic rubber in	M.T.	3	81346	108001	152818	106845	107101
Mfg of paints, varnishes and similar coatings, printing ink and mastics, Pesticides & other agrochemical products	000 Litre	2	173	170	191	220	213
Manufacture of soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes and toilet preparations	000 TK	2	99254	98627	61149	12007	83916
Matches/Fire fox, manmade fibre, other chemical products	000 Gross	2	3412	3569	3650	4464	4471
Manufacture of Pharmaceutical							
Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products	000 Tk	10	9043451	9970405	11653767	9551624	8760505
Mfg of unani& Ayurvedic, homeopathic & biochemical medicine , Medicinal chemical products	000 Tk	2	70709	103524	97225	118313	111416
Manufacture of Rubber and Plastics Products							
Manufacture of rubber tyres and tubes; retreading and rebuilding of rubber tyres	Dozen	2	114587	118695	101689	198581	201255
Manufacture of plastics products	M.T.	2	2390	2410	2786	4285	3562
Manufacture of polythene products	000 Doz	1	12480	12450	12450	14327	12303
Manufacture of Other Non-metallic Mineral Products							
Manufacture of glass and glass products	000 Sq.ft	2	6305	6779	10454	12614	12701
Manufacture of clay building materials,	000 SMit	1	1006	1039	1119	1394	1432
Manufacture of other porcelain and ceramic products		2	1289	1448	1719	1794	1805
Manufacture of cement, lime and plaster; article of concrete cement &; cutting, shaping & finishing of stone	M.T.	8	548652	683982	836551	1132896	1137116
Manufacture of bricks	000 ' No	3	40	42	48	64	59
Manufacture of basic metals							
Manufacture of basic iron and steel; basic precious & other non ferrous metals; casting of non-ferrous metals Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	M.T.	6	77343	96988	116720	89376	90827

Description of items of industry	Unit	No .of reporting industries (selected)	2019-20 (p)	2020-21 (p)	Apr-23 (p)	Mar-23 (p)	May-23 (p)
Manufacture of cutlery, hand tools and general hardware	2	4069	4373	4596	4623	4487	4501
Manufacture of other fabricated metal products n.e.c.	2	102	109	108	107	129	121
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products							
Mfg of communication equipment; electronic components & boards; computer & peripheral equipment;	No.	2	61521	64580	60523	60825	54323
Mfg of electrical equipment							
Mfg of Batteries & Accumulator	000, No	2	52	56	61	57	55
Mfg of Fibre optics cables; other electronic and electric wires and cables; wiring devices	M.T.	2	6012	6423	7338	9242	7432
Mfg of domestic appliances; other electrical appliances	No.	1	358752	372955	409417	400219	400859
Mfg of machinery & Equipment							
Mfg of metal-forming machinery and machine tools; machinery for metallurgy; machinery for food, beverage & tobacco processing, machinery for textile, apparel & leather Production	No.	EPB	965	997	983	1093	1124
Mfg of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers							
Mfg of motor vehicles ; bodies (coachwork) for motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers;	No.	2	402	389	539	618	660
Mfg of other transport equipment							
Building of ships and floating structures; ship breaking & dismantling; railway locomotives	M.T.	8	5520	5804	3634	6280	5801
Mfg of Motor vehicles	No.	1	1354	1429	1742	1566	1735
Mfg of bicycles and invalid carriages	No.	1	1918	1933	2009	2402	2411
Mfg of Furniture							
Mfg of wooden furniture and fixture	No.	3	10243	11927	14864	24782	25486
Mfg of plastic furniture and fixture	No.	2	1688921	1785029	1541631	1896489	1687875
Mfg of packaging materials	No.	2	384	406	469	431	457
Other Manufacturing							
Mfg of sports goods	Million Tk	EPB	121	125	130	109	146


Note: P= Provisional

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A BRIEF PROFILE OF BEF

Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) is the national organization of employers. It represents all associations representing major industries in the country as well as established individual enterprises.

The objectives of the Federation are to promote, encourage and protect the interests of employers in industrial relations and, through such efforts, to establish good relations among employers and workers, which play a vital supporting role in the country's economic development.

BEF is well known as a progressive body, having a proactive approach on social issues. It is the only body of the employers recognized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, and accordingly enjoys the sole representative capacity in the Tripartite Consultative Council, Labour Courts, Minimum Wages

Board, National Wages and Productivity Commission, etc. It closely interacts with the Ministry of Labour and Employment on all policy issues. Similarly, it maintains close touch with other relevant Ministries of the Government on issues concerning industrial relations, enterprise efficiency, competitiveness, etc.

BEF's activities cover a wide range of issues besides industrial relations. Training and skill development is a major activity along with enterprise level programs for productivity improvement, safety and health, good management practices, etc.

BEF has taken major initiatives to foster close relationship with the trade unions and it enjoys their goodwill and confidence on many issues.



Bangladesh Employers' Federation