



শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়



সকল শিশুর জন্য

## Workshop on Progress Discussions of National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Labour



Venue: Hotel Westin, Dhaka

Date: December 5, 2022

## Background

A national workshop on the progress review of the National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Labour in Bangladesh was held at Hotel Westin, Dhaka on 5 December 2022. The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment with the support of UNICEF Bangladesh. The aim of the workshop was to bring together responsible ministries to identify the progress and gaps in the implementation of the National Plan of Action to Elimination of Child Labour (2021 -2025).

## Objectives of the Workshop

- To clarify roles and responsibilities of the concerned ministries and focal point points on the NPA implementation
- To enhance coordination among stakeholders and identify effective strategies to accelerate the results towards achieving the national goal to end child labour by 2025 and the SDG target.

## Participants:

**Mr. Md. Towfiqul Arif**, Additional Secretary, MoLE (Labour Wing), **Mst. Hazera Khatun**, Joint Secretary (Labour), MoLE, **Julia Jasmine**, Joint Inspector, DIFE, **Abu Asif Mahmud**, DoL, **Advocate Salma Ali**, Chairperson, BNWLA, **Kamrul Anam**, Secretary, Bangladesh Labour Foundation, **A. K. M. Masud Ali**, Executive Director, INCIDIN Bangladesh, UNICEF Child Protection Team including **Natalie McCauley**, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF, **Elisa Calpona**, Child Protection Manager and lead for VACW and HP prevention program, UNICEF, **Fatema Khyrunnahar**, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF, **Md. Raihanul Haque**, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF and 100 participants from 13 ministries, NGOs and INGOs were present at the workshop.

## Opening Remarks

The workshop program started with registration and opening remarks by **Mst. Hazera Khatun**, Joint Secretary (Labour), MoLE. She welcomed all participants to present in the workshop. Besides, she thanked UNICEF Bangladesh for arranging the workshop.

In her speech, MS Hazera mentioned that during the last few decades Bangladesh has made incredible progress in child labour elimination and a national plan of action has been endorsed from 2021 to 2025. Despite all this progress, in Bangladesh still, 6.8% of children from 5 to 17 years are engaged in child labour whereas 20.2% of 15-17 years are engaged in hazardous child labour in Bangladesh.





**Natalie McCauley, Chief of Child Protection with UNICEF Bangladesh,** gave thanks to the Government of Bangladesh for their firm commitment to eliminate child labour and endorsed National Plan to realize its commitments and she reiterated: “we need to create a child protection system up to the village level with a more social worker”.

### Session 1: Presentation of NPA

After the opening session, A presentation on NPA was given by **A. K. M. Masud Ali**, Executive Director, INCIDIN Bangladesh. The presentation provides insight to participants about the NPA aligned with SDG’s plan of action. The presentations also include the role of different ministries to achieve the NPA objectives.



### Speeches by Guest

**Kamrul Anam**, Secretary, Bangladesh Labour Foundation

In his speech, he urges MoLE to arrange regular meetings with all actors to eliminate child labour. Besides, he mentioned that a baseline survey is required to identify Bangladesh's actual child labour scenario.



**Advocate Salma Ali**, Chairperson, BNWLA

In her speech, she emphasized in implementation laws and policies to eliminate child labour. She also mentioned that besides the implementation of laws and policies people’s mindsets need to change towards child labour.

**Julia Jasmine, Joint Inspector, DIFE**

She mentioned their work with different stakeholders. They conducted 3000 visits to factories this year and rescued 13500 children from child labor. She said that to expedite their job, they need more human resources.



**Abu Asif Mahmud, Department of Labour**

He mentioned in his speech that child labour in the agriculture sector is 45% and we have emphasized this sector to reduce child labour. Besides, he mentioned that DoL is working on awareness raising to eliminate child labour.

**Elisa Calpona, Child Protection Manager, UNICEF**

Elisa mentioned in her speech “in 2022, UNICEF and the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment (DIFE) and MOLE signed a memorandum of understanding to join forces in the elimination of child labour to meet the SDG -8. Target 8.7. In 2022 also UNICEF supported two representatives from MoLE and DIFE to participate to the 5th Global Conference against child labour in Durban, South Africa. This workshop is the follow-up to the Global Conference and wants to build a child protection system to eliminate child labor. A system that is owned by the government and is sustainable and scalable”



**Mr. Md. Towfiqul Arif, Additional Secretary, MoLE (Labour Wing)**

He mentioned in his speech that we have learned that eliminating Child Labour 2025 target is very tight. It is all our responsibility to achieve the target. The plan should be implemented by the people involved with the project. The implementation committee should work more collaboratively ways based





on a timeline. It's our prime duty to work together to achieve the target by 2025. Regarding the fund, different ministries have their fund to sit together from their fund. If we take a project based on NPA in our fund, it will be more effective.

Besides, he thanked to UNICEF for coming forward to arrange the workshop. He hopes that UNICEF all work to achieve the NPA.

### **Group Work:**

After the guests' speech, all workshop participants participated a group work. The aim of the group work was to identify key responsibilities and progress, gaps, and challenges by each ministry and other stakeholders. After the group work, every group presented their work to the participants. After that, Q&A session took place.

Some suggested measures that need to be taken by the different ministries to eliminate child labour from the workshop participants are given below:

#### Ministry of Labour and Employment:

- Conducting a survey to identify the actual scenario of Child Labour in Bangladesh.
- Involving vocational and primary educational Institutions.
- Need to develop a policy on code of conduct for informal sectors.

#### Ministry of Social Welfare

- Increasing coverage of Child-focused social safety net program.
- Compulsory application of Quality Case management services by child protection-relevant all actors.
- Providing authority to social workers officially Strengthen the referral mechanism.
- Need to bring all the Child protection committees under one umbrella.
- Providing capacity-building training for service providers.

#### Ministry of Home Affairs

- Organizing regular CTC meetings up to field level.
- Creating a data hub for child labour and child trafficking.
- Need sufficient rehabilitation centers.
- Need to ensure financial support for the family.
- Need to speed up the process for child welfare services.
- Ensuring proper implication of laws and policies with the justice system.

#### Employer Associations

- Expanding more awareness sessions for the industry owners and stakeholders
- Proper Implication of laws and policies.

#### Cabinet Division

- Strengthening coordination among the different ministries.
- Amendments to the laws and policies based on realistic feedback from stakeholders.

#### Ministry of Women and Children Affairs:

- Regular Programs need to be undertaken to eliminate child labor.
- Awareness raising among the community people need to be increased

#### Ministry of Primary and Mass Education:

- Extension of existing projects to eliminate child labour.

#### Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

- Collaboration with private media to support broadcasting PSA in free or low cost.
- Need to organize mass campaign to eliminate child labour

#### Closing Remarks

**Monowar Hossain**, Project Director for Hazardous Child Labor Elimination Project in Bangladesh, provided closing remarks of the workshop. Besides, a vote of thanks was provided by **Dr. Mohammad Abdul Kader** Deputy Secretary, MoLE. He expressed gratitude to every participant for making the event successful. He once again extended his thanks to UNICEF for supporting the entire workshop.