

NATIONAL TRIPARTITE PLAN OF ACTION ON FIRE SAFETY AND STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY IN THE READY-MADE GARMENT SECTOR:

Following the fire of November 24, 2012 at Tazreen Fashions Limited the Tripartite Partners (GOB, employers, workers) adopted a National Tripartite Plan of Action on Fire Safety on March 24, 2013. After, Rana Plaza collapse on April 24, 2013 the structural integrity of RMG factories was included in the Action Plan and was approved on July 25, 2013. In the Action Plan, some activities related to administrative reform, modernization of existing laws, training and awareness raising initiatives were identified. Commitments were also made in the international forum to improve the working building and fire safety in the RMG sector of the country. The ILO has come forward with technical assistance for implementation of the action plan under a TA project. The identified activities are being implemented jointly by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Commerce, and Fire Service and Civil Defense. On this action plan 30 teams of BUET under national initiative, European buyers under Accord as well as North American European buyers under Alliance assessed RMG factory buildings on structural Integrity, fire and Electrical Safety.

By now BUET has completed preliminary assessments of 620 factories on structural, fire and electrical safety, ACCORD has completed 1103 and ALLIANCE has completed 584. According to the recommendation of Review Panel, formulated by the Government 32 factories have been closed for safety reason and 21 have been partially closed. Assessment report has been sent to concern factory authorities and to the District offices of Inspection for Factories and Establishment. Implementation of Detailed Engineering Assessment is kept under close monitoring and supervision. All the factories have started remediation According to the recommendation of assessing authorities. In this regard DIFE has started to monitor those remedial measures taken by factory owner. Two taskforces have already formed to oversee the remedial measures of RMG building including BUET and Fire Service & Civil Defense in the taskforce. The taskforces are working to implement the remedial measures taken by the factory owner.