



শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়



সকল শিশুর জন্য

**Capacity Building Strategy Meeting  
with the Ministry of Labour and Employment, DIFE and DoL**



Venue: Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### Background

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Department of Inspection of Factories and Establishment (DIFE), Department of Labour (DoL) and UNICEF have collaborated to eradicate child labor in the country through a combination of programming, capacity building and policy reforms. A capacity-building strategy meeting was held at the Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, organized by UNICEF, with the objective of endorsing the Rolling Work Plan 2023-2024, presenting the capacity-building strategy to the Ministry of Labor and Employment, DIFE, DoL and other stakeholders, and following up on the National Workshop on Orientation and review of National Plan of Action (NPA) to eliminate Child Labor.

### Objectives of the Workshop

- To present capacity building strategy developed by the Center for Child Rights and Business.
- To endorse UNICEF and MoLE collaboration in Rolling Work Plan 2023-2024.
- To follow up on the Workshop on Orientation and review of National Plan of Action (NPA) to eliminate Child Labor.

### Participants:

**Mr. Md. Towfiqul Arif**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), **Begum Jebunnesa Karim**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), **Elisa Calpona**, OIC, Chief child protection, UNICEF, **Fatema Khyrunnahar**, Child Protection Officer, Representatives from the Center for Child Rights and Business, Officers from MoLE, DIFE, DoL and UNICEF were present in the meeting.

### Opening Remarks

The meeting started with opening remarks by **Elisa Calpona, OIC Chief, Child Protection, UNICEF**. She welcomed all participants to be present in the meeting. She said it is an important opportunity and part of the follow-up of the National Action Plan workshop that was held in December 2022.

She also mentioned that despite some progress, the statistics show that 1.8 million children are still involved in child labor. To ensure that we are making progress toward our goal of eliminating child labor by 2025, in line with SDG 8.7, we will reconvene another national workshop in April 2023. We have appointed a national program coordinator to be seconded to MoLE to monitor the plan's implementation and ensure that every ministry and entity involved is progressing toward ending child labor. She



expressed gratitude for the partnership with MoLE as the special guests at the meeting. She explained that Ministry of Labour requested UNICEF for providing special support in garment related hazardous forms of child labor in Keraningonj. She shared her experiences from the field visit which was jointly coordinated by UNICEF, BLF and DIFE and targeted interventions have been discussed. Elisa presented two main objectives for the workshop: to endorse the capacity-building strategy being developed by a UNICEF partner and to validate UNICEF Rolling work plan 2023-2024.



**Mr. Md. Towfiqul Arif**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment thanked UNICEF for arranging the workshop. He suggested to review the RWP and specify the responsibility of DIFE and DoL in the work plan.

### **Session 1: Presentation on Inception report on Capacity Building Strategy on Child Protection, Child Labour Prevention and Remediation.**

Representatives from the Center for Child Rights and Business provided a presentation on Capacity Building Program for child protection, child labor prevention, and remediation.

Mr. Sheen shared some findings:

- There is no referral system to support child labor between DIFE inspectors and social workers.
- Punishment for child labor is very low.
- Child labor monitoring committee not active in the root level.
- Rotation of ministry official.
- Inter-ministry collaboration is challenging.
- Front-line workers lack knowledge on child rights and protection of children.
- Shared the summary of the capacity-building strategy.



**Fatema Khyrunnahar**, Child Protection Officer

Presenting Rolling work plan: Presenting different indicators of GoB-UNICEF Child Protection Program, she presented the activities of RWP and mentioned who is accountable for what. DIFE and DoL work plans are also mentioned there in details. Based on the presentation of RWP, some suggestions came from the participants are provided below:

- OiC Secretary suggested for reducing the fund for study on child labor.
- Capacity Building costs need to be increased.
- Responsible party should be well defined.
- Number of trainers need to be decided.

**Closing Remarks**

**Begum Jebunnesa Karim**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) said in closing remarks that Ministry has taken several initiatives to eliminate child labour from various hazardous sectors in Bangladesh, especially through a project that has been implemented in four phases from 2012-2022 and a number of 190,000 child labour was rehabilitated. The Ministry has relevant policies and practices to eliminate child labor. A number of committees, including NCLWC, district and Upazila child labour elimination and welfare committees are working. Hopefully, Bangladesh will be free from child labour by 2025 and the Government, UN, NGOs and private sectors are working together to this end.