

A photograph showing three women in an office or meeting room. One woman in a yellow and pink patterned headscarf is seated on the left, another in a yellow headscarf is in the middle, and a third in a dark jacket is seated on the right, looking at a laptop on a desk. The background has a light blue wall with some posters.

ERMG PROJECT: LEGAL AID

Urban Development | BRAC

The ready-made garment (RMG) sector in Bangladesh employs **4 million** workers and **64% of the workforce is female**. **3 out of 4** women report experiencing some form of violence throughout their lifetime. Only **2.6%** of survivors of physical violence have taken legal action. The national cost of domestic violence against women is **2.1%** of the country's **GDP**.

BRAC has partnered with **29 RMG factories** with a combined workforce of **62,558 workers**, and established **three one-stop service centres** providing holistic wellbeing services in the major urban industrial centres of **Tongi, Gazipur and Savar**.

BRAC is offering **legal aid support** to to **1507 workers** in the RMG sector. The centres feature a **legal aid clinic** staffed by **lawyers and legal counsellors** to raise legal awareness and address grievances of RMG workers and their families.

BRAC aims to address gaps in RMG workers' access to the formal legal justice system. BRAC's legal aid services consist of two major components: **training and awareness** on violence against women (VAW) issues and **direct legal aid support** to victims and their families.

Workers participate in workshops where they access information on their formal legal rights in regard to family, marriage, land and housing laws. The legal aid clinics provide ongoing legal aid support to RMG workers in addressing family disputes, dowry, rape, illegal divorce, acid violence, child marriage etc.

Legal aid counselors and panel lawyers facilitate both **out-of-court alternative dispute resolution (ADR)** or **legal action in court** depending on the nature and severity of the complaint.

BRAC draws on its **30 years of experience** in delivering access to justice to people living in poverty through **formal and informal institutions**. BRAC's human rights and legal aid services (HRLS) programme has reached **4.07 million** people in **61 districts** of Bangladesh.

PROFILE:

3

one-stop service centres

3

attendant lawyers
specialised in VAW issues

29

ready-made garment
factories as partners

1507

legal aid clients reached

18,655

People reached through 287
peer educators engaged in
27 factories

50,000

ready-made garment
workers overall (targeted)

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