

'Knowledge' as an enabler for transformational change  
in building climate-resilience: The way forward for  
Bangladesh's RMG sector

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# RMG Sector's Climate Vulnerability and Impact



Temperature  
Increase and  
Heat Stress



Flood and  
Waterlogging



Cyclone & Storms  
and inter-district  
migration

**These impact led to 23% of workers being absent or taking leave, 13% of the workers experienced reduced productivity, and 13% encountered lower income due to following impacts. Altogether, around 50% of workers have been impacted of few factories (TBS, 2024)**

Source: The Business Standard, 06 March, 2024, [URL:https://www.tbsnews.net/node/804786](https://www.tbsnews.net/node/804786)

# Impacts of climate change on RMG Sector

## POTENTIAL HEAT-RELATED WORK HOURS LOST

### BANGLADESH'S



Global share in work hour loss  
**6%**

**13.3** billion work hours lost in 2000

### GLOBALLY

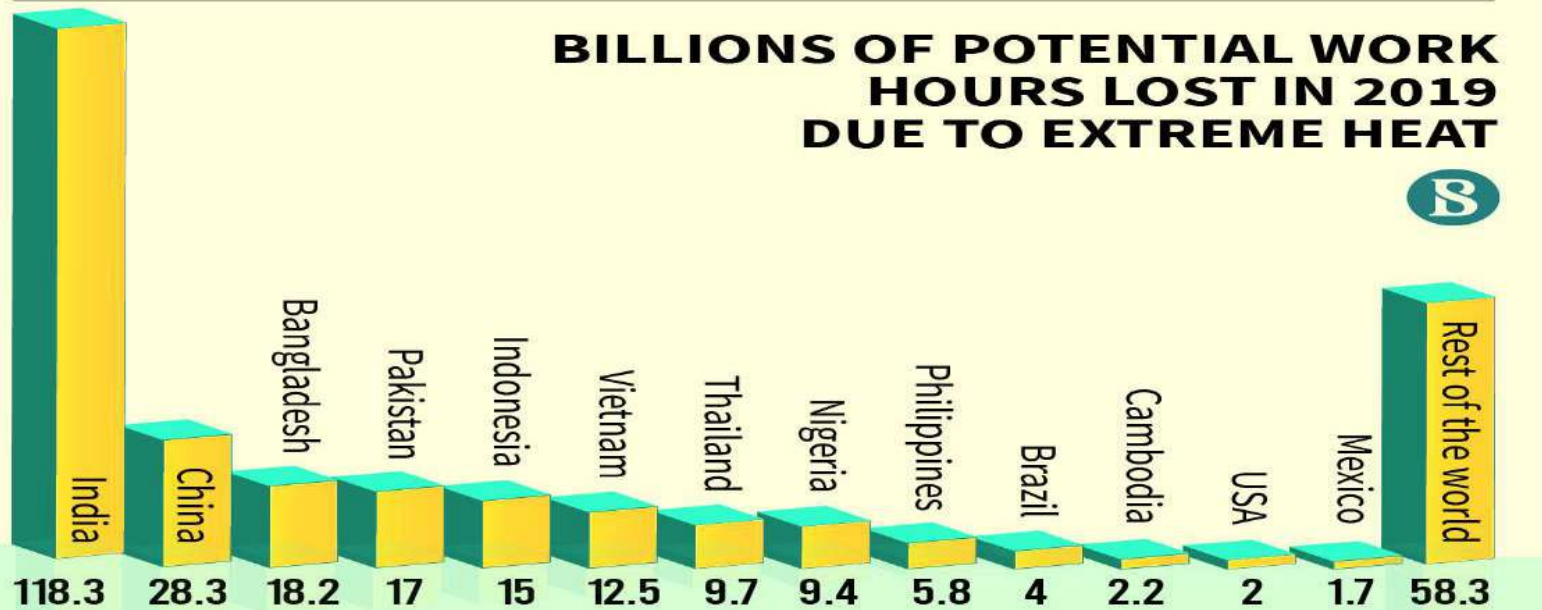


**302.4** billion work hours lost in 2019



**2.96** lakh 65+ aged people faced heat related mortality in 2018

## BILLIONS OF POTENTIAL WORK HOURS LOST IN 2019 DUE TO EXTREME HEAT



Source: The Lancet



*For instance, after the 2004 flood disease outbreak prevented employees from coming to work.*

# Bangladesh's Projected Heat-related Impacts in Export Earnings

**Export earnings in 2021 (actual): 46.55 billion**  
**Share of RMG Sector: 35.57 billion**

Heat-related changes in export earnings (nominal USD, billions) in climate-adaptive and high heat stress scenarios of Bangladesh for 2030 and 2050

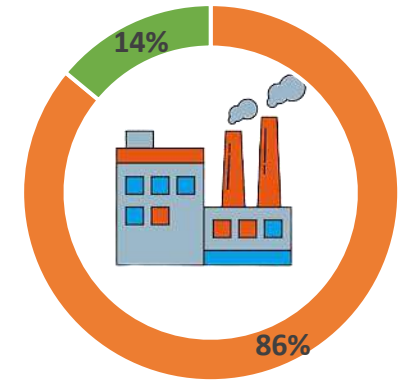
<b>Year</b>	<b>Climate-adaptive scenario (USD)</b>	<b>High heat stress scenario (USD)</b>	<b>Change (Percent)</b>
<b>2030</b>	<b>122.01 b.</b>	<b>95.35 b</b>	<b>-21.85%</b>
<b>2050</b>	<b>1,038.22 b.</b>	<b>328.11 b.</b>	<b>-68.40%</b>

Sources: Cornell GLI with data from Katalyst Initiative and Atlas of Economic Complexity 'apparel' trade figures based on HS Codes 4204, 4203, 61, 62, 64 and 65. Analysis undertaken July 2023.

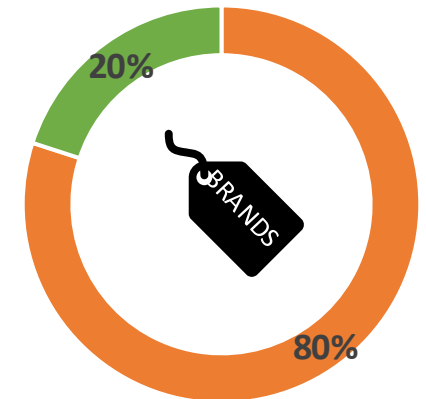
# Just Transition

“Greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind.”- ILO, 2015

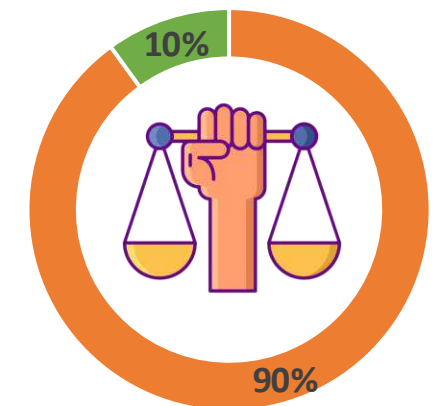
86% of the sample factory management have not heard of Just Transition



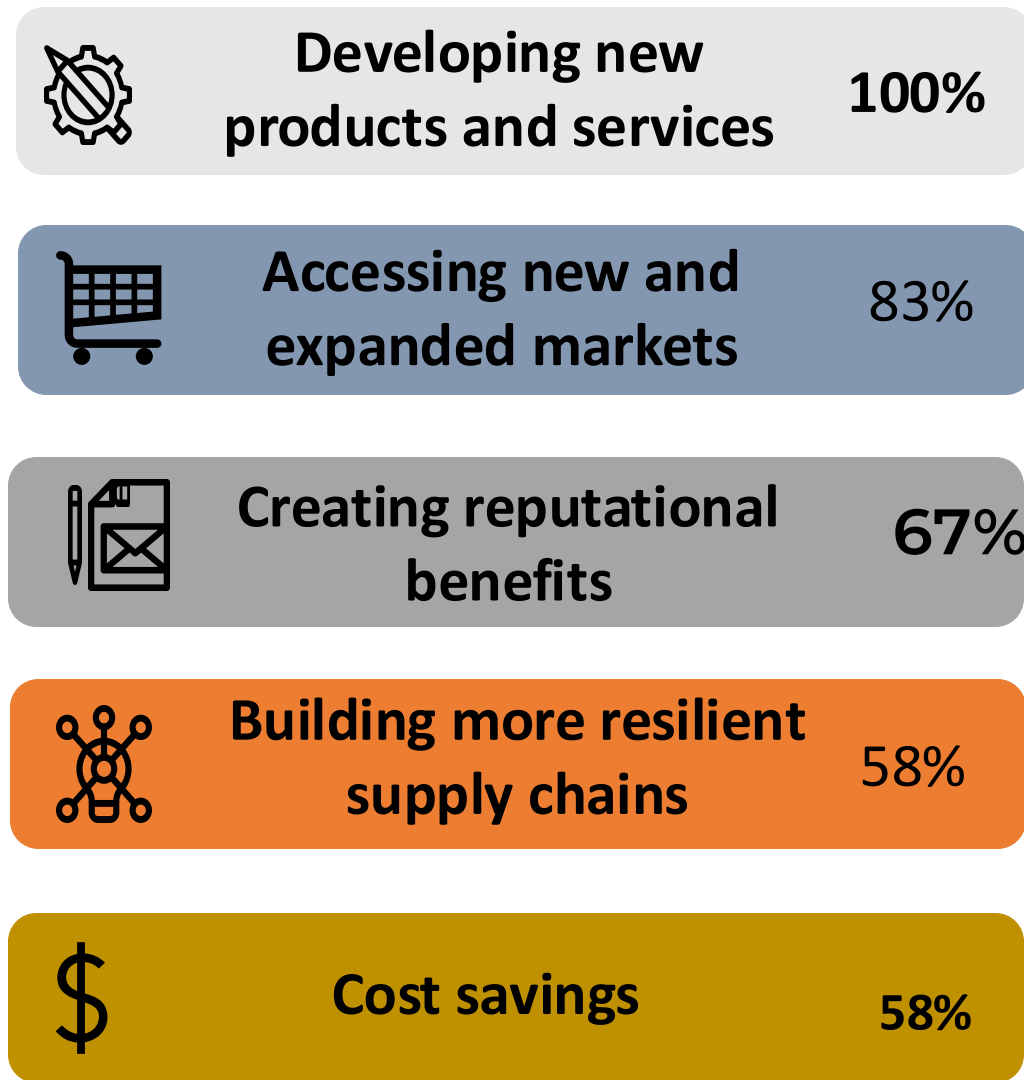
8 out of a total of 10 sampled brand representatives have not heard of Just Transition



Out of 10 labour rights organization representatives, only 1 had heard of just Transition

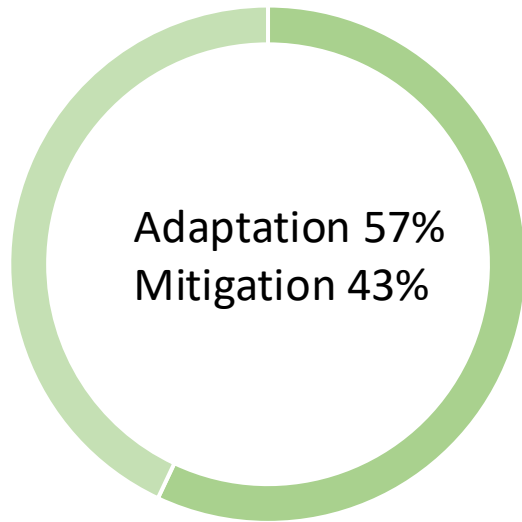


# Why Should Private Sector Invest in Climate Action

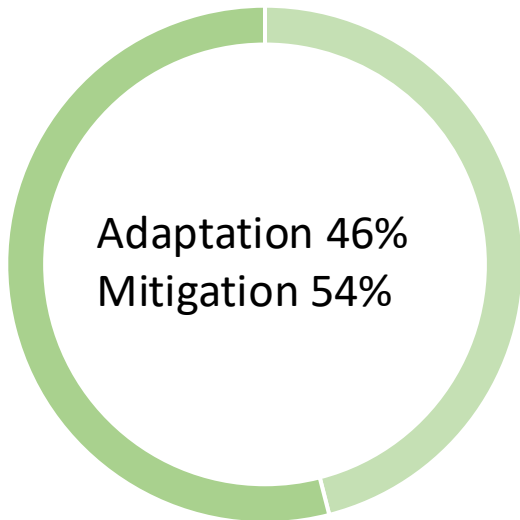


Source: Steeves, J., Fayolle, V., Odianose, S., Rai, N., Soanes, M., Haque, M., & Mahid, Y. (2023). *Business case for the Bangladeshi private sector to invest in climate change and access international climate finance.*

# Taking Opportunity of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)



Funding amount by theme (grant equivalent)  
as of 31 Oct 2024

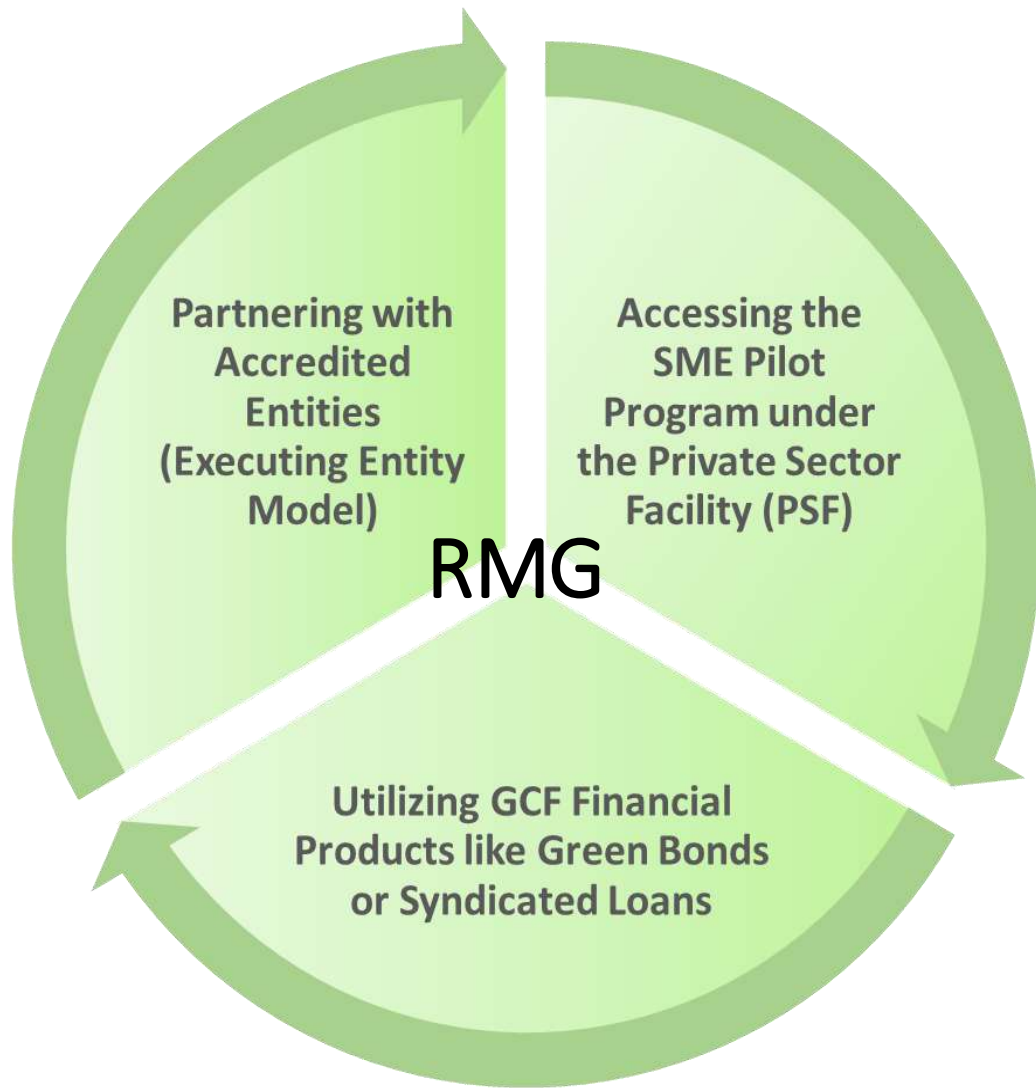


Funding amount by theme (nominal)  
as of 31 Oct 2024



Eight Result Areas Cover Both Mitigation And Adaptation

# Potential of RMG Sector Accessing the Green Climate Fund (GCF)



FP150: Promoting private sector investment through large scale adoption of energy saving technologies and equipment for Textile and Readymade Garment (RMG) sectors of Bangladesh

Entity:

Infrastructure Development Company Limited (Bangladesh)

**Theme: Building, Cities, Industries and Appliances**

**Total Project Value**

**340.5M**

Approved: 13 Nov 2020

Status: Under implementation

To be completed: 18 Oct 2034

- Integrated package of concessional financing
- Technical assistance
- Reduce carbon emission

- Capacity Building
- Awareness raising,
- Policy development

- Support in loan disbursement, monitoring and evaluation



# Knowledge' as an enabler for transformational change: Case Study of Cambodian workplaces reducing impacts of heat stress on workers



Workers in the workplaces taking cooling measures experienced 25% fewer minutes at unsafe temperatures



Workers spent 84% less time at unsafe temperatures than those who did not



Workers capacitated by trade unions on heat stress mitigation experienced 33% fewer minutes at unsafe temperatures



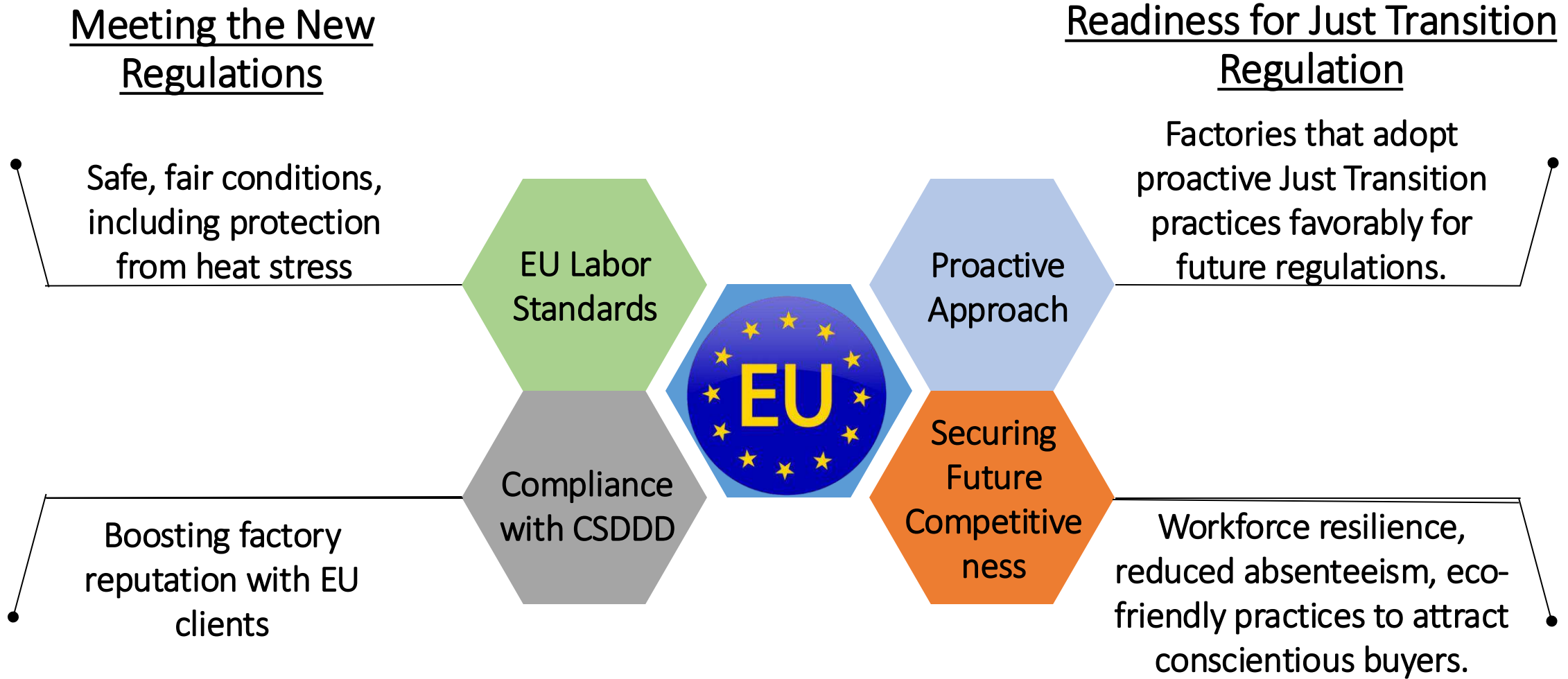
Workers experienced 37% fewer minutes at unsafe temperatures than those who were not capacitated by trade unions



Garment workers achieved 87% of their productivity targets at safe core temperatures, compared with 61% at unsafe core temperatures.

Parsons, L., Mishra, P., Cole, J., Sim, J., Wei, D., & Long, L. V. (2024). *Heat stress in the Cambodian workplace*. Royal Holloway, University of London.  
<https://www.solidaritycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Parson-et-al-2024-Heat-Stress-in-the-Cambodian-Workplace.pdf>

# Addressing Corporate Social Responsibility through protecting workers' well-being and rights



The new EU regulations may significantly affect manufacturers in several ways. Manufacturers need to have a thorough understanding of their entire supply chain, from procurement of raw materials to manufacturing of final products. These include whether environmental standards are met at every point of the supply chain and whether workers' rights are maintained. EU Due-Diligence Directive for Corporate Sustainability: Consequences for Bangladesh <https://www.bfti.org.bd/blog-details/11> and Greening of the textile and RMG sector is crucial for Bangladesh's sustainable development. <https://cpd.org.bd/greening-of-the-textile-and-rmg-sector-is-crucial-for-bangladeshs-sustainable-development/>

*Thank You  
for Your  
Attention!*