

Occupational Health & Safety Assessment: Small Factories in Dhaka, Bangladesh

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Overview

- Background:
 - Kamrangirchar & Hazaribad districts
 - Environmental & occupational data
- MSF mission overview
- Factory observations
- Building OH&S capacity

Kamrangirchar Environment



Hazaribad Environment

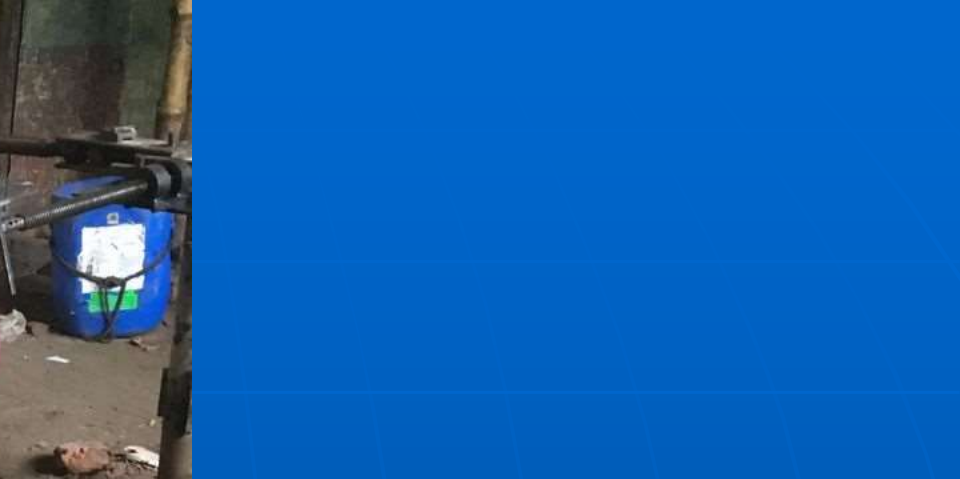


Dhaka “Slum” Factories













OH&S Challenges

- OH&S risks not widely recognized
 - Historical public health risks
 - Growth & investment vs health risks
 - Clean water, air, food higher priority
- Kam & Haz districts “off the map”
- Lack of...
 - Infrastructure
 - Safety organizations (emerging)
 - Training, awareness
 - Available PPE

Building OH&S

- Government/industry/academic/NGO cooperative efforts (garments)
- Train-the-trainer OH&S efforts
- Awareness/outreach effort
 - Pictorial messages
 - Basic hygiene
 - Avoiding take-home exposures
 - First aid
 - Outreach/education of factory owners

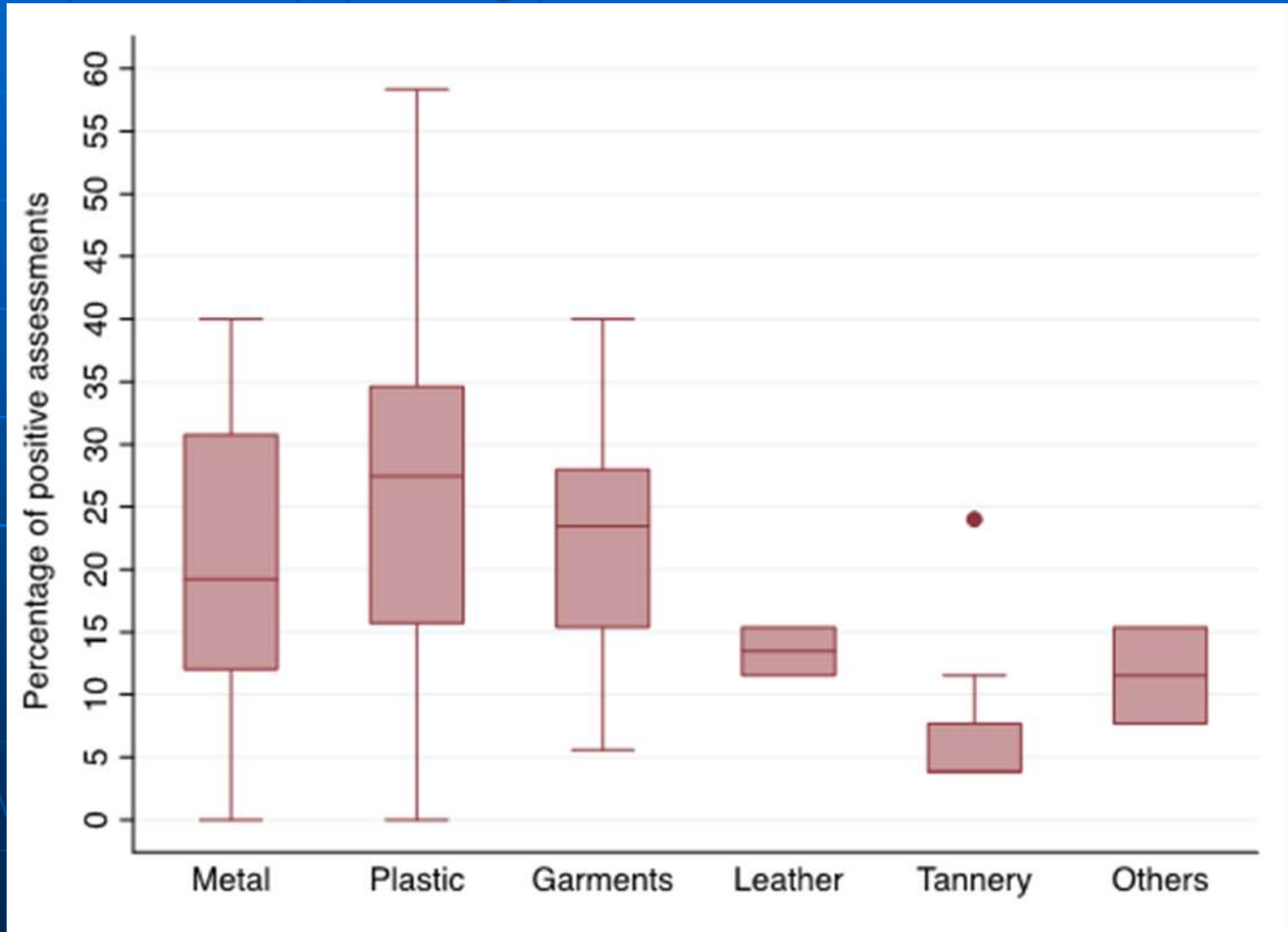
Next Steps

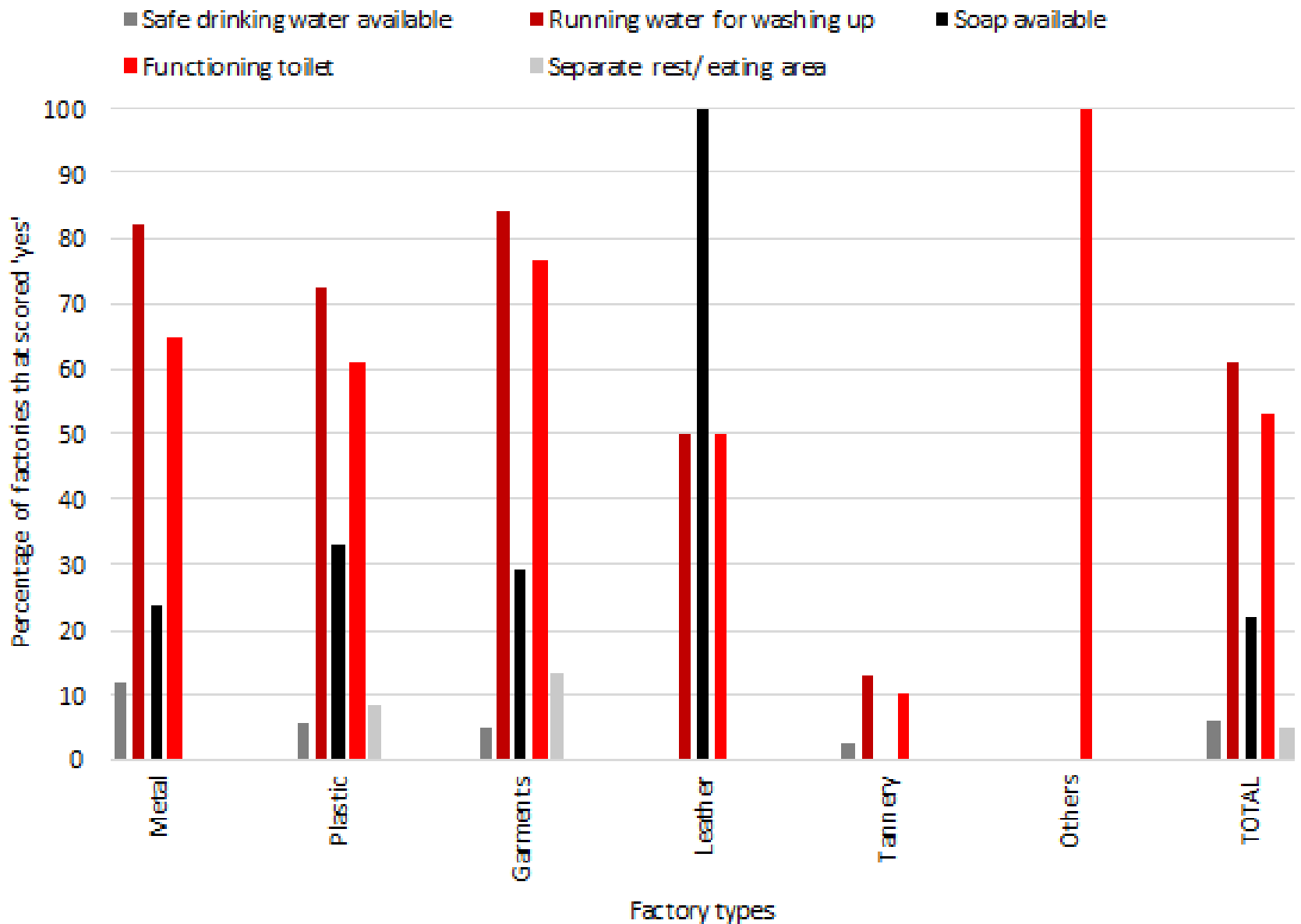
- Factory Hazard Assessments*
 - Outreach team uses checklist
 - EHO oversight, QC, assure consistency
 - Integrate without impacting other outreach duties
- “Top 5” hazards identified
 - Significant hazard / easy remedy
 - Provide recommendations to factories
- Checklist Data Entry and Analysis*
- Factory re-survey with same checklist

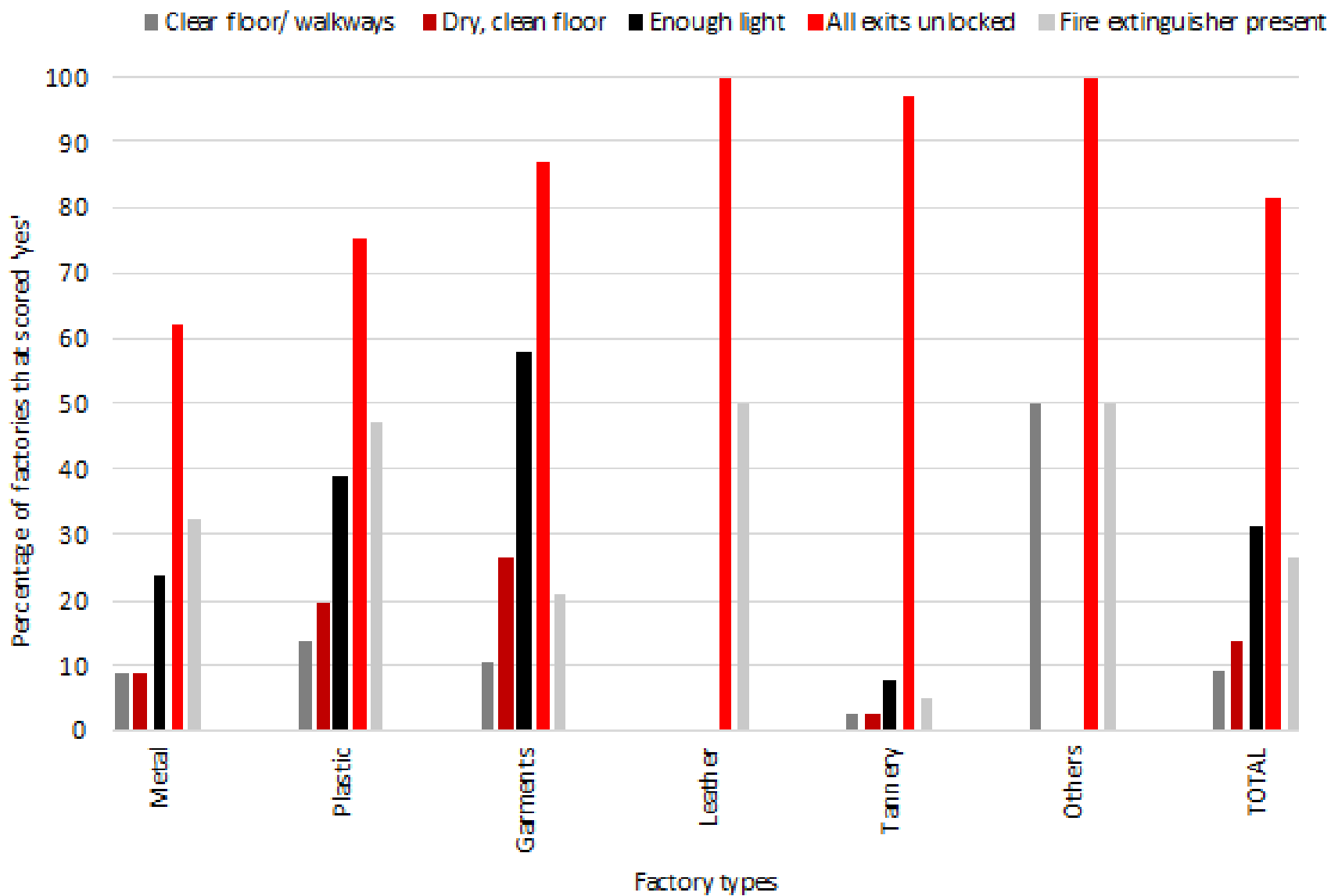
*completed spring/summer 2017

Hazard Assessment Analysis*

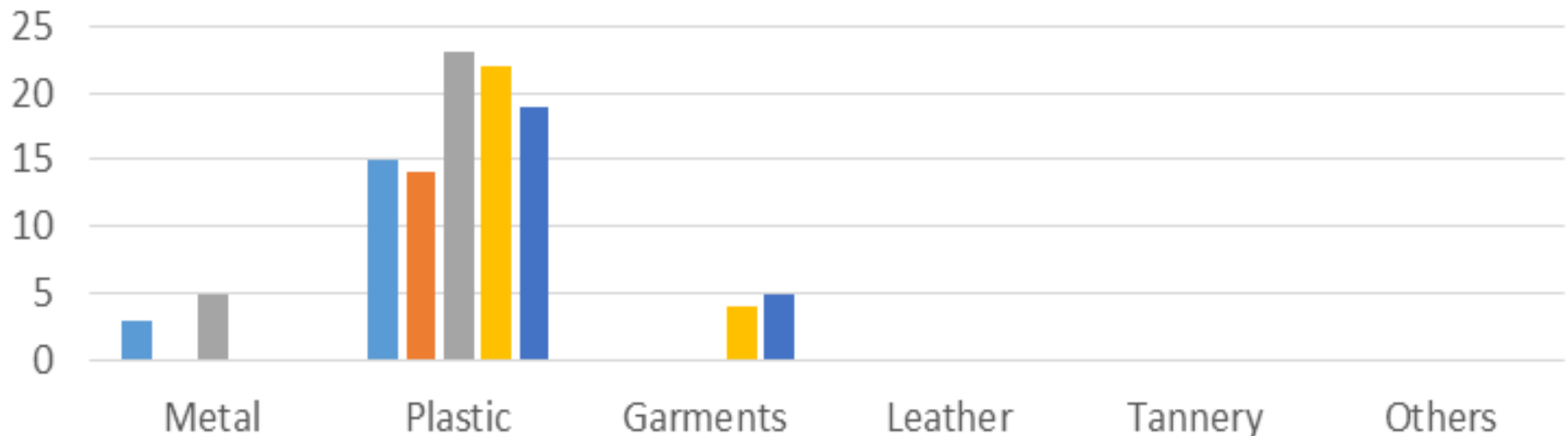
* preliminary, pending peer review







Percentage Factories Meeting Criteria

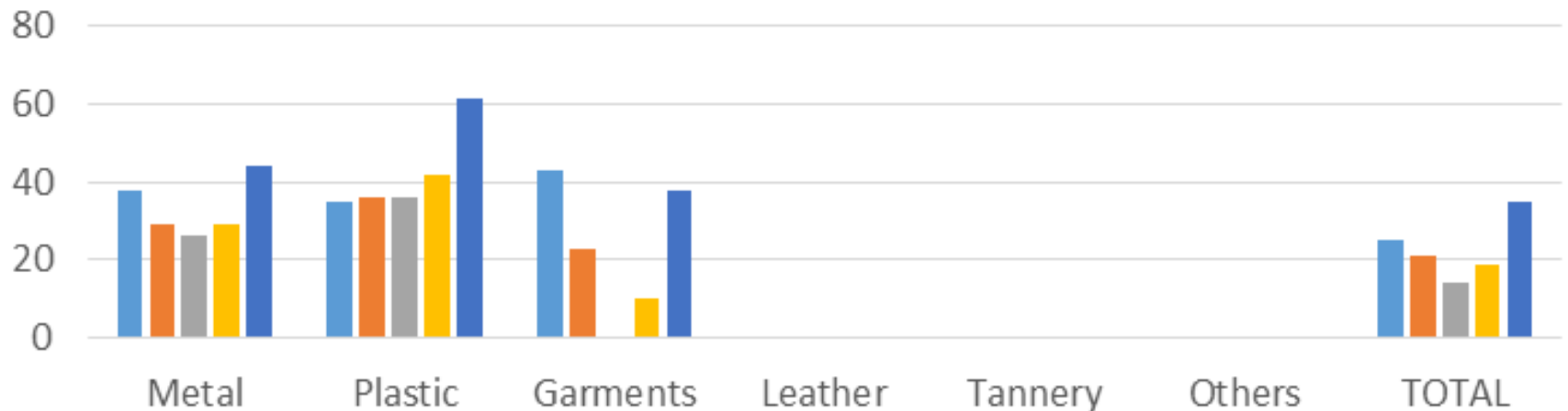


- Moving parts of machine covered
- Long hair, scarves, jewellery strained
- Chemicals stored in closed, labelled containers
- Hot works done away from flammable material
- Are dusts/ fumes effectively removed?

Factories Providing PPE

- No factories surveyed provided eye, hearing, or respiratory protection
- Maximum 9% provided hand (gloves), foot (boot), or body (apron) protection
- Locally available PPE limited:
 - Reusable fabric face mask
 - Cheap sun glasses

Ergonomic Factors in Factories



- Most tasks are performed below shoulder level
- Work does NOT require an awkward posture
- Work does NOT require holding same position for prolonged time
- NO repetitive tasks are performed
- Machinery is positioned comfortably to perform task

Potential Next Steps

- Pre- / Post-Intervention Pilot
 - Small number of metal / plastic fabrication factories
 - Low / no-cost interventions
 - Soap & water, toilet, eating area
 - Lighting
 - Ventilation: fans, exhaust
 - Work area: walkways, inventory, storage, organization
 - Machine positioning / safe guards
 - Administrative controls
 - PPE

Potential Next Steps

- Occupational exposure monitoring: sampling protocol
- Possible utility:
 - Document impact of pre-/post-intervention
 - Document occupational exposures:
 - Publication
 - Advocacy
 - Partnership with government, NGOs, etc.

Dhaka, BD









LOOKING

राजल एंटर
Tazul Ent

वार्ता

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INTER TRADE

M/S. RAFIQ AGENCY

आनम हाउस
BENGAL PAINTS

WIND OF THE BATTLE
PERFORMANCE

BENGAL PAINTS
BENGAL PAINTS
BENGAL PAINTS
BENGAL PAINTS

বিদ্যালয়ে









Bangladesh OHS Links – Selected Media Articles & Reports

- **International Labor Organization; Occupational safety and health country profile – Bangladesh:**
 - <http://www.ilo.org/safework/countries/asia/bangladesh/lang--en/index.htm>
- **International Labor Organization webpage: “Toward a safer garment industry in Bangladesh,” updated frequently:**
 - <http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/activities/all/safer-garment-industry-inbangladesh/lang--en/index.htm>
- **ILO-IFC Better Work; SME Occupational Safety and Health Toolkit – Bangladesh:**
 - <http://bangladesh.smetoolkit.org/south-asia/en/content/en/53241/Occupational-Healthand-Safety>
- **EU-OSHA, “Promoting occupational safety and health through the supply chain; Literature review (2012):**
 - https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/literature_reviews/promoting-occupational-safetyand-health-through-the-supply-chain/view
- **Business & Human Rights Resource Centre – Bangladesh**
 - <http://business-humanrights.org/bangladesh-0>
- **Weekly newsletter with key articles from the Bangladesh media published by WRAP – Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production**
 - <http://www.wrapcompliance.org/en/home>
- **Maclean’s magazine (2013) “What does that \$14 shirt really cost?”**
 - <http://www.macleans.ca/economy/business/what-does-that-14-shirt-really-cost/>
- Source: <http://mhssn.igc.org/>