FUTUREPROOFING RMG

Understanding the what, why, and how

THE
WHAT

01

WHAT IS IT?

The Futureproofing RMG is a project aimed at safeguarding the livelihood of one of the most vulnerable groups of Bangladesh – female garments workers. The project aims to answer two key questions facing the RMG industry of Bangladesh: **how can we leverage technology to enhance factory competitiveness**, and **how can we safeguard the jobs of female garments workers**?

02

THE
WHY

WHY DO WE NEED IT?

The garments industry of Bangladesh is losing competitiveness due to a lack of innovation. In the first half of 2020, **Vietnam surpassed Bangladesh** as the second largest exporter of RMG and textiles. This is especially concerning as RMG accounts for **83 percent of total exports** in Bangladesh. Without automation, this industry will face drastic consequences.

At the same time, it is projected that **60% of RMG workers** will lose jobs to automation by 2041. The situation is more dire for women as they are more likely to be victims of job cuts due to discrimination. Without a proper intervention, Bangladesh stands to lose years of progress in the economic empowerment of women.

03

THE
HOW

HOW WILL IT WORK?

The project will launch a **global innovation challenge** inviting innovators from around the world to propose possible solutions to the two questions. The best ideas will receive funding and incubation support.

Prior to the challenge, the innovation areas will be determined through workshops, needs assessment studies, and the **"STITCH for RMG: Global Innovation Conference"**. The conference will bring together buyers from the global north, suppliers from the global south, innovators and other key stakeholders to ensure proper reach and impact.