

Moving the Needle 15: Trade Impacts Assessment of GSP and GSP+: Case Studies from Cambodia, Bangladesh and Pakistan (13 September 2023)

In this webinar discussion, we explored the evolving global textile landscape, focusing on Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan's transformative trade dynamics. Paul Baker highlighted Cambodia's economic growth driven by duty-free exports under the Everything But Arms (EBA) agreement. Dr. Mohammad Razzaque discussed Bangladesh's preparation for the conclusion of EBA privileges, while Sarah Javaid described Pakistan's ability to secure GSP+ status, despite not being a least developed nation. These instances underscore the significance of well-crafted growth strategies in adapting to changing trade scenarios, emphasizing the crucial role of adaptability and diversification in textile economies.

Panelists:



Paul Baker

Founder & Chairman of,
International Economics Consulting Ltd

Paul is the lead author of several studies and handbooks from ARISE+ Cambodia, including a trade analysis handbook, trade foresight study (2020-2050), and trade impact assessment of LDC graduation. He is currently working with the Ministry of Commerce to establish a negotiation secretariat and FTA knowledge centre, under a GIZ supported project.



Dr. Mohammad Razzaque

Senior Economist & Chairman,
Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID)

Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzaque is an economist and currently serves as Chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), a think tank based in Dhaka. He has conducted extensive research on trade preferences and LDC graduation issues and is frequently consulted by regional and international organizations on these topics.



Sarah Javaid

MS Economics - LUMS | Research Economist

Sarah Javaid is a Research Associate at PTC and holds an MS Economics from LUMS. Her work at PTC revolves around International Trade and Diplomacy. She has worked with policy think tanks including SDPI and PRIME. Her main expertise includes policy analysis, data analysis, and report writing.

Paul Baker, Dr. Mohammad Razzaque, and Sarah Javaid shared valuable insights:

- GSP+ requires ratification and implementation of 32 international conventions.
- Cambodia fulfilled LDC graduation criteria in 2021 and is set for graduation consideration in 2024, potentially as early as 2027.
- Challenges for Cambodian garment exports upon LDC graduation include increasing tariffs and Rules of Origin (RoO) requirements.
- Without GSP+, Cambodia faces a significant decline in garment exports to the EU, projected at 40%-47%.
- Bangladesh's substantial \$55 billion global merchandise exports in 2022-23 included \$25 billion (45%) sourced from the EU.
- Over 92% of Bangladesh's EU-bound exports consist of apparel, benefiting from LDC-related trade preferences.
- Pakistan witnessed a remarkable 46.5% rise in exports to the EU since 2013, primarily concentrated in textiles. However, creating a favorable environment for manufacturers is imperative.

In closing, this Moving the Needle online seminar provided valuable insights into trade dynamics and their impacts within countries like Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. Their journeys from Least Developed Country (LDC) status to managing and navigating preferential trade agreements revealed the complexities of international trade. We observed the critical roles of agreements like the Everything but Arms (EBA) and Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) and GSP+ play in these transitions, along with additional challenges related to human rights and labor rights compliance. These case studies underscore the dynamic nature of global trade and stress the significance of

strategic planning, adaptability, and international cooperation to ensure sustainable economic growth.

To learn more, watch the recording of Moving the Needle 15: Trade Impacts Assessment of GSP and GSP+: Case Studies from Cambodia, Bangladesh and Pakistan. For online seminars on similar topics, check out the [Asian Dialogues Series](#).

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FABRIC Asia
No. 27, Street 302, Boeung Keng Kang 1
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

On behalf of: Federal Ministry for Economic
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lisa.ramershoven@giz.de
www.giz.de

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