

**act:onaid**

**Highlights from the  
10th Year's Follow-up  
Survey**

**April 12, 2023**

**The Rana Plaza Experience:  
Tragedy to Transformation**

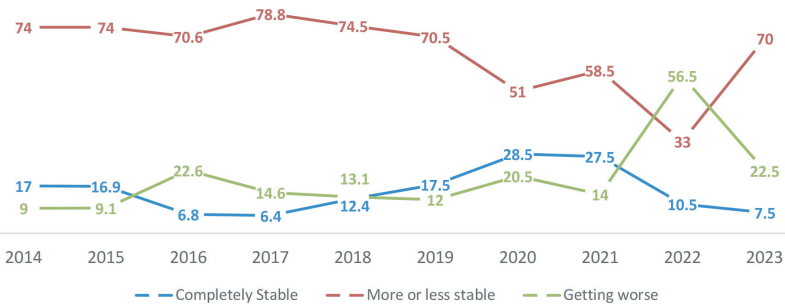
## Part I

This section of the survey focused on 200 survivors and families of deceased workers, affected by the Rana Plaza tragedy. The majority of respondents were women (69.5%) and 30.5% are men. The findings highlight several key points related to the survivors' current condition, including their current physical health status, psychosocial well-being and financial status. Salient points of the survey are stated below.

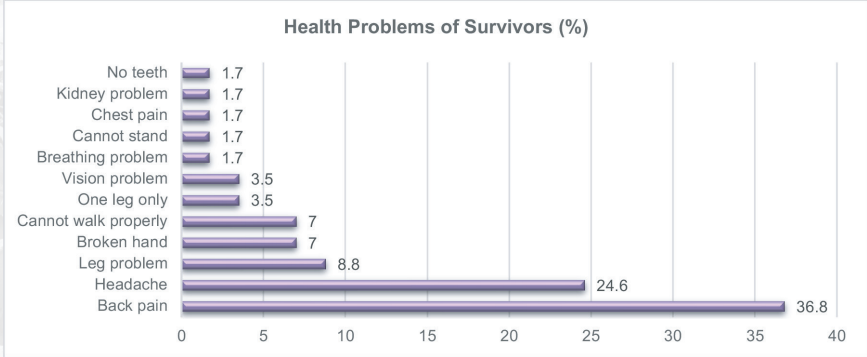
### Physical health

Compared to the first survey of 2014, the physical health status of the survivors has not shown any significant improvement. The proportion of survivors claiming to be completely stable has decreased from 17% in 2014 to 7.5% in 2023, while the percentage of respondents whose health has deteriorated over the years increased from 9% to 22.5% during the same period. It should be noted that, although most of the respondents belong to the relatively young age group (63.5% are below 35), they have rapidly developing health issues. This can be attributed to the Rana Plaza tragedy, which is showing to have an impact on their life expectancy and productivity.

Trend of Physical Health Recovery of Survivors (%)

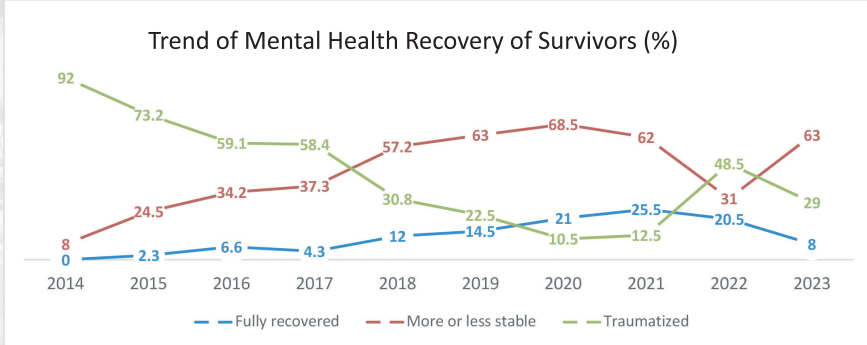


More than a third of the respondents (36.8%) mentioned they are suffering from back pain, while a quarter (24.6%) complained about suffering from headache. Other health problems include breathing problem, hand and leg injury, inability to stand and walk properly, vision and kidney problems, etc.



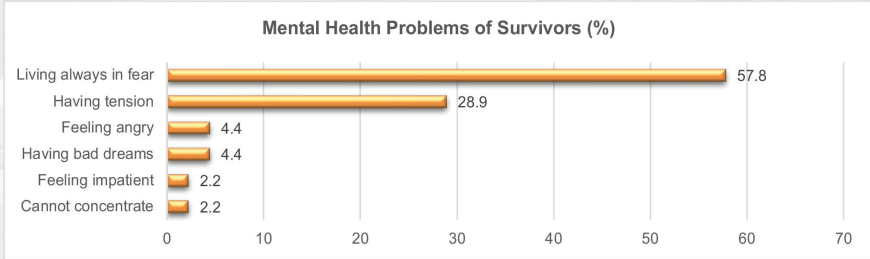
**Psychosocial Health**

In terms of psychosocial health, although rate of people who felt fully recovered is now declining, the overall percentage of survivors claiming to be more or less stable have almost doubled. However, despite the positive trend, there is still a significant proportion (29%) of traumatised survivors, whose condition are getting deteriorating with days.



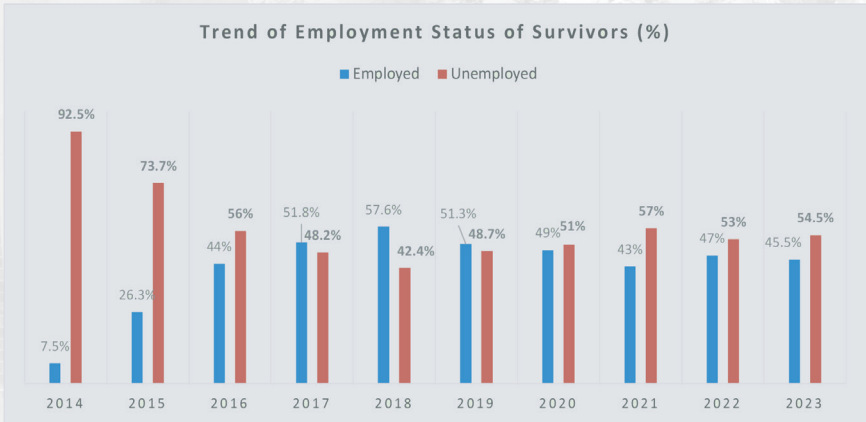
Among the 29% of traumatised survivors, (57.8%) respondents are living in fear because of their experience of building collapse, while 28.9%

complained of being tensed about their health and safety. These findings highlight the lasting impact of the collapse on survivors' mental health and well-being and underscore the need for continued support to help them address their emotional needs.



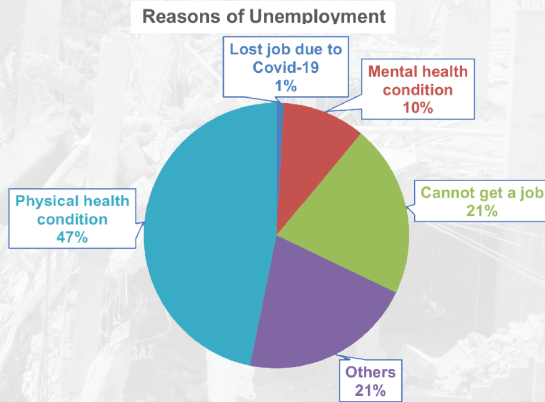
### Financial status

Despite a decline in the unemployment rate since 2014, the survey found that 54.5% of survivors are currently unemployed. Among them, 89% have been without work for the past 5 to 8 years, while 5.5% have been unemployed for the last 3 to 4 years. These findings highlight the ongoing challenges faced by the survivors in accessing sustainable employment opportunities and the need for continued efforts to improve their economic security.

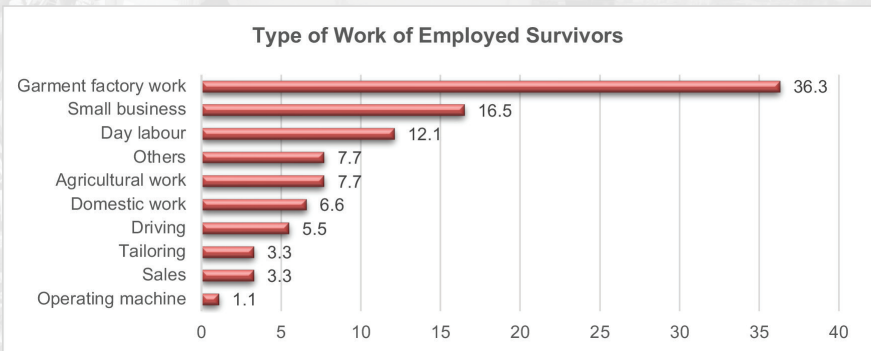


The survey also found that the key reason for those who are currently unemployed is their physical health conditions and the number has fallen from 67% to 47% from last year. Additionally, 21% respondents reported

that they could not find a suitable job. These findings suggest that physical health continues to be a significant barrier to employment for many survivors, emphasising the need for continued efforts to support their recovery and improve their access to employment opportunities.



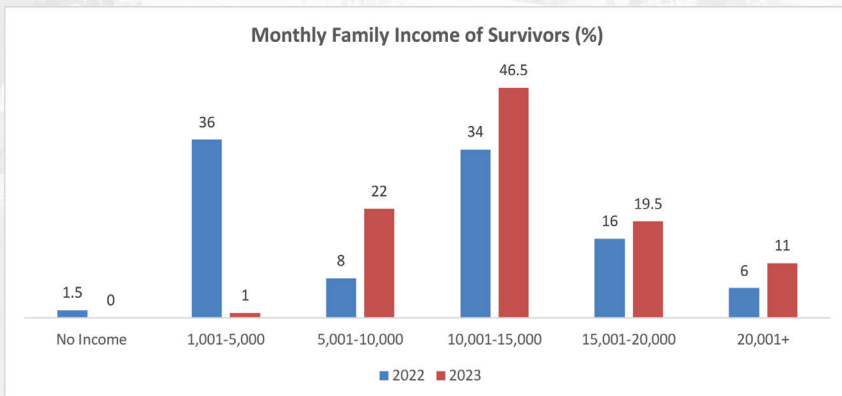
This insight is backed up by evidence from the survey as findings show 36.3% of survivors, who have recovered from physical and mental health issues, are currently employed in garment factories. In the previous year the rate was, 14.5%. This suggests that an increasing number of survivors are returning to work after overcoming health challenges, which could reflect positive developments in their overall well-being and ability to engage in employment. However, it also highlights the ongoing need for measures to ensure the health and safety of workers in these factories.



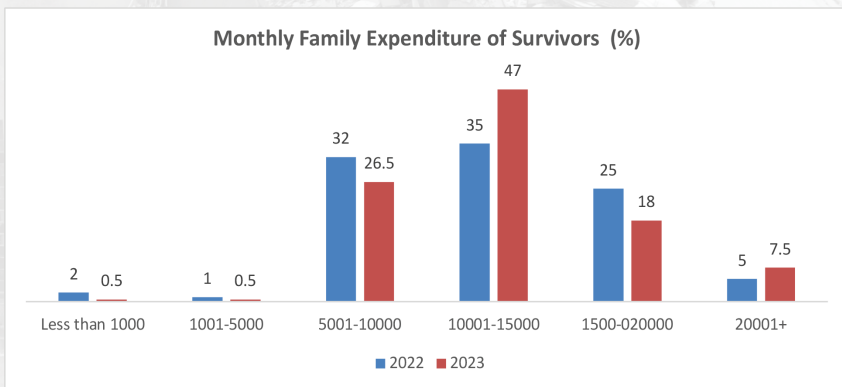
### Earning and expenditure disparity

The income scenario of the survivor’s family has changed significantly in

comparison to last year. Monthly family income of half of the survivors was found to be (46.5%) BDT 10,001-15,000, while around 19.5% earn a monthly family income of BDT 15,001-20,000 and 11% get more than BDT 20,000 per month.

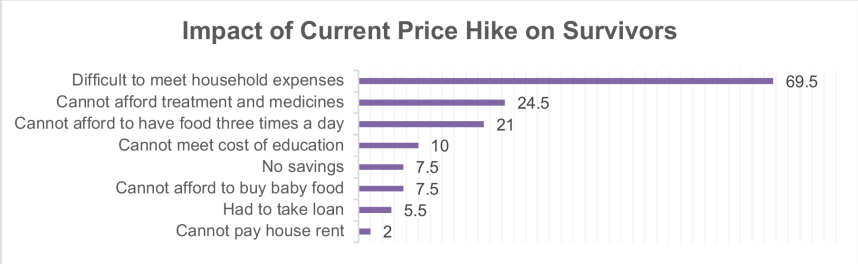


The survey findings indicate that the household income of the majority of respondents is insufficient to cover their family expenses, especially with the current price hike in the country. Nearly half of the survivors (47%) reported a monthly expenditure of around 15000 BDT, and many respondents do not have any savings to rely on in case of unforeseen expenses, such as a health emergency.

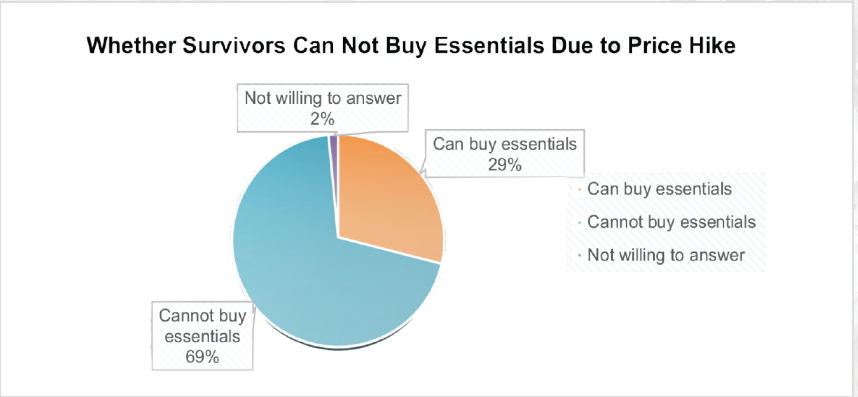


Findings also shows the current price hike has impacted their lives. According to the survey, 69% of the survivors reported facing difficulties in managing daily necessities due to the current price hike. About a quarter

(21%) said they cannot afford to have food three times a day, while a similar percentage (24.5%) reported not being able to afford medical treatment and medicines.



These results highlight the financial vulnerability of many survivors and emphasise the urgent need for improved economic support and safety nets to safeguard their well-being.



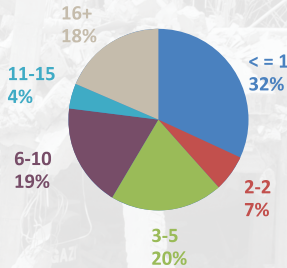
## Part II

This section of the survey was conducted with 200 current garment workers to assess the safety situation in their factories. Most respondents were women (84.6%). The key findings from the survey are highlighted below.

The frequency of initiatives taken by factory management to ensure

occupational health and safety varies, with 31.8% of respondents reporting that management has taken initiatives only once in the past ten years, and 20.4% stating that initiatives were taken 3-5 times during the same period. Overall, more than half of the respondents (52.2%) felt that the frequency of initiatives taken by factory management was inadequate.

Frequency of Initiatives Taken By Management in the Last 10 Years



Around 60% of the respondents highlighted several risks present in their factory, including machinery problems, the absence of fire safety measures, inadequate ventilation and lighting, as well as a lack of health safety measures.

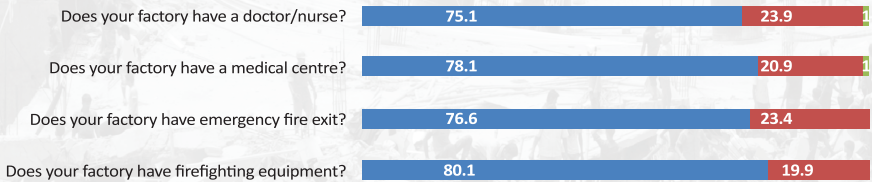


Around 19.9% of the respondents reported that their factories lack firefighting equipment, while 23.4% stated that emergency fire exits are not available. Additionally, 20.9% of respondents mentioned that their factories do not have a medical centre, and a similar proportion (23.9%) indicated that there is no doctor or nurse available on-site.



## Availability of Safety Measures in Factories (%)

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know



**Out of all the respondents, 75.1% indicated that they do not wear personal protective equipment (PPE). Among the respondents who reported using PPE, 98% stated that they only wear masks, while only a single respondent reported using gloves.**

**A total of 93% of the respondents expressed concern about their health status and felt uncertain about their ability to work in the long term.**



**ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) has been closely working with the survivors, families of the deceased workers and affected people of the Rana Plaza tragedy since its collapse in 2013. Starting from providing rescue support after the collapse, policy advocacy for ensuring occupational safety and injury scheme, AAB developed a comprehensive database of approximately 1400 survivors to periodically collect information on their condition. Additionally, AAB worked with survivors for rehabilitation and re-integration.**

**For detailed report with recommendation, please visit <https://www.actionaidbd.org/category/publications>**

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