

# Welcome

## Stakeholder workshop for the audit project

### Agenda:

- **Welcome.** Professor Faridul Alam, Vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of Health and Sciences (BUHS)
- **Presentation of the audit project.** Professor Peter Hasle, University of Southern Denmark (SDU)
- **What is known about audits in research?** Phd-fellow Julie Bundgaard (SDU)
- **A study of the audit market in Bangladesh.** Research fellow AKM Masum UI Alam (BUHS)
- **Q&A** (questions in the chat log)
- **Discussion** with opinions from technical experts on challenges and possibilities for audits
- **Coming activities – field study of audit practices.** Associate Professor, MH Faruquee (BUHS)
- **Closing** by Sector Counsellor Søren Albertsen, Danish Embassy to Bangladesh

# **Audit practices and safety and health in Bangladesh - a new research project**

**Stakeholder workshop  
9 December 2020**

**Bangladesh University of Health Sciences (BUHS)  
&  
University of Southern Denmark (SDU)**

**Peter Hasle, professor**

# Why study social compliance audits

- Still considerable problems with occupational safety and health (OSH) and working conditions in garment and other industries
  - In spite of improvements of Rana Plaza
- Audits the key tool to verify acceptable conditions for costumers and other stakeholders
- More resources used for audits than for any other measure
- Chaotic jungle of more or less formel standards and codes of conduct
- Factories subject to multiple parallel audits with both overlapping and different requirements
  - Expensive and time consuming with unclear benefits
  - Criticised for being coercive looking for flaws rather than promote improvements
- Audits criticised for window dressing
  - In particular after two audits approved Rana Plaza shortly before the accident

# Introduction to the audit project

## Objective:

→ To provide research based knowledge about how audits can contribute to improvement of OSH

## Research questions:

→ What methods can auditors use to impact OSH management in factories and thereby contribute to secure a safe and healthy workplace?

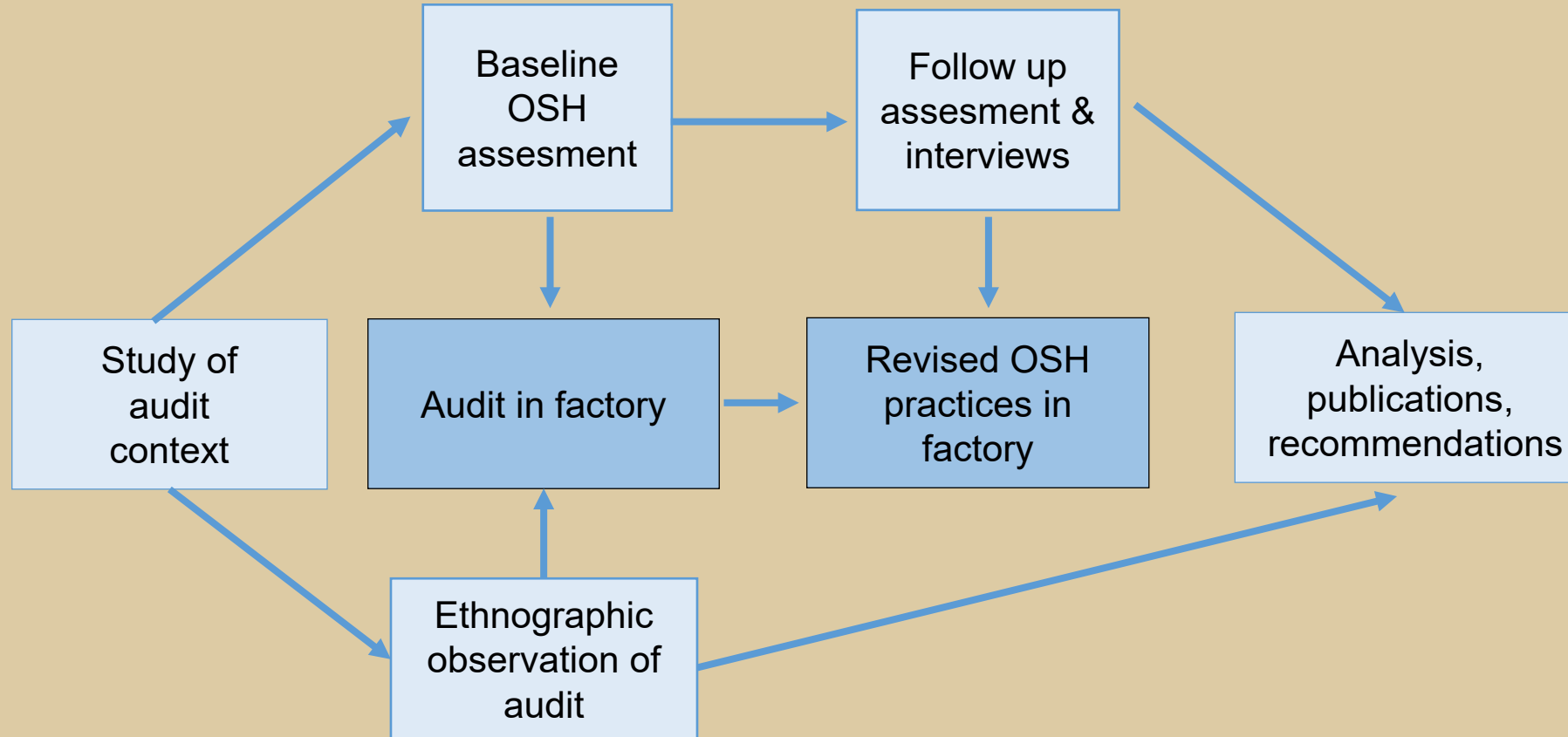
## Sub questions:

→ How do audit market, national context, international buyers, and standards influence the possibilities to implement audits with a positive influence on OSH?

→ How do auditors translate the buyers' commissions, the international standards and the audit firm policies into an audit practice?

→ How do differences in company context and the application of audit methods influence the OSH management practice of factories?

# Project design



# Key project activities

- Mapping of the audit market in Bangladesh, including audit providers as well as standards, codes of conduct, and procedures used in audits
- Review of scientific studies of social compliance audits
- Study of audits practices in approximately 100 factories in the garment sector and other export sectors in Bangladesh
- Dialogue with and dissemination of results to stakeholders and the scientific community

# The formal framework

→ University of Southern Denmark (SDU) & Bangladesh University of Health Sciences (BUHS)

→ Funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danida)

→ Time frame

- 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Expected to be extended due to Corona

→ Project management:

- Peter Hasle, project leader (SDU)
- M. H. Faruquee, project leader (BUHS)

→ Project groups in each university

→ Dialogue with stakeholders

# Questions to expert participants in the stakeholder workshop

1. Key challenges for audits
2. Suggestions to improve audits
3. Suggestions and comments to the research project