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H&M:s comment on fire and building safety in Bangladesh

After the terrible building collapse in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Wednesday April 24, our thoughts go to the ones affected by the tragic accident. None of the textile factories located in the building produced for H&M. We do not allow any residential building for garments industry, and to ensure building and fire safety in Bangladesh H&M took a decision in 2009 that we do not allow any shared buildings.

It is important to remember that this disaster is an infrastructure problem in Bangladesh and not a problem specific to the textile industry. The fact that this wasn't any of our suppliers factories doesn't mean that we are not engaging in the process of contributing to constructive solutions.

Many different stakeholders need to work together in order to find long-lasting improvements. H&M are looking into how we, together with a joint force, can influence in this issue. On April 29, H&M, other international buyers, NGO's and stakeholders gathered in a meeting arranged by GIZ and IndustryAll regarding the new initiative on fire & building safety in Bangladesh. The content of the Fire & Safety Building Agreement is currently being discussed by all concerned stakeholders, including H&M, and the deadline to commit is 15 May.