

LABOUR MIGRATION FROM BANGLADESH 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES



**Tasneem Siddiqui
Rabeya Nasrin Sultana
Nusrat Mahmood
Anika Tabasum Barsha**

Labour Migration from Bangladesh 2022

Achievement and Challenges

Introduction

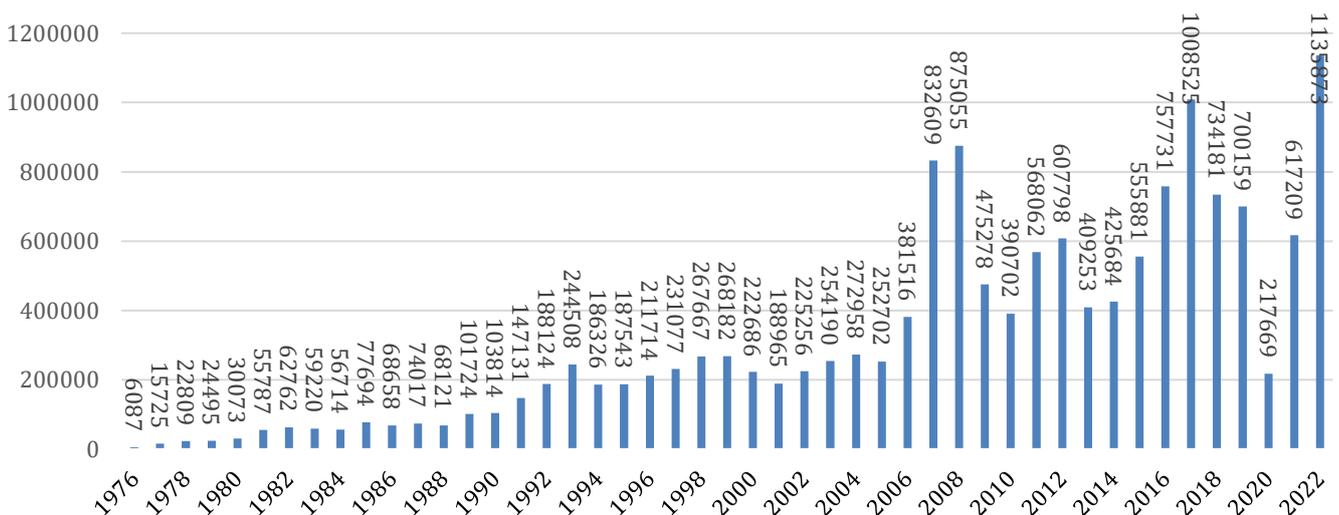
Russia-Ukraine war is one of the important political events of 2022. This war is not only affecting the economy of the two countries but it is also affecting the world economy in various ways. In case of Bangladesh it is not an exception. This year too, the report highlights the achievements and challenges of labour migration in 2022. It is divided into seven parts. Section 1 presents the statistics of migration flows and patterns while Section 2 focuses on the initiatives and issues at the national and international levels. Section 3 reviews the activities of the service providing agencies. The changes that have been made in international law and policy of migration sector is discussed in section 4. Section 5 and section 6 focuses on international law and the role of civil society organisations. The report is concluded with recommendations and conclusions.

1. Labour Migration from Bangladesh 2020

1.1 Flow of Migrants

During the post COVID-19 period, the international migration flows have been increasing gradually. According to BMET, the total number of workers who migrated from Bangladesh in 2021 stood at 6,17,209. This year (2022), a total of 1,135,873 Bangladeshi workers migrated to different countries of the world including the Gulf, other Arab and South-East Asian countries. The flow of migration has increased by 84 percent in 2022 in comparison to the previous year.

Figure 1.1.1: Labour migration from Bangladesh 1976-2022



Prepared with BMET data by RMMRU

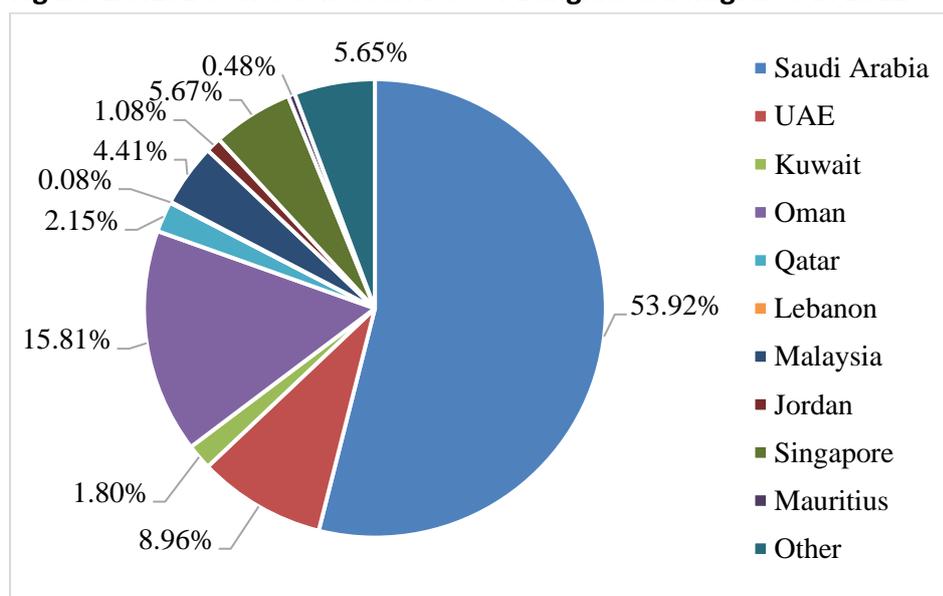
1.2 Female Migration

A total of 1,054,66 female workers migrated from Bangladesh for work in 2022. Compared to 2021, the flow of female migration increased by 31.6 percent this year (80,143 in 2021). However, this year the female migration in international migration flows has not increased to the extent that the male migration has increased. 9.3 percent of the total international migration flows of this year is female migration.

1.3 Countries of Destination

A total of 11,35,873 migrants joined work abroad in 2022. Figure 1.3.1 shows that Saudi Arabia received the highest number of migrants this year. The country is considered as the largest labour market for Bangladesh. In 2022, 6,12,418 people from Bangladesh joined Saudi Arabia for work, which is 54 percent of the total migration. The second-largest flow was to Oman (1,79,612 migrants, 16%). This year United Arab Emirates is the third largest destination country (1,01,775 workers, 9%) and Singapore holds the 4th position by receiving 64,383 (6%) of workers. The following countries are Malaysia (50,090 workers, 4.41 percent, fifth largest) and Qatar (24,447 workers, 2.15 percent, sixth largest), respectively.

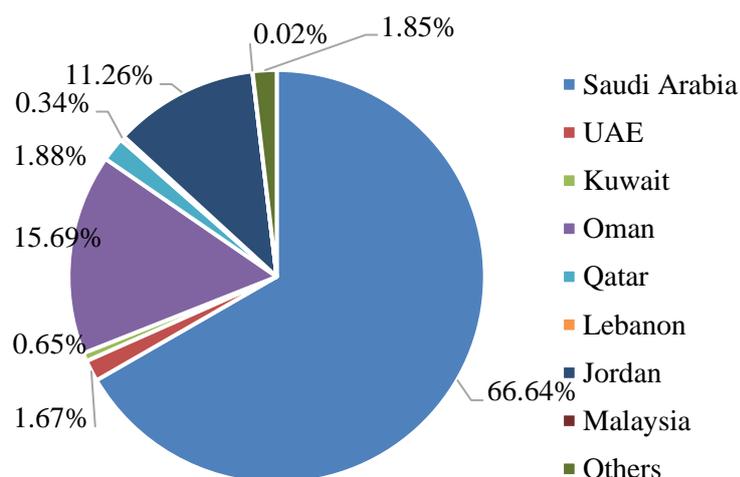
Figure 1.3.1: Destination Countries of Bangladeshi Migrants in 2022



Prepared with BMET data by RMMRU

In case of female migration as well, Saudi Arabia is the main destination country in 2022. About 67 percent of total female migration (70,279 workers) took place to this country in 2022. The second-largest flow occurred in Oman (16,544 workers, 16 percent), the third largest in Jordan (11,879 workers, 11.26 percent), the fourth largest in Qatar (1,982 workers, 2 percent) and the fifth largest female migration flow was to the United Arab Emirates (1,761 workers, 1.67 percent).

Figure 1.3.2: Destination Countries of Bangladeshi Female Migrants in 2022

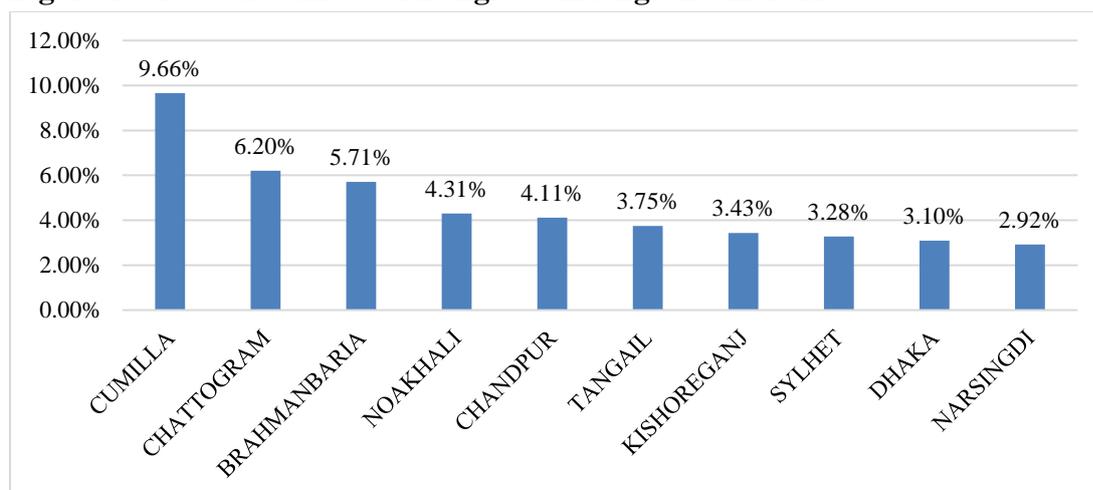


Prepared with BMET data by RMMRU

1.4 Source Area

The major source areas of international migration in 2022 are Cumilla, Chattogram, Brahmanbaria, Noakhali, Chandpur, Tangail, Kishoreganj, Sylhet, Dhaka and Narsingdi. The largest outflow of international migrants was from Cumilla district. This year it accounted for the 9.66 percent of the total flow (97,003 migrant workers). Chattogram ranked second with 62,270 workers constituting 6.20% of the total flow. 5.71 percent migrated (57,322 migrant workers) from Brahmanbaria, 4.31 percent (43,260 migrant workers), 4.11 percent (41,292 migrant workers), 3.75 percent (37,631 migrant workers) and 3.43 percent (34,453 migrant workers) migration was from Noakhali, Chandpur, Tangail and Kishoreganj respectively.

Figure 1.4.1: Source Areas of Bangladeshi Migrants in 2022

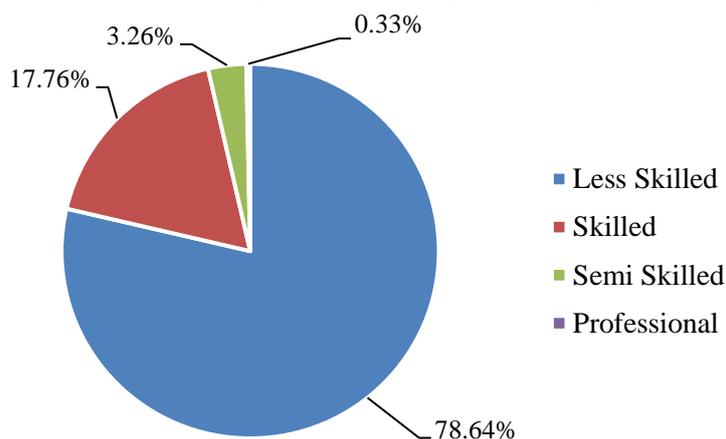


Prepared with BMET data by RMMRU (Data up to November 2022)

1.5 Skill Composition

Among the Bangladeshi migrant workers divided into 4 categories, the percentage of workers migrated as professionals is low. However, it has slightly increased in 2022 (till 21 December) compared to last year (2021). 0.14 percent workers migrated as professionals in 2021. As of December 21 in 2022, 0.33 percent of international migration falls into this category (Figure 1.5.1).

Figure 1.5.1: Skill Composition of Bangladeshi Migrant Workers in 2022 (as of 21 December)



Prepared with BMET data by RMMRU

Percentage of workers migrated as skilled decreased in 2022 compared to previous year. In 2021, 21.33 percent migrated as skilled workers. In 2022 it came down to 17.76 percent. There was no significant change in the percentage of the migration of the semi-skilled workers. 3.26 percent of semi-skilled workers migrated in 2022; which was 3.28 percent in 2021. The percentage of unskilled workers has increased this year as well. In 2022 as of December 21, 78.64 percent migrated as unskilled workers, which was 75.24 percent in 2021.

1.6 Remittances

A total of 11,35,873 workers migrated abroad in 2022. Yet the growth of remittance flow of this year is negative. In 2022, Bangladeshi migrants have remitted US\$ 21.28 billion. The flow of remittance has decreased by 3.53 percent in 2022 in compared to last year. Table 1.6.1 shows the year-on-year change in the remittance flows and the number of migrants going abroad. From 2001 to 2010, a massive increase in remittance flows was observed. The remittance flow dropped to 2.7 percent in 2010, however in case of rest of the years the increase in the flow even reached 37.5 percent. Between 2011 and 2022, remittance flow increased at a rate of 10 percent to 18 percent. In case of some of years of this timeline, remittance flows were negative (2013, 2016 and 2017). However, a huge increase in the flow of migration was seen in 2016 and 2017.

This demonstrates that there is not much correlation between remittance flow and the flow of migration. Decline in the remittance flow depends on various factors. For example, the current status of the total stock of international migrants. About 85,000,00 workers have gone abroad in the last 14 years. The migrant cannot send remittances during the first year of international

migration. Remittance flows increase in the second year of migration. A large number of workers migrated but returned after being subjected to various fraudulence and for not being able to work.

Table 1.6.1: Changes in Number of Migrant Workers and Remittance Flows in Past Years (2001-2022)

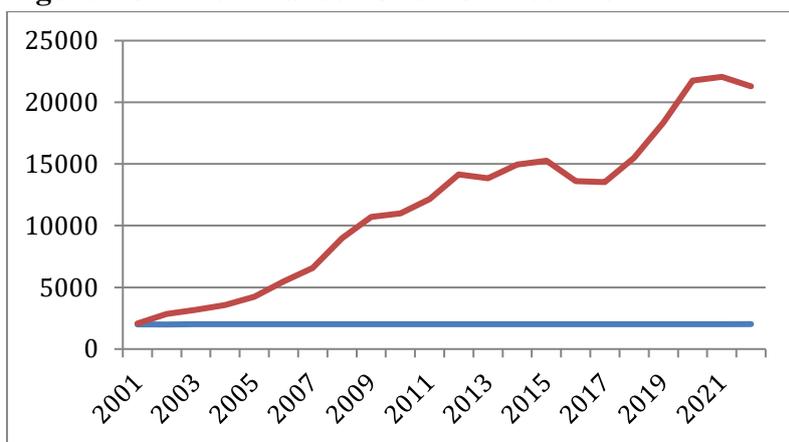
<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of International Migrants</i>	<i>Changes in Percentage</i>	<i>Remittance (US Dollars)</i>	<i>Changes in Percentage</i>
2001	189060		2071.0	
2002	225256	19.2	2847.8	37.5
2003	254190	12.8	3177.6	11.6
2004	272958	7.4	3565.3	12.2
2005	252702	-7.4	4249.9	19.2
2006	381516	51.0	5484.1	29.0
2007	832609	118.2	6562.7	19.7
2008	875055	5.1	8979	36.8
2009	475278	-45.7	10717.7	19.4
2010	390702	-17.8	11004.7	2.7
2011	568062	45.4	12168.1	10.6
2012	607798	7.0	14164.0	16.4
2013	409253	-32.7	13832.1	-2.3
2014	425684	4.0	14942.6	8.0
2015	555881	30.6	15,271.0	2.2
2016	757731	36.3	13609.8	-10.9
2017	1008525	33.1	13526.8	-0.6
2018	734181	-27.2	15497.7	14.6
2019	700159	-4.6	18354.9	18.4
2020	217669	-68.9	21752.3	18.5

2021	617209	183.6	22,063.8	1.4
2022	11,35,873	84	21,284.86	-3.53

Source: Prepared BMET and Bangladesh Bank data by RMMRU

This year as well, the highest remittances came from Saudi Arabia which accounted for 18.94 percent of the total remittances (3.7 billion USD). The second highest remittances came from the United States (3.2 billion, 16.77 percent). This is followed by the United Arab Emirates (\$2.3 billion, 12.25 percent), United Kingdom (\$1.9 billion, 9.80 percent) and Kuwait (\$1.5 billion, 7.72 percent), respectively.

Figure 1.6.1: Remittance flows from 2001-2022



Prepared with BMET data by RMMRU

Table 1.6.2: Remittance Flows by Country of Employment in 2022

Country	US Dollar (Million)	%
Bahrain	501.94	2.56
Kuwait	1511.17	7.72
Oman	686.03	3.50
Qatar	1276.25	6.52
Saudi Arabia	3709.1	18.94
United Arab Emirates	2399.66	12.25
Italy	1066.41	5.44
Malaysia	965.04	4.93
Singapore	330.45	1.69
United Kingdom	1919.02	9.80
United States	3284.35	16.77
Others	1,936.23	9.89
Total	19585.65	100

Source: Prepared with Bangladesh Bank data by RMMRU (Data up to November 2022)

2. Important Incidents in the Migration Sector

2.1 Migration to Malaysia

In December 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Bangladesh and Malaysia to recruit migrant workers from Bangladesh. At the beginning of 2022, formal discussions also began between the two countries on a draft proposal regarding the process of implementing this MoU.¹ Both of the governments discussed the prevention of access of any syndicates in the Malaysian labour market to recruit Bangladeshi migrant workers as well as any kind of irregular transactions. Government of Bangladesh provided a list of 275 recruiting agents to avert the syndicate's influence on Malaysian labour market and the migration costs, but the Malaysian government selected only 25 recruiting agencies to recruit workers.² After nearly six months of continuous exchange of letters between the governments of the two countries, a joint working group meeting was held in Dhaka in June this year in the presence of Bangladesh Expatriate Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad and Malaysia's Human Resource Minister M Saravanan. In this meeting, the Malaysian government reiterated its decision to recruit through agencies of its choice.³ Last year, association of recruiting agencies-BAIRA organized numbers of programmes such as creating Anti-Syndicate Alliance, organising human chain, discussion etc. in demand of a syndicate-free Malaysian labour market. In the month of April of this year, BAIRA's Anti-Syndicate Coalition held a press conference demanding that like the other 13 countries of origin, all legal recruiting agencies should be allowed to send migrant workers to Malaysia. At the beginning of September 2022, the new Executive Committee of BAIRA was elected. In late September, the Malaysian government selected another 50 recruiting agencies to send migrant workers.⁴ Although there are 1500 legal recruiting agencies in Bangladesh, only 75 agencies are currently allowed to send workers, which the newly elected Executive Committee of BAIRA did not protest about. Before BAIRA's election, those who were involved in different activities demanding to allow all recruiting agencies to send migrant workers to Malaysia, were seen to be withdrawing from their moral position after being elected in the election. In the MoU, the provision of recruiting workers from BMET's database had been included. The registration of interested workers started from June 2022.⁵ After a gap of almost four years, 27,800 Bangladeshi workers migrated to Malaysia till November 2022.⁶

2.2 Increasing of Incentives in the Remittance Flows

The Ministry of Finance has increased incentives for sending remittances through legal channels at the beginning of 2022. The incentive has been raised from 2% to 2.5% from 1st January, 2022. Even after increasing the incentive, the data of the Bangladesh bank shows that the amount of remittances sent from abroad is decreasing towards the end of 2022. There can be different reasons behind the decline in remittance. According to the data gathered from field, a major portion of migrant workers send remittances through the Islamic Bank. But in this year, the newspapers have published numbers of news about the decrease of money deposits, increase of loan defaults and loan in the Islami Bank and other banks. This results the loss of the migrant workers' trust on these banks. The migrant families feel insecure about keeping

¹<https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=311286>

²<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangla/>

³<https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-61780377>

⁴<https://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/694712>

⁵ ibid

⁶<http://www.old.bmet.gov.bd/BMET/viewStatReport.action?reportnumber=11>

their money in the bank believing that they may not get it back or that the banks may go bankrupt. As a result they are sending their income home through Hundi or other irregular channels. They are also withdrawing the saved money from the bank.⁷ It can be assumed if the incentives under the pension scheme can be increased, the remittance flow will increase. WARBE Development Foundation and OKUP also demanded that incentives should be increased to at least 10% in a round table meeting named 'Challenges and Ways to Address Remittance Flows and Management' organised by RMMRU.

2.3 Reduction in Airfare

At the start of the year the airfares to the Middle East rose abruptly. As a result, Bangladeshi migrant workers, especially those who are migrating for the first time to the Middle East, suffered the most.⁸ One of the reasons behind this increase in the airfares was the 150% percent elevation of jet fuel price due to the Ukraine-Russia war as well as the one-way traffic boost during post-COVID-19.⁹ The travel agencies were creating an artificial crisis by booking massive amounts of tickets from airlines in order to make huge profits. At the beginning of the year, Biman Bangladesh Airlines announced a reduction in fares on five routes to the Middle East. However, according to the ticket sell centres, the tickets for these Middle East routes were already sold out till March.¹⁰ Flight tickets to Riyadh were priced at BDT 30,000-36,000 during pre-pandemic which reached BDT 90,000 after the travel ban was lifted this year.¹¹ However, at the end of the year, the price of air tickets has decreased. At present, the airfare for Riyadh tickets has reduced to BDT 55,000 to 60,000. Before the pandemic, the price of Dhaka-Dubai ticket was BDT 36,000. Later it increased to BDT 70,000-80,000. Currently the tickets are available for BDT 40,000.¹²

2.4 App-based Services for Migrant Workers

‘Ami Probashi’ Mobile Application

During the COVID-19 period, the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment launched a mobile application named 'Ami Probashi' to simplify and digitize services related to overseas employment. Previously, through this app, the migrant workers could register for availing the Covid vaccine and apply for jobs abroad without depending on the sub-agents. Since 2022, the app has been used for pre-departure orientation (PDO) session booking, fee submission for the training and collection of QR code-attached enrollment cards. Migrant workers can download the QR code-contained certificate from this app after completing the training.¹³ According to the information received from the field, the departing migrants are facing a number of problems while downloading the certificate from the 'Ami Probashi' app. Due to lack of technical knowledge, they cannot download this certificate by themselves. Besides, a separate syndicate has been created to download this certificate where they charge money to download the certificate from the app. As a result, the migrant worker has to spend money while downloading the training certificate from the app.

⁷ [রেমিট্যান্সে আরও প্রগোদনার দাবি প্রবাসীদের - The Business Standard](#)

⁸ <https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-63093789>

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ <https://bangla.bdnews24.com/business/article1995420.bdnews>

¹¹ <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangla/>

¹² *ibid*

¹³ <https://www.newsbangla24.com/youth/200314/I-added-Pre-Departure-Orientation-to-the-Pravasi-app>

Safestep Mobile Application

The Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) has been promoting SafeStep, a mobile application related to safe migration, since 2021. RMMRU is providing hands-on training to migrant workers in a number of Technical Training Centers (TTCs) and DEMO offices in the country to use the SafeStep app. Migrant workers who registered into the SafeStep app can upload their important migration related documents by taking photos on their mobile phone or uploading them from the phone folders to the app. They can also verify those documents by sharing through the app with other Safestep app users. Besides this, the migrant workers can enter their salary, loan, migration expenses, remittances etc. information in the 'Budget Calculator' option and do the cost benefit analysis before migration without registering. At the same time, They can learn and prepare about the work environment abroad, the rights of migrants, the correct and safe steps of migration, etc. before going abroad by watching videos through the app's 'E-learning' option. The SafeStep app can provide information on migration as well as emergency help through an automated chatbot from an option called 'Help Center' in case of an emergency situation abroad. Migrants can also contact the hotline of Suara Kami, a migration centric organisation in Malaysia, connecting with this 'Help Center'. A migrant worker from Dubai has returned home safely using the SafeStep app after overcoming complications due to breach of employment contract. While promoting and training the SafeStep app in high schools-colleges in the field, RMMRU found that teenagers or young community members can use the app more easily than adults. They can be used to increase the widespread use of any migration-related app in the future.

2.5 Establishment of Bangabandhu Wage Earners' Center

In March 2022, Bangabandhu Wage Earners' Center near the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport was inaugurated by the Minister Imran Ahmad of the Ministry of Expatriate's Welfare and Overseas Employment.¹⁴ The centre is built on about 140 Katha land by the Wage Earners' Welfare Board which provides temporary accommodation at minimal cost to departing and returnee migrant workers. They can live here for BDT 200 per night. The centre has facilities for airport shuttle and ambulance services with separate accommodation for male and female migrant workers. Currently the centre can provide accommodation support to 40 men and 10 women. Migrants can use safe lockers to store their valuables at the centre along with food facilities at a low cost. The centre also provides briefings to the workers on reintegration and other facilities as well as the migrant workers' responsibility. The centre has telephone, internet and WiFi facilities for migrant workers as well. Apart from this government centre there are safe homes near the airport of other civil society organisations such as RMMRU, OKUP, and BRAC. All these safe homes are providing various services including temporary shelter, primary medical assistance to migrants returning from abroad, especially helpless women migrants for free of charge.

2.6 Voter registration of migrant workers residing abroad and National Identity Cards distribution

The Election Commission of Bangladesh is taking up the process of voter registration and issuance of national identity cards to migrant workers abroad in 2022.¹⁵ To get register for becoming a voter, application can be made by scanning necessary documents and submitting them to the Election Commission online using the passports. Migrant workers can be verified

¹⁴ <https://probashbarta.com/2022/11/21/>

¹⁵ <https://bdservicerules.info>

by the embassies while staying abroad and download the national identity card from online to use it. Their national identity cards will be distributed abroad as well.¹⁶ Through this initiative, the migrants staying abroad will only get the opportunity to become voters. In order to vote, they must come to Bangladesh during the election and be present in person at the polling station to vote.

2.7 The new labour market

In 2022, recruitment of Bangladeshi migrant workers started again in Malaysia, Italy and Greece. From 2018 to 2021, after 4 years of imposing bans on recruiting migrant workers from Bangladesh, Malaysia started taking Bangladeshi migrant workers from August 2022. The demand for migrant workers has also increased in the Middle East due to rising oil prices. BOESL sent 5500 skilled migrant workers to South Korea in 2022, which is a significant aspect of female migration this year.¹⁷ 103 people migrated to Poland till July.¹⁸ Apprentice workers have also started migrating to the East Asian country Japan.¹⁹ The new labour market for Bangladeshi migrants in Eastern Europe is Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova where there is demand for male and female workers.²⁰ More than 10,000 Bangladeshi workers have gone there in the last two years to work in building construction, shipbuilding, agriculture, factories, garments, baby sitting and restaurants.²¹ In February of 2022, Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Greece on sending workers from Bangladesh. According to this MoU, 4,000 Bangladeshi workers will be allowed to work in Greece legally.²² As of May this year, 794 Bangladeshi workers have migrated to the new labour market, Albania.²³ According to the Hong Kong Labour Department and other sources, the country has a shortfall of about 40,000 female domestic workers. In addition, due to the large number of elderly people in Hong Kong, there is a great demand for caregiver jobs at 2/3 times higher wages. This labour market demand can be met by providing appropriate training to Bangladeshi women workers.²⁴

2.8 Re-migration to Bahrain Begins

The Bahrain government is going to issue visas to Bangladeshi migrant workers again after 4 and half years of visa suspension since 2018.²⁵ Due to prolonged visa suspension, many migrant workers were stranded after returning home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Registration of migrant workers who are wishing to return to Bahrain begins in 2022. In view of this, 967 Bangladeshi migrants registered. Based on the employer's response, the embassy has finalized the names of 161 people among them. However, only 11 migrant workers have gone to Bahrain till November this year. Enlisted migrant workers cannot apply themselves. On their behalf, the employer has to complete the visa application on the e-Visa website of the Government of Bahrain.

2.9 Death of Migrant Workers in the Countries of Destination

¹⁶ ibid

¹⁷ স্মরণিকা, আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস, 2022|

¹⁸ <https://m.dailyinqilab.com/article/505950/>

¹⁹ <https://www.bhorerkagoj.com/2022/09/01/>

²⁰ ibid

²¹ ibid

²² ibid

²³ https://probashi.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/probashi.portal.gov.bd/miscellaneous_info/

²⁴ স্মরণিকা, আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস, 2022|

²⁵ <https://www.jugantor.com/national/561573/>

From 2017 to 2021, 15368 Bangladeshi women and men migrant workers died in different destination countries. In the last five years alone, dead body of 548 women migrant workers from destination countries have been returned by Bangladesh. Death certificates accompanying the dead bodies brought back from destination countries often do not clearly explain the causes of death, and the reasons given often do not correspond to the age and health status of the workers. According to the available data, 50 women migrants died committing suicide in Saudi Arabia alone in the last five years with an average age of 33 years and 54 died of heart attacks with an average age of 37 years according to death certificates. The civil society needs to discuss this issue on different international platforms. Government of Bangladesh and other labour-sending countries need to take urgent steps to report timely complaints, re-autopsy the dead bodies of migrants who die of suspected unnatural deaths in the destination countries, and provide legal assistance to their families.

2.10 Tendency to Migrate Abroad rather than Taking Job Opportunities at Home

On November 9, 2022, a job fair was organized by RMMRU at the Technical Training Center (TTC) Cumilla with the participation of numbers of government/private organizations, employers, jobseekers, aspirant migrant workers, returnee migrants and migrant family members. A total of 1050 Curriculum Vitae (CVs) were collected in this fair, out of which 120 people were selected. But it was found that even after being offered a salary of BDT 30,000, the aspirant migrant workers turned it down and said they wanted to migrate abroad instead. Even the job of a sales representative was rejected by the aspirant and returnee migrant workers.

2.11 Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration

There is no specific data on how many people are being trafficked from Bangladesh annually. However, according to data from migration institutions, an average of 5,000 people attempt to cross the border of Bangladesh to developed countries every year. The European Commission's statistics showed that more than 65 thousand migrants have entered Europe from Bangladesh in the last decade.²⁶ Frontex, the Border Agency of the European Union, showed that 8,667 Bangladeshis moved illegally to EU countries last year alone. Among them, 7,574 people went through the Central Mediterranean route and 604 people went through the Eastern Mediterranean route. In addition, 437 people crossed the Balkan border. Meanwhile, Bangladesh ranked second place on Frontex's list of countries where migrants use the riskiest route of the Central Mediterranean from Libya to Italy.²⁷ The statistics show that in January 2022, 7 Bangladeshis died of cold while crossing the Mediterranean Sea from Libya to Europe. There were 287 passengers on that boat at that time and 273 of them were Bangladeshis.²⁸ The country's police arrested more than 500 Bangladeshis from the Mediterranean coast of Libya while crossing to Europe in April this year.²⁹

Currently the most concerning issue in Bangladesh, Rohingya refugees are now considered the main target of human trafficking. The Armed Police Battalion (APBN) rescued 11 Rohingya citizens in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar while trying to smuggle them to Malaysia by the sea in November this year.³⁰

²⁶ <https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-62362397>

²⁷ বাংলাদেশি অভিবাসীরা ইতালি যেতে কেন অবৈধ পথ বেছে নেয়? - The Business Standard

²⁸ shorturl.at/bpW03

²⁹ <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2022/04/26/over-500-bangladeshis-held-while-trying-to-enter-europe-from-libya>

³⁰ <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/h1nv798bxh> -10 November 2022

2.12 Increase of Migration cost

Migration cost for Bangladeshis is still the highest in the region despite a slight reduction, said the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report 2022.³¹ The cost of migration cannot be controlled to migrate to Saudi Arabia despite being the main labor market of Bangladesh in the Middle East. Migrants have to pay two to three times more than the government fixed migration cost.³² Due to the additional cost of migration, a worker has to work for at least two to two and a half years to pay the expenses of migration. In the case of workers going to Malaysia, the cost of the Bangladesh part has been fixed at Taka 78,990. However, the workers have to spend several times more money than the government fixed costs. There is information about taking Taka 2.5 lakh to Taka 4 lakh from a worker.³³

3. Service providers

3.1 District Employment and Manpower Office (DEMO)

Currently, 42 District Manpower and Employment Offices (DEMO) and 4 Divisional Employment and Manpower Offices are functioning under BMET. These DEMO offices offer online registration, fingerprinting, awareness-raising campaigns, etc. services. 7 DEMOs, Chattogram, Cumilla, Rangpur, Pabna, Jashore, Sylhet, and Gopalganj provide Smart Card services and 11 DEMOs offer pre-departure orientation.³⁴ Additionally, 22 DEMOs have been fully prepared even though the recruitment has already been completed for providing services to migrants. This year, the government undertook the initiative of providing a migration clearance through the "Ami Probashi" mobile application to make the services easier for migrants. Apart from this, initiatives have been taken to decentralize the arbitration process in Chittagong, Cumilla, and Narsingdi DEMOs for resolving migration issues.³⁵

3.2 Technical Training Center (TTC)

Under the 8th Five-Year Plan, the government has emphasised skill development training at the grassroots. Under this initiative, 24 new Technical Training Centers (TTC) have been inaugurated and functionalised this year and more 15 TTCs are under construction to develop more skilled manpower under BMET.³⁶ In addition to the existing centres setting up of new training centres in all upazilas of the country has also been started by the government.

However, even though the training centres are developed from the development budget of the government, there is not enough budgets allocated for management to ensure standard training. So to make the training more effective and increase the level of skill of the migrant's government should develop partnership with NGOs and private organizations.

Currently, language courses are running in 41 TTCs; Out of which 30 TTCs offer the Japanese language, 7 TTCs teach Japanese caregivers training, 11 TTCs provides the English language, 18 TTCs offer the Korean language, 2 TTCs provides Chinese (Cantonese) and 1 TTC teach Chinese (Mandarin) language. As an initiative to bring training under international

³¹ <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/national/migration-cost-for-bangladeshis-still-highest-in-the-region-us-report-1658322560>

³² <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/migration/high-migration-cost-eats-13-remittance-income-413970>

³³ <https://www.dhakapost.com/exclusive/133552>

³⁴ <http://bmet.portal.gov.bd/site/page/53e682c1-3a63-4b6f-a69f-00fb5032208d/>

³⁵ IBID

³⁶ <https://www.banglatribune.com/national>

accreditation, Electronics, Hotel Management, Housekeeping and Chef/Cookery courses are being included in 4 TTCs.³⁷ Under UK based accreditation body the 'City & Guilds'. Housekeeping trade is being imparted in 43 TTCs and the training duration has been increased from 1 month to 2 months this year. Furthermore 3 TTCs offer Heavy Equipment Operation (Crane, Rope Roller, Fork Lift) Course, in 4 TTCs Hospitality Course and 64 TTCs offer employment friendly driving course (including Driving, Automobile, Arabic and English Language). BMET is currently providing "Recognition of Prior Learning" (RPL) certificates in various trades through 44 technical training centers at full government cost to experienced workers who have returned from the impact of Covid-19.³⁸

3.3 Wage Earners Welfare Board

In 2022, the Board has disbursed Taka.3,00,60,000 financial assistance for medical treatment to 383 injured and sick migrant workers. 2,01,90,000 was paid by the board to 247 migrant workers in the previous year 2021. From 2010 to 2022, the Board has paid a total of Taka. 14,19,00,000 to 1,482 migrant workers.

A total of 3,222 dead bodies of migrant workers have been brought back to the country till November 2022 and the board has paid a total of Taka 11,27,70,000 to the families for transportation and burial cost. In 2021, a total of 3,803 dead bodies were returned to the country and a total of Tk. 13,31,10,000 was paid for their transportation and burial cost. From 1993 to November 2022, the board paid a total of Taka 147,44,70,000 for the transportation and burial of 46,503 dead bodies.

Taka 181,69,30,000 has been paid to the families of 6114 deceased migrants in 2022 where 195,66,00,000 was paid to the families of 6,575 deceased migrants in the previous year 2021. From 1996 to 2022, the Board has paid a total of Tk 1282, 40,00,000 to the families of 47,339 deceased migrants.

The board has disbursed Taka 73,38,40,000 against 1142 migrants in 2022 as annual death compensation, regular dues, insurance, service benefits. In the previous year 2021, against 1,306 migrants, the board distributed Taka 77,95,50,000. From 1977 to 2022, the Board disbursed Taka 824,88,30,000 against 22,083 migrants.

Wage Earners Welfare Board provides scholarships to the children of migrant workers from class six to final year. In 2022, the Board has provided scholarships of Taka 9,85,02,000 to 4450 children of migrant workers. Taka 3,09,34,000 were distributed to 2031 students in the last year 2021. From 2012 to November 2022, the Board distributed Taka.36,84,51,000 to the children of 22,056 migrant workers.

In 2022, 46,160 people have registered for Diaspora membership. Last year 2021 registered 45,764 people. A total of 1,43,467 people registered for Diaspora membership from June 2017 to November 2022.³⁹

3.4 Labor Welfare Wing

At present Bangladesh Embassies located in 28 countries have a total of 30 Labour Welfare Wings working to serve the migrant workers who are in abroad. They also provide services to

³⁷ Shopnodana, International Migrant Day-2022, page 26

³⁸ Information collected from BMET

³⁹ http://www.wewb.gov.bd/site/view/monthly_reports/

the returnee migrant workers through the Wage Earners' Welfare Board. The main responsibility of the Labour Welfare Wing is to protect the rights and security of the migrant workers. The Wage Earners' Welfare Board provides legal assistance in handling cases in different courts, recovery of compensation, arrears and other benefits, bringing dead bodies, running safe homes for runaway/deserter women workers through these Labour Welfare Wings.

3.5 Probashi Kallyan Bank

In the fiscal year of 2022-2023, up to December 2022, Probashi Kolllyan Bank has disbursed a total of Taka 367.98 crores to 17,023 migrants as migration, reintegration, special reintegration, Bangabandhu Migrant Large Family Loan, Women Migration, Women Reintegration and Self-employment loans. In the fiscal year 2022-2023, up to December the total collected amount is 233.95 crores. In the last fiscal year 2021-2022, this Bank provided loans of Taka 900.22 crore to a total of 39,225 migrant.

This year, 294.01 crores have been received by 14,366 aspirant migrants as migration loans from this bank. Besides 33.78 crore taka received by 1201 returnee migrants as reintegration loans. This bank provided Taka 0.78 crore to 46 people for women's migration loan and Tk 0.36 crore to 14 people for a women's reintegration loan

In the financial year the special reintegration loans of Taka 10.52 crore have been provided to 374 returnees up to December 2022, Bangabandhu Migrant Large Family Loan has given Taka 16.35 crore to 582 people and 440 migrants received Self-employment loans of Taka 12.18 crores. The total amount of taka 2051.80 loan has been disbursed from this bank to 1,10,564 from the financial year 2011-2012 to the financial year 2022-2023 till December 2022, Against this, the total amount collected is 939.40 crores.⁴⁰

The Bangabandhu Migrant Large Family Loan's maximum amount has been increased by the Bank's Board of Directors from Taka 10 lakh to Taka 50 lakh. The tenure of the loan has also been increased from 05 years to 10 years taking into account the nature of the project/institution, size and potential interest and repayment capacity. Currently, the bank has 101 branches across the country. There are various challenges in disbursing loans to returnee workers through this bank. Loan schemes for returnee workers need to be made gender-friendly. The bank is facing various challenges in disbursing the allocated loan amount. Loan services, agent banking, and special loan packages for returning women workers need to be developed.

3.6 BOESL

BOESL has sent 18,342 migrant workers to South Korea, Jordan, Hong Kong and Seychelles, Mauritius, Japan, Kuwait, Croatia, and Malaysia as of December 2022. It represents 2% of all migrants this year. Among them, 11,688 skilled migrant workers migrated through BOESL to Jordan and 5,892 to South Korea alone. In the fiscal year 2021-2022, BOESL sent 5,225 migrant workers to Jordan, Hong Kong and Seychelles. BOESL has so far been sending 1 lakh 35 thousand skilled, semi-skilled and low-skilled migrant workers to around 32 countries. EPS has been particularly successful in manpower deployment since 2008 through BOESL.

⁴⁰ Information collected from Probashi Kollayan Bank

3.7 Complaints

BMET accepts online and direct complaints of migrants of fraud and cheating. In upto November 2022 BMET received 1145 complaints. During this period, 309 cases were resolved. An amount of BDT 1.42 crore was paid as compensation to the affected migrants and families by BMET. ⁴¹In 2021, a total of 528 complaints lodged in BMET.

3.8 Recruiting Agency

In 2022 there were 1733 licensed recruiting agencies in Bangladesh. ^[2] Among these agencies 605 send women workers to Saudi Arabia. The BMET has suspended the license of 182 recruiting agencies after investigating various allegations and cancelled the license of 7 agencies this year. ^[3] In order to manage recruitment agencies, the Ministry introduced the Online Recruiting Agencies Information Management System (RAIMS) this year. RMMRU presented two possible approaches to the government to provide registration of middlemen through long-standing advocacy by civil society organizations to incorporate them into the legal framework. Initiatives are currently underway to bring middlemen into the legal framework.

4. Changes in Migration Laws and Policies

4.1 Action Plan of Eighth Five-Year Plan

An action plan has been developed in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation for the implementation of the Eighth Five-Year Plan in 2022. This action plan is formed around 10 agendas to change the perception for migrant workers' development and employment in the diaspora. This action plan sets out specific goals, timelines for achieving goals, current work progress, and names of responsible agencies for each agenda item in terms of importance. The plan has been approved by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and is currently awaiting to be published.

4.2 Drafting of Bangladesh National Reintegration Policy for Migrant Workers

In 2022, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment drafted a policy for the reintegration of returnee migrant workers. The draft has been revised several times based on the comments and suggestions of other different ministries and civil society organisations. This draft policy is designed for the migrant workers' development, establish their rights and protection. To ensure the engagement of all stakeholders and effective implementation, the policy has been drafted taking into account the views of both the government and civil society. The policy has been drafted focusing on 5 aspects - creation of a database to store information of the returnee migrant workers and a 'one stop centre' for them, their social reintegration including universal social protection, their economic reintegration including active labour market policies, ensuring physical and mental wellbeing of returned migrant workers and their family members and effective coordination and management of reintegration processes.

4.3 Policy on Health Examination of Aspirant Bangladeshi Migrant Workers 2022 (Revised)

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment prepared a new draft in November 2021 by amending and adding some paragraphs of the Policy on Health

⁴¹ Information collected from BMET

Examination of Bangladeshi Workers Going Abroad, 2019. Listing of medical centres for health examination, eligibility of being listed, their responsibilities and duties, selection committee consisted of 8 members for listing and expert committee for supervision and inspection of all these medical centres and their responsibilities, irregularities committed by the listed medical centres and their remedies, the application form for being included as a medical centre - these provisions have been added in the revised policy.⁴² Civil society made a number of suggestions in the 2021 draft policy. However, all these recommendations are not included in the revised policy.

4.4 Irregular, Undocumented, Destitute and Migrant Bangladeshi Workers' Dead body Transportation Expenditure Policy, 2022

Transporting the dead body of a migrant worker from abroad to the country is expensive and time-consuming and often it is not possible to bring the body home due to the inability and incapacity of the employer or because the deceased migrant worker is irregular. In 2022, the government of Bangladesh formulated a new policy to bring the dead bodies of Bangladeshi migrant workers to the country quickly.⁴³ Under this policy, if a migrant worker found to be irregular has died in the destination country or has died there in dangerous conditions being an irregular or being a victim of traffic; the Bangladesh government and related institutions will assist in bringing their dead bodies to the country. However, in this case, the Bangladesh Mission or the Labour Welfare Wing will confirm the nationality of the deceased migrant and the availability of assistance. The policy mentions the application process for bringing back the deceased migrants' bodies as well as the responsibilities of the Bangladesh Mission or Labor Welfare Wing, District Employment Office, Expatriates' Welfare Desk at the airport, and the Ministry.

4.5 BMET Training Guidelines 2022

In 2022, a guideline has been developed under the provisions of Section 47 of the Overseas Employment and Migration Act, 2013 and 'Allocation of Business' to provide effective and efficient training in the training institutions under the purview of BMET.⁴⁴ The guideline includes provisions about the selection of occupations and foreign languages for training, training topics, discussion and finalisation of syllabus and training methodology, recruitment of trainers, apprenticeship training, formulation of training syllabus, quality assurance and evaluation of training, public-private partnership, pre-departure orientation, certification, skill certificate acclimatisation, etc. Under this guideline, BMET has been directed to prepare and maintain a skill database with information on all trained skilled workers.

4.6 Development of National Action Plan on Internal Displacement Management

The Groundswell Report of the World Bank 2021 projects that by 2050 about 216 Million people in 6 regions of the world, could be internally displaced due to the long-term impact of climate change on water, agriculture, and rising sea levels.⁴⁵ The same report predicts that 40 million people could move within their country in South Asia and 19 Million people could

⁴² http://www.dpp.gov.bd/upload_file/gazettes/42939_24002.pdf

⁴³ http://www.probashi.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/probashi.portal.gov.bd/policies/4e84651e_e0de_4dca_8924_9228a444621b/upload-01-03-2022-04.pdf

⁴⁴ <http://www.probashi.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/probashi>.

⁴⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2022/10/31/key-highlights-country-climate-and-development-report-for-bangladesh>

internally migrate in Bangladesh. To address these challenges, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of the Government of Bangladesh developed a 20-year Action Plan engaging 27 ministries and its relevant departments, development partners and NGOs to implement the adopted National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management, 2021. The document incorporates comprehensive plans of the government to be implemented from 2022 to 2042. The action plan has been designed in the purview of the framework of the National Strategy. In order to reduce the vulnerability and increase the resilience of the community, the document emphasizes on various programmes on adaptation to climate change and disaster. It plans to undertake different activities at the district and upazila levels to facilitate international and internal migration as one of the adaption strategies. The Action Plan in association with NGOs and Civil Society Organisations includes awareness programmes on the proper utilisation of remittance among displaced families. In the creation of employment through encouraging decentralization of urban growth centers, the action plan proposes to provide training among internally displaced persons to become entrepreneurs to run small and medium-scale businesses in emerging cities and semi-cities under the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) as the lead agency.

4.7 The National Action Plan of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2018-2022

In 2022, the Government of Bangladesh developed the National Action Plan of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2018-2022 outlining all types of anti-trafficking activities. Although there are several limitations due to Covid-19 in the implementation of this action plan, the position of Bangladesh in the World Report on Human Trafficking of the United States is now at the second level. Although the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act National Action Plan 2018-2022 will end this year, but instead of adopting a new plan, the implementation period of this plan will be extended to 2025. Through this, this action plan can be adopted and implemented in accordance with the National Five Year Plan from 2026 onwards.⁴⁶

5. Protection of Migrant Workers in the International Law

5.1 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)

In order to implement the Global Compact on Migration, created with the objective of safe, orderly and regular migration, its 163 member states decided to establish the International Migration Review Forum or IMRF which will act as a primary intergovernmental and international platform to share and review progress in implementing all aspects of the Compact at the local, national, regional and global levels. Each edition of the International Migration Review Forum will result in an intergovernmental agreed Progress Declaration.⁴⁷ This review forum will be held every four years starting from 2022. The first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) of 2022 was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 17 to 20 May. It is attended by all member states, stakeholder representatives and UN agencies. The Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in relation to the Compact is also discussed. The first meeting of the forum was held with four interactive multi-stakeholder

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www.bnfe.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bnfe.portal.gov.bd/notices/15421915_2d73_419b_bfa7_1d4dea3dd79a/2022-11-30-08-38-7600dfa6edd1d1101cf2be60b938ca31.pdf

⁴⁷ <https://www.iom.int/news/first-united-nations-forum-international-migration-concludes-today>

round tables, a policy dialogue and a plenary. The forum was the first opportunity to celebrate the success of GCM implementation and discuss its obstacles since the creation of the Compact in 2018. Prior to the start of the forum, an informal hearing/meeting was held with the stakeholders. Through this meeting feedback from the discussions held at local, national and regional levels in 2021 was gathered and incorporated into the forum. While the Forum's Progress Declaration identified climate change as one of the drivers of migration, no new guidelines were added for displaced persons due to climate change.⁴⁸ Limited focus was given to addressing the issue of climate change on the state agenda in this declaration.

5.2 Cop-27 and Migration

COP-27 or the United Nation Climate Change Conference was held from November 6 to 19, 2022 in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt. The main topic of this year's conference was the issue of loss and damages due to the eventual increase in global warming in the context of changing conditions due to the effects of climate change. The definition of the 'Loss and Damage' agreement, the terms of the agreement, under this agreement how rich countries are to pay compensation and to what amount as well as among the aggrieved countries who will receive the compensation to what extent- these issues are discussed in the conference. Internal displacement and migration are also considered a form of loss and damage. Bangladesh Government had given emphasis on taking more action on climate-induced migration and displacement in the accompanying side-event besides the main conference of COP-27.⁴⁹

5.3 Colombo Process Thematic Area Working Group Meeting

The Colombo Process is a regional consultative process of twelve countries that helps its member states to manage labour migration in a safe, orderly and dignified manner and supports in the formulation and development of new migration policies to implement at the national level, exchange knowledge, etc. To promote ethical recruitment practices, Bangladesh chaired the Eighth and Ninth Colombo Process Thematic Area Working Group meetings which were held in August 2022. As part of the practicing of ethical recruitment, the Government of Bangladesh amended the Overseas Employment and Migration Act 2013 and made room in the Act for the regularisation of the sub-agents. RMMRU presented its three developed models for registration of the sub-agents before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment, Parliamentary Caucus and BMET. Before this meeting of the Thematic Working Group, RMMRU also presented these models to the Government of Bangladesh. In all of these three models, BMET is shown as the main registration authority on behalf of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. The first model is about sub-agents nominated by recruiting agencies who will get registered by BMET, the second model is registration by BMET after processing applications by the District Employment and Manpower Office (DEMO) and the third model is registration of the sub-agents by BMET who are nominated by BAIRA.⁵⁰

5.4 High Level Meeting of Abu-Dhabi Dialogue

⁴⁸<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2022/6/7/the-first-international-migration-review-forum-progress-on-climate-migration>

⁴⁹<https://barta24.com/details/national/170186/a-call-for-change-for-concerted-action-to-reduce-mass-migration>

⁵⁰<http://www.rmmru.org/newsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sub-Agent-Registration-Model-Bangla.pdf>

In 2022, Sixteen labour-sending and labour-receiving member countries of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD), participated in a high-level meeting in 2022 under the chairmanship of Pakistan. Numbers of experts and representatives from the private sector and international organisations attended this meeting. UAE will host ADD's seventh ministerial meeting in 2023 where seven labour-receiving countries and nine labour-sending countries will participate.⁵¹ The meeting also discussed the upcoming meeting. The meeting discussed a number of issues including enabling member states to manage labour markets and enhancing workers' welfare through modern technology, expanding the umbrella of wage protection measures to include wage protection for domestic workers, evaluation of alternatives and expected outcomes, facilitating banking services. In the meeting, the discussion also revolved around the safe migration of temporary workers including domestic workers using modern technology in ADD member states, improving workers' easy access to health-related information, facilitating skills transfer between origin and destination countries and ways to create successful skill partnerships in the future. Discussions at the meeting focused on identifying guidelines for skill-based partnerships, incorporating gender considerations in policy frameworks to promote recruitment and employment aligning with the labour market needs, and facilitating high employment of women to work in in-demand sectors.

5.5 Reformation of Law for Female Domestic Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia

The government of Saudi Arabia has reformed laws for female domestic workers under Vision 2030.⁵² According to the newly amended law, female domestic workers can change jobs without employer's permission. Moreover, if the employer wants to change the workplace of the employee, he must take the permission of the employee. If the employer changes the workplace without the employee's permission and fires or terminates the employment contract before the expiry of the employment period, the employer will be liable to penalties. Under this Act, there is scope of complaint against the employer if the worker is not paid on time or is engaged in dangerous work.

6. Civil Society Initiatives

Bangladesh Civil Society for Migrants (BCSM)

Bangladesh Civil Society for Migrants (BCSM), the leading civil society platform on migration, has played important roles in 2022 at the local, national and international levels. BCSM appealed to BMET and Wage Earners' Welfare Board to bring back 26 migrants from Kyrgyzstan, Dubai, Saudi Arabia who were subjected to different tortures despite regular migration. At the same time, this coalition of 20 organisations also demanded that the responsible recruiting agency for the plight of all these migrants be brought under justice. In 2022, BCSM also expressed concerns over the news of the new syndicate regarding sending workers to Malaysia and demanded that migrant workers be sent by all legal recruiting agencies to Malaysia.

RMMRU provided 12,85,127 taka to 87 vulnerable returnee migrants for reintegration purposes with the support of MFA in coordination with 3 migration organizations. In current year RMMRU developed a service directory for the returnee migrants analysing the capability of 1920 service providing organisations from 330 unions in 30 upazilas of Comilla and Mymensingh which will help to implement the RAISE project of WEWB related to returnee

⁵¹ www.wam.ae/en/details/1395303098547

⁵² সৌদি আরবে নারী গৃহকর্মীদের জন্য আইনের পরিবর্তন - probashbarta.com

reintegration. RMMRU provided emergency food, accommodation, transport and health support (both physical and mental) to 1200 vulnerable returnee migrants from its Support Center as in previous years. At the grassroots ,RMMRU raised awareness and provide information services to 1,00,000 migrants and migrant communities Along with this, RMMRU ensured pre departure, pre decision, financial literacy training of 15,872 persons in 2022. Besides, it provided support to collect 86,52,000 taka from grassroots mediation, arbitration from BMET, compensation and financials assistance from WEWB and loan from Probashi Kollayan Bank for migrants.

BRAC has provided 219 pre-decision trainings and 184 pre-departure trainings this year. Through awareness programs like courtyard meetings, school programs, video shows, 3,70,595 people have been being aware off and 3,706 people have been brought under emergency services at the airport and 4,167 migrants have been provided financial management training, financial assistance, psycho-social counseling skills development support for reintegration purposes. It provided training, including language training at field level and other training. Also helped in recovery of Tk 19,40,000 by filing 49 fraud related complaints and settling 9 cases/complaints.

Through 15 financial management trainings, **BOMSA** delivered women economic empowerment training to 375 returnee migrant workers, support to 50 returnee migrant workers with IGA training. Besides assisting in the withdrawal of migrants' salaries of 4,70,000 Taka assisted to collect 20 lakhs as death compensations. BOMSA also provides 32 pre-departure training to 960 women migrants and pre-decision training to 750 women migrants.

BASTOB provided 15 financial training and helped to collect 18,00,000 Taka as death compensation from WEWB and received a bank loan from PKB in addition to providing pre-departure training to a total of 10,674 people in about 111 batches this year.

BNSK provided financial assistance for reintegration, entrepreneurship development training and financial literacy training through TTC to about 64 returnee migrant women and men this year. In 2021, they helped migrant families to recover about 3 lakh taka by settling various complaints about migration at the local level. BNSK conducted 130 pre-decision trainings, 150 pre-deception trainings and received 18 fraud complaints this year.

OKUP provided pre-decision training to 18,355 migrants through 581 sessions and provided pre-departure training to 10,000 migrants through 50 sessions this year. Also handled 264 fraud complaints and compensation applications and helped in recovery of Tk.1,80,20,000 through the settlement of 57 cases/complaints. Through outreach campaigns, awareness programs OKUP raised awareness to 1,45,642 people and 2487 people under emergency services as well as financial literacy training and other training to 1723 people for reintegration purposes.

This year through the Parliamentary Caucus on Migration and Development, the **WARBE** Development Foundation hosted pre-budget discussions and created policy papers for decision-makers. WARBE has collected compensation for the vulnerable migrants of 21,80,000 thousand taka by resolving 38 cases from government and local efforts. From these organizations 32 returnees received training in financial literary, small business management while 52 migrant workers were assisted in reintegrating into society by loan principle, compensation through arbitration/mediation. This year, WARBE has arranged 10 training sessions on financial literacy, 50 pre-decision training, 26 pre-departure training, and received 339 fraud complaints.

Recommendations

- To increase the remittance inflow, steps need to be taken to keep the trust of migrants in banks.
- Newly built Technical Training Centers should functionalise by the government in collaboration of NGOs and private sectors to increase the
- To ensure safe migration, need to engage the school-college-going young students to use the migration-related mobile app with the help of youth.
- In case of unnatural deaths of migrants in the countries of destination steps need to be taken of post-mortem in origin country.
- Functionalise the BAIRA's Legal Cell/ Complaints Cell to ensure the legal assistance to migrants quickly.
- Steps need to be taken to increase the resolved rate of human trafficking cases.

Conclusion

There have been several notable developments in the migration sector this year. After a four-year cease/shutdown, Malaysia started accepting Bangladeshi migrant workers again in 2022. Unfortunately, the role of syndication could not be eradicated in this case. Migrants' trust in banks has declined this year which affects remittance flows through legitimate channels. Repostmortem is the need of the hour in case of susceptible death of migrants in the destination country.

The new TTCs established for the purpose of creating and deploying skilled manpower are basically built/developed from the development budget, even today their allocation in the revenue budget could not be confirmed. The Probashi Kallyan Bank's services for the returnee migrants have increased. Bangabandhu Wage Earners' Center is also a new addition to government services this year.

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has developed an action plan for the implementation of the Eighth Five Year Plan in 2022. The Ministry has prepared a draft policy for the reintegration of the returnee migrant workers. A policy has been formulated regarding the cost of transportation of dead bodies of irregular and vulnerable migrant workers, through which the bodies of irregular migrants who died abroad will be brought back to the country by using money from the 'Corpse Transportation' sector under the revenue budget of the Expatriates' Welfare Ministry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has developed a National Action Plan for Internal Displacement Management where various district and upazila-centric activities have been planned to facilitate adaptation to international and internal migration. This year the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act National Action Plan 2018-2022 has been formulated. A number of important meetings including the follow-up forum 'IMRF' of the Global Compact on Migration, COP-28, Colombo Process Thematic Area Working Group Meeting, high-level meeting of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue have been held on the international platform in 2022. In all these meetings, issues such as ensuring safe migration, adaptation strategies of climate-induced migrants and their safety, the responsibility of the labour-receiving countries, prevention of wage theft etc. were discussed.