

# **LABOUR MIGRATION FROM BANGLADESH 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES**



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Orientation of the SafeStep mobile application for departing migrant workers at TTC

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# Labour Migration from Bangladesh 2022

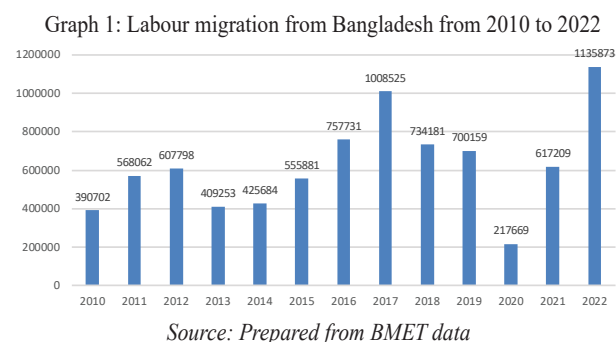
## Achievements and Challenges

The Russia-Ukraine war one of the most important global events of 2022. This war has not only affected the economies of the concerned countries but also impacted the world economy in various ways. Bangladesh is no exception. This 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 in global migration policy are discussed in section 4. Section 5 and section 6 focus on international law and the role of civil society organisations respectively. Recommendations and conclusions are provided in the final section..

### 1. Labour Migration from Bangladesh 2022

#### 1.1 Flow of Migrants

During the post COVID-19 period, the international migration flows have gradually gained pace. BMET figures inform, the total number of workers who migrated to different countries of the world including the Gulf, other Arab and South-East Asian countries from Bangladesh in 2021 stood at 6,17,209. This figure registered a sharp rise to 11,35,873 in 2022.<sup>1</sup> Thus the rise has been 84 percent.



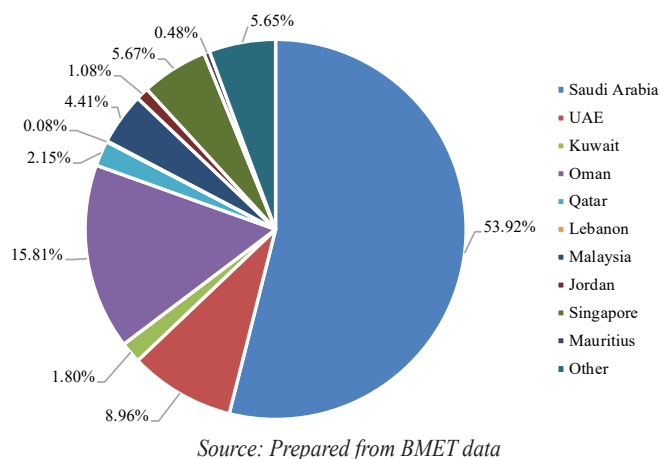
#### 1.2 Female Migration

Female migration constituted 9.3% of the total flow of migrants in 2022 with 1,05,466 women migrating for work in that year. In 2021 the figure was 80,143.

#### 1.3 Countries of Destination

A total of 11,35,873 migrants joined work abroad in 2022. Chart 1 shows that Saudi Arabia has been the principal destination (54 percent) for the Bangladesh labour migrants accounting for 6,12,418 workers. The second-largest flow was to Oman (1,79,612 migrants, 16 percent). In the same year, the United Arab Emirates was the third largest destination country (1,01,775 workers, 9 percent) and Singapore was the 4th largest, receiving 64,383 (6 percent) of workers. The other countries were Malaysia (50,090 workers, 4.41 percent, fifth largest) and Qatar (24,447 workers, 2.15 percent, sixth largest), respectively<sup>2</sup>. In case of female migration as well, Saudi Arabia was the main destination country in 2022. About 67 percent of total female migrants (70,279) went to this country.

Chart 1: Destination Countries of Bangladeshi Migrants in 2022



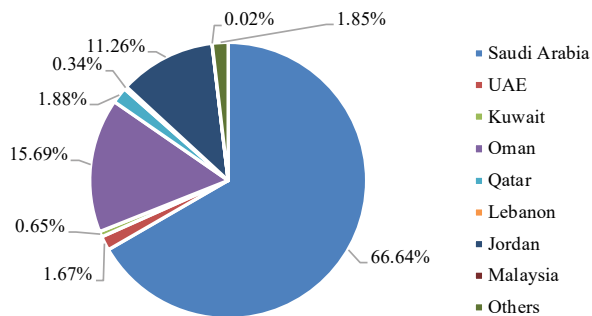
<sup>1</sup>BMET Website

<sup>2</sup>BMET Website



The second-largest flow occurred to Oman (16,544 workers, 16 percent), the third largest to Jordan (11,879 workers, 11.26 percent), the fourth largest to Qatar (1,982 workers, 2 percent) and the fifth largest was to the United Arab Emirates (1,761 workers, 1.67 percent)<sup>3</sup>.

Chart 2: Destination Countries of Bangladeshi Female Migrants in 2022

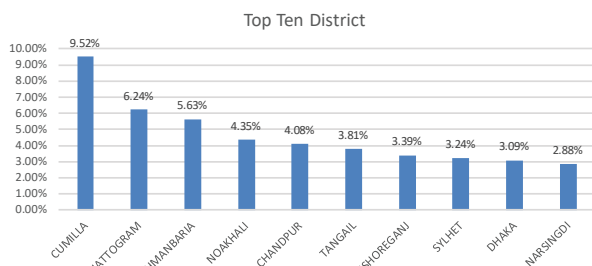


Source: Prepared from BMET data

### 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. It accounted for 9.52 percent of the total flow (1,05,997 migrant workers). Chattogram ranked second with 69,448 workers constituting 6.24 percent of the total flow. 6 percent migrated (62,698 migrant workers) from Brahmanbaria, 4.35 percent (48,393 migrant workers), 4.08 percent (45,455 migrant workers), 3.81 percent (42,379 migrant workers) and 3.39 percent (37,785 migrant workers) was from Noakhali, Chandpur, Tangail

Graph 2: Source Areas of Bangladeshi Migrants in 2022



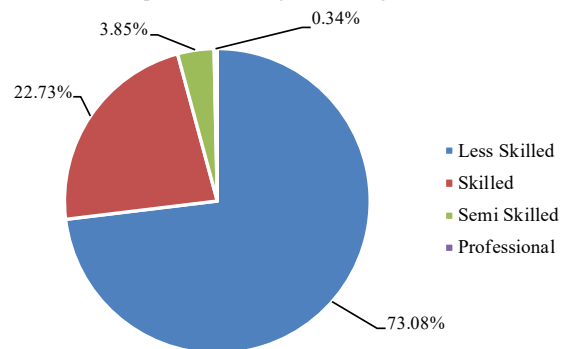
Source: Prepared from BMET data

and Kishoreganj respectively.

### 1.5 Skill Composition

The percentage of professionals was the lowest among the 4 categories of migrant workers. As of December 2022, only 0.34 percent of the total number of migrants belonged to this category (Chart 2). This figure was 0.14 percent in 2021.

Chart 3: Skill Composition of Bangladeshi Migrant Workers in 2022



Source: Prepared from BMET data

The percentage of workers who migrated as skilled increased marginally in 2022 compared to the previous year. In 2021, 21.33 percent migrated as skilled workers. In 2022 it rose to 22.73 percent. There was no significant change in the percentage of the migration of the semi-skilled workers. 3.85 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, 73.08 percent migrated as unskilled workers, which was 75.24 percent in 2021<sup>4</sup>.

### 1.6 Remittances

A total of 11,35,873 workers migrated abroad in 2022. Yet the growth of remittance flow in that year was negative. In 2022, Bangladeshi migrants had remitted USD 21.28 billion. The flow of remittance had decreased by 3.53 percent in 2022 compared to the previous 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

<sup>3</sup>BMET Website

<sup>4</sup> Data collected from BMET



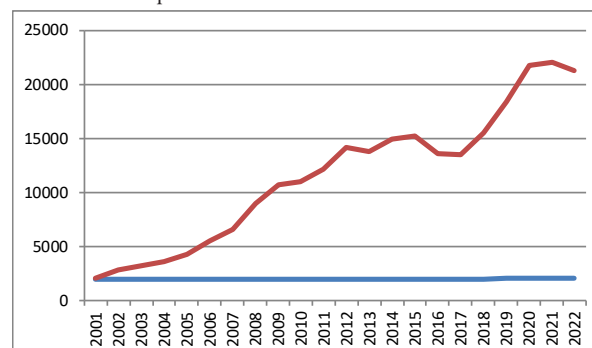


to 2.7 percent in 2010. However in the rest of the years the increase in the flow even reached 37.5 percent in 2002. Between 2011 and 2022, remittance flow increased at a rate between 10 to 18 percent, except for 2013, 2016 and 2017 in which the flows were negative. The drop the last two years was despite the huge increase in the flow of workers seen in 2016 and 2017.

This demonstrates that there is not much correlation between remittance flow and the flow of workers. Decline in the remittance flow depends on various factors. Migrants cannot send remittances during the first year of their stay abroad. Their remittance flow increases in the second year of migration. Again, not all migrants gain employment after reaching destination countries and a good number are forced to

return after being subjected to cheating and various kinds of fraudulence.

Graph 3: Remittance flows from 2001-2022



Source: Prepared from BMET data

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

Year	Number of International Migrants	Changes in Percentage	Remittance (US Dollars)	Changes in Percentage
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 from BMET and Bangladesh Bank data by RMMRU

This year as well, Saudi Arabia constituted the most important source country of remittance. It accounted for 18.87 percent of the total remittances flow (USD 4015.49 million). The second highest remittances came from the United States (USD 3712.64 million, 17.44 percent). This is followed by the United Arab Emirates (USD 2593.23 million, 12.18 percent), United Kingdom (USD 2069.88 million, 9.72 percent) and Kuwait (USD 1611.97 million, 7.57 percent), respectively.<sup>5</sup>

Table 1.6.2: Remittance Flows by Country of Employment in 2022

Country	US Dollar (Million)	%
Bahrain	520.28	2.44
Kuwait	1611.97	7.72
Oman	729.5	3.43
Qatar	1360.31	6.39
Saudi Arabia	4015.49	18.87
U.A.E	2593.23	12.18
Italy	1161.51	5.46
Malaysia	1043.79	4.90
Singapore	360.29	1.69
U.K	2069.88	9.72
U.S.A	3712.64	17.44
Others	2,106.46	9.91
Total	21285.35	100

Source: Prepared from BMET and Bangladesh Bank data by RMMRU

<sup>5</sup>BMET Website



## 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 for implementing this MoU.<sup>6</sup> Preventing any kind of syndication of the recruitment process that leads to irregular transactions was the high priority of the governments. The 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.<sup>7</sup> After nearly six months of exchange of letters between the governments, a joint working group meeting was held in Dhaka in June this year between Bangladesh Expatriates' Welfare Minister Mr. Imran Ahmad and Malaysia's Human Resource Minister Mr. M Saravanan. In this meeting, the Malaysian government reiterated its decision to recruit through agencies of its choice.<sup>8</sup> Last year, most members of the Bangladesh Association of Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) organised a number of programmes such as creating Anti-Syndicate Alliance, organising human chains, discussion etc to push forward their demand for a syndicate-free Malaysian labour market.

In the month of April, BAIRA's Anti-Syndicate Coalition held a press conference demanding that like the other 13 countries of origin, all registered recruiting agencies of Bangladesh 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.<sup>9</sup> 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. Before BAIRA's election, a few agencies that were involved in activities in demanding that all recruiting agencies should be allowed to send migrant workers to Malaysia, were seen to be retreating from that position after being elected. In the MoU, the provision of recruiting workers from BMET's database was incorporated. The registration of workers interested to go to Malaysia started from June 2022.<sup>10</sup> After a gap of almost four years, 50,090 Bangladeshi workers migrated to Malaysia in 2022.<sup>11</sup>

### 2.2 Increasing of Incentives in the Remittance Flows

In early 2022 the Ministry of Finance increased the incentive for sending remittances through legal channels. The incentive was raised from 2 percent to 2.5 percent from January 1, 2022. The data of the Bangladesh bank shows even after increasing the incentive, the flow of remittances from abroad was decreasing towards the end of 2022. There can be several reasons for decline.

According to the data gathered from the field, a large section of migrant workers send remittances through the Islamic Bank. But in 2022, the news reports highlighted reports on irregularities in the banking sector including sharp increase in incidences of loan defaults of reputed banks. This resulted in the loss of the migrant workers' trust on these banks. The newspaper reports about financial instability in banks made the migrants and members of their families feel unsure about keeping their money in the banks. The fear of the banks may go bankrupt became pronounced. As a result many are sending their earnings home through hundi or other irregular channels. They are also withdrawing the money that are saved in the banks.<sup>12</sup> In a round table titled 'Challenges and Ways to Address Remittance Flows and

<sup>6</sup>[www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=311286](http://www.mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=311286)

<sup>7</sup>অভিবাসী শ্রমিকরা যেভাবে বাংলাদেশ ও মালয়েশিয়া উভয় দেশের জন্যই আশীর্বাদ, The Business Standard

<sup>8</sup>[www.bbc.com/bengali/news-61780377](http://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-61780377)

<sup>9</sup>[www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/694712](http://www.dailynayadiganta.com/last-page/694712)

<sup>10</sup>ibid

<sup>11</sup>BMET website



Management' organised by RMMRU, WARBE Development Foundation and OKUP demanded that the incentives to migrant wage earners be increased to at least 10 percent. There is a suggestion that if the incentives under the pension scheme can be increased, the remittance flow will register an increase.

### 2.3 High Airfare

At the beginning of the year, the airfares to the Middle East registered a sharp rise. As a result, Bangladeshi migrant workers, especially those who are migrating for the first time to the Middle East, suffered the most.<sup>13</sup> One of the reasons behind such increase was the 150 percent hike in jet fuel price due to the Ukraine-Russia war as well as in the increase of one-way traffic during post-COVID-19.<sup>14</sup> It has been alleged that the travel agencies were creating an artificial crisis by booking large numbers of tickets in order to make huge profits. At the beginning of the year, Biman Bangladesh Airlines announced a reduction in fares in five routes to the Middle East. However, when migrants wanted to purchase those tickets they were informed that the tickets were already sold till March.<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup> However, the price of air tickets has decreased. In December, the airfare for Riyadh tickets has reduced to BDT 55,000 to 60,000. Before the pandemic, the price of Dhaka-Dubai tickets was BDT 36,000. During the pandemic it increased to BDT 70,000-80,000. By December the tickets are available for BDT 40,000.<sup>17</sup>

### 2.4 App-based Services for Migrant Workers

#### 'Ami Probashi' Mobile Application

During the COVID-19 period, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment launched a mobile application named 'Ami Probashi' to simplify and digitise services related to overseas



Mr. Imran Ahmad, MP, the Hon'ble Minister of MoEWOE, has joined popular TV programme of RMMRU Obhibashir Adalot



Annual press conference on the Patterns and Trends of Labour Migration from Bangladesh in 2022



Handing over the National Action Plan 2022-2042

<sup>12</sup>রেমিট্যান্সে আরও প্রগোদনার দাবি প্রবাসীদের, The Business Standard, 19 December 2022

<sup>13</sup>www.bbc.com/bengali/news-63093789

<sup>14</sup>ibid

<sup>15</sup>www.bangla.bdnews24.com/business/article1995420.bdnews

<sup>16</sup>এখনও উচ্চ বিমান ভাড়ার সবচেয়ে বেশি মূল্য অভিবাসী কর্মীদেরই দিতে হচ্ছে, The Business Standard

<sup>17</sup>ibid





employment. Previously, through this app, the migrant workers could register for availing the COVID vaccine and to apply for jobs abroad by passing 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 enrolment cards. Migrant workers can download the QR code-contained certificate from this app after completing the training<sup>18</sup>. According to the information received from the field, the departing migrants are facing a number of problems in downloading the certificate from the 'Ami Probashi' app. Due to lack of technical knowledge, they cannot download the certificate themselves. Besides, an interest group has emerged to help download this certificate against the payment of a fee.

### **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 with other SafeStep app users. Besides, the migrant workers can make entry their salary, loan amount, migration expenses, likely remittances etc. 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. By Accessing this 'Help Center' migrants can also contact the hotline of Suara Kami, a migrant centric organisation in Malaysia. 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 of help to increase the use of migration-related apps in the future.

### **2.5 Establishment of Bangabandhu Wage Earners' Centre**

In March 2022, Minister Imran Ahmad of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment inaugurated Bangabandhu Wage Earners' Center near the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.<sup>19</sup> The centre was built on 140 Katha land by the WEWB to provide temporary accommodation at minimal cost to departing and returnee migrant workers. Currently migrant workers can lodge there by paying 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. In addition to food facilities at low cost migrants can use safe lockers to store their valuables at the centre. The centre also provides briefings on migrant workers responsibility and their reintegration. It has telephone, internet and WiFi facilities. 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.

<sup>18</sup>'আমি প্রবাসী অ্যাপে' যুক্ত হলো প্রি-ডিপারচার ওরিয়েন্টেশন, [www.newsbangla24.com](http://www.newsbangla24.com)

<sup>19</sup>প্রবাসীদের জন্য বিমানবন্দরের কাছে ২০০ টাকায় হোস্টেল সুবিধা, [www.probashbarta.com](http://www.probashbarta.com)





## 2.6 Voter Registration of Migrant Workers Residing Abroad and National Identity Cards Distribution

The Election Commission of Bangladesh has taken up the process of voter registration and issuance of national identity cards to migrant workers abroad in 2022.<sup>20</sup> By using the passport they can apply online by filling in the application form and submitting scan copies of necessary documents to the Election Commission. While staying abroad they can complete the verification process in the Embassy and download the National Identity Card.<sup>21</sup> Through this initiative, the migrants staying abroad will only get the opportunity to become voters. However, 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 New Labour Market

In 2022, recruitment for Bangladeshi migrant workers began for Malaysia, Italy and Greece. After 4 years of ban from August 2022 Malaysia resumed taking workers from this country. With the rise in oil prices, the demand for migrant workers has also increased in the Middle East as well. BOESL sent 5,891 skilled migrant workers to South Korea in 2022, which is an important aspect of female migration this year.<sup>22</sup> 103 people migrated to Poland till July.<sup>23</sup> The new labour markets for Bangladeshi migrants in Eastern Europe that are beginning to emerge are Romania, Bulgaria, and Moldova where there is demand both for male and female workers.<sup>24</sup> More than 10,000 Bangladeshi workers have gone to these countries in the last two years to work in building construction, shipbuilding, agriculture, factories, garments, restaurants and for the child care sector.<sup>25</sup> In February of 2022, Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Greece on sending workers. According to this MoU, 4,000 Bangladeshi workers will be allowed to work in Greece.<sup>26</sup> As of May 2022, 794 Bangladeshi workers migrated to Albania.<sup>27</sup> According to the Hong Kong Labour Department and other sources,



Selina Begum, a mother of migrant has started growing vegetables in her backyards to reduce dependency on remittances



A returnee migrant received Van from RMMRU for income generation as well as reintegration upon return



Advocacy through grassroots actions

<sup>20</sup> প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশীদের ভোটার নিবন্ধন এবং এনআইডি বিতরণ কার্যক্রম ২০২২, www.bdservicerules.info

<sup>21</sup> ibid

<sup>22</sup> স্বপ্নডানা, আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস, 2022

<sup>23</sup> শ্রমবাজারে নতুন হাওয়া, The Daily Inqilab

<sup>24</sup> ibid

<sup>25</sup> ibid

<sup>26</sup> ibid

<sup>27</sup> www.probash.gov.bd



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 caregivers that pay for relatively higher wages. This labour market demand can be met by providing appropriate training to Bangladeshi women workers.<sup>28</sup>

## 2.8 Re-migration to Bahrain Begins

After 4 and half years of visa suspension since 2018 the Bahrain government has announced issuing of visas to Bangladeshi migrant workers.<sup>29</sup> Due to prolonged visa suspension, many migrant workers were stranded after returning home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Registration of migrant workers wishing to return to Bahrain began in 2022. In view of this, 967 Bangladeshi migrants registered. Based on the employer's response, the embassy has finalised the names of 161 workers. However, only 10 migrant workers could go to Bahrain in 2022.

## 2.9 Death of Migrant Workers in the Countries of Destination

From 2017 to 2021, 15,368 Bangladeshi women and men migrant workers died in different destination countries. In the last five years alone, dead bodies of 548 women migrant workers have been returned to 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, in the last five years 50 women migrants died committing suicide in Saudi Arabia with an average age of 33 years and 54 died of heart attacks with an average age of 37 years. The civil society needs to highlight this issue at different international platforms. Government of Bangladesh and other labour-sending countries need to take urgent steps to report timely complaints and conduct fresh autopsy of the dead bodies of migrants who are

dying under suspected circumstances.

## 2.10 Tendency to Migrate Abroad Rather than Availing Job Opportunities at Home

On November 9, 2022, a job fair was organised by RMMRU at the Technical Training Center (TTC) Cumilla with the participation of a number of government/private organisations, employers, jobseekers, aspirant migrant workers, returnee migrants and members of migrant families. 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 those down and said they wanted to migrate abroad instead. They also rejected the job of sales representative.

## 2.11 Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration

There is no specific data on how many people are being trafficked from Bangladesh annually. The European Commission's data showed that more than 65,000 migrants have entered Europe from Bangladesh in the last decade.<sup>30</sup> Frontex, the Border Agency of the European Union, informed that last year alone 8,667 Bangladeshis moved illegally to EU countries. Of those 7,574 people went through the central Mediterranean route and 604 went through the eastern Mediterranean route. Another 437 people crossed through the Balkan border. Bangladesh ranked second place on Frontex's list of the countries of migrants who take the riskiest central Mediterranean route from Libya to Italy.<sup>31</sup> 7 Bangladeshis died of cold while crossing the Mediterranean Sea from Libya to Europe in January 2022. Of the 287 passengers on that boat 273 were Bangladeshis. The country's police arrested more than 500 Bangladeshis who were attempting to cross the Mediterranean from Libya to Europe in April this year.<sup>32</sup>

Currently Rohingya refugees are now considered the most vulnerable target of human trafficking.

<sup>28</sup>স্বপ্নাদানা , আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস, 2022

<sup>29</sup>সাত্বে ৪ বছর পর বাংলাদেশীদের ভিসা দিচ্ছে বাহরাইন , The daily Jugantor

<sup>30</sup>[www.bbc.com/bengali/news-62362397](http://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-62362397)

<sup>31</sup>বাংলাদেশি অভিবাসীরা ইতালি যেতে কেন অবৈধ পথ বেছে নেয়? - The Business Standard, 5 April 2022

<sup>32</sup>Over 500 Bangladeshis held while trying to enter Europe from Libya, The Dhaka Tribune





The Armed Police Battalion (APBN) rescued 11 Rohingyas in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar while being smuggled to Malaysia by sea in November in 2022.<sup>33</sup>

## 2.12 Increase of Migration Cost

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report of USA 2022 states that migration cost for Bangladeshis is still the highest in the region despite a slight reduction.<sup>34</sup> Despite an increase in the flow of workers in Saudi Arabia, the most important destination of Bangladesh, the cost of migration to that country remains very high. Migrants have to pay two to three times more than the government fixed migration cost.<sup>35</sup> A worker has to work for at least two to two and half years simply to recoup the cost of migration.<sup>36</sup> The Bangladesh government has fixed taka 78,990 as the maximum cost for workers to migrate to Malaysia. However, the workers have to spend several times more than that amount. Newspaper reports inform that workers are made to pay between Taka 2,50,000 to Taka 4,00,000.<sup>37</sup>

## 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 offices offer services such as online registration, fingerprinting and awareness-raising campaigns. Among those the DEMOs of 7 districts (Chattogram, Cumilla, Rangpur, Pabna, Jashore, Sylhet, and Gopalganj) provide smart card services and 11 other DEMOs offer pre-departure orientation.<sup>38</sup> Additionally, 22 DEMOs have been fully prepared for providing services to migrants. To make it easier for migrants, this year the government also undertook the initiative of providing migration clearance through the "Ami Probashi" mobile application. Apart from this, initiatives have been taken to decentralise the arbitration process in Chittagong, Cumilla, and



Ensuring access to justice through migration mediation at grassroots



A returnee female migrant has started her business of tea stall named Majeda Tea Stall



Migrant worker is using the SafeStep Mobile Application at the training

<sup>33</sup>[www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/h1nv798bxh](http://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/h1nv798bxh)

<sup>34</sup>Migration cost for Bangladeshis still highest in the region: US report, The Financial Express

<sup>35</sup>High migration cost eats up 13% of remittance income, The Business Standard

<sup>36</sup>সৌদিগামীদের অভিবাসন ব্যয়ের টাকা তুলতেই দুই বছর পার, Nayadiganta, 6 May 2022

<sup>37</sup>[www.dhakapost.com/exclusive/133552](http://www.dhakapost.com/exclusive/133552)

<sup>38</sup>[www.bmet.portal.gov.bd/site/page/53e682c1-3a63-4b6f-a69f-00fb5032208d/](http://www.bmet.portal.gov.bd/site/page/53e682c1-3a63-4b6f-a69f-00fb5032208d/)



and Narsingdi DEMOs for resolving migration cases.<sup>39</sup>

### 3.2 Technical Training Center (TTC)

Under the 8th Five-Year Plan, the government has emphasised skill development training at the grassroots. 24 new Technical Training Centers (TTC) have been inaugurated in 2022 and 15 more TTCs are under construction.<sup>40</sup> In addition to the existing centers, the government has also taken up a plan to set up new training centers in all upazilas of the country.

Even though the training centers are built using the development budget of the government, there is not enough budget allocated to run the TTCs to ensure quality training. So to make the training more effective and increase the level of skill of the migrants' the government should develop partnerships with NGOs and private organisations.

Currently, language courses are offered in 41 TTCs. Out of which 30 TTCs offer courses on Japanese language, 7 TTCs impart training in Japanese to caregivers, 11 TTCs provide training on the English language, 18 TTCs on the Korean language, 2 TTCs on Chinese (Cantonese) and one TTC on Chinese (Mandarin) language. As an initiative to bring training under international accreditation on electronics, hotel management, housekeeping and chef/cookery courses are being included in 4 TTCs under UK based accreditation body the 'City & Guilds'.<sup>41</sup> Housekeeping trade is being imparted in 43 TTCs and the training duration has been increased from 1 month to 2 months from this year. Furthermore 3 TTCs offer heavy equipment operation (crane, rope roller and fork lift) Course, 4 TTCs on hospitality course and 64 TTCs offer courses that include driving, automobile maintenance, Arabic and English languages in addition to driving. Recognition of Prior Learning" (RPL) certificates are issued in various trades offered in 44 technical training centers.<sup>42</sup>

### 3.3 Wage Earners Welfare Board (WEWB)

In 2022, the WEWB has disbursed Taka 3,00,60,000 financial assistance for medical treatment to 383 injured and sick migrant workers. Taka 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 3,860 dead bodies of migrant workers were brought back to the country in 2022 and the Board paid a total of Taka 13,51,00,000 to the families for transportation and burial costs. In 2021, a total of 3,803 dead bodies were returned to the country and a total of Taka 13,31,10,000 was paid for their transportation and burial costs. From 1993 to 2022, the Board paid a total of Taka 149,68,00,000 for the transportation and burial costs of 47,141 dead bodies.<sup>43</sup>

Taka 181,69,30,000 were paid to the families of 6,114 deceased migrants in 2022. In 2021, 195,66,00,000 was paid to the families of 6,575 deceased migrants. From 1996 to 2022, the Board has paid a total of Taka 1282,40,00,000 to the families of 47,333 deceased migrants.<sup>44</sup>

The board has disbursed Taka 73,38,40,000 among migrants and members of the families 1142 migrants in 2022 as compensation settlement of compensation for death, regular dues, insurance and service benefits. In 2021 against 1,306 migrants, members of the families were paid Taka 77,95,50,000 under the same heads. From 1977 to 2022, cumulatively the Board disbursed Taka 824,88,30,000 against 22,083 migrants under the same heads.

Wage Earners Welfare Board provides scholarships to the children of migrant workers from class six to BA final year. In 2022, the Board has disbursed scholarships of Taka 9,85,02,000 among 4,450 children of migrant workers. Taka 3,09,34,000 were distributed among 2,031 students in 2021.

<sup>39</sup>Ibid

<sup>40</sup>নতুন ২৪ টিটিসি উদ্বোধন করবেন প্রধানমন্ত্রী, www.banglatribune.com

<sup>41</sup> Shopnodana, International Migrant Day-2022, page 26

<sup>42</sup>Information collected from BMET

<sup>43</sup>www.wewb.gov.bd

<sup>44</sup>ibid





From 2012 to November 2022, the Board distributed Taka 36,84,51,000 to the children among 22,056 migrant workers for the same purpose.

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

### 3.4 Labour Welfare Wing

At present Bangladesh Embassies located in 28 countries have a total of 30 Labour Welfare Wings working to serve the migrant workers in the countries of destination. They also provide services to the returnee migrant workers through the WEWB. The main responsibility of the Labour Welfare Wing is to protect the rights and security of the migrant workers. The WEWB 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 Kalyan Bank (PKB)

In the fiscal year of 2022-2023, up to December 2022, Probashi Kalyan Bank has disbursed a total of Taka 367.98 crores to 17,023 migrants as migration, reintegration, special reintegration loans. In the fiscal year 2022-2023, the total collected amount was Taka 233.95 crores. In the fiscal year 2021-2022, an amount of Taka 900.22 crore was disbursed among 39,225 migrants.

During the same period Taka 294.01 crores was disbursed by the Bank among 14,366 aspirant migrants. Besides Taka 33.78 crore was disbursed among 1,201 returnee migrants as reintegration loans, Taka 0.78 crore among 46 women migrants as women's migration loan and Taka 0.36 crore among 14 women as women's reintegration loan.

Upto November in financial year 2022-2023 the special reintegration loan of Taka 10.52 crore was provided to 374 returnees, Bangabandhu Migrant



Emergency food support to the vulnerable returnee migrants at the Dhaka Airport



RMMRU financially assisted a returnee migrant in purchasing an auto rickshaw jointly, allowing him to become self-sufficient.



Departing female migrant workers showing the training material after completing the training at the TTC

<sup>45</sup>[www.wewb.gov.bd](http://www.wewb.gov.bd)



Large Family Loan of Taka 16.35 crore among 582 people and Self-employment loans of Taka 12.18 crores among 440 migrants. The total amount of Taka 2051.80 loan was disbursed among 1,10,564 migrants from the financial year 2011-2012 to the financial year 2022-2023.<sup>46</sup>

The amount under Bangabandhu Migrant Large Family Loan has been refixed by the Bank's Board of Directors from Taka 10,00,000 to Taka 50,00,000. 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 migrant 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 deployed 18,593 migrant workers to South Korea, Jordan, Hong Kong and Seychelles, Mauritius, Japan, Kuwait, Croatia, and Malaysia in 2022. It represents 2 percent of all those who migrated in 2022. Among them, 11,688 skilled migrant workers migrated through BOESL to Jordan and 5,891 to South Korea. BOESL has so far sent 1,35,000 skilled, semi-skilled and low-skilled migrant workers to 32 countries.

### 3.7 Complaints

BMET accepts complaints of cheating and fraudulence of migrant workers both directly and online. In 2022 it received 1240 complaints from affected migrants. During this period, 339 cases were resolved. An amount of Taka 1,60,18,700 was paid as compensation to the affected migrants and members of their families.<sup>47</sup> In 2021, a total of 528 complaints were lodged in BMET.

### 3.8 Recruiting Agency

In 2022 there were 1580 licensed recruiting agencies in Bangladesh. Among those 606 agencies sent women workers to Saudi Arabia.<sup>48</sup> BMET has suspended the licence of 340 recruiting agencies after investigating various allegations and cancelled the licence of 51 agencies in 2022.<sup>49</sup> In order to manage recruitment agencies, the Ministry has introduced the Online Recruiting Agencies Information Management System (RAIMS) from 2022. RMMRU presented two possible approaches for registration of middlemen engaged in the recruitment system as a part of long-standing advocacy of civil society organisations to incorporate them into the legal framework. The government has taken initiatives 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 a 10 point agenda to change the perception about migrant workers' development and employment in the diaspora in the countries of destination. It sets out specific goals and timelines for achieving goals, and responsible agencies for each agenda in terms of importance. The plan has been approved by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

### 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 different ministries and civil society organisations. This draft policy is designed for the migrant workers' development and

<sup>46</sup>Information collected from BMET

<sup>47</sup>ibid

<sup>48</sup>[www.old.bmet.gov.bd/BMET/resources/notice/2056.pdf](http://www.old.bmet.gov.bd/BMET/resources/notice/2056.pdf)

<sup>49</sup>[www.old.bmet.gov.bd/BMET/raHomeAction](http://www.old.bmet.gov.bd/BMET/raHomeAction)



establishing their rights and protection. To ensure the engagement of all stakeholders and effective implementation, the policy has taken into account the views of both the government and civil society. It focused on 5 aspects (a) creation of a database to store information of the returnee migrant workers and a 'one stop center' for them, (b) their social reintegration including universal social protection, (c) their economic reintegration including active labour market policies, (4) ensuring physical and mental wellbeing of returned migrant workers and their family members and (5) 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 draft policy in November 2021 after amending the policy on the Policy on Health Examination of Bangladeshi Workers Going Abroad, 2019. The revised draft among other things included the eligibility criteria of medical centers for health examination and their roles and responsibility and actions to be taken if they commit irregularities. It also set up a selection committee consisting of 8 members for listing of members and an expert committee for supervision and inspection.<sup>50</sup> Civil society made a number of suggestions in the 2021 draft policy. However, many of the recommendations are not included in the revised policy.

### **4.4 Transportation of Expenditure Policy of Dead Bodies of Irregular, Undocumented, Destitute and Regular Migrant Workers**

Transporting dead body of a migrant worker from abroad to Bangladesh is expensive and time-consuming and often it is not possible to bring back the body home due to financial constraint of the employer or the irregular status of the deceased migrant. In 2022, the government of Bangladesh formulated a new policy on transporting corpses of Bangladeshi migrant workers to the country at the earliest.<sup>51</sup> Under this policy, the government will bring bodies or help other organisations to do the same if a

migrant worker dies in the country of destination in irregular status or dies in irregular or hazardous conditions while migrating as victim of trafficking. However, in this case, the Bangladesh Missions or the Labour Welfare Wings validate the nationality status of the deceased migrants and the availability of amount of assistance. The policy details out the application process for bringing back the deceased migrants' bodies as well as the responsibilities of the Bangladesh Mission or Labour Welfare Wing, District Employment Manpower Office, Expatriates' Welfare Desk at the airports, and the Ministry.

### **4.5 BMET Training Guidelines 2022**

In 2022, a guideline was developed under the provisions of Section 47 of the Overseas Employment and Migration Act, 2013 and a rule on 'Allocation of Business' to provide effective and efficient training at the training institutions under BMET.<sup>52</sup> The guideline includes provisions on the selection of occupations and foreign languages for training, training topics, syllabus and training methodology, recruitment of trainers, apprenticeship training, 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.<sup>53</sup> The same report predicts that 40 million people could move within their country in South Asia and 19 million could do so in Bangladesh alone. To address these challenges, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of the Government of Bangladesh

<sup>50</sup>[www.dpp.gov.bd/upload\\_file/gazettes/42939\\_24002.pdf](http://www.dpp.gov.bd/upload_file/gazettes/42939_24002.pdf)

<sup>51</sup>[www.probashi.gov.bd/site/view/policies/](http://www.probashi.gov.bd/site/view/policies/)

<sup>52</sup>ibid

<sup>53</sup>Country Climate and Development Report for Bangladesh: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)





developed a 20-year Action Plan engaging 27 ministries and their relevant departments, development partners and NGOs to implement the already adopted National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management, 2021. The document incorporates comprehensive plans to be implemented from 2022 to 2042. 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 various activities at the district and upazila levels to facilitate international and internal migration as one of the adaptation strategies. The Action Plan in association with NGOs and Civil Society Organisations includes awareness programmes on the proper utilisation of remittance among displaced families. To create employment through encouraging decentralisation 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 urban and semi-urban areas 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**

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. Despite the fact that the outbreak of Covid-19 has disrupted the implementation of the Action Plan, Bangladesh ranked the second level in the World Report on Human Trafficking of the United States. Although the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act National Action Plan 2018-2022 will end this year, 2022 instead of adopting a new plan, the implementation period of this plan has been extended to 2025. Through this, the Action Plan can be synchronised with the National Five Year Plan from 2026 onwards.<sup>54</sup>

## **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 to act as the 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 IMRF will result in an intergovernmental agreed Progress Declaration.<sup>55</sup> This review forum is scheduled to be held every four years starting from 2022. The first IMRF of 2022 was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 17 to 20 May. It was attended by all member states, stakeholder representatives and UN agencies. The Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in relation to the Compact was also discussed. While the Forum's Progress Declaration identified climate change as one of the drivers of migration, no new guidelines were added for those displaced due to climate change. On the state agenda in the Declaration there was limited focus to address the issue of climate change.

### **5.2 Cop-27 and Migration**

COP-27 or the United Nations 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 damage due to the increase in global warming in the context of climate change. The terms of the agreement lays out how and to what extent the rich countries would pay the compensation and which countries will be qualified to receive such compensation. Internal displacement and migration are also considered a form of loss and damage. The Bangladesh Government has given due emphasis

<sup>54</sup>মানব পাচার প্রতিরোধ ও দমন জাতীয় কর্মপরিকল্পনা ২০১৮-২০২২ হালনাঙ্গন ও ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত সম্প্রসারণে তথ্য প্রদান বিষয়ক আন্তঃমন্ত্রণালয় সভার কার্যবিবরণী, [www.bnfe.gov.bd](http://www.bnfe.gov.bd)

<sup>55</sup>[www.iom.int/news/first-united-nations-forum-international-migration-concludes-today](http://www.iom.int/news/first-united-nations-forum-international-migration-concludes-today)





on taking further action on climate-induced migration and displacement at the side-events of COP-27.<sup>56</sup>

### 5.3 Colombo Process Thematic Area Working Group Meeting

The Colombo Process is a regional consultative process of twelve countries that helps the 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 such goals at national level. To promote ethical recruitment practices, Bangladesh chaired the Working Group meetings of the Ninth Colombo Process Thematic Area which were held in August 2022. As part of its commitment to uphold the ethical recruitment, the Government of Bangladesh amended the Overseas Employment and Migration Act 2013 and considered creating scope for the regularisation of the sub-agents. RMMRU presented its three models of registration of the sub-agents that developed and earlier submitted to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Parliamentarians' 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 the 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.<sup>57</sup>

### 5.4 High Level Meeting of Abu-Dhabi Dialogue

In 2022, sixteen labour-sending and labour-receiving member countries of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) participated in a high-level meeting under the chairmanship of Pakistan. A number of experts and representatives from the private sector and international organisations attended this meeting.<sup>58</sup>



A devastated woman who lost her home due to a natural disaster



Father and sister of a migrant are drying the crops harvested from their land.



Feeling of neglect of a left behind family member

<sup>56</sup>জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন: গণ-অভিবাসন দ্বাৰা সংঘবদ্ধ পদক্ষেপের আহ্বান, barta24.com, 14 November 2022

<sup>57</sup>[www.rmmru.org/newsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sub-Agent-Registration-Model-Bangla.pdf](http://www.rmmru.org/newsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sub-Agent-Registration-Model-Bangla.pdf)

<sup>58</sup>[www.wam.ac/en/details/1395303098547](http://www.wam.ac/en/details/1395303098547)



The meeting also discussed the upcoming meeting to be hosted by UAE in 2023. The meeting further 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. At 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 Reform of Law for Female Domestic Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia**

The government of Saudi Arabia has instituted reforms to the laws for female domestic workers under Vision 2030.<sup>59</sup> As per the 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 securing the employee's permission or terminates the employment contract before the expiry of the employment period, the employer will be liable to pay penalties. Under this Act, there is scope of registering a complaint against the employer if the worker is not paid on time or is employed 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 an important role 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, and Saudi Arabia who were subjected to different tortures despite migrating to those countries through formal channels. At the same time, this coalition of 20 organisations also demanded that the recruiting agencies responsible for the plight of all these migrants be brought under justice. In 2022, BCSM also expressed concern over the news of the new syndicate regarding sending workers to Malaysia and demanded that migrant workers be sent by all registered recruiting agencies in Malaysia..

RMMRU provided Taka 12,85,127 to 87 vulnerable returnee migrants for reintegration purposes with the support of MFA in coordination with 3 migration organisations. In 2022 RMMRU developed a service directory for the returnee migrants analysing the capacities of 1,920 service providing organisations of 330 unions in 30 upazilas of Comilla and Mymensingh which will help to implement the RAISE project of WEWB related to returnee reintegration. RMMRU provided emergency food, accommodation, transport and health support (both physical and mental) to 1,200 vulnerable returnee migrants from its Support Center. At the grassroots, RMMRU raised awareness and provided information services to nearly about 3,00,000 migrants and migrant communities. Along with this, RMMRU ensured pre departure, pre decision, and financial literacy training of 20,000 persons in 2022. Besides, it also provided support to collect Taka 1,47,12,000 through grassroots mediation, arbitration from BMET, compensation and financial assistance from WEWB and loan from Probashi Kollayan Bank for migrants.

<sup>59</sup>Saudi Arabia allows domestic workers to switch jobs without employer's consent, TBS News, 22 August 2022



**BRAC** has provided 219 pre-decision trainings and 189 pre-departure trainings this year. Through awareness programmes like courtyard meetings, school programmes, video shows, 3,70,595 people have been made aware, 3,724 people have been provided emergency services at the airport and 4,939 migrants have been provided financial management training, financial assistance, psycho-social counselling training, skills development support for reintegration purposes etc. It also helped in the recovery of Tk 19,40,000 by settlement of 9 cases/complaints and it filed 49 fraud related complaints this year.

**BOMSA** provided economic empowerment training to 375 female returnee migrants, IGA training to 50 returnee migrants. Besides, it helped secure payment of migrants' salaries of Taka 4,70,000 and assisted to collect Taka 20,10,000 as death compensations from WEWB. BOMSA also provided 37 pre-departure training to 1,110 women migrants and 33 pre-decision training to 825 women migrants.

**BASTOB** facilitated 121 batches of pre-departure training for 11,408 migrants and helped to recover Taka 19,53,902 from WEWB, BMET and PKB for migrants.

**BNSK** provided 130 pre-decision trainings, 150 pre-departure trainings and financial literacy training to 64 returnee migrants this year. In 2022 it helped migrant families to recover about Taka 3,00,000 by settling various complaints about migration at the local level and received 18 fraud complaints this year.

**OKUP** provided pre-decision training to 15,500 migrants through 620 sessions and pre-departure training to 10,200 migrants through 52 sessions this year. It also lodged 264 fraud cases and helped to recover Taka.1,80,10,000 through the settlement of 57 cases/complaints. Through awareness programs OKUP raised awareness to 1,45,642 people and provided emergency services to 2,487 migrants and members of their families. It also provided financial literacy training and other training to 1,723 returnee

migrants for reintegration purposes.

This year through the Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development, the **WARBE** Development Foundation hosted pre-budget discussions and created policy papers for decision-makers. WARBE has recovered Taka 25,80,000 compensation for the vulnerable migrants by resolving 43 cases from government and local efforts and received 354 fraud complaints. From this organisation 32 returnees received financial literacy training and it has arranged 50 pre-decision training and 29 pre-departure training to build the capacity of migrants. It also assisted 52 returned migrant workers for reintegration purposes.

### Recommendations

- To increase the remittance inflow steps need to be taken to keep the trust of migrants in banks.
- To make TTC functional and effective the government should consider engaging the NGOs and private sector.
- Students and youth need to be engaged in providing training on safe migration related mobile app.
- Steps should be taken to conduct post mortem procedure in cases of death of migrants in unnatural and suspicious circumstances
- Steps need to be taken to expedite the cases pertaining to human trafficking.

### Conclusion

There have been several notable developments in the migration sector this year. After a four-year suspension, Malaysia started accepting Bangladeshi migrant workers again in 2022. Unfortunately, syndication of the recruitment sector could not be eradicated.





Due to a number of press reports on irregularities in the financial sector migrants' trust in banks has declined this year affecting the remittance flows through legal channels. The Probashi Kallyan Bank has increased its services for the returnee migrants. 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 transportation of dead bodies of irregular and vulnerable migrant workers, under which such bodies of irregular migrants who die abroad will be brought back to the country by using money from the 'Corpse Transportation' head under the revenue budget of the Expatriates' Welfare Ministry. 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 'International Migration Review Forum' (IMRF) of the Global Compact on Migration, COP-27, Colombo Process Thematic Area Working Group Meeting and high-level meeting of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue have been held. 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 and prevention of wage theft were discussed.



RMMRU provided a Sewing Machine to a left in charge family member in order to reduce her family's vulnerability.





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**প্রস্তুতি তালিকা**  
**-র সহায়তা নিন।**





Migrant's wife Lovely has started micro businesses of catering snacks and selling handicrafts, comilla, SIMS

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