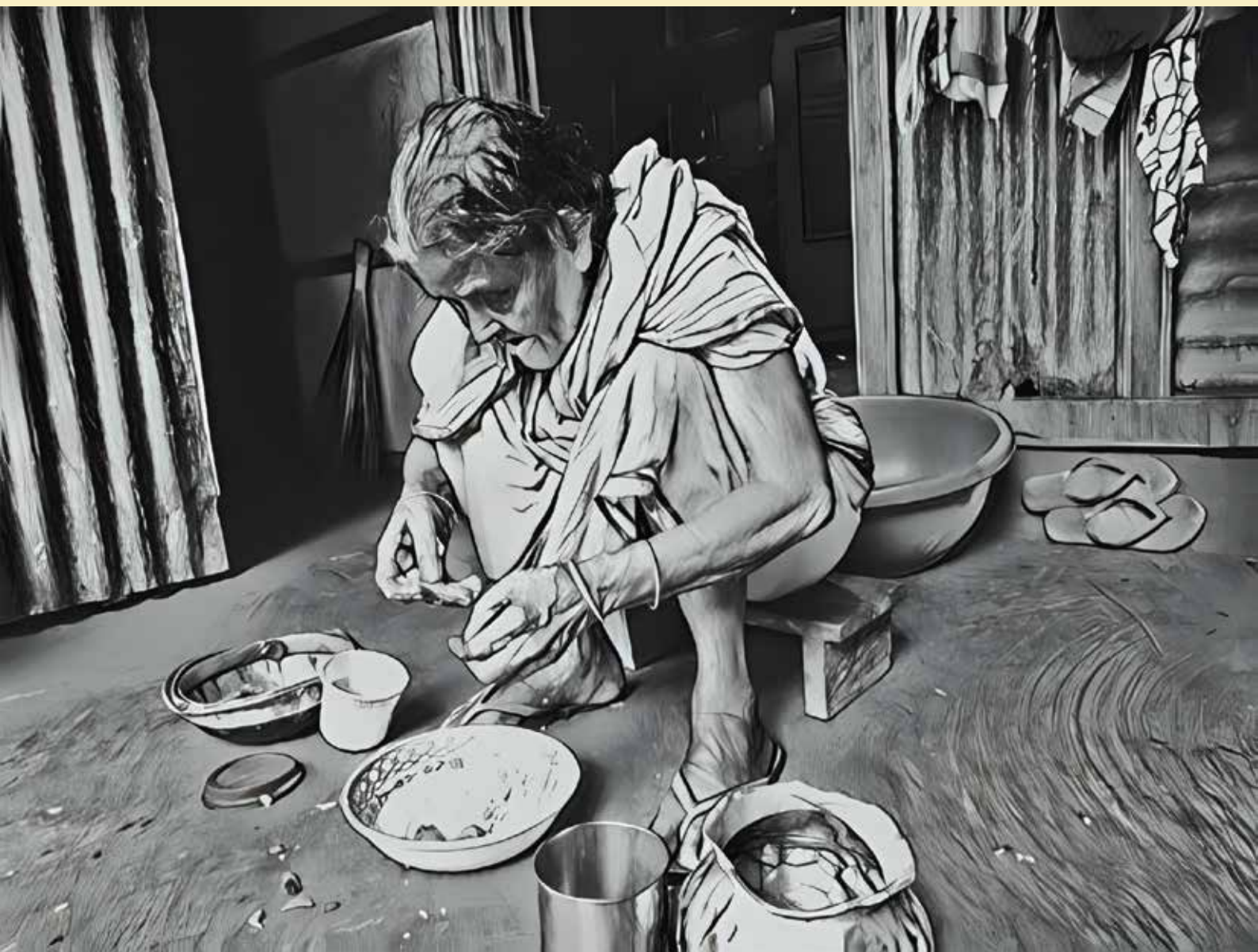


RMMRU

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2022 - June 2023

A centre for evidence based research and grassroots action



Feeling of neglect of a left behind family member



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Abbreviation

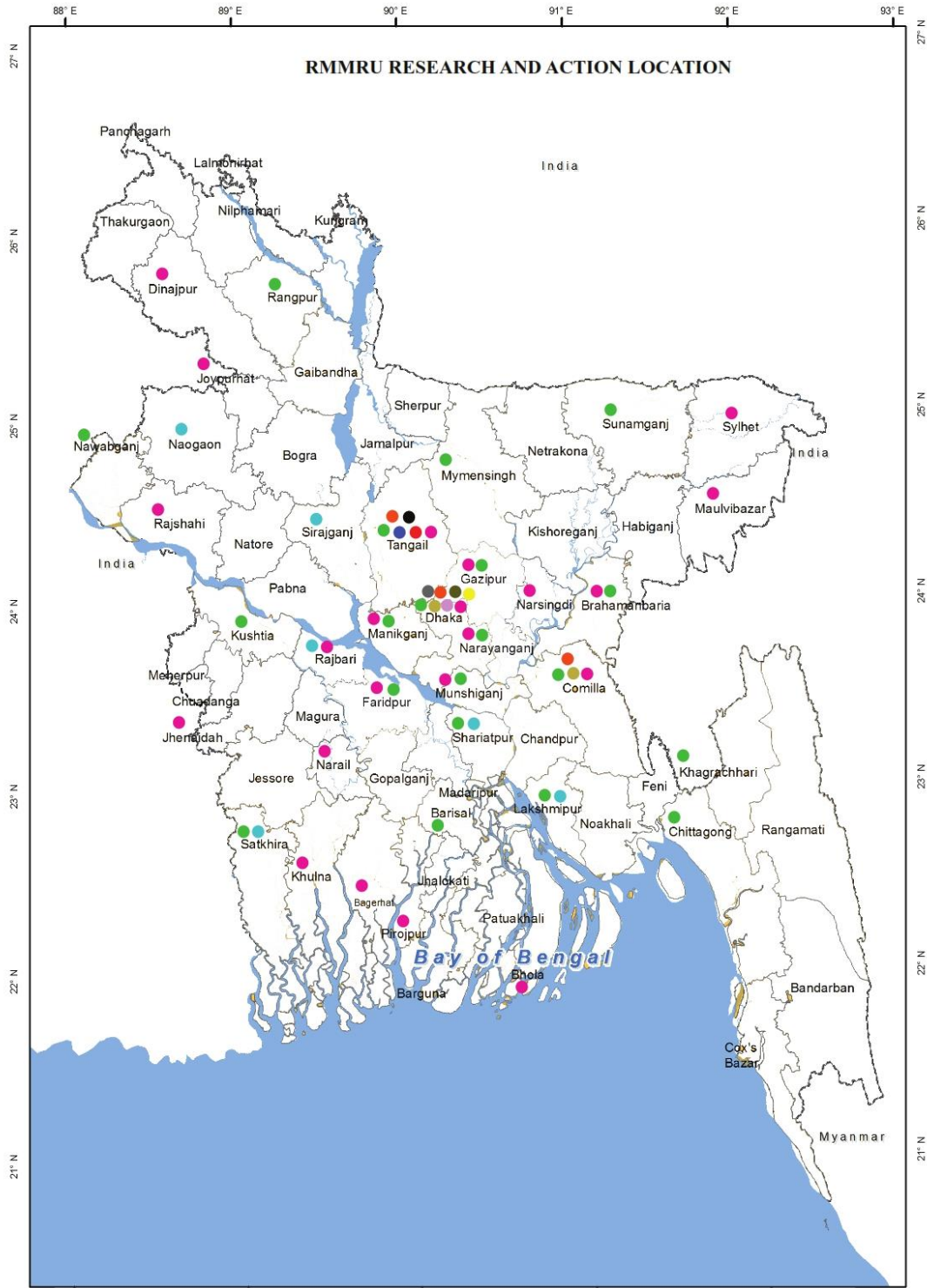
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
ACD	Association for Community Development
BNSK	Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra
BOMSA	Bangladeshi Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association
BAIRA	Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies
BNWLA	Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association
BKTTC	Bangladesh-Korea Technical Training Center
BMET	Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DEMO	District Employment and Manpower Office
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
ED	Entrepreneurship Development
GCC	The Gulf Cooperation Council
IPT	Interactive Popular Theater
IMD	International Migrants Day
LGIs	Local Government Institutions
LBFM	Left Behind Family Members
MRPC	Migrant Rights Protection Committee
OKUP	Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program
PDMO	Pre-Decision-Making Orientation
PDO	Pre-Departure Orientation
RMMRU	Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
SFMMTTC	Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Mohila Technical Training Centre
TTC	Technical Training Centre
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WEWB	Wage Earners' Welfare Board

About RMMRU

RMMRU is a centre for evidence-based research and grassroots action. Since its inception in 1995, RMMRU has become one of the leading organisations specialising in labour migration. Over the years, the organisation has worked on the impact of labour migration on poverty and development, female labour migration, diaspora, climate-induced migration, refugees, and internally displaced and stateless persons. Through establishing Migrant Rights Protection Committees, Grievance Management Committees, Youth Volunteer Committees, and Migrant Support Centres at the grassroots and partnerships with local NGOs, RMMRU engages in awareness and information campaigns, training, mediation, and economic and social reintegration of returnee migrants. It also partners with leading research consortia and national and international networks to generate new knowledge on migration and uphold the rights of migrants. RMMRU is the secretariat of the Bangladesh Civil Society for Migrants.

General Body of RMMRU

 <p>Dr. Shahdeen Malik</p>	 <p>Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui</p>	 <p>Dr. C R Abrar</p>	 <p>Dr. Sumaiya Khair</p>	 <p>Mr. Shahzada M. Akram</p>
 <p>Dr. Rashed Uz Zaman</p>	 <p>Mr. Md. Obaidul Haque</p>	 <p>Dr. Syeda Rozana Rashid</p>	 <p>Mr. Sayed Nurullah Azad</p>	 <p>Mr. Kh. Rezwanaul Karim</p>
 <p>Ms. Bushra Hasina Chowdhury</p>	 <p>Dr. Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque</p>	 <p>Dr. Lailufar Yasmin</p>	 <p>Dr. Tasmia Persoob</p>	 <p>Dr. Jalal Uddin Sikder</p>
 <p>Dr. Sohela Nazneen</p>	 <p>Dr. Mohamed Emran Hossain</p>	 <p>Mr. Mohammad Towheedul Islam</p>	 <p>Ms. Zohra Akhter</p>	 <p>Mr. Shashanka Saadi</p>
 <p>Dr. Md. Selim Reza</p>	 <p>Mr. Mohampad Rashed Alam Bhuiyan</p>	 <p>Dr. Fhamida Yasmin</p>	<p>Mr. Md. Motasim Billah</p>	 <p>Dr. Zahid ul Arefin Choudhury</p>
 <p>Mr. Rigan Chakma</p>				



- SafeStep – Expanding Safe Migration to the Bangladesh-Malaysia Corridor
- Strengthened and Informative Migration System (SIMS)
- Support the Skilling of Returnee Migrants Through Skills and Enterprise Development Programmes
- Inclusive and Sustainable Economic and Psycho-social Reintegration of the Returned Migrants (ISEPR)
- Supporting and strengthening civil society's response in providing assistance to migrant worker populations impacted by COVID-19 in destination and origin countries
- Social Cost of Migration on the left-behind Elderly and Siblings (SCM-2)
- Just and Resilient Planned Relocation from Climate Change
- Vital Signs: Quantifying and researching Asian worker deaths in the Gulf, Building a coalition for greater protection
- Bangladeshi Labour Migrants in Maldives: Mitigating the Risks and Vulnerabilities to Trafficking and Irregular Migration
- South Asia Centre for Labour Mobility and Migrants (SALAM)
- Returning Migrants Achieve Economic Resilience and social cohesion within their communities [REMA(K)ER]
- Study on Unnatural Death of Women Migrants in Destination Countries

**Summary of Field Programmes and Research in 2022-2023
Field Programmes**

Projects	Funding Organisation	Total Budget in BDT and USD with project period	Budget in BDT (July 22-Jun 23)	Project Focus	Partner (s)	Location (s)	Burn rate
SafeStep – Expanding Safe Migration to the Bangladesh-Malaysia Corridor	Winrock International	13,333,676 \$123,243 December 01 2021 to August 31 2023	9,075,484	Develop a digitally responsible recruitment platform that empowers workers through blockchain technology to navigate their migration journey successfully, secure their rights, and minimize unnecessary fees.	N/A	Tangail	100%
Strengthened and Informative Migration System (SIMS)	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Bangladesh	84,864,901 \$784,406 Jan 2021- Dec 2023	44,840,164	To establish an informative migration system at the local level. Also, ensuring access to justice and financial literacy for Migrants, aspirant migrants, returnee migrants, and left behind family members.	CCDA	Dhaka, Cumilla	94%
Support the Skilling of Returnee Migrants Through Skills and Enterprise Development Programmes	International Labour Organisation (ILO)	15,921,472 \$147,162.14 Dec 2020- April 2023	5,490,163	The main goal of this project is to analyse our existing best practices and create a guideline for implementation in the context of Bangladesh.	N/A	RMMRU knowledge generation is based in Dhaka but implemented by partners in different districts	78% ***
Inclusive and Sustainable Economic and Psycho-social Reintegration of the Returned Migrants(ISEPR)	British High Commission	4,279,246 \$ 39,553 Oct 2022 – March 2023	4,279,246	Strengthen community-based organisations to ensure gender-responsive, sustainable economic and psycho-social reintegration of returned and survivor migrants.	N/A	Paikora Union, Gala Union and Elenga Pourosova of Tangail	100%
Supporting and strengthening civil society’s response in providing assistance to migrant worker populations impacted by COVID-19 in destination and origin countries	Migrant Forum Asia	5,343,298 \$49,388 May22- Sep’22	5,343,298	Enhance the resilience of returnee migrants and their families through civil society organisations to lessen the longer-term socioeconomic impacts of Covid-19 in their lives.	ACD, BNSK, WARB E-DF are the collaborative Member Organisations	Dhaka, Gazipur, Cumilla, Tangail, Munshiganj, Jhenaidah, Narail, Bhola, Pirojpur, B.Barua, Narsingdi, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Rajshahi, Joypurhat, Rajbari, Faridpur, Moulvibazar, Bagerhat, Dinajpur, Khulna, and Sylhet	100%
Returning Migrants Achieve Economic	International Organization for Migration	3,084,568 \$30846 Dec'22 -	1,782,237	1. To reduce the vulnerability of returning migrants through effective reintegration mechanisms for	N/A	Kalihati Upazila , Tangail	92%

Resilience and social cohesion within their communities [REMA(K)ER]		Aug'23		economic resilience. 2. To strengthen and improve community social cohesion to ensure prompt and successful recovery from the pandemic.			
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Research

Projects	Funding Organisation	Total Budget in BDT and USD with project period	Budget in BDT (July 22- Jun 23)	Project Focus	Partner (s)	Location (s)	Burn rate
Social Cost of Migration on the Left-behind Elderly and Siblings (SCM-2)	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	13,613,401 \$ 125,829 Jan 2022- Jun 2023	10,409,921	Focus on the impact of international and internal migration on the left-behind parents, grandparents, other elderlies, and siblings.	N/A	Dhaka, Cumilla, Chattogram, Munshiganj, Satkhira, Khustia, Khagrachori, Manikganj, Narayanganj, Shariatpur, Tangail, Mymensingh, Rangpur, B.Baria, Sunamganj, Gazipur, Faridpur, Laxmipur, Barishal, Chapai Nawabganj	100%
Just and Resilient Planned Relocation from Climate Change	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	8,583,968 \$79,342 Feb 2022- January 2025	2,943,759	i.To support socially differentiated procedural and distributive justice for communities experiencing climate-induced planned relocation. ii. To support learning from past development- and climate-induced planned relocation initiatives in Bangladesh. iii. To enhance the engagement of international actors in the design and implementation of just climate-induced planned relocation in Bangladesh.	University of Exeter	Laxmipur, Shariatpur, Shirajganj, Satkhira, Naogoan, Rajbari	99%
Vital Signs: Quantifying and researching Asian worker deaths in the Gulf, Building a coalition for greater protection	FairSquare Projects	3,612,836 \$33,393 Jun 2021- May 2023	1,963,481	The objectives of this project include-Low-paid migrant workers in the Gulf States enjoy significantly better protection from risks to their physical and mental health, and Key stakeholders in origin states, notably policymakers, are actively and collectively engaged in	N/A	Dhaka	98%

Projects	Funding Organisation	Total Budget in BDT and USD with project period	Budget in BDT (July 22- Jun 23)	Project Focus	Partner (s)	Location (s)	Burn rate
				promoting migrant worker protection in the Gulf states.			
Bangladeshi Labour Migrants in Maldives: Mitigating the Risks and Vulnerabilities to Trafficking and Irregular Migration	The Asia Foundation	16,067,082 \$189,359* Dec 2021-Jul 2023	16,067,082	i. To understand the risks and vulnerabilities of Irregular Migrants from Bangladesh to the Maldives ii. To identify the solutions and develop policy responses to the risks and vulnerabilities in the outflow of irregular labor migrations and the returnees iii. To facilitate access to justice to ensure safe migration to the Maldives and return to Bangladesh in collaboration with the government and CSO stakeholders.	N/A	Dhaka, Cumilla and Tangail, Maldives	141% **
South Asia Centre for Labour Mobility and Migrants (SALAM)	International Institute for Population Sciences	1,699,964 \$20,000* Oct 2021-July 2023	1,073,661	To establish a regional learning and action platform – a South Asia Knowledge Hub to provide access to knowledge and information used by South Asian policymakers and stakeholders through regional policy dialogue like the Colombo Process.	N/A	Dhaka	116%**
Study on Unnatural Death of Women Migrants in Destination Countries	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	2,423,560 \$22,401 August 22 to December 23	2,423,560	Gather data, assess and identify the core causes of the women migrants' unnatural death in the destination countries; Develop evidence-based policy suggestions; Develop recommendations on the investigation procedure regarding the cases of suicides or suspicious deaths of women migrants abroad; Develop recommendations about the legal protection in destination through the Embassy and NHRC.	N/A	Dhaka	100%

Source of conversion rate: Bangladesh Bank Website dated June 30 2023, * Project defined

** Last year's undone activity was implemented in this period

*** Some budgeted activity was discarded as per donor instruction

Services to migrants and their families at the grassroots

Awareness Raising in Safe Migration:

- More than 67,000 people have been reached with the safe migration information through IPC/door-to-door visits, courtyard meetings, video & IPT shows, information desk, PDO, other orientations, IMD, etc. **(SIMS)**
- Relevant stakeholders like LGI, local leaders, youth leaders, upazila, and union parishad administration were sensitised about the promotion of safe migration practice for this purpose, 10 MRPC Orientations, five peer informant Orientations, 20 union parishad Orientations, 5 LGIs, and Local Leader Orientations were conducted. LGI and local leaders' orientation and MRPC members' capacity-building training were held to inform about Safe Migration Information so that concerned stakeholders can promote safe migration practice at the community level. **(SIMS)**
- Community people are getting migration information and services through the 25 Safe Migration Information Desks operationalized at Union Parishads for one day weekly. Festoons have been installed for disseminating safe migration messages, and graffiti has been painted on walls of all 25 Union Parishad premises. **(SIMS)**
- 886 participants (male 287; female 599) attended 28 courtyard meetings at grassroots level on awareness about safe migration **(SafeStep)**
- Another 1,049 (Male 328; Female 721) were sensitised through courtyard sessions on safe migration and reintegration. **[REMA(K)ER]**

Redress from state institutions:

- 233 cases were identified and collected from the field level and channeled for adequate redress during this period. 59 cases have been resolved in favour of MW (i.e., solved, locally solved, withdrawn, and stopped due to family conflict), 37 cases solved under WEWB (death compensation and medical supports), 13 cases solved under BMET category by mediation between parties (got compensation, got job, released from the jail at destination) and 9 cases solved by court, GMC & locally mediated and overall assistance has been



Field Visit of high officials of the British High Commission



Graffiti at Shuhilpur, Chandina Upazila



Information Desk at Pachnudi union, Adarsha sadar



An auto-rickshaw was handed over to a returnee migrant under Rema(k)er

provided for receiving approximately BDT 61,70,000 from WEWB, BMET and Mediation through GMCs. In some working areas, migrant communities have started claiming their rights and services through the SIMS project. (SIMS)

- Throughout the period, 132 cases were documented, submitted, and pursued to BMET, WEWB, and Probashi Kollyan Bank for resolution in favour of affected migrant workers. BMET resolved four cases, resulting in the affected migrants receiving Tk 2,65,000 as compensation. Additionally, families of the deceased received a total of Tk 13,40,000 as death compensation from WEWB, and Tk 21,05,000 was disbursed to affected migrants through Probashi Kallyan Bank. It's important to mention that four cases are currently under litigation in Tangail Court as part of comprehensive complaint management efforts. (ISEPR)
- RMMRU helped 30 migrant families receive BDT 65,05,000 as death compensation, including the burial cost, and three sick returned migrants were supported to receive BDT 3,00,000 from WEWB for medical support with the support of MRPC and RMMRU. (SafeStep)

Access to Justice:

- 25 episodes of 'Obhibashir Adalat' have been aired on DBC News channel from Jul 2022-Jun'2023 where 66 (56 male and 10 female) migrants and members of their families received direct information, guidance and referral support from 47 (39 male and eight female) migration experts, legal experts, and policymakers. (SIMS)
- Through *Obhibashir Adalat*, 19,750 migrant communities were made aware and received services and information through social media, YouTube hotlines, and live calls. From the 23 episodes, 15 cases were filed to BMET, WEWB, and GMC for Mediation, where 3 cases were successfully resolved through BMET and the Mediation Committee. BDT 2,50,000 has been recovered from sub-agents through BMET as compensation. (SIMS)

Mediation:



GMC Members' Refresher Training at Sadar south Ubazila



Left in Charge family member of migrants has developed her own business after receiving business development Training



Media Advocacy through *Obhibashir Adalat*

- The Grievance Management Committees (GMC) successfully mediated a total of 58 (40 male and 18 female) cases. Among these cases, 14 were resolved, by recovering Tk 11,75,000 from local subagents and handed over to the affected migrants. **(ISEPR)**
- The Grievance Management Committee are also contributing towards the reduction of fraudulent practices. District-level key stakeholders have also been engaged in this process as an Advisory Committee to guide the 25 GMCs. 10 cases were raised in GMC, 4 cases are under process, and 5 cases have been resolved with the recovery of BDT 5,79,000. **(SIMS)**



Migration Mediation for Ensuring Access to Justice for Affected Migrants

Psycho-social counselling:

- 69 vulnerable women and men returnee migrants received psycho-social counseling support for their mental well-being. Among them, 31 returnees received counseling sessions from the Clinical Psychologist of Nasirullah Psychotherapy Unit (NPU), University of Dhaka. **(ISEPR)**



LGIs representatives' orientation at Muradnagar Upazila

Business Advisory and Financial Literacy:

- 25 returnee migrants, survivors, and members of migrant families received business advisory support to start their businesses innovatively using the market-oriented business model, and they were linked with relevant stakeholders for business development. 70 returnee migrant workers and families' profiles have been developed for business advisory training support at the local level. **(ISEPR)**
- 50 returnee migrants and left behind family members enhanced their knowledge and capacity in actively participation in the training programme on financial literacy, remittance management and entrepreneurs' development **(ISEPR)**
- 648 left-behind family members of migrants have been trained in financial literacy. Most have also completed Entrepreneurship Development training to develop their ability to generate alternative income through maintaining family accounts, savings, and investment in productive sectors. Many beneficiaries have already started alternative income through diverse initiatives. **(SIMS)**
- 12 beneficiaries were provided a three-day intensive



Finlit session at Pachthubi, Adarsha sadar Upazila, Cumilla



Workshop with potential remittance and migrants focus financial institutes at Muradnagar Upazila, Cumilla

capacity-building workshop on individual business development and financial literacy who later developed their own business plan. **[REMA(K)ER]**

Capacity Development:

- 26 DEMO and BMET Officials have actively participated in the Complaint Management and ADR-related training programme jointly organised by RMMRU and BMET. **(ISEPR)**
- Under this project, 3 Grievance Management Committees, three youth volunteer groups, and an advisory committee have been developed involving 51 members (35 males and 16 females) and building their capacity for mediation. **(ISEPR).**
- 543 potential migrant workers (499 male and 44 female) participated in 18 demonstration sessions where the SafeStep app was demonstrated. A total of 1097 students participated in a school-based programme promoting the SafeStep app, where 531 were female and 566 were male students. **(SafeStep)**
- 4309 (3859 male and 450 female) departing migrants were oriented through 39 numbers training sessions conducted at the Technical Training Centres in Tangail, Faridpur, Cumilla, BKTTTC, SFMMTTC, and Gazipur DEMO office. **(SafeStep)**



Training on “Enhancement of Capacity of Newly Licensed Recruiting Agencies for Ensuring Ethical Recruitment Practices” at BMET conference room, Dhaka



Capacity Building Training of GMCs on Migration Act -2023

Capacity building of Recruiting Agents and Sub-Agents:

- 121 proprietors, managers, and managing partners of 102 newly licensed recruiting agencies received capacity-building training through 2 training sessions to ensure ethical recruitment practices, making the system more transparent, accountable, and migrant-friendly. **(SIMS)**
- Each upazila organised two sub-agent orientations to promote ethical recruitment and sensitisation of safe migration. There, the sub-agents also shared their issues and expressed their views on solutions. Some are playing a good role in promoting safe migration. **(SIMS)**



Demonstration sessions of SafeStep App in Tangail

Interactive Popular Theatre:

- Approximately 3525 migrant community members’ knowledge is enhanced through 12 Interactive Popular Theater (IPT) shows at the grassroots level. 980 were female and 2545 were male (approx.) were informed

about the app. (**SafeStep**)

Services rendered by the Migrant Support Centre near the Airport:

- 471 returnee migrants have received emergency services and support, including food support, accommodation support, medical treatment, transportation, legal and referral support, counseling, and connecting with family support from the Migrants Support Center. 152 returnees received food support, **132** beneficiaries received transportation support, 69 received accommodation support, 34 received legal support, 82 vulnerable returnees received counseling support, and 02 affected returnees received medical treatment support.

Pre-decision-making Orientation:

- The participants of PDMOs are now doing cost-benefit analysis regarding migration, checking visas, asking for work contract papers, showing interest in taking skill training, including RPL, and keeping their documents with their families, also looking for other employment opportunities after cost-benefit analysis. 308 (three hundred eight) batches of pre-decision-making orientation (PDMO) were completed with 9038 (male-8024, female-1014) potential aspirant migrants at the catchment area. (**SIMS**)

Emergency Service:

- A total of 332 returnee migrants and members of their families have received emergency services from the Migrant Support Centre (MSC) through accommodation, transportation, medical treatment, psycho-social counseling support, and linking and referral support. (**ISEPR**)

Information and referral services:

- A total of 2,371 members of the migrant community, including 1,395 males and 976 females, have received information and referral services for reintegration, legal assistance, and counseling services through courtyard meetings, mediation, orientation, and training, etc. (**ISEPR**)

Photo Voice:

- The photo voices of 30 returnee migrants and family



Policymaker Engagement Event on Labour Migrants' Access to Healthcare in the Gulf States



Job networking fair at TTC,



Interactive Popular Theater (IPT) show in Tangail



PDMO at Kalirbazar union, Adarsha sadar Upazila

members have been collected and documented systemically to analysis the context in regard to the challenges of making them entrepreneurs. **(ISEPR)**

Profile Development:

- 3,640 (male 3,628; female 12) aspirant migrants have been reached, and their profiles have been developed through the ‘Door to Door’ campaign besides demonstrating the digital platform SafeStep mobile application. **(SafeStep)**
- A detailed profile was developed for 30 beneficiaries for their needs and skill assessment [**REMA(K)ER**]



Courtyard session at Paikara Union, Kalihathi

Major Achievements

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) adopted the National Plan of Action (2022-2042) on Internal Displacement. The action plan was prepared voluntarily by RMMRU with some support from PROKAS for group consultations and from UNDRR for photovoice sessions. **(JRPR)**



‘Door to Door’ campaign at Paikara Union, Kalihathi

The *Shonar Manush Shommilon 2023* was held for the fifth time; five outstanding remittance-utilising migrants and their families were awarded the prestigious *Shonar Manush Award* and *Shonar Manush Poribar Award*. RMMRU also acknowledged the valuable contributions of 2 service-providing organizations with the *Shonar Manush Sheba Award* for Probashi Kallayan Desk, Dhaka, and the Wage Earners Welfare Board. The MoEWOE Minister highly appreciated and acknowledged RMMRU’s initiative of recognising the achievements and contributions of migrants. He stated, "What the migrants have done and what they are doing should be acknowledged at all times in this manner." **(ISEPR)**



A successful Entrepreneur is Receiving *Shonar Manush Award* 2023

Like every year, RMMRU organized the press conference on “The Patterns and Trends of Labour Migration from Bangladesh in 2022: Achievements and Challenges”. The event was widely featured in the print and electronic media (25 print and 5 TV media). Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), appreciated the release of the report and noted that “*this report has provided a directory of yearly migration trends. It will contribute to promoting migration governance and make migration-related service providers responsible.*” He assured that he would discuss the aforesaid challenges and



Shonar Manush Shommilon 2023

recommendations in the thematic committee on the migration of NHRC. 80 journalists representing print, electronic, and online media attended RMMRU's event. **(ISEPR)**

To develop the capacity of DEMOs and BMET officials about complaint management in migration services, ADR, migration mediation/arbitration 26 DEMO and BMET officials received training under this partnership. **(ISEPR)**

One of the year's major achievements was highlighting the migrant workers' health issues. RMMRU hosted two consultations and a press conference on Access to Healthcare in Destination Countries. Important stakeholders who participated in that meeting included MPs, migration experts, CSOs, BAIRA, psychiatrists, and journalists. **(Vital Signs)**

12 returnee migrants were provided with in-kind and business support materials worth Tk. 10,80,000 for their reintegration. Included among those was the partial cost of an auto-rickshaw, easy bike, materials for tea stall, grocery, handloom, decorator shop, and procurement of feed and fertilizer. The recipients have been largely successful in overcoming their reintegration challenges. **[REMA(K)ER]**

This period was marked by the completion of the important research on *“Social Cost of Migration on the Left-behind Elderly and Siblings in Bangladesh.”* **(SCM 2)**

Introduction of new practices:

- There is increased awareness of cost-benefit analysis regarding migration and options for checking visas and contract papers, as well as awareness about having two bank accounts before migration. In the project areas, there is increased demand for services at the passport office, youth development office, social welfare office, and information offices. Some Upazila chairman, UNO, and Union Chairman are asking for visa-checking opportunities at the union level **(Safe Step)**
- Ten Union parishads are disseminating the safe migration awareness messages in the government web portals and 10 unions have ensured budget allocation for safe migration in their yearly budget. **(Safe Step)**
- Out of 622 finalist beneficiaries, 68% of beneficiaries keep income and expenditure accounts, 86% of beneficiaries' save regularly, 91% maintain bank



RMMRU's Annual Press Conference 2023



Capacity Building Training of GMCs on Migration Act -2023



Stakeholders' engagement meeting with WEWB officials



Capacity Enhancement Workshop of lawyers, journalists and CSOs in Ensuring Access to Justice for the Migrant Workers

accounts, 95% receive remittances through proper channels, and 47% started small-scale risk-free investments. 622 ED beneficiaries have taken up income-generating activities, like- vegetable, poultry rearing, cattle/goat rearing, fisheries, tailoring/sewing-81, etc. (SIMS)

Innovation

Establishment of two booths at the Tangail, DEMO office and the *Shahadebpur Union Parishad* in collaboration with DEMO and the local government to provide information services on registration, visa checking, referral linkage, opening bank accounts, etc. and orient targeted beneficiaries about the SafeStep app. (SafeStep)

RMMRU initiated business advisory support to returnee migrants, survivors, and members of migrant families. 55 individuals received specialised training on market-oriented business development. From this group, 25 individuals were chosen to receive business advisory support, enabling them to start innovative businesses. (ISEPR)

Safestep mobile application has enabled the empowerment of migrant workers by providing them with knowledge and tools for safe migration, conducting cost and benefit analysis, and ensuring ethical recruitment using a digital platform. (SafeStep)

To understand the implementation process of the planned relocation programmes at the local level, RMMRU conducted a thematic content analysis of national laws and policies on planned relocation in Bangladesh. (JRPR)

New Knowledge

For the first time important insights were drawn on the engagement of the elderlies in the migration process of their offspring. The SCM study noted that both male and female elderlies contribute to making the migration effort of the concerned family members successful, and social costs and benefits of migration borne by the elderlies and siblings vary based on age, gender, ability to earn independently, and physical fitness. It was also found that:

- Contrary to popular belief, siblings also contribute both financially as well as non-financially to the migration journey of a household member;
- Despite the contribution of elderlies and the siblings of migrants, there is no government, private sector, or



Field Visit of high officials of the British High Commission



Public Testimonies of Migrant Workers on Wage Theft



Dissemination Workshop on “Death of Women Migrant Workers in Destination Countries”



Capacity Building Training on Complaint Management in Migration Services through Arbitration/ Mediation

civil society engagement to reduce the social costs of migration borne by these two groups.

- A section of both elderlies and siblings developed their agency in the process of addressing the social, and economic constraints imposed upon them due to the migration of their family members. **(SCM2)**

The GCC states' healthcare services are generally not tailored to the specific needs of this population, and there is obvious evidence of discrimination in access to healthcare for migrant workers, with lack of documentation and affordability the most significant obstacles.

- The inability of low-paid migrant workers in the GCC states to easily access non-emergency healthcare services has a detrimental effect on the general physical and mental health of this population, and this may be a significant factor both in the number of preventable deaths and the high rate of unexplained deaths.
- Easy access to healthcare is particularly critical for low-paid migrant workers in the Gulf due to the multiple adverse health conditions that can result from their work.
- The gradual shift in the GCC states to mandatory private health insurance is more likely to further restrict access to care than to improve low-paid migrant workers' access to healthcare.
- The long-term exposure to extreme heat in the Gulf leads to chronic health problems that require lifelong treatment. Heat can severely impact internal organs, with the heart and kidneys being particularly susceptible to substantial damage. **(Vital Signs)**

Maldives has become a destination for Bangladeshis for cost consideration and employment opportunities; however, there is currently a ban on migration through formal channels. 91% of respondents reported being placed against jobs within three months in the service sector, such as hotels and resorts, construction sector, domestic work, fisheries, and water transport, with an average monthly income of Tk. 35,147.

The age of female migrants who succumb to death in the Gulf, other Arab, and South East Asian countries are at least ten years younger compared to those who die in Europe, the United States of America, and other developed countries, as well as non-labour receiving Asian countries. Unnatural death is also significantly higher in the labour-receiving Asian countries compared to the other two. Another important issue is a large number of female migrant households do not trust



Dissemination Workshop on Social Cost of Migration on Left-behind Elderlies and Siblings in Bangladesh



Pictures of Elderlies from field work on "Social Cost of Migration on the Left-behind Elderly and Siblings"

the reasons assigned in the death certificate of their household member (UNDW)

Change in law and policy

RMMRU's advocacy strategy resulted in the government's incorporation of the issue of regularization of sub-agents in the Overseas Employment and Migration Act 2013. A draft bill to amend the Act was presented to the Cabinet on January 2, 2023. The term "sub-agent" was defined, recognized, and included in section 2 (18). Earlier in 2021, the Executive Director RMMRU, made a submission before the parliamentary standing committee on the draft amendment bill to the 2013 migration law in which he strongly argued for regularization of sub-agents.

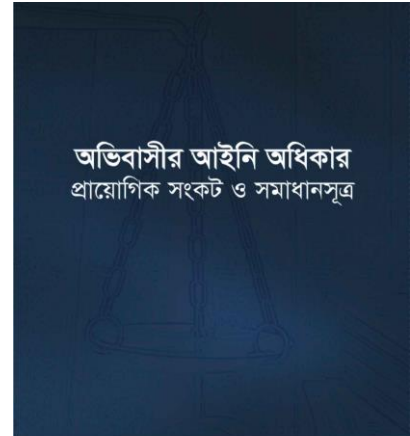
The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has made the training on "Capacity Building of Newly Licensed Recruiting Agencies for Ethical Recruitment Practices" mandatory for newly licensed recruiting agencies as a prerequisite for obtaining their licenses. Following the successful completion of the first training session organized by RMMRU and BMET and presided over by the Senior Secretary of MoEWOE on April 13 2023 the ministry has issued a circular that specifies that the proprietors, managing directors, or managing partners of agencies must participate in the two-day training to qualify for a license. (SIMS)

Intervention tools used by RMMRU

- Celebration of International Migrants Day and International Women's Day.
- Lobby meeting/ networking and rapport building with policymakers, Ministers, Secretaries, Parliamentarians, DG, BMET, officials from the DC Office, DEMO, TTC, UNO Office representatives, etc.
- Media advocacy through *Obhibashir Adalat* (issue-based op-eds, print and electronic media interviews, and articles in national dailies regularly).
- Online message content on safe migration through digital platforms.
- Door-to-door campaigns, school-based awareness programme, demonstration sessions, pre-departure orientation sessions, etc., at TTC and grassroots level.
- IPT shows, video shows, courtyard meetings, tea stall meetings, mic-ing, etc., to inform the migrant community about safe migration and the SafeStep mobile app.
- Identification and profiling of aspirant and departing migrants;
- Network development with Probashi Kollyan Desk at



Training on "Enhancing Capacity of Newly Licensed Recruiting Agencies for Ensuring Ethical Recruitment Practices"



সম্পাদনা
আসনিম সিদ্দিকী
মোঃ শিমশিমউজ্জামান

A publication on Migrant workers legal rights based on *Obhibashir Adalat*

Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport

- Providing emergency services to the affected returnee migrants
- Award-giving ceremony to recognise best remittance utiliser short-term migrant workers for entrepreneurship development
- Knowledge and capacity enhancement workshop/ training programme for stakeholders
- Organising psycho-social counseling sessions for the affected women and left-behind children
- Emergency support and services through Shelter Homes in collaboration with Wage Earners Welfare Desk
- Developing photo voice, evidence generation for policy influence and advocacy
- Business advisory support for both male and female and their family members
- Develop case stories and documentation on successful female migrant entrepreneur
- Migration mediation by Grievance Management Committees (GMCs)
- Case management of vulnerable returnees in collaboration with BMET, WEWB
- Dissemination of the RMMRU Annual Trends Report through press briefing.
- Consultation meeting on healthcare and workplace safety access in destination countries with MPs, migration experts, CSOs, BAIRA, psychiatrists and journalists, Bangladesh Institute of Labor Studies, Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB), and Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) officials on migrant workers' access to health in the Gulf.
- Publication of book, flyers, and policy briefs on legal remedy for the aggrieved migrant workers; safe migration; role of lawyers, journalists and CSOs to ensure access to justice for migrant workers; and migration dynamics of Bangladesh and the Maldives corridor.

Media Intervention

Article title: Vital yet vulnerable: Unmet healthcare needs of our migrant workers

Author: C R Abrar

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Star

Published Date: June 19 2023

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: অভিবাসন বাড়লেও রেমিট্যান্স বাড়ছে না কেন? (Even if migration increases, why is remittance not increasing?)

Author: তাসনিম সিদ্দিকী

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Samakal

Published Date: June 07 2023

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: অভিবাসী নারীর মৃত্যু কমাতে হলে (To reduce the death of migrant women)

Author: তাসনিম সিদ্দিকী

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Samakal

Published Date: February 27 2023

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: সিন্ডিকেট না ভাঙলে অভিবাসন ব্যয় কমবে না (Migration Cost will not go down unless the syndicate is broken)

Author: তাসনিম সিদ্দিকী

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Samakal

Published Date: January 23 2023

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: মজুরি চুরি! (Wage Theft!)

Author: সি আর আবরার

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Samakal

Published Date: December 25 2022

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: ব্রুনাইয়ের শ্রমবাজার: সম্ভাবনা ও শঙ্কা (Brunei's Labour Market: Prospects and Threats)

Author: তাসনিম সিদ্দিকী

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Samakal

Published Date: October 29 2022

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: Robbed wages, stolen livelihoods

Author: C R Abrar

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Star

Published Date: October 12 2022

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: রেমিট্যান্স বাড়াতে হুন্ডি ঠেকাতে হবে (Hundi should be stopped to increase remittances)

Author: তাসনিম সিদ্দিকী

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Samakal

Published Date: October 08 2022

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: Health vulnerability of migrant workers in destination countries

Author: C R Abrar

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Star

Published Date: September 15 2022

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনজনিত বাস্তুচ্যুতি মোকাবিলা সম্ভব (Coping with Climate Change Displacement is possible)

বিশেষ সাক্ষাৎকার: তাসনিম সিদ্দিকী

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Samakal

Published Date: September 13 2022

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: Making migrant worker recruitment ethical

Author: Tasneem Siddiqui

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Star

Published Date: August 28 2022

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: What we need to do to boost remittance inflow

Author: Tasneem Siddiqui

Name of Newspaper: The Business Standard

Published Date: August 07 2022

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

Article title: অভিবাসনের স্বপ্ন ও দুঃস্বপ্ন (The dreams and nightmares of migration)

Author: Tasneem Siddiqui

Name of Newspaper: The Daily Samakal

Published Date: July 05, 2022

URL: [Click here to read the full article](#)

List of Publications

Books

তাসনিম সিদ্দিকী, মোঃ শিমনউজ্জামান, (২০২২). *অভিবাসীর আইনি অধিকারঃ প্রায়োগিক সংকট ও সমাধানসূত্র*. PP. 131, SDC and RMMRU, Dhaka. E-book version:
www.rmmru.org/newsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Ovibashi-Ainni-Odhikar.pdf

Journal articles and Book chapters

Martin, M. A., Boakye, E. A., Boyd, E., Broadgate, W., Bustamante, M., Canadell, J. G., Carr, E. R., Chu, E. K., Cleugh, H., Csevar, S., Daoudy, M., Bremond, A. de, Dhimal, M., Ebi, K. L., Edwards, C., Fuss, S., Girardin, M. P., Glavovic, B., Hebden, S., Hirota, M., Hsu, H., Huq, S., Ingold, K., Johannessen, O. M., Kameyama, Y., Kumarasinghe, N., Langendijk, G. S., Lissner, T., Lwasa, S., Machalaba, C., Maltais, A., Mathai, M. V., Mbow, C., McNamara, K. E., Mukherji, A., Murray, V., Mysiak, J., Okereke, C., Ospina, D., Otto, F., Prakash, A., Pulhin, J. M., Raju, E., Redman, A., Rigaud, K. K., Rockström, J., Roy, J., Schipper, E. L. F., Schlosser, P., Schulz, K. A., Schumacher, K., Schwarz, L., Scown, M., Šedová, B., Siddiqui, T. A., Singh, C., Sioen, G. B., Stammer, D., Steinert, N. J., Suk, S., Sutton, R., Thalheimer, L., Aalst, M. van, Geest, K. van der, Zhao, Z. J. (2022). **Ten new insights in climate science 2022**. *Global Sustainability*, 5, E20. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/sus.2022.17>

Jolivet, D., Fransen, S., Adger, W. N., Fábos, A., Abu, M., Allen, C., Boyd, E., Carr, E. R., Codjoe, S. N. A., Gavonel, M. F., Gemenne, F., Rocky, M. H., Lantz, J., Maculule, D., De Campos, R. S., Siddiqui, T., & Zickgraf, C. (2023). *COVID-19 responses restricted abilities and aspirations for mobility and migration: insights from diverse cities in four continents*. *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications*, 10(1).
<https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-023-01721-y>

তাসনিম সিদ্দিকী, (২০২৩). *জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনজনিত আভ্যন্তরীণ বাস্তুচ্যুতি ব্যবস্থাপনাঃ বাংলাদেশের মানবাধিকার ভিত্তিক কৌশলপত্র এবং কর্মপরিকল্পনা*, জাতীয় দুর্যোগ প্রস্তুতি দিবস ২০২৩ উপলক্ষ্যে দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা বিষয়ক স্মরণিকা, দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ত্রাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।

Siddiqui, T; Islam, E. & Billah, T. (2023) Policy Architecture to Address Disaster and Climate Change Induced Displacement in Bangladesh, *Researching Internal Displacement*, 2023 https://researchinginternaldisplacement.org/short_pieces/policy-architecture-to-address-disaster-and-climate-change-induced-displacement-in-bangladesh/

Chowdhury, S. & Reza, S. (2023). Return and Re-migration Challenges for Bangladeshi Female Migrants in the Middle East during the COVID Pandemic. *Journal of Social and Humanities Studies*, 2(2),11-21.

Sorna, U. S. & Reza, S. (2023). Sex Trafficking: A Modern-Day Slavery and Exploitation in Modern Times. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science* (IJRISS). vol. 7; issue 6. pp. 410-414. ISSN 2454-6186/DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2023.7631>

Reza, S. (2023). Bangladeshi migrants in the Middle East: Precariatization, leave and return amid COVID-19. *Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Science*, 11(4), 118-129.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Usability and preliminary efficacy of an AI-driven platform supporting dietary management in diabetes: A mixed-method study' (Co-authored) Bul, K., Holliday, N., Bhuiyan, M. R. A., Clark, C., Allen, J., & Wark, P. (2022). JMIR Publications. <https://doi.org/10.2196/preprints.43959accepted> in JHF (<https://humanfactors.jmir.org>).

Working Papers and Reports

Siddiqui, T. (2023). *Death of Bangladeshi Female Labour Migrants in Destination Countries*, SDC and RMMRU. Online version:

<https://www.rmmru.org/newsite/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Report-on-Death-of-Women-Migrants-in-Destination-Countries.pdf>

Policy Brief

RMMRU-TAF, 2023, অভিবাসী কর্মীর সুবিচারপ্রাপ্তি: আইনজীবী, সাংবাদিক এবং সুশীল সমাজের ভূমিকা

Flyer

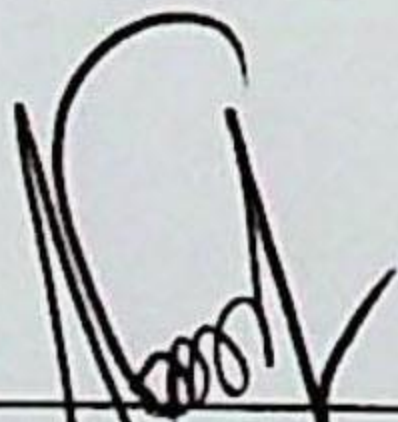
RMMRU-TAF, 2023, অভিবাসন সংক্রান্ত বিরোধ নিষ্পত্তিতে আইনি প্রতিকার

RMMRU-TAF, 2023, অভিবাসী শ্রমিকদের মজুরি চুরি বিষয়ে জরুরি তথ্য

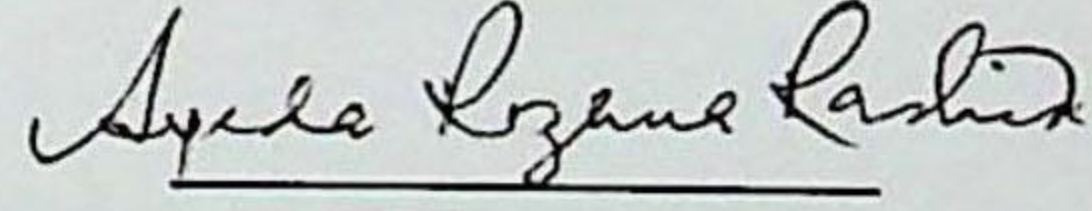
Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU)
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2023

Particulars	Note	Amount in Taka	
		30-Jun-23	30-Jun-22
PROPERTY & ASSETS			
Non - Current Assets			
Fixed Assets (WDV)	03.00	7,864,357	7,864,357
Work In Process (Land)		4,000,000	4,000,000
Total Non - Current Assets		11,864,357	11,864,357
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash equivalents	04.00	2,903,170	3,240,182
Loan to Project	05.00	3,006,280	-
Total Current Assets		5,909,450	3,240,182
Total Property & Assets		17,773,807	15,104,539
FUND & LIABILITIES			
Fund & Reserves			
Fund Account	06.00	15,362,250	12,915,631
Total Fund & Reserves		15,362,250	12,915,631
Non -Current Liabilities			
Total Non -Current Liabilities		-	-
Current Liabilities			
Fund Transferable to projects	07.00	2,410,557	2,187,908
Loan Payable to ED	08.00	1,000	1,000
Total Current Liabilities		2,411,557	2,188,908
Total Fund & Liabilities		17,773,807	15,104,539

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

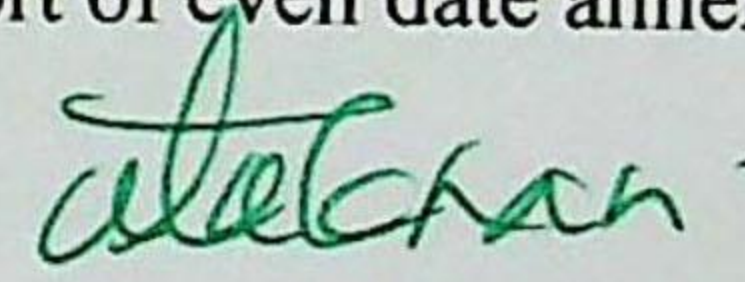


Executive Director
RMMRU



Treasurer
RMMRU

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed


Maqbul Ahmed, FCA
ICAB Enrolment no. 0587
Partner
ATA KHAN & CO.
Chartered Accountants
DVC: 2311050587AS825776

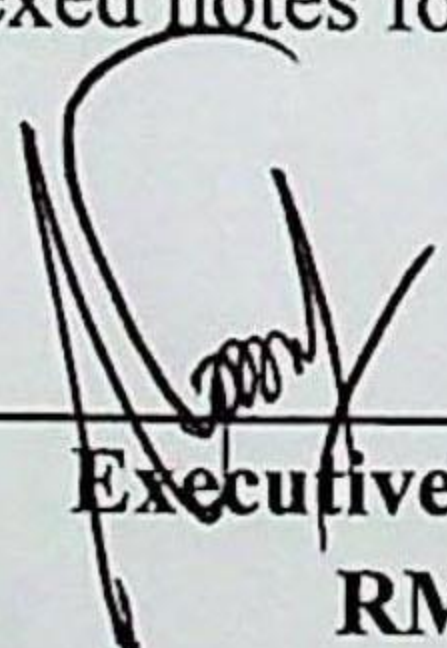
Dated: Dhaka
05 November 2023



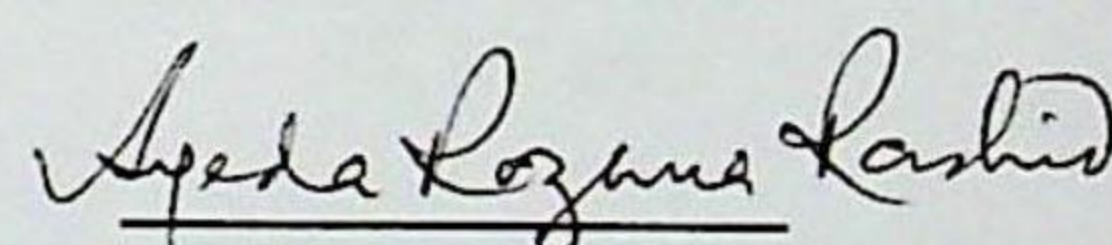
Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU)
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Particulars	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		1 July 2022 To 30 June 2023	1 July 2021 To 30 June 2022
Income:			
Office Rent received from projects	10.00	836,440	872,345
Utilities received from projects	11.00	95,000	133,840
Donation received	12.00	327,476	54,441
Overhead received from projects	13.00	2,692,792	1,203,827
Book Sell		-	9,600
Interest received from Bank		51,162	31,887
Total Income		4,002,870	2,305,940
Expenditure:			
Office Rent		1,086,564	1,678,168
Utilities		344,579	345,436
Audit Fee		35,000	30,000
Accounting Software Maintenance fees		12,990	-
Bank Charges		14,477	31,846
Travel allowance, Local conveyance		1,440	3,703
Miscellaneous		40,200	3,336
Website Hosting		21,000	20,000
Total Expenditure		1,556,250	2,112,489
Excess of Income over Expenditure		2,446,619	193,452
Total		4,002,870	2,305,940

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

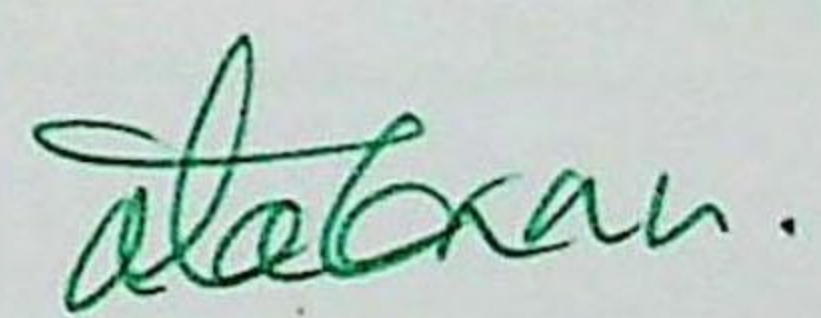


Executive Director
RMMRU



Treasurer
RMMRU

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed


Maqbul Ahmed, FCA
ICAB Enrolment no. 0587
Partner

ATA KHAN & CO.
Chartered Accountants
DVC: 2311050587AS825776

Dated: Dhaka
05 November 2023



Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU)

Statement of Receipts and Payments

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Particulars	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		1 July 2022 To 30 June 2023	1 July 2021 To 30 June 2022

Receipts:

Opening Balance

Cash & Cash equivalents

Cash in hand

Cash at bank

Outstanding Advance

Fund received

Office rent received from projects

Utilities received from projects

Donation received

Overhead received from projects

Loan refund from Project

Loan from ED

Book Sell

Interest received from bank

Total :

		3,240,182	198,356
		569	5,000
		3,239,613	163,356
			30,000
	09.00	45,234,047	64,375,249
	10.00	836,440	872,345
	11.00	95,000	133,840
	12.00	327,476	54,441
	13.00	2,692,792	1,203,827
	05.00	187,878	7,137,292
	06.00	-	1,000
		-	9,600
		51,162	31,887
		52,664,976	74,017,838

Payments:

Fund transferred to projects

Office Rent

Utilities

Audit Fee

Loan to Project

Bank Charges

Honorarium for Version III Launching Event

Version III Launching Event

Travel allowance, Local conveyance

Website Hosting

Accounting Software Maintenance

Miscellaneous

Sub Total

	14.00	45,011,398	62,187,341
		1,086,564	1,678,168
		344,579	345,436
		35,000	30,000
		3,194,158	6,380,000
		14,477	31,846
		-	80,000
		-	17,826
		1,440	3,703
		21,000	20,000
		12,990	-
		40,200	3,336
		49,761,806	70,777,656

Closing Balance:

Cash & Cash equivalents

Cash in hand

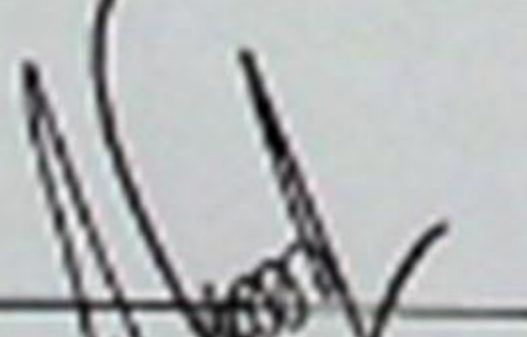
Cash at bank

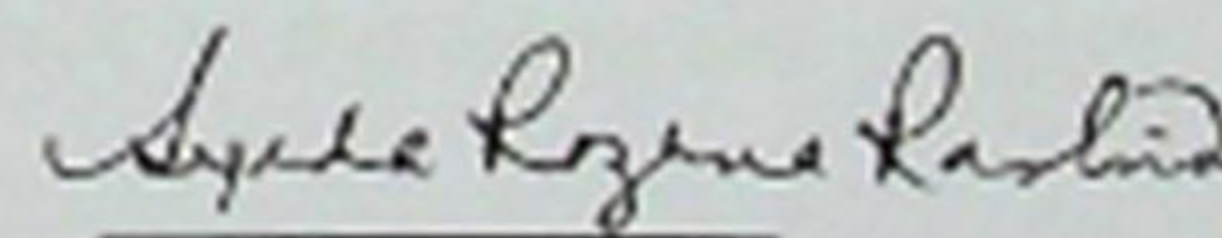
		2,903,170	3,240,182
	04.00	2,560	569
	04.00	2,900,610	3,239,613

Total:

		52,664,976	74,017,838
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The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.


Executive Director
RMMRU


Treasurer
RMMRU





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