



**30** Years  
Generating Evidence  
Shaping Policies  
Empowering Migrants

# POLICY BRIEF 39

## RAISE: A Collaborative Approach to Reintegration of Returnee Migrants

### Key Messages

- Large scale development initiatives are only successful when each participating organization have clearly defined standard operating procedure.
- RAISE is one such project where effective collaboration among the Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) of the Government of Bangladesh, the World Bank, IOM and RMMRU could successfully disburse 39,8493000 BDT to a total of 29,518 returnee migrants as direct cash incentives for their reintegration.
- The significance of the amount disbursed is understood if it is compared to the budgetary commitment of the government on migration sector in the fiscal year 2025-2026, the amount disbursed is equivalent to 5% of that.



*A returnee migrant of Thakurgaon, rebuilding life with confidence*

## Background

Reintegration is a vital step in the migration journey, yet it is often overlooked. While migrant workers usually plan before going abroad, very few consider how they will manage life upon returning home. Many come back with debts, little or no savings, and no clear plan for the future. The COVID-19 pandemic forced thousands of migrants to return home abruptly, highlighting the urgent need for reintegration support. In response, the RAISE Project was launched by WEWB with support from the World Bank. IOM is the lead consultant and RMMRU is the implementing partner operating in eight districts through four welfare centres.

## RAISE: A Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Migrant Reintegration

RAISE is a unique project where the government, international agencies, and NGOs have worked together to provide reintegration services. These services have been delivered through district welfare centres. In each centre, a representative of WEWB, IOM and RMMRU worked together under the supervision of designated official of WEWB. To ensure effective service delivery, an operational manual and a comprehensive reintegration service mapping have been developed, where the roles and responsibilities of each partner were clearly defined.

## Process Description

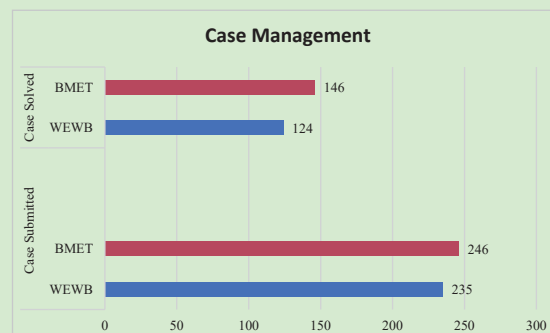
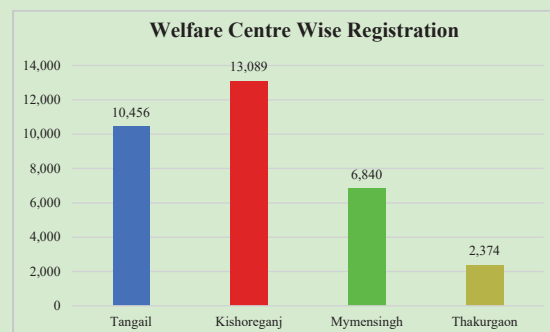
Structured welfare centres named '*Obhibashi Sheba Kendra*' were established at the district level. 42 dedicated staff members and 62 volunteers relentlessly worked to identify the returnee migrants. Gender sensitivities were ensured with engaging trained female counselors for female returnees. Grievance management system was integral part of the process. Welfare centres were digitally equipped along with breastfeeding corners, pure drinking water, tea corners etc.

To make the distressed returnee migrants aware of the reintegration services, miking was conducted in important part of the catchment areas. Through community engagement, the RMMRU team encouraged them to visit the centres for screening, registration, and other reintegration supports. Door-to-door gradual visits and spot registrations at the union level ensured wider outreach. Once the programmes are known, thousands of migrants came to the welfare centres. To manage such huge gatherings, volunteers were engaged and a token system was introduced.

**Individual Case File Creation:** Individual case files were developed for returnee through screening and registration process containing: General information, Migration history,

Return details with Justified proof of return. From the beginning till the end, same RMMRU staff managed individual case files. And, same RMMRU staff managed individual case files.

## Reintegration Process



**Counselling Sessions:** Welfare Centre counsellors listened to the returnees' and their needs and opportunities, encourage them toward suitable reintegration paths. Counselling Sessions helped returnees adopt a self-reliant approach, "Help yourself, and God will help you".

**Individual plan:** Counselors encourage returnees to prepare personalized plans by assessing their skills, strengths, and available local level opportunities. This approach helps them identify suitable livelihood options and take practical steps toward reintegration. The plans are both social and economic, addressing their problems, challenges, and life priorities. For example, one returnee planned to expand her puffed rice business, another aimed to grow his vegetable garden and invest in fish farming, one returnee developed a plan to support the treatment of her physically challenged child, while another prioritized his children's education.

**Referral:** RMMRU conducted survey of available institutions which have the capacity to provide services to the returnees. Meetings were held to the staffs of this service providing organizations to convince them to provide effective services to the returnee migrants. The WEWB also organized workshops to engage local government institutions, encouraging them to prioritize reintegration services for returnees. Every returnee has unique needs. RMMRU staffs referred them to appropriate business advisory and other service providers. Among the available options, the most preferred training packages chosen by beneficiaries included livestock rearing, fish farming, modern agricultural technologies, entrepreneurship development, and financial literacy.

The project focuses on skill-specific initiatives. Returnees with specialized skills gained abroad in certain trades receive Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) from TTC, along with incentives.

### Task Ahead

- Expand the range of skills training in the government institutions to match diverse needs of returnees and evolving market demands.
- Introduce decentralized training events at the local level, as many female returnees are unable or unwilling to attend training in district or Dhaka-based institutions. This is due to time and accessibility constraints.
- Ensure wide and accessible dissemination of government information on available services for migrant workers.
- Address unmet demand, as a large number of returnees remained on the waiting list due to the project's limited scope, targets, and time constraints. A follow-up project is therefore needed to continue reintegration support.

### Achievement

RAISE project has won the World Bank South Asia Vice President's Award.



29518

Beneficiaries received direct cash incentive support

32759

Registered beneficiaries receiving various reintegration services



21095

Returnee received soft skill training from GoB institutions



92

Referred for RPL certification from TTC



39,8493000 (BDT)

Disbursed as cash incentive to Returnee migrants



6,843000 (BDT)

270 returnee migrants supported in case management and received the amount



6.5 percent

Ensured entitlement of female beneficiaries.

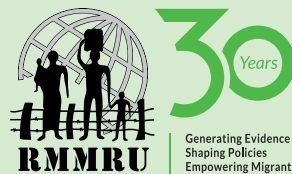




*Beneficiary registration wave at the welfare centre*

### **Acknowledgement**

This policy brief reflects RMMRU's experience in implementing the RAISE project. It was prepared by Marina Sultana, Director of Programmes, and Kamrunnahar Kona, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at RMMRU, under the guidance of Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui. RMMRU acknowledges their contributions. We also extend our thanks to the RAISE consortium, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB), and the World Bank. The policy brief is designed by Md. Parvez Alam, Senior Officer (IT and Communication), RMMRU.



*Other policy briefs of RMMRU are available on [www.rmmru.org](http://www.rmmru.org)*

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