

Safe Migration Framework

Developed through multi-stakeholder consultations

Key Migration Facts and Figures

A “Perfect Storm”

Bangladesh currently has a total unemployment rate of 4.3 percent, and a rate of **9.4 percent among the youth**.

Regular migration is an unattainable dream for poor /unskilled Bangladeshis. Since 2013, **1.5 million have registered to go to Malaysia**, out of which around only 10,000 have so far migrated successfully.

For many years there have been **established people smuggling-trafficking routes** from the Bay of Bengal to Southeast Asia, used mostly by Bangladeshi economic migrants, Rohingya refugees, asylum seekers and climate change induced migrants.

An estimated **88,000 people** undertook sea journey by following these routes between January 2014 and March 2015. Out of these, an estimated **1,050** have died or gone missing at sea.

Following an intensified crackdown in the Andaman Sea in May 2015 the routes were disrupted and thousands of Bangladeshis and Rohingyas stranded at sea in May 2015. Following humanitarian assistance, **over 5,000 confirmed landings** in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia by late June.

The seaborne migrants have gone through **severe human rights violation** – physical and sexual violence, starvation, financial extortion and arbitral killing.

As of February 2016, **2,626** Bangladeshis were assisted to return to the country, out of which **180 were minors**.

Main Drivers of Irregular Migration

- **Poverty and lack of livelihood opportunities** for youth and poor/ lower skilled Bangladeshis/ climate change induced migrants, combined with a **severe lack of awareness** of and **accurate information** related to migration including the realities of irregular migration
- **Lack of regular, safe and affordable opportunities for labour migration**, although international migration continues to be one of the principal means for poverty alleviation in Bangladesh
- Trafficking and smuggling networks take advantage of **weak law enforcement structures, lack of specific legislation for people smuggling and insufficient inter-agency cooperation** despite a strong *Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012*
- **Limited employment options for women** due to **gender norms** and few **women-friendly regular migration avenues**
- **Asylum migration nexus and international protection needs of Rohingyas** contribute to the surge and complexity of mixed-migration flows from Bangladesh

Multi-stakeholder Approach

- Engage with local and national government, legislative and executive bodies to strengthen institutional capacities and policy coherence
- Work closely with civil society, media and private sector to increase scale and reach out to affected communities
- Create synergies with regional and international policy platforms as well as international development agencies to coordinate interventions according to the respective mandates of all partners

Purpose of the Framework

- Provide a **state-led and multi-stakeholder policy and implementation framework** to respond effectively to migration crises
- **Build governmental and civil capacities** to address **the immediate humanitarian needs and root causes** of migration crises in a sustainable and accountable manner
- Support affected populations to **better access their fundamental rights to protection and assistance** at all stages of the migration cycle, giving due consideration to age- and gender-diversity specific needs and promoting a victim-centered approach
- Facilitate **long-term strategic planning** through a cross-thematic approach and partnerships with public and private sector actors to ensure continuous support and resource mobilization

Key Areas of intervention

1. Building **Migration Crisis Management Capacities and Responding to Immediate Needs**
2. Enhancing **Law Enforcement Effectiveness** and Good Governance to Counter Human Trafficking, People Smuggling and Related Crimes
3. Creating Resilience Through **Better Social Protection, Livelihood and Employment Opportunities for Affected Communities**
4. Strengthening **Migration Management Services for Regular, Safe and Demand-driven Labour Mobility**

“This is the age of migration. Migration cannot be stopped, cannot be contained. It is a phenomenon, brought to life by the dreams - and the nightmares - of the impoverished and the terrified.”

William Lacy Swing, Director General, IOM



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Building Migration Crisis Management Capacities and Responding to Immediate Needs	Enhancing Law Enforcement Effectiveness and Good Governance to Counter Human Trafficking, People Smuggling and Related Crimes	Creating Resilience Through Better Social Protection, Livelihood and Employment Opportunities for Affected Communities	Strengthening Migration Management Services for Regular, Safe and Demand-driven Labour Mobility
<i>Immediate response to migration crises</i>	<i>Long-term interventions to address the root causes of migration crises</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National migration crises strategy to increase preparedness in adherence to international standards Strengthened inter-agency coordination and referral mechanism to provide a concerted assistance to rescued and returning migrants Capacity building and technical assistance for agencies responsible for border patrolling, and search and rescue at sea operations Increased capacities to monitor and identify migrants in distress, timely screen their specific vulnerabilities including needs of international protection as refugees, and ensure access to appropriate protection and assistance through proper referral Assistance for voluntary and safe return as per national referral systems as well as health, psychosocial and socio-economic support to victims of trafficking, vulnerable migrants and families Emergency training for Bangladeshi consular officials to improve assistance for crisis affected vulnerable populations in transit and destination countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced national inter-agency coordination and evidence-based policy planning Strengthened enforcement of the <i>Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012</i> and the <i>Overseas Employment and Migrants' Act 2013</i> through enhanced litigation, sensitization, and legislative advocacy Improved identification and investigation of human trafficking cases as well as prosecution and conviction of criminal networks through building investigation capacities, and strengthened cooperation between law enforcement, judges and public prosecutors Improved protection, legal assistance and sustainable reintegration assistance, including health, psychosocial and socio-economic support to trafficking victims, witnesses and other vulnerable groups Strengthened regional and bi-lateral cooperation to tackle cross-border criminal networks through effective implementation of existing mechanisms, establishing joint task forces and developing SOPs as appropriate Community-level confidence building through creating informant networks to report suspected smuggling and trafficking cases anonymously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased local employment, education and skills training programmes for both men and women to support job-placement, including self-employment and school-to-work transitions of populations vulnerable to irregular migration Life-skills, climate change resilience and safe migration modules integrated into formal education and pre-decision counselling at the community level Targeted and strategic awareness campaigns aimed at deterring irregular migration, preventing trafficking, and promoting safe and legal migration Reduced economic and social vulnerability of men and women through greater access to basic health and social protection via community-based interventions and strong local governance Enhanced diaspora engagement as well as access to financial institutions and remittance channeling to support community development, entrepreneurship and micro-enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive technical assistance to improve migration management that builds on previous achievements, including the <i>Overseas Employment and Migrants' Act 2013</i> Augmented skills development system for both male and female migrants for overseas employment following the <i>National Skills Development Policy 2011</i> (Chapter 18) to enhance employability of migrant workers Fair and ethical recruitment practices through improved engagement with and monitoring of private and public recruitment service providers, and functional complaint mechanisms Expanded role of Migrant Resource Centers to function as one-stop shop through increased institutional outreach and provision of services for both prospective and returned migrants Effective bilateral, regional and international coordination and partnerships to expand regular labour migration channels and to address protection needs and the rights of migrants

Coordination Across Pillars

- Policy dialogue and information sharing between countries of origin, destination and transit (e.g. through existing Regional Consultative Processes)
- Strategic links with the 7th Five Year Plan, National Plan of Action for Combatting Human Trafficking 2015-2017, Social Protection Strategy, National Skills Development Policy 2011, National Action Plan for BCCSAP/ NAPA other planning processes and public-private partnerships to create durable solutions and functional linkages between local and national levels
- Inter-agency mapping and coordination to promote synergies between relevant programmes run by all relevant stakeholders
- Consolidated approach to public messaging and awareness raising that enables people to take action (e.g. access to hotlines, Migration Resource Centers, media and civil society)
- Greater use of technology for counter-trafficking, safe migration and climate change protection
- Strategic approach to collecting and assessing data, information management and evidence-based policy making in all related thematic fields
- Effective monitoring & evaluation of all interventions to determine impact and increase accountability of Framework interventions
- Mainstreaming of gender- and age-specific components
- Geographical targeting of interventions with a focus on at risk-communities and climate change hot-spots