Request for Proposal (RFP)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is looking for a qualified Consultant or Consultancy Firm to commission the study on “Ways to Ensure Active Inclusion of Bangladeshi (Diaspora) in National Development”:

1. Background

An estimated 12 million Bangladeshis have emigrated in the past four decades. In 2018 alone, over a 700,000 people (BMET 2018) migrated for work, mainly to the Middle East, sending home some USD 15.5 billion in remittances. Bangladesh, being a major labour sending country has been spearheading formation and reforms of the policy narrative for gearing towards improved migration governance. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has been actively involved in various efforts of migration governance in the global level, through the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and in the and regional level, through the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, the Bali Process, the Budapest Process and the Colombo Process.

Bangladesh’s migration policy is strongly oriented towards transforming emigration into a tool for local development. The Seventh Five Year Plan (FY 2016—FY 2020) recognizes migration as a major driver of development, by creating employment for a large number of workers. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets the development priorities to be achieved by 2030—delineated through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—contains targets dedicated to migration. Target 10.7 aims to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. Target 8.8 aims to protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.¹

Bangladeshis expatriates are present in more than 170 countries across the globe placing the country as a major labour sending country. In the last few years, Bangladesh has remained as one of the top ten remittance-receiving countries in the world, in 2018 migrants remitted US$15.54 billion (BBS). Overseas employment draws a significant impact in improving the quality of life and reducing poverty in source country like Bangladesh. Many Bangladeshi migrants (Diaspora), who are staying overseas for long time, looks for ways to engage themselves in national development. The diaspora² population continue to maintain a certain degree of relationship with Bangladesh mainly through economic, social and cultural interactions.

There is no accurate data about the number and destination countries of Bangladeshi diaspora members. It is estimated that around 2.4 million Bangladeshis permanently live abroad either as citizens or with other valid documents in as many as 162 countries across the world. These permanent migrants living in different continents and countries are known as the ‘Bangladesh diaspora’ and have immense

¹ Some other SDG Goals are also linked with migration. According to Target 10 c: By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent. Goal 3 (Health), Goal 4 (Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 16 (Peaceful Societies), and Goal 17 (Partnerships) are also linked with the welfare and rights of the migrants.

² IOM (2004): Diaspora has been viewed as communities of migrants settled permanently in and owing allegiance to host countries while at the same time are aware of their origin and identity and maintain varying degrees of linkage with their country of origin and with other diasporic communities of same origin.
potential to make substantial contributions to Bangladesh’s development regarding sharing their skills, expertise, technology, and knowledge. Mostly living in the industrial countries including but not limited to the UK, the US, Italy, Japan, Australia, Greece, Canada, Spain, Germany, South Africa, France, Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland, these people make up the ever-growing Bangladesh diaspora. While reasons for their departure varies – jobs, education, improved standard of living, etc. – individuals within the diaspora communities maintain a particular affinity with Bangladesh having a desire to continue a connection, culturally, socially or economically, to their country of origin.

The Bangladeshi diaspora is not dealt with in any comprehensive or specific institutional mechanisms. A few CSOs recently have set forth their recommendations for facilitating ways to enhance the contribution of the diaspora to the development of the country, such as by ensuring their effective recognition and upholding their rights. Diaspora engagement is viewed as when the government of a given country increasingly recognizes the value that diaspora population brings to the development efforts and seeks ways to magnify the human capital and financial resources that emigrants and their descendants contribute to development in their country of origin. However, in Bangladesh, no such mechanism for recognition exists, and engagement is often limited to transfer of remittances only. This arrangement needs to go beyond and convert NRBs to direct investors in critical and emerging industries, generous philanthropy, and in the development of human capital and sharing and transfer of knowledge from the countries of residence to the country of origin in various ways.

However, there needs to be a comprehensive approach to ensure that diaspora community can be actively engaged in national development. A recent study on the “Engagement of Non-resident Bangladeshis in National Development” (2018) suggests that to address this issue the GoB needs to engage the diaspora community in an effective and efficient way which would link them with different developmental activities and allow them to contribute adopting the “PIE Framework”.

![Figure 14: An overview of the PIE framework](image)

In addition, global framework such as the GCM explicitly highlights the need to engage diaspora in development particularly through Objective 19 “Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.” Despite government attempts at integrating the diaspora population into national development, concrete way forward is required to ensure active engagement of Bangladeshi (Diaspora) in national development.
2. IOM Project to which the Consultancy is contributing:

Bangladesh: Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance (Prottasha), is a four years project led by Government of Bangladesh, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and funded by the European Union (EU). The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable reintegration of returnees and the progressive achievement of Goal 10.7 to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed policies.

The specific objectives (SO) of the project are to ensure that;

- **SO 1**: Irregular migrants returning to Bangladesh are sustainably reintegrated (Reintegration component)
- **SO 2**: Strengthen policies and practices to improve migration governance (Migration Governance component)
- **SO 3**: Relevant actors make informed decisions about migration, and practice and promote safe, orderly and regular migration behaviours, including remittance management. (Awareness Raising component)

3. Objectives of the consultancy

The overall objective of the consultancy is to find out measures to ensure the active inclusion of Bangladeshi diaspora in the national development of Bangladesh.

The research objectives of the study are:

- Review existing literature and studies on long term emigrant Bangladeshis including global/regional tools and policy guidelines, taking into account different existing data platforms such as the iDiaspora, and see adaptability to national context.
- Identify general, policy and institutional challenges for engaging diaspora for development.
- Suggest measures to engage diaspora in socio-economic development through concrete approaches.
- Suggest policy guideline to strengthen as well as establish new institutions both at Government and civil society levels to create opportunities for linking expatriates with Bangladeshi society and economy.
- Identify/update information on main Bangladeshi diaspora associations and community structures for accessing information in countries of destination and in countries of origin.

4. Key Tasks of the Consultancy:

- Review relevant documents for literature review section assessing existing policies, interventions and good practices when enabling diaspora engagement as a tool for development.
- Design a practical methodology that collects data from key stakeholders such as the government, diaspora community, CSOs/NGOs among others. In-depth Interviews, Key informant interviews and other participatory approaches need to be included.
- Compile report on findings and facilitate the organization of a sharing and validation workshop for the relevant stakeholders to share, discuss and review the assessment.

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3 Toolkit for Understanding Diaspora Investment; Diaspora Investment Readiness Index (DIRI) - Government Instruments, Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development inter alia.


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IOM is an equal opportunity employer and women are encouraged to apply. IOM Offices and vehicles have smoke-free work environment.
Finalize the study report based on feedback and submit to IOM
Produce a publishable report (template to be provided by IOM) and policy brief summarizing the findings of the study

5. Methodology:
The consultant needs to detail out methodology for the proposed activities however, the following can be considered:

1. Primary Information: Data collected through Key informants’ interviews and other participatory approaches.
2. Secondary information: Review of reports and various related documents including relevant tools and policy guidelines.
3. All work submitted must be in line with the programme communication guidelines including IOM spelling list: 2013, IOM House Style Manual and IOM Brand Guidelines 2018. Consultants are encouraged to request for the guidelines before they start writing the report

6. Deliverables:
The following are the expected deliverables;

1. Inception Report (template to be provided by IOM) containing final methodology and workplan.
3. Draft report consisting of findings and way forward from the analysis.
4. Final Assessment Report based on the feedback from key stakeholders.
5. Publishable report and policy brief summarizing findings of the study.

7. Duration/ Timeline:
The total duration for this assignment is proposed to be approximately 5 months.

8. Method of Application:
Interested Consultants are invited to submit documents stated below by 15 February 2020 through e-mail to farkhan@iom.int and CC faahmed@iom.int; mentioning the RT/CO-017/2020/003: Study on “Ways to Ensure Active Inclusion of Bangladeshi (Diaspora) in National Development” in the subject line. Please keep the attachment size under 9 MB.

For any queries please write to DhakaProttasha@iom.int and DhakaPL@iom.int

9. Required Documents:
Consultancy Firm/Individual consultant need to submit a technical and financial proposal.

Each Submission Must Include the Following:

i. Consultant Profile: A detailed CV of the experts including records on past experience in similar assignments and name of the references.
ii. Technical Proposal with detailed methodology, tools and work plan along with samples (at least two) of previous work.

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iii. **Financial Proposal** listing all costs associated with the assignment. In particular, the financial proposal should itemize the following:

- Consultancy fees in local currency per day.
- Variable costs inclusive of transportation costs, research team (if applicable); meeting/KIIs costs
- Costs associated with the validation workshop (venue, food and others) held in Dhaka will be borne by IOM.

10. **Professional and Related Experiences:**

The proposed team from the consultancy firms or the consultants should have following competence.

- Must be an expert with sound knowledge of the migration sector
- Completion of minimum Master’s degree in Social Sciences or related field with at least five years of relevant professional experience.
- Sound knowledge and demonstrated capacity in designing the tools and methodology and conducting organizational assessments.
- Solid understanding of migration sector and government structures of Bangladesh.
- Demonstrated ability to draw lessons from relevant international, regional and national practices and processes.
- Excellent presentation, oral and written communication skills.
- Proficiency in English and good analytical, drafting skills.
- Ability to deliver according to specified timeline while maintain quality of the output.

The Proposal should be written in English.

Any attempt for persuasion will be considered as a disqualification

**ONLY SHORTLISTED CONSULTANTS/CONSULTANCY FIRMS WILL BE ASSESSED**

**ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TAX OR VAT ISSUES IF APPLICABLE.**