

Monthly Update June 2021

Bangladesh: Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance (Prottasha)

Project Overview

Duration: 60 Months
(April 2017—April 2022)
Funded by: The European Union
Lead Ministries: The Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) and The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
Implementing Partner: BRAC
Service Coverage: 64 Districts of Bangladesh
Number of Primary Beneficiaries Reached: 1,961

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Contributing 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

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 01

Irregular migrants returning to Bangladesh are sustainably reintegrated

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 02

The capacities of the Government of Bangladesh and other migration actors are strengthened to manage migration at central and local levels and to ensure reintegration of irregular migrants

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 03

Returnees, potential migrants, families and community are empowered to make informed decisions about migration and adopt regular, safe, orderly and responsible migration behaviours including remittance management

Sustainable Reintegration

TOTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE (30 JUNE)

SOCIAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL	ECONOMIC
83 (82 Men, 1 Women)	625 (618 Men, 7 Women)	1,344 (1,320 Men, 24 Women)

* The overall number of unique project beneficiary is not equal to the total of the - figures as some beneficiaries received a combination of social, psychosocial, and economic assistance and are therefore counted multiple times.

Returnees Profiled and Screened

	June	Cumulative
EU	208	1,429
Non-EU	96	836
Total Number	304	2,265 (M: 2212; W: 53)

Beneficiaries receiving Psycho-social Support

	June	Cumulative
Enrolled	108	805 (M:793; W:12)
Completed	99	625 (M:618; W: 07)
Referred for Trauma Counselling	00	10 (M: 10; W: 00)
Received Medical Treatment	00	40 (M: 39; W: 01)

Information Center Services

	June	Cumulative
Men	12	309
Women	00	149
Total Calls Received	12	458

Hotline Services

	June	Cumulative
Men	55	2,033
Women	01	155
Total Calls Received	56	2,188

Beneficiaries receiving Total Immediate Assistance

	June	Cumulative
Total Immediate Assistance	00	310 (M: 301; W: 09)
Total Assistance Received	00	556 (M: 533; W: 23)

Beneficiaries receiving Economic Reintegration Support

	June	Cumulative
Completed Reintegration Plans	293	2,102 (M: 2056; W: 46)
Received In-kind Support	260	865 (M: 848; W: 17)
Referred for Skills Training	00	110 (M: 108; W: 02)
Received Skill Training	82	215 (M: 209; W: 06)
Referred for Economic Reintegration Support	05	163 (M: 195; W: 06)
Received Economic Reintegration Support	00	3 (All are Male)
Enrolled in Community Enterprise	00	261 (M: 260; W: 1)

Social Reintegration Support

	June	Cumulative
Workshops	00	588
IPT Shows	00	1,878
DCC Meetings	01	64
Video Shows	00	3,162
Referred for Social Reintegration Support	01	53



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A journey from frustration to confidence

Rahim Mia, originally from Munshiganj district's Sreenagar Upazilla, was in financial difficulties owing to not having a stable income. When he was looking for a decent income opportunity, one of his contacts, a middleman, informed him that moving abroad could be a good way to get out of his financial crisis. Many of his villagers had made a good income by going abroad. Rahman was swayed by the middleman and intended to go abroad.



Rahim attending a counseling session arranged under the Prottasha project. @Prottasha 2020

Rahim subsequently contacted a middleman and paid him BDT 1,000,000 (9,994 EUR) as migration cost. His family members had to borrow money from relatives and non-profit organizations to arrange this large sum of money. Rahim also managed to get some money from his family's savings account. Finally, in 2010, he migrated to Sweden. Unfortunately, however, he struggled to find a job because of the recruitment policy there.

After much struggle, Rahim managed to get a job at a restaurant on contract basis and started earning an income. He managed to earn a sum of BDT 3,000,000 (29,982 EUR) throughout his stay in Sweden and sent the money to his family to pay off his debts and cover household expenses.

When his legal documents expired in 2016, he began experiencing difficulties in Sweden while he continued to live with the fear of getting arrested. Rahim was subsequently fired from his job as he lacked the necessary legal documents to continue working in Sweden. He looked for work but wasn't successful. Meanwhile, unfortunately for him, he had an accident, and his eyes were damaged. As the treatment cost was high, he had to spend a significant amount of money. When his physical and financial condition started to deteriorate coupled with the lack of legal documents to continue living in Europe, Rahim finally decided to return home to Bangladesh in 2016.



Rahim receiving advice on the Tailored Reintegration Plan (TRP) offered under the Prottasha project. @Prottasha 2020

Upon his return to Bangladesh, he opened a shoe retail shop at the local market. But his earnings were insufficient, and he was becoming increasingly irritated. Rahim was identified by a Prottasha staff where he was screened and considered eligible to receive assistance under the project. Rahim received psychosocial support under the Prottasha project.



Rahim receiving the cheque for BDT 70,000 issued under the Prottasha project. @Prottasha 2020

The psychosocial assistance received under the Prottasha project contributed to a positive change in him. He began to feel comfortable, hopeful, and active again.

He further received assistance to develop a Tailored Reintegration Plan (TRP) together with needed social and reintegration support through the Munsiganj RSC. He also received BDT 70,000 (699.37 EUR) as in-kind support, which he used to buy additional products for his store. This assistance boosted his business and enabled him to gradually increase his income.

Rahim remarked, "I am grateful for the counselling assistance that has helped me become more self-assured and confident. Furthermore, your (received under the Prottasha project) in-kind assistance has helped me in overcoming my financial difficulties. I am very grateful to the Prottasha project."

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Orientation for district supervisors and enumerators:

In addition to the existing enumerators and supervisors in the project, 10 district supervisors and 60 enumerators have been recruited under the Prottasha project to facilitate identification of returnees in 10 districts where Reintegration Service Centres (RSC) are not established. Among them, six district supervisors and 36 enumerators from Chandpur, Feni, Gazipur, Hobiganj, Cumilla, and Lakshmipur were given training on Migration, Reintegration, and IOM's HR policies from 20 to 22 June 2021 in Sylhet.



A training facilitator conducting the induction training. @Prottasha 2021

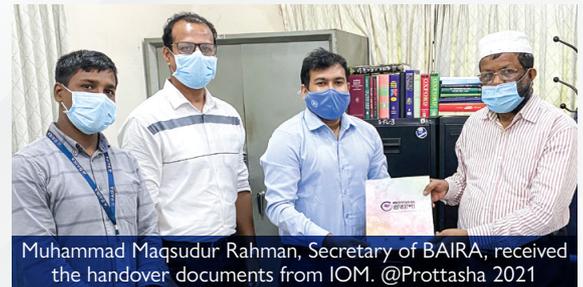


Supervisors and volunteers posed for a photo at the end of training. @Prottasha 2021

Migration Governance

Handover of Information Management System to BAIRA:

IOM supported the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) to develop a digital information management system under the Prottasha project. This system facilitates the maintenance of records of recruit agencies, ensures transparency and will contribute to improving their ethical recruitment practices. The information management system was handed over to BAIRA on 30 June 2021. Muhammad Maqsurur Rahman, Secretary of BAIRA, was present at the handover ceremony.



Muhammad Maqsurur Rahman, Secretary of BAIRA, received the handover documents from IOM. @Prottasha 2021

Awareness Raising

Advocacy workshop:

Migrants and their communities can contribute more to the economy if they have a better understanding and access to financial services and products. Through the EU-funded Prottasha project, IOM is targeting to organize 60 advocacy workshops within the project period across the county to make financial services and products available for migrants and their communities.



Participants joined a discussion during the advocacy workshop in Keraniganj. @Prottasha 2021

On 22 June 2021, an advocacy workshop was organized at Keraniganj in Dhaka. Around 20 representatives from government and non-government organizations, and returnees participated in the workshop.

At the workshop, the participants discussed the financial services available to migrants, and how vulnerable migrants and their family members can access the products for better financial management. The stakeholders recommended a large-scale promotion of available financial products among migrants, their communities, and financial service providers.



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Number of persons reached with messages on safe migration, reintegration and remittance management

	June	Cumulative		June	Cumulative
 Interactive Popular Theatre (IPT) Shows	00	518,454 M: 329,001; W: 189,453	 School Programmes	00	49,296 M: 22,956; W: 26,340
 Financial Literacy Trainings	387	2,013 M: 1,743; W: 270	 Video Shows	00	621,647 M: 523,695; W: 97,952
 Tea Stall Meetings	00	26,245 M: 25,312; W: 933	 Pot Songs	00	88,566 M: 52,416; W: 36,150

Increase capacity of migrants and their families on financial literacy and their awareness of available products and services:

	June	Cumulative
 Number of financial literacy engagement (community-based dialogues on access to financial services, capacity building on financial literacy) facilitated:	16	84

Number of advocacy events (workshops and consultative dialogues) with financial service providers:

	June	Cumulative
 Number of consultations and advocacy engagements:	06	29

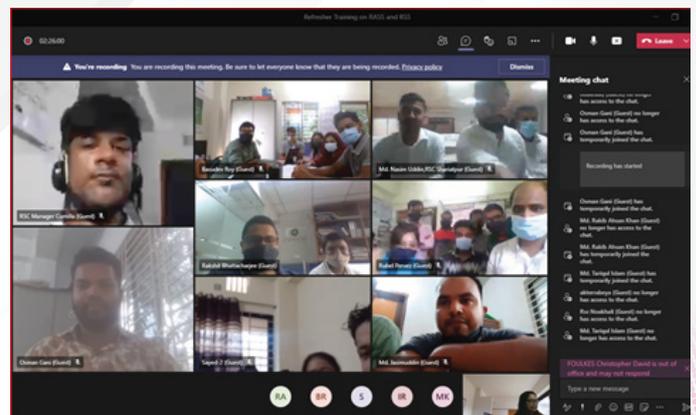
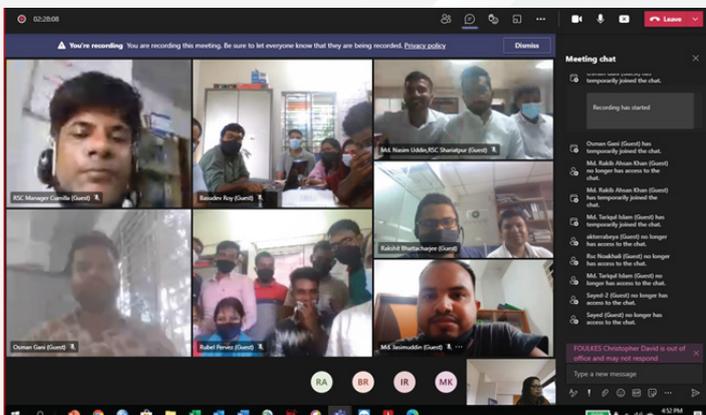
Monitoring and Evaluation

Prottasha Management Information System (ProMIS)- Phase 3:

Further to the latest amendment to the Prottasha project, the M&E tools were also updated in line with the amended Description of Activities (DoA). As a result, the ProMIS platform will be updated to reflect these changes. A service provider was commissioned under ProMIS- phase 3 to update the system by including new M&E tools on stimulus grants, as well as reporting against important output and outcome indicators.

Refresher Training on Reintegration Sustainable Survey (RSS) and Reintegration Satisfaction Survey (RASS):

Ahead of conducting the data collection under the third round of RASS and RSS survey, IOM and BRAC M&E teams jointly organized a refresher training for the field staff of the Reintegration Service Centers (RSCs) on the RSS and RASS module in June 2021. The training provided a clear understanding of the survey modules to the staff on the RASS and RSS questionnaires. The aim of the RSS and RASS is to measure the sustainability of the reintegration services assistance received as expressed by the returnees as well as the satisfaction of beneficiaries.



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Communications

Number of communications products developed: 20

Number of persons reached through digital media: 185,351

	June	Cumulative
Facebook	164,223	3,708,691
Twitter	21,060	317,236

Migration Forum:

A story on the Migration Forum, as a best practice and successful initiative, was promoted globally through IOM's digital platforms and social media in three languages (English, French and Spanish). It tells the tale of Sheikh Faruk Ahmed, a returnee who advocates for safe, orderly, and regular migration for migrants and his community.



STORY LINKS WEBSITE

English: <https://cutt.ly/JmGFs0t>
French: <https://cutt.ly/NmGFLah>
Spanish: <https://cutt.ly/EmGFVSP>

SOCIAL MEDIA POST LINK FROM IOM HQ:



Talk Shows:

In June 2021, Channel 24 and Nagorik TV hosted three television talk shows on ethical recruitment, migration costs, migration and the Bangladesh's 8th Five Year Plan. The shows were also broadcast live on IOM Bangladesh and Channels' Facebook pages, in addition to the telecast on television. The talk shows reached more than 75,988 individuals who tuned in to watch the show online.



Total
75,988
People reached online

TALK SHOW LINKS:

Talk Show 1
<https://cutt.ly/EmFq0aD>

Talk Show 2
<https://cutt.ly/JmFqBFK>

Talk Show 3
<https://cutt.ly/emFqJrj>

Prottasha Monthly Update May 2021: <https://cutt.ly/mmOi3d9>



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Project Areas

 **10** REINTEGRATION
SERVICE CENTER (RSC)
covering
64 DISTRICTS

