

Monthly Update December 2020

Bangladesh: Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance (Prottasha)

Project Overview

Duration: 4 years
(April 2017—April 2021)
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: 1,507

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

Returnees Profiled and Screened

	December	Cumulative
EU	68	874
Transit	06	633
Total Number	74	1,507

Beneficiaries Receiving Psycho-social Support

	December	Cumulative
Enrolled	26	545
Completed	14	408
Referred for Trauma Counselling	00	09
Referred for Medical Treatment	03	34
Number of Returnees Who Received Tele-counseling Services	00	438

Information Center Services

	December	Cumulative
Men	00	252
Women	00	141
Total Number	00	393

Hotline Services

	December	Cumulative
Men	65	1,794
Women	02	141
Total Number	67	1,935

Beneficiaries Receiving Immediate Cash Grant and Immediate Assistance

	December	Cumulative
Total Immediate Assistance received	01	259
Total Cash Grant received	02	191
Total Assistance Received	03	450

Beneficiaries Receiving Economic Reintegration Support

	December	Cumulative
Completed Reintegration plans	76	837
Received in Kind Support	57	492
Received Stimulus Grant	00	304
Referred for Skills Training	00	123
Referred for Economic Reintegration Support	04	103

Social Reintegration Support

	December	Cumulative
Workshops	00	588
IPT Shows	00	1,878
DCC Meetings	03	56
Video Shows	00	3,162
International Migration Day (District & Upazila)	54	54
Referred for Social Reintegration Support	00	37

450 Beneficiaries Received Immediate Cash Grant and Immediate Assistance



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Monthly Update December 2020

Media Hailed for Contributing to Migration during the Media Awards Event:

The project held the Media Awards (2019) on 24 December 2020, which encourages media organizations and journalists to continue their role in raising awareness among communities, relevant government and non-government stakeholders on safe migration, improving migration governance and strengthening policy advocacy initiatives. The Awards, initially planned for April 2019, also recognize the contributions of media institutions in producing articles and reports about migration in Bangladesh across different categories. The Honorable Minister, Mr. Imran Ahmad (MP) was the chief guest at the event attended by dozens of media houses, representatives from the European Union delegation, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), BRAC, and the Jury Board joined the event which was well attended physically and widely viewed and shared virtually.



Mr. Imran Ahmad (MP), minister of MoEWOE, addressed the Migration Media Award Ceremony on 24 December 2020

Weaving Dreams of a New Life

Hasan Ali (26) returned from Austria in 2019 and was interviewed and accessed reintegration support from Prottasha Project.

Being the youngest amongst 12 brothers and sisters, it was tough for Ali to continue his education beyond the SSC examination. As Ali's parents, Abul Hossen and Monoara Khatun, had to take care of 14 family members, he felt a tremendous pressure to become economically independent and support his parents. He realized that some people from his community who worked abroad, became economically better off. Determined, he contacted a middleman as this was the only way to migrate that he knew. The middleman arranged for him to go to Norway for BDT 1,500,000 on 10 December 2016 from the Hazrat Sahjalal International Airport, Dhaka through Austria. The middleman convinced Ali that it will be easy for him to go to Norway from Austria and hence, arranged his route Russia-Belarus-Ukraine-Hungary-Austria. Ali travelled using different modes of transportations, such as plane, bus, train, taxi, boat and even on foot.

Ali's life in Austria began with a job as a paper supplier and without any legal documents. Three (3) years went by and he switched from being a paper supplier to a restaurant job. Ali got caught by the local law enforcement officers without any legal documents to stay in Austria and was sent back to Bangladesh in a chartered flight on 11 December 2019.

After returning, Ali was determined that he will settle down in Bangladesh. However, he was overwhelmed with guilt as he spent more than he could send back to his family. With BDT 900,000 remittance, he could not bring his family out of their struggles. Nevertheless, he decided to establish his own nursery of a variety of fruits such as Guava, Palm, Lemon and others. His mother, out of her great interest in his idea, allowed him to use the land she inherited but he realized that he needed more capital to buy raw materials and other tools.

RSC Khulna identified Hasan Ali on 28th January of 2020 through its regular process of returnee identification. And upon getting more information about the Prottasha project reintegration services, Ali took the services offered under reintegration support. First, he was set up for psycho-social support from RSC Khulna to help him regain his confidence and mental stability. He attended two sessions with the counsellor physically and due to Covid-19 movement restrictions, Ali remained under the supervision over the phone by the counsellor and continued to receive counselling sessions.

The sessions he received helped him a lot to regain his confidence. He began working on his economic reintegration plan with the District Manager. In order to avoid the risk of spreading the coronavirus, the District Manager continued to prepare the economic support plan over the phone as



Hasan Ali with the in kind support (fertilizer and other materials) provided by the Prottasha project

Monthly Update December 2020

agreed by all project staff. The District Manager and Hasan Ali held online meetings several times as it was risky meeting face-to-face and he indicated that he required support to expand his nursery business.

Accordingly, the project supported the plan by providing BDT 80,000 for buying wire enclosure (BDT 60,000) and fertilizer (BDT 20,000) for Hasan Ali's nursery. A three member purchase committee was formed and on 4 September 2020, Ali finally received the support from the project through Khulna RSC. He said, **"I feel extremely lucky to be one of the beneficiaries of the Prottasha Project."**

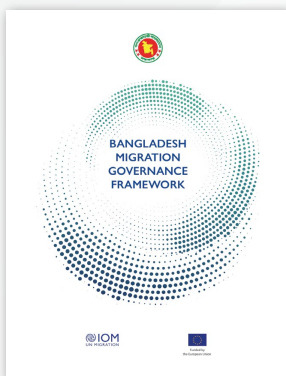
However, he too like many other beneficiaries, fell victim to COVID-19 induced circumstances which hampered the flow of his business. He ended up spending the capital he had earned to bear the cost of daily family expenses. To help him sustain his livelihood and overcome any future uncertainties, he received an additional BDT 10,000 as stimulus grant.

Hasan Ali is now being continuously supported by the RSC Manager, District Manager as well as the Counsellor. He indicated that, "I am now doing much better after receiving the stimulus grant from Prottasha Project during the lockdown situation due to COVID-19." RSC Khulna has not only enlisted him for Financial Literacy Training in the coming months but also signed him up for Community Enterprise to ensure a sustainable reintegration.



Hasan Ali at his Guava Garden with the District Manager of RSC Khulna

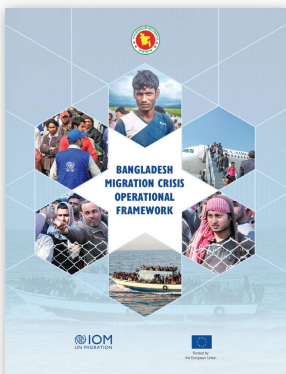
Migration Governance



Publication of the Comprehensive Framework for Migration Governance in Bangladesh:

The Bangladesh Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) was published during the month. As part of strengthening migration governance, this framework guides the policy direction of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and facilitates the implementation of results-based planning and reporting on migration governance in the country. The framework sets out a coherent, comprehensive and balanced vision for migration governance for Bangladesh, integrating development with due regard for social, economic and environmental dimensions and respecting human rights. The framework development was co-led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) and finalized in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. The framework is aligned with MiGOF, Migration Crisis Operational Framework, national Five Year Plan and provides a foundation for the development of the national action plan for GCM.

Publication link: <https://cutt.ly/QjQOIUX>



Publication of Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF):

The Bangladesh Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) was published, and a dissemination plan developed during the month. The MCOF strengthens the mechanisms for the Bangladesh Government to assist its nationals in countries experiencing disasters. The framework document proposes key pillars on which to anchor Bangladesh's approach in helping its nationals in countries experiencing emergencies caused by human-made or natural disasters. Based on consultative data-gathering exercises and with the view to contextualize tools such as MCOF and Migration in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) initiatives, the framework document proposed recommendations for implementation, and highlights key challenges in ensuring successful interventions to assist migrants in emergencies abroad.

Publication link: <https://cutt.ly/QjQAHTk>

Monthly Update December 2020

Improving Mechanisms to Monitor Labour Recruitment Practices and Ethical Recruitment:

IOM is supporting the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) to develop a Case Management System (CMS) for the Monitoring and Enforcement wing of MoEWOE. This is an initiative to enhance capacity of MoEWOE to monitor recruitment practices of recruiting agencies and have a stronger monitoring and enforcement mechanism in place. A meeting was held at MoEWOE on 29th December 2020 chaired by Joint Secretary, Monitoring and Enforcement wing to finalize the requirement of the CMS. The ToR of the CMS was drafted to commission the consultancy firm.



Muzaffar Ahmed, Joint Secretary of MoEWOE, presided over the meeting on 29 December 2020

Awareness Raising

Technical Support Provided to Conduct 3 Days Financial Literacy Training in Cumilla RSC:

The project has developed a Financial Literacy and Remittance Management training module and a trainers pool to provide financial literacy trainings to aspirant migrants, returnees and their family members across Bangladesh through the Reintegration Service Centers (RSCs). In this context, Cumilla RSC organized a 3-day training on financial literacy and remittance management between 27 to 29 December 2020. To ensure the quality implementation of this activity, the project staff provided technical support to the RSC and the facilitators of the training. The training increased knowledge of the returnees and their family members on financial literacy and better remittance management techniques. Besides, the participants are expected to make better informed decisions about migration, remigration, income generating activities and investments and utilization of the remittances by calculating the cost benefit analysis.

Celebrating the International Migrants Day 2020 through Two Talk Shows on Channel 24:

The project initiated two Talk-shows during the International Migrants Day 2020 week-long celebrations at Bangladesh's popular channel, Channel 24 during their live programmes. The talk shows sensitized the viewers and provided correct information about migration, processes and services to promote safe migration, better remittance management and sustainable reintegration. The first Talk-show was held on 17th December on 'Future of Skilled Migration' where migration expert Professor Dr. C. R. Abrar, former Lead Economist of World Bank Dr. Jahid Hussain and the Director General of BMET Mr Shamsul Alam engaged in a discussion. The discussion focused on the progress made in governing skilled labour migration and the proposed way forward to strengthen the functions of existing platforms. The second Talk-show was held on 19th December on 'Welfare Services for Migrants' and the former Foreign Secretary Mr Shahidul Haque, the Joint Secretary of Wage Earners Welfare Board Mr Shoab Ahmed Khan and the Deputy Managing Director of Probashi Kalyan Bank were the discussants. The guests deliberated on the existing services for the welfare of migrants (returning and potential) such as scholarships, loans and compensation and the future aspects of welfare services considering the effect of Covid-19 pandemic.



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Monthly Update December 2020








Develop curriculum and other materials for community dialogues on safe migration, reintegration, and remittance management

	December	Cumulative
 Number of capacity building curriculum	00	02
 IEC materials developed	00	11
 Number of App/Portal developed	00	01

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

	December	Cumulative
 Number of financial literacy engagement (community-based dialogues on access to financial services, capacity building on financial literacy) facilitated:	09	36

Number of People Reached with Messages on Safe Migration, Reintegration and Remittance Management

	December	Cumulative		December	Cumulative
 IPT Shows	00	518,425	 School Programme	00	87,231
 Migration Fair	00	14,450	 Video Shows	00	621,647
 Tea stall Meetings	00	25,952	 Pot Song	00	88,551
			 Financial Literacy Training	240	794

Monitoring and Evaluation

Deployment of the Returning Migrants Management of Information System (ReMiMIS):

The project is supporting the GoB in developing and deploying the ReMiMIS to collect and analyze returning migrants data and information for reintegration and planning purposes. The training and piloting of the ReMiMIS with the Technical Training Center (TTC) and District Manpower and Employment officials (DEMO) were completed, and all feedback received from the training and piloting were incorporated in the final MIS and deployed into the BMET server. A total of 10 Master Trainers' were selected on the ReMiMIS and certificates of the master trainers were handed over to the Assistant Director General (ADG) of BMET on 3 December 2020.



IOM handed over the certificate of the Master Trainers to the BMET on 3 December 2020

Reintegration Assistance Satisfaction Survey (RASS) and Reintegration Sustainable Survey (RSS):

Data collection of the RASS and RSS was initiated on 15 December 2020 and will run until 31 January 2021. The survey aims to measure the sustainable reintegration of the returnees as well as the satisfaction of beneficiaries after accessing reintegration services from the Prottasha project. IOM introduced RSS to standardize the measurement of sustainable reintegration and satisfaction with surveys in line with the IOM Institutional Guidance on M&E of Assisted Voluntary Return/Reintegration (AVR/AVRR), Post Arrival Reintegration Assistance (PARA) projects. Prior to the onset of data collection, a refresher training on the survey modules with RSC staff was conducted on 8 December 2020 and the phone-based surveys are targeting all the 1,465 beneficiaries of the Prottasha project. The surveys will be second round for 531 beneficiaries and first time for the remaining beneficiaries.



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Communications

Concert for Migrants:

A virtual concert titled ‘Concert for Migrants’ was organized on 18 December 2020 on the occasion of International Migrants Day 2020. Featuring popular singers from home and abroad—Fakir Shahabuddin, Fahmida Nabi, S I Tutul, Sania Sultana Liza, Mizan Mahmud Razib, Xefar Rahman, Sahos Mostafiz, Nowshad Ferdous, and Palash Noor—the concert reached more than 3.3 million people in more than 30 countries worldwide. In between performing a range of popular songs, the celebrities spoke on the importance of informed migration decisions contributing to regular, safe, and orderly migration, sustainable reintegration as well as migration governance. The event also gained huge media coverage.



Top 15 countries from where people watched the concert

Bangladesh, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Qatar, Lebanon, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, Malaysia, Singapore, UK, Egypt, Italy, and Japan

Key Insights and Outreach

3.3 Million People Reached

1.9 Million People reached online

1.4 Million People watched the concert on TV

37 Media reports published

Get the full outreach report from this link:
<https://cutt.ly/kjnYfh9>

Mobilization of Migration Media Award 2019:

On 24 December 2020, thirteen journalists and one media organization received the prestigious Migration Media Award for their outstanding contribution in 2019 to the migration sector through their contributions made in the form of news updates, articles, and other initiatives. The project engaged a Jury comprising representatives from the MoEWOE, Civil Society Organizations (CSO's), academia, and journalists who evaluated the reports and selected journalists under five categories namely: National Newspaper, Local Newspaper, National Television, Radio, and Online News Portal.



Through the mobilization of the award-giving ceremony and the issues, a wider audience engagement and huge visibility of the project were achieved online and offline.

Media Coverage Details: <https://cutt.ly/QjnYRGt>

Outreach	
Number of people reached online	78,759
Number of media report produced	38+

Number of Content Developed: 27
Number of Media Report Produced: 75

Reached through Digital Media		
	December	Cumulative
Facebook	2,124,813	3,388,764
Twitter	23,145	259,670

Prottasha Monthly Update November 2020:
<https://cutt.ly/ejQXsRd>

Project Areas

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

