

## Monthly Update August 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:** 1,344

### 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

	August	Cumulative
EU	00	791
Transit	00	553
Total Number	00	1,344

### Beneficiaries receiving Emergency Immediate Cash Grant Assistance

	August	Cumulative
Men	0	176
Women	0	11
Total Number	0	187

### Beneficiaries Receiving Psycho-social Support

	August	Cumulative
Enrolled	06	472
Completed	06	348
Referred for trauma counselling	00	09
Referred for medical treatment	00	29
Number of returnees who received tele-counseling services	18	397

### Beneficiaries receiving Economic Reintegration Support

	August	Cumulative
Completed reintegration plans	04	660
Received in kind support	15	305
Received Stimulus Grant	304	304
Referred for Skills Training	00	40
Referred for economic reintegration support	0	99

### Information Center Services

	August	Cumulative
Men	09	228
Women	02	130
Total Number	11	358

### Social Reintegration Support

	August	Cumulative
Workshops	00	588
IPT shows	00	1,878
Forum meetings	00	712
DCC meetings	00	50
Video Shows	00	3,162
School Quiz	00	820
Referred for social reintegration support	0	33

### Hotline Services

	August	Cumulative
Men	47	1,269
Women	04	115
Total Number	51	1,384

**187** Beneficiaries received Emergency Immediate Cash Grant Assistance



This Project is led by  
Government of the  
People's Republic of Bangladesh



Funded by  
the European Union



Implemented by  
IOM



In Partnership with  
BRAC

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### Returnees Identification:

148 migrants (146 men and 2 women) who returned from European countries after the COVID-19 outbreak were identified by para counselors and field staff through telephone communications in coordination with government officials and migration forum members. Total number of returnees identified since March 2020 are now 1,152 (991 men and 161 women).

### Tele-counseling:

Returning migrants from the EU Member States due to the COVID 19 outbreak and the existing project beneficiaries are receiving tele counseling instead of in person psycho-social counseling. A total of 18 returnees, received tele-counseling services this month.

### Stimulus Grant:

Stimulus grant of EUR 110 (BDT 10,000) is being provided to returning migrants to meet their basic and immediate needs since most of the returnees are experiencing a decline in their income. A total of 304 returnees received their stimulus grant this month.

### Prottasha Supports Parvin Sultana to Remain Strong during COVID-19

Ms. Parvin Sultana (pseudo name) is a mother of two daughters and a migrant who used to live in the United Kingdom (UK). Due to the global pandemic caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, she returned to Bangladesh on 16 March 2020 along with her two daughters. Since then she and her daughters were stranded here and could not manage to migrate to the UK again as there were no flights.

During this time in Bangladesh, Parvin and her daughters struggled with depression, especially during the time they spent in quarantine notably with the loneliness which was difficult for the children. The health risk due to COVID-19 also caused much stress to Parvin and her family. Uncertainty of resuming flights made her more anxious.

One of the field officers of the Prottasha project in Sylhet recognized her needs and connected to the Reintegration Service Centre (RSC) counselling service. After the initial discussion over the phone, a counsellor from Sylhet RSC started providing Parvin Sultana with tele-counseling services from 15 April 2020. Initially, it took time for Ms. Parvin to trust the counselor. Realizing her situation and hesitation, the counsellor empathically assured her of the confidentiality and privacy of the services and the safety of the phone call. Gradually, Parvin Sultana started trusting the counselor and started talking about the struggle she was going through. The counsellor soon diagnosed that she was emotionally unstable.



Married at the age of 17, Ms. Sultana was abused by her husband and his family physically, mentally, and verbally. When her husband married another woman without her consent, she decided to divorce him. Following the decision, Parvin started living at her sister's house and worked hard to feed her two daughters. But, without adequate educational qualifications, it was difficult for her to earn enough to provide for her family comfortably. She found herself in a severe struggle and financial crisis. Later, she decided to migrate to the UK and started living there with her daughters.

While attending the tele-counseling sessions, Parvin continuously asked for updates on global and national trends of the pandemic and possible dates when flights might resume. Learning about the increased risk among elderly people with health complexities, she was also worried for her father who is diabetic.

To get her out of all this worrisome situation, the counsellor suggested some strategies on worry management, along with some indoor games, and fun activities for her, and her daughters. The counsellor kept on inspiring and motivating her to be strong, taught her the techniques for managing stress, anxiety, and depression. Parvin also learned how to prevent negative thoughts thanks to a short manual on COVID-19 emergency tele-counseling support provided by the project. She was encouraged to share this new information and messages with other family members, relatives and community.

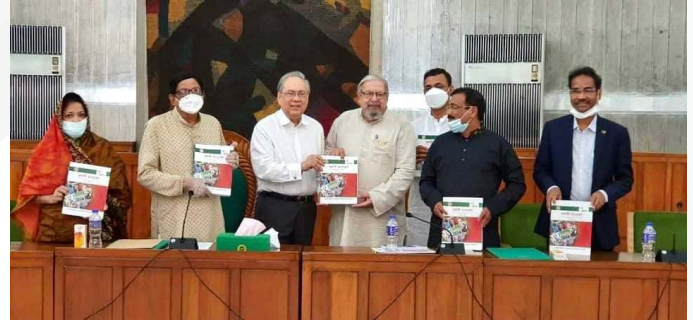
After completing the counselling sessions, Ms. Sultana was very pleased and expressed her appreciation for the services provided in a professional and non-judgmental way. She was very thankful to the counsellor and to the Prottasha project which is implemented by IOM in partnership with BRAC and funded by the European Union (EU). The Government of Bangladesh leads the project.

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### Migration Governance

#### Handover of “Probashi Manual” to the President of Parliamentary Standing Committee by the Minister of MoEWOE

IOM supported the Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) in updating and publication of the “Probashi Manual” which compiles of different policies, acts, circulars, government directives and other relevant legal documents related to labour, migration and migrant workers’ rights. At the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on MoEWOE, Mr. Imran Ahmed MP, Minister of MoEWOE handed over the “Probashi Manual” to the Committee President Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud MP. The manual is aimed to enhance the capacity of the officials of the Ministry, its related agencies, labour wings, DC offices, executive magistrates, and other related stakeholders.



Mr. Imran Ahmed MP, Minister of MoEWOE hands over the “Probashi Manual” to the Committee President Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud MP.

#### Strengthening the Capacity of Executive Magistrates Appointed Through Mobile Court:

Based on the recommendation of the stock-taking exercise conducted to review the implementation status of the OEMA 2013 and PSHTA 2012, IOM is supporting the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) to strengthen the interventions of the M&E Wing of the MoEWOE. This is being done by strengthening the capacity of executive magistrates appointed in the Vigilance Task Force (VTF) of the mobile courts. This was prioritized by the GoB to instill ethical recruitment practices and interventions to curb irregular practices. The training module of the assignment was drafted and reviewed by MoEWOE.

#### Study on the Contribution of Bangladesh Diaspora in National Development:

IOM is supporting the Government to conduct a study to investigate measures that ensure the active inclusion of Bangladeshi diaspora in national development. The study will suggest measures to engage diaspora in socio-economic development approaches and policy guidelines to strengthen structures for linking them with Bangladeshi economy. The inception report of the study was finalized and data collection tools were drafted during the month.

### Awareness Raising

#### Promotional Campaign Materials to Encourage Registration of Returnees into ReMiMIS:

The project is supporting the Government of Bangladesh to develop a Returning Migrants Management of Information System (ReMiMIS) whose piloting is expected from mid-September 2020. To encourage and invite returnees to register upon return onto the platform (ReMiMIS), a promotional campaign was designed and implemented using print media (Newspaper) and social media platforms. The messages aim to increase the number of online registrations of the returnees from their mobile phones or web-based platform into the ReMiMIS.







#### Developing an Online Platform to Build Mass Awareness Among Migrants:

Under the Prottasha project, IOM is developing a self-sustainable online platform called BDeshjaatra to build mass awareness among the overseas migrants, aspirant migrants, returnees migrants’ families, and communities. BDeshjaatra platform (web and mobile-based) was finalized and activated for a pilot run. This online platform aims to spread messages of safe migration, reintegration, and remittance management migrants and the communities.



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

	August	Cumulative		August	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

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

	August	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

	August	Cumulative
 Number of financial literacy engagement (community-based dialogues on access to financial services, capacity building on financial literacy) facilitated:	02	23

## Monitoring and Evaluation

### Remittance Study and Migration Profile for Bangladesh:

The Migration, Family Remittances, Assets and Skills Categories study in Bangladesh was completed and is currently under editing and layout review by the IOM Publications Unit. The study was conducted to identify the gaps in remittance utilization and informed the development of advocacy messages on financial literacy and remittance utilization at household and community levels. The first ever Migration Profile for Bangladesh is also under review by the IOM Publications and Research Units.

### Returning Migrants Management of Information System (ReMiMIS) Piloting:

IOM Bangladesh is supporting the Government in developing and deploying the ReMiMIS to collect, collate and analyze returning migrants data and information for planning purposes. The MoEWOE approved the pilot version of the MIS and a training of the users and initial deployment is planned for September 2020.

## Communications

### Number of Content Developed: 14

#### Reached through Digital Media

	August	Cumulative
 Facebook	46,441	1,108,853
 Twitter	4,330	204,176

Prottasha Monthly Update July:

<https://bit.ly/3mqKlcG>

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### জেলা কর্মসংস্থান ও জনশক্তি অফিসে নাম রেজিস্ট্রেশন করুন, সেবা দিন

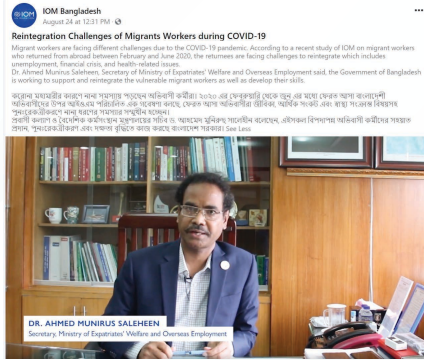
আপনি কি বিদেশ থেকে দেশে ফেরত এসে জীবন-জীবিকা নিয়ে চিন্তিত? তাহলে আজই নিকটস্থ জেলা কর্মসংস্থান ও জনশক্তি অফিসে নাম রেজিস্ট্রেশন করে সেবা দিন:

#### সেবাসমূহ:

- ✓ প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ব্যাংক থেকে সহজশর্তে ঋণ সুদে ঋণ সহায়তা
- ✓ বিএনইটির সহায়তায় প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান এবং জীবিকা উন্নয়ন কার্যক্রমে অংশগ্রহণের সহায়তা
- ✓ কর্মীর দক্ষতা অনুযায়ী দেশে ও বিদেশে পুনঃ কর্মসংস্থানের ব্যবস্থা
- ✓ মেধাবী ছেলে-মেয়েদের শিক্ষাবৃত্তি প্রদান
- ✓ সরকার প্রদত্ত সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচির অন্তর্ভুক্তকরণ

রেজিস্ট্রেশন শুরু তারিখ: ৬ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২০

প্রবাসনিক কল সেন্টার: ০১৭৮৩০০০০০০, ০১৭৯৪০০০০০০, ৯০০৪৮৮৮  
 বিজ্ঞপিত জানতে: ০৮০০০১০২০৩০ (টোল ফ্রি)  
 প্রত্যশা ফোনলিন: ০৮০০০১০২০৩০ (টোল ফ্রি)



## Project Areas

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

