



Bangladesh

National Strategy and Action Plan on Migration and Development and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Commissioned by



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

Prepared by

Abul Barkat
Asmar Osman, Sk Ali Ahmed
G M Suhrawardy, S K Sen Gupta, M Badiuzzaman

HDRC Human Development Research Centre
www.hdrc-bd.com

Dhaka: December 2017

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House # 13A, Road # 136, Gulshan-1

Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh

Prepared by

Abul Barkat, *PhD*

Asmar Osman, *MSS*, Sk Ali Ahmed, *MA, MBA*

G M Suhrawardy, *MSS*, S K Sen Gupta, *MA*, M Badiuzzaman, *MSS, MA*



Human Development Research Centre

humane development through research and action

Road 8, House 5, Mohammadia Housing Society, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Phone: (+88 02) 58150381, 58157621, 8101704, Fax: (+88 02) 58157620

Email: info@hdrc-bd.com; hdrc.bd@gmail.com; Web: www.hdrc-bd.com

Dhaka: December 2017

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A National Strategy and Action Plan on Migration and Development should contribute to national and socio-economic development of Bangladesh by integrating international migration processes and considerations into development planning. This document aims to strive towards a common understanding of the migration and development nexus among various stakeholders and delineate concrete actions to supplement the interventions by the Government of Bangladesh.

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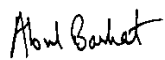
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Prof Abul Barkat, *PhD*
Assignment Team Leader and
Chief Advisor (Hon.), HDRC

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADP	Annual Development Programme
BB	Bangladesh Bank
BCC	Behavioral Change Communication
BGB	Bangladesh Border Guard
BMET	Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training
BNFE	Bureau of Non-Formal Education
BOESL	Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited
BoI	Board of Investment
BTEB	Bangladesh Technical Education Board
CAAB	Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
CBO	Community-based Organization
CBT&A	Competency Based Training and Assessment
CIP	Commercially Important Person
CoD	Country of Destination
COP16	Sixteenth Conference of the Parties
COP21	Twenty-first Conference of the Parties
COP22	Twenty-second Conference of the Parties
COP23	Twenty-third Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DEMO	District Employment and Manpower Office
DTE	Directorate of Technical Education
FY	Financial Year
G2G	Government-to-Government
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GCM	Global Compact on Migration
GDP	Gross Domestic product
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HDRC	Human Development Research Centre
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISC	Industry Skill Council
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
LGI	Local Government Institution
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFS	Mobile Financial Services
MGI	Migration Governance Index
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture

MoC	Ministry of Commerce
MoCAT	Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
MoDM&R	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests
MoEWOE	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
MoLJ&PA	Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affair
MoP	Ministry of Planning
MoPT&IT	Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology
MoRT&B	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NFCD	Non-Resident Foreign Currency Deposit
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NITA	Non-Resident Investor's Taka Account
NSDC	National Skills Development Council
NSDP	National Skills Development Policy
NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
NTVQF	National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework
OT	"Opportunity" and "Threat"
PDD	Platform on Disaster Displacement
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSNP	Social Safety Net Programme
SWOT	Strength-Weakness-Opportunity-Threat
TTC	Technical Training Centre
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UDC	Union Digital Centre
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UP	Union Parishad
USA	United States of America
USD	US Dollar

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKDROP

With over 10 million overseas workers, Bangladesh experiences many forms of migration and human mobility majority in the form of labour migration and including internal displacement, irregular and forced migration. During past four decades, overseas migration from Bangladesh has shown an enormous increase by around 125 times: from 6,087 in 1976 to 757,731 in 2016. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), in many respects, is one of the main destination countries for Bangladeshi workers. From 1976 up to September 2017, a total of 3,254,360 workers from Bangladesh went to the KSA, which is 29.1 per cent of total migration (i.e., 10,456,418) that took place in this period; followed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) (21.4%), Oman (12.05%), Malaysia (7.5%), and Kuwait (5.2%).

Women migrant workers, as a part of official international labour migration process, began their journey abroad in 1991; and up to 2016, a total of 574,075 women migrated overseas for work—which is 5.5 per cent of the total migration till end of that year. In last couple of years, the absolute number of women workers going overseas has been on an increasing trend. However, Bangladeshi women workers, in most cases, are employed in the low-paid work; predominantly, in housekeeping which often put them in vulnerable situation.

While analyzing the skills composition of total migrant workers' (migrated between 1976 and 2016), it is found that 50.1 per cent were less skilled, followed by skilled (32.5%), semi-skilled (15.2), and professional (2.2%).

As found, yearly remittance earning, during last 40 years, has increased by around 1,277 times (from 10 million USD in FY 1975-76 to 12,769 million USD in FY 2016-17). The growth of international remittances for Bangladesh was seemingly stable during last couple of years albeit, the world economy has experienced much disquiet and recession during this period.

Primarily, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has the mandate to deal with the whole process of labour migration and ensures migrant workers' welfare. Apart from this ministry, a number of other ministries like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, various national and international institutions, private organizations (recruiting agencies) and other stakeholders play a definite role within the migration framework of Bangladesh.

NEED FOR A STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Seventh Five Year Plan (FY 2016—FY 2020) of Bangladesh recognizes that migration is an integral component of the development process in contemporary Bangladesh. The plan identifies migration as an impetus for development, among others, by creating employment for a large number of workers. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets the development priorities to be achieved by 2030. These priorities are delineated through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which contains targets for migration among others. A number of relevant Policies, Laws, and Plans direct the pathway of migration for the development of the country.

Against this backdrop, it is important to streamline global and national development framework to design a well-coordinated approach to maximize the positive impact of migration in Bangladesh. In this respect, a National Strategy and Action Plan on Migration and Development would contribute to national and socio-economic development by integrating international migration processes and considerations into development planning.

THE STRATEGY

Formulation of any effective and articulated strategy, needless to say, for betterment of migrants such as, mainstreaming them in National Development Strategies must consider all interlinked issues of poverty reduction, human resource planning, human and civil rights realization, social protection, environment protection, climate change adaptation and disaster management in a unified way. Hence, considering the relevant aspects, the assignment has been perceived in an all-encompassing methodological and analytic framework. In 7th 5-Year Plan, international migration has been viewed as a cross cutting issue focusing mainly on *remittance, poverty eradication, skills development*. The *social protection measures* for ensuring migrants' rights in the countries of destination, has also often been a focus of attention. Costs of migration, including social costs, have remained as one of the key areas to be dealt with importance. Gender perspective (mainly, *women*) has been contemplated with due emphasis. The *safety issues of the victims of trafficking and irregular migration* as well as *integration of the returning migrants* have been focused in this strategy. The *recruitment procedures* have been analyzed critically. *Diaspora* issue has been emphasized adequately, as, this will be one of the key developmental issues in future. The pertinent aspects of *climate migration* (which has both internal and external implications) have been analyzed. The ultimate aim of the Strategy is to ensure migration as just, decent and rights-based (JDR) through promoting safe, orderly and dignified migration.

In this regard, some priority areas have been determined in conformity with the Government's broad policy goals (focusing the Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy in 2016). This task is accomplished in close consultation with all the key stakeholders both in the national and divisional levels. Against this backdrop, the **priority areas** for developing a *National Strategy and Action Plan on Migration and Development and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework* are as follows: **(1) Recruitment process and related financial costs; (2) Social costs; (3) Skills development; (4) Social protection and rights; (5) Irregular migration and human trafficking; (6) Remittance; (7) Diaspora; and (8) Climate migration.**

Strength-Weakness-Opportunity-Threat (SWOT) analysis had been done for each of the priority areas for determining the *Goals, Objectives, and Means-to-achieve objectives*; and thereby developing an Action Plan with Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for 'Migration and Development'.

For each priority area one goal has been laid down; to reach that goal a set of objectives have been considered; and to attain each objective, a number of means has been put forth. A total of 50 means have been designed to achieve 21 objectives used to reach 8 goals. For each of the means, specific activities have been worked out. Action plans for each of the activities have been designed with monitoring and evaluation framework.