



<p>Promoting Decent Work through Improved Migration Policy and its Application in Bangladesh</p>	<p>SDC – Unit Regional Cooperation South Asia Division</p>
<p>BACKGROUND Labour migration is a key development factor for Bangladesh. Its migrant workers remitted USD 12 billion in 2011, more than three times the total export revenues from the leading garment industry. 568'000 Bangladeshis left their country last year for overseas employment, with 80% of them to the Middle East. Mostly from rural areas and unskilled, they consider any opportunity abroad as the only way out to improve the poor living standards of their families. Ineffective regulation of the migration process in the countries of origin and destination leave however migrant workers most vulnerable to wild recruitment and employment practices: low wages, high recruitment costs, breaches in working contracts, retention of documents, confinement, health hazard, and, particularly in the case of female domestic workers, abuses and assaults. Monthly wages can be as low as USD 150, with recruitment costs borne in full by migrant worker commonly reaching USD 2500. While the government of Bangladesh is seeking to increase the yearly outflow of migrant workers, it is aware that only an effective and efficient administration of the overall migration process will allow more and fair benefits for the workers – and for the country.</p> <p>PROJECT OUTLINE The project was initiated on a request from the government of Bangladesh to SDC and ILO, as a follow-up of the recommendations made at the “Regional Symposium on Deployment of Workers Overseas, A Shared Responsibility” held in Dhaka in 2008. The aim is to provide support to the Bangladeshi authorities to ensure implementation of its policy and normative framework and to strengthen its institutional management of labour migration. Awareness and pre-departure information to the migrants, promotion and access to overseas employment, as well as protection and social support mechanisms for migrants are also addressed, in cooperation with IOM, UN WOMEN and other local partners. The ILO project management team to support the implementation of the project is located within the local administration premises.</p> <p>OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the sustainable economic and social development of Bangladesh through the enhancement of decent employment opportunities, and the protection of the migrant workers and their families. The project outcomes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened policy, normative and institutional frameworks 2. Improved operational efficiency in overseas employment promotion, with special attention to regulation and supervision of recruitment agencies. 3. Strengthened social and protection mechanisms for migrant workers, with special attention on female migrant workers, available in the country of destination and upon return <p>KEY EXPECTED RESULTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National policy, normative and institutional frameworks are strengthened and enhance improved migration management 2. Regional coordination and bilateral dialogues with selected destination countries are strengthened and allow increased access to overseas employment under protected conditions 3. Access to overseas employment for migrant workers is more effectively regulated and migration costs are reduced 4. Migrant workers are protected from abuses in the countries of destination and benefit from increased social protection 5. Migrant workers are informed and better prepared in the pre-decision and the pre-departure processes 6. Returned migrant workers and their families are supported in the reintegration process 	<p>Country Bangladesh</p>
	<p>Direct partners International Labour Office (ILO) Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MEWOE)</p> <p>Other partners IOM, UN WOMEN, local NGOs and employers' and workers organizations</p>
	<p>Target groups Government officials, in particular from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) Potential, actual and returned migrant workers and their families from Bangladesh</p>
	<p>Budget USD 3.5 mio.</p>
	<p>Duration July 2011 – June 2014</p>
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