



International
Labour
Organization



Reintegration for Migrant Workers Project:

Enhancing Policies, Capacities and Systems for Inclusive and Sustainable Reintegration

Labour Migration has been identified as a key employment and development strategy for Bangladesh in both Bangladesh's 8th Five Year Plan (2020-2025) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Bangladesh (2022-2026). Whereas the impact of migrant remittances on development has previously informed policy and programming on fair recruitment and regular migration, increasingly there is recognition that the reintegration of migrant workers can also play a significant role in development that is economically and socially sustainable.

The return and reintegration of migrants is an integral part in the migration cycle. After return, sustainable reintegration of migrants is fundamental and the huge benefits that come from well reintegrated returnees are immense. Returnees can play an important role in facilitating the transfer of acquired knowledge, skills, resources, networks, and capacities for the development of origin countries.

Sustainable reintegration envisions a holistic and dynamic process where returning individuals attain economic self-sufficiency through labour market reintegration, social stability within their communities, and robust psychosocial well-being. Inclusive policy frameworks and enabling environment for decentralised reintegration services and responses are essential to facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returnee migrant workers.

The government of Bangladesh (GoB) is committed to strengthen and improve policies and practices to

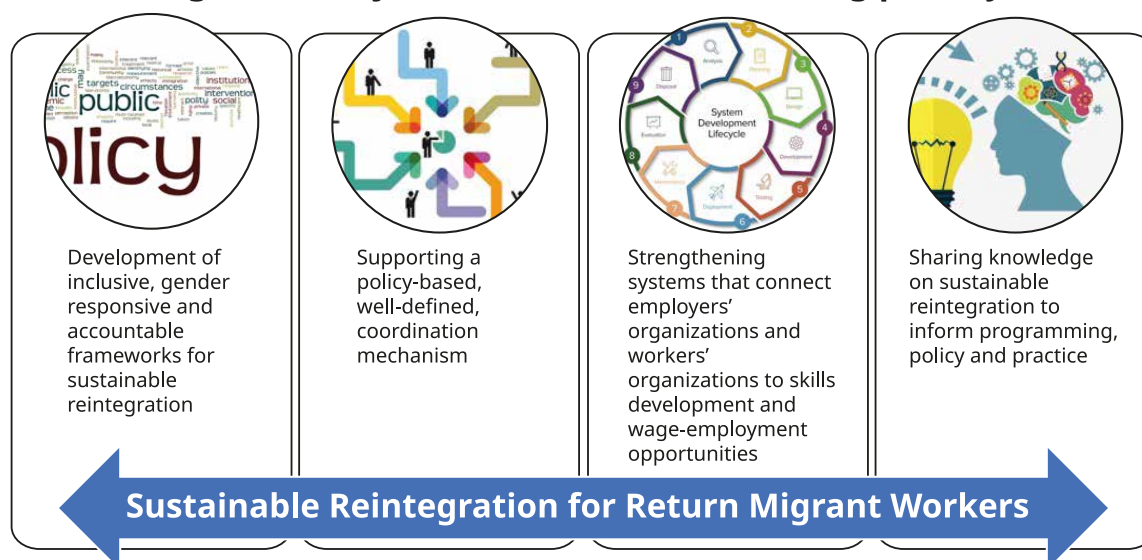
ensure that migrant returns are safe and dignified and reintegration is sustainable in alignment with national laws and international legal frameworks and standards.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) with funding support from the Government of Switzerland implemented labour migration governance projects under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh from 2011 to 2022. The decade of partnership has resulted in the government championing a series of legal and policy and institutional frameworks, information management systems, skills and services development for migrant workers, and capable public and private institutions to secure decent work and protection for Bangladeshi migrant workers in the countries of destination and upon return.

Building on the achievements of previous projects, the 'Reintegration for Migrant Workers: Enhancing Policies, Capacities and Systems for Inclusive and Sustainable Reintegration project' is a Government-ILO-SDC development programme for the period of 2022-2026.

The project aims to support the Government of Bangladesh to establish inclusive and accountable frameworks for reintegration complete with capable institutions, systems and schemes that can provide services for sustainable reintegration to returnee migrant workers, and an efficient coordination mechanism.

The Reintegration Project will address the following priority areas:



Strategic Alignment:

The project is going to contribute to the application of the 'Overseas Employment and Migrants' Act (OEMA) 2013' and the 'Amendment 2023'; the 'Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy (EWOE) 2016'; the 'Wage Earners' Welfare Board Act (WEWB) 2018'; and the 'Wage Earners' Welfare Board Rule (WEWB) 2023'.

- Vision 2041: strengthening policy and strategy around skills development, linking migration and skills to greater employment
- 8th Five Year Plan: 10 Point Agenda on overseas employment and wellbeing of migrant workers particularly sustainable reintegration
- SDGs: Goals 1.3, 5.1, 8.5, and 10.7
- Global Compact on Migration (GCM): Objective 21
- Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs): Colombo Process
- United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF): Outcome 2
- Swiss Cooperation Programme Bangladesh 2022-2025
- ILO Bangladesh's Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) 2022-2026



Implementing Partners:

The project is supported by the Government of Switzerland (USD 3.7 million) and is implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Government of Bangladesh as well as Employers' and Workers' organizations. The project also partners with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the Parliamentary Caucus on Migration and Development.