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Orientation Workshop for Dhaka Ahsania Mission Project Staff and Management involved with the Implementation of the Labour Migration Project Component

Promoting Decent Work through Improved Migration Policy and its Application in Bangladesh

Tuesday 12 March 2013, Dhaka: The International labour organization (ILO)'s Labour Migration project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC) is supporting the Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) implement a pilot initiative to give top up technical training and impart life skills and pre-departure information to equip the Bangladeshi workers who have made a decision to migrate for work in another country. The skills to be imparted include bridging the gap in technical know-how between the technical training being given in Bangladesh and job-demands in the country of destination, languages, and like skills including health issues, financial literacy, behavioural requirements and cultural aspects of the country of destination. Through this initiative three Migration Advisory and Counseling Centers (MACC) are to be established by DAM in Jessore, Jamalpur and Dhaka for outreach to potential migrant workers and to provide support services to migrant workers and their left-behind families. The project intends to benefit 200 low-skilled women, 300 youth with focus on women and 500 left behind families.



The DAM began the implementation of the component in Oct 2012. The first monitoring mission to the DAM centres in Mirpur and Pallabi in Dhaka district, however, revealed that the project concept and plan has not been understood by the implementation staff and the implementation is not as per the agreed objectives and activities. The DAM management responded positively to the monitoring report and acknowledged the gaps in its capacity with regard to labour migration. It also agreed to organize an Orientation workshop and requested the ILO for technical assistance.

To support the DAM re-organize and begin the work afresh, ILO held a preparatory meeting with the management and senior programme staff of the DAM. This meeting led to clarity about the project component, identification in capacity gaps in the DAM as well as identification of a resource person within DAM who could facilitate the Orientation Workshop. With this understanding an Orientation Workshop facilitated by the DAM and co-facilitated by the ILO was held in the Dhanmondi Office of the DAM share the clarity and to familiarize its project implementation staff from Dhaka, Jamalpur and Jessore districts with the project goal, objectives, and expected outputs and activities.





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In the full day session, the gaps in the implementation strategy were identified and broad agreement on re-sequencing was reached. The participants recommended for holding another full day meeting of key staff of the DAM to review their current workplan and prepare the revised plan based on the broad agreement.

The DAM team also agreed that they would simultaneously start the preparatory process related to conducting a baseline, development of the selection criteria to identify the beneficiaries and gathering information about skills and resources related to labour migration process, skill needs and labour markets.



Based on the understanding and the previous meeting discussions, it was also agreed that all the participants would come together for a sharing meeting before any implementation of activities, other than the preparatory work, could begin.

The DAM management also agreed that the draft of the half yearly technical report submitted by them to the ILO will also need to be revised given the discussions and changes foreseen and resubmitted to ILO for review and approval.

The Orientation Workshop was facilitated by Shafiqul Islam, Project Director, DAM and Co-facilitated by Nisha, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO. The ILO project management team members, Grégoire Crettaz and Disha Sonata Faruque were also present.

The Orientation Workshop concluded with comments from M Ehsanur Rahman, Executive Director, DAM. He pointed out the next steps and redefined the roles and responsibilities of the participants for an accurate start off this time.

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