

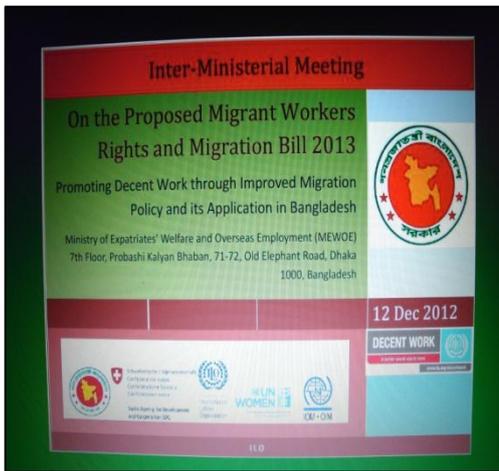
Promoting Decent Work through Improved Migration Policy And its Application in Bangladesh



International
Labour
Organization

05 March 2013

The Labour Migration Project **NEWS**



Draft of the proposed Overseas Employment and Migrant Workers Bill 2013 This initiative under the Project targets policy reform on labour migration for improved governance of the labour migration process, strengthened service delivery to migrant workers, and improved capacity to respond to cases of fraudulent recruitment. The primary intention of the proposed legislation is to protect the Bangladeshi workers and promote safe migration. The proposed draft prepared by the ILO through a consultative and inter-ministerial process, has been officially submitted to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and overseas Employment. It is currently going through the internal adoption process of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and is expected to be submitted to the Cabinet this week.

Research for Policy The project partner, Human Development Research Centre (HDRC), is conducting researches in five key policy areas covering the following topics: 1) Skills and certification needs and options for specific overseas labour markets, 2) High recruitment and migration costs: causes and redress, 3) Gendered mainstreaming of migration into the national development, 4) Improving financial infrastructure and products for better management of remittances, 5) Improving contribution of the Bangladeshi Diasporas. The research studies due in June 2013 are to inform review and revision of the Overseas Employment Policy 2006. The work is conducted by a multi-disciplinary team of researchers and the methodology includes a participatory process to formulate policy recommendations. A stakeholder workshop with more than 80 participants took place on 6 February 2013, with Hon. Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest.



Institutional Capacity The Project is supporting the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to upgrade and extend the information data management system used to register and monitor migrant workers. A needs assessment has been carried out related to server and software to allow data disaggregation and the installation of a database for returning migrant workers linked to immigration services at the airports. Hardware and software will be provided and installed in the next stage. Capacity strengthening of a Market Research Unit (MRU) within BMET and two comparative labour market analyses for Australia and Sweden are going on.

A comprehensive institutional review is being prepared by the ILO Project Management Team together with BMET and will, among others, look at decentralization to the districts and the functioning of the Wage Earners' Welfare Fund to improve protection and services to migrant workers.

<p>DECENT WORK <i>A better world starts here.</i></p> <p>Key Implementing Partners:</p>	<p>International Labour Organization</p>	<p>Promoting Decent Work through Improved Migration Policy and its Application in Bangladesh</p>	<p>Funded by:</p> <p>ILO Co-stititents: Workers Government of Bangladesh Employers</p>
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The Project in brief:

Objectives:

1. Strengthened policy and institutional frameworks to improve migration management and the protection of migrant workers
2. Improved operational efficiency and effectiveness in overseas employment promotion under protected conditions, including the reduction of migration costs
3. Strengthened social protection for migrant workers available in the countries of destination and upon return.

Beneficiaries

Potential, outgoing and returning migrant workers are the ultimate project beneficiaries. Women migrant workers constitute a specific target group and are given special attention in the overall project delivery.

Main partners

Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MEWOE)
Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET)

Other Key Partners

Employers' organization
Workers' organizations
IOM
UNWOMEN
CSOs

Donor



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Project duration

July 2011 - June 2015

Building a framework for safe labour migration

Employers and Workers A plan of action has been finalized together with the National Coordination Committee for Workers' Education (NCCWE) following a national consultation with all NCCWE members held on 7 December 2012 and an endorsement meeting held in January 2013. The plan of action includes a common minimum agenda and activities, which foresee monitoring of employment conditions and support to Bangladeshi migrant workers through bilateral agreements with counterpart trade unions in selected countries of destination. As a tripartite organization, ILO works with all constituents and discussions were also held with the Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) for common project activities to support professional reintegration of returning migrant workers.

Skills & Community Outreach for Migrant Workers The Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) began implementation of an initiative to provide additional labour market skills to those of its vocational education trainees who are in need to migrate and community outreach to the families of the migrant workers Migration Advisory and Counselling Centres (MACC) in Jessore, Jamalpur and Dhaka. The first batch of women is currently undergoing training to work in the ready-made garment manufacturing, with a specific focus on country-specific life skills and pre-departure information. The MACCs are expected to be a resource and link between the migrant workers and their families to support communication, better utilization of remittances and other social services related advice.



Window The Project was presented on the occasion of the Development Fair on 2 and 3 February 2013, celebrating the 40 years of cooperation between Switzerland and Bangladesh. ILO, BMET and IOM staff attended the project stall.

One-stop The ILO Labour Migration Project Management Team (ILO PMT) is based at the new project office in the premises of the MEWOE, located in the Probashi Kalyan Bhaban (building for the welfare of the migrants). All important implementing bodies of the MEWOE, namely, BMET, BOESL (the public sector recruitment body), the Probashi Kalyan Bank, and the district office for migrant workers, are based here. The project office will be formally inaugurated on 11 March 2013 by the Hon. Minister, Mr. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain and the SDC Director General, Ambassador Martin Dahinden.



Decent work in overseas employment