Fundamentals Right for Adaptive
National Migration Governance:
Bangladesh Experience
Migration in National Planning & Policy Documents

- PRSP and NSAPR 2001-2011
- Sixth Five Year Plan - FY2011-FY2015
- Overseas Employment Policy 2006
- Policy of Providing Privileged Citizen Services for the Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRB) 2008
- Policy of Selecting Commercially NRB Importance Persons 2006
- Emigration Ordinance 1982
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002
- Anti-trafficking Act 2011
PRSP and NSAPR: 2003 - 2011

“to avail the opportunity of exporting skilled manpower to meet the demand in developed countries”

- Emphasis on employment generation
- Importance on market exploration
- Highlighted the importance of remittance in ensuring macroeconomic balances
- Encouragement to use formal remittance sending channels
- Fostering human resource development
- Promoting good governance
Sixth Five Year Plan: FY 2011-2015

Most important current strategy paper of the government acknowledging the wider contribution in development and setting as a priority/thrust sector

- Market exploration
- Higher value added jobs
- Skill development through training programmes
- Financing of migration
- Reducing transaction cost of remittance
- Ensuring migration with dignity
- Promoting E-governance
Bangladesh Adopted Overseas Employment Policy in 2006 to ensure the prospect of regular migration of long term and short term for both men and women from all parts of Bangladesh at a rational cost.
Salient features of the Oversees employment policy are as follows:
Objectives

- Organize overseas employment sector and to ensure welfare of Bangladeshi workers abroad.
- Exploration of new markets for overseas employment.
- Expansion of existing labour markets.
- Ensure abolition of any scope of irregular migration.
- Commitment of government to protect the rights, dignity and security of all migrant workers in and outside the country.
- Ensuring social protection of the left behind families and properties of both short-term and long-term migrants.
Inform and train aspirant migrant workers so that they can compete in global markets.

Provide support and advocacy for migrants while abroad.

Negotiate fair contracts, bilateral agreements and cover costs of managing this.
- Any misconduct in the recruitment process to be considered as an act against national interest and provision to make all concerned organizations accountable.

- Encouraging remittance flows through official channels and ensuring effective and efficient use of remittance.

- Assist in social and economic re-integration of returnee migrant workers.

- Allocation of necessary resources and strengthening existing institutional infrastructure and personnel for the implementation of the above policies.

- Plan of action should be taken on the implementation of the policy indicators mentioned in OEP phase-wise.
Plan of Action

• Awareness development
• Protection of rights of the migrant workers
• Measures to ensure safe migration
More briefing sessions at BMET before departure of the workers to make them aware about

- agreement of service conditions,
- working environment,
- culture, wages and other benefits,
- remittance system,
- local language of the host country, etc.

To develop awareness on the use of legal channel of migration, campaign through electronic and print media is also going on.
Protection of rights of the migrant workers

Protection of migrants’ rights through the following measures:

Signing of bilateral accord or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with labour receiving countries.

Legal support to the workers fallen in trouble.

Dissemination of information regarding migrant workers’ rights in host country, providing comprehensive pre-departure briefing.

Ensuring working hour, payment for wage, over time, leave, health service, freedom of movement in the work contract.
Current Government Initiatives towards better migration governance

- An exclusive Ministry dedicated to overseas employment of Bangladeshi workers and their welfare
- Digitization in Migration management.
- Establishment of Expatriates Welfare Bank.
- Promotion of Skill Development Training.
- Initiatives and Incentives for Smooth Transfer of Remittances
- Initiative to explore new markets.
Repatriation of workers from Libya and their reintegration Program.

Inter-Ministerial Vigilance Task Force for tackling trafficking in persons including labor trafficking

Updating of Emigration Ordinance.

Adopting Anti-Trafficking Law.

Focus on facilitating female migration
The Mainstreaming Plan

To effectively mainstream migration issues into the wider Government policies, a Joint Project is taken by the Government of Bangladesh with IOM and UNDP. The project needs to:

- Research the quality of existing GoB responses to international movements and domestic migratory flows.
- Design a future intervention to address policy and regulatory gaps.
**Project Activities**

- Two research studies on international and internal migration, including a stakeholder mapping exercise and a survey of internal migration

- Workshops/policy dialogues on international and domestic migration, and the distillation of key messages and feedback

- Formulation of a comprehensive action plan for the Government

- Formation of a consultative group on migration, Facilitating the UNCT and development partner cooperation on migration projects, in cooperation with Government representatives
Libya crisis management
Experience
On-Arrival Support

- All returning Bangladeshi nationals are being met at the airport by IOM Dhaka staff and the following assistance is provided:
  - Registration of all returning migrants by the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training
  - Dedicated Immigration desks for returnees from Libya
  - Immediate food and water arrangements
  - BDT 1,000 for onward travel
  - Shuttle bus to the major inter-district bus terminals and train stations
  - Health check-up on arrival
Reintegration of Bangladesh Returnees from Libya

- *All returning* Bangladeshi nationals from Libya are being provided an immediate cash grant of BDT 50,000 by the Government of Bangladesh.

- GoB has taken a loan of USD 40 million from World Bank (cash grant to all returnees, plus reimbursement to IOM for the airfare of 10,000 returnees).

- The disbursement programme was implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh.

- Cash disbursement was done following an exhaustive verification process of all returnees.

- Cash grant was directly transferred to returnees’ accounts following verification.

- A total of 36,296 returnees have already received the onetime cash grant.
Challenges

- Restricted access in Libya
- Not all migrant workers who wanted to leave Libya were able to do so
- Abuse at the hands of rebels and loyalists
- Gap in the protection of migrant workers and their rights
- Dated refugee definitions and its relevance (or lack of) to modern humanitarian crises.
- Migrants returning to countries with high unemployment rates and loss for households and national economy from overseas income in the form of remittances
- Eventual return of migrant workers to Libya – logistical challenges concerning entry
Thank you