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Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment  
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Probashi Kallyan Bhaban  
Mission Branch  
[www.probashi.gov.bd](http://www.probashi.gov.bd)

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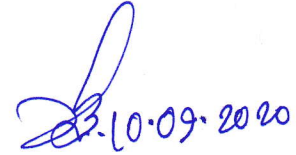
Date: 10-09-2020

Subject: Voluntary GCM review Survey Report.

Ref. No: 20/IOM/MoEWOE/COM/0513 Date: 14-06-2020.

In view of the above issues and sources, it is to be informed that the Voluntary GCM review Survey Report has been sent herewith (copy attached). Here the attached Voluntary GCM review Survey Report is requested to take the next necessary actions.

Attachments: 15.....Page.



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Chief of Mission  
International Organization for Migration  
Dhaka, Bangladesh and Coordinator, BDUNNM.

[Attention: Ms Shahreen Munir, Head-Migration Governance Unit, IOM, Dhaka]

Copy for Kind Information (Not According to Seniority):

01. PS to Honorable Minister, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment
02. PS to Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment.
03. Office Copy.

### Voluntary GCM Review

Survey conducted to inform the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation  
of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration  
Bangkok, (18-20 November 2020)

*The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) (General Assembly Resolution 73/195) calls for review of the progress of “implementing the Global Compact in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders” (OP48), and “invites United Nations regional economic commissions ... to review the implementation of the Global Compact within the respective regions, beginning in 2020” (OP50)*

*This voluntary GCM review is issued to fulfil this mandate, by enabling member States to provide information on their progress towards the objectives of the Global Compact. The results will inform the preparation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to be held at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok from 18 to 20 November 2020, the preparation of the 2020 Asia-Pacific Migration Report and related background documentation.*

*The survey has been informed by the suggested outline prepared by the United Nations Network on Migration (Proposed framework to assist Member States in the organization of regional reviews – Annex II: Indicative outline for Member States) to review the status of implementation of the GCM at national, subregional, regional and cross-regional levels (General Assembly resolution 73/195, OP48 and OP50). It has been structured according to the four round tables to be organized for the Asia-Pacific Regional Review meeting which correspond to the four round tables of the International Migration Review Forum in 2022 (General Assembly resolution 73/326, OP21).*

Please identify the office responsible for coordinating the responses to this survey and include the contact information.

Country <b>BANGLADESH</b>	
Office <b>Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment</b>	
Name <b>Dr. Ahmed Munirus Salcheen</b>	Title/Position <b>Secretary</b>
E-mail <b>secretary@probashi.gov.bd</b>	Telephone <b>+8802 41030444</b>
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Please return the completed survey to the ESCAP secretariat by **31 August 2020**, preferably by email ([escap-sdd@un.org](mailto:escap-sdd@un.org)) with a copy to the Regional Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific ([UNRNAP-regreviews@iom.int](mailto:UNRNAP-regreviews@iom.int)). Any queries can be forwarded to these same addresses.

Kindly indicate whether you would be willing to share your report at the IMRF/regional reviews site on the UN Network on Migration at <https://www.migrationnetwork.un.org/>. Please contact [UNRNAP-regreviews@iom.int](mailto:UNRNAP-regreviews@iom.int) if you have a query or suggestion in this regard.

☒=Yes ☐=No

#### **Instructions:**

*Please provide answers to the following set of questions (about 500 words per question) as they relate to **clusters of objectives** of the Global Compact for Migration (General Assembly resolution 73/326, para 21).*

*If needed, please provide the answers in a separate document and attach it to this survey.*

*Please provide references or links to relevant policy documents in a separate document, attached to this survey.*

*If possible, please identify any innovative policies or practices related to any of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration.*

*Also, information should be based on statistical as well as qualitative data.*



Questions (about 500 words per questions (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d - please attach paper and documents, as needed):

1. Ensuring that migration is voluntary, orderly and regular	<b>GCM Objectives: 2, 5, 6, 12, 18</b>
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- a. Please highlight the migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.

Bangladesh, the most densely populated country of the world, is in a situation of surplus manpower with a combination of professional, skilled, semi-skilled and less-skilled labour force. After independence, in order to recover the war-torn economy of Bangladesh, the country under the leadership of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started diplomatic initiatives with Muslim countries of Middle-East for overseas employment. In the light of those negotiation, Bangladeshi workers started migrating to Middle-Eastern countries during the mid-seventies with a modest number of 6078. Presently more than 12m Bangladeshis are engaged in overseas employment in 174 countries. Migration plays a vital role in the national economy mainly by reducing unemployment and increasing remittance in flow. Overseas employment represents over one-fifth of the annual addition to the country's total labor force. Our migrant workers are contributing in the recent continuous GDP growth of about 8%.

Bangladesh has always promoted conceptions on national, regional and global migration. It is committed to ensure migration governance in major development frameworks and fulfill the objectives and commitments outlined in the GCM. Steps, like policy formulation, enforcement of laws, awareness campaign, regularizing migration procedure etc., are taken to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration at all stages.

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment is committed to ensure migration of 1000 youths from each upazila or sub-district. As part of skill development, projects on establishment of 40 Technical Training Centres are running in full swing to ensure training facilities at grass-root level apart from the existing 70 Technical Training Centres and Institute of Marine Technology. More than 3.38 million youths are given skill development training in 55 trades during the period 2009-2019.

Moreover, the Government has already established 42 District Employment and Manpower Office (DEMO) and formation of DEMO at the rest of the 22 districts is on-going to ensure decentralization and availability of pathway for regular migration.

Online facilities and mobile apps are available for the potential migrant worker to get information related to their migration, job, visa verification, e-learning and grievance redress.

- b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

The Government of Bangladesh held a multi-stakeholder consultation with the support of IOM and ILO, bringing together various governmental agencies, non-governmental



organizations and media to provide a platform for the development of a national roadmap on action plan and to create partnerships for GCM implementation on 4 May 2019.

The Overseas Employment and Migrants' Act, 2013 (OEMA 2013) was enacted to promote opportunities for overseas employment, to establish a safe and fair system of migration, to ensure rights and welfare of migrant workers and members of their families as well as for making provisions in conformity with the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and the Member of Their Families 1990 and other international labour and human rights conventions and treaties ratified by the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has formed a Committee to evaluate the OEMA 2013 and make it up-to-date keeping into accounts of the objectives of GCM. The Committee has already taken recommendations from the stakeholders and actions are going on to finalize the Act in support of ILO.

Moreover, the Government has formulated several rules based on article 47 of the Act to ensure right of the overseas workers. The Overseas Employment and Migrants' (Recruiting Agents' License and Conduct) Rules 2019 and The Overseas Employment and Migrants' (Recruiting Agents' Classification) Rules 2020 are legislated to facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work.

An inter-ministerial Taskforce led by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment with the members from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Civil Aviation & Tourism, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Immigration Police, Ansar, Coast Guard, BGB, NSI, ATAB, TOAB and BAIRA is actively working to deal with the irregularities in the migration. Executive Magistrates of the Ministry are conducting mobile courts to the places of possible ill-occurrences in the process of migration.

An Action Plan for the Implementation of the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016 is developed in 2019 that includes activities and targets coordinating with the GCM.

The Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh is leading the National Steering Committee on Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment where the ministers and secretaries of 19 concerned ministries and divisions are working together for the welfare of the migrant workers.

Moreover, National Labour Migration Forum, led by the Honorable Minister, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment is working together as a Forum of stakeholders' related to migration.

- c. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives? These gaps and challenges may include challenges at national, regional and global levels; capacity challenges; data needs; financing and others.
- The issue of migration had been incorporated and become prominent in the SDGs of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development as international framework through efforts and international dialogues on migration governance. GCM has provided the policy platform at global, regional and national level to make migration processes safe, orderly and dignified. Migration is global in nature and requires cooperation with national and international stakeholders. A platform of members from country of origin, country of destination and



transit country, development partners, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector is required to learn from each other, discuss and reflect on how they can collectively create a guideline or road map for implementation of the GCM.

Though the government has declared the cost of migration for the 15 major countries of destination, still cost of migration is high. The Government is working together with different stakeholders to overcome the challenge.

To safeguard the migrant workers and confirm decent work, support from the stakeholders at the country of destination and International organizations like IOM and ILO is required. Major receiving countries of female workers need to change their HR strategy by recruiting female workers in industries and health sectors instead of existing domestic workers.

International Institutional development is required taking representatives of sending, transitional and receiving country and enforcing rules of law for safe migration. Combined action should be taken to remove the middlemen at the process of migration.

- d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

The Government is working closely under Bangladesh-UN Network on Migration (BDUNNM) to develop a roadmap for implementation of the GCM. A sensitization workshop on the GCM was organized by the Government on 26 November 2019 at Dhaka. This initiative provided a platform to assess the national context, policies, and legal framework in light of the 23 objectives; develop priorities, thematic areas and goals for the national implementation; and prioritize recommendations on way forward.

Based on the direction of the 'Champion of Skill Development for Youth' Award 2019 winner Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has taken several initiatives to develop skill workforce based on the need of the global market. Skill Development Fund (SDF) is formed investing 1400 million BDT as seed-money for training, re-training, curriculum development and relevant activities. Eight new trades under supervision of Technical Education Board and nine new trades under financial support of SEIP are included in the training programs of the TTCs. UK-based certification organization City & Guilds is providing international certificates of skill in 6 TTCs at 6 different occupations. Over 700,000 Bangladeshi workers migrated with work-visa in the year 2019 out of which 100,000 were women.

The G2G migration procedure shows a great success in low-cost migration. For example, 53,315 female workers got job in Jordan and migrated in only BDT 17,750.

Several articles of the OEMA 2013 are included in the mobile court related laws of Bangladesh. The Magistrates executed 17 mobile court in 2019-2020 to ensure right of the migrant workers and given imprisonment to 4 offenders and financial punishment to 19



offenders.

Questions (about 500 words per question 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d - please attach paper and documents, as needed):

<b>2. Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance measures</b>	<b>GCM Objectives: 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 21</b>
<p>a. Please highlight migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives. <i>The response could make reference to trends in migration; outcomes of migration; or migrant experiences.</i></p> <p>In order to ensure proof of legal identity and adequate documentation Bangladesh has introduced Smart Card for all migrant workers. The smart card, issued by the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), contains digital data related to the migrant worker and shared at the relevant places (e.g. airport). The database of BMET is being upgraded to include data of returnee workers and ensuring data of migrant workers at all levels.</p> <p>Due to lack of awareness and temptation for a better life, a significant number of youth goes abroad, become undocumented and lead an oppressive life. The missions abroad with support from other international organizations provides assistance by way of legal aid in the event of their arrest, litigation, securing justice etc. as well as facilitate their safe and dignified return.</p>	
<p>b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).</p> <p>Examples could include policy reforms undertaken, adoption of new laws, drafting of national-level implementation plans, entering into bilateral/regional agreements, signature/ratification of relevant conventions, engagement in dialogue processes.</p> <p>In line with the International convention and treaty ratified by Bangladesh, Wage Earners' Welfare Board Act 2018 is enacted to ensure welfare and social security of the migrant workers and their family members at every stages of migration. Policy on health examination of the aspirant migrant workers 2008 is revised in 2019 to ensure their health status. Moreover, the Government has formulated several rules based on article 47 of the Act to ensure right of the overseas workers. The Overseas Employment and Migrants' (Recruiting Agents' License and Conduct) Rules 2019 and The Overseas Employment and Migrants' (Recruiting Agents' Classification) Rules 2020 are legislated to facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work.</p> <p>The Government has implemented compulsory insurance system for the <i>aspirant</i> migrant workers in November 2019. Under this insurance policy, Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) will provide BDT 500 premium which is more than 50% of the total premium</p>	



ensuring an insurance of BDT 200 thousand. Same amount of premium will be provided by WEWB which is more than 20% of the total premium for an insurance of BDT 500 thousand.

In late 2019, the GoB in coordination with the IOM prepared the Bangladesh Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF). The MCOF correctly highlighted the roles of different stakeholders in assisting the over 12 million estimated Bangladeshi migrants when crises and emergencies occur in countries of transit and destination.

c. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?  
These gaps and challenges may include challenges at national, regional and global levels; capacity challenges; data needs; financing and others.

d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

100% of the total migrant workers in 2019-2020 are given BMET smart card and orientation training related to safe migration.

**Questions (about 500 words per question 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d - please attach paper and documents, as needed):**

**3. Supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development**

**GCM Objectives: 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22**

a. Please highlight migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.

*The response could make reference to trends in migration; outcomes of migration; or migrant experiences.*

SDG target 10.C emphasized on reducing transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3 per cent by the year 2030. Objective 20 of the GCM also highlighted on promoting faster, safer and cheaper transaction of remittances. The Government of Bangladesh has taken proactive role to achieve the target and objective. The Government is providing 2% cash incentives to all remitter to encourage orderly remittance inflow. The decision has created positive impact on the remittance inflow of Bangladesh even in the pandemic of COVID-19. The total remittance inflow has increased from less than USD 2 billion in 2000 to USD 18.2 billion in 2019-2020. The amount of remittance in 2019-2020 is 9.6% higher than the previous financial year.

In line with Objective 14 and 15 the Government has taken several actions. Since 2019, motivational and awareness building seminars are organized at divisional, districts and upazila (sub-district) level for the potential migrants. BMET is arranging compulsory orientation program with supporting messages on orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration as per SDG target 10.7. Migrant Welfare Desk at the International airports of Bangladesh is providing the consular assistance. Moreover, number of labour welfare wing at the foreign missions of Bangladesh are increased from 12 to 29 in the tenure of the present Government. The missions at the country of destination are providing consular service, arrangement of compensation to victims of accidents and emergency services at



condition like COVID-19 pandemic.

Wage Earners' Welfare Board is actively engaged in the welfare of the migrants at all stages.

- b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

Bangladesh Bank has announced 2 per cent cash incentive to the remitter as per proposal of the MoEWOE and direction of the Honorable Prime Minister.

In line with the International convention and treaty ratified by Bangladesh, Wage Earners' Welfare Board Act 2018 is enacted to ensure welfare and social security of the migrant workers and their family members at every stages of migration. Policy on health examination of the aspirant migrant workers 2008 is revised in 2019 to ensure their health status. The Government has implemented compulsory insurance system for the *aspirant* migrant workers in November 2019. Under this insurance policy, Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) will provide BDT 500 premium which is more than 50% of the total premium ensuring an insurance of BDT 200 thousand. Same amount of premium will be provided by WEWB which is more than 20% of the total premium for an insurance of BDT 500 thousand.

In late 2019, the GoB in coordination with the IOM prepared the Bangladesh Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF). The MCOF correctly highlighted the roles of different stakeholders in assisting the over 12 million estimated Bangladeshi migrants when crises and emergencies occur in countries of transit and destination.

- c. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemics and its effect on the global economy, there is a threat that return of migrants may decrease current remittance inflow and influence overall economy of the country negatively. Reintegration of the returnee migration would be a great challenge in such scenario.

- d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

According to the World Bank estimates, without remittances countries such as Bangladesh would have remained poorer; the share of the poor in the population would have been 10 per cent higher in Bangladesh. Remittance inflow of USD 18.2 billion has contributed more than 60% in the foreign currency reserve of the country. With remittances, rural households categorized as subsistence poor have more disposable incomes which they spend on consumer goods including food, clothing and furniture (Murata, 2018). Consequently, higher expenditure on food leads to higher nutritional status and food security among remittance-receiving households. In addition to the expenditure of consumer goods for household, remittance-receiving households use a significant share of remittances to purchase land.



Questions (about 500 words per question 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d - please attach paper and documents, as needed):

<b>4. Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration</b>	<b>GCM Objectives: 1, 3, 7, 17, 23</b>
<p>a. Please highlight migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.  <i>The response could make reference to trends in migration; outcomes of migration; or migrant experiences.</i></p> <p>As a basis for evidence-based policies, the Government emphasized on database of the migrant workers. BMET has developed a database where related data are stored and disseminated during pre-departure and departure stages of migration. The data-base is further integrated with the airport authorities. In order to make data available at all stages of migration to all the concerned authorities at home and abroad, initiative is taken to integrate the database with the national data-base and inclusion of returnee migrants' data.</p> <p>b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).  Examples could include policy reforms undertaken, adoption of new laws, drafting of national-level implementation plans, entering into bilateral/regional agreements, signature/ratification of relevant conventions, engagement in dialogue processes.</p> <p>c. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?  These gaps and challenges may include challenges at national, regional and global levels; capacity challenges; data needs; financing and others.</p> <p>d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.</p>	

5. What steps has the Government taken to integrate the **vision and cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles** of the Global Compact for Migration (see paras 8 to 15 of the Global Compact (see General Assembly resolution 73/195)) into its implementation? How was this accomplished? (please check against the principles that have been integrated)

Guiding principle	Principle has been integrated <input type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no	Explanation (please provide explanation on additional paper and attach relevant documentation)
People-centred	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no	
International cooperation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no	
National sovereignty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no	
Rule of law and due process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no	
Sustainable development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no	
Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no	



Gender-responsive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
Child-sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
Whole-of-government approach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
Whole-of-society approach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no

**People-centered:** The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) carries the same strong human dimension as the Global Compact. In order to promote the well-being of migrants and the members of communities in countries of origin, transit and destination, the Government has taken several initiatives. Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh showed an example of sympathy towards mankind and provided shelter to about 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingya who fled to Bangladesh. The Government migration policy for the Bangladeshi migrants and their family members emphasize on necessary action for their welfare. The Government has introduced compulsory insurance policy for the migrant workers and provided premium support to them. The Bangladesh missions abroad provide every support to the migrant workers as and when required.

**International Cooperation:** The Government of Bangladesh believes in international cooperation as migration is global in its nature and consequence. The GoB works hand in hand with IOM, ILO, Abudhabi Dialogue, Colombo Process and all organizations involved for the welfare of the migrant workers.

**Gender-responsive:** In line with the National Women Development Policy 2011, the GoB is gender-responsive.

**Child-sensitive:** In line with the National Children Policy 2011, the GoB realizes the issues of children with great importance.

**Whole-of-government approach:** National Steering Committee on Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, headed by the honorable Prime Minister and actively participated by 19 Ministries and Divisions related to migrations, is an example of whole-of-government approach.

**Whole-of-society approach:** National Labour Migration Forum is headed by the Minister, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. The Forum ensures participation of all stakeholders involved in migration like International Organizations, NGOs, BAIRA, Employers' Association. It is an example of whole-of-government approach.

**Questions (about 500 words per question 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 - please attach paper and documents, as needed and relevant):**

- How is the Global Compact for Migration contributing to realizing the achievement of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**? What has your Government done to integrate the implementation of the Global Compact objectives into SDG implementation?

Government of Bangladesh has played its part in formulating SDGs and has contributed since the Rio+20 Earth Conference in 2012 and integrated SDGs in the 7th Five Year Plan. The Government of Bangladesh's commitment for attaining SDG objectives has been manifested in the development plans. Furthermore, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has formed a national committee to supervise and monitor the implementation process. Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) is committed to discharge its



duties to achieve the respective SDGs' targets.

MoEWOE is the lead ministry for SDG 10.7 (Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies). Actions to achieve the SDG Target within 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan include:

- Interventions to ensure the protection of migrant workers' human and labour rights;
- Strict monitoring and enforcement of the recruitment process of overseas employment;
- Enforcement of laws and regulations related to overseas employment;
- Better identification of victims of human trafficking through fraudulent recruitment is necessary to provide adequate assistance and prevent other workers from falling into similar exploitative conditions;
- Joining the existing relevant international instruments relating to the protection of migrants' human and labour rights, smuggling and trafficking

SDG target 10.C emphasized on reducing transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3 per cent by the year 2030. Objective 20 of the GCM also highlighted on promoting faster, safer and cheaper transaction of remittances. The Government of Bangladesh has taken proactive role to achieve the target and objective. The Government is providing 2% cash incentives to all remitter to encourage orderly remittance inflow.

An important indicator of the SDG is 'Recruitment cost borne by employee as a percentage of yearly income earned in the country of destination (Indicator: 10.7.1). The migration cost is too high for the workers from poor families. In this context, the Government of Bangladesh is engaged dedicatedly to reduce the cost of recruitment as proportion of annual income of migrant workers. Data available from Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) show that recruitment cost borne by employee as a percentage of yearly income earned in the country of destination has not yet changed from their baseline values in 2018. This area need further attention for safe and orderly migration.

Like the 2030 Agenda, the Government has recognized migration as a core development consideration. Bangladesh has approved Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016 in January, 2016 with a view to ensuring and encouraging safe migration and protection of migrants and their families. Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) has developed it's database to make high-quality, timely and reliable data available. It matches the target 17.18 related to migration data.

Moreover, initiatives related to migration in Bangladesh has contributed to other SDGs through boosting poverty-reduction, inclusion in social protection, educations of the migrants' children etc.

The GoB reiterated its firm commitment to meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country has also played a key role in proposing one of the two annexes of the New York Declaration which has culminated into the adoption of the GCM.

7. From the Government's perspective, are there any objectives of the Global Compact for Migration that are of particular importance in the national context? Please name the **objectives that the Government has prioritized and explain why.**



Recognizing the country priority and national context in line with vision 2021 and vision 2041, the Government of Bangladesh has identified the below objectives of the Global Compact for Migration to provide particular importance during implementation:

GCM Objectives	Reasons for Prioritization
Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies	The Action Plan of Overseas Employment and Migrants' Welfare Policy, 2016 (developed in 2019) has set indicators for implementing the policy. A strong Data Base may ensure accurate and disaggregated data. Moreover, the Data Base of BMET is being updated to ensure migrant data at all stages of migration. Recent COVID-19 pandemic also insisted the Government for returnee migration data to implement the re-integration policy.
Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration	The GoB is committed to achieve SDG 10.7.1. As a people-centric Government, it is taking information dissemination initiatives at grass-root level as well as in mass-level. Access to information would help the people to take the orderly and safe way of migration.
Objective 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work	Our migrant workers are contributing in the development of Bangladesh by sending remittance. Their welfare is of utmost priority for the Government. In order to ensure undocumented migration, Objective-6 is prioritized.
Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration	Our citizens are our most valuable assets. We don't to keep them in risk. So, we are committed to achieve the objective-7.
Objective 12: Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and refer	In order to achieve objective-7, objective-12 is a pre-requisite. So the Government is ready to involve in every necessary steps in this regard.
Objective 16: Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion	For making provisions in conformity with the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families 1990, the Government empowers the migrant workers and let the society realizing their social cohesion.
Objective 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration	The Government is committed to eliminate any sorts of discrimination according to the constitution of Bangladesh. So, the objective-17 is in line with the constitutional pre-condition in case of migration. Even the election manifesto announces migration of 1000 workers from each upazilla (sub-district). Special emphasis is given to the areas that are lagging behind.
Objective 18: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual	In order to survive in the competitive overseas labour market, the Government is investing in line with objective-18. Skill development and language skill is



recognition of skills, qualifications and competences	emphasized to minimize the gap.
Objective 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration	As a member of the global world, we believe in cooperation in facilitating safe and dignified return of the migrants. We are committed to their readmission and sustainable reintegration, specially as a response to recent COVID-19 pandemic.
Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration	Migration involves different stakeholders from different countries. Therefore, the Government is prioritizing the objective.

8. From the Government's perspective, how and to what extent have **regional plans and strategies** incorporated the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration? What are the main achievements, gaps and challenges to existing regional approaches, strategies and implementation plans?
9. What **methodology** was adopted for completing this voluntary GCM review; how was a whole-of-government approach applied through engaging the various relevant ministries and other sectors of government; what mechanisms were used to engage civil society and other relevant stakeholders for a whole-of-society approach?
10. Given the outbreak of **COVID-19** which has affected all countries in the region, what challenges has the Government identified in implementation of the Global Compact for Migration as part of the COVID-19 response, and what has the Government done to address the specific situation of migrants and their families?

The short- and long-term impacts of COVID-19 threaten to bring devastating setbacks on national development plans, SDGs and GCM targets. The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) has taken a number of initiatives for short-term and long term. In short-term the MoEWOE initiated Telemedicine service for migrants in country of destinations (KSA and USA) and allocated emergency support fund for migrant support (USD 0.75 million approx.). In long term stimulus soft loan packages for rehabilitation of the returnee migrants and their family has been declared. The MoEWOE has allocated a fund of BDT 2000 million (USD 25 million approx.) to be disbursed as rehabilitation loan topped by fund from Prime Minister Office of BDT 5000 million (USD 62.5 million approx.). The GoB has also launched a Returnee database with support from IOM. Different initiatives are being adopted to provide RPL and training to returnee migrant and employment creation with support from other government agencies, national and international organizations.

A Working Committee for return and reintegration of the migrants has been formed led by MoEWOE to facilitate and fast-track the safe and dignified return of Bangladeshi migrants stranded in different destination countries. A monitoring committee has been formed in coordination with other stakeholder and lead by an Additional Secretary (mission and welfare) as focal point for COVID-19 related activities. Leaflets circulated by the Ministry in February 2020 have been widely shared by BAIRA and other NGOs. The Labour Welfare Wings, TTCs, IMTs, and support centers have been instructed to raise awareness about COVID prevention.

<sup>1</sup> Based on a recommendation from a meeting was held on 23 April 2020 at MoEWOE.



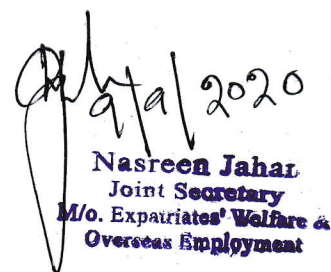
The GoB has also hosted a migrant focused platform website: [www.probashihelpline.com](http://www.probashihelpline.com). It is a dedicated one-stop information service provider for Bangladeshi migrants around the world, privately run by few volunteers and partially supported by the GoB. All Bangladesh Missions have opened emergency hotline numbers so that Bangladeshis can immediately reach the Missions when needed. All labour welfare wings have been instructed to update regularly on the COVID-19 situation and fulfil the demands of Bangladeshi migrant workers staying in the concerned countries.

The MoEWOE has declared to support through the Wage Earners Welfare Board (WEWB) to provide a compensation of approximately BDT 300 thousand (USD 3500) to migrants' families if a migrant worker dies due to COVID-19 and a cash assistance of BDT 5,000 (equivalent to USD 59) to each returning migrants as an immediate assistance. The Government of Bangladesh announced a stimulus package of BDT 5,000 crore (equivalent to USD 6.2 billion) for export-oriented businesses to disburse salaries and wages of employees and internal migrant workers employed in those industries.

In order to prevent and mitigate these impacts, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in cooperation with national stakeholders and international partners led by the BDUNNM has prepared a strategic plan for supporting the GoB in planning and addressing the issues related to the impact of COVID-19 on migrants and their family members. The strategic plan highlights the need to include the effects of COVID-19 on national economic strategic planning captured in the upcoming 8th Five Year Plan and other plans that are specific to migration.

The GoB has urged the GCC countries to ensure that migrant workers in these countries get their wages and other facilities during the COVID-19 lockdown. The Government of Bangladesh urged the member states of OIC to give utmost importance on the issue of job retention of domestic and resident migrant workers and proposed to establish an OIC COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund.

END

  
**Nasreen Jahar**  
Joint Secretary  
M/o. Expatriates' Welfare &  
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Annex.

**Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration - Objectives for safe, orderly and regular migration (GA resolution 73/195)**

1.	Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
2.	Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
3.	Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
4.	Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
5.	Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
6.	Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
7.	Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
8.	Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
9.	Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
10.	Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international Migration
11.	Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
12.	Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
13.	Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
14.	Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
15.	Provide access to basic services for migrants
16.	Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
17.	Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
18.	Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
19.	Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
20.	Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of Migrants
21.	Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
22.	Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned Benefits
23.	Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration