



Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration

Working Better Together



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International Migrants Day 2023: Act Today

The 18th of December marked the International Migrants Day (IMD) acknowledging and celebrating the contributions of millions of migrants worldwide.

The theme for IMD 2023 was ‘**Act Today.**’ The theme reinforces the urgent need for the international community to provide people-centred and evidence-based solutions for people to remain in their communities, and for those who want to or must move.

The members of the BDUNNM and the Chairs of the TWGs participated in the International Migrants Day celebrations with providing targeted messages for migrants and their families:

<p>“</p> <p>Bangladesh is the 6th largest emigrant country & a top 10 recipient of foreign remittances accounting for 6.6% of GDP. Push factors include economic pressures & increasingly, the climate crisis. Bangladeshi migrants need better information & improved services. The UN commits to work with Bangladesh to enhance good governance & mobility for safer, humane & orderly migration.</p> <p>Gwyn Lewis UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh</p>  <p>Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration Migrants</p>	<p>“</p> <p>We recognize the strong spirit of Bangladeshi migrants and the invaluable contributions they make to the development of the country. As we commemorate the International Migrants Day, we must ensure that every migrant's story is one of dignity and prosperity.</p> <p>Abdusattor Esoev Chief of Mission IOM Bangladesh</p>  <p>Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration Migrants</p>	<p>“</p> <p>Let's stand together to protect the rights and dignity of individuals who are on the move. We can harness the potential of human mobility by stopping migrant smugglers and human traffickers from exploiting vulnerable people. Join us in our efforts to make a difference and protect lives.</p> <p>Marco Teixeira, Regional Representative, UNODC South Asia</p>  <p>Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration Migrants</p>
<p>“</p> <p>On this International Migrants Day, let us reflect on the resilience and courage of millions crossing borders in search of a better life. As the UNICEF Representative, I will continue to advocate for the well-being and the fulfilment of rights for migrant children, as stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including their right to access to education, healthcare, and protection.</p> <p>Sheldon Yett UNICEF Representative to Bangladesh</p>  <p>Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration Migrants</p>	<p>“</p> <p>The Bay of Bengal, like many routes taken by refugees and migrants, is synonymous with desperation, exploitation and lost lives. Regardless of the reasons for these journeys, women, girls, boys and men face similar risks. We must together enhance awareness of risky maritime journeys and facilitate protection of people on the move.</p> <p>Sumbul Rizvi UNHCR Representative</p>  <p>Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration Migrants</p>	<p>“</p> <p>Annually, around 1 million people migrate from Bangladesh, many of them youths without life skills education and vulnerable to rights violations. UNFPA works to equip young Bangladeshis with life skills to ensure their well-being, resilience, and capacity to respond successfully to the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.</p> <p>Kristine Blokhus Country Representative UNFPA Bangladesh</p>  <p>Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration Migrants</p>



Counter Trafficking in Persons Technical Working Group Consultation Held

The annual consultation of Counter Trafficking in Persons Technical Working Group (CTIP-TWG) was organized on 9 December 2023 to monitor and finalize the joint work plan of 2023, and brainstorm on the joint work plan for 2024. A total of 21 members (10 women, 11 men) of CTIP-TWG joined the consultation.

During the consultation, the members discussed on the next steps of the “Workshop on Mainstreaming Human Rights and Gender Equality Intervention to Address Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM)” and decided to develop a checklist to incorporate within the joint workplan of CTIP-TWG. In the second half of the consultation,



members actively engaged in generating activities of CTIP-TWG for 2024 and reflecting those interventions in the joint workplan in an effective manner.

The consultation also served as a platform to bid farewell to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), the outgoing chair and co-chair of CTIP-TWG, and welcome the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as the new chair for 2024. Recapitulating the activities of 2023, the members appreciated UNODC and DAM for their impactful contribution to the CTIP-TWG.

Brainstorming session held to advocate for labour market expansion and GCM NAP prioritization

A brainstorming session of the Labour Migration Technical Working Group of the BDUNNM was held on 12 October 2023 in Dhaka. The main objective of the session was to delineate strategic interventions for labour market expansion and discuss priorities for the on-going process of the development of the National Action Plan for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). In addition, the LMTWG also discussed some key areas of the thematic priorities for the planned national preparatory consultation for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit scheduled to be held in Dhaka.



On the eve of IMD, the LMTWG held a multi-stakeholder consultation on “Cost of Migration and Labour Market Expansion”

The LMTWG held a consultation on 17 December 2023 to discuss priority areas for ‘Cost of Migration’ and ‘Technical Support to government to develop Overseas Employment Market Roadmap.’ The outcome documents based on the discussion will be submitted to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) to support various initiatives for reducing the cost of migration and expanding labour markets for migrant workers.

Important updates:

Celebrating first-ever National Expatriates’ Day: Recognizing contributions, strengthening partnership

The Government of Bangladesh marked 30 December as the National Expatriates’ Day to increase the country's partnership with more than one crore diaspora spread across the world, involving expatriates’ in the development of the country and in various initiatives. The theme for 2023 was "*Probashir Kalyan, Morzada-Amader Ongikar, Smart Bangladesh Goray Tarao Soman Ongshidar*" (Safeguarding the welfare of the Expatriates is our commitment, they are also equal contributor to building smart

"They are our heroes. We must recognize them."

~ Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen acknowledging the role of expatriates

Bangladesh). The day was marked by various events led by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

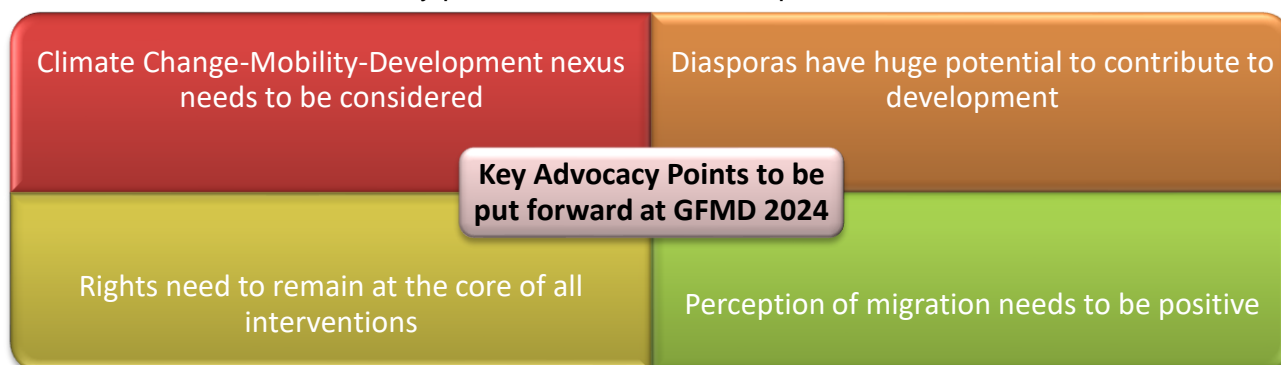
Towards an inclusive approach to meet the challenges of and increase the opportunities for human mobility

The 2024 GFMD, chaired by France, will revolve around the theme: "From environmental concerns to cultural aspects of migration: adopting an inclusive approach to meet the challenges of and increase the opportunities for human mobility." The 14th Summit Meeting of the GFMD is scheduled to take place in January 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. The aim of current Chair is to help strengthen the role of the GFMD in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, particularly in the framework of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). Ahead of the GFMD 2024, a National Preparatory Consultation was held on 21 November 2023, organized by the Co-Chairs of the Bangladesh Migration Compact Taskforce, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Bangladesh.



The consultation brought together around 90 participants from government, development partners, CSOs/NGOs and media. The consultation aimed to support the Bangladesh delegation and participants at the forum to effectively present the migration dynamics in line with national priorities as well those relevant to the global context.

Based on the discussions, the key priorities delineated to be presented at the GFMD 2024 are:



Read More: [France very much aware of specific climate vulnerabilities of Bangladesh: Ambassador Masdupuy](#)
[Shahriar urges to prioritise climate migrants in loss, damage fund](#)

COP28 Agreement Signals “Beginning of the End” of the Fossil Fuel Era

From 30 November to 12 of December 2023, COP28 brought together 84,000 people, including delegates from all 199 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to action meaningful changes to tackle the ever-worsening climate crisis. In a demonstration of global solidarity, negotiators from nearly 200 Parties came together in Dubai with a decision on the world's first 'global stocktaking' to increase climate action before the end of the decade – with the overarching aim to keep the global

temperature limit of 1.5°C within reach. Parties reached a historic agreement on the operationalization of the loss and damage fund and funding arrangements – the first time a substantive decision was adopted on the first day of the conference. Commitments to the fund started coming in moments after the decision was gaveled, totaling more than USD 700 million to date.

Read More: [Statement by UN Network on Migration](#)

Read Op-ed by Chief of Mission, IOM: [Towards a better migration governance in Bangladesh](#)