



E-BULLETIN

Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration (BDUNNM)

MARCH 2023



Officials from different government ministries and departments participated in the orientation at MoFA. © IOM 2022/Md Sariful Islam

Orientation to Bangladesh Migration Compact Taskforce on GCM

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB), in close collaboration with the Bangladesh UN Network on Migration (BDUNNM), is working towards national implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly Regular Migration (GCM). The GoB successfully launched the Bangladesh Migration Compact Taskforce (BMCT) comprising of representatives from relevant Ministries in July 2022.

Following the launch, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) organized an orientation session on Migration and GCM for BMCT members aimed at enhancing understanding of nuances of migration and GCM, including the potential roles of different actors in implementation of the Compact. As the Coordinator and Secretariat of the BDUNNM, GoB requested IOM to support the event.

In his opening remarks, the Honorable Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to fulfil the GCM objectives. He highlighted that the Government had launched the BMCT in July 2022, showcasing their commitment to adopting a whole-of-government approach and also fulfilling one of the pledges made by Bangladesh at the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) 2022.

Ambassador Momen noted some of the efforts of the Government, including mainstreaming migration in the national development plan, enhancing skills, and supporting sustainable reintegration of returnees, and protecting the rights of migrants. He emphasized on the need to build resilience to recover from the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and climate change among others.

Dr. Ahmed Munirus Saleheen, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, restated the commitment of the Government to work with partners, including the Bangladesh UN Network on Migration, to build on Bangladesh's progress as a "Champion Country" of the GCM. He added the importance to take necessary actions to implement the initiatives outlined in the 8th Five Year Plan including the 10-Point Agenda on Overseas Employment with specific focus on skills and reducing cost of migration.

"While there are challenges in achieving the GCM objectives, we are taking measures to mitigate these and to help ensure safe migration while also working to strengthen partnerships."

-Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"If we want to remain a 'Champion Country' of the GCM, we must translate words into action through collaborative efforts."

- Dr Ahmed Munirus Saleheen, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

The GCM is an essential tool for international cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration.

- Mr Abdusattor Esoev, IOM Chief of Mission and BDUNNM Coordinator

International Migrants' Day celebrated on 18 December 2022

MoEWOE marked International Migrants' Day on 18 December 2022. The Government adopted the slogan – 'Thakbo Valo, Rakhbo Valo Desh; Boidho Pathe Probash Aay, Gorbo Bangladesh' (We will stay well and keep the country well; we will send remittance through regular channels and help the country grow) for the day.

A weeklong celebration began on December 17, 2022. On December 18, the Ministry organized a multi-stakeholder consultation at Osmani Memorial Auditorium, where all key stakeholders joined the discussion. In addition, BMET, WEWB, and PKB organized different sessions from 19 to 23 December 2022.



The Government of Bangladesh organized the IMD event at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka. © IOM 2022/Md Sariful Islam

Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants visits Bangladesh, meets with BDUNNM and its TWGs

The BDUNNM met with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Mr. Felipe González Morales on 22 January 2023. The visit designed was to help the Special Rapporteur understand migration and refugee dynamics in Bangladesh.

Update of the Labour Migration Technical Working Group

The first Labour Migration Technical Working Group (LMTWG) meeting of 2023 was held on 24 January 2023. In 2023 LMTWG will be chaired by IOM and co-chaired by RMMRU. The LMTWG aims to support the Government of Bangladesh in labour migration management in light with the objectives and actions of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Its members comprise of 18 organizations from UN agencies, NGOs and private organizations collectively.

Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTiP) Thematic Working Group meetings with UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons

Members of the Network's Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTiP) Thematic Working Group (TWG) met with UN TIP Special Rapporteur on 31st of October 2022. The CTiP TWG highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the group including advocating for the release of over 300 returnees who were identified as victims of human trafficking in 2020 and development of a monitoring report on the situation of Bangladeshi Returnees and VoTs from Viet Nam.

BDUNNM organizes the first meeting in 2023

Chaired by Mr. Abdusattor Esoev, Chief of Mission of IOM Bangladesh and Coordinator of the Bangladesh UN Network on Migration (BDUNNM), the first meeting of the network in 2023 was held on 16 January 2023. The meeting included discussions on future plans as well as an update from the TWGs. For 2023, the CTiPTWG is being co-chaired by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and the TWG on Labour Migration is being co-chaired by IOM and Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMRRU). The meeting discussed forming a 3rd TWG focusing on Climate Change and Mobility. The BDUNNM plans to focus on supporting the Government of Bangladesh to fulfil the IMRF pledges including technical assistance for developing a National Action Plan for GCM implementation.



Members of the BDUNNM joined the first meeting in 2023. © IOM 2023/Md Sariful Islam

BDUNNM¹ was established in July 2019 and currently includes members from 10 UN agencies. It also comprises two Technical Working Groups on Counter Trafficking in Person (CTiPTWG) and Labour Migration (LMTWG) whose membership includes UN agencies, Civil Society Organizations, private sector, and others. The BDUNNM and its TWGs works towards supporting the GoB for implementation and review of GCM and other migration related interventions.

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