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STRATEGIC PAPER

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# Strategic Plan

Returnee Migrants and the Post COVID-19 Pandemic

*Bangladesh UN Network on Migration*



Bangladesh  
United Nations  
Network on Migration

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## INTRODUCTION

This strategic plan aims to provide the blueprint for the operationalization of interventions for the recovery of returnee migrants to Bangladesh as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The interventions have been designed for addressing the challenges over the next couple of months looking at the dimensions related to health, socio-economic and other short, medium and long-term implications.

The main objective of the strategic plan is to provide a framework to address the immediate, medium and long-term needs of migrants in light of COVID-19. The secondary objectives of the plan are:

- To provide a set of processes that would be in place to provide assistance and response to migrants affected due to COVID-19 pandemic
- To encourage a uniform and coordinated approach in crisis response assistance and recovery interventions for migrants

The strategic plan has been prepared by the Bangladesh UN Network on Migration (BDUNNM)<sup>1</sup> to support the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in planning and addressing the issues related to the impact of COVID-19 on migrants and their family members.



## BACKGROUND

Between 1976 and 2019, an estimated 12 million Bangladeshis migrated to take up employment in foreign countries. About 916,463 women migrated from 1991 to 2020 from Bangladesh to different countries<sup>2</sup>. Most of the Bangladeshi men and women migrant workers were absorbed in both the formal and informal jobs of the Gulf countries, although a significant portion took up short-term employment in Singapore and Malaysia. The most significant destination country in the GCC is Saudi Arabia, where primary categories of employment include: cleaning, domestic work, agriculture, construction and related trades, manufacturing, services. Most Bangladeshi women remain employed as domestic workers in Gulf Cooperation Council countries<sup>3</sup>, with a small number also migrating to nearby Jordan to work in garment manufacturing. Because most of the Bangladesh migrant workers are relatively low skilled, their vulnerability is further worsened by the lack of comprehensive medical cover and other benefits enjoyed by their expatriate counterparts. They also lack social safety nets both at destination and in communities of origin to fall back on when their employment or income generating activities are disrupted.

In terms of the magnitude of remittance inflows, Bangladesh is ranked the seventh largest recipient country in the world<sup>4</sup>.

- *Analysis of current state and future*

The COVID-19 pandemic is leading to serious and disproportionate effects on migrants and their families globally. Migrants who are in an irregular situation or undocumented are in a situation of even

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<sup>1</sup> The BDUNNM was launched in 2019 to support the GoB for GCM planning and implementation. IOM acts as the Coordinator and Secretariat and other members include UN RCO, ILO, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNODC, UNHCR

<sup>2</sup> [www.old.bmet.gov.bd/BMET/viewStatReport.action?reportnumber=25](http://www.old.bmet.gov.bd/BMET/viewStatReport.action?reportnumber=25)

<sup>3</sup> The Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional intergovernmental union consisting of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.

<sup>4</sup> Migration Profile Bangladesh 2019 (final draft)

greater vulnerability<sup>5</sup>. It is also important to address how COVID-19 crisis is interacting with the complex and fluid dynamics shaping mixed population movements, and how these might evolve over time. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis, and of the measures to contain it, differs across the globe, and the effects of these measures on smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons are likely to vary from country to country and from region to region<sup>6</sup>. Cross-border and cross-regional population movements are likely to increase, owing to a mixture of economic and security factors where forced displacement or survival migration becomes the option of last resort<sup>7</sup>. Therefore, it becomes critical to design interventions ensuring the varied needs of the migrant communities are considered.

In addition, it is expected that remittances will decrease as a result of the flow-on effects of COVID-19. In March 2020 itself, remittances were down by 11.8 per cent as compared to March of the prior fiscal year. The coupling of global lockdowns, together with the fact that no new migrant workers have gone abroad have led to predictions that remittance levels may fall by up to 22 percent over the course of the year.

COVID-19 impacts will differ country to country, but in Bangladesh, estimates that up to 5 million migrant workers may return home in the near future raises a series of health and social protection concerns that require urgent attention. Between January to April 2020, around 250,000 Bangladeshis have returned to Bangladesh<sup>8</sup>.

A large number of returning migrants have become jobless due to the COVID-19 outbreak, are lacking social protection and are being perceived as potential carriers of the disease, especially if returning from highly impacted countries. Many migrants returned prematurely and are thus unable to pay their loans, have limited access to psychosocial support and limited knowledge about and access to diversified livelihoods opportunities; they also lack financial literacy and knowledge about remittance management.

Returnees also face stigma and uncertainty over their livelihoods because among many, the loss of income has knock-on effects on households depending on remittances in Bangladesh. This will lead to food insecurity at household levels and increased levels of deprivation threatening reversals in key SDG indicators and other national development targets. The key sectors where these deleterious impacts will be felt are education, health, housing, social welfare and community level businesses. The resulting surge in demand for services in these sectors will need to be met. There may be also increased incidents of domestic violence as victims are confined together with their abusers in national travel restrictions. Women migrants often do not have access to gender-responsive social protection mechanisms such as maternity protection, sexual and reproductive health care and other benefits. This is particularly the case for those working in informal employment, especially domestic service and the care sector.

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<sup>5</sup> Joint Guidance Note on the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Human Rights of Migrants; 26 May 2020

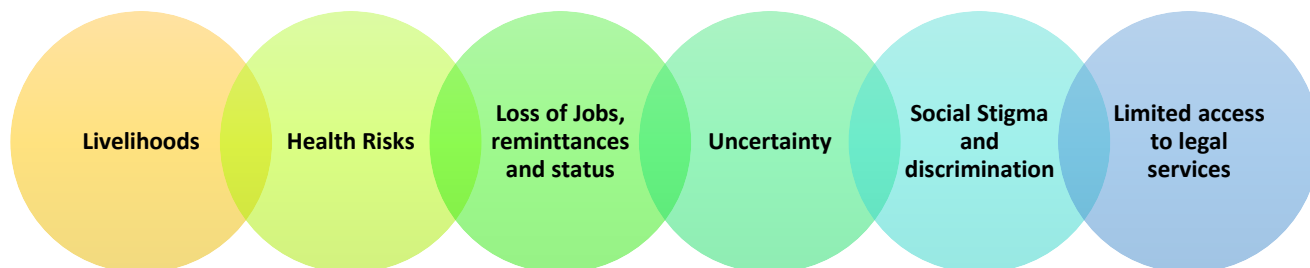
<sup>6</sup> UNODC Research Brief on 'How COVID-19 restrictions and the economic consequences are likely to impact migrant smuggling and cross-border trafficking in persons to Europe and North America', Research Brief prepared by the Research and Trend Analysis Branch and the UNODC Global Research Network, available at <<https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/covid/Covid-related-impact-on-SoM-TIP-web3.pdf>>

<sup>7</sup> COVID-19 and mixed population movements: emerging dynamics, risks and opportunities. A UNHCR/IOM discussion paper

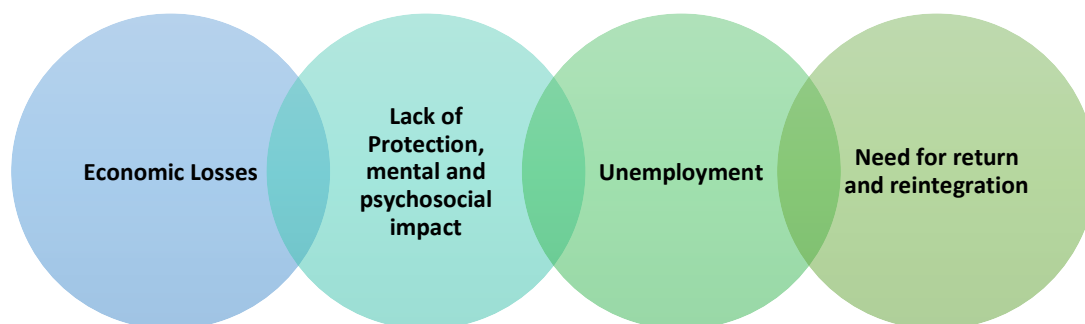
<sup>8</sup> IOM internal report based on the data and information from GoB (MoEWOE, Websites of High Commissions of Bangladesh), UNDESA, IOM internal sources, Websites of destination Govt Sources, and other credible Non-Government Sources in the destination countries.

The challenges on human mobility that are arising from the pandemic are depicted below:

**Immediate challenges:**



**Medium- and long-term challenges:**



COVID 19 requires that Bangladesh which has one of the biggest number of diaspora take at a national strategic level two crucial steps which need to be part of this effort.

1. Undertake a national strategic repositioning of its policies and approach to international migration in recognition of changes in the set of skills that will be in high demand as a result of the pandemic. The thrust should be two-pronged in terms of looking at skills needed in Bangladesh to meet domestic self-sufficiency for manufactured goods such as PPE, ventilators, medication and other goods and services including medical professionals. This is because the pandemic has revealed the risks of over-reliance on external manufacturing for such goods because of the global acute shortage that was experienced. The second prong is skills needed overseas in CODs. The vulnerability of Bangladeshi workers is heightened by their relatively low skills so there is need to accelerate skills enhancement among prospective and current migrants. To inform this intervention a study of differences between Bangladeshi skilled expatriates and their less skilled counterparts may look at such vulnerability factors as access to good medical insurance and care, access to social safety net at COD and at home, and access to information, PPEs etc.
2. Undertake an exercise to place public health component in all migration programming along the value chain from pre-departure processing, monitoring mechanisms in CODs, to return and resettlement. This will strengthen preventive and treatment measures when similar outbreaks occur and enhance the country's capacity to protect its critical sectors from the impacts of such outbreaks in future.



## PILLAR 1: POLICY AND LEGAL CONTEXT

### Overview of Policy and Planning

- *Policies and plans*

In 2015, the United Nations adopted a new framework for sustainable development based on the principle that no one should be left behind. The 2030 Agenda promised human rights for all and explicitly included refugees among “all nations and peoples and all segments of society”, as well as called upon Member States to “protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment”, to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”, as well as to “take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking...”. The same principle needs to be upheld, without distinction or discrimination, during this critical time.

The Government of Bangladesh has ratified several conventions and instruments based on which a number of national laws and policies have been framed. The Overseas Employment and Migrants’ Act 2013 and Expatriate. Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy, 2016 which provides exhaustive provisions for the protection of Bangladeshi migrant workers . The Wage Earner’s Welfare Board Act 2018 includes provisions for assisting migrants in times of crisis including, in some cases, facilitating their return. There are a few policies which address disasters or crises, but there is scope to more comprehensively address the human mobility dimensions in such crisis situations. The crisis has highlighted the need to fast-track policy and its implementation. The policy frameworks also need to address issues such as compensation, care for the sick in times of pandemics, and return and internment of remains for the deceased.

While several guidelines and frameworks exist, there needs to be alignment and operationalization of these to ensure migrants are better protected in times of crisis. The strategic plan will feed into broader national frameworks like the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and the Socio-Economic Response Framework<sup>9</sup>. The five year plan would need to capture issues related to strategic skills and domestic manufacturing capacity to reduce over-reliance on imports in times of acute need as happening with COVID 19. The full complexity of new demands on skills in both domestic and external labour markets necessary to achieve objective of the plans will need to be appraised considering that returnees could be redirected to meet some of the local manufacturing needs.

- *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in view of current pandemic*

Bangladesh has played a key role in rallying the world towards the process that led first to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). The GCM aims to address all aspects of migration including the humanitarian or crisis aspects underlined under the objective 2<sup>10</sup>, 7<sup>11</sup> and

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<sup>9</sup> The UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 is one of three critical components of the UN’s efforts to save lives, protect people, and rebuild better, alongside the health response.

<sup>10</sup> OBJECTIVE 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

<sup>11</sup> OBJECTIVE 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

objective 21<sup>12</sup> to contribute to enhanced global governance with particular focus on needs of migrants during crisis. The GCM reiterates the need to apply specific support measures to ensure that migrants caught up in situations of crisis in countries of transit and destination have access to consular protection and humanitarian assistance, and migrant populations are taken into account in crisis preparedness, emergency response and post-crisis action. The GCM also takes into account the human rights of women, men, girls and boys at all stages of migration, their specific needs are properly understood and addressed, and they are empowered as agents of change. It mainstreams a gender perspective, promotes gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls<sup>13</sup>.

While the development frameworks provided strategic guidelines prior to the pandemic, in this “new normal” it would be important to reassess the implications on GCM and SDGs inter alia. GCM implementation ought to anticipate such trends including thorough understanding of implications of emerging tensions in global economic and trade further attenuated by the pandemic. Nevertheless, any new programmes/policies would need to comply with the guiding principles outlined in these documents as well as align with social, economic rights.

- *Advocacy through Global and Regional Platform for migrants*

Regional and global platforms like GFMD, Colombo Process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue, SAARC inter alia can play proactive and effective role to address the vulnerability of repatriated migrants engaging multi stakeholders of CoDs as well as CoOs for protection of the rights in common voice.



## PILLAR 2: PRE-DEPARTURE, RETURN AND RECEPTION

- *Address immediate needs of migrants in Countries of Destination (COD)*

Address the immediate needs of migrants including shelter, food, medical assistance including COVID-19 prevention measures, transportation, psychosocial support, adequate information in CoDs about return and facilitate a dignified and safe return of all documented and undocumented migrants, as well as as well as prevent forced return and protect victims of trafficking.

- *Travel assistance*

Set up efficient measures with CoD to ensure the migrants are fit to travel and well informed about the risks of COVID-19 transmission during their travel, abiding by all applicable health and travel precautions, such as wearing of masks and other hygiene measures.. Ensure appropriate social distance and on board distances in the plane or other transport vehicles for returnees to avoid transmission in transit.

- *Provide assistance upon arrival in Bangladesh*

Provide assistance upon arrival including health screening at the airport, transfer of suspected cases to medical facilities, transportation for returnees migrants to institutional quarantine facilities, survey/profiling and assessing vulnerability of returnees, and provide support to return to their

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<sup>12</sup> OBJECTIVE 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

<sup>13</sup> Global Compact for Migration, Guiding Principles, paragraph 15

communities once they have completed the quarantine period<sup>14</sup>. Emphasis on upholding dignity and right to privacy of the returnees and their families.



### PILLAR 3: DATABASE, ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PLANNING

- There is an immediate need to prepare a basic database of the returnee migrants, disaggregated by sex, age, skills and occupation, for better response planning and recovery management. For the desired result, the database would be approached in three stages:
  - Pre-arrival – Bangladesh High Commissions in CoDs can start collecting data of the Bangladeshi citizens abroad, disaggregated by sex, age and occupation, geographical location.
  - At the port of entry (POEs) – At the port of entry (airport/land borders) a simple tool can be deployed to collect the necessary information. The information needs to be collected in a gender-sensitive manner that is guided by the Human Rights-Based Approach and maintain confidentiality in particular of the women returnees who may have experienced gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation.
  - At the community level – with the help of local administration and local elected representatives, data on both men and women returnees who have returned after 15 February can be collected. The information regarding their skills and employability also needs to be captured.
- All the data should be stored in one central database and should be compiled in the central database which will be operational in a few months. Existing databases of all the other stakeholders could also be merged and linked provided that there is a clear understanding that principles of data privacy are to be strictly observed. Access will be limited and defined in relevant GoB decree. Health status information will only be used for the health response and will only be shared with law enforcement on an exceptional basis under strictly defined criteria provided for in the relevant decree.
- A mapping of existing data, info, and research to ensure duplication is avoided prior to conducting the required needs assessments. Since evidence points to that the pandemic being a long-term affair, an alternate approach of assessment and research is needed in near future, for example reliance on secondary sources and key informants and phone-based surveys.

#### *Stages of Assessment*

- **Rapid Assessments:** The rapid assessment should focus on the broad-based impacts on the returnee migrants due to COVID-19. The gender analysis of this Rapid assessment will be focused on the gender differential impacts of COVID-19 on the women returnee and their family members at all stages. The focus should be on the top migration prone districts and

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<sup>14</sup> As determined by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)

eventually the assessment could be extended to the other districts. The rapid assessments with victims of trafficking could be a separate exercise. These efforts and data/information would also be linked to national skills strategy in order to have longer term results that link with national development strategy and migration policy.

The main objectives of these rapid assessments should be to find out: (i) priority sectors for jobs; (ii) proportion of migrants (both men-women) intending to re-migrate, (iii) category/type of job performed (iv) if returned migrants intend to upgrade their skill level through certification, and the necessary skills/resources for that; (v) those who are skilled but do not have certificate, (vi) proportion of migrants (both men-women) intending to go for self-employment and the needs around self-employment; and (iv) proportion and extent of vulnerabilities

- **Mobility Tracking at the union levels:** For robust programme planning and targeting, it is imperative to undertake mobility tracking (inflow and outflow) at the union levels within a timeframe and of present mobility patterns. As Bangladesh starts to ease up on internal travel restrictions and to open up borders, there will be re-migration, particularly of the internal migrants to the major economic and manufacturing hubs. Therefore, there should be: (i) a baseline figure of the mobile population in the targeting districts; and (ii) regular updating of the figures (quarterly/biannually) for better targeting.
- **Community-level Assessments:** In high migration communities, a detailed community assessment is on the needs, vulnerabilities and availability and access to services will further strengthen the programme planning and implementation.



#### PILLAR 4: INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS

- *Working Committee for return and reintegration of migrants returning due to COVID-19 Pandemic*

Since the onset of COVID-19 related economic slowdown, Bangladeshi migrants have started to return particularly from the Middle East, Europe, and India. Aside from vulnerable migrants travelling through regular channels, there are undocumented Bangladeshi migrants waiting to be returned from the Maldives, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Malaysia, Bahrain, Lebanon and Libya, among others. The GoB is anticipating some involuntary returns of those languishing in deportation centres and prisons as well.

A Working Committee<sup>15</sup> (detail ToR in Annex C) 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. To plan for reintegration and recovery of all the migrants returning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BDUNNM representatives will work closely with the Working Committee to support implementation of the proposed strategic plan.

- *Institutional mapping for integrated crisis management*

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<sup>15</sup> Based on a recommendation from a meeting was held on 23 April 2020 at MoEWOE.



As stated, the impact of COVID-19 on migrants and their families and communities is multi-faceted and multi-sectoral and needs a comprehensive and coordinated response. Different agencies and organizations with diverse mandates need to come together to steer forward integrated crisis management. The BDUNNM along with the technical working groups will roll out a mapping tool to map the responses and plan for strategic interventions. Long-term mapping will also address the demand and supply perspectives but also address all aspects from policy to community level reintegration role players and commercial service providers.



## PILLAR 5: MIGRATION CRISIS RESPONSES

For the accelerated socio-economic recovery of the migrants, the BDUNNM has identified three strategic priorities for response, which will contribute to the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 and GoB's priorities.

- Priority 1: Short term assistance: Ensuring the immediate wellbeing of migrants through awareness raising, safe return and prompt assistance
- Priority 1: Medium term assistance: Strengthening capacity, social protection and economic recovery.
- Priority 1: Long-term assistance: Building resilience, strengthening societal structure, labour market, and social cohesion.

### *Priority 1: Short-term assistance: Ensuring well-being of migrants through awareness raising, safe return and immediate assistance*

- Provide accurate information about immediate assistance and safe return through existing forums such as the online helpline ([probashihelpline.com](http://probashihelpline.com)) 'Probash Bondhu Call Center' of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE).
- Conduct joint assessment on the rapid needs and vulnerabilities to provide vulnerable migrants with a stimulus fund for food and supplies, hygiene kits and necessary health support, like telemedicine, tele-counseling and referrals for testing and treatment support as needed. In addition, strategic guidance would be provided to map the characteristics and issues germane to the rapidly evolving situation that has engulfed returnee migrant workers. It will offer strategies and propose possible response pathways that could be available to the MoEWOE in support of both, returned workers and those still in their CoDs.

### *Priority 2: Medium-term assistance: Strengthening capacity, social protection and economic recovery*

- The medium- to long-term recovery and socio-economic inclusion needs of the returnee migrants will be supported through direct (in-kind) income generating assistance. Assurances will be planned and tailored based on the in-depth assessment of the needs, vulnerabilities, risks, opportunities, resources and competencies of the migrants and their households. Victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minor children and returnee migrants, including women and children with special needs and vulnerabilities, will be assisted with specialized protection and recovery and reintegration services. Social protection measures for women's

health and reproductive health insurance and legal services are to be strengthened for women migrant workers.

- Mechanism to ensure that the vulnerable returnees do not become victims of cross border trafficking and/or sex trafficking. Awareness programmes and community level intervention can be crucial to prevent traffickers from preying on their victims. In addition, interventions to address stigma also needs to be undertaken.

*Priority 3: Long-term assistance: Building resilience, societal structure, labour market, social cohesion*

- The long-term accelerated economic recovery and social cohesion will be addressed by working with the migrants and victims of trafficking, empowering the communities directly, and assisting the authorities to improve the existing support structures for social reintegration.
- Long term strategic stimulation of local economies and provision of support to returnees to return to economic productivity through various enterprises.
- The migrants and the communities will be accessed with the other social and economic support services of the GoB ,such as linking them with the financial institutions, skills development/upgradation (both technical and soft skills), recognition of their prior learning and employment at local and international job market.
- The GoB and recruitment agencies need to work together to ensure accountability regarding employment conditions of workers in light of such pandemic. Advocacy measures and technical support may be provided to GoB to ensure provisions for the protection of migrants during such pandemics are taken into account in contracts and sufficient orientation provided during pre-departure stages.

## ANNEX A: MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Strategic Plan for Returnee Migrants post COVID-19					
Performance Measurement Matrix v1.0					
	Indicators (disaggregated data)	Data Sources	Baseline	Target	Assumptions
<b>Goal:</b> To provide a framework to address the immediate, medium and long-term needs of migrants returning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.					
<b>Specific Objective 1:</b> To provide a set of processes required to provide assistance and response to returnees affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.	% of returnees who received dignified pre-departure, return, reception and reintegration services	Assessments	0	90%	
<b>Specific Objective 1:</b> To encourage a uniform and coordinated approach in crisis response assistance and recovery interventions for returnee migrants	Effective and functional coordination mechanism	MIS and assessment	No	Yes	
<b>Outcome 1 (Pillar 1): Dignified pre-departure, return and receptions services to returnee migrants</b>	% of migrants indicating that their return and reception was dignified	Community Assessment	0	90%	
	% of migrants who are satisfied with the services they had received since they returned	Community Assessment	0	90%	
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Immediate needs of migrants in Countries of Destination (COD) addressed led by MOFA	# of migrants who receive predeparture services	MIS	0	TBD	
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Returning migrants are assisted with travel back to Bangladesh led by MOFA	# of migrants who are assisted to return to Bangladesh	MIS	0	TBD	
<b>Output 1.3:</b> On arrival assistance provided at points of entry in Bangladesh led by MoEWOE	# of migrants who received assistance upon arrival	MIS	0	TBD	
<b>Activities that lead to Output 1.1, Output 1.2 and Output 1.3:</b>					
<p>1.1.1 Support the GOB to advocate with the relevant authorities in the COD to access food, support services for gender based violence and abuses , shelter and health care services to the migrants affected by COVID-19</p> <p>1.2.1 Develop SOPs for return and movement of the stranded migrants in the CODs in coordination with the Working Committee and facilitate movement assistance</p> <p>1.3.1 Provide immediate assistance such as food/shelter, psychosocial support for women returnee who experienced gender based violence and abuse, health information to the migrants upon arrival in Bangladesh.</p>					
<b>Outcome 2 (Pillar 2): Improved policy and Legal systems to manage the dignified return of migrants affected by COVID-19 pandemic</b>	Policy in place to address the needs of migrants returning due to COVID-19 pandemic	MIS	No	Yes	
<b>Output 2.1 :</b> Policies, plans, Standard, Guideline, Global, regional and national practices developed	# of policies and guidelines at national level to support the dignified return of migrants	MIS	0	TBD	
<b>Output 2.2:</b> GCM reviewed in view of current developments	Plan in place to review the GCM at national level to include the COVID-19 pandemic dimension	MIS	0	TBD	
<b>Activities that lead to Output 2.1 and Output 2.2:</b>					

2.1.1 Develop and update existing planning frameworks to integrate crisis					
2.2.1 Review of implementation of SDGs and GCM in light of Covid-19					
<b>Outcome 3 (Pillar 3): Evidence based decisions and response planning are made using empirical data from assessments</b>	Database established to track the returnee migrants	MIS	No	Yes	
	# of response plans made from data generated through assessments	MIS	TBD	80%	
<b>Output 3.1:</b> Rapid Assessments conducted in target locations	# of rapid assessments done	MIS	0	30	
<b>Output 3.2:</b> Mobility tracking conducted at union levels	# of individuals tracked via mobility tracking methods	MIS	0	TBD	
<b>Output 3.3:</b> Detailed community level assessments conducted	# of detailed community level assessments conducted	MIS and availability of assessment report	0	TBD	
<b>Activities that lead to Output 3.1 and Output 3.2:</b>					
3.1.1 Conduct rapid assessments in targeted locations					
3.2.1 Conduct mobility tracking among returnee migrants					
3.3.1 Conduct detailed community level assessments					
<b>Outcome 4 (Pillar 4): Functional institutional structures and coordination mechanism in place to manage the returnee migrants</b>	Effective coordination mechanism held to support the implementation of the strategic plan	MIS	No	Yes	
<b>Output 4.1:</b> Established Working Committee for return and reintegration of migrants returning due to COVID-19 Pandemic	Committee established to manage interventions of managing the returnee migrants	MIS	No	Yes	
<b>Output 4.2:</b> Institutional mapping for integrated crisis management conducted	Mapping for integrated crisis management done	MIS	No	Yes	
<b>Output 4.3:</b> Support from the BDUNNM/other stakeholders' to implement the strategic plan	Implementation of the plan is supported by the BDUNNM	MIS	No	Yes	
<b>Activities that lead to Output 4.1, Output 4.2 and Output 4.3:</b>					
4.1.1 Provide secretarial and technical support to Working Committee					
4.2.1 Conduct mapping for integrated crisis management					
4.3.1 Organize consultations to prioritize actions for implementation of strategic plan					
<b>Outcome 5 (Pillar 5): Adequate short, medium and long - term interventions are in place to respond to the effects of COVID-19 among returnees</b>	% of returnees who benefitted from short, medium and long - term assistance since they returned.	Community Assessment	0	90%	
	% of returnees who are aware of short, medium and long - term services available to them	Community Assessment	0	90%	
<b>Output 5.1:</b> Short-term assistance provided to ensure well-being of migrants through awareness raising, safe return and immediate assistance	# of migrants provided immediate assistance upon return	MIS	0	TBD	
<b>Output 5.2:</b> Medium-term assistance in place involving strengthening	# of migrants provided with medium term assistance	MIS	No	Yes	

capacity, social protection and economic recovery	% of returnees who are economically reintegrated in the communities	Community Assessment			
<b>Output 5.3:</b> Long-term assistance provided including building resilience, societal structure, labour market and social cohesion	# of migrants who benefitted from long term interventions	MIS	No	Yes	
	% of migrants who are psychosocially reintegrated in the communities	Community Assessment	0	80%	
<b>Activities that lead to Output 5.1, Output 5.2 and Output 5.3:</b>					
5.1.1 Plan and provide in-kind assistance as per the needs of the returnees to recover from the immediate shock					
5.2.1 Provide referral services to access skill training, counseling, life-skill trainings, entrepreneurship trainings and financial institutions and other needs					
5.3.1 Linking the returnee migrants with other development programmes for labour market integration					

## ANNEX B: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGIC PLAN

The objective of the resource mobilization strategic plan will be to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to resource acquisition, utilization, monitoring, managing of financial inflows and to facilitate better management of resources to provide accelerated support for socio-economic recovery of returning migrants.

A joint resource mobilization process will be undertaken by the BDUNNM to implement resource mobilization activities and to coordinate in obtaining resources.

The strategic plan will comply with the aid effectiveness policies of the donors with more focus on joint programming. The key guiding principles will be to promote efficiency and effectiveness of resources aligning with the key priority areas of return and reintegration; increase domestic resource mobilization as well as explore alternative sources of funding; and to strengthen capacities to generate and monitor the funding.

It is envisaged to mobilize resources from multiple sources, such as direct support from the bilateral donors, as well as from the existing funding instruments such as the MPTF, and other existing donors in Bangladesh, as well as globally. The key activities that will be undertaken are as follows:

- **Identify:** The BDUNNM along with the members will map the existing donor interest and identify the existing funding instruments locally and globally.
- **Engage:** The BDUNNM will organize meetings with the potential donors and submit a joint appeal.
- **Negotiate:** The BDUNNM will prepare joint agreements, agree on conditions of partnership on use of resources and formalize legal agreements for the projects.
- **Manage:** The agencies involved in implementing the joint projects will acknowledge donor contribution and ensure efficient and effective operations, and regularly update the BDUNNM and the donors.
- **Report and communicate result:** The BDUNNM will disseminate information and reports to the donors and advocate for continued support for long-term reintegration of the returnee migrants.

## ANNEX C: COORDINATION PROCESS

### ***Step 1: Functional coordination mechanism of the Working Committee (WC)***

- The WC is chaired by MoEWOE with IOM serving as the secretariat. Other representatives of the WC include: MoHA, MoSW, MOWCA and MOHFW.
- Membership of the WC comprises of UN and development partners such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank, The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- The WC would be responsible for preparation of a strategic action plan and an appeal for dignified return and reintegration of migrants.

### ***Step 2: Address immediate needs of migrants in Countries of Destination (COD) (led by MOFA)***

- The Chair in coordination MOFA will negotiate with the countries of destination to address the immediate needs of migrants including shelter, food, medical assistance, psychosocial support and facilitate a dignified and safe return of all documented and undocumented migrants.

### ***Step 3: Travel assistance (led by MOFA)***

The MOFA in coordination with the CoD will set up efficient measures that ensures the migrants are fit to travel and well informed about the risks of COVID-19 transmission during their travel.

### ***Step 4: Provide assistance upon arrival in Bangladesh (led by MoEWOE)***

- The PKD will coordinate for immediate assistance upon arrival at the airport, once the migrants pass through the health screening at the airport, transfer of suspected cases to medical facilities, transport of returning migrants to quarantine facility.
- A quick survey of the migrants for short term to medium term economic recovery will be carried out and will provide cash grant support to return to their communities/home immediately or once they have completed the quarantine period determined by MoHFSW. ( MoEWOE)

### ***Step 5: Provide mid-term to long-term reintegration assistance (led by MoEWOE)***

- The WC will develop a **policy framework, a strategic plan,<sup>16</sup> and an appeal for immediate, mid-term to long-term reintegration support** focusing on strengthening of referral systems which ensure accessibility of the migrant workers to essential services and creating an enabling environment for mid-term to long term livelihood options.
- The MoEWOE will present the funding appeal to the potential donors represented at the WC and beyond.
- The WC may adopt the global experiences of different organizations including Prottasha, funded by the EU and implemented by IOM which is promoting integrated approach to sustainable reintegration. It addresses tailored economic, social and psychosocial needs of the migrants at the individual, community and the structural level for sustainable reintegration.

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<sup>16</sup> Recovery Strategic Plan for Returnee Migrants post-Covid19 is being prepared by the UN Migration Network to support the GOB to accelerate the economic recovery.

The strategic plan is developed by Bangladesh UN Network on Migration (BDUNNM). To ensure coordinated, effective and timely UN Country Team wide support to the Government of Bangladesh in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration the BDUNNM was launched in 2019. Representatives from UNRC, UNODC, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, IOM, ILO, UNHCR, UNDP and UNICEF formed the network, IOM serves as the Coordinator and Secretariat of the Network. Two Technical Working Groups in Counter Trafficking in Persons and Labour Migration are supporting the objectives of the BDUNNM.



**Bangladesh  
United Nations  
Network on Migration**

**Secretariat**

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