



### Bangladesh: Emigration as a strategy

- Bangladesh has been a source country of migrant workers since the 1970s.
- As of 2018, an estimated 11.4 million Bangladeshi migrants are in more than 90 countries with Saudi Arabia, UAE, Malaysia and Kuwait as the top destinations.
- In the past five years, the number of migrant workers going abroad increased from 410,000 in 2013 to one million in 2017; in 2018, however, similar to other major labour sending countries in Asia, the number has decreased to about 700,000.
- Majority of them are classified as low-skilled, and twelve percent of them are women.
- In 2018, Bangladesh received 15 billion USD remittances, which comprised around eight percent of its GDP.

### Migrant Resource Centres in Dhaka and Kumilla



Due to the increasing number of Bangladeshi migrant workers and growing complexities of working in other countries, migrants face various issues; some of them include lack of or insufficient access to information and support networks.

ICMPD, together with the Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment (MEWOE), will establish Migrant Resource Centers (MRC) in Dhaka and Kumilla in 2020. They will be closely integrated with Bangladesh's Bureau of Manpower, Education, Training and the District Manpower and Employment Office.

The MRCs will provide a wide range of services including:

- conducting pre-departure orientation seminars for outgoing migrant workers on all migration-related topics.



- providing access to protection mechanisms and information on onsite programmes and return processes.
- informing the public about work and living conditions abroad, recruitment processes, rights and obligations, migration laws and policies, legal and cultural practices in destination countries, and risks and dangers associated with irregular migration.

### Law Enforcement Cooperation in the region



Via the Silk Routes project, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is also facilitating regional cooperation for law enforcement agencies on irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking; in brief, RELEC. Its aim is to establish a better transnational response against criminal networks involved in migration-related crimes. At national level in Bangladesh, RELEC aims to support the establishment of a framework for statistical information exchange and analysis of migration trends in order to strengthen national capacities for international cooperation.

## Towards better protection for migrant workers



With a view to prevent irregular migration, enhance labour migration, and promote best working terms and conditions for Bangladeshis in other countries, MIGRA.P – which stands for “Migrant Protection” – will assist the MEWOE in strengthening the capacities of government agencies in crisis management and contingency planning, frontline service delivery, and streamlining the response and referral mechanisms among government agencies for migrants in distress or with cases. MIGRA.P will support the provision of comprehensive skills training and pre-departure orientation for female migrants in specific work categories which may include domestic work, hospitality service or industry, or health-related work such as caregiving.

## Funding support for migration management



The Silk Routes Facility provides support for capacity-building activities. It is currently funding the implementation of three projects in Bangladesh with approximately 250,000 Euros each:

1. Addressing climate-induced migration in South Asia: This project covers Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. It is implemented by ActionAid Bangladesh and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in Pakistan as well as the Climate Action Network South Asia.
2. Safe Migration for the Women of Bangladesh: This project promotes safe and planned migration particularly for women in Bangladesh. It is implemented by CARE Austria together with CARE International and the Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants Development Foundation.
3. Reintegration of Returnee Female Migrant Workers in Bangladesh: This project's objective is to improve reintegration of female migrant workers and support already settled returning workers in Bangladesh. It is implemented by the Danish Trade Union Development Agency and the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies.



## The “Silk Routes project”



All described activities are conducted under the project “Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes” which aims at improving migration governance

in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan, as well as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. It is funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The project strengthens the regional dialogue on migration under the Budapest Process which was initiated in 1993. The project hosts the Silk Routes Facility, MIGRA.P and RELEC. In collaboration with its partner countries, it also operates Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs).

## Our contacts

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