THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH |
PROFILE 2019

MIGRATION
GOVERNANCE
INDICATORS

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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With research and analysis by

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH |
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MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS

IOM
UN MIGRATION

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OBJECTIVE

The MGI aims to support well-managed migration policy by helping countries assess the comprehensiveness of their migration governance structures and identify priorities on the way forward.

The MGI can be used to spark a discussion within governments, with other relevant stakeholders in the country, on their migration policy structures. It can help assess whether these structures, which have often been in place for several years, still address the main challenges and opportunities of today's reality.

INTRODUCTION

This is an era of unprecedented mobility, and the need to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility is becoming increasingly relevant.[1] The need to face the challenges and to maximize the opportunities that this mobility brings has been recognized with the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which highlights the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and development. Migration is integrated in a number of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, such as ending modern slavery and addressing the vulnerability of migrant workers. However, the central reference to migration in the SDGs is Target 10.7 on facilitating "orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies".[2]

The incorporation of Target 10.7 into the 2030 Agenda created the need to define "planned and well-managed migration policies". This is why, in 2015, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) developed the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). This Framework offers a concise view of an ideal approach that allows a State to determine what it might need to govern migration well and in a way that suits its circumstances.[3] The Framework was welcomed by IOM Member States in the same year.

In an effort to operationalize the MiGOF, IOM worked with The Economist Intelligence Unit to develop the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI), a standard set of approximately 90 indicators to assist countries in assessing their migration policies and advance the conversation on what well-governed migration might look like in practice.

The MGI helps countries identify good practices as well as areas with potential for further development and can offer insights on the policy levers that countries can use to develop their migration governance structures. However, the MGI recognizes that all countries have different realities, challenges and opportunities that relate to migration. Therefore, the MGI does not rank countries on the design or implementation of their migration policies. Finally, the MGI does not measure migration policy outcomes or institutional effectiveness. Instead, it takes stock of the migration-related policies in place and operates as a benchmarking framework that offers insights on policy measures that countries might want to consider as they progress towards good migration governance.

This country profile presents a summary of the well-developed areas of the migration governance structures of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (hereinafter referred to as Bangladesh), as well as the areas with potential for further development, as assessed by the MGI.[4]

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[1] IOM Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, seventeenth session (S/17/4 of 29 September 2015), article 2.
[2] IOM Council, 106th session, Migration Governance Framework (C/106/40 of 4 November 2015), page 1, footnote 1. Available at: https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/106/C-106-40-Migration-Governance-Framework.pdf.
[3] Ibid.
[4] The MGI initiative is a policy-benchmarking programme led by IOM and implemented with the support of The Economist Intelligence Unit. Funding is provided by IOM's Member States.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

MiGOF

The IOM MiGOF sets out the essential elements to support planned and well-managed migration. It seeks to present, in a consolidated, coherent and comprehensive way, a set of three principles and three objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane, orderly, and benefits migrants and society.

PRINCIPLES

1. **Adherence** to international standards and fulfillment of migrants' rights.

2. **Formulates** policy using evidence and "whole-of-government" approach.

3. **Engages** with partners to address migration and related issues.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Advance** the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society.

2. **Effectively** address the mobility dimensions of crises.

3. **Ensure** that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

At the basis of

MGI

WHAT IT IS

A set of indicators that offers insights on policy levers that countries can use to strengthen their migration governance structures

A tool that identifies good practices and areas that could be further developed

A consultative process that advances dialogues on migration governance by clarifying what "well-governed migration" might look like in the context of SDG Target 10.7

WHAT IT IS NOT

Not a ranking of countries

Not assessing impacts of policies

Not prescriptive

Which supports the measurement of

10 REDUCE INEQUALITIES

TARGET 10.7

*"Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and **well-managed migration policies.**"*

KEY FINDINGS

The MGI is composed of around 90 indicators grouped under the 6 different dimensions of migration governance that draw upon the MiGOF categories:

MIGRANTS'
RIGHTS
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Indicators in this domain look at the extent to which migrants have access to certain social services such as health, education and social security. It also looks at family reunification, access to work, and access to residency and citizenship. The international conventions signed and ratified are also included.

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT
APPROACH
PAGE 14

Indicators in this area assess countries' institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks related to migration policies. This area also looks at the existence of national migration strategies that are in line with development objectives and overseas development efforts, as well as institutional transparency and coherence in relation to migration management.

PARTNERSHIPS
PAGE 16

This category focuses on countries' efforts to cooperate on migration-related issues with other States and with relevant non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations and the private sector.

WELL-BEING
OF MIGRANTS
PAGE 17

Indicators in this area assess countries' policies regarding the recognition of migrants' educational and professional qualifications, provisions regulating student migration and the existence of bilateral labour agreements between countries. Aspects of diaspora engagement in the country of origin and migrant remittances are also under this domain.

MOBILITY DIMENSION
OF CRISES
PAGE 19

This category looks at the type and level of preparedness of countries when they are faced with mobility dimensions of crises. The questions look at the processes in place for nationals and non-nationals both during and after disasters, including if humanitarian assistance is equally available to migrants as it is to citizens.

SAFE, ORDERLY
AND REGULAR
MIGRATION
PAGE 20

This area looks at countries' approach to migration management in terms of border control and enforcement policies, admission criteria for migrants, preparedness and resilience in the case of significant and unexpected migration flows, as well as the fight against trafficking in persons.

1 ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND FULFILMENT OF MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

1.1. International conventions ratified

Table 1. Signature and ratification of international conventions

Convention name	Ratified
International Labour Organization (ILO) Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97)	No
United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951	No
United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954	No
United Nations Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961	No
ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143)	No
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989	Yes (1990)
United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990	Yes (2001)
United Nations Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967	No
United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979	Yes (1984)
ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102)	No
ILO Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, 2011 (No. 189)	No
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto, 2000	No
ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)	Yes (1972)
ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)	Yes (1972)

1.2. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Migrants have the same access as nationals to government-funded education in Bangladesh; there are no restrictions on accessing primary, secondary and tertiary education for any resident in the country. Nevertheless, foreign nationals are not entitled to the benefits of social safety net programmes run by the Government.

Migrants can access the labour market, provided they obtain a work permit. A work permit is mandatory for every foreign national seeking employment in Bangladesh. Three government authorities issue work permits to foreign nationals in Bangladesh: the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), for the private sector, industrial enterprises, branch offices and liaison offices outside of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ); the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA), for the employment of foreign nationals in the EPZ; and the NGO Affairs Bureau for employment of foreign nationals in any non-governmental organization (NGO). An industry within the EPZ can employ up to 5 per cent of foreign nationals among its employees, provided it is authorized to hire them by the BEPZA.

Foreign residents with a work permit can accept any private-sector employment under the same conditions as nationals. They can also access public-sector employment, excluding positions related to the exercise of public authority and safeguarding general state interests.

In terms of migrant workers abroad, the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016 (EWOEP) of Bangladesh includes provisions for both Bangladeshi migrant workers and diaspora members.[5] The Government has also introduced and significantly subsidized compulsory insurance schemes for Bangladeshi migrant workers. Furthermore, the Seventh Five-Year Plan (2016–2020)[6] stresses that initiatives to accelerate growth and empower citizens must also include the Bangladeshi diaspora.

1.3. Areas with potential for further development

The country has ratified only some migration-related conventions, as shown in Table 1 (section 1.1).

There are no clear rules on indefinite residence for immigrants living in Bangladesh. The relevant laws and acts do not specify whether foreigners can access indefinite long-term residence permits. Key legislation includes the Foreigners Act (1946), the Foreigners Order (1951), the Registration of Foreigners Act (1939), the Registration of Foreigners Rules (1966) and the Bangladesh Control of Entry Act (1952). As part of the current Industrial Policy, the Government grants the "right of permanent residence" to foreigners investing at least 75,000 United States dollars in any Bangladeshi industrial or financial sector.[7] This system of permanent residence status is administered by BIDA in conjunction with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA).

There are no comprehensive or specific institutional mechanisms addressing with Bangladeshi diaspora issues, as noted in the IOM Draft Migration Governance Framework for Bangladesh. Over ten million Bangladeshi nationals currently living abroad cannot vote in national elections. In 2018, the Election Commission introduced a voter registration system for non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) to take part in national elections; nevertheless, there is no fixed timeline for its implementation (*The Daily Star*, 2018).

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[5] As defined by the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy, the diaspora consists of migrants staying abroad for a longer period, who have taken or are willing to take the nationality of the host country, but at the same time are willing to keep ties with Bangladesh and contribute to the country's socioeconomic development.

[6] The Bangladesh Five-Year Plans outline development projects and strategies for a period of five years.

[7] For more information about the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (2019), please see: www.beza.gov.bd/investing-in-zones/incentive-package/.

2 FORMULATES POLICY USING EVIDENCE AND WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

2.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Bangladesh's migration policy is strongly oriented towards maximizing the benefits of emigration for national development. The Seventh Five Year Plan (2016–2020) recognizes both internal and international migration as drivers of national economic expansion.

In terms of migration, Bangladesh is primarily considered a country of origin. Migration policy issues are addressed by a dedicated ministry that focuses on emigration matters – the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE). The MoEWOE is responsible for formulating policies and plans, enacting laws, rules and regulations, and developing projects and programmes relating to the management of overseas employment as well as the overall welfare of expatriate workers. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) oversees international relations through its diplomatic endeavours and foreign missions while MoHA is responsible for addressing human trafficking issues.

The Government of Bangladesh is committed to enhancing horizontal policy coherence. The EWOEP created a Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, and a National Migration Forum, which serve as interministerial coordination mechanisms. Each includes representatives of several ministries and other stakeholders. Bangladesh's national migration strategy is defined in several programmatic documents: the EWOEP, the Seventh Five-Year Plan (2016–2020) of Bangladesh and the Annual Performance Agreement between the Cabinet Secretary and the MoEWOE. The latter is aligned with national development strategies and strongly oriented towards maximizing the benefits of emigration for development. Bangladesh's policy framework targets certain categories of migrants as well as gender-related aspects. As an example, the MoEWOE has a six-point strategy aimed at ensuring the sustainable and safe migration of female Bangladeshi workers. The MoEWOE has also finalized the Consolidated Action Plan to implement the EWOEP.

The Overseas Employment and Migrants Act (OEMA) (ILO, 2013) aims to: promote opportunities for overseas employment for Bangladeshi workers; establish a safe and fair migration system; and protect the rights and promote the welfare of migrant workers and members of their families, in line with the international labour and human rights conventions and treaties ratified by Bangladesh. The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (2012) makes "provisions to prevent and suppress human trafficking, to ensure the protection of victims of the offences of human trafficking and their rights, and to ensure safe migration".

The country is also working towards the decentralization of migration services. The MoEWOE has a decentralized structure and its Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) has subordinate offices (the district employment and manpower office) at district levels. Help desks for nationals seeking to work abroad are also available at each of the district administration offices. There are 70 technical training centres at district level across the country, with task forces at the divisional headquarters of the technical training centres and in all districts to monitor and prevent irregular migration.

In Bangladesh, administrative procedures for forcibly displaced foreign nationals are managed on a case by case basis and follow the provisions of the National Strategy on Myanmar Refugees and Undocumented Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh (2014). The Strategy created a national task force (NTF), chaired by MoFA, with the participation of 29 Ministries and entities, that aims at overseeing and providing strategic guidance on this matter.

2.2. Areas with potential for further development

Bangladesh does not have a clear and comprehensive legal framework for managing immigration. There is no comprehensive database containing relevant information on migrants and returnees nor a labour migrants information system (LMIS), which could support policy decisions regarding labour migration.

Despite decentralization of MoEWOE activities, the growing needs of women seeking employment abroad are not adequately met at the local level. To meet the growing demand for skilled Bangladeshi workers abroad, enrolment of a higher number of women in competency-based training (CBT) and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) centres could be encouraged through initiating various programmes, and by establishing other TVET centres at the upazila level (Human Development Research Centre [HDRC], 2017).

3 ENGAGES WITH PARTNERS TO ADDRESS MIGRATION AND RELATED ISSUES

3.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Bangladesh is part of several regional consultative processes (RCPs), namely, the Inter-Governmental Asia–Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (ACP), the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, the Bali Process, the Budapest Process, and the Colombo Process. In particular, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, a collaborative approach to address development of temporary labour mobility in Asia, includes Bangladesh's most important overseas labour markets – Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.[8]

Bilateral agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoU) are two major instruments for the Government of Bangladesh to stipulate the terms and conditions under which Bangladeshi migrant workers are employed in a country of destination. As of 2019, Bangladesh has signed two bilateral labour agreements (BLAs) with Qatar and Kuwait; the country has signed MoUs with the following: Cambodia, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Maldives, Malaysia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, the Republic of Korea and the United Arab Emirates. Additionally, a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) was also signed with Japan in 2018.

Bangladesh is an active member of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The Ninth GFMD Summit in 2016 was successfully held in Dhaka.[9] Bangladesh is also a member of the IOM Council.

The Government formally engages civil society organizations (CSOs) in agenda setting and implementation of migration-related initiatives. CSOs are engaged regularly in national consultation processes on migration and development affairs – a provision incorporated in the EWOEP. The Government of Bangladesh also works with the private sector, especially with the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies which represents private recruitment agencies for migrants.

A high-level task force led by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance held its first meeting in early 2018, bringing together senior officials and experts from various departments to engage diasporas through a "PIE" approach (P for philanthropy, I for investment, and E for expert affiliation). A number of Bangladeshi diaspora associations, part of this task force, are already active in destination countries; they not only conduct sociocultural activities, but also act as support networks for Bangladeshi migrants abroad.

3.2. Areas with potential for further development

Bangladesh is part of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which has a plan of action on labour migration that seeks to address migrant workers' safety, security and well-being in destination countries outside of the region. However, Bangladesh is not involved in any regional agreements that promote regional labour mobility. Mutual recognition agreements[10] and agreements covering the recognition of prior learning[11] between countries of origin and destination could be developed.

In addition, the enactment of MoUs or bilateral agreements monitoring and following-up on the implementation status of such agreements, could be strengthened. The implementation of the MoU could recognize the gendered nature of issues encountered by women employed as domestic workers and caregivers.

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[8] More information on the Abu Dhabi Dialogue Among the Asian Labour Sending and Receiving Countries can be found at http://abudhabidialogue.org.ae/.

[9] For more details on the GFMD 2016 Chairmanship of Bangladesh please see: https://gfmd.org/meetings/bangladesh2016.

[10] Mutual recognition is the principle that a person licenced or registered in one State or territory, can apply to be licenced or registered in another State or territory for an equivalent occupation. Please see www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/42/the-mutual-recognition-of-diplomas.

[11] Recognition of prior learning is a process through which formal and informal learning are recognised and certified against the requirements for access, inclusion or advancement in the formal education and training system or workplace. Please see www.ilo.org/skills/areas/work-based-learning/WCMS_672345/lang--en/index.htm.

4 ADVANCES THE SOCIOECONOMIC
WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS AND SOCIETY

4.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

International students are allowed to study in Bangladesh and there are no laws or regulations that restrict their ability to work during the course of study.

Bangladesh has developed mechanisms to protect the rights of its nationals working abroad. Migrant workers are offered mandatory pre-departure training and briefings to inform them about their rights and interests as well as on how to proceed if their rights are violated. The Labour Welfare Wing of diplomatic missions abroad monitors the protection of rights and interests of Bangladeshi migrants. Appointment of the Labour Welfare Officer and other staff for the Labour Welfare Wing falls under the purview of the MoEWOE. The MoEWOE has opened a total of 29 Labour Welfare Wings in diplomatic missions in the 26 main countries of destination. The OEMA (ILO, 2013) includes provisions to prevent unscrupulous or irregular activities, and to hold perpetrators of such activities accountable.

The Probashi Kallyan Bank (PKB) had been established by the Government of Bangladesh to: provide collateral free loans to migrant workers, provide loan facilities to returnees so they can begin income generating activities, facilitate easier remittance transfers and encourage Bangladeshi wage earners abroad to invest in the country. In 2018, PKB was converted into a scheduled bank. In addition, the Wage Earners' Welfare Board Act (WEWB Act), which extended welfare services to migrant workers abroad and their dependents, was enacted in 2018.

The Bangladeshi Government and Central Bank actively promote formal remittance schemes. Bangladesh first introduced its Wage Earners Remittance Scheme in 1974. Cash incentives on remittances were included in the government budget for the 2019–20 financial year,[12] with the aim of boosting foreign currency inflow.[13]

The EWOEP recognizes that family members of Bangladeshi migrant workers left behind, especially women and children, can be more vulnerable. Different sections of the EWOEP recommend that issues such as maintaining family ties, and uncertainty in income and indebtedness, among others, need to be addressed. Furthermore, the EWOEP recommends promoting effective multi-stakeholder initiatives for these family members as well as assessing their eligibility for inclusion in the social safety net programmes (SSNPs).

The National Skill Development Authority Bill (2018) aims to accelerate the country's overall economic development by enhancing the skills of the labour force. Moreover, the National Skills Development Policy (2011) encourages training institutes to be labour market responsive, assure quality training, provide standardized assessments and certification and to adopt a National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework with clear levels so as to allow for the recognition of qualifications in foreign countries.

4.2. Areas with potential for further development

There is neither a particular policy nor formal mechanisms in place for returning migrants, including on reintegration. However, reintegration of returnees is included to some extent in the EWOEP. At the local level, NGOs provide relevant services such as awareness-raising on issues relating to safe migration, support for the reintegration of returnees, training on migration-related issues as well as skills enhancement and legal support, among other services. However, these efforts are not coordinated with concerned stakeholders and more could be done to take into consideration the needs of women returnees.

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[12] Expatriates will enjoy a 2 per cent cash incentive at the delivery end against every transaction of inward remittances with retrospective effect as from July 2019.

[13] The MoEWOE grants Commercially Important Person (CIP) awards to a number of non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) every year to encourage expatriates to send more remittances through formal channels. For more information see http://m.theindependentbd.com/post/184988.

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the Ministry of Social Welfare implement occasional activities for family members of Bangladeshi migrants abroad that remained in the country, but do not necessarily respond to the social needs of the most vulnerable family members.

The MoEWOE faces resource restrictions and is not always able to implement a wide range of measures concerning the welfare of Bangladeshi migrant workers (Palma, 2019).

Finally, educational institutions have a quota for the number of international students that can be enrolled, but these are not based on labour market capacity assessments.

5   EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSES THE MOBILITY DIMENSIONS OF CRISES

5.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

Bangladesh has a well-developed early warning system for natural disasters. Early warning alerts are widely broadcast in local languages across various media and include information on how to access assistance. The Disaster Management Act (2012) provides directives for media and broadcast centres for the issuance of early and emergency warnings. The Act also outlines procedures for the movement of people and property to safety. The National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM 2016–2020) established the Committee for Speedy Dissemination of Disaster Related Warning/Signals to ensure the rapid and effective dissemination of information and emergency alerts. Religious centres also contribute to the dissemination of these early warnings.

The NPDM 2016–2020 addresses the return and reintegration of people displaced due to a climate-induced disaster. The Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 also focuses on effective management of displacements due to climate-induced disasters.

Humanitarian assistance is equally accessible to all, including migrants irrespective of their status. In March 2014 the Bangladesh MoFA issued the Strategy Paper on Addressing the Issue of Myanmar Refugees and Undocumented Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh. Section 5 (b) of the strategy paper lists "meeting the basic needs of individuals" as a policy objective for the Government of Bangladesh.[14]

Finally, the OEMA (ILO, 2013) provides for the emergency return of Bangladeshi nationals abroad in cases of humanitarian crisis.

5.2. Areas with potential for further development

Neither the Disaster Management Act nor the NPDM 2016–2020 address assistance to migrants following a crisis. Furthermore, the National Strategy on the Management of Disaster and Climate Induced Internal Displacement (NSMDCIID) does not contain specific measures to assist migrants or to address cross-border displacement.

Bangladesh has no contingency plan to manage large-scale population movements in times of crisis. The Disaster Management Act and the NSMDCIID establish a disaster management and climate-change-adaptation framework. However, large-scale population movements in times of crisis, especially cross-border displacement and migration due to political crisis, are managed on an ad hoc basis. At present, the Government of Bangladesh, with assistance from IOM, is designing a migration crisis strategy in line with the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) and the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) guidelines.

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[14]   According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Agency (UNHCR), over more than 742,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Bangladesh since 25 August 2017, as of July 2019. Please see www.unhcr.org/rohingya-emergency.html.

6 ENSURES THAT MIGRATION TAKES PLACE IN A SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MANNER

6.1. Migration governance: Examples of well-developed areas

In 2018, Bangladesh endorsed the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), which is a non-legally binding, cooperative framework that builds on the commitments agreed upon by Member States of the United Nations in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

The WEWB Act (2018) establishes a legal framework for improved welfare services for Bangladeshi migrant workers abroad, creating a fund to provide these services to Bangladeshi migrant workers and their families. The fund can be used for the repatriation of the remains of deceased workers abroad, to financially support their families and for the medical treatments of Bangladeshi migrant workers.

The website of the Department of Immigration and Passports clearly outlines visa application options, procedures and fees for entering Bangladesh. Visa applications include a combination of both online and paper-based procedures. All types of visas are typically issued before travel.

Bangladesh has a strategy to combat human trafficking. The National Plan of Action (NPA) for Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking 2018–2022 focuses on capacity-building for stakeholders and providing economic and social assistance to victims of trafficking and people at risk, especially children.

6.2. Areas with potential for further development

The OEMA (ILO, 2013) imposes significant obligations on recruitment agencies, including fines, suspensions, cancellation of license and legal charges for non-compliance. However, penalties for the most common violations committed by recruitment agencies are relatively low and the OEMA allows some offenses to be resolved administratively by the BMET.

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ANNEX

MiGOF: Migration Governance Framework[15]

In an attempt to define the concept of "well-managed migration policies", the International Organization for Migration (IOM) devised a Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), which was welcomed by the IOM Council in November 2015. For the purposes of the Migration Governance Framework, IOM defines governance as "the traditions and institutions by which authority on migration, mobility and nationality in a country is exercised, including the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies in these areas".

The Framework sets out the essential elements of "good migration governance" – 3 principles and 3 objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane, safe and orderly, and that it provides benefits for migrants and societies.[16] IOM's view is that a migration system promotes migration and human mobility that is humane and orderly and benefits migrants and society:

When it:
  (i)   Adheres to international standards and fulfils migrants' rights;
  (ii) Formulates policy using evidence and a "whole-of government" approach;
  (iii) Engages with partners to address migration and related issues;

As it seeks to:
  (i)   Advance the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society;
  (ii) Effectively address the mobility dimensions of crises;
  (iii) Ensure that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

The MiGOF does NOT create new standards or norms. In drafting the Framework, IOM relied on its expertise and analytical work, as well as on existing commitments, non-binding declarations and statements. It does NOT address global migration governance that is the international architecture for dealing with issues related to migration and human mobility. Instead, the focus is on the governance and management of migration from the point of view of the State as the primary actor. It does NOT propose one model for all States. The Framework presents a "high road" or ideal version of migration governance, to which States can aspire.

The MiGOF is based on the understanding that, as the primary actor in migration, mobility and nationality affairs, a State retains the sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in its territory and under what conditions, within the framework of international law. Other actors – citizens, migrants, international organizations, the private sector, unions, non-governmental organizations, community organizations, religious organizations and academia – contribute to migration governance through their interaction with States and each other.

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The MGI process

1
Launch of the MGI process

The first step of the process is to explain what the MGI entails to key government officials, in order to ensure full understanding of the project and complete buy-in.

2
Data collection

The second step of the process is to start the collection and analysis of data, based on about 90 indicators grounded in the 6 dimensions of the MiGOF. A migration governance profile based on the analysis of the findings is then drafted and shared with the government counterparts.

3
Interministerial consultation

The third step of the process is to convene an interministerial consultation where all relevant ministries and other stakeholders discuss the good practices and main areas that could be developed identified in the draft migration governance profile, as well as priorities on the way forward. It is also an opportunity for them to comment and provide suggestions on the draft profile.

4
Publication of the report on the Global Migration Data Portal

After the migration governance profiles are finalized and vetted by government counterparts, they are published on the Global Migration Data Portal[17] and uploaded on the IOM Online Bookstore.[18]

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[17] You can find the profiles at https://migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi#0.

[18] Please see https://publications.iom.int/.

www.migrationdataportal.org/mgi

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