International Dialogue on Migration and Families
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Sumaiya Islam, Director, BOMSA (www.bomsa.org)
Migration is a major option for many Bangladeshis.

- 8.3 million Bangladeshis live abroad as migrants.
- Country estimated to touch 15b USD as remittance by end of 2014.
Key actors in migration management

- Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE)
- Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET)
- Technical training centres
- Vigilance Task Force (VTF)
- Labour Attachés at the Bangladesh Missions
- Probashi Kallyan Bank
- Government owned recruiting agency and Private recruiters
- NGOs/CSOs
- Wage Earners’ Welfare Board
Migration and Families

- Influenced variety of socio-economic factors
- To seek better job opportunities
- To provide adequate nutrition, housing, healthcare and education for families
Flashes in Frame:
Reintegration support for Women and family of migrants
Overseas Employment from 2001-2013

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training
Year-wise Remittances Earned from 1976 to 2013 in Million USD

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training
Year wise overseas employment of Female Workers from 1991 to 2013

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training
Overseas Employment of Female Workers

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training
Major progress in migration management

- The Overseas Employment and Migrant Act 2013
- Anti Trafficking legislations: Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012
- Overseas Employment Policy 2013 draft
Women Migration

Government’s response to women migration:
(highlights from 18 points)

• Attestation of work permit, visa from BD missions
• Attestation of recruiting agencies’ documents by BMET (at origin) and by BD mission (at destination)
• Compulsory training
• Reduced migration cost
• Compulsory pre-departure orientation
Remittance Management:
- Inflow of remittances at household level impacts well-being
- Women use more formal/official channels for sending remittances
- Women has comparatively less control over the remitted money and it’s utilization plan
Women’s empowerment

- Social cost of migration
- Women enjoy more freedom (even after confinement within 4 walls in most cases)
- Self confident increased
- Control over income/earning, decision
- Left out/abandoned by spouse, family members
- Physical torture and abuse
- Sometimes male members or spouse decide to send women as worker because the migration cost is less for women
Migration and Health

• Migration health
  – inadequate pre departure orientation on health and hygiene
  – Risk of diseased like HIV/AIDS and STI
  – Mental health
  – Physical health
• Children of Migrant workers
  - Unnoticed group
  - Grown up girl children are at most risk of abuse and exploitation
  - Grown up boy children at high risk of abuse and exploitation (specially drug abuse)
  - Sometimes extra attention given by grandparents spoils or derails children
Challenges for Migrant Families

- Dependant Economy: Non Payment /out sourcing
- Kafala System: Bounded Labour
- Undocumented migrant workers
- Cost of Migrant Workers
- Social Cost
- Economic Cost
Recommendations from Families

- Reintegration program
- Counseling service
- Support service for families
- Special financial skim
- Right to communication with families (Women Domestic workers)
- Right to health
- Access to justice at distention and source country
Flashes in Frame:
Reintegration support for Women and family of migrants
Thank you!