



CSOs-Parliamentarians partnership to work on SDGs for migration

While the Civil Society's Organizations (CSOs) can play a key role for the localization, implementation, monitoring and voluntary reporting of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the parliamentarians can foster its implementation through legislation, budget allocation and parliamentary oversight, said the speakers at a discussion session.

The dialogue on the Progress of SDGs on Migration and Development in Bangladesh was held on 1st July 2019 at the Parliament Members Club in Dhaka. It was organized by the Parliamentarians Caucus on Migration and Development and jointly facilitated by Institute of Informatics and Development (IID), WARBE and British Council's PROKAS.

Gender-responsive budget to empower women migrants

The government is keen to listen to the voice of the CSOs to strengthen the gender responsiveness of the budget, said Rownaq Jahan, Secretary of the Ministry Expatriates'



The seminar on 'Gender Responsive Budget to Empower Women Migrants' was jointly organized by IID and BNSK in partnership with WARBE and PROKAS on 30th June 2019, at the conference hall of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment in Dhaka.



Youth development is crucial in seizing demographic dividend

The 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) is about to bring a drastic change in the world's job market. To avoid job

losses, the importance of re-skilling the youth cannot be ignored. Reskilling the aspirant migrant workers is also instrumental as it is one of the important sectors that is minimizing the youth unemployment problem.

These observations came through 'Boithoki' – a discussion organized by The Bangla Tribune, in collaboration with IID, on June 25, 2019. Among others Towfiqul Islam Khan from CPD said that proper utilization needs to be ensured of the Tk 100 crore budget for youth development. Shirin Lira from PROKAS emphasized the importance of enhancing the skills of the women and youth entering the international labour markets from Bangladesh.



IID signs MoU with Caucus on migration and development

IID signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Parliamentary Caucus on Migration and Development and its secretariat WARBE DF on the 1st July 2019. The purpose of the MoU is to cooperate and join forces in their policy advocacy, information sharing and awareness campaign initiatives to enable the environment for fairer labour migration. Md. Israfil Alam, MP and Chairman Parliamentary Caucus; Syeed Ahamed, CEO of IID and Syed Saiful Haque Chairman of WARBE signed on behalf of their organizations. Other members of Caucus Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary, MP, Mahjabin Khaled Former MP, Jebunnesa Afroz Former MP and representatives from PROKAS was also present there.



Migration budget declining despite better implementation

Budget allocation for the MoEWOE is declining for the past couple of years despite its better implementation rate

among other ministries. Honourable Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Miah acknowledged the inadequate budget allocation for the ministry despite migrant workers' contribution in the economy at the 'Consultation on National Budget for Fairer Labour Migration' organized by IID and WARBE in collaboration with the Parliamentarians Caucus on Migration and Development.

Syeed Ahamed, CEO of IID, presented keynote on the background of the national budget and demonstrated why it is important to review it for the migration sector. Among others Israfil Alam, MP and Chairman of the Caucus and Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman, Secretary General BAIRA were also present in the event.



CSO's role in GCM needs to be specified

The extent and modality of civil society's role in the implementation and monitoring of Global Compact for Migration (GCM) process, needs to be specified, Syeed Ahamed, the CEO of IID. He raised the issue at the 'Regional Consultation on GCM implementation' organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with IOM and on ILO on 4th May 2019.

He also mentioned that, while in the global forum the advocacy of civil society will strengthen the implementation process of GCM, the government of Bangladesh should find a proper place for civil society in the GCM implementation process in Bangladesh. The consultation was a part of United Nations General Assembly's adoption of GCM on 19 December 2018.



Rehumanization of migration related services essential

The government's commitment to safe migration was emphasized when the Prime Minister's proposal for GCM

was adopted in the GFMD 2018 in Morocco. However, rehumanization of government services and empathy are essential to ensure that migrants are not just sources of counting remittances.

Syed Ahamed, CEO of IID made the remarks while thanking RMMRU for organizing the migration fair 'Obhibashon o Shonar Manush Shommilon 2019' on 28th April 2019 in Dhaka. IID took part in the event and promoted its migration related mobile app bibhui at their stall.



Model embassy for ensuring fairer labour migration

It is imperative for Bangladeshi High Commissions to prioritize and improve migration related services in destination countries and its possible by introducing the concept of a Model Embassy. This issue was discussed in consultation on model high commission organized by IID, on April 24th 2019 in BMET Conference Hall, in collaboration with Bangladesh Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET). During the consultation, areas on how the services can be improved, was identified. Among others Nasreen Jahan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Md. Salim Reza, Director General of BMET, Dr Nurul Islam Director (Training) of BMET was present in the consultation.



10 Suggestions for the implementation of GCM

Government and CSO leaders agreed on a 10-point agenda for the fuller implementation of GCM commitments. The suggestions came up at the 'National consultation on GCM-Voice of the Civil Society' on 28th March 2019, in Dhaka, which was jointly organized by IOM Bangladesh, PROTTASHA, PROKAS and WARBE.

IID was entrusted with the responsibility to prepare and publish a 10-point agenda based on the major recommendations that came out from the session.



IID signs MoU with BMET

IID signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with BMET (Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training) on 17th February, 2019, to promote evidence based policy advocacy. CEO of IID Syeed Ahamed and Director (Training) of BMET Dr. Md. Nurul Islam signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. The agreement includes research collaboration in publishing annual reports and reviewing Pre-Departure Training (PDT) contents. It also encourages community leadership, engaging IID's Youth for Policy volunteers at local Technical Training Centers to introduce ICT based solutions to aspirant migrants.



'Youth for Policy' Fellows campaigns across the country

To learn about the training facilities provided to aspirant migrants, 24 'Youth for Policy Fellows' from 14 different districts of Bangladesh visited their perspective Technical Training Centers (TTCs), from November 2018 to June 2019. During the visit they created awareness on aspirant migrant's rights, both home and abroad. They also promoted IID's initiative Bibhui, an app that provides feasible solution to most conventional migration related problems. The fellowship is awarded to the youth volunteers who has completed the Policy Camp and are now willing to share their knowledge in their locality.

Young volunteers meet the govt.

Youth for Policy Fellows shared their experience to the senior officials of BMET of visiting the local technical



training centres and they were requested to formally submit their suggestion to BMET as a report. The suggestions will be aimed at increasing youth skill and employability by expanding training facility at TTC. The meeting was held on 27th January 2019. IID's CEO Syeed Ahamed conducted the meeting where the director of BMET Dr. Md. Nurul Islam, Sr. Teacher Shamsun Nahar and other BMET officials along with the volunteers were present.



Extensive training required for Labour Attaché

Extensive training of the Labour Attachés (LA) before deploying them to any embassy is required. This was suggested by the participants of IID's 19th Policy Breakfast held on November 24th 2018. It was also suggested that an extensive training module for the LAs should be introduced. The significance of an IT-based reform in the system was also pointed out. The discussants emphasised on the importance of an orientation programme at the embassies in the host countries to ensure migrant friendly environment and services.



Migrants' Manifesto: demanding political commitment for safe migration

Political leaders have to play active role to ensure safe and dignified work opportunity for Bangladeshi migrants all over the world irrespective of gender. On 25th November 2018, IID organized a round table meeting on Migrant's Manifesto with media partner The Daily Prothom Alo. The participants emphasized on the importance of pressuring the newly elected members from the 11th parliamentary election for making a commitment to work on migration issues. For this purpose the political party leaders will be given out the migration manifesto on behalf of the civil society organizations working on migration, so that party leaders can make informed political decisions regarding migrant's rights and wellbeing.



10 point agenda for GCM & Agenda 2030 published

Based on the opinion of the civil society leaders civil society members, migrant rights campaigners and senior officials of the government, IID & WARBE DF developed 10 point agendas, which will be taken to the 11th GFMD summit. As Bangladesh goes to the Global Compact of Migration which would be adopted by UN member states at Marrakesh in Morocco early December. In the coming days, this 10 point agenda will also guide the civil society in playing a greater role in the implementation of GCM following its adoption in Morocco..