



## Secretary vowed to hold recruiting agencies on both sides responsible

Recruiting agencies at both sides need to be held responsible for failing to protect migrant workers and actions need to be taken against the unscrupulous visa traders at both the sending and destination countries. These were few of the topics discussed on the pre-JTC (Joint Technical Committee) consultation titled 'Gendered-mobility and rights of women migrants', held on 23rd November 2019.



Participants of the event re-emphasized on women's right to safe migration, prior to the Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia JTC meeting on 26th November 2019. The consultation was co-hosted by IID Migration Unit, Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra (BNSK), BRAC Migration Program and Ovivashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP).

The discussion on the session included commitments and progress of the implementation of the 'Agreement on Domestic Service Workers Recruitment' that Bangladesh

and Saudi Arabia signed in 2015 to protect the rights of domestic workers. The secretary promised to raise all the recommendations discussed on the event at the Bangladesh-Saudi JTC.

## Making GFMD contextualized and gender-responsive

The global commitments on migration needs to be locally contextualized and gender-responsive— argued the experts at the national tripartite consultation that have set an example of partnership and collective action among the government, civil society and UN bodies ahead of the 12th GFMD Summit on January 2020.

The consultation on 'Gender-responsive Sustainable Approaches to Human Mobility' was held on 22th October 2019 and was co-hosted by the UN Migration Network, CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration (CGCM) and Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

The event was organized by Institute of Informatics and



Development (IID) and Bangladesh Nari Sromik Kendra (BNSK) under the banner of CGCM.



## Co-create empathetic solutions to youth unemployment

Government and non-government actors should not impose solutions for youth, without an empathetic understanding of their problems. With this in mind, IID's Policy Camp 2019 focused on empathetic understanding of youth's unemployment situation to enable youth leaders to co-create empathetic solutions.

This year's Policy Camp incorporated wide range of tools and techniques of 'Design Thinking' to find empathetic solution for job seeker, particularly for the aspirant labour migrants. Providing different interactive and theoretical tools, participants were trained to come up with unique solutions for migration in pre, during and post migration stage.

Using the learnings from the Policy Camp, the participants continue awareness campaigns and advocacy in their local Technical Training Centres (TTCs).



## CSOs unite to track global commitments on migration

A number of CSOs came together to form CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration (CGCM) to create a platform for advocating, implementing and monitoring global commitments on migration.

The role of civil society in global initiatives & commitments, such as SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and GCM (Global Compact of Migration), are well recognized and formalized. Tracking of these commitments require more technical, systematic and collaborative engagement. CGCM has been established to address this gap of tracking global commitments on migration and development.

Initiated by IID, BNSK, BRAC and OKUP, CGCM's group of members currently consists of CSOs such as WARBE Development Foundation, SwarnoNari Association Rangpur, BOMSA, ACD, Awaj Foundation, FILMS4PEACE Foundation, Kormojibi Nari, DEVCOM, IMA Research Foundation, BILS, BNPS, BNWLA and Ain o Shalish Kendra.



## CSOs prioritize 7 objectives from the Global Compact for Migration

A group of Bangladeshi civil society organizations highlighted 7 out of 23 objectives from the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) for prioritized implementation. The discussion on 4th August 2019 was a follow-up to the Sub-regional Consultation on the Implementation of the GCM by Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) that took place earlier in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Changes and activities that were suggested to implement the specific priority areas of the GCM included—national information portal for all stakeholders; conceptual development of a Model High Commission to improve services; and monitoring of global commitments on migration through a civil society tracking-platform.

## Ethical recruitment through compact of sending countries

Ethical recruitment of migrant workers will be easier to ensure if the labor-sending countries come to an agreement on common margin of pay and job standards.



Imran Ahmad, honorable Minister for MoEWOE, called for a compact of migrant sending countries at a high level consultation on global governance of migration. The Secretary of the Ministry Rownaq Jahan echoed with the statement and requested the Minister to lead this campaign.

Members of Parliament from Nepal, Bangladesh and the Philippines also supported the idea of such a compact, as it was also highlighted during parliamentarians' meeting. The high-level consultation was held on 30th July 2019 and was titled 'Global Governance of Migration'.

The findings of the discussion will be followed up with the respective ministries to ensure that they reach the global forums.



## Exploring the idea of a Regional Parliamentarians' Caucus

Since South Asia is the major labor-sending region, a regional Parliamentarian' Caucus on migration and development can enable the experience sharing and strengthen the global advocacy to protect the rights of the migrants. Parliamentarians from Nepal, Bangladesh and the Philippines met in Dhaka to discuss the role of parliamentarians in policy advocacy for fairer labor migration.

The Parliamentarians' Meeting for strengthening the protection for migrant domestic workers was held on 29 July, 2019. It was co-organized by IID, WARBE DF and Migrant Forum in Asia, with the support of PROKAS, British Council.

The consultation aimed at discussing the prevalent issues

and challenges that migrant domestic workers in Bangladesh, Nepal and Philippines are facing with corresponding government initiatives. Besides, what are the issues and challenges being faced by members of parliament and CSO representatives of Nepal and Bangladesh as they work on advocating for the ratification of ILO C189. Also, the recent experience and outcome of the participation of High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in New York was shared in the meeting.

## IID signs MoU with a2i

IID & a2i – Access to Information signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) to bring mass-scale service to the youth in Bangladesh through e-Learning and other initiatives. The MoU was signed on 14th July, 2019 between IID and a2i at Dhaka. CEO of IID Syeed Ahamed and Joint Secretary of a2i Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan, PAA, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.



The agreement will explore possible collaboration on youth employment at home and abroad, including possible collaboration between IID's migration related initiatives (e.g. IID's 'Bibhui' mobile app) and a2i's dissemination channel like the Union Digital Centers (UDCs) for promoting 'Bibhui' through UDCs at union level and exploring possible areas of collaboration for engaging youth in public policy & development, in which IID's countrywide youth network, Youth for Policy, will be instrumental.

## South-south cooperation for migration governance

South-south cooperation among both the govt. and civil society stake holders of south Asian labour sending countries can ensure better migration governance through learning sharing.

These issues came up in the “Sub-regional Consultation on the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)” from 4th to 6th July 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Civil society leaders from across south Asia gathered together to discuss & prioritize the advocacy areas of GCM, Colombo Process (CP) and Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD).

In case of GCM, team Bangladesh highlighted 7 key GCM objects, as priority for the govt. of Bangladesh which includes information sharing, facilitating fair and ethical recruitment, combating trafficking, enhancing consular assistance and facilitating safe return and reintegration. IID highlighted its model mission concept to implement the



objective 14 of GCM, which is to enhance the consular protection assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle.

## Recent Publications



This CSO concept note consists of suggestions to the government of Bangladesh accumulated through a Pre-JTC consultation on 23rd November 2019.



Members of the CGCM prepared this one pager consisting suggestions and submitted to Bangladesh delegation for ADD.



This paper discusses Global Consultative Processes (GCPs), with special emphasis on global governance over migration while analyzing historical background.



The structure, role and contribution of RCPs in the global migration discourse, their future direction and sustainability in the long run is the central topic of this paper.



This paper analyses the budget of MoEWOE in FY 2018-2019 to understand the trend and financial allocation in migration governance.



This event report summarized the recommendations and discussion highlights to set the position for Bangladesh at the 12th Global Forum on Migration and Development Summit.