



Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment



CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration



Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration

Making GFMD Contextualised & Gender-responsive for Sustainable Approaches to Human Mobility

Event Highlights of National Tripartite Consultation

22nd October, 2019



“ Let us unite at this tripartite platform to work for safe, orderly and regular migration from Bangladesh ”

Md. Salim Reza

Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment



“ There should be a real plan for reintegration of Bangladeshi women migrants ”

Shoko Ishikawa

Country representative, UN Women



“ This tripartite initiative of government-civil society-UN bodies is one of the best practices in migration governance ”

Giorgi Gigauri

Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration (IOM)



“ We have realised the power of partnership and collaborative action in Bangladesh. Now we need to expand it to the global level ”

Gerry Fox

Team Leader, PROKAS, British Council

Gender-responsive Sustainable Approaches to Human Mobility

Dhaka | 22 October 2019



Organized by



The GFMD

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has been a state-led, but not state-only platform that has been influencing the global discourse on migration and development for over a decade by engaging multi-stakeholders in an informal and non-binding exchange of ideas, innovations and practices. The **Twelfth GFMD Summit** will be held on 20-24 January 2020 in Quito, Ecuador.



The Event

Setting an example for partnership and collective action among government, civil society and UN bodies, a **tripartite national consultation** on 'Gender-sensitive Sustainable Approaches to Human Mobility' was held on Tuesday the 22nd October 2019, to set **Bangladesh's position** in the upcoming GFMD Summit.

The consultation was co-hosted by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration and CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration (CGCM). IID Migration Policy Unit and Bangladesh Nari Sromik Kendra (BNSK) organized the event with support from PROKAS, British Council.



Objectives

The **3 objectives** of the consultation were—

- a. Explore and contextualize the theme and sub-themes of GFMD through localized gender equality-lens;
- b. Setting Bangladesh's position at the GFMD and PGA, based on this tripartite discussion;
- c. Create pathways for the post-GFMD partnerships and collective actions and for strengthening state agency for gender-responsive implementation of the global commitments on migration.

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Local Context

Since Ecuador, in its capacity as the current Chair of GFMD, has set the agenda, the focus of the sessions and guiding questions of GFMD roundtables appear to have set in the context of large-scale mixed migration from South to North America. Given the different scenario of the economic migration from Bangladesh, the agenda and themes of GFMD need to be localized and contextualized.



Gender-responsiveness

The experience of migration differs significantly for women and men. The Sustainable Development Goals¹ and Addis Ababa Action Agenda¹ both called for systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective, while the UN Resolution on protection of migrants¹ and the declaration of the high-level dialogue on international migration² encouraged all States to incorporate gender-perspective in policies, laws, institutions and programmes. The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) also included gender-responsiveness in its guiding principles³.

As women account for almost half of the migrant workers worldwide, this pre-GFMD National Tripartite Consultation ensured that the discussions at every sessions and mechanisms of GFMD remain gender-responsive.

¹ UN General Assembly (2015) A/RES/70/1

² UN General Assembly (2014) A/RES/68/4, para- 11

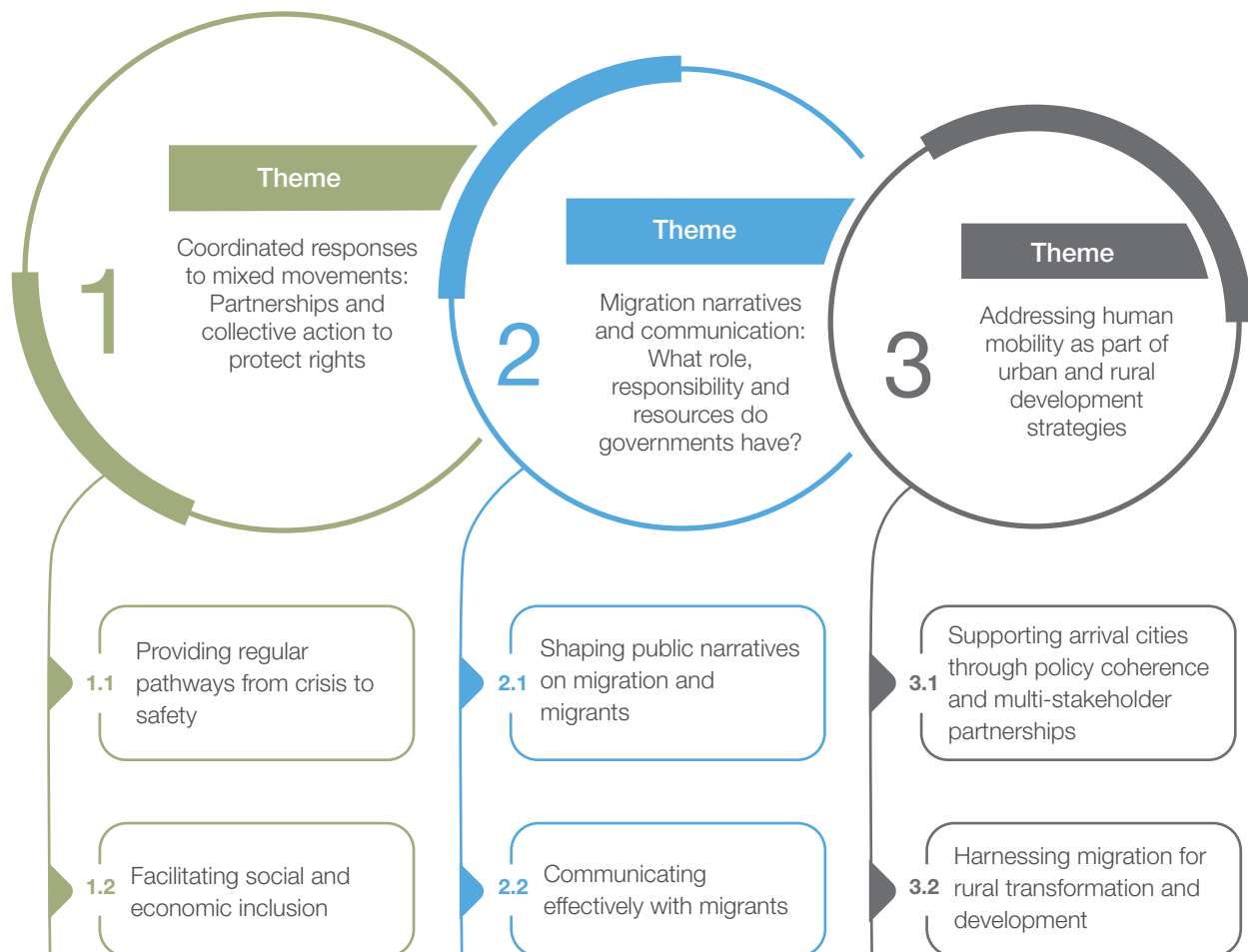
³ Carolina G & P Cyment (2019) The Global Compact for Migration: what could it mean for women and gender relations



Format of the consultation

This pre-GFMD consultation had three sessions, each on the three themes of the upcoming GFMD. Two issues were highlighted in each session, focusing on the 6 government-led roundtables to be held at the GFMD.

Sustainable approaches to human mobility







Thematic Session 1




Coordinated responses to mixed movements: Partnerships and collective action to protect rights

1.1 Providing regular pathways from crisis to safety


 **Global context:** While migrating from crisis situation to another country for safety; lack of preparedness/readiness makes migrants more vulnerable.


 **Bangladesh context:** Vulnerable economic condition force Bangladeshis to seek better earning opportunity abroad and employers often confiscate their documents to exploit their vulnerabilities.

 **Gender context:** confiscation of documents, limited mobility and isolated workplace of Bangladeshi women migrants working as domestic workers make them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

1.2 Facilitating social and economic inclusion

 **Global context:** Policies, resources and potentials of new migrants can generate social and economic safety and generate benefits for the migrants and host countries.

 **Bangladesh context:** Bangladeshi migrant workers are often denied of healthcare, access to standard accommodation, right to minimum wage, safe working environment in many countries of destination.

 **Gender context:** Being isolated at households with limited access to phone and outer world, women migrants face the worst consequence of social and economic exclusion.

Session Highlights

- 1** Technical support for drafting and negotiating bi-lateral agreements and role of international organizations could be linked to replicating best approaches in G2G and deriving the ideal role of international players.
- 2** A guideline should be developed to engage diaspora community in migration governance at the country of destinations.
- 3** Financial literacy programs should be scaled up for all migrant workers.





Thematic Session 2




Migration narratives and communication: What role, responsibility and resources do governments have?


2.1 Shaping public narratives on migration and migrants

 **Global context:** Government communication strategies regarding migration and migrants used in public discourse shapes public narratives on migrants and migration.


 **Bangladesh context:** Negative narratives held by destination countries and promoted by local media originated from the migration process leaves the Bangladeshi migrants in a vulnerable situation.

 **Gender context:** Women migrants have been the majority victims of crime, abuse, victim-blaming and re-victimization due to narratives developed through 'no-cost migration' system and modern-slavery practice for domestic workers in some destination countries.

2.2 Communicating effectively with migrants

 **Global context:** Consultation with all stakeholders is required for developing effective communication mechanism with the migrants.

 **Bangladesh context:** Bangladesh government needs to explore best practices in effective communication with migrants using online and offline migrant networks and diasporas.

 **Gender context:** Development of an effective communication mechanism suited for the women migrants at their isolated work stations with lack of access to phone or internet is crucial.

Session Highlights

- 1** Positive promotion of government initiatives should be targeted to change global narratives of Bangladeshi migrants
- 2** Media reporting has to balance between two facts- letting the government and people know about migrant exploitation while responsibly presenting and focusing the facts without re-victimizing the migrants
- 3** Reporter's mindset should be to help migrant victims and focus on their rights issues





Thematic Session 3



Addressing human mobility as part of urban and rural development strategies


3.1 Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships


 **Global context:** Policy coherence across different governments in making cities more functioning and acknowledging migrants' contribution to rural development remain important.


 **Bangladesh context:** Exploring the role of destination cities and consulates, introducing country specific post-arrival orientation and exploring policy coherence to ensure successful integration of the migrants are particularly relevant to Bangladesh.

 **Gender context:** Domestic and public spheres in the destination country should be inclusive, secure and responsive to the needs of migrant women in both the countries of origin and destination.

3.2 Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development

 **Global context:** Government can further amplify the benefit and minimize the negative impact of migration and remittance for building and transforming rural development.

 **Bangladesh context:** Discourse on policies for utilizing the positive outcomes of migration in shaping rural economy and culture is crucial.

 **Gender context:** Women migrant's access to remittance transfer system, financial literacy and inclusion is at more risk than that of the men.

Session Highlights

- 1** Building resilience of women migrant workers will require diversification of skills training for them
- 2** Mutual recognition of skills among migrant sending and receiving countries and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is of utmost importance
- 3** Political economy analysis of the whole migration process is crucial for understanding each actor's (the government, the private sector and the civil society) incentives within the migration sector
- 4** Policy level discussions in this regard should be informed by migrant experiences

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About the Hosts



Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) is responsible for formulating policies, plans, enacting laws, rules and regulations, developing projects, programmes and monitoring relating to the management of overseas employment as well as overall welfare of expatriate workers.

www.probashi.gov.bd



CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration

CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration (CGCM) is a platform of civil society organizations for the implementation and monitoring of the global, regional and intra-regional cooperation and commitments on migration and development.

Given the diverse and independent nature of CSOs and the complex nature of global consultative processes, CGCM was established to ensure technical, systematic and collaborative engagement of civil societies in the global consultative processes.

www.theCGCM.org



Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration

The United Nations established a Network on Migration at the global level to ensure effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). In line with the global efforts, to supplement the initiatives of GoB a Bangladesh UN Migration Network has been formed.

www.migrationnetwork.un.org

See more of the event: www.iidbd.org/pregfmd12

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www.iid.org.bd



www.bnsk.org.bd



www.britishcouncil.org.bd/en/prokas