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*You will earn some extra money
abroad or in a big city. It will ease the
burden on your family.*



Labor migration offers many benefits for citizens, families and communities of Bangladesh.

Sadly, sometimes unscrupulous people and criminal networks abuse these good citizens, preying on their hopes and dreams.

The good news is that there are ways to find protection and migrate safely.

Look inside to learn more about how the citizens, communities and Government of Bangladesh can work together to stop human trafficking and support safe labor migration.

Bangladesh Counter Trafficking-in-Persons (BC/TIP)



What is human trafficking?

According to Bangladesh's Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act of 2012, trafficking in persons is the recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person by force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of:

- Labor exploitation (working under the total or near-total control of another person or organization);
- Debt bondage (forcing the person to pay off a loan by work rather than money);
- Prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation;

If the person is under age 18, force, fraud or coercion is not required – exploitation alone is enough to make it trafficking.

Don't worry dear brother and sister-in-law; as long as I am with them the children will face no problems.



How does human trafficking happen?

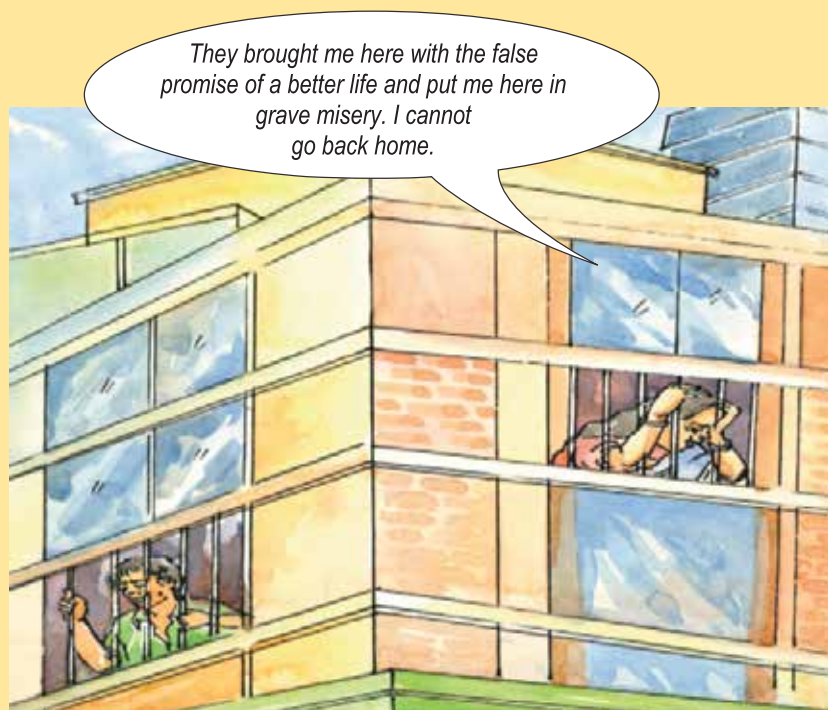
- Fraud, such as
 - false offer of marriage or romantic relationship
 - false promise to care for and educate a child
 - false offer of employment
 - false promise of better work (e.g. good food, more income, good housing)
 - false promise of work or education.
- Force (abduction, rape, beatings, confinement, psychological abuse).
- Coercion (threats, engage in prostitution and begging, forced labor or service, debt bondage, organ removal).

Trafficking can happen within or beyond the borders of Bangladesh. The key question is:

Do you understand and consent to what is going to happen, or are you being deceived and coerced?

Bangladesh law treats human trafficking as a serious crime

- A trafficker acting alone faces possible life imprisonment, and a minimum of 5 years rigorous imprisonment and a 50,000 Taka (US \$640) fine.
- A member of an organized group (3 or more people) faces the death penalty or life imprisonment or a minimum of 7 years rigorous imprisonment and a minimum of a 500,000 Taka (US \$6,400) fine.



These are the kind of actual trafficking stories the law is designed to stop

- The so-called village aunt of Asma (age 19) lured her to Dhaka with a false offer of employment in a garment factory. But in reality, she was forced to work in a group of street beggars.
- Trapped in debt, the father of Akram (age 7) sold him to repay the loan. Now Akram is toiling in another part of the country as a restaurant boy instead of going to school.
- Mohammed (age 24) agreed to go to Iraq to do construction work. But when he arrived, he was held for months outside the city without work or sufficient food. His traffickers kept his passport and held him captive the entire time.

Protect yourself and others from trafficking, help promote safe migration

- Know your rights and demand them at all time.
- Assess the risks before you choose to migrate to your favorite country or job.
- Choose your destiny yourself; take your decision by learning and understanding.
- Learn how to be a registered labor migrant and make sure the agents are trustworthy.
- Inform your friends and help them understand what you have learned and understood.

Listen! Let us at first check all the information about the new job, then we will decide whether we will accept your proposal or not.



How to migrate safely

- For any job offer, get independent verification of the authenticity of necessary documents, job duration, salary and other conditions
- For international work, verify all documents (especially visas, work permits and job contracts) through the Ministry of Expatriate Workers and Overseas Employment's local BMET/DEMO offices or the Embassy of the country where you plan to work.
- Migrate abroad directly through licensed /authorized recruiting agencies. Contact the BMET to verify authenticity of the recruiting agency license.
- Ask the recruiting agency about the maximum fees and other admissible costs.
- For any kind of transaction, ask for a signed money receipt with the recruiting agency's name and telephone number.

Let's work together with the local police to identify traffickers and get them convicted.



How can communities help stop trafficking in persons?

- Work together with local police to identify and stop traffickers and fraudulent intermediaries (*dalals*). Report traffickers to the local police; report fraudulent recruiters to the DEMO office of the BMET.
- Understand and talk with your neighbors about the differences between safe migration and human trafficking.
- Highlight the strengths and dignity of trafficking survivors. Help them get back to normal life by welcoming them back to their community or new home.
- Stigmatize the traffickers, not the survivors.
- Encourage youth and adults to acquire adequate skills before going abroad so they can benefit more from their labor migration.
- Express your opinion. Encourage local and national Government to take proper actions.
- Learn about the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012 and the pending Overseas Employment and Migration Act; understand the differences between them.
- Learn about, and support, your District, Upazila and Union Counter Trafficking Committees (CTCs).
- Learn about the responsibilities, and use the services, of the BMET and your local DEMO office.
- Learn about, and support, your District, Upazila and Union CTCs.

How can opportunity for work turn into trafficking?

When a man, woman or child...

- Is under the control of others by force, coercion, violence, debt bondage or intimidation for the purposes of exploitation.
- Is forced into the sex trade, begging, domestic work or servitude, industry or construction sites, smuggling or other risky jobs.
- Must live and work inside their workplace, with no freedom of movement.
- Is not allowed to be in contact with family members.
- Does not have possession or control of their passport, visas, and other necessary documents.
- Is being deceived about where they are, or find themselves in a different place than they had been promised by the agent (could be inside or outside Bangladesh).

What begins as a genuine process of labor migration can turn into a trafficking situation. Always be sure that the people who are meeting you and directing you are the legitimate and legal representatives of your recruiter.

Oh God! I was promised to get better job here but see what I am doing now! I am passing a really hard time.



Working abroad safely

The Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment in cooperation with private Recruiting Agencies, has established safe and legal systems for Bangladeshi citizens to secure overseas employment. The Ministry's Bureau of Manpower and Employment Training (BMET) manages Government to Government (G2G) bi-lateral recruitment agreements. The BMET also registers and supervises Recruiting Agencies that arrange for Bangladeshi citizens to work abroad. Both processes require some fees to be paid by the migrant.

To register in the G2G migrant labor recruitment system, you must enroll both via the internet and by lodging your name, interest to migrate and other particulars in your Union Parishad registration book. Remember that the G2G system is based on the labor needs of the destination country. As of January 2014, Malaysia is the only country that has a G2G agreement with the Government of Bangladesh. More G2G agreements with other countries are being negotiated and are expected to be signed in the near future.

It is important to verify that you are going through a legally registered Recruiting Agency or directly through the BMET, and that your visa and work permit are valid. You can check all this through your District Welfare Desk, DEMO office or the BMET in Dhaka.

Required documents for registration at the BMET

- 200 TK fee in Bank draft /pay order
- Two passport-size photographs
- Citizenship certificate issued by the Chairman of your Union and other certificates (if any)



What you must do before migration

- Decide where you want to migrate and the kind of work you hope to do.
- Find out whether that kind of employment is possible; try to talk with people who have done that type of work in that country and ask about their experience.
- Apply to work in that country directly through the BMET G2G bi-lateral recruitment process or with the help of a registered Recruiting Agency.
- Before leaving the country, be sure to register your destination information at your Union Parishad Information Center.
- Get a health check from a medical center authorized by the destination country embassy and keep the medical report.
- Apply for a SMART card/ clearance certificate from the BMET. Be sure to put your own fingerprint on the card and that you collect it yourself.
- If you need any information or help, you can ask for assistance at the District Commissioner's Office.
- If you need a loan, apply for it at the Expatriates' Welfare Bank and other registered banks.
- Open two bank accounts (one for family expenses and one for personal savings) here in Bangladesh before your departure; be sure it can receive international transfers.



- Make at least two sets of photocopies of all the documents. Keep one set with you and leave another set with someone you trust.
- Acquire adequate skill for the work you are going abroad.
- Attend a briefing session of BMET to learn general information about your destination country.
- Follow the prescribed rules of the Government of Bangladesh for G2G migration available online at <http://g2g.bmet.gov.bd>

Preparing for departure

On the day you leave, be sure to bring the following:

- Passport, medical checkup report, airline/bus/train ticket, fully completed embarkation card;
- Visa, work permit, job contract and other related papers;
- Emigration clearance card / SMART card received from BMET;
- Contact address and phone number of Bangladesh Embassy and your workplace in destination country;

Before you leave, be careful to:

- Put a label with your name and destination address on each of your bags;
- Know and follow airline baggage rules (size and weight), if you are flying;
- Recheck the flight schedule from airline office before heading to the airport;



Inside the Airport

- Get to the airport in plenty of time (at least 3 hours before flight).
- Go to check-in to check your baggage and collect your boarding pass.
- Ask for departure information (boarding time and gate number) at check-in.
- Go through immigration, security and show your passport at boarding gate.
- Get to the boarding gate in plenty of time (at least 1.5 hours before flight).
- Always keep possession of your passport, plane ticket and related documents.
- At the Shahjalal International Airport, the BMET operates a Migrants' Welfare Desk specifically to look after the needs of Bangladeshis going or coming from abroad. They are always there to help you.

During your stay abroad

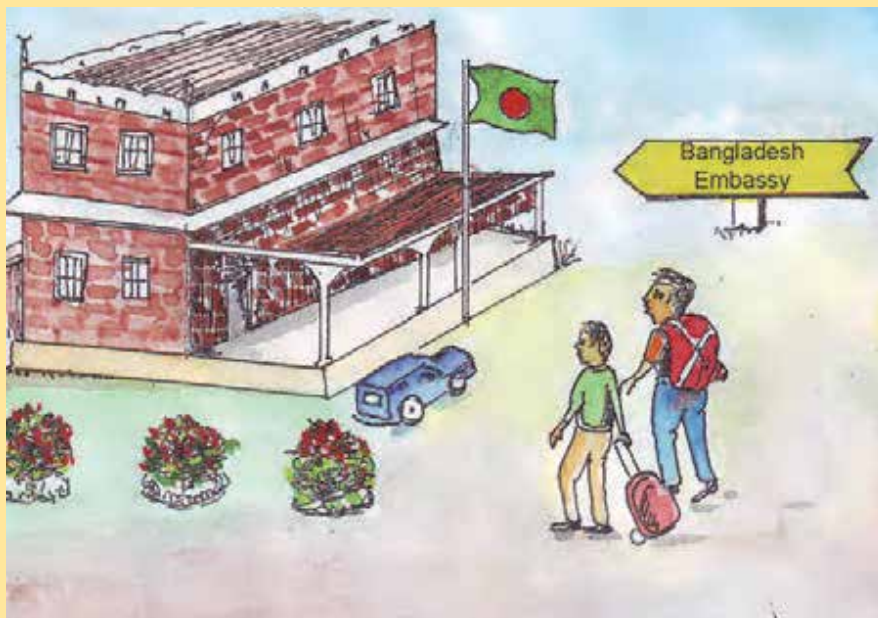
- Soon after arrival in your host country, register at the Bangladesh Embassy so your government knows you are living and working there.
- Always notify the Embassy if your address and/or work changes.
- Keep your relatives informed about addresses of your workplace and residence and tell them whenever these change.
- Know the address and phone number of the nearest hospital, health center, bank and police station to where you live and work.

While working abroad, remember

- After arrival begin working as soon as you can.
- Always be on time and work your full schedule.
- Learn your work and perform as best you can.
- Pay attention to your work.
- Be careful to follow good safety practices.
- Know the rules and regulations that apply to migrants in your host country and follow them.
- Always carry your identity card with you while staying abroad.
- Keep control of your passport, visa and work contract.
- Use a legal channel for sending remittances. Do not send money through *Hundi*. If you send money to Bangladesh through an illegal channel, you can be sent to prison for 6 months to 7 years.
- Keep track of the expiration date of your work contract and visa. Be careful to get them renewed or to return home before they expire.
- Know the laws in your host country. Do not engage in anti-social, criminal or anti-government activities.

In case of any problem with your work or right to stay in the country

- Immediately contact the Bangladesh Embassy if you face any problem in your job or with immigration authorities.
- You can submit a written complain to BMET through the Embassy
- If you cannot lodge your complaint directly, any member of your family in Bangladesh can lodge a complaint to the BMET on your behalf.
- All travel and job related documents must be presented as part of the complaint filed with the BMET.
- You also can seek help from a local labor court, human rights organization or association of destination country. Be sure to get advice from people who know the law in your host country.
- Lodge your complaint online at www.ovijogbmet.org



Where can survivors of trafficking get help?

Support, understanding and acceptance from family, friends and community are essential for the trafficking survivor. Survivors of trafficking have rights to services such as accommodation, medical help, psychosocial counseling, legal assistance, livelihood skills development and vocational training.

For more information and assistance in your community, contact:

Wage Earners' Welfare Board: Probash Bondhu Call Center for Bangladeshi migrant worker's support: **+88 09654333333**

National Hotline for Legal Aid Service: **16430** (toll free)

National Helpline Center for Violence Against Women and Children: **10921** (toll free)

Rights Jessore: **+88 01715468050 - 52**

Where can you learn more about safe migration?

Safe migration is the right of both men and women. With better knowledge about labor migration, people can improve their lives and protect themselves from traffickers, fraudulent recruiters, or others who may try to take advantage of them.

For more information contact the

Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET)

89/2 Kakrail, Dhaka.

Tel: 02-9357972

Website: www.bmet.org.bd

or your local District Employment and Manpower Office (DEMO)

Bangladesh Counter Trafficking-In-Persons (BC/TIP) Program



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