

# WARBE Development Foundation

A Community Based Migrant's Organisation



## Annual Report 2014



# Preface

## I

It is with great pleasure that I present the Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants Development Foundation's (WARBE DF) Annual Report for 2014. For those of you who don't know us we are a non-profit migrants' Community Based Organization (CBO) based in Bangladesh. Our organization was founded by returning migrant workers in 1997 with a vision of fostering the development and overall betterment of migrant communities in Bangladesh and abroad. Today we serve migrants across Bangladesh under the motto "Migrants' Rights are Human Rights".

The year 2014 has been particularly eventful and productive for our organization. From attending international migrants' rights conferences – like the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) – to the many field visits carried out here in Bangladesh by our staff, we have been working hard to help Bangladeshi migrants from all walks of life secure a safe and prosperous future for themselves and their families.

Several WARBE DF projects active in 2013 have continued on into 2014 with great success. We have carried out activities at 11 grassroots Migration Information Support Centres (MISCs) where we have continued to extend our support to potential, outgoing, and returning migrants and their families, regardless of their gender or status. During 2014, with the help of AWO, we added one new MISC in Raozan, Chittagong to the roster.

This annual report is not only an opportunity to exhibit WARBE DF's ongoing efforts in the field of migrants' rights. It is also an opportunity for me to thank the WARBE DF team whose creativity, hard work, and enthusiasm have enabled us to rise to the occasion when dealing with the myriad of issues involved with migrants' rights activism. The dedication, commitment and cooperation that WARBE DF members and employees exhibit are inspiring and a vital component of the results we achieve.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to all our donors, partners and the various governmental departments and ministries for their continued support and cooperation. We look forward to working with you towards similar successes in 2015.

But most importantly I extend to give a hearty thank you to the migrant communities who work with us in supporting our projects and activities. Without them none of this would be possible.

Working with you towards a safer world for migrants and their families,

Syed Saiful Haque

Chairman

# Executive Summary

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his is a report on the activities of WARBE Development Foundation for the year 2014. The WARBE Development Foundation looks to use a combination of grass-roots programmes and advocacy to empower Bangladeshi migrants to demand respect for their rights under relevant UN Conventions and international law, and to ensure that their contributions are recognized and properly utilized in the development of Bangladesh. With migration in and from Bangladesh continuing to be a tool for social development and an increasingly powerful economic force at the national level, it is essential that all interested parties, from civil society to the government itself, come together to empower and assist migrants in their journeys. Many migrants will face discrimination, fraud, and even abuse when abroad or upon returning home. WARBE DF aims to halt this abuse wherever it occurs and seeks partners on local, national, and international levels to do assist in this important task.

WARBE DF believes in using grass-roots advocacy and education campaigns to ensure that prospective and out-going migrants are aware of their rights, know what to expect during migration, and get the most out of the process at its completion.

To this end we have organized or participated in the following activities in 2014: awareness raising meetings, courtyard meetings, orientation on remittance management trainings, press-conferences, celebrated national and international days related to migration and associated causes, skills and vocational training, pre-departure training, personal and family counseling, community-based organisation (CBO) formation, local government training, educational documentaries, local government official training, and other activities.

Four current projects that we implemented during 2014, with the help of DanChurch Aid, Solidarity Center, AWO International, and the Manusher Jonno Foundation, focused on promoting safe migration in different regions in Bangladesh (a total of eleven different upazilas), with an emphasis on training, awareness-raising, and advocacy. All activities were facilitated by our Migration Information Support Centres (MISCs) and the CBO's that have been established through the MISCs.

Another major part of the WARBE DF's work is our national and international advocacy. To date, we have participated at numerous conferences and discussion groups at the local, national, and international level, all with the aim of promoting an accurate understanding of migration and the people who are impacted by it. On these occasions WARBE DF has striven to make new connections and forge new partnerships with the hope of someday creating an international migrants' rights organization.

Faruque Ahmed  
Secretary General

# List of Acronyms

ASK	:	Ain O Salish Kendra
BAIRA	:	Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies
BMET	:	Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training
BOESL	:	Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited
BOMSA	:	Bangladesh Ovibashi Mohila Sramik Association
BRAC (SMFC):	:	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (Safe Migration Facilitation Centre)
CBO	:	Community Based Organization
CSO	:	Civil Society Organization
DEMO	:	District Employment and Manpower Office
IEC	:	Information Education Communication
ILO	:	International Labour Organization
IMD	:	International Migrants Day
INAFI	:	International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions
IOM	:	International Organization for Migration
LGI	:	Local Government Institution
MEWOE	:	Ministry of Expatriate's Welfare and Overseas Employment
MISC	:	Migration Information and Support Centre
MJF	:	Manusher Jonno Foundation
OKUP	:	Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program
PDT	:	Pre-departure Training
RMMRU	:	Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit
TTC	:	Technical Training Centre
UNO	:	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UN Women	:	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WARBE	:	Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants

# Migration in the Context of Bangladesh

Migration and safe migration is most concerning issues all over the world in present day. In Bangladesh overseas migration situation is very much diversifying because of the social, Economical, political and many other issues are relate with this issues.

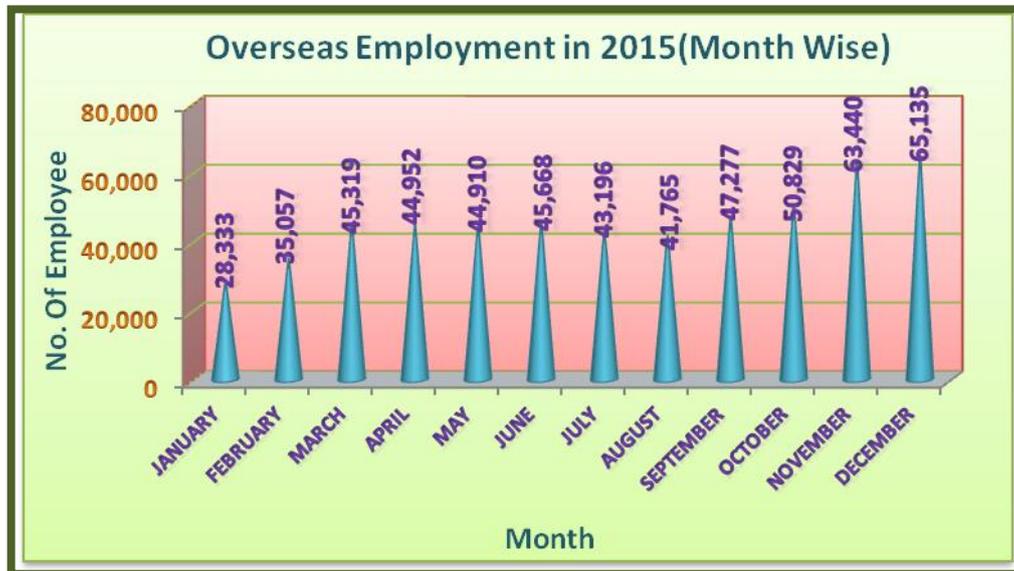


Figure 1: Overseas Employment in 2015(Month Wise)

Above figure (1) represent an overseas employment situation year of 2015 in Bangladesh month wise. Month of January have lowest number of overseas employment. This graph pattern is upward sloping. November and December month have highest employment rate which is 63,440 and 65,135.



Figure 2: Category Wise Overseas employment of 2015

This graph is representing an overseas employment category of 2015 where 2, 14,328 people are skilled and less skilled are more than skilled which is 2, 43,929. Most of people don't get proper knowledge, training even sometime worker do training for one work but when they go abroad they work their different work so ultimately those workers become less skilled. That's why number of less skilled worker is more than other category.

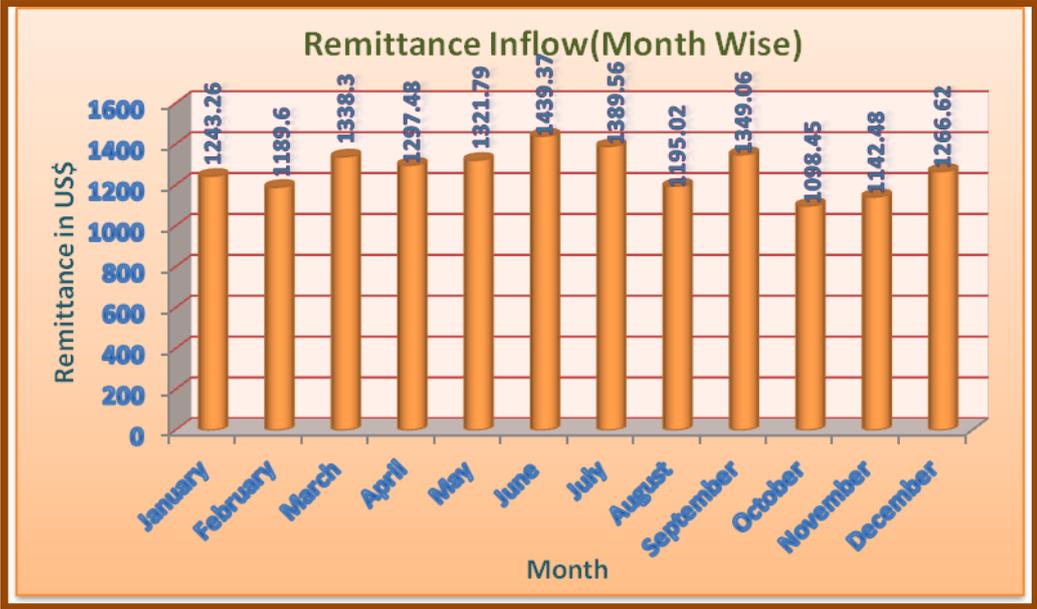


Figure 3: Remittance Inflow 2015(Month Wise)

Remittance is one of most important component for GDP of a country. Above Diagram is represents remittance inflow of 2015 (Month Wise). In this year month of June is the highest remittance inflow month. Month of August, October and November inflow of remittance is less. As because of less people went abroad even people are facing many problems after going abroad so this kind of incident occur on those month most that's why inflow of remittance is lower.

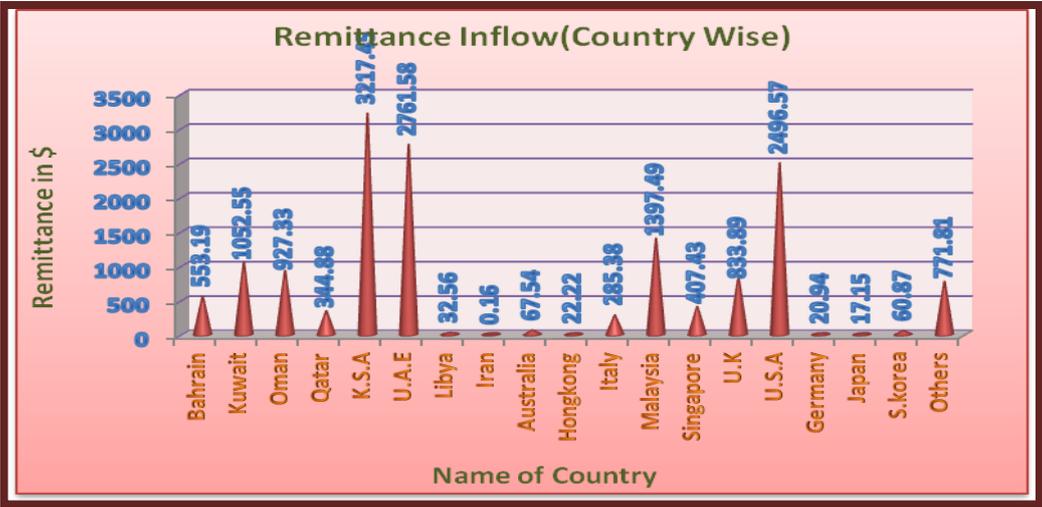


Figure 4: Remittance Inflow 2015(Country Wise)

In this figure (4) is stand for remittance inflow year of 2015 (country wise). Bangladesh gets huge number of remittance form the country K.S.A, U.A.E, U.S.A even from Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman and from others country as well.

Bangladesh is a developing country but overpopulated as well. So that most of the time majority of the migrant members are from low economic and social background. Among the root causes of being migrant one of cause is poverty, lack of education therefore they do not have any awareness to prevent themselves being sufferer of trafficking. Migration helps to promote skills and empowered workers as well as migration bring remittance in our country which is very much essential for country GDP. Most of the NGOs and INGOs including WARBE Development Foundation of Bangladesh are working together along with the Government of Bangladesh to mitigate the major risks and ensuring benefits. WARBE Development Foundation is acting to make migration, remittance and re-integration process as safe, equitable, and productive as possible.

## **About Us:**

The Welfare Association for Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees was founded in 1997. Subsequently, in 2007, it was renamed the Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants, or WARBE DF for short, and was registered with the NGO Bureau of Bangladesh as WARBE Development Foundation, bearing no. 2281. Today, WARBE is a grassroots Bangladeshi migrants' association working in the field of migration and development. WARBE DF was created by returning migrant workers who saw a need for an organization that could act to protect and strengthen the rights of migrants and their families. Through their continued efforts at the grassroots level, WARBE DF established themselves as pioneers in the field of migration and development in Bangladesh, while also taking the fight for migrants' rights to the national, regional and international level. We are a migrants' association that excels at adapting our organizational skills to meet the unique and diverse challenges Bangladeshi migrants face at home and abroad. As migration is a dynamic issue WARBE DF must always be prepared to rise to the occasion and meet these challenges with dynamism of its own; everyday there are new developments in the field of migrants' rights and thus our organization is constantly evolving.

Today, WARBE Development Foundation continues to work towards a Bangladesh – and a world – where all migrants, male or female, regardless of social or economic class, may migrate internally or internationally free from threat of violence or exploitation. WARBE Development Foundation has undertaken many development activities at the grassroots level as well as the national and international level for the protection of the rights, well-being and the dignity of migrant workers and their families; to empower and enable them to contribute to the socio-economic development at the micro and macro level and to play a stronger and effective role in the political arena.

## **Vision:**

WARBE Development Foundation believes that Migrants' Rights are Human Rights, the dignity of migrants should be respected, and the contributions that migrants make to both receiving and sending countries should be recognized.

## **Mission:**

- To protect migrant workers rights and uphold their dignity as migration is their choice not the necessity.

- To provide adequate information and support to prospective migrants, returnees and families left-behind.
- To raise awareness on the plight of vulnerable migrant populations with dissemination of information and training.
- To advocate and lobby at the national, regional and international level for the formulation of rights based policy and laws and their proper enforcement.

To establish partnerships with national, regional & international organizations, migrant groups, trade unions, NGOs, UN agencies & government institutions to build a rights-based migration and development regime.

### **Legitimacy:**

The WARBE Development Foundation is registered under the NGO Affairs Bureau of Bangladesh, bearing no. 2281. Beyond any official designation from the government, the WARBE Development Foundation's work as a grassroots organization means that our legitimacy is also taken from the people that we serve. We work with migrants to build trust and many of the organization's central figures are former migrants themselves. This experiential knowledge gives us a basis in practical experience that has proved tremendously useful, but also lends us legitimacy in the eyes of those we wish to serve.

### **Network-partners:**

#### **(i) At the national level**

- International Organization for Migration (IOM): [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)
- International Labour Organization (ILO): [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)
- UNWOMEN: [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)
- Terre des Hommes–Italia (TDH–Italia): [www.terredeshommes.it](http://www.terredeshommes.it)
- Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF): [www.manusherjonno.org](http://www.manusherjonno.org)
- Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU): [www.rmmru.net](http://www.rmmru.net)
- BRAC: [www.brac.net](http://www.brac.net)
- Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK): [www.askbd.org](http://www.askbd.org)

#### **(ii) At the regional level**

- Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA): [www.mfasia.org](http://www.mfasia.org)
- Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM) Asia: [www.caramasia.org](http://www.caramasia.org)

- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia): [www.forum-asia.org](http://www.forum-asia.org)
- South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS): [www.saceps.org](http://www.saceps.org)
- South Asia Migration Resource Network (SAMReN): see RMMRU
- The Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy (SAPA): [www.asiasapa.org](http://www.asiasapa.org)
- Asian Migrant Domestic Workers Alliance (ADWA): see MFA
- AWO International: [www.awo-southasia.org](http://www.awo-southasia.org)

**(iii) At the international level**

- Migrant Rights International (MRI): [www.migrantwatch.org](http://www.migrantwatch.org)
- Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW): [www.gaatw.org](http://www.gaatw.org)
- International NGO Platform on the Migrant Workers' Convention (IPMWC): [www.december18.net/international-ngo-platform-migrant-workers-convention-ipmwc](http://www.december18.net/international-ngo-platform-migrant-workers-convention-ipmwc)
- NGO Committee on Migration: [www.ngocom.blogspot.com](http://www.ngocom.blogspot.com)
- La-Liga-Global : [www.laligaglobal.org](http://www.laligaglobal.org)

**Social Structure of WARBE Development Foundation:**

WARBE Development Foundation does have its own social structure which has five components which is given below:

- BOAF (Bangladesh Ovibashi Adhikar Forum)
- MISC ( Migrant Information service Center)
- MAC ( Migrant Advisory Committee)
- CBO (Community Based Organization)
- DMRN (District Migration Rights Network)

**Activities under BOAF, MISC, MAC, CBO & DMRN:**

<b>SOCIAL STRUCTURE</b>
<b>BOAF activities are given below:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy and lobby with MEWOWE, BMET, DEMO and other government ministries and institutions for migration policy changes and effective implementation of the migration policy and laws.</li> <li>• Maintaining communication with law enforcement authorities to deal with migration related cases.</li> <li>• Maintaining regular communication among the networks members for information sharing and Supporting on the issues of safe migration.</li> <li>• Facilitating different notional events.</li> <li>• Promoting migrants rights and raising voice about migrant rights violations at home and abroad.</li> <li>• International networking to promote and protect the migrants human rights and upheld the dignity and contribution of migrants. Advocacy and public awareness in context of migration related issues through media, e.g. about new developments at national level, remittance, etc</li> </ul>

<b>MAC activities are given below:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggest WARBE MISC to ensure safe migration.</li> <li>• Participate to WARBE by sharing their practical experience of migration period.</li> <li>• Spread migration related information in their society.</li> <li>• Participate in WARBE’s migration related activities.</li> <li>• Suggest WARBE MISC to ensure safe migration.</li> </ul>
<b>CBO activities are given below:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness in society about safe migration.</li> <li>• Build up voluntary group in society.</li> <li>• Distribute safe migration related IEC materials in society.</li> <li>• Stand beside sufferer/cheated migrants or potential migrants to get legal support.</li> <li>• Create new entrepreneur from CBO member.</li> <li>• Start Small and cottage business.</li> <li>• Saving money co-operatively.</li> <li>• Reintegrate and upgrade financial condition of vulnerable returnee migrants.</li> </ul>
<b>DMRN activities are given below:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work as a pressure group for the welfare of migrant and returnee migrant.</li> <li>• Distribute safe migration related IEC materials in society.</li> <li>• Identify problems of migration.</li> <li>• Provide migration related information and govt. institutes location to get facility.</li> <li>• Legal support.</li> <li>• Participate in WARBE’s migration related activities</li> </ul>

## **Our Activities:**

### **Grassroots level activities:**

As Community Based Organization, the WARBE Development Foundation implements most of its activities at the grass-roots level. The Foundation currently has 11 local centres across the country to attend directly to the concerned communities. Some of our project activities include the following:

#### **Awareness meetings:**

create awareness amongst the general population about safe migration processes as well as migrants’ well-being once overseas. The WARBE DF organizes one awareness meeting every month in selected Unions with at least 100

To



participants. The aim of this activity is to educate and sensitize the local community to the costs (financial, psychological and social), risks, hazards and benefits of migration. Every month a representative of the local authority attended the meeting and during the event some returnees shared their experiences.

### **Courtyard meetings:**

Courtyard meetings are not formally organized and the discussion is free and lead by the attendees, with the field organizer as moderator. It is actually a place of sharing and free expression of views and experiences. In courtyard meetings participants can expressed themselves in a friendly environment, so they feel confident and share their own



experiences and ask questions. The number of participants is restricted in order to facilitate the discussion (maximum 20-25 participants). During the courtyard meetings different themes are raised, such as the financial and social costs of migration (living and working conditions, skills, abuses, alternatives...) and necessary documents (registration certificate of BMET, passport, medical certificate, job contract paper...).

### **Pre-departure training:**

WARBE Development Foundation organizes periodically three-day long pre-departure trainings. The training sessions target outgoing/prospective migrants who are about to or have taken the decision to migrate and process the emigration and overseas employment procedures. During the training the participants receive



information on: safe migration, recruitment agency malpractices, financial costs and risks, benefits of migration, administrative procedures, living and working conditions in foreign countries, reintegration in the community, etc. Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment (MEWOE) of Bangladesh has recognized and approved the PDT curricula and training materials being developed by WARBE.

### **Orientation on Management of Remittance:**

Research shows that in Bangladesh many families are left-behind and returnee migrants face difficulties due to a lack of practice at saving and financial illiteracy. Through the organization of periodical “proper utilization of remittances



workshops”, WARBE DF aims at encouraging productive and sustainable use of remittances.

**Skill development trainings:**



In order to better equipped potential migrant workers or to provide an alternative livelihood, WARBE Development Foundation organizes vocational training (e.g. electrical and equipment installation training and handicraft training)

**Social Mobilisation Campaign on Safe Migration:**

Social Mobilization Campaign on Safe Migration is one of the key activities to create mass awareness on safe migration currently begin done by WARBE DF. The campaign aims to empower migrants by emphasizing their rights which will then give them the confidence to resist exploitation, fraud, and harassment all related to migration and the process around it. Social mobilization events also create confidence among the members of the Community Based Organizations (CBOs), who can then work on sharing and co-operation amongst themselves, building their capacity as a development forum. This leads to more unique ideas being generated and a more sustainable, integrated development process over all. The campaign also ensures to focus on workers’ rights, women’ rights and issues, the role of the duty bearers, and the civil society.



**Migrant family members’ meeting:**



In these meetings, migrants’ family members get the opportunity to discuss their issues related to education, health or treatment, bank loans and in some cases personal issues related to migration (which are likely very distressing, and so they often urgently wish to discuss them). The scope of interactions increased their confidence level as well as created

more room for the sharing of experiences in other avenues, as well.

**Docudrama Screenings:**

Announcements regarding the showing of a docudrama were made with the help of MISCs and CBOs,



using electronic equipment and by making mention of it at relevant meetings. People were able to gather in open spaces to watch the production, and then participate in questions or discussions afterward. The production detailed aspects of the dangers of migration, as well as how to prepare for migration, should that be an action you are working towards. The film was shown to people from all over the community and was received with great enthusiasm.

**Forum Theatre:**

Forum Theatres have been organized at some important place for the community where a cross section of people enjoyed the event. The lyrics of the Forum Theatre and the themes that they contain help to relay messages regarding safe migration and other related issues. People of the community enjoyed the entertainment and happily received the message on safe migration.



**CBOs group formation**

Returnees and family members have been brought together to form Community Based Organizations (CBOs), which aim to organize collective strength, to claim rights and access services. These groups act as Self Help Group (SHG) at the grass root level and work as an organized platform for the welfare of the migrants' community. CBO members are aware about safe migration issues being addressed in different activities and events. CBO members are attached with the MISCs in getting relevant information and other issues, as well as in disseminating information at the community level.



**Local Government Representative Training:**



Local government representatives, such as Union Parish chairmen and members, are the key focus of this training. They are treated as the lowest administrative tier which directly works with community and their development as well. This body is also elected by the community directly. So, community based issue like migration should be shared with them, where they might more effectively govern and plan for that society. Local government bodies in the working areas are becoming more conscious on migrant issues and day by day

they are becoming more serious in support the deprived prospective migrants' as well as helping facilitate them on the actual information related to safe migration.

### **Counseling:**

Every month field organizers provide counseling to prospective and on-going migrants. During those session participants can share their personal concerns. Field organizers also discuss safe migration processes including: recruitment process, costs and benefits of migration, visa and passport deliverance, required official documents, culture, customs and basic language knowledge. They also disseminate booklets for out-going migrants.



### **Production of IEC materials:**

WARBE Development Foundation develops and disseminates IEC materials as divers as games, forum-theatre, leaflets, posters, Avibashon Shohaika, modules, flip chart etc. All these materials focus on safe migration, on migration process and on Migrants' Rights...

### **Ongoing projects:**

Currently, WARBE Development Foundation is working on four projects that aim at promoting safe migration, enhancing Government capacities in the field of migration, highlighting the potential of migrant workers as actor in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh and promoting the rights and overall dignity of migrants. Those four objectives represent the main objectives of WARBE DF since its inception in 1997.

#### **(1) Project on Promoting Migrants Rights and Livelihood of Potential and Returnee Migrants and Their Families** *Supported by AWO International*

##### **Working Areas:**

Chittagong, Comilla and Tangail Districts.

##### **Duration:**

4 Years (2012-2016)

#### **(2) Promoting Safe Migration for Potential Migrants and Re-integration for Returnees**

*Supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation*

##### **Working Areas:**

Gazipur, Mymensingh, Brahmanbaria and Barisal Districts.

##### **Duration:**

6 Years (2010-2016)

### **(3) Promote Migrants Rights by Enhancing Awareness on Safe Migration**

**Reintegration & Livelihood Options** *Supported by Dan Church Aid*

**Working Areas:**

Keranigonj and Rangpur Districts.

**Duration:**

1.5 Years (2014-2015)

### **(4) Combating Trafficking in Persons for Labor Exploitation among Vulnerable**

**Workers Activities** *Supported by Solidarity Centre Bangladesh*

**Working Areas:**

Narayangonj and Narsingdi Districts.

**Duration:**

1.5 Year (2014-2015)

### **National activities:**

At the national level, WARBE DF organizes social mobilizations (rallies, human chains, etc.) and conferences/seminars/discussions with a broad range of stakeholders involved in the field of migration. Those activities generally aim at increasing awareness of migration related issues (such as migrant's rights, safe migration, migration and development) among the general public and the media, to better pressure the Government of Bangladesh to adopt more appropriate laws and policies to protect migrants. Those events are also the opportunity for the WARBE DF to discuss and share its point of view with other NGOs, GOs and the private sector to develop appropriate recommendations and policies.

### **Advocacy:**

Advocacy is an important part of WARBE Development Foundation activities. Since its inception in 1997, WARBE DF has endeavored to defend Migrants' Rights, to increase public awareness and to pursue the Government to adopt more appropriate laws to protect migrant workers. Below are some of the major advocacy activities that the WARBE DF has been involved in over this report's time period:

1. **08 March 2015: Consultation on "Protection of Rights and Dignity of Women Migrant Workers"**

WARBE Development Foundation and Bangladesh Ovibashi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA) are organizing the following programs at the National Press Club, VIP Lounge, and Dhaka on 8th March 2011 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. -

- A Solidarity Human Chain to Protect Women Migrant's Rights-ILO Domestic Workers Convention
- A Media Dialogue on "Importance of ILO Convention on Domestic Workers: Ensuring Women Migrants' Rights"



Media Dialogue will be participating by the representative from different GOs, NGOs, Private Sector, Trade Union, and Migrants Associations, also individual migrants and representative of International Organizations.

## 2. 24-25 April 2015: SOUTH ASIA CONSULTATION ON POST- 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: FOCUS ON MIGRANTS AND MIGRATION

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 for celebrating International Labor Day, WARBE Development Foundation organized a SOUTH ASIA CONSULTATION ON POST- 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: FOCUS ON MIGRANTS AND MIGRATION at Hotel D'castle, Dhaka. Md. Faruque Ahmed, Secretary General of WARBE DF gave welcome speech. Other resources person also gave their valuable speech on these topics. Mr. Hamidullah Riaz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs also shares the government's stance on the integration of migration in the post-2015 sustainable development goals.

## 3. 01 May, 2015: A open discussion on Migrants Workers Rights, Press Club

An open discussion was arranged in 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2015 at the VIP lounge of Press club. The main key point of the discussion was the rights of the migrant's workers. Many resources person from different NGO's raised their voice to keep the rights of migrant's workers. Mr. Abdul Awal, Project Co-coordinator gave welcome speech & jasiya Khaton started the main discussion of the program. A short brief of different resources person from OKUP, Dan

Church Aid, IMA research foundation, United Labor foundation, Bangladesh Trade Union Center, WARBE DF made the program successful by raising their voice.

#### **4. 30th May, 2015: Press Conference on “Defend Human Rights of Trafficked Rohingya & Bangladeshi People” Press Club**

A human chain & rally was organized on defend human rights of trafficked Rohingya & Bangladeshi People by the Bangladeshi Migrant rights organization & forum, human rights organization, labor organization, research organization, electronic & print media’s delegates. Many guests shared their personal experience regarding human rights of trafficked Rohingya & the way how they save their lives. The aim of the rally was aware general people about the trafficking issues.



#### **5. 30th July, 2015: Consultation meeting with Joint Organization Declaration in Recognition of World Day Against Trafficking In Person’s, National Press Club- VIP Conference Room.**

We, the representatives of Winrock International, USAID Bangladesh, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Plan International Bangladesh, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Rights Jessore, SHISUK, Change Maker, BRAC, WARBE Development Foundation, Bangladeshi Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA), ANIRBAN, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) and BONGO BD, gathered in Dhaka on 30 July 2015.



We recognize and are grateful for the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh in efforts to combat trafficking in persons, such as:

-The launch of the National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking 2015-2017.

-Enactment of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012.

-Enactment of the Overseas Employment, Migration Act, 2013.

Finally, we state together that trafficking in persons is the most heinous of offences that can be committed against a person, it victimizes people, stripes away dignity, removes a person’s self-determination and places victims in great peril. We say as one that trafficking in persons must be stopped, our collective efforts to stop trafficking in persons will continue and we will act as one to pursue justice and dignity for all.



#### 6. 13<sup>th</sup> September,2015 “National Civil Society Consultation on 8th GFMD 2015” at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka



WARBE Development Foundation, RMMRU, Manusher Jonno Foundation, and AWO jointly organized a “National Civil Society Consultation on 8th GFMD 2015”

The objective of this National Civil Society Consultation is to introduce and highlight the Civil Society Days activities in the GFMD meeting as well as the thematic plenary and roundtable discussions to the participants from key migration and development organizations, networks, grassroots and community based organizations, migrants’ rights advocates, trade unions, private sector, representatives of the media and academia along with officials from the relevant government ministries for jointly strategize efforts relating to the GFMD 2015.

Many journalists, NGO professionals, Government high-ups, and other important persons from different sectors attended in this day long civil society consultation program. The entire program was divided into four sessions which were moderated by different people. The sessions were: The Inaugural Session, Parallel Group Working Session on Thematic Roundtable, Reports of Group Working Session, and Concluding Session: Way Forward.

**7. 7th October, 2015 Observation of World Day for Decent Work 2015, at National Press Club, Dhaka**



**8. 3rd December, 2015 Networking Meeting with Various Stakeholders (National Level) at Reporters' Unity, Dhaka.**

The Bangladesh Ombudsman Commission (BOAF) finally came into being on 17th March, 2014, whose main goal is to establish a viable socio-economic development with due dignity, safety and safe migration of all internal and external migrant workers and their families. On 3rd December, 2015, Thursday, a



lively general meeting took place where nine (9) members' executive committee of Bangladesh Ombudsman Commission (BOAF), and many other network members were present in the annual general meeting.

Nazmul Ahsan, President, Bangladesh Ombudsman Commission (BOAF) expressed his cordial greetings for the presence of everyone who came so far. He also apologized for changing the date frequently. He also agreed with Faruque Ahmed about the common platform issues. He thinks that WARBE facilitate that scope. He expected guidelines from Syed Saiful Haque because he has the national & international exposure on these issues.

Jasiya Khatoon thinks that no one could be cheated if they can work together. She requested everyone to stay united for the sake of migrant workers. She also mentioned the contribution of WARBE for celebrating IMD since 2009 and that WARBE lobbied for establishing Migrants Bank. Finally she reviewed that there are so many places where they can work together.

#### **9. 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 Consultation on Protection of Migrants Rights on Human Rights Day at National Press Club, VIP Lounge, Dhaka.**

WARBE Development Foundation and Bangladesh Ovibashi Adhikar Forum (BOAF) with the support by AWO international arranged Consultation on Protection of Migrants Rights in on Human Rights Day.

Objective of the program was:

- (a) Migrant Workers are in distress
- (b) Domestic Workers Convention 189
- (c) Use of wage earners' welfare fund
- (d) Voting rights of Migrant Workers



In the beginning of the consultation Mr. Sharif Hossen Chowdhury, Coordinator of WARBE Development Foundation gave welcome speech. After his speech Md. Faruque Ahmed Secretary General of WARBE Development Foundation gave keynote presentation. In his presentation he talked about

many migrants' related problems, how migrant workers are facing problems and being violated. Even he shared his own experience as he is a returnee migrant.

Then our two migrant victims Rowshan Ara Begum and Champa Begum shared their experience how they are become victim when they worked in Lebanon and Jordan.

In the Panel Discussion Mr. Atikun Nabi(Executive Director, INAFI), Mr. Nazmul Ahsan (President, BOAF), Mr. Abul Bashar (Project Coordinator, RMMRU), Md. Shakirul Islam (Chairman, OKUP), Mr. Abul Hossain(President, Trade Union),Mr. Nur Khan Liton(Director, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) everyone talked on this issue. They all were talked about rights of migrants' workers, about convention, use of welfare fund and many related issues.

## 10. 27th December, 2015 Consultation on Establishing Legal Support Cell at Police Staff College, Mirpur, Dhaka

WARBE development foundation arranged a “consultation on establishing legal support cell” with the support of AWO International e.V.

Mr. Syed Saiful Haque, Chairman, WARBE Development Foundation, started the program by delivering his welcome speech. In open floor other police staff gave their own



word regarding legal support cell. Nazrul Hossain: He said about the migrant workers go for their socio economic development; however they don't get those facilities from the destination country.

Md. Motiur Rahman: He started with the example of mass grave found in Thailand. He suggested that police should have proper knowledge to prevent the illegal migration.

Saiful Haque also think that police can easily get informed about the plights of migrant workers. Additional S.P. He focused on finding out the problems of migrant workers and making awareness.

Many police personnel gave their personal opinion regarding safe migration & the prevention of these problems.

- Making awareness through leaflets with proper direction.
- Making awareness for target area with specific destination country.
- Distributing leaflets after the JUMMA in front of Mosque.
- Using media coverage for better
- Info based effective training.
- Making the training component easier.
- Making the law of 2013 easier to mass people.
- Boosting the publicity on social networking site.
- Arranging meeting with the local UP chairman and members.
- Developing better mutual understanding amongst the BD migrant workers.

Iqbal Hossain, Director, (Admin), gave the conclusion speech & he also welcomed those who work for the safe migration. He talked,

1. To take legal steps against those who are responsible for the sufferings of the victims.
2. He also requested the police force to share info about the victim.
3. To support with adequate info those who are planning for migration

### **11.31st December, 2015 Consultation on “Safe Migration with Private Sector and Stakeholders” at BAIRA Auditorium, Dhaka**

WARBE Development Foundation and recruiting agency BAIRA jointly arranged a consultation on safe migration with private Sector and Stakeholders. WARBE and BAIRA personnel, and some other distinguished personalities from ministry and secretariat level, NGO and civil society participated and shared their valuable opinion regarding the issue.



The key Objectives for organizing this consultation were:

- To discuss on safe migration process, regular channels and reducing migration cost.
- To understand the present socio-demographic and economic situation of migrant communities.
- To discuss about the ‘Overseas Employment & Migration Act, 2013’ – its barriers in implementation process and the possible realistic way-out.
- To discuss on the role of private sectors for achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Mr. Faruque ahmed, Secretary General, WARBE Development Foundation began the meeting with his welcome speech. He expresses his thankfulness to BAIRA for cooperating in holding this meeting.

Mrs. Jasiya Khatoon, Director, WARBE Development Foundation presented a key note presentation on WARBE DF and an overview of global migration scenario in 2015.

Nurul Amin, member of BAIRA– spoke on irregular migration, mass grave which were found in Malaysia. He also talks on G2G, zero cost on migration.

Sarawat Binte Islam, Program Manager, MJF- talked on Technical Training Center (TTC), cost of TTC training in private/Govt. sector.

Sultana Adnan, Director of Migration Project, Agrani Bank - She discuss about remittance and for sending remittance the migrant workers are to pay high rate of interest which should be reduced for smoothening the process. He also says a2i could be involved at union level training. Md. Rabiul Islam, Online Media- wants to know about the cost for receiving clearance from BMET.

Mr. Javed Ahmed, Additional Secretary, MoEWOE- discussed on issues. He says- middle men are needed but also they must be under control, there are 47 TTCs but they are not up to the mark.

Nurjahan Begum Mukta, Member of National Parliament was the Chief Guest in this consultation. She refers to many points. She says that victims should be more aware and human trafficking law should be strictly enforced. She added further in every district government is trying to provide land for migrants and trying to increase quota for migrants and in P.S.C and J.S.C there is provision for scholarship for migrants' children. After her speech Annual Migration Report-2015, prepared by WARBE DF was launched.

#### International activities:

Since migration is a transnational phenomenon, the WARBE pays special attention to inter-regional and international dialogue. To achieve this goal, WARBE DF has established partnerships with numerous regional and international migrants' organizations. Moreover, activities at the international level offer us an opportunity to learn from other countries' experiences, to better understand the immigration



policies of receiving countries, and to establish regional and/or international conventions. Some examples of WARBE DF's involvement include:

- WARBE DF has participated in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Sweden in 2013
- Migration Experts Meeting 2013, Geneva
- CARE's Workshop on Migrants Issues 2013, Delhi, India



- Meeting at World Bank, Washington DC, USA, 2012



# Prospects for 2015

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he number of Bangladeshis migrating abroad in search of work is forecast to increase in 2015. Despite ongoing unrest in the Middle East, economic chaos in Europe and a global economic outlook that remains equally bleak, 2015 will see record numbers of Bangladeshis travel abroad to seek out employment. With this ever-increasing amount of people searching for work outside of Bangladesh there is a correlated increase in the amount of money being sent back to Bangladesh. Remittance levels in 2014 (USD 14 billion) broke records for all previous years and it is expected that 2015 will see remittances well in excess of the 2014 record. In this context, migrant workers and the impact that they have in Bangladesh have become an essential part of the development discourse and form a central part of the country's future.

Despite the positive gains generated by remittances, migration in 2015 will remain a significant challenge for the many Bangladeshis who are willing and able to go abroad in search of work. More than 50% of Bangladeshi migrants lack knowledge regarding safe and effective migration and this leaves them open to fraud and abuse, both in Bangladesh and in destination countries. In particular, migrating women, many of whom are going to work as domestic labourers in the Middle East, have experienced physical, sexual, and verbal abuse in their host countries. Each year more women migrate abroad and according to the United Nations Development Programme some 85% of them will face physical abuse and 20% will be sexually abused. And so while 2015 may be a record year for remittances, it may also mark a more tragic milestone in which more female labour migrants are abused than ever before. And so, now more than ever, action is needed to address the challenges and dangers faced by migrants – male and female, at home and abroad.

Before migrants are even able to depart Bangladesh there remain huge hurdles to be cleared in country, where the cost of migrating remains extremely high, despite government regulations. The government of Bangladesh, in 2014, still refused to ratify many of the international standards related to migrants' rights and their safety. As the number of people migrating increases and the government increasingly sees the migration process as a tool of development, it becomes of ever greater importance to address the issues of gaps in the rights and protections afforded to

Bangladeshi migrants. WARBE, for its part, will continue the necessary advocacy efforts into 2015.

To tackle these migration-related issues WARBE DF has numerous actions planned and proposed for the coming years ahead. We plan to continue with the projects we are currently conducting, with the broad themes of those being: the education of potential migrants so as to better prepare them for the migration process and to demand that their rights are respected; continued advocacy for and education around safe, effective, and sustainable migration where all parties are respected, and the sustainable re-investment of remittances back at home and re-integration properly. In 2015 we also hope to establish links with migrants' rights organizations operating in destination countries. This will strengthen the capacity of WARBE DF and enable us to better help migrants before they leave and once they arrive in their destination countries. As always, we will conduct these efforts in the spirit of fairness, respect, and equality for all.

In 2015 WARBE DF will continue its advocacy efforts with a number of specific targets. At the international level we will advocate for the granting of voting rights to migrants, the creation of a Labour Attaché position at all Bangladeshi diplomatic missions where there are a significant number of Bangladeshi migrants. Those migrants who perish abroad should only be buried after a proper investigation into their death at which point the body should be repatriated and reunited with family members.

Here in Bangladesh WARBE DF will direct its advocacy efforts towards three specific objectives. First, the costs of migration must be reduced. Second, government initiatives, such as that used in organizing migrants for employment in Malaysia and other countries, must be transparent. Third, migrant worker representation in the Expatriate Welfare Bank and the Wage Earners Welfare Fund Board must be guaranteed. Lastly, strict rules and regulations need to be implemented by the national government regarding recruiting agencies and middlemen, known as *dalals*. Migration in Bangladesh needs to be a free and fair process and the lack of migration-related legislation allows recruiting agencies and middlemen to act with impunity and with a complete disregard for the rights of migrants.

It is expected that 2015 will be a year of political turmoil, both on the streets and in the halls of parliament. As a non-partisan organization WARBE DF's interest in politics extends only to the need to lobby politicians to enact legislation that protects migrants. Aside from this unfortunately WARBE DF is most impacted by politics at the ground level. Civil strife in Bangladesh continues to hamper WARBE DF activities and often project deadlines and other related events are disrupted by strikes.