



# A Community Based Migrant's Organization

## Annual Report-2015



Prepared By

WARBE Development Foundation

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are gratified to our donors/development partners for their pleasant support and cooperation and to the key stakeholders especially the honorable Secretary and his team in the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment and the honorable Director General of BMET and other officials at DEMOs and TTCs for their cooperation and support. We are thankful to local actors both in the government administration and the elected representatives at Union, Upazila and District levels for their support and collaboration as well. We salute all migrants who live alone in foreign land for the happiness of the family and the contribution they contribute to the country's development by their hard-earn remittances. The contribution of migrant workers in the national economy, now-a-days, is widely acknowledged both at the household and community levels. At the macro-level, remittances of migrants play an important role in enriching the foreign currency reserve. This helps hugely to make up the trade deficit and shore up balance of payments, and thus contributing to overall macroeconomic stability. The skilled manpower of a nation can bring more remittances compared to the less-skilled or semi-skilled. This is also true for the returnee migrants who gained technical knowledge and skills after his or her long period of service at abroad and eventually they turned out to be the resource for the nation. Lastly our sincere thanks to all of our colleagues who have stood beside us and been working hard together to reach our organizational goal.

On behalf of WARBE Family-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Md. Faruque Ahmed', is written in a cursive style.

Md. Faruque Ahmed  
Secretary General  
WARBE Development Foundation

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## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

## PREFACE

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 2015. 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 2015 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 2014 have continued on into 2015 with great success. We have carried out activities at 11 grassroots Migration Information Support Centers (MISCs) where we have continued to extend our support to potential, outgoing, and returning migrants and their families, regardless of their gender or status.

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 2016. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saiful Haque', is positioned above the printed name.

Syed Saiful Haque  
Chairman

WARBE Development Foundation

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report on the activities of WARBE Development Foundation for the year 2015. 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 2015: 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 organization (CBO) formation, local government training, educational documentaries, local government official training, and other activities.

Another major part of the WARBE DF's work is our national and international level 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.

Jasiya Khatoon  
Director  
WARBE Development Foundation

## Migration Situation 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.

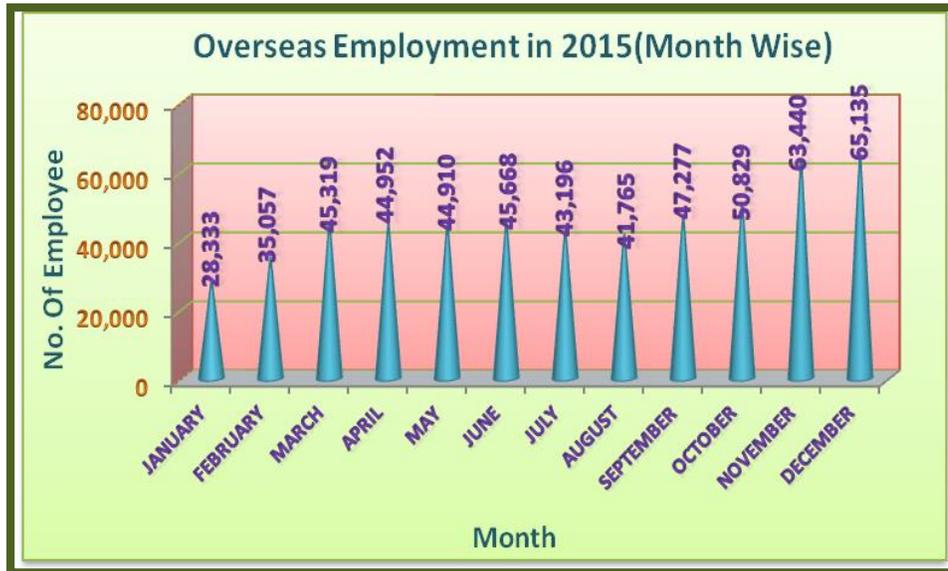


Figure 1: Overseas Employment in 2015 (Month Wise)

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 were 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.

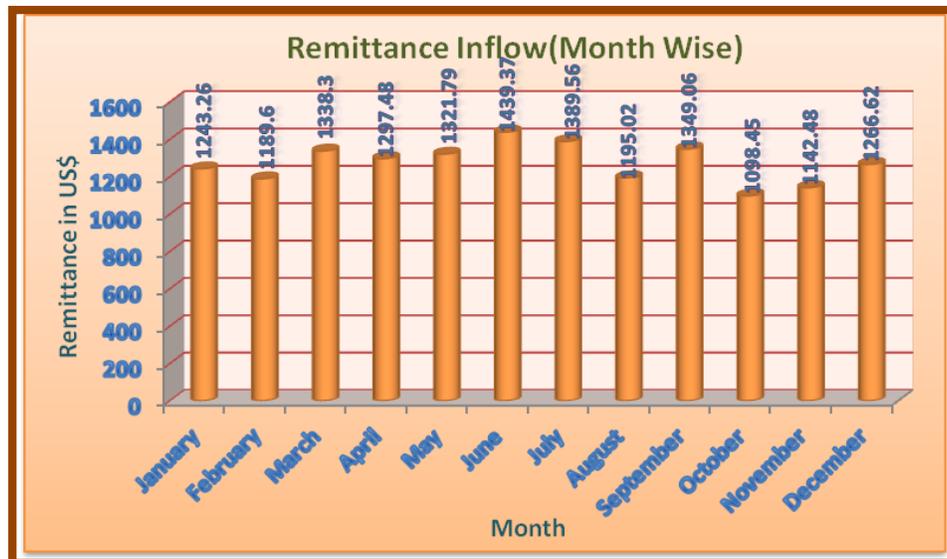


Figure 3: Remittance Inflow 2015(Month Wise)

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.

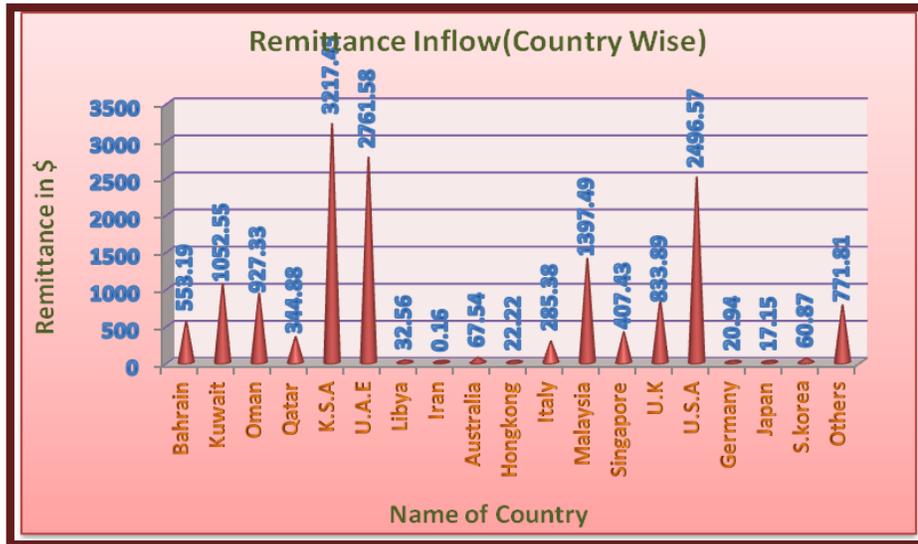


Figure 4: Remittance Inflow 2015(Country Wise)

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

- UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) grants Special Consultative Status
- 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 MEWOE, 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:

To 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 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.

### Pre-decision meeting:



This meeting is for potential migrants which make them possible to think about social and economic costs and benefits for migration and can get other information which can help them to decide for safe migration. WARBE Development Foundation organize pre-decision meeting every month in field level with at least 25 participants. The main objective of this program is disseminating in-depth information on how to follow the migration process safely. Furthermore in this meeting give an information about skilled workers requirements and make linkage to provide skill enhancement training at the government Technical Training Centers (TTCs) for the migrants worker for better wages as skilled workers.

## **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 t 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 diverse 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 (2014-2016)

**(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:**

Gazipur, Narayangonj and Narsingdi Districts.

**Duration:**

4 Years (2014-2018)

## 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) have organized the following programs at the National Press Club, VIP Lounge, and Dhaka on 8th March 2015 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

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 on 1st 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. Ms. 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 CIRDP 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. 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 Observation of World Day for Decent Work 2015, at National Press Club, Dhaka

Domestic workers are playing an important role. Domestic workers perform a variety of household services for an individual or a family. OurHands means that empowering



and protecting the rights of domestic workers is a collective responsibility. The OurHands campaign aims to inform domestic workers of their rights as enshrined in ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

The aims behind the celebration of the Decent Work Day:

- To uphold Rights and Dignity of Domestic Workers (DW)
- Call for the Universal Ratification for ILO Convention 189: Decent Work for Domestic Workers
- To reach to domestic workers across through social media and encourage them to share know-your-rights materials with other domestic workers
- Raise awareness among the mass population, Civil Society and Bangladeshi Government about Domestic Workers' rights in order to prompt to action and effective measures
- Stand in solidarity with the domestic workers worldwide and their family members in the countries of origin.

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

The Bangladesh Ovibashi Adhikar Forum (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 Ovibashi Adhikar Forum (BOAF), and many other network members were present in the annual general meeting.



Nazmul Ahsan, President,

Bangladesh Ovibashi Adhikar Forum (BOAF) expressed his cordial greetings for the presence of everyone who came so far. He also apologizes 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 Khaton 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. 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 Diplomacy Training program on Building Civil Society Capacity for Advocacy for Migrants Workers and safe Migration at Institute of Microfinance (InM) training Center, Dhaka

Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), WARBE Development Foundation and RMMRU organized 3 days training (Module 1) of the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) WARBE is a Ngo with UN ECOSOC consultative status, promoting the rights



of migrant workers and provides the detail information regarding migration information. RMMRU is a research, training and advocacy institution conducting studies on the rights of the migrant workers. Its aim to develop the knowledge and skills of civil society NGO advocates in Bangladesh that are committed to promoting respect for the human rights of the migrant workers and their rights as migrants in Bangladesh & the destination countries. It also aware the migrant workers about the security & safety of the migration related issues.

### **Objectives of the training**

- To enhance the knowledge of human rights standard regarding migrants works.
- To broaden the minds of the participants by providing them opportunities for interchange of experiences.
- To enhance the legal and policy framework governing labor migration in Bangladesh.

- To enhance skills and developing strategies to advocate for better protection of migration.
- To create strong communication skills.
- To gather information about the GFMD process.

## 10. 10th 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.



## 11.17 December, 2015: Seminar on Achieving Sustainable Development Goal through Migration

On the eve of International Migrants day-2015 trio migrant's rights activist organization (WARBE DF, OKUP and BOMSA) with the support from government officials, arranged a seminar named "Achieving Sustainable Development Goal through Migration". The seminar took place at the Briefing center of 'Prabashi Kallan Bhaban' on 17 December, 2015. Honorable minister Mr. Nurul Islam, BSC, (Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment) was present as the Chief Guest and Ms. Shamsun Nahar (Director General, Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training-BMET) and Ms. Rina Roy (Director, Manuser Jonno Foundation) as special guests on the seminar. Mr. Shakirul Islam (Chairman, Oribashi Karmi Unnayan Programme-OKUP), Ms. Sumiya Islam (Director, BOMSA) and Syed Saiful Islam, (Chairman, WARBE DF) was present from the host organization. The very contextual seminar was started with the welcome speech from Mr. Nizam Uddin (Additional Director General-Employment, BMET) and then a comprehensive presentation on 'Sustainable Development Goal and International Migration' was given by Ms. Rahnuma Salam Khan (Deputy Chief, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment); which was followed by open discussion and speeches from the guests. Mr. Hazrat Ali (Additional Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment), was the chair of the seminar.

## 12.18 December, 2015: International Migrants Day

On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2000 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the 18 December as "International Migrants Day" in order to underline "the need to make further efforts to ensure respect for the human rights as fundamental freedoms of all migrants" and invited member states as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to observe this day by inter alia, undertaking advocacy efforts relating to the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants.

WARBE Development Foundation has been one of the Migrants' rights upholders advocating for the recognition of the 18 December as International Migrants Day and has been observing, since its inception, every year the "Day of Solidarity with Migrant Workers and Members of

their Families” on the 18 December in celebration of the International Convention on the **Protection of the Rights of all Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families.**



This year 2015, the International Migrants Day was celebrated at National Level with due enthusiasm. The Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment (MEWOE) took the leadership to celebrate the Day in collaboration with civil society organizations, migrant associations, UN organizations and private agencies. The Day is observed with the slogan

**“BISHOMOY OVIBASHION, SHOMRIDHIO DESH, UTSHOBER JIBON”**. It means Justice and safety is the Migrants right and we all promise to ensure it. Different activities including rally, discussion and cultural performances have taken place during a daylong programme.

## 13.27th 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

## 14. 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 migrations are a transnational phenomenon, WARBE Development Foundation pays special attention to inter-regional and international dialogue. To achieve this goal, the WARBE DF established partnerships with numerous of regional and international migrants' organizations. Moreover, activities at the international level are for us an opportunity to learn from other countries experiences, to better understand the immigration

policies of receiving countries and regional and/or international conventions can be made.

### **Some example:**

- ECOSOC status
- Global Media Forum



- Colombo Process
- World Social Forum on Migration (WSFM)
- People SAARC
- United Nations Human Rights Counsel (UNHRC), 2002
- International Labor Conference (ILC), 2004
- International NGO Hearings on High Level Dialogue, 2006 & 2013 & PGA
- UNHLD 2006 & 2013
- GFMD, Brussels, Manila, Athens, Mexico, Geneva, Mauritius, Sweden, Turkey & PGA



## Prospects for 2016:

2015 saw an upward trend in migration, where total 555881 migrated abroad. This figure is higher than the previous two years of 2013, & 2014. It can be assumed that this positive trend will be continuing in the year of 2016. Still, there are countless incidents of violence, economic chaos, anarchy and unrest is going on in some parts of Middle East and in Europe, still it is expected that the other regular and receiving countries will open up new labor market for Bangladesh. Remittance levels in 2015 (15.31 billion \$) broke records for all previous years and it is expected that 2016 will see remittances well in excess of the 2015 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.

2015 has been remarkable in the field of female migration which saw an upward female migration flow which is the outcome of certain initiatives and factors. The main reason for this flow was the exploration of new market for the female workers. New labor markets for the female workers opened up in Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and UAE in 2015 which was a prime cause of attraction to them. Besides, Bangladesh government also highly encouraged and promoted this issue to the female workers. Moreover, the females are also becoming more interested about their employment abroad. Also it can be assumed that the number abuse cases towards the women migrant workers will come down sharply and the female migrant workers will enjoy decent work, and there will be less violence occurred to them.

In 2016 there will be a significant increase of safe migration. There are some ongoing bi-lateral and multi-lateral pacts with Malaysia, and many other countries. If these pacts are enforced there will be more migration, and remittances. Also these pacts ensure the rights of the migrant workers. Saudi Arabia has shown interest in taking more male workers from Bangladesh in all categories including professionals such as doctors; engineers etc. Also KSA needs more trained female domestic workers from Bangladesh to meet the local demand. All of these aspects are positive, and are likely to bring positive impacts in 2016 for sure.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be very burning issue for 2016. There have been 17 goals and 169 targets included in this SDGs. And the issue of migration also hits in the SDGs. The indicators are yet to be fixed, but it is expected that they will be fixed by 2016.

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) will be another top most priority event for 2016. This year GFMD will be held in December in Bangladesh where government will be chief organizer. Selected representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) will take part in this big event. Also there is another big event titled People's Global Action (PGA) is to be held in Bangladesh in this year. It will explore many avenues to demonstrate on migration. The governance regarding migration will be discussed in this assembly.

In 2016 WARBE DF will continue its advocacy efforts with a number of specific targets at national level on ILO convention, policy formulation, enforcement of laws and policies. At the international level we will advocate for the granting of voting rights to migrants, the creation of

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a labor attaché position at all Bangladeshi diplomatic missions where there are a significant number of Bangladeshi migrants. It is expected that 2016 will be a year of political peace both at home and abroad.

