Global Compact FOR Migration

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM'26

POLICY BRIEF

Review and Monitoring Progress of Global Compact for Migration in Bangladesh



GCM and Its Review

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is a non-binding framework adopted by United Nations Member States in 2018 to strengthen international cooperation on migration governance, guided by 10 principles and 23 objectives aimed at ensuring safe, regular, rights-based, and people-centred migration. Bangladesh holds a distinctive global position as the initiator of the GCM proposal at the 2016 UN High-Level Meeting on Migration and continues to serve as a Champion Country for its implementation. As part of the four-year review mechanism under the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), Bangladesh will submit a Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the second IMRF in May 2026, outlining progress, challenges, and implementation of its national pledges following the first IMRF in 2022.

To complement the official VNR, WARBE Development Foundation, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and with support from the European Union (EU), conducted a series of five national consultations, including one online, during December 2025 and January 2026 to develop a multi-stakeholder Shadow Report on GCM implementation. The consultations engaged migrants and their networks, civil society organisations, trade unions, financial service providers, academics, experts, rights activists, private sector, media, development partners, policymakers and government officials to capture policy gaps, grassroots realities, and less-heard perspectives, with the Shadow Report to be submitted alongside the government VNR to IMRF 2026 as a collective assessment of Bangladesh's progress over the past four years.



Shadow Report and Policy Brief

The Shadow Report follows the state-led VNR guidelines as a concise 1,250-word document structured in four sections. It is informed by Bangladesh's 2022 VNR, progress on national pledges, the Asia-Pacific GCM Review 2025, and the First IMRF Declaration, based on which key review questions were developed. Guidance was provided by a Core Working Group and an Advisory Group, including representatives from the Bangladesh UN Network on Migration, while consultation participants contributed inputs across clusters of GCM objectives, guiding principles, and pledges.

Core indicators for prioritized objectives were shared in local language, though limited availability of disaggregated migration data constrained detailed data review. The five consultations reaffirmed the need for inclusive dialogue and sustained engagement, generating timely recommendations to strengthen migration governance. While the Shadow Report targets global review processes, the Policy Brief is intended as an advocacy tool to advance migrant rights, safe and orderly migration, and stronger alignment of national policies with the GCM, with stakeholders committed to follow-up beyond IMRF 2026.

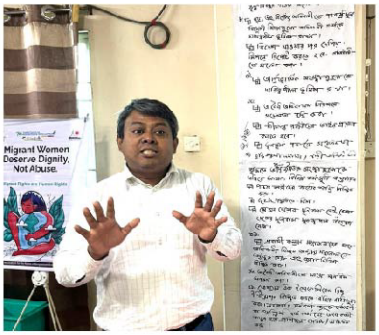











Migrant Women
Deserve Dignity,
Not Abuse.












BANGLADESH


IOM
TOWARDS IMRF 2026


IOM
UN MIGRATION
Dhaka



Policy Recommendations

Global Compact for Migration and Migration Governance

a. Institutionalise and operationalise a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to GCM Action Plan through regular multi-stakeholder coordination involving government, CSOs, trade unions, private sector, recruiting agencies, financial, academia, development partners, and migrant networks.

b. Ensure alignment between the government VNR and the Shadow Report while maintaining the independent monitoring role of civil society.

Rights-Based Migration Governance and Protection

a. Strengthen rights-based migration governance by ensuring access to information, participation, grievance redress, and legal remedies for all migrants, including women, irregular migrants, and climate-affected communities.

b. Improve enforcement of fair recruitment standards, transparency in migration costs and contracts, and accountability mechanisms at national and overseas levels.

c. Approve, Institutionalise and operationalise a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to Migration Governance Framework.

Gender responsiveness

a. Integrate gender equality and non-discrimination across migration policies and services, with specific protections for women and gender diverse migrant workers especially in domestic and care work.

b. Strengthen oversight of recruiting agencies and intermediaries, expand gender-sensitive training, and ensure equal access to welfare, justice, and financial services.









Climate-Induced Mobility and Community Vulnerabilities

a. Recognize climate-induced migration within national migration, climate, and disaster management frameworks.

b. Improve data collection in climate-vulnerable areas, promote coordinated inter-ministerial responses, and invest in skills development and livelihood diversification to reduce distress-driven migration.

Regulating Migration Costs

a. Ensure effective implementation of broker regulation mechanisms and the Overseas Employment Platform.

b. Reduce excessive migration costs through regulation of informal intermediaries, transparent pricing, punitive action for unethical practice in the recruitment process and migration management and grassroots-level migration services at union and upazila levels.



Fair and Ethical Recruitment

a. Review and rationalize recruitment-related fees to ensure compliance with national regulations and international standards.

b. Strengthen oversight of recruiting agencies through mandatory reporting, audits, and enforcement.

c. Improve verification of overseas job offers and work permits to prevent fraud and job mismatches.

Information and Awareness

a. Strengthen pre-decision and pre-departure orientation, integrate migration awareness into education curricula, and expand community-based awareness campaigns on safe migration and trafficking risks through national and local government.

Training and Skills Development

a. Upgrade Technical Training Centres with market-aligned skills, language training, and recognition of prior learning, including women-friendly training facilities.

Data, Technology, and Innovation

a. Improve integrated digital systems across the migration cycle to ensure user-friendly access, data protection, and disaggregated data collection on gender, climate mobility, trafficking, and reintegration for evidence-based policymaking.

b. Set up data and knowledge management unit and ICT unit at BMET.



Services at the Missions Abroad and Crisis Response

a. Enhance consular services through increased staffing, multilingual support, digital complaint systems, and regular reporting.

b. Ensure timely humanitarian assistance, access to justice, dignified repatriation of deceased migrants, and stronger anti-corruption oversight.

c. Set up dedicated support mechanism for women migrants and for legal support.

Remittance, Return and Reintegration

a. Reduce remittance costs, promote formal channels, and review wage structures. Implement the National Reintegration Policy with dedicated budgets, coordination, and monitoring, expanding social protection, financial inclusion, and livelihood support for returnee migrants, especially women and crisis-affected groups.



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