



**Profile of**

## **Bangladeshi Ovibashi Mohila Sramik Association**

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## 1. Basic Information

Name of organization	Bangladeshi Ovibashi Mohila Sramik Association
Acronym Name of Organization	BOMSA
Office Address	132, Anjuman (3 <sup>rd</sup> floor), Darus Salam Tower, Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1216 E-mail: <a href="mailto:bomsa@dhaka.net">bomsa@dhaka.net</a>
Name of General Secretary	Sk. Rumana, 01819432782
Name of the Chairman	Lily Jahan, 01718405546
Name of Contact person	Prabir Kumar Biswas, Deputy Director, 01717894725
Year of Established	1998

## 2. Legal status:

Sl no	Registration authority	Registration no	Date
1	NGO Affairs Bureau, Bangladesh	1920	13.04.2014
2	Ministry of Women and Children's Affair (MoWCA)	Jesbicca/Dhak/250	31.05.2003

## 3. Vision, Mission, Goal and Objectives

### Vision

Ensure safe migration for women migrants and establish them as valued members of Bangladesh society.

### Mission

To give a voice to the women's migrant community and ensure their families are aware of their rights

### Goal

Protect the rights of the women migrant workers

### Objectives:

**Empowerment:** To empower women migrant workers for to claim their rights, to receive proper migration information, to receive related services and to improve their situation in Bangladesh and abroad.

**Awareness-raising:** To raise awareness about inform decision, safe migration, legal channel of migration, migration cost, medical test, migration related different services, migrants' rights as per migration laws and convention, and health risks associated with the migration process, particularly HIV and AIDS.

**Capacity development:** To skills and leadership building for ensuring employment in Bangladesh and abroad.

**Advocacy and Policy Lobby:** To advocate and lobby with policy makers for enacting, amending migration friendly laws and policy

**Support service:** To provide legal assistance through GMC and legal aid unit and reintegration services from public institutions

**Networking:** To create a wider network at national, regional and international level for the protection of female migrants' right.

#### **4. Short Description about BOMSA:**

Bangladeshi Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA) aims to unite and protect the welfare of female migrants in Bangladesh. BOMSA has been working with internal and external women migrants since 1998 to ensure the protection of migrant's rights. It has been registered that some of the returnee women migrants felt to be organized to do self-help, but they needed a platform to raise their issues. Based on this idea, they became organized and formed BOMSA. with the registration of the Department of Women's affairs Government of Bangladesh (DWA Registration no. Jesbikka/Dhaka/250. At that time, it was the only voice raising platform for female migrants in Bangladesh. It was a subscription-based organization, but it could hardly do all the needful for the women migrant's needs. Later it had got its registration from NGO affairs Burau in 2004 (NGO Bureau Reg. No 1920) and started to get donations. BOMSA has the experience to work in eleven districts of Bangladesh. Our work continues to shape the lives of many women, who battle against the odds in foreign lands by offering both pre- and post-departure counseling, technical support and training. From 2004 it has been able to provide supports to nearly 50,453 potential women migrants with migration awareness orientation at the community level, pre-departure training and skill training for the domestic women migrant workers. In case of providing legal aid with pro bono lawyers' supports, BOMSA regularly provides counseling, legal and mediation support to migration fraudulent cases and victims. Up to 2019, BOMSA has dealt more than 30,000 cases regarding migration complaints

BOMSA has created a wider network at national, regional and international level for the protection of female migrants' right. It has a strong network with different national, regional & international networks. At the national level, BOMSA well popular to BMET, local DEMO, local TTC, Expatriate Ministry and government departments and inter-government organizations and institutes. BOMSA is also a regular member of different international and national forum and platforms: GAATW, SAWF, CARAM ASIA, Tanaganita, UN Women, IOM, ILO, GCM, MFA, Government of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Civil Society for Migration (BCSM). Moreover, BOMSA regularly participated in GFMD and PGA to uplift the rights of female migrant workers.

Since its establishment, BOMSA has undertaken many development activities at the grassroots level as well as the national and international levels. BOMSA has already successfully implemented 25 projects and three projects are running which are mentioning in the following table. Some important implemented projects titled, Combating the violence of HHRR of the female migrant workers, Promoting Safe Migration & Local Development in 8 Districts in Bangladesh, Reducing the vulnerability of women migrant workers to STI and HIV/AIDS (2010-2011), Combating Females Trafficking through Females Migration project (2007-2010), Counseling and Economics Reintegration & Remittance Management Project (2009-2010), Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia project (2008-2009), and so on. From September 2016 to May 2017, BOMSA was a partner of ILO WIF "Capacity building of the community-based workers to support and restore the rights of women migrant workers and implementing the existing laws and policies to avoid trafficking in women and girls in the community" project. The project activities have been implemented at Dhaka, Narsingdi, Kishoregonj, Narail, Jashore, Faridpur, Rajbari and Manikgonj district. Under the project BOMSA has some major activities including organizing capacity development training for community workers and volunteers, Ramitance Management Training , organize a sensitizing workshop with trade union members, organizing district roundtable discussion/consultation with local-level stakeholders focusing on issues of women's rights in overseas employment etc.

The organization worked more closely with the MoEWOE, and BMET on the migration issue. BOMSA observed the 18 December, International Migrants Day as a solidarity day since 1998, finally, government observing nationally the 18 December, as International Migrants Day from 2008. Through the BOMSA's strong advocacy with other stakeholders and civil society representatives, Bangladesh Government has ratified the UN Convention "International convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families, 1990 (ICRMW)" without any reservation on April 21, 2011, and enacted the Overseas Employment and Migration Act 2013, Overseas Welfare and Foreign Employment Policy 2016, Overseas employment and migrant management rules 2017 and Wage Earner Board Act, 2018, etc. Moreover, BOMSA regularly participates at the consultation sessions with the government on developing Expatriate welfare Policy, action plan, preparation for Global Compact on Migration (GCM), events organized by PGA (Peoples' Global Action), GFMD (Global Forum on Migration and Development) and so on.

Though BOMSA has extensive experience working at different locations of Bangladesh including Narsingdi, Gazipur, Kishoreganj, Habiganj, Sylhet, Dhaka, Comilla, Brahman Baria, etc. but rarely it has officially set up at all of these areas. It has been working through different networks and CBOs. However, BOMSA has expertise in providing different forms of direct assistance and services to migrant workers both men and women at different stages of migration through linking with different networks, CBOs, and forums. For example, it has a good network with BMET and Expatriate Ministries, GAATW, SAWF, CARAM ASIA, UN Women, GCM, MFA, BCSM and if found any rights violation cases of migrant workers, BOMSA regularly refers cases to these organizations and government bodies.

#### **4. Organizational expertise of BOMSA:**

- **Grassroots program organizing** awareness-raising through the court-yard meeting, cultural programs, street theater, and puppet show etc.
- **Community interactions:** organize bazar meeting, courtyard meetings, meeting with local governments etc.
- **Information dissemination:** Provide information on safe migration, rights of migrant's workers through sticker, Card, leaflet, poster, booklet etc.
- **Training:** Providing Pre-departure orientation training, pre-decision training to potential migrants, Leadership building, Health and Nutrition including STI and HIV/AIDS, Capacity building for local government representatives, ANSAR VDP, religious leader etc.
- **Grievance Mechanism:** Through Grievance Management Committee, BOMSA receives complaints and cases from migrant workers, mediate the complaints/grievances at the local level through GMC, refer and follow-up cases at BMET etc.
- **Free Legal Aid Services:** Provide legal support and rescue of women from abroad through its referral linkage with BMET and different legal aid organization.
- **Research:** Household data collection, survey, conducting FGD, KII, case study collection, case and data analysis and report preparation,
- **Advocacy and, Lobby, Policy Dialogue:** advocacy with local government, issue-based advocacy with Expatriate Welfare Ministry and BMET about safe migration.
- **Materials development:** Development of innovative IEC materials, training materials, Flash card, Flip Chart etc.
- **Documentation:** Research report, policy brief, press-release, conference reports etc.
- **Networking and Strong referral linkage:** BOMSA has the network and strong referral linkage with Expatriate Welfare Ministry and BMET and different legal Aid organization including IBP partners of PROKAS, British Council

## **5. Collaborating Institutions:**

Primarily, BOMSA will implement the project activities by itself, based on its prior experiences and skilled staffs. While it requires to train 100 Recruiting Agents (RAs), BOMSA will make collaboration informally with BAIRA (Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies), as it has a strong network with this association for last 20 years and very conversant to both. Apart from this, BOMSA will also engage the local GMCs (Grievance Management Committee) to deal with migration fraudulence cases (unethical recruitment-related), which were formed with the initiatives of BOMSA and local government. However, while implementing different projects like: projects of DCA, British Council- PROKAS, ILO, MJF etc., BOMSA has formed 16 CBOs as a symbol of sustainability of the local migrant women. Each of its CBOs has 9 members executive committee, with members of 40 to 45. Apart from these CBOs, which are functional to unite the returnee migrant workers to raise their voice and place demands to the government, BOMSA also has strong networks with different local NGOs, who are working at the same intervening areas. These NGOs and CSOs also could be the indirect beneficiaries of the project, whom BOMSA will collaborate within its local migration grievance mechanism.

## **6. Working areas:**

BOMSA works all the districts in Bangladesh with the migration issue