



# Bangladesh

## Country Fact Sheet 2024

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The information contained in this Country Fact Sheet was researched with best intentions and care. However, IOM Germany assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions. Furthermore, IOM Germany cannot be held accountable for conclusions or decisions drawn from the information provided in this Country Fact Sheet.

For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal [www.ReturningfromGermany.de](http://www.ReturningfromGermany.de), or contact your local return and reintegration office.

© IOM August 2024 Information may be outdated due to dynamic developments in the country.

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# 1 Health Care

## General information on health care

There is no universal health insurance coverage in Bangladesh. Patients have to pay out of pocket for the treatment by themselves. The Government of Bangladesh has established more than 13,000 community clinics to provide primary healthcare. Each clinic is intended to serve a population of around 6,000, in addition to the services provided by government hospitals and Upazila health complexes. Detailed information is available at <http://www.communityclinic.gov.bd/>, <http://www.mohfw.gov.bd/>, and <https://www.dghs.gov.bd/>.

## Availability of medical facilities and doctors

Access to government hospitals is available with minimal charge. However accessibility may be difficult due to shortage of and geographic maldistribution of human resources in the health sector. Access to private hospitals is easy, although a patient has to pay a fairly high amount of service fees compared to a government hospital. The quality of care varies in both private and government hospitals and cannot be generalized. Bangladesh lacks a proper patient referral system that results in excessive dependence of the patients on secondary and tertiary hospitals and incurring them unnecessary expenditures. Bangladesh has one of the best government health infrastructures in South Asia. In addition to medical college hospitals and tertiary care hospitals, it has about 435 upazila health complexes and 13,000 satellite clinics. A comprehensive list is available here:

[https://dashboard.dghs.gov.bd/pages/hss\\_menu\\_facility.php?facilitytype\\_id=29&division\\_id=&district\\_id=](https://dashboard.dghs.gov.bd/pages/hss_menu_facility.php?facilitytype_id=29&division_id=&district_id=)

## Admission to medical facilities

Patients can directly visit specialists and the hospital of choice depending on their diagnosis.

## Availability and costs of medication

A detailed list of available medication, as well as related costs is available at <http://www.bddrugs.com/search.php>; (<https://medex.com.bd/>)

## Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** All Bangladeshi citizens can access the government as well as private health care system.

**Registration procedure:** No specific registration procedures are required to access the public and private healthcare facilities. The returnee and their families can register at private or government hospital.

**Required documents:** No specific documents are necessary for accessing healthcare facilities.

# 2 Labour market

## General information on labour market

Under the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA), Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) introduced a new scheme for the skilled workers to get their skills assessed and certified, (<http://www.btebcbt.gov.bd>). Without getting into formal training a person can easily get his/her skills assessed and certified through the process called Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). This RPL can also be helpful for the migrant workers to get formal recognition of skills gained during overseas employment.

## Finding employment

District Employment and Manpower Office (DEMO)s and Technical Training Centers in 64 districts under the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) of the Government of Bangladesh deal with queries related to both in country and overseas employment. Please visit the weblink below for the list of DEMOs in Bangladesh: <https://old.bmet.gov.bd/BMET/index>; <https://www.baira.org.bd/>

Apart from the public agencies many private employment agencies also provide employment information as well. See <http://www.bdjjobs.com/> and <http://bdesh.bdjjobs.com/> for further information.

## Unemployment assistance

The District Employment and Manpower Office (DEMO) provides the following services for unemployed persons: Biometric registration of unemployed person into BMET database, district level campaigns to raise awareness on safe migration, awareness campaign events by organizing docudrama, digital fair, job fair and

migration fair to educate the applicants. As the COVID-19 pandemic emerged globally, and within Bangladesh, there are now a new set of challenges and vulnerabilities with limited access to income-generating activities.

## Further education and training

A wide range of skills training courses and RPL assessments are offered by various BTEB Registered Training Organizations (RTO)s and Registered Assessment Centers (RAC)s. The name and location of BTEB RTO and RAC can easily be found by accessing the Training/Assessment Centers under BTEB website (<http://www.btebcbt.gov.bd>)

## Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** Please check the individual websites listed here for eligibility and requirements.

**Registration procedure:** Please check the individual websites listed here for specific registration procedures.

**Required documents:** Depending on support or training requirements, certification of skills may be helpful.



### 3 Housing

#### General information on housing

Most of the population of Bangladesh is centred in Dhaka as is the most densely industrialized locales in the nation. There is a considerable difference in the pricing of accommodation units by region and by area. For returnees interested in constructing a house, the main requirement is that the land is solely owned and that the returnee acquires relevant approvals (i.e. Approval from City Corporation, approval for electricity, gas line connection and water supply). The costs for construction per square feet of building will vary depending on the location of the dwelling, the quality of the materials, and the communal taxes, with the minimum cost range from 50,000-60,000 EUR in the urban areas. It further can vary with land registration fee, Government taxes and so on. Price of land is a major determinant of housing and land price has increased very rapidly in almost all urban areas in Dhaka and other major cities of the country. For example, inside cities, the price of land ranges from 200 – 1000 EUR per square feet. With a rising population and increasing housing demand, apartment culture has grown up in the country.

#### Finding accommodation

For renting accommodation in Bangladesh, the main precondition is a rental contract, which is concluded between the landlord and the tenant. The rental contract must be in written form on stamp papers, signed by both parties, and certified by a notary. Usually, landlords prefer the rental agreement to be concluded on an average of one year, and no less than three months. The costs for maintenance, such as bills

for electricity, water, heating, as well as small repairs, are covered by the tenant. Relevant prices of the utilities can be found in the following links:

Water: <https://dwasa.org.bd/>

Gas: <https://www.titasgas.org.bd/Pages/Home>

Electricity: <https://www.desco.org.bd/bangla/>

There is a large number of real estate agencies in Bangladesh which cover the whole territory of the country or operate in a certain city. Additional information regarding purchase of real estates can be found online. A few of the major ones are as stated below:

<https://www.bproperty.com>

<https://bdnews24.com/classifieds/land/buy-land-in-bangladesh.html>

<https://bikroy.com/en/ads/bangladesh/property>

<https://bikroy.com/en/ads/bangladesh/plots-land>

#### Social grants for housing

Currently, there is no support in terms of housing for socially vulnerable groups in metropolitan areas. Any sort of accommodation must be arranged by the individuals or groups themselves. Housing facilities were previously more available because many people preferred to live in their houses in rural areas. Additionally, the Government of Bangladesh runs a project in rural areas for homeless people called the Ashrayan Project. Under this project, a total of 771,301 families have been rehabilitated so far.

### 3 Housing



Photo: IOM / Olivia Headon 2018

## 4 Social welfare

### Social welfare system

In Bangladesh, the Ministry of social welfare in Bangladesh works on social welfare related matters and key functions of the ministry include formulating and implementing policies relating to social welfare, Improve the standard of living of disadvantaged segments of the population, facilitate registration of voluntary social service organizations, providing education, training and rehabilitation services to the destitute, orphans and helpless children, provide education, training and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities, providing rehabilitation and developmental support to vagrants, juvenile, delinquents and persons prone to social crimes; implementation of probation.

### Pension system

Pension is available for government and selective non-government organizations only in Bangladesh. The latest information on pension can be accessed via the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme. For more information, visit [socialprotection.gov.bd/](http://socialprotection.gov.bd/).

### Vulnerable groups

There are several vulnerable groups that can benefit from assistance. Initiatives in place include Old Age Allowance, Allowances for the Widowed, Deserted and Destitute Women, Allowances for the Financially Insolvent, stipend for Disabled Students, Fund for the Welfare of Acid Burnt and Disables, Livelihood Development of third gender, bedes and others. The focus of this support has been on making the programs more pro-poor. This is being achieved by building

and enhancing administrative systems to help identify the most vulnerable objectively, deliver benefits and services timely and efficiently, and strengthen citizen engagement. Investments in human capacity building and technology have been critical in this process. The services referred here can be accessed from upazila parishad offices and union parishad offices at 492 Upazilas and 4553 unions of the country (local government offices at sub-district and below sub-district levels). IOM's *Bangladesh: Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance* project, funded by European Union<sup>1</sup> provides three types of reintegration support- a) Economic b) Social c) Psychosocial to the returnees from member states of European Union who returned after 2015. Services are directly provided/coordinated by the 10 RSC (Reintegration Service Centers) under the project in Dhaka, Narsingdi, Munshiganj, Cumilla, Noakhali, Khulna, Shariatpur, Sirajganj, Tangail and Sylhet. For detail information, please contact to the Prottasha Hotline: 08000102030. Assistances from Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) target families of deceased migrant workers and sick migrant workers. Support includes financial grants, financial assistance and ambulance help ([www.wewb.gov.bd](http://www.wewb.gov.bd)). The Probashi Kallyan Bank (PKB) offers rehabilitation loans for small business setups to returning migrants ([pkb.gov.bd](http://pkb.gov.bd)).

## 5 Education

### General information on education

The Ministry of Education is in charge of education in Bangladesh. Local policy for primary education and state-funded schools is implemented by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education. All citizens of Bangladesh are required to complete twelve years of compulsory education, which includes eight years of primary school and four years of secondary school. At all levels of schooling, students can choose to receive their education in English or Bangla. Private schools tend to make use of English-based study media while government-sponsored schools use Bangla.

### Cost, loans, and stipends

In public schools, primary and secondary education is funded by the state and is provided free of charge. Private primary and secondary schools are based on the principle of self-financing mostly. The cost of the fees varies, and it depends on the category of the school. For more information, visit <https://moedu.gov.bd/>, <http://www.dshe.gov.bd/>, <http://www.ugc.gov.bd/>.





## 6 Children

### General situation of children and infants

According to UNICEF, Bangladesh has a population of more than 169.8 million people. Around 33% of the population is made up of adolescents, who number over 56.9 million. Bangladesh has one of the world's fastest rates of reduction in infant mortality under the age of five. However, the achievement is hampered by the slow improvement in reducing newborn deaths. Children's stunting is declining at a slower pace. Access to high-quality education and care for school-aged children is a major obstacle. Most schools lack sanitation facilities that cater to the needs of teenage girls and disabled children. The majority of children who do not attend primary school come from urban slums, difficult-to-reach areas, and disaster-prone areas. Bangladesh has a high transition rate from primary to secondary school, but it also has a high dropout rate.

Child marriage is still common in Bangladesh, despite the fact that it is illegal. In reality, one-third of young Bangladeshi girls marry before they reach the age of fifteen. According to tradition, the bride's family must give an amount of money to the groom's family. In some cases, installment payments are made after the wedding. The possibility is that the young girl will be exploited if she does not pay.

### (Non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

Save the Children offers a range of health, education, food security, and emergency preparedness services. Families For Children (FFC) is a non-profit organization in Bangladesh that helps children and women. It is funded by donors and

volunteers. Hope Foundation establishes hospitals and medical clinics in Bangladesh's rural areas to provide basic healthcare to the country's poor. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) supports children in Bangladesh and provides a range of information on the subject. World Vision is a Christian relief and development agency that works with children in more than 100 countries around the world, including Bangladesh. The Manusher Jonno Foundation is a Bangladeshi project that promotes «human rights» and «good governance,» as well as a child protection and development program.



## 7 Contacts

### National Legal Aid Services Organization

145, New Baily Road  
(Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha Building, 7th floor) Dhaka-1000  
directornlaso@gmail.com  
admonitoringnlaso@gmail.com  
Helpline number for legal aid:  
16430(Toll Free)

### National Human Rights Commission

BTMC Bhaban, 8th floor, 7-9  
Kawran bazar  
Dhaka-1215  
<http://www.nhrc.org.bd/>

Technical Training Center (TTC)  
Skills, training  
Nationwide availability  
Bureau of Manpower,  
Employment and Training  
(BMET)  
89/2 Kakrail, Dhaka 1000  
Phone : +880-2-49357972,  
49349925

Dhaka Ahasania Mission  
House-19, Road-12,  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka  
Tel.: 58155869, 9127943,  
9123402, 9123420  
dam.bgd@ahsaniamission.  
org.bd  
[www.ahsaniamission.org.bd](http://www.ahsaniamission.org.bd)

Victim Support Centre  
Dhaka Metropolitan Center,  
Tejgaon Police Station complex,  
Dhaka-1215  
9110885, Mobile: 01745774487,  
01755555544, 01755556645,  
01733219005, 01733219030  
vsc.dmp@dmp.gov.bd  
<http://dmpwsid.gov.bd/>

### Trafficking in Human Beings Unit

02-9345550, 01730-336177

Wage Warner Welfare Board  
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban-71,  
71-72, Old Elephant Road,  
Eskaton Garden, Dhaka  
wewb.gov.bd

BSCIC (Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industry)  
137-138 Motijheel BA/A, Dhaka  
1000  
info@bscic.gov.bd,  
bscic.gov.bd@gmail.com

National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar,  
Dhaka-1207  
9118171  
01711027705  
nimhr@hospi.dghs.gov.bd  
[www.dghs.gov.bd](http://www.dghs.gov.bd)

National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital  
Dhaka Medical College,  
Dhaka-1000  
Tel.: 01911355264,  
01556346637  
[www.dmc.gov.bd](http://www.dmc.gov.bd)  
dmc\_principal@yahoo.com

### Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail,  
Dhaka 1000(For legal assistance: 01715-22020)  
Tel: 0088-02-8391970-2,  
8317185  
mail@blast.org.bd  
[www.blast.org.bd](http://www.blast.org.bd)

SME Foundation  
4 Panthapath, Dhaka-1215  
Tel.: + 880-2-814983, +880-2-8142446, +880-2-9142907,  
+ 88-09669300001-4  
Email: info@smef.org.bd  
Website: [www.smef.org.bd](http://www.smef.org.bd)

Youth Development Training Centre  
Youth Building, 108 Motijheel /  
A, Dhaka-1000  
Tel.: + 88-02-9559389  
dg@dyd.gov.bd  
[www.dyd.gov.bd](http://www.dyd.gov.bd)

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Dhaka-1207  
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International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
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Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh  
+880 2-55044811

## 8 At a glance

### Measures to be taken before return

- **Documents:** Valid travel documents.
- **Education:** Certificates/diplomas/degrees of education/training completed in Germany, both for oneself and dependent children or valid documental proof of attendance in educational institution/s in Germany.
- **Health:** Medical records or treatment history if any (in English).

### Measures to be taken upon arrival

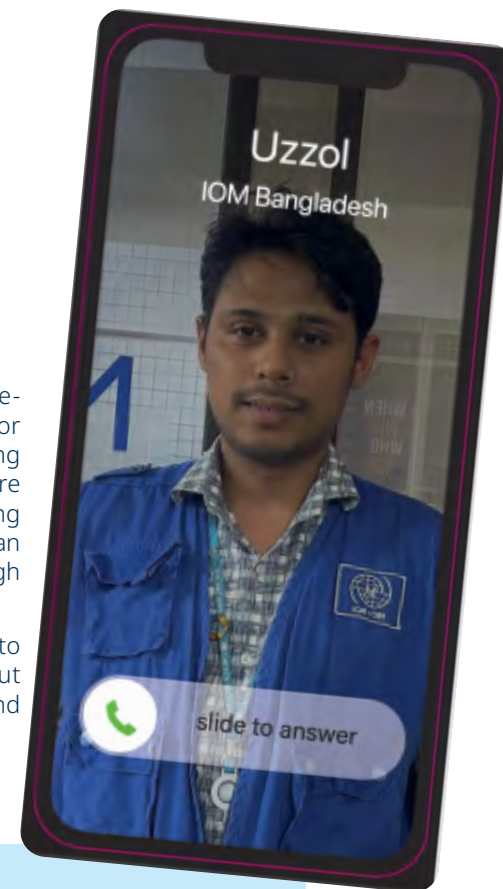
- **Immigration:** Arrival with the one-time travel permit or emergency travel permit delays the immigration process. The Immigration authority verifies the information, and the returnee may face certain queries for that. The returnee should cooperate to respond to the queries. The travel permit is kept with the immigration.
- **Documents:** If the returnee does not have any valid identity document, he/she should apply for National ID card and Birth Certificate. This is one of the obvious documents to get different facilities including issuing new passports, opening a bank account etc. The returnee may consider the referral mechanism to get the required service for him/her.

## 9 Virtual Counselling

### Migrant assistance in Bangladesh

The Virtual Counselling project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Germany. Migrants living in Germany who are considering a return are offered return and reintegration counselling by IOM staff in Bangladesh. Local IOM staff can be contacted in Bangla and English through online messengers.

This service aims to empower migrants to return in dignity by informing them about various return and reintegration options and assistance programmes.



### Contact Uzzol at IOM Bangladesh

WhatsApp: +880 176 666 742 7

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 09:30 to 11:30 a.m. (CET)