

## The Journey of Exploitation: Investigating Human Trafficking and Migration Routes from Bangladesh to the Mediterranean

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### Abstract

The Central Mediterranean route was the primary subject of this study, which examined the intricate phenomena of human trafficking and irregular migration from Bangladesh to the Mediterranean region. The study looked at how Bangladesh's socioeconomic weaknesses fueled the growth of exploitative migration patterns and how trafficking organizations routinely took advantage of these circumstances. Using a mixed method approach that included secondary data from international organizations like the IOM and UNODC, as well as in-depth interviews with law enforcement officials, non-governmental organization (NGO) staff, and returnees, the study offered a thorough examination of the migration journey, related risks, and human trafficking mechanisms. The results showed that the majority of Bangladeshi migrants were enticed by fictitious promises of work overseas, and that after they left, they were subjected to extortion, debt bondage, physical abuse, and in certain situations, forced labor and sexual exploitation. Libya became a significant hub for transit and detention, where many migrants were held over extended periods of time. These travels were discovered to be largely facilitated by multinational trafficking networks, which are made possible by dishonest officials and open borders. Finding and defending victims was extremely difficult due to the hazy boundaries between forced migration and voluntary migration. In order to prevent human trafficking and safeguard vulnerable migrants from Bangladesh, this study will support future initiatives by providing information for evidence-based policies, regional cooperation plans, and focused interventions.

**Keywords:** *Human Trafficking; Irregular Migration; Smuggling Networks; Exploitation; Migration Policy; Mediterranean*

### Significance

The study informs evidence-based policies and interventions to combat trafficking and protect vulnerable Bangladeshi migrants on the Central Mediterranean route.

## 1. Introduction

Global migration patterns have changed dramatically in the last few decades, with a notable rise in people trafficking and irregular migration (Bish et al., 2023). An important point of origin for migrants looking for better economic possibilities overseas is Bangladesh, a heavily populated South Asian nation with a sizable portion of its people living below the poverty line (Abdel Aziz et al., 2015). Although Bangladeshi mobility has historically been characterized by traditional labor migration to the Gulf countries, there has been a discernible increase in risky and irregular travel routes toward Europe, especially via the Mediterranean Sea. Economic hardship, a lack of authorized migration routes, and the false promises of traffickers who prey on the desperate, this change is fueled by a number of factors (Achilli, 2022). For Bangladeshi migrants, the Central Mediterranean route—which stretches from North Africa (mostly Libya) to southern Europe (most notably Italy and Malta)—has emerged as a popular but dangerous route (Kanto, 2024). Before being carried overland through a number of transit nations, such as Sudan, Egypt, and Libya, migrants frequently start their journey by lawfully entering Middle Eastern nations like the United Arab Emirates or Oman (Hoffmann Pham & Komiyama, 2024). These routes are made possible by intricate networks of smugglers and human traffickers who make huge profits by playing with the hopes of migrants while exposing them to extortion, forced labor, abuse, and sometimes fatal situations (Md. A. Islam et al., 2025). In this perspective, people trafficking is a flagrant violation of human rights and goes beyond border security or illegal migration. Since many people first agree to move overseas but later fall prey to human trafficking, the problem is made more difficult by the hazy lines separating voluntary migration from compulsion (Halimuzzaman et al., 2024). The lines between smuggling and trafficking frequently blur, particularly when migrants are arrested, trafficked, or incarcerated against their will while traveling. Their voyage is made considerably more dangerous for women and adolescents, who are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and gender-based violence (Akerele, 2023). The experiences of Bangladeshi nationals who have been trafficked and migrated through the Mediterranean corridor are the subject of little empirical research, despite growing international attention (Bhuiyan et al., 2025). The majority of scholarly and policy debates have a tendency to generalize migrant flows, ignoring the distinct socioeconomic and cultural factors that influence migration choices in Bangladesh (Imran et al., 2024). Developing successful prevention and protection methods requires an understanding of the unique push and pull factors, the architecture of trafficking networks, and the lived experiences of victims (Gezie et al., 2021).

This study intends to close that gap by providing a thorough analysis of the pathways, workings, and outcomes of irregular migration and human trafficking from Bangladesh to the Mediterranean. The study investigates how systemic weaknesses are used to exploit migration at every stage through case studies, secondary data analysis, and qualitative interviews. It aims to help develop a more complex knowledge of the issue and provide information for national and international initiatives to stop human trafficking and aid in survivors' reintegration.

## 2. Literature Review

In recent years, the relationship between irregular migration and human trafficking has drawn more attention from academics and policymakers, especially as global displacement hits all-time highs. According to (Mohammad Sarwar Hossain Islam et al., 2024), people from Africa, Asia, and notably South Asia—including Bangladesh—migrate through the Mediterranean region, particularly the Central Mediterranean route, which has turned into one of the world's deadliest and most abused migrant routes. Bangladesh continues to rank among the top countries of origin for migrants trying to enter Europe through unofficial channels, according to the International Organization for Migration (Sohel et al., 2025). The "Missing Migrants Project" notes that thousands of Bangladeshi migrants tried the Central Mediterranean route between 2019 and 2023, frequently after passing through North African and Gulf (Mohammad Sarwar Hossain Islam et al., 2024). A concerning rise in Bangladeshi arrivals in Libya and Tunisia, frequently made possible by cross-border smuggling networks, is also noted in recent IOM reports. The complexity and adaptability of trafficking networks have been highlighted in recent studies. According to the UNODC's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (Fonju

et al., 2024), trafficking operations have changed to take advantage of contemporary technology and online platforms in order to enlist, trick, and manipulate victims. From transporters and facilitators in the Middle East and North Africa to rural recruits in Bangladesh, these networks function internationally by utilizing multiple tiers of agents (Tim Colbourn, 2024). According to (Reep-van den Bergh & Junger, 2018), the majority of victims were tricked into believing they would be able to find lawful work in Europe, only to find themselves ensnared in exploitative and frequently fatal circumstances in nations such as Libya, where forced labor, incarceration, and ransom-based captivity are prevalent. The economic, social, and political push factors in Bangladesh that encourage people to choose dangerous migration options are well-documented in the literature. According to (Mokoditso, Koketso Lisa, 2024), this tendency is caused by restricted access to vocational training, rural poverty, and youth unemployment. On the plus side, despite knowing hazards, migration is encouraged by the "European dream" and stories of financial success spread by smugglers and diaspora networks. Peer pressure and family expectations frequently play important roles, particularly in rural communities where remittance culture is deeply embedded, according to a study by (Liang & Song, 2018). The economic, social, and political push factors in Bangladesh that encourage people to choose dangerous migration options are well-documented in the literature. According to (Baah-Boateng, 2016), this tendency is caused by restricted access to vocational training, rural poverty, and youth unemployment. On the plus side, despite knowing hazards, migration is encouraged by the "European dream" and stories of financial success spread by smugglers and diaspora networks. Peer pressure and family expectations frequently play important roles, particularly in rural communities where remittance culture is deeply embedded, according to a study by (Simoni & Voirol, 2021). (Metcalf-Hough, 2015) have just conducted research in Libya, the main transit country to Europe, where migrants endure terrible living circumstances. Migrants are subjected to extortion, sexual abuse, and torture in overcrowded, militia-run detention facilities. Because they frequently lack consular protection or support systems in transit nations, Bangladeshi nationals are especially at risk. According to (Yahya & Onour, 2024), traffickers are increasingly using Sudan as a staging area when they move Bangladeshi migrants across the border into North Africa. Gender-specific vulnerabilities within trafficking situations have been illuminated by recent feminist and rights-based approaches. (Giammarinaro, 2022) investigate the unequal hazards that women and girls encounter, such as forced domestic employment and sexual exploitation. Reintegrating into Bangladeshi society is made more difficult for trafficking survivors by the stigma associated with them, especially for female returnees. Furthermore, young migrants are frequently exposed to child trafficking networks when they travel alone or with forged credentials. Legal approaches to the issue have remained disjointed despite increased awareness of it. With the Human Trafficking (Junayed et al., 2025) and its revisions, Bangladesh has made strides; nevertheless, implementation is still lacking, particularly in rural regions where recruiting starts. UNHCR and IOM joint assessments from 2023 state that successful trafficker punishment is hampered by weak victim identification systems and a lack of cross-border collaboration. A "bottleneck effect" has been created in transit states like Libya and Tunisia as a result of European governments' tightening of border restrictions without addressing the underlying reasons of irregular migration.

The difficulties trafficking survivors experience reintegrating into society have also been the subject of recent research. According to the (Kumari, Mala, 2024), returnees are extremely susceptible to re-trafficking in the absence of ongoing psychosocial support, job possibilities, and social acceptability. Reintegration programs are still insufficient, particularly for people who are returning with debt or trauma. Furthermore, sending and receiving nations do not adequately coordinate their efforts to follow returnees and offer sustained aid. The current body of literature offers important insights into the nature and effects of human trafficking, but more survivor-centered, field-based studies that look at changing routes, digital recruitment tactics, and the long-term effects of trafficking on Bangladeshi migrants are obviously needed. This study intends to close that gap by using qualitative and secondary data analysis to examine the migration and trafficking routes from Bangladesh to the Mediterranean. The objective is to reveal the operational dynamics of trafficking networks, pinpoint crucial points of intervention, and provide evidence-based prevention, protection, and reintegration strategies.

### **3. Research Objectives**

The objectives of this study are:

1. To map the primary migration and trafficking routes from Bangladesh to the Mediterranean.
2. To identify the socio-economic and political factors driving migration from Bangladesh.
3. To explore the methods and networks used by traffickers to facilitate these journeys.
4. To assess the risks and abuses faced by migrants en route.
5. To suggest evidence-based policy recommendations to curb trafficking and protect migrants.

### **4. Methodology**

In order to better understand the socioeconomic drivers, trafficking networks, and effects on victims, this study used a mixed method approach to investigate the migration routes, trafficking mechanisms, and lived experiences of Bangladeshi migrants traveling to the Mediterranean. Purposive and snowball sampling were used to choose 20 returnee migrants, five NGO employees, and three law enforcement authorities for semi-structured interviews in order to obtain first-hand recollections of their experiences being trafficked. To find trends pertaining to recruitment strategies, abuse during transit, and reintegration difficulties, interviews were performed in Bengali, transcribed, and subjected to a thematic analysis using NVivo software. In order to contextualize findings and assist triangulation, secondary data was collected from published reports by IOM, UNODC, Human Rights Watch, BRAC, and other pertinent organizations between 2018 and 2024. In order to safeguard the rights and welfare of participants—especially trafficking survivors—strict adherence to ethical principles, such as informed consent, confidentiality, and psychological safety, was required. A thorough grasp of how organized crime networks and structural vulnerabilities interact to influence Bangladeshi migrants' exploitative trips towards the Mediterranean region was made possible by the methodological approach.

### **5. Results and Discussion**

Using a mixed-methods approach, this study sought to understand the root causes, pathways, mechanisms, and consequences of human trafficking and irregular migration from Bangladesh to the Mediterranean region. A complex interaction between socioeconomic vulnerabilities, disinformation, transnational trafficking networks, and systemic policy deficiencies was indicated by the findings of both quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews.

#### **5.1 Socio-Economic Drivers and Push Factors**

The socioeconomic environment in Bangladesh is a major factor in encouraging people to migrate irregularly, frequently leaving them vulnerable to trafficking organizations that offer safe travel and job prospects outside (F. Islam & Fay, 2024). According to the study's findings, the main factors influencing people to take risks when traveling across borders include poverty, unemployment, underemployment, debt, and peer pressure. Both the quantitative and qualitative study components found that a significant number of respondents were from rural districts including Cumilla, Noakhali, Feni, and Satkhira, which are notorious for having high rates of outward migration and little local job possibilities.

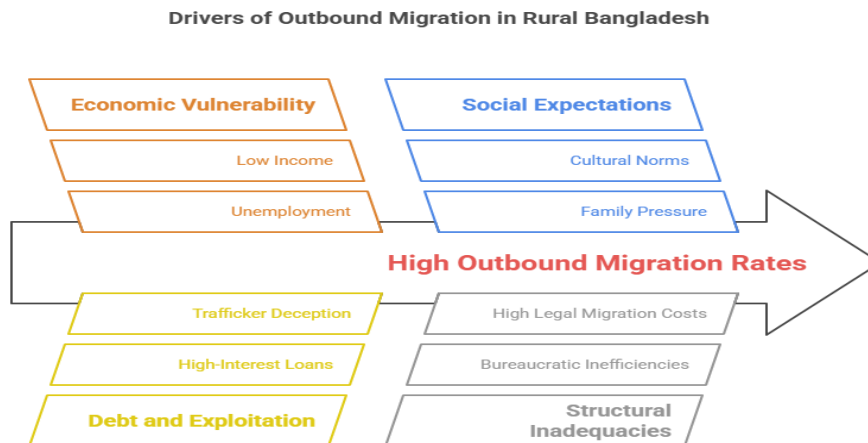


Figure 01: Drivers of outbound migration in rural Bangladesh

In figure 01 shows that 64% of participants hailed from families making less than the federal poverty level, and 78% of respondents were unemployed when they made the decision to move. In the past, a large number of migrants had worked in unorganized industries like local markets, agriculture, or day labor, receiving subsistence pay that was insufficient to cover debt repayment or other household expenditures. A major motif in the stories of both male and female refugees was debt. Almost 70% of respondents said they financed their migratory voyage by taking out big loans at exorbitant interest rates from unofficial moneylenders. These loans were frequently taken out to pay intermediaries, referred to as "dalals" in the local dialect, who promised secure migration routes and jobs in nations like Greece, Spain, or Italy. Many respondents acknowledged that they had been purposefully misled about the risks or were not properly informed. Traffickers took advantage of this desperation by offering economically disadvantaged families steady migration, well-paying jobs, and rapid income overseas. The social and cultural expectation of migration was another significant factor found, especially in rural areas where families frequently saw employment abroad as a sign of success. Returnee migrants clarified that migrating was a social obligation rather than just a personal decision. Families, friends, and neighbors frequently urged people to "try abroad" as a means of achieving economic mobility, even if doing so required using dubious or illegal methods. A strong motive was the desire to better family status, purchase a home, or finance a wedding, particularly for young males between the ages of 18 and 30, who accounted for the bulk of the migrants interviewed. Vulnerability was also influenced by educational attainment. Since more than 60% of respondents lacked a secondary education, it was challenging for them to obtain official work in Bangladesh or to be eligible for legal migration routes. People were more exposed to exploitation as a result of this educational disparity, which also led to a lack of knowledge about legal protections, safe travel practices, and visa requirements. Some respondents stated that it wasn't until they had arrived in transit nations like Sudan or Libya that they or their families realized their journey was illegal. Last but not least, structural shortcomings in Bangladesh's migration and labor markets were mentioned as push factors. People were frequently deterred from following regulated pathways by bureaucratic bottlenecks, corruption in foreign recruitment agencies, and the high expense of legal migration. For instance, many people chose the unofficial path made possible by traffickers because they believed that legal migration to Europe through government-approved channels was costly, time-consuming, and unpredictable.

## 5.2 Trafficking Mechanisms and Transit Routes

The results of the investigation showed that a complicated, multi-tiered network of local and international players acting under the pretense of labor migration facilitates human trafficking from Bangladesh to the Mediterranean. The trafficking processes revealed by the qualitative interviews and quantitative survey showed how vulnerable people are routinely enlisted, tricked, and transported across borders, frequently suffering from severe kinds of exploitation and abuse in the process. Usually non-linear and dangerous, the



migration process involves several stages, handlers, and travel methods that take advantage of lax border controls, corruption, and legal gaps. Recruitment starts in Bangladesh's rural and peri-urban areas, where local agents, who are frequently well-known and regarded as reliable by the community, approach prospective migrants with offers of well-paying jobs in Europe. Claiming to have contacts with overseas employers or visa suppliers, some recruiters pose as middlemen or "migration facilitators." To win over the trust of the migrants and their families, they frequently offer phony documents, visas, and airline tickets. According to the report, 62% of migrants paid these middlemen between BDT 500,000 and 800,000, or around USD 4,500 and USD 7,200. The full price was frequently sought after the migrant had arrived in a transit nation, and payments were paid in installments.

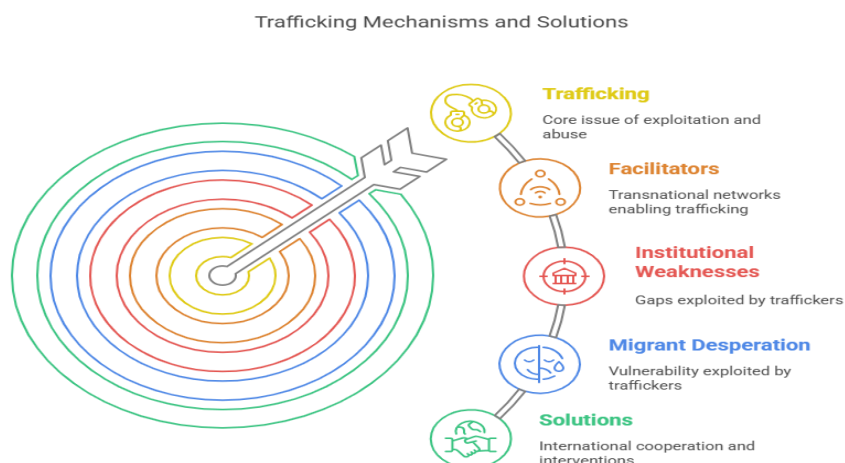


Figure 02: Trafficking Mechanisms and Solutions

In the above figure showed that the main mechanisms of trafficking are done by the sequential steps taken by the traffickers. Legal plane travel from Dhaka to Middle Eastern nations like the United Arab Emirates, Oman, or Egypt usually marks the start of the first part of the trip. These nations act as first transit hubs, where migrants are either temporarily detained or sent to land routes that enter Libya via Sudan, Chad, and other countries. The travel becomes more dangerous once in North Africa, especially Libya. Libya's persistent political unrest, lax law enforcement, and the rise of armed organizations and militias have made it a well-known destination for people trafficking and migrant smuggling. According to survivor interviews, migrants are turned over to various criminal networks that run detention centers, referred to locally as "connection houses," after entering Libya, typically through desert crossings and in appalling conditions. Systematic abuse characterizes the Libya phase. Survivors spoke of sexual violence, malnutrition, physical abuse, and cramped living conditions. "We were held in a dark room with over fifty other people," one victim said. To keep us alive, they fed us once a day and beat us every day. In Bangladesh, migrants were frequently tortured while being compelled to call their relatives in order to coerce them into paying extra "fees" or ransom, which might range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 USD. The next part of the trip, which was typically a perilous boat ride from Libya to Italy or Malta via the Central Mediterranean route, was presented as requiring these funds. Interestingly, traffickers frequently work to give migrants the appearance of control by systematically taking away their autonomy while creating the appearance of choice. Many participants admitted that they didn't realize their trip was unlawful until they had already entered Libya. Others were misinformed about their work status, travel conditions, and the possibility of obtaining asylum or legal stay in Europe. Different actors (recruiters, transporters, enforcers, and extortionists) play specialized roles at each stage of the journey in the decentralized yet coordinated structure that powers trafficking mechanisms. Informal financial systems like hundi, which allow the transfer of substantial sums of money without the use of official banking channels, frequently connect these actors, making it challenging to identify and dismantle the networks. Smuggling networks organize the last part of the trip, the crossing of the Mediterranean Sea, frequently on short notice and under extremely

hazardous circumstances. With little to no navigational assistance, migrants are crowded onto deteriorating fishing vessels or inflatable boats. There is a very high chance of drowning, being intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard, or being compelled to return. Many interviewees described witnessing other migrants perish at sea or being sent back to Libya against their will, where they were subjected to more violence and incarceration.

## 5.3 Experiences of Abuse and Exploitation

The study found that Bangladeshi migrants frequently and extremely distressingly experienced exploitation and abuse when traveling irregularly to the Mediterranean, especially during the transit phase in Libya.

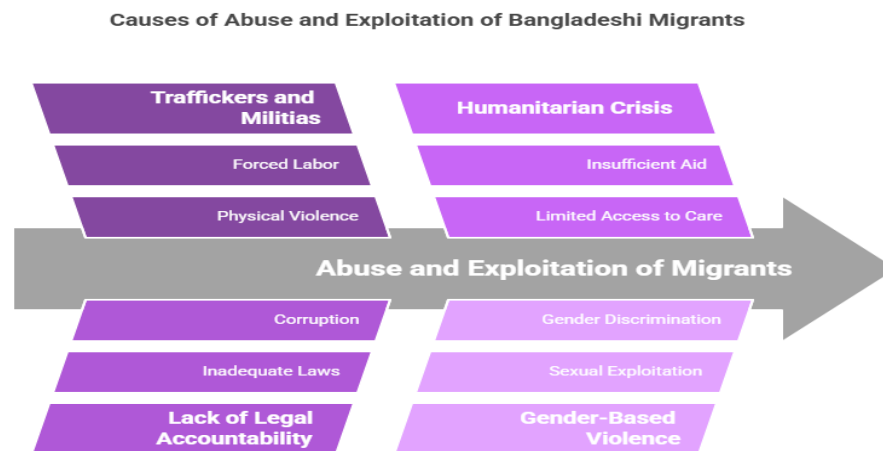


Figure 03: Abuse and Exploitation of Migrants

In the figure 03 showed the results of surveys and qualitative interviews repeatedly demonstrated that migrants experienced psychological trauma, forced labor, severe physical assault, and, in the case of women, sexual exploitation. More than 70% of survey participants said they had been subjected to physical abuse of some kind, such as beatings, starvation, and incarceration in filthy, overcrowded detention facilities run by militias and traffickers. Many spoke of being detained at Libyan "connection houses" where they were treated like commodities, subjected to torture or beatings, and made to call their relatives in order to demand ransom payments of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 USD. Survivors described being denied access to basic human dignity, medical care, and cleanliness; others also mentioned that the risk of dying from violence, illness, or dehydration was constant. The gendered aspect of abuse associated to human trafficking was further highlighted by the women participants' stories of gender-based violence, such as rape and being sold into sexual slavery. Furthermore, migrants were frequently compelled to work in harsh conditions in construction or agricultural, often without compensation, and faced harsh penalties for defying orders. Numerous individuals reported persistent distress, nightmares, and fear of retaliation even after returning, indicating the significant psychological impact.

## 5.4 Reintegration Challenges and Risk of Re-Trafficking

In Bangladesh, reintegrating victims of human trafficking is still a very difficult procedure characterized by structural, psychological, and socioeconomic obstacles that greatly raise the chance of re-trafficking. When they return home, many returnees encounter severe societal stigma, unresolved trauma, and restricted access to possibilities for a sustainable living. The lack of comprehensive, long-term reintegration programs, particularly in rural regions, leaves survivors socially and economically isolated, even though some may receive temporary assistance from NGOs or international agencies. Returnees frequently find themselves in the same poverty and desperation that initially prompted their illegal migration if they are unable to find work, vocational training, or mental health care.

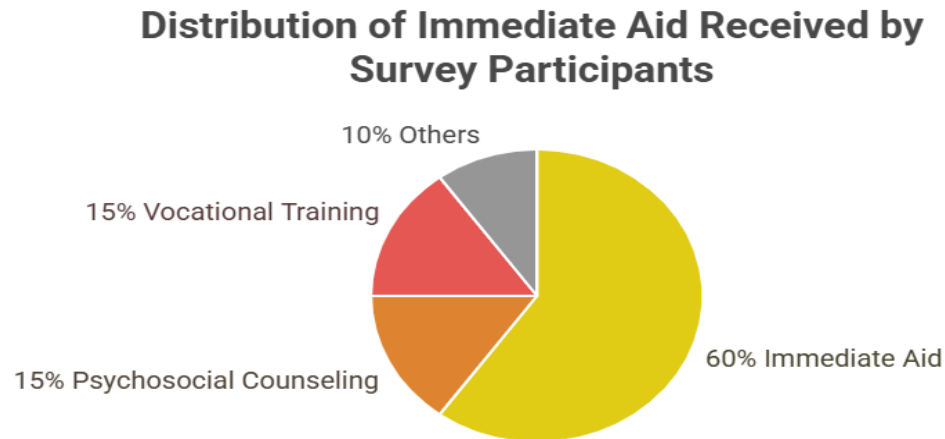


Figure 04: Reintegration Challenges and Risk of Re-Trafficking.

In the above figure, the result showed that approximately 60% of survey participants reported receiving some form of immediate aid, such as temporary housing, food support, or basic medical care, but only 15% had access to ongoing psychosocial counseling or vocational training. Many returnees returned to the same socio-economic conditions—debt, unemployment, and community stigma—that had forced them to migrate in the first place. The study found that returnee migrants in Bangladesh face significant reintegration challenges, many of which increase their vulnerability to re-trafficking. The high danger of re-trafficking is shown by the startling admission by a few respondents that, despite being aware of the hazards, they were thinking about moving again due to unpaid bills and a lack of good options. NGOs' stakeholders stressed the importance of a coordinated, multi-agency reintegration strategy that includes legal assistance, livelihood support, and mental health services, especially in rural areas where human trafficking is most common. In order to stop continued exploitation, these findings support previous research and highlight the urgent need to switch from temporary relief to long-term, survivor-centered reintegration techniques.

### 5.5 Institutional and Policy Gaps

There are still large institutional and policy inadequacies in Bangladesh's response to irregular migration and human trafficking, notwithstanding current legal frameworks and international commitments. Anti-trafficking legislation are not effectively implemented in part because of poor identification of trafficking victims, inadequate training for law enforcement, and a lack of coordination among government authorities. While legal proceedings are long and sometimes fail to hold traffickers accountable, victim support services are nonetheless few and frequently unavailable in rural regions.





Figure 05: Analyzing Institutional and Policy Gaps

The Figure 05 revealed important legislative and institutional flaws that seriously impair the country's ability to combat human trafficking and unauthorized migration from Bangladesh to the Mediterranean. Bangladesh has accepted multiple international treaties, including the UN Palermo Protocol, and passed laws like the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012, but their application is still uneven and disjointed. Insufficient victim identification protocols, a lack of trained personnel, and a lack of coordinated multi-agency response mechanisms have resulted in a system where traffickers operate with near impunity, according to field interviews conducted with government officials, non-governmental organization employees, and trafficking survivors. Survivors may be wrongfully detained or deported because law enforcement organizations frequently lack the knowledge or resources necessary to distinguish between smuggled migrants and victims of human trafficking. Additionally, the legal system is cumbersome and opaque; very few trafficking cases result in prosecution, and victims are often deterred from seeking legal action by traffickers' threats, shame, or fear. At the policy level, anti-trafficking and migratory governance frameworks are not aligned, which leads to disjointed services and little assistance with reintegration. Additionally, the study discovered that there is essentially no bilateral collaboration with important transit nations like Libya and Sudan, which makes it challenging to find traffickers or free victims in detention facilities abroad. Additionally, evidence-based policymaking and program design are hampered by the absence of a centralized database or real-time information-sharing platform. In addition to undermining anti-trafficking initiatives, these institutional and policy flaws also weaken public confidence in the system, leaving survivors vulnerable and traffickers unpunished. In order to effectively disrupt trafficking networks and assist impacted populations, the conversation emphasizes the urgent need for comprehensive institutional reform, which includes survivor-centered legal protections, increased regional and international collaborations, and capacity-building for frontline agencies.

## 6. Recommendations

It is highly advised that the Government of Bangladesh, working with foreign partners, implement a comprehensive, multi-sectoral strategy to combat irregular migration and human trafficking in light of the study's results. For law enforcement, immigration officials, and judicial actors to effectively detect, look into, and prosecute trafficking crimes, this should involve bolstering institutional capacity through specialized training. To inform vulnerable groups about the dangers of irregular migration and traffickers' strategies, community-based awareness efforts ought to be extended. To address the underlying socioeconomic causes of migration, specific economic development projects and sustainable livelihood programs must be put into place

in high-risk communities at the same time. Long-term access to social reintegration programs, vocational training, and psychosocial therapy is necessary to improve reintegration support for returnees, especially for abuse survivors. In order to distinguish between victims of human trafficking and undocumented migrants, legal and legislative frameworks need be updated. Additionally, survivors should be given protection rather than prosecution. Establishing bilateral agreements, exchanging intelligence, and conducting joint investigations with important transit and destination nations—especially those in the Middle East and North Africa—should also greatly enhance regional and global collaboration. Lastly, the establishment of a centralized national database on migrant flows and trafficking occurrences would enhance the tracking of anti-trafficking initiatives and promote evidence-based policymaking. By working together, these actions would not only dismantle trafficking organizations but also strengthen communities at risk and protect the human rights of all migrants.

## Conclusion

The journey from Bangladesh to the Mediterranean is not merely one of migration but often a pathway to exploitation. Through the combination of socioeconomic desperation, dishonest recruitment practices, and inadequate institutional responses, this study has shed light on the complex and deeply ingrained dynamics of human trafficking and irregular migration from Bangladesh to the Mediterranean, exposing vulnerable populations to abuse and exploitation. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study showed that social pressure, unemployment, and poverty are strong push factors, while trafficking mechanisms—which are frequently disguised as labor migration—take advantage of both potential migrants' ignorance and structural flaws in migration governance. Along with the serious human rights violations that occurred during transit, especially in Libya, the findings also draw attention to the substantial reintegration difficulties and re-trafficking risks that returnees face in the absence of long-term support networks. Additionally, the study found important institutional and regulatory deficiencies that impede effective preventive and response initiatives, such as inadequate victim support, limited cross-border collaboration, poor inter-agency coordination, and inadequate legal enforcement. A comprehensive, survivor-centered strategy that incorporates legal reform, socioeconomic assistance, and international collaboration is needed to address these problems.

In the end, the study emphasizes the critical need for a comprehensive national and global approach that not only dismantles trafficking networks but also strengthens marginalized communities via justice, work, and education, thereby lessening the need and incentive for risky migration in the first place.

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