



**Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees.**

## **WARBE's PROFILE**

## WARBE's ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

**1. Name of organization :** Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees.

**Acronym :** WARBE.

**2. Mailing Address:**

Number: 9/31-D, Eastern Plaza (8<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
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City & Postal Code: Dhaka - 1205,  
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**3. Year founded:**

In the year 1997 and Registered with the Social Welfare Directorate GoB in 1998.

**4. Status of organization:** a) Grassroots - Community Based Organization (CBO)

**5. Introduction:**

Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees – WARBE, is a non-profit community based grassroots migrants’ organization of Bangladesh established in the year 1997, aimed to work for the rights of the migrant workers. 4% of the total migrant workforce of Bangladesh contributes 48% of the countries annual foreign exchange earning. People of various professions are departing for overseas employment in selling their last assets with a view to upgrade their fate. The contribution towards socio-economic development is praiseworthy. Nevertheless despite this toil and moil this unfortunate cluster is mostly neglected victimized and discriminated in every step of their migration.

Hence exclusively returnee migrants with the commitment to stand beside each other, undertake initiative to have formed WARBE. Keeping the view in mind with the “UN Convention 1990” on “The Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Member of their Families”.

- ❖ WARBE is an organization of migrant community (returned migrants, migrants’ family members, migrant workers and immigrants working in different countries in the world).
- ❖ WARBE, Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees was founded by returnee migrant workers in the year 1997.
- ❖ WARBE has two types of members, about 5000 Corporate members at the Thana Forum and more than 20000 Beneficiary members.
- ❖ In the grassroots level the organization has *Thana Members Forum* in the 13 Thanas.
- ❖ Each Thana Members Forum is managed by a elected 11 member *Thana Executive Committee (TEC)*; The President and the Secretary of TEC is ex-officio member of the

Central General Forum (CGF). Founder members of the organization are the life members of the CGF.

- ❖ Members of the CGF elect 13 members to form the *Central Executive Committee (CEC)* for govern the organization.
- ❖ WARBE ensures higher participation of the grassroots migrants and thus became a pure people's organization.
- ❖ WARBE as a grassroots community based organization (CBO) of migrant workers in Bangladesh has taken the lead to promote safe migration and social, economical and psychological reintegration of the returnee/repatriated migrants.

WARBE took the pioneer role in Bangladesh as an association of Migrant workers, with the following specific objectives & goal:

#### **6. Objectives & Goals of WARBE:**

- ❖ Organize a strong platform for migrants workers policy advocacy to achieve their rights dignity at home and abroad.
- ❖ Savings, trainings & investment of migrants for better reintegration and sustainable economical & social development.
- ❖ Migrant community development through establishing their Human Rights.
- ❖ Ensure safe and regular migration with information, knowledge and education.
- ❖ Develop livelihood options with skilled training for alternative to migration.

#### **8. Major Activities of WARBE:**

- ❖ Awareness raising for safe migration and reintegration.
- ❖ Migrant savings and Alternative investment (MSAI) for Community Development and Reintegration.
- ❖ Policy Advocacy and Networking
- ❖ Pre-departure Orientation and Counseling
- ❖ Campaign for the Ratification of the UN Convention 1990 and ILO Convention 97 & 143
- ❖ Campaign for "Free Labor Movement" by the WTO - *GATAS Mode 4* in the face of globalization.
- ❖ Facilitate skill development for rehabilitation, reintegration and alternative to migration

## 9. Links with other Organizations:

### ***a) Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU)***

RMMRU the Dhaka University based Unit was established in 1996 as an interdisciplinary research institution. Initially refugee issues have been the main focus of its activities, since 1997 the Unit has become more and more involved in migration related studies and has been actively engaged in advocacy work on migrant workers of Bangladesh. WARBE from the very beginning working closely with RMMRU in different works on research and advocacy.

### ***b) Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK)***

ASK is one of the leading human rights and legal aid organizations of the country. ASK have been involved in research, legal aid and advocacy work for the Bangladeshi migrant workers since 1987. ASK is a member of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA). WARBE has a good working relationship with ASK. In collaboration with other organizations including WARBE it has lobbied relevant ministries on migrant workers issues and for the ratification of the UN Convention 1990.

### ***c) Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA)***

BNWLA was formed in 1979 at the initiative of some prominent women lawyers of Bangladesh, and subsequently registered as a legal body in 1981. The organization works for the uplift of women by providing legal aid, conducting training on rights of women lobbying for necessary reforms of the existing laws. BNWLA has been working on human trafficking issues since 1991. The organizations provided legal aid to the female migrant workers. WARBE has been working closely in different migrant trafficking issues, including government ban on unskilled women labour migration and children trafficked as a camel jockey to the Middle Eastern countries

### ***d) Solidarity Center /Bangladesh:***

American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS) an international NGO have a Solidarity Center in Dhaka and working for the empowerment of women garments workers of Bangladesh. They have opened a Working Women Education Center (WWEC) targeting women garment workers and bringing them information on vital issues that effect in their lives and at work. The main subjects discussed at the education center are women's rights, labour rights, family laws, sexual harassment, health issues, labour migration/overseas job and trafficking etc. These educational programs are participated by prominent NGO's and organizations like Bangladesh Legal Aid Trust (BLAST), ASK, BNWLA and WARBE.

WARBE is a member of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) and has been elected Executive Council Member from the South Asian region and worked in various issues with the MFA member organizations from different countries. WARBE also have networking partnership with MRI and 18 December network. WARBE working with IOM Regional Office since its inception in Dhaka and ILO Dhaka office.

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Some Photo of WARBE' Activities:

