

Please cite as: EUAA, '8.6.2. Illegal money lending ' in *COI Report - Bangladesh: Country Focus*, August 2025.

8.6.2. Illegal money lending

As reported in the EUAA COI Report: Bangladesh – Country Focus 2024, Bangladeshis face high costs of migrating abroad, including fees of recruitment agencies and other intermediaries.1174 Many Bangladeshi migrants are therefore indebted,1175 including victims of trafficking in human beings.1176 Some have been facing exploitative labour conditions to repay loans taken from legal recruitment agencies or unlicensed brokers,1177 who sometimes convey false and misleading information about work prospects abroad.1178

Lending money with exorbitant interest rates is illegal in Bangladesh. According to the Daily Star, people living in slums commonly find themselves in a vicious circle of debts, and many who cannot repay their loans flee the slums in fear of loan sharks.1179 In April 2025, four men described as ‘local loan sharks’ allegedly beat a man to death in Biral, Rangpur Division, for failing to repay parts of a loan.1180 After a visit to Bangladesh in 31 October–9 November 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, Mullally, stated that ‘returned migrant workers with significant debts are at continued risk of exploitation and face reprisals and threats because of difficulties in repaying debts and securing new employment’.1181 The NGO Justice and Care reported that ‘failure to pay can have severe economical, reputational and physical’ consequences for migrants and their families.1182 Sources also reported in 2023 on illegal recruiters not consistently being held accountable.1183

- 1174

  UN OHCHR, Preliminary observations of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms Siobhán Mullally, 9 November 2022, url, para. 21; Walk Free, Modern slavery in Bangladesh, 14 November 2023, url, p. 2; Justice and Care, Issue Brief – Labour migration and modern slavery victimisation: Bangladesh as a case study, June 2023, url, p. 1

- 1175

  Justice and Care, Issue Brief – Labour migration and modern slavery victimisation: Bangladesh as a case study,

- 1176

UN OHCHR, Preliminary observations of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms Siobhán Mullally, 9 November 2022, url, para. 23; Walk Free, Modern slavery in Bangladesh, 14 November 2023, url, p. 2

- 1177

  Justice and Care, Issue Brief – Labour migration and modern slavery victimisation: Bangladesh as a case study,

- 1178

  Walk Free, Modern slavery in Bangladesh, 14 November 2023, url, p. 2; See also: AP, Migrant workers in Malaysia seek unpaid wages from a supplier to Japanese companies, 21 May 2025, url

- 1179

  Daily Star (The), Debt, desperation and displacement, 20 September 2024, url

- 1180

  Dhaka Tribune, Murder case filed over death of Bhabesh Chandra Roy in Dinajpur, 21 April 2025, url

- 1181

  UN OHCHR, Preliminary observations of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms Siobhán Mullally, 9 November 2022, url, para. 21

- 1182

  Justice and Care, Issue Brief – Labour migration and modern slavery victimisation: Bangladesh as a case study,

- 1183

  Justice and Care, Issue Brief – Labour migration and modern slavery victimisation: Bangladesh as a case study, June 2023, url, p. 2; USA, USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh, 15 June 2023, url

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu