



IOM engages migrant communities in a discussion on safe migration. © IOM 2022/Miko Alazas

ASIA REGIONAL MIGRATION PROGRAM

The migration and mobility landscape in South, South-East, and Central Asia is dynamic, diverse and complex, characterized by circular and seasonal migration, regular and irregular migration, large populations of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people and stateless persons.

Due to its largely irregular nature, the exact magnitude of migration trends in the region is unknown. International migration flows in the South and South-East Asia subregions are shaped by two main factors:

1. Disparities between countries in terms of economic and social development; and
2. Demographic differences among the populations in countries of origin and destination countries affecting the labour market supply and demand.

Shocks, including crises and the COVID-19 pandemic, also impact migration. Migrant smuggling routes in the South and Southeast Asia region are well established, with migrants typically smuggled across formal border crossings or along smaller unofficial points along the border. The tolerance towards irregular migration flows also leaves the region very vulnerable to labour exploitation and trafficking.

In response to these challenges, the [Asia Regional Migration Program](#) – now in its 12th phase – aims to strengthen the capacities and resources of governments in Asia to manage complex migration flows in the region, particularly in assisting migrants in vulnerable and crisis situations, through enhanced structures, policies, processes, safe and legal migration pathways, and effective partnerships at the national, subregional, and regional levels.

KEY FACTS



Donor: United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)

Project Duration: October 2022–August 2023

Geographical Coverage:

- South-East Asia: Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam
- South Asia: Bangladesh
- Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Management Site: Bangkok, Thailand

Target Beneficiaries: Government officials; private sector partners, civil society organizations; vulnerable migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, migrants in detention, stranded and smuggled migrants, migrant workers, victims of trafficking, and migrant children; local authorities and traditional leaders; faith-based and civil-society organizations; and communities living in border areas



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1 MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Governments and other key stakeholders develop, adopt and implement improved policy and legal frameworks, organizational structures and practices on migration management.



Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement and judiciary to conduct victim centered investigation, prosecution and adjudication of migrant smugglers and human traffickers.



Improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of migration data and evidence to inform evidence-based approaches and policies.



Provide technical and operational support to government officials, private sector partners, and civil society to improve the management of labour migration, support the empowerment of migrant workers and protect their rights.



Strengthen the knowledge and capacity of governments and partners to provide protection and reintegration support to vulnerable migrants, including persons with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) and migrant children, in a manner that is consistent with international standards and best practices.



Enhance the knowledge and capacity of governments and partners to develop and implement measures related to human mobility in the context of environment and climate change.



CORE OUTCOME AREAS



2 PARTNERSHIPS

Regional, national and local actors leverage and foster multistakeholder partnerships to enhance migration management.



Strengthen transnational, bilateral, and national referral mechanisms to provide protection services to migrants exposed to violence, exploitation, and abuse



Strengthen regional and national level dialogues and processes for improved multi-stakeholder partnerships to better manage migration and provide needs-based protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants.

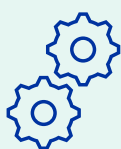


Strengthen bilateral negotiation and cooperation frameworks to improve the management of labor migration, as well as the return and reintegration of vulnerable migrants.



3 CRISIS RESPONSE

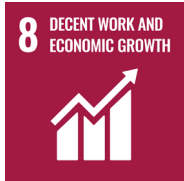
Governments and other key stakeholders more consistently and effectively anticipate, prepare for and respond to migration flows relating to emergency and crisis contexts.



Enhance the technical and operational capacities of government officials and other stakeholders have strengthened to develop and implement emergency consular contingency plans, protocols, SOPs, and other tools ensuring the protection of nationals living abroad.



Strengthen the knowledge, technical and operational capacity of host countries to implement emergency migration management mechanisms that ensure the inclusion and protection of migrants in crisis.



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