



Asia is a dynamic region, within which migration – both internal and international – continues to play a significant role in social and economic development. Manifold population, economic and political changes in recent years directly correlate with emerging complex migration challenges facing countries in Southeast Asia and Central Asia.

Many migration trends in the two sub-regions remain irregular in nature as legal channels can be costly, time-consuming and bureaucratic. As a result, many migrant workers fall victim to human trafficking, labour exploitation, debt bondage or suffer physical and verbal abuse, and threats to themselves and family, often as a means of control by employers, agents or recruiters.

In response to these challenges, the Asia Regional Migration Program aims to strengthen the capacities and resources of Governments in Asia to manage complex migration flows in the region and to support migrants in vulnerable and crisis situations, through enhanced structures, policies, processes, safe and legal migration pathways, and effective partnerships at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels.

The focus of the Program centers on capacity building, moving away from the provision of direct assistance towards efforts to capacitate Government agencies to identify and respond to the individual needs of migrants in vulnerable situations and ensure sustainable and humane migration management.

While activities fall under three distinct pillars, namely migration management, partnerships, and crisis response, they have been designed to be mutually reinforcing and complementary at the national, sub-regional and – where appropriate – regional levels.

KEY FACTS



Donor

US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)

Project Duration

October 2019 - September 2020

Geographical Coverage

Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Management Site

Bangkok, Thailand

Target Beneficiaries

Government Officials, Civil Society, Victims of Trafficking and Vulnerable Migrants

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CORE PILLARS OF IMPLEMENTATION

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

PI

1. Provide consolidated datasets/flow monitoring reports to government counterparts to inform responses to migration challenges and ensure data interoperability and cross-analysis
2. Equip Governments with the knowledge and tools to identify the individual needs of vulnerable migrants, including, but not limited to, victims of trafficking.
3. Enhance the capacity of Governments to provide effective direct assistance and protection-oriented support to vulnerable migrants in accordance with international standards and best practices.
4. Ensure Governments have access to high quality tools and greater in-house expertise to promote safe and regular migration channels, reduce migrant vulnerabilities, and prevent exploitation and abuse.

PARTNERSHIPS

P2

1. Strengthen bilateral cooperation agreements and mechanisms between and amongst sending and receiving countries to manage migration more effectively, enabling them to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities, particularly in facilitating swift and flexible responses within the parameters of bilateral agreements.
2. Facilitate information sharing amongst multi-stakeholder coordination fora, mechanisms and regional platforms for dialogue, including the Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

CRISIS RESPONSE

P3

1. Strengthen the capacity of Governments to develop and implement emergency consular contingency plans to protect their citizens abroad in crisis situations.
2. Equip countries of destination with the knowledge and skills to implement emergency migration management tools to assist and protect migrants in crisis.



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