



1 WELCOME & MEET THE TEAM

Read about what RDH does and how it is aligned to the IOM's Global Migration Data Strategy. Also have a peek into the team and their profiles. See, page 2

PoE Assessment at Boten International Checkpoint © IOM Lao PDR

2 SECONDARY DATA REVIEWS

RDH has undertaken a regional secondary data review of migration data from both IOM and non-IOM sources. It is also in the process of reviewing data from 10 countries. Read about it on Page 3



IOM Indonesia Hygiene Kits Distribution for refugees in Batam © IOM Indonesia

3 THEMATIC STUDIES

Several thematic studies are ongoing to explore the impact of COVID-19 on migrants across the Asia-Pacific. Page 4

4 UPCOMING EVENTS

Get a glimpse of all of RDH's upcoming events and links to other Data initiatives. Find important and interesting facts and figures. See, Page 5

Welcome

RDH - IOM's regional data hub for migration data in Asia and the Pacific

Welcome to the first issue of the Asia-Pacific Regional Data Hub (RDH) quarterly newsletter. Here you will find updates on RDH activities, data-related projects and products, including how we are supporting ROAP Thematic Units and country missions and partners to achieve stronger governance outcomes and positive impact for migrants across the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific RDH was established in 2020 with a mandate to implement IOM's **Global Migration Data Strategy** at the regional level and promote coherence across the multitude of programs and initiatives involving data collection and information management (IM) active across the region. We aim to support evidence-based, strategic, and policy-level discussion on migration through a range of outputs and initiatives.

A major focus of RDH's work is to build the data collection and information management capacity of our colleagues across ROAP and Country Offices. Through targeted capacity building activities and greater engagement between ROAP and

Country Offices, RDH aims to facilitate continuous nurturing and development of IM capacity and expertise, while also promoting cross-fertilisation and information exchange.

RDH is in the process of establishing a regional data warehouse which will store *relevant* migration related data and information collected and studied across the region. Through harmonising common indicators utilised by Asia-Pacific countries, migration data from various sources can be more easily accessed and analysed to provide important information on regional trends while concurrently enhancing information sharing and management.

Funded by MIRAC, the RDH is a relatively new team comprising of data analysis and information management specialists. We aim to work collaboratively and operate in synergy with all ROAP thematic units as well as other IOM data initiatives such as **Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)**, **Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)** and other consolidated data projects.



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WHAT IS THE REGIONAL DATA HUB (RDH) ?

The Regional Data Hub (RDH) aims to enhance the availability of data and promote its use in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve stronger governance outcomes and positive impacts for migrants and societies. In line with the IOM Global Migration Data Strategy, the RDH will build quantitative institutional capacity and foster multi-layered analyses of migration data across the region. The RDH will compliment these activities by ensuring the quality of primary data collection, conducting secondary data analyses, and providing technological solutions linking IOM data portals, warehouses, and research products.



WHY THE REGIONAL DATA HUB ?

The RDH addresses the gap identified by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific regarding the lack of standardized tools and products on migration issues and real-time information on key migration trends. The RDH will develop as a long-term solution to consolidate and monitor both primary and secondary data sources, as well as produce original research in the region. Furthermore, the RDH will provide a space for quantitative migration-related information that will feed into various policy forums, partnerships with regional entities and other migration stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region.



WHO IS THE REGIONAL DATA HUB ?

The RDH consists of a core team specializing in Data Analysis, Research, Visualization, GIS, Database Management System and Business Intelligence. Additionally, the RDH will host thematic experts working on targeted migration issues under the technical supervision of relevant Regional Thematic Specialists. The RDH will operate in synergy with all ROAP units as well as several IOM data initiatives such as DTM, GMDAC and other consolidated data projects. Together, the RDH team will centralize information, leverage quantitative insights, harmonize data processes and disseminate good data practices.



Strengthen the regional evidence base on migration by creating an information baseline and promoting systemic data processes to produce updated migration indicators and quantitative knowledge that will support trend analyses, policy discussions, and external presentations.



Develop the capacity of IOM Offices, Government partners and relevant stakeholders to enhance the migration data portfolio by strengthening data collection methods, standardizing evidence gathering tools and supporting analytical processes, in line with Regional and Global initiatives.



Ensure more evidence-based IOM and United Nations-wide engagement by producing targeted issue and policy briefs, linking relevant data to IOM products, and promoting IOM and UN actionable research and policy guidance through formal and informal dissemination channels.

Secondary data reviews

The **Regional Secondary Data Review (RSDR)** serves as a precursor to the forthcoming Regional Data Warehouse and the 2020 Asia-Pacific Migration Data Report. The purpose of the RSDR is to establish an information baseline identifying official quantitative sources of knowledge related to migration trends, policies, drivers, impacts and characteristics in the Asia-Pacific region. It also highlights gaps and limitations associated with existing data analysis and collection, and references existing reports that make use of it.

This set of resources is designed to be a live document to which new information sources can be added throughout the lifecycle of the RDH. Though it is currently hosted internally, a public-facing version of this database will eventually be made accessible via a dedicated dashboard/web portal.

Complementary to the RSDR, a set of **National Secondary Data Reviews (NSDR)** is also being developed by the RDH team. These research products will review country-level data sources in ten initial countries: **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, The Philippines, and Thailand.**

The NSDRs specifically focus on mapping COVID-19 pandemic-related migration data and SDG-related indicators to create an overview of available statistics at both regional and national levels.

Thematic Areas Covered By RDH



MIGRATION STATISTICS



TYPES OF MIGRATION



MIGRATION POLICY



MIGRATION AND VULNERABILITY



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Country Office IM capacity survey

In December 2020, RDH designed and disseminated a survey to all ROAP Country Offices to map data and information management capacity, processes, gaps, and needs.

Through this survey, COs also identified **data focal points**, primary and secondary data collection projects and partnerships. The survey was sent to all IOM Country Missions, with 29 responses.

Along with the SDRs, the findings from the survey will assist in establishing the Regional Data Warehouse featuring internal and external statistical indicators

A mid-line report analysing survey findings is currently being prepared by RDH. To see results highlighted in the Snapshot, please [click here](#)

Data Focal Points

The RDH in its vision to streamline data request to and from Regional Office, requested Country offices, through its Survey to nominate a Data Focal Point (DFP). These DFP will be a single point of contact in all data related communications and will ensure that they are aware of the ongoing data collection or analysis, and can help make appropriate links or facilitate training coordination with staff. All such requests will be documented and analysed which will help the RDH in building the Regional Data Warehouse.

DTM REMAP (REGIONAL EVIDENCE BASE FOR MIGRATION & POLICY)

Since 2019, **DTM REMAP** has produced bi-weekly reports monitoring flows of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan. Funded by the European Union, the DTM REMAP team continues to work with IOM Pakistan to collect data on outflows of undocumented Afghan migrants at the Torkham and Chaman border crossing points. Data collected from 3 to 16 January 2021 revealed 197 undocumented Afghan migrants returned to Afghanistan, including 57 through the Torkham border point and 140 through the Chaman border point. Dashboards presenting this data are circulated among operational partners including government counterparts, UN and donor agencies, humanitarian partners and other relevant stakeholders and can be accessed [here](#).

In order to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on population mobility in DTM REMAP countries, the team recently published findings of a Point of Entry (PoE) Analysis covering March to October 2020. This exercise involved mapping and collecting data on locations, statuses and restrictions at common points of entry such as airports, and land and marine border crossing points.

The online tool and database serves as a useful resource for identification and in-depth analysis of PoE trends in target countries, including how exit and entry points and overall mobility, has been restricted or altered due to the pandemic. A snapshot of findings can be viewed [here](#).

Thematic Studies (COVID-19 Focused)

The RDH has established several studies with thematic specialists to explore the impact of COVID-19 on migrants across the Asia-Pacific.

One such consultancy assignment seeks to understand the impact of COVID-19 on **human-trafficking trends and counter-trafficking (CT)** activities at national and sub-regional levels (see 1, below). The primary outputs of this CT consultancy will be the production of an inception report outlining key areas of focus for this research, and the development of a common research methodology to guide comparison and synthesis of research conducted at national and sub-regional levels.

Since November 2020, the RDH and the MPA Unit have been supporting consultancy activities through sharing reading materials, facilitating meetings, and reviewing submitted deliverables.

A second consultancy (see 2, below) is currently conducting research to identify and analyse specific trends associated with

the impact of COVID-19 on **remittances flows** in selected Asia-Pacific nations. Through analysis of policy documents combined with 2020 data from Central Banks, the private sector and other sources, the assignment will inform a future scope of work on migration and remittances in the region. Research outputs and data collected by consultants will be compiled into final reports to inform future RDH activities.

A third consultancy (see 3, below) is investigating the risks and impacts of COVID-19 in deepening vulnerability and inequality experienced by women and girls across the Asia-Pacific region, including rates of **gender-based violence (GBV)**. Research outputs and data collected by the consultants will be compiled into final reports to inform future RDH activities.

Study synopsis

1 COUNTER TRAFFICKING - IOM country offices are planning to conduct research to understand how COVID-19 and government responses have impacted human trafficking trends and counter-trafficking activities at a national or sub-regional level in Asia and the Pacific. In this respect, IOM ROAP has hired a consultant to produce an inception report outlining key areas of focus for the research on COVID-19 impacts on human trafficking trends. Secondly, the consultant will develop a common research methodology applicable to national and sub-regional research for potential comparison and synthesis. MPA and RDH have been guiding the consultant's work by sharing reading materials, facilitating meetings and reviewing the submitted deliverables, ie. the annotated outline of the inception report, the literature review and the methodology for the national research. The final working paper is expected to be submitted by end of first quarter of 2021.

2 REMITTANCES - Global remittances totaled USD \$706 billion in 2019, with USD \$551 billion flowing to low- and middle-income countries ([World Bank, 2020](#)). With the impacts of COVID-19, there is concern that a significant decrease in remittance flows could push migrant dependent households below the poverty line. The objective of this consultancy assignment is to conduct research to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on migration and remittances to identify and analyse specific trends. Focus countries include **Fiji, Samoa, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Mongolia, The Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia and South Korea**. The research and analysis includes 1) assessing Central Bank data from 2020 related to remittance

inflows and other macroeconomic data, 2) identifying public policies implemented by governments that impacted migrant remittances during COVID-19 and 3) identifying financial or private sector policies/products that impacted migrant remittances. The findings from this assignment will help inform a future scope of work on migration and remittances in the Asia and Pacific region. Report expected beginning of second quarter of 2021.

3 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE - Evidence already shows that many of the risks and impacts of COVID-19 are disproportionately affecting women and girls worldwide, including in the Asia-Pacific region, as the pandemic deepens pre-existing inequalities and exposes vulnerabilities in social and economic systems. These effects, in turn, amplify the impacts of the pandemic for women and girls. Drawing on best practices from selected countries in the region, the objective of this consultancy is to provide a set of recommendations and tools on how to include vulnerable groups of migrant women in humanitarian crises and ensure that women can safely access GBV services during crisis situations.

Upcoming studies

- 01** Integrating Human Mobility into Cross-border Trade, Trade Facilitation, and Border Management in the Greater Mekong Subregion
- 02** Comparative desk review on the regulatory frameworks governing migrant worker accommodations in key countries of destination in Asia Pacific

Updates from ROAP Thematic Units

ROAP COVID TASK FORCE

In the initial eight months of the pandemic, the COVID-19 Core Team collected weekly and then bi-weekly inputs from Country Offices using the KoBo platform to feed into a regularly published situation report. This report provides an up-to-date description of COVID-19 operational activities implemented by Country Offices. Additionally, the COVID-19 Core Team produced a COVID-19 Response Achievements document featuring cumulative data from January 2020 – October 2020. This document focused more on presenting regional impacts of IOM's COVID-19 response and included a set of quantitative indicators, which were also gathered from COs to show the impact. To read the COVID-19 Response Achievements Overview, please [click here](#). Throughout the pandemic, the COVID-19 Core Team collected and analysed data in an ad hoc manner depending on specific sub-regional or country-specific situations. All of these documents were shared broadly with partners, donors and colleagues in Geneva. Furthermore, the Socioeconomic Response Task Team (SERTT) worked closely with the RDH to co-develop MIRAC consultancies related to remittances and migrant worker accommodation. The SERTT and RDH continue to work closely together to support COs in designing SER surveys funded under the COVID-19 MPTF.

MIGRATION PROTECTION & ASSISTANCE (MPA)

In November 2020, RDH worked with the MPA Unit to design a map which visually presented the extent to which MiMOSA was being utilised in the region. In January 2021, RDH and MPA colleagues worked together to produce a map highlighting the various IOM CT projects currently being implemented by COs across the Asia-Pacific. RDH and MPA have recently finalised a questionnaire which will be used to collect information on the data management practices of COs across the region. Specifically, the purpose of this questionnaire is to identify the level of CT and return and reintegration project-level data collected by COs. The questionnaire will be disseminated to COs in February 2021.

IMMIGRATION & BORDER MANAGEMENT (IBM)

The IBM Unit continues to manage the Document Examination Support Centre (DESC) Initiative which, in part, seeks to strengthen data management, analysis of regional trends, and capacity building programmes to assist governments in the Asian region to curb transnational crime and prevent irregular migration. Specifically, DESC supports law enforcement agencies in travel document examination and verification through a combination of data management and protection tools, reporting systems, and capacity building training. By enriching the quality of the data collected, DESC undertakes more solid trends analysis of frauds across the Asia-Pacific region as a regional data and information collection mechanism. From 1-3 February, members of the IBM Unit attended the ANDEX annual meeting to facilitate information exchange among Member States.

MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT (MMP)

RDH is working in close collaboration with the **Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)** to expand and strengthen the Missing Migrants Project (MMP) in the Asia-Pacific region.

The purpose of the MMP is to track migrant deaths, inclusive of refugees and asylum seekers, missing along mixed migration routes worldwide. The data collected will be used to address 10.7.3 of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, the “number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination.”

RDH is supporting MMP to strengthen and improve data collection related to migrant deaths in the region. The project seeks to work with COs and national actors to map out relevant trends and migrant protection issues in the country, and assist verification of incidents involving a migrant death. These discussions will build on the existing data collection networks in individual countries of the region, such as DTM, MPA, and others.

IOM Data Protection

On the 28th of January, IOM marked **Data Protection Day** urging everyone to respect the individual right to privacy. To watch IOM Director General António Vitorino's message on the importance of Data Protection, please click [here](#).

IOM recently launched an **Online Data Protection Training**, now available on iLearn. This training is essential for all IOM personnel in order to learn how to protect the personal data of IOM beneficiaries, while also respecting IOM's internal data protection policies. The training course is available on iLearn via this [link](#).



We are now on Twitter - follow us at [@RDHAsiaPacific](#)

Upcoming Activities

-  1 2020 Asia- Pacific Migration Data Report to be finalised by first half of 2021
- 2 Consultancy Projects expected to be completed by second quarter.
- 3 Staff Learning & Development (SDL) training to take place in three cycles over January to March.
- 4 Regional Data Warehouse development ongoing during 2021

Helpful data links



IOM Regional Data Hub for East and Horn of Africa (Nairobi)



IOM GMDAC's Migration data portal



IOM DTM Human Mobility Impacts monitoring website



UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)



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