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 the complex migration flows in the region, particularly 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 level.

The focus of the Program will center 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
United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)

Project Duration
October 2018 - September 2019

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, Vulnerable Migrants, including Victims of Trafficking and Labour Exploitation, Migrants in Crisis, Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Migrants in Detention, Child Migrants and Unaccompanied Minors

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CORE PILLARS OF IMPLEMENTATION

P1

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

1. Provide consolidated datasets/flow monitoring reports to government counterparts.

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

P2

PARTNERSHIPS

1. Strengthen bilateral cooperation agreements and mechanisms between and amongst sending and receiving countries through harmonized SOPs, bilateral capacity building, bilateral dialogues, and case management meetings,

2. Facilitate information sharing amongst multi-stakeholder coordination fora and mechanisms, including the Almaty Process and Bali Process.

3. Avail effective dialogue platforms between civil society, private sector, and inter-governmental organizations to relevant stakeholders.

P3

CRISIS RESPONSE

1. Improve the awareness of government officials on the unique challenges their nationals can face when a host country is affected by a crisis, and strengthen their capacity to in develop and implement emergency consular contingency plans.

2. Equip countries of destination with the knowledge and skills to implement emergency migration management tools to assist migrants in crisis. Crisis response activities delivered under the Program will aim to enhance planning and response tools that maintain protection of vulnerable migrants during crises or natural disasters.

CONTACT

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