



Why is labour mobility important in Myanmar?

Long-standing and complex migration within and across Myanmar's long borderline is a significant feature of Myanmar society. Pushed by limited livelihoods, poor socio-economic conditions and insecurity resulting from long-term armed conflict, a large number of people from Myanmar has and continues to migrate to countries where there are demands for cheap and low-skilled labour such as Thailand, Malaysia and China. However, current accelerated economic growth may mean that an increasing number of people in Myanmar are able to afford longer-distance migration, possibly leading to a greater diversification of migration flows in terms of destination and skill composition.



IOM's labour migration activities:

- Support Migrant Resource Center (MRCs),
- Develop pre-departure Information on safe migration and build the capacity of relevant stakeholders to deliver safe migration training and campaigns,
- Build capacity of Myanmar's Labour Attachés, and staff of Labour Exchange Offices on protection and migrant-sensitive service delivery
- Provide technical Assistance for bilateral, regional and global collaboration on labour migration,
- Provides support to officials from Myanmar's government officials to participate in ASEAN and global meetings

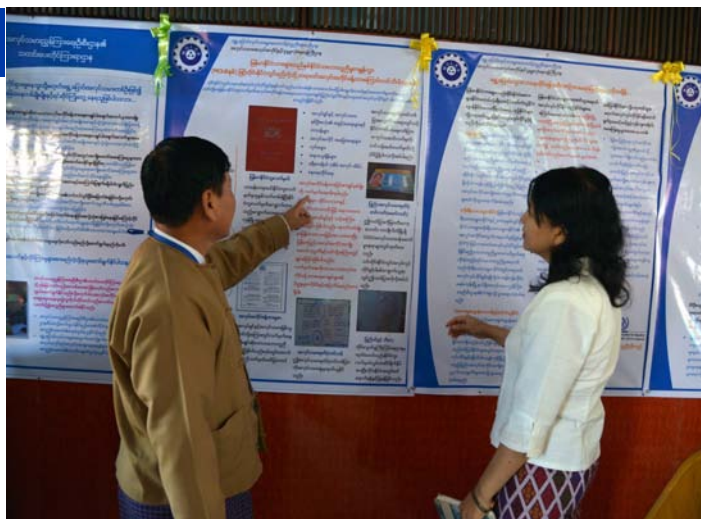
IOM's Myanmar approaches to labour mobility:

IOM's work on labour migration and skill development has the two-fold objective of; (i) ensuring that labour migration is safe and beneficial and; (ii) strengthening the link between labour migration and socio-economic development through enhanced skills mobility and mobility-sensitive skill development. In furthering such objectives, IOM and Myanmar's Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP) cooperated to develop a strategic National Plan of Action for the Management of International Labour Migration 2013–2017. The Plan identifies policy options and activities addressing: Enhanced Governance of Labour Migration, Improved Protection and Empowerment of Migrant Workers, Data Collection and Management and Labour Migration and Development.

Institutional Capacity Building

IOM supports the Government of Myanmar to improve its migration management capacity in the context of national reforms, as well as expand cooperation at bilateral and regional levels. IOM works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MOLIP) as well as selected members of Myanmar's inter-ministerial Overseas Employment Supervisory Committee. IOM Myanmar undertakes a range of essential activities such as (i) organizing capacity building for Myanmar's Labour Attaches in order to ensure the protection of rights of Myanmar's migrant workers abroad and to maximize the benefits of organized labour migration

(ii) establishing Migrant Resource Centers (MRCs) where they act as a hub for information on safe migration and complaints mechanism, (iii) developing Information, Education and Communications (IECs) materials to promote safe migration and protection of migrant workers in the main source areas of Myanmar's migrant and training for Union and State/Regional staff and iv) support development of policy, legislation and bilateral MoUs.



Regional Labour Mobility Cooperation

In close collaboration with relevant ministries in the target countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam (CLMTV) and with support of the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), IOM is developing a multi-year project aimed at promoting poverty reduction in CLMTV. This would enable the migrants from CLMV, especially poor women, to have better employment opportunities and conditions in Thailand, through enhanced skills and knowledge of safe migration, leading to poverty reduction in communities of origin. In Myanmar, the project will be implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MOLIP) and other relevant government agencies responsible for skills development and sending and receiving labour migrants, private skills training providers and NGOs. Through its inception phase, the project will undertake activities such as (i) research and knowledge development, (ii) testing of pre-departure and in-service training for women migrants, (iii) dialogue and cooperation.

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IOM's key partners in labour mobility include Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MOLIP), Local authorities, UN, INGO and LNGO partners.

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