



A DTM Afghanistan team member conducts a consultation with community leaders in Shadayee IDP settlement to collect information on community needs and population size. | © IOM 2021/ Muse Mohammed

1 GENERAL UPDATES

Read about recent RDH activities and how RDH has been supporting regional thematic units and country missions around the region, in line with our three primary objectives and IOM's Global Migration Data Strategy. See [page 2](#).



An immigration official tests passport fraud detection technology during an IOM workshop in Bangkok | © IOM 2021/ Benjamin Suomela

2 RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Find information on recent RDH research products and publications, including the Asia-Pacific 2020 Migration Data Report on [page 3](#).

3 RESEARCH AROUND THE REGION

Read about recent research activities around the region undertaken by IOM consultants, UN agencies, NGOs, think tanks, and other IOM partners on [page 4](#).



A Protection team member assists victims of gender-based violence, children and other vulnerable individuals in Bangladesh. | © IOM 2021

4 THEMATIC STUDIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Get a glimpse of all of RDH's upcoming events, updates on thematic studies, and links to other data initiatives on [page 5](#).

IOM's Regional Hub for Migration Data in Asia and the Pacific

Welcome to the third edition of the Asia-Pacific Regional Data Hub (RDH) quarterly newsletter, covering late June to early September 2021.

Collaboration

In July, RDH collaborated with the IOM **Lao People's Democratic Republic** team to develop a socio-economic survey for the migrants present there. As part of this assignment, the RDH team also provided training on accessing, using and modifying the data collection platform.

In July, RDH supported the **Regional Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Specialist** for the Asia-Pacific in reviewing relevant data on migration and displacement in World Meteorological Organisation's (WMO) report on Asia and the Southwest Pacific.

In August, RDH collaborated with the **Regional Project Support Unit (RPSU)** in IOM ROAP to design visibility documents to demonstrate the ongoing IOM-KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) partnership. RDH designed a synopsis info sheet as well as a briefing paper map that showed active and approved projects worldwide.

In August, RDH worked with colleagues in the **Malaysia** country office to extract and analyse data on Focus Group Discussions carried out to understand COVID-19 related practices and knowledge. The

report stemming from this analysis is crucial to the Government's vaccine roll out for the refugee and migrant community in Malaysia.

In early September, RDH collaborated with the Department of Operations and Emergencies to collate and systematise data on programmatic activities, design maps showcasing areas where activities such as Emergency, Primary Health Care, Protection etc have resumed in **Afghanistan** since 15th August.

Participation

In September, RDH participated in the third meeting of the **Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics (RSG-PSS)** organised by **UNESCAP** (UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific). The event aimed to review the progress of the Regional Strategy and decide on future priority areas and activities, including the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. It also aimed to identify opportunities for knowledge and experience sharing through existing platforms (e.g. Stats Café Series and Data Integration Community of Practice).

RDH presented the findings and insights from its flagship publication- The Asia-Pacific Migration Data Report 2020 to **Defining an Institutional Approach to Protection (DIAP)** group in September.

Updates from ROAP Thematic Units

Immigration and Border Management (IBM) - The Document Examination Support Center (DESC), has recently upgraded the Verifier Travel Document & Bearer (TD&B). The upgraded features include: (1) Additional data collection and new data extraction method; (2) e-Newsletter button; (3) Increased compatibility with machine-readable travel documents; (4) User interface available in multiple languages and most importantly; (5) Interoperability with INTERPOL's Lost and Stolen Document (SLTD) database. The Verifier TD&B would more effectively support the border management and law enforcement agencies in detecting fraudulent documents and imposters, as well as collecting disaggregated data for national and regional trends analysis.

Migrant Protection and Assistance Division (MPA) - MPA has reviewed research and data materials including RDH's 2020 Asia-Pacific Migration Data report, the 2020 World Migration Report, as well as research methodology and surveys to improve reintegration outcomes for Thai/non-Thai VOT, and IOM Thailand's DTM questionnaire on data collection on Rohingya movement in the region. Together with the Emergency and Post Crisis unit (EPC), MPA is participating in a series of DTM and protection webinars for the region to provide protection sensitive guidance for data collection. Further, MPA Unit, together with RDH, organized an internal launch event on a report on the impact of COVID-19 on counter-trafficking trends in the Asia-Pacific region and analysed MiMOSA usage in the region and is currently designing tailored trainings based on the findings from the survey.

DTM: Protection - The Regional Protection and GBV Specialist coordinated with DTM colleagues in ROAP and HQ to mainstream Protection concerns in DTM tools and operations in the region. This included streaming sessions of pre-recorded webinars on Protection Mainstreaming in DTM/IM for Counter-Trafficking in Emergencies, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence. The Regional Specialist and DTM colleagues also provided tailored support to IOM Thailand with a protection review of questionnaires for a data collection activity on Rohingya refugees in the region, as well as support to IOM Myanmar with developing a Protection risk analysis for their ongoing DTM activities.

DTM: REMAP - The team continued to assist the IOM DTM country offices in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq and Pakistan with the implementation and coordination of the Returnee Longitudinal Surveys (RLS). This included preparation of survey tools, data monitoring, data cleaning, data analysis and reporting support. The DTM REMAP Support Team in Bangkok also organized and held a regional coordination meeting between the IOM DTM country offices on the progress of the RLS to ensure regional compatibility and share experiences and best practices. The round 1 reports for [Bangladesh](#) and [Pakistan](#) can be found on the DTM website.

Research and Publication

2020 Asia-Pacific Migration Data Report

Webinar Launch

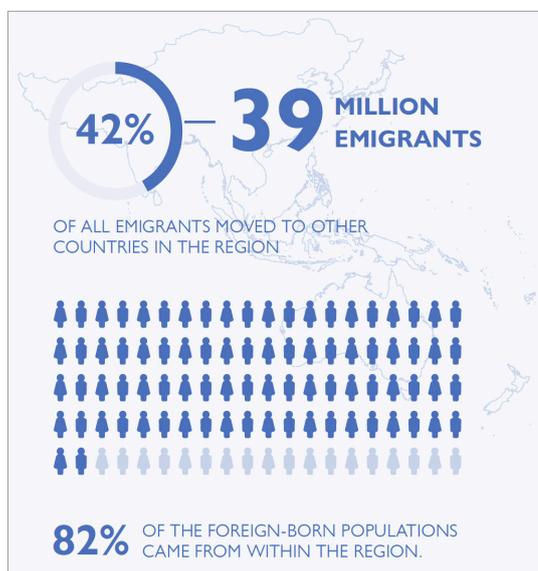
The Regional Data Hub published the Asia-Pacific Migration Data Report 2020 which was virtually launched on August 2021 and introduced by Ms. Elizabeth Collett, Special Adviser to IOM's Director General. The event included a presentation of the Report's findings by the RDH team, as well as a discussion led by several speakers from IOM, UN ESCAP, UNFPA, UNHCR, and the Asian Development Bank. The resource speakers provided valuable inputs in several categories including migration policy and statistics, types of migration, vulnerabilities and development.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Collett said "2020 was an unparalleled year, marked by overlapping crises. The outbreak of COVID-19 disrupted most migration movements, as border closures and containment restrictions reduced mobility worldwide". The report serves as a tool to better understand the rapidly evolving migration dynamics in the region under the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially considering the lack of evidence on the COVID-19 impact on migration, and the exacerbation of pre-existing challenges to migration data collection and hindrance to many related activities.

The Asia-Pacific RDH team lead, Chandan Nayak explained the need for more collaboration among UN agencies and the International community to develop comprehensive information on migration and on projects such as those undertaken by the RDH, including the Migration Data Report. "The pandemic affected and altered migration dynamics, but it also brought forward to us the role of migrants in the society and their potential role in the recovery from the current global crisis", he said.



Report Highlights



In a time of unprecedented social and economic changes, the [Asia-Pacific Migration Data Report 2020](#) presents the latest evidence on the complex and multifaceted migration dynamics in Asia and the Pacific. The report analyses how COVID-19 altered the regional migration landscape in 2020 and identifies lessons learned and future goals to strengthen migration data collection. The report serves as a tool to monitor progress towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration as well as the Migration Governance Indicators and offers evidence-based recommendations to overcome challenges concerning data availability, comprehensiveness and comparability.

As the origin of more than 83 million and the destination of 42 million international migrants, Asia and the Pacific are a relevant region to the study of global migration trends. This report portrays the situation of migrants in the region in all its complexity, delving into the analysis of migration trends and the main types of migration – major labour migration corridors in and outside the region, return migration flows, international and internal displacements and irregular migration. The current challenges that migrants and displaced populations face (from human trafficking and the dangers of migrant smuggling to health, social and economic risks) are reviewed and discussed, indications for better policy responses are also provided. The report also reviews how remittances intertwine with the social and economic development of Asia and the Pacific region, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Asia-Pacific Migration Data Report 2020 is the flagship publication of the RDH, and follows another foundational document developed by the team and presented earlier in May 2021, the [Regional Secondary Data Review](#).



Around the region

A snapshot of data-related research initiatives and publications from across the Asia-Pacific

Migrants' contribution to the COVID-19 response

 **Key workers**

1 A collection of examples of reforms, new initiatives, and campaigns from across the world on migrants' contributions to the Covid-19 response, in healthcare and beyond. This World Migration Report award winning dashboard is publicly available and regularly updated. View the [tracker](#).

2 A one-stop digital knowledge platform to help industry stakeholders understand, promote and operationalise decent work and sustainable business practices across the supply chain. This is a collaboration between GIZ FABRIC and ILO's Decent Work in Garment Supply Chains Asia project to elevate best practices, foster partnerships, facilitate learning, and inspire action to address precarious challenges in the garment industry. Learn more [here](#) or watch this [video](#).

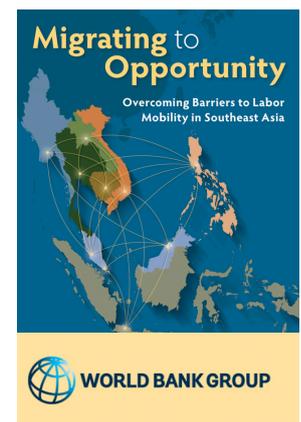


3 Rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, incrementing consumption and demand for resource has led to immense growth in Asia. Consequently, this has contributed to significant environmental degradation. Governments in the region face challenges in identifying and implementing innovative and varying policies that are effective at improving environmental quality while sustaining development gains. Thus, this report suggests recommendations on how market-based instruments can be utilised for more efficient and effective environmental management. [Link](#)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ADB

4 How easily workers can move to take up new opportunities can determine how they fare under the increased economic integration planned for ASEAN. To study this question, this report takes an innovative approach to estimate the costs for workers to migrate internationally. It explores how workers' welfare is affected by enhanced trade integration under different scenarios of labour mobility costs. [Link](#)






5 This article discusses relationships between temporariness and belonging among Pakistani middle-class migrants in Dubai. It investigates the push-factors that cause them to move to Dubai and whether their professional position and living status affect their sense of belonging. Based on unstructured interviews with 20 Pakistanis, findings show that despite the temporariness of their citizenship status, all expressed a strong sense of belonging to Dubai. [Link](#)

Thematic Studies Update

Migration Accommodation Research

IOM conducted a literature review on regulation of migrant accommodations in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and U.S. The review reflected on international standards, governmental policies, private sector regulations, as well as specific measures stipulated in response to COVID-19 in destination countries. The findings suggest that some countries (Hong Kong, Japan, Korea) rely mainly on general labour laws while others establish specific standards for migrant workers in guestworker program policies (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, U.S). In general, the research revealed issues and concerns with how migrant workers are housed and their health and safety implications.

World Migration Report 2020

The 10th edition of the report series comprises of key data and information on migration as well as individual chapters on topical migration issues such as unsafe migration, intolerance, vulnerability during crisis etc. Further, the interactive portal showcases migratory data in the form of corridors. These migratory movements provide a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries. [Link](#)

“Asia and Europe host roughly 61% of the global international migrant stock”.

New Project: Migrant-Centred Migration Management Frameworks in India

IOM India, the India Centre for Migration (ICM), the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and GMDAC formally launched the project “Strengthening Data-Informed and Migrant-Centred Migration Management Frameworks in India”. The project aims to improve migration data collection and management frameworks in India and create new initiatives to promote and facilitate labour migration from India to emerging markets in Europe. The collaboration also revolves around fortifying the available knowledgebase on emerging labour markets and trends in Europe and cultivating multi-stakeholder engagement to support data driven migrant-centred policies and programmes. This partnership will also explore methods to boost the availability of timely, accessible, reliable, disaggregated, and comparable data to inform policies, action, and public opinion.



Call to action: Remittance flows to Afghanistan

Worldwide, there are 5.85 million Afghans living outside of Afghanistan, and majority of them have been sending money to their families in Afghanistan for decades. Remittances from them have long been critical for households and the wider national economy. However, with multiple catastrophes unfolding in the country simultaneously, there is a stronger need than ever to integrate financial inclusion into the humanitarian response. This will ensure that Afghans are better able to access humanitarian support and affordable financial services such as savings and remittances, in order to avoid predatory loans and negative coping strategies. The study commanded by IOM’s GMDAC and Labour Mobility and Human Development Division (LHD) in partnership with Samuel Hall (a research enterprise) calls for higher quality data on different dimensions of remittances in Afghanistan, including data on remittance flows, remittance corridors, remittance costs, average transaction size and channels utilised; it also calls for data on the dependency and uses of remittances as the situation in Afghanistan evolves.

Upcoming Events



- 1 Biannual ESCAP Regional Steering Committee on Population and Social Statistics
- 2 ESCAP SDG Progress Report 2022 production meeting- Discuss the new part of the report on groups in vulnerable situations
- 3 7th Technical Meeting of Focal Points on International Labour Migration Statistics in ASEAN

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



Follow us on Twitter at [@RDHAsia-Pacific](#)



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



International Labour Organisation's Labour statistics portal



UN's Refugee Agency's data portal



For more information, please contact the
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