IOM UN MIGRATION

ASIA–PACIFIC REGIONAL DATA HUB UPDATE

DATA HUB NEWSLETTER

The restrictions on movement not only compromise the agency of Afghan women but the important role that they play in the economy, education and overall development of the country. | © IOM 2023

01 GENERAL UPDATES

Read about recent RDH activities, events and webinar, and how RDH has been supporting regional thematic units and Country Offices around the region, in line with our three primary objective and IOM's Global Migration Data Strategy

02 RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Get information of RDH's recent research products and publications.

03 RESEARCH AROUND THE REGION

Read about recent research activities around the region undertaken by IOM experts, UN agencies, NGOs, think tanks, and other IOM partners.

04 IOM GLOBAL UPDATES

Read about research, events and commitments undertaken by IOM, following the most pressing issues around the world.

05 ABOUT THE REGIONAL DATA HUB (RDH)

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

RDH GENERAL UPDATES

CAPACITY BUILDING

National Secondary Data Review (NSDR) Webinar

On 1 February 2023, RDH organized its second online workshop on the National Secondary Data Reviews (NSDRs). After a successful first webinar held in October 2022, this second internal workshop, titled "Introduction to National Secondary Data Reviews (NSDRs): Strengthening Migration Data in Alignment with Global Frameworks in the Asia–Pacific Region", discussed how the NSDR can support Country Offices' and Government agencies' work around migration data, while monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Participants from Fiji, Maldives, Malaysia, Marshall Islands and Papua New Guinea country offices attended the webinar.

The NSDR is a valuable set of resources that identifies and assesses the availability and gaps of migration data sources at the country level in the Asia–Pacific region. This is designed to be a live document to which new information sources can be added throughout the lifecycle of the Asia–Pacific Regional Data Hub. Data sources include information from government institutions, international organizations, and non-governmental third parties.
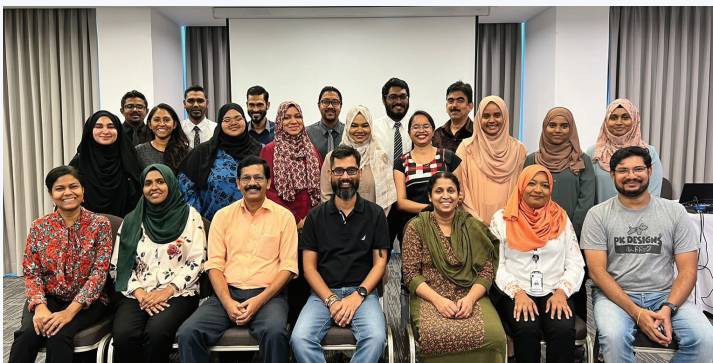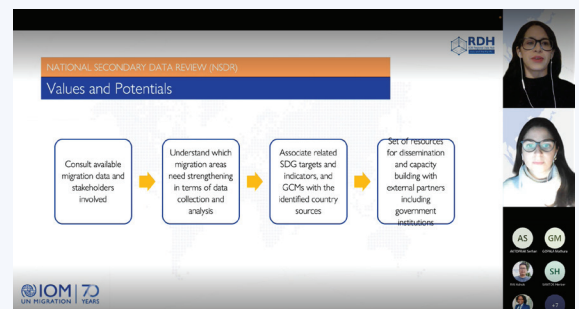
Maldives: IOM Training on Privacy and Data Protection

The RDH team delivered a two day training on Privacy and Data Protection to Maldives' country office staff working on the project "Establishment of a Migrant Resource Center" and to other relevant parties who will be working with the proposed Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in Malé, Maldives from 27 February 2023 to 28 February 2023. The MRC will gather and provide the Government with timely information on migrants to promote evidence-based policymaking and to establish a referral pathway for migrants to seek health, social services, and legal assistance. The training provided information on data protection principles, data collection, and data handling and usage for planning.

Cyclone Response in Vanuatu

Between 1 and 5 March 2023, two category 4 cyclones consecutively affected the Vanuatu Islands. Authorities reported that about 250,000 people were impacted by these natural events. RDH IM team is currently working with IOM's emergency response team in Vanuatu and supporting their IM and reporting needs.

Information Management (IM)

RDH Information Management team supported the Protection (PxD) Unit with the production of the regional situation analysis on trafficking in persons for forced criminality in online scamming centres. This product features qualitative data on the modus operandi, IOM response and suggested solution framework, as well as maps and other infographics on the demographic characteristics of IOM-assisted Victims of Human Trafficking (VoTs). You may find the analysis here.

Adoption of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS)

On 2 March 2023, the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) were adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). The IROSS were developed by the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS). EGRISS is a multi-stakeholder group comprising members from national authorities and regional and international organizations. The IROSS provides a common statistical framework and related definitions for countries and other stakeholders to use, with the aim of increasing the visibility of stateless persons in discussions on official statistics among the population groups to be included. The Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) UNHCR is currently preparing new launch webinars on IROSS.

United Nations(UN) World Data Forum 2023

The "UN World Data Forum" will take place in China on 24 – 27 April 2023. The aim of the UN World Data Forum is to spur data innovation, nurture partnerships, mobilize high-level political and financial support for data, and build a pathway to better data for sustainable development. Every UN World Data Forum has resulted in the release of an outcome document to chart the progress of discussions around data and statistics and express the ambitions of the stakeholder community.

Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series

As part of the Asia–Pacific Stats café series, the Resilient and agile National Statistical Systems: A new global statistics development initiative will take place virtually on 17 April 2023, 12:00 – 13:00 (Bangkok time, UTC+7).

UPDATES FROM IOM REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ROAP) THEMATIC UNITS

Regional Policy and Liaison (RPL) Unit:
The Regional Policy and Liaison (RPL) Unit supports the coordination on Migration Governance Indicators processes in the region. During this period, the RPL Unit supported IOM Mongolia in the preparatory stakeholder engagement activities for the national Migration Governance Indicators process. IOM Mongolia met with national migration management stakeholders to introduce the process, which aims to surface gaps and good practices concerning migration governance.

Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) Unit:
The Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) Unit's DESC initiative, in coordination with Laos People's Democratic Republic Department of Immigration, organised a Verifier Travel Document & Bearer (TD&B) Refresher Training on 20–21 March 2023 and a Verifier TD&B Cascade Training on 22–24 March 2023 to Department of Immigration Officers in Vientiane. Furthermore, IBG Unit also published the report titled "Collective Insights: Assessment and Analysis of Irregular Migration in the South and South East Asian Regions – Emerging Trends on Travel Document and Identity Frauds" in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Protection (PxD) Unit:
PxD Unit participated in two discussions facilitated by HQ PXD Data, Research and Learning Unit. The first discussion consisted of an online workshop on case management practices to be included in Migrant Management Operational System Application (MiMOSA) Next Generation Framework (Nextgen), a project under the MiMOSA umbrella. The second discussion was an in-person Protection Data, Reporting, and Information Management Workshop held in Cairo, Egypt, to improve the reporting for institutional, programme and mission/regional needs. Moreover, as part of the data verification exercise for the Return and Reintegration Key Highlight Report, the PxD Unit has supported IOM Pakistan recording reintegration assistance provided to returnees into MiMOSA.

Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion (LMI) Unit:
The LMI Unit provided technical reviews of the following resources produced by country offices:
(1) **Access to Information and Health care Services for Vietnamese Migrant Workers Overseas During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
(2) **Capacity Building Pilot Programme on Fair and Ethical Recruitment and Employment Standards in the garment and textile sector in India**
(3) **Protecting Migrant Workers in Indo-Pacific Supply Chains: A Good Practice Guide for Business and Bali Process Member State**
(4) **Case Studies Illustrating How Fair and Ethical Recruitment Considerations Can Be Integrated in the Procurement of Labour Recruiters' Services**
(5) **The Cost of Hope: Stories of Migrant Workers in Palm Oil Plantations in Malaysia**

Emergency and Post-Crisis (EPC) Unit
The first ever Disaster Displacement Workshop was held in February 2023 in Asia and the Pacific by the IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific's Emergency and Post-Crisis (EPC) Unit, bringing together key colleagues from IOM missions in the Asia–Pacific region, technical leads from IOM headquarters and regional office, and other partners to work together on defining a comprehensive regional approach to disaster displacement.

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP): ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SDG PROGRESS REPORT 2023

The year 2023 marks the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the aim to monitor the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Asia–Pacific region, ESCAP produced this report outlining the commitment and progress of certain countries in the region. IOM contributed with two country cases that showcase progress and good policy practices in SDG related areas. The RDH team, in collaboration with IOM Timor-Leste, jointly contributed to this report by analyzing the role of remittances in Timor-Leste and the subsequent efforts the country has made in remittances and diasporas policies. Moreover, RDH supported IOM Indonesia in reviewing the case study of the Indonesian trafficking in persons management systems' progress. You can find the report here.
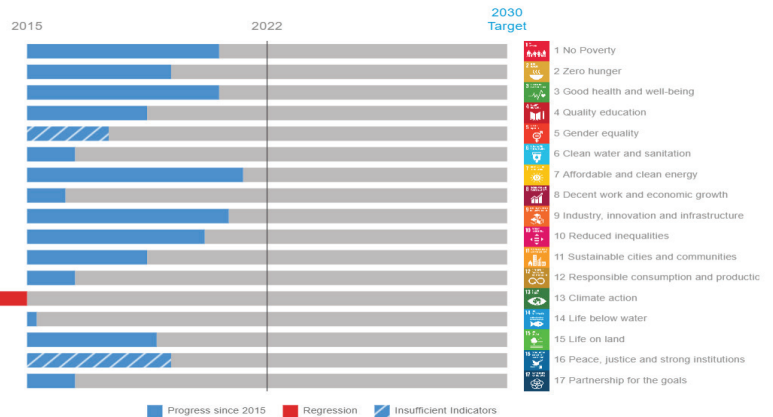
Snapshot of Progress in Asia and the Pacific

NATIONAL SECONDARY DATA REVIEWS (NSDRS): MONGOLIA AND INDONESIA

The RDH team is due to finalize the National Secondary Data Reviews (NSDRs) for Indonesia and Mongolia. The two reviews identify the availability of migration data sources in each country. Importantly, data sources come from Government agencies, international organizations and third-party entities. The Indonesia NSDR has been reviewed and endorsed by the National Statistical Office (NSO), and other Government institutions such as the Ministry of foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection. Colleagues from the International Labour Organization (ILO) also contributed to the endorsement of labour migration data sources. The two documents are set to be published in the next quarter.

01

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

The seventh edition of this report provides key data on trafficking cases detected between 2018 and 2021. It offers an overview of the responses to trafficking in persons at the international, regional, and national levels. Beyond the global report, with information on all regions, including Asia and the Pacific, UNODC also published regional overviews and country profiles on South Asia. The country profiles provide data and information on trafficking in persons in the region at the national level for each country. Find all the reports here.

02

International Labour Organization: Regional operational guidelines on fair and ethical recruitment in ASEAN

The report tackles the potential abuses migrant workers have to face in migration recruitment industries abroad. It also provides regional recommendations within ILO recruitment principles and focus on implementation and enforcement in the international migration context. Particularly, the report recommends formulating gender-responsive policies focusing on decent work in the labour market, ensuring transparent measures to support migration policy objectives, and addressing irregular migration, human trafficking and forced labour. Find out more about the report here.
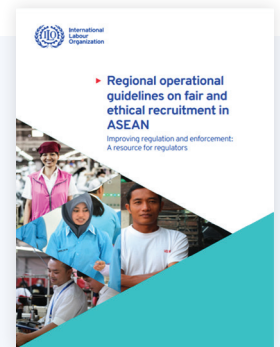
03

Mixed Migration Centre: Quarterly Mixed Migration Update - Quarter 4

The Quarterly Mixed Migration Update (QMMU) offers updates on trends and dynamics relating to mixed migration and policy updates in Asia and the Pacific. This QMMU focuses on the continuous challenges for Afghan migration and resettlement, the sharp increase in the Andaman Sea's crossing, mainly of Rohingya, the recent talks the Bangladeshi Government has undertaken with the European Union, Russia and Libya for new migrant workers' routes, and the detention conditions in Australia. These updates are based on a compilation of a wide range of secondary (data) sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens. You can find the report here.

04

Danish Refugee Council (DRC): Global Displacement Forecast 2023

This study projects that the total number of people displaced will increase by 1.9 million by 2023 and by an additional 3.5 million by 2024. DRC claims that the gap between the humanitarian needs and funding has grown to 23 billion USD gap in 2022. The report covers several countries of concern, among which is Myanmar. More generally, it tackles the situation in Asia and the Pacific, focusing on climate change and displacement in the region, specifically mentioning Afghanistan, Myanmar and Bangladesh as displacement country cases. Read more about this report here.

05

International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD): Migration Outlook Silk Routes (South and West Asia) 2023

This report highlights migration and mobility patterns for communities in South and West Asia. Focusing on the migration trends and policy developments of 2022, this document tackle four main issues to look out for in the region in 2023: multilateral and bilateral dialogues need to deliver a balanced approach to the management of migration; climate change relates disasters are likely to happen in 2023, which may result in further displacement; urgency of resettlement pathways; and the Russia–Ukraine conflict which is already exacerbating existing challenges. You can find the report here.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION VOLUME 61

The International Migration document is IOM's bimonthly review on migration trends, as analysed by economics, sociologists, and others around the world. Focusing on the facts and challenges that characterized 2022, the International Migration provided a space for scholars to advance migration information. Among the most 2022 events, the document focuses on the Ukrainian war, the situation in Afghanistan, and the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MIGRATION POLICY PRACTICE

The Migration Policy Practice is a policy-oriented research and analysis report, whose objective is to explain the multidimensional aspects of migration. Moreover, it aims at informing policymakers in the migration field at the national, regional and international levels. This issue highlights gendered effects of migration, international students and climate migration. The report also provides a section on female migration and the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, and the education in Afghanistan.

WOMEN AND GIRLS ON THE MOVE: A SNAPSHOT OF AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

During the International Women's Day, on 8 March 2023, IOM reaffirmed its commitment to achieving gender equality for all women and girls, particularly those migrating. This year, more specifically, IOM celebrates women's achievements in technology and innovation, and encourages their inclusion in these fields. In honour of International Women's Day, IOM published a thematic brief devoted to women and girls on the move. Gender is a key factor influencing all aspects of human mobility, from the reasons behind migration, transiting across borders, to the decisions to return to the home country. Therefore, it is essential to incorporate gender-responsive data when observing migration patterns and creating policies in the migration field. This need for gender consideration is outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Migration. You can read more about this thematic brief here.

HELPFUL DATA LINKS

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

IOM GMDAC's Migration data portal

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

IOM DTM Human Mobility Impacts monitoring website

International Labour Organisation's Labour statistics portal

UN's Refugee Agency's data portal

Pacific Data Hub

Follow us on Twitter at @RDHAsiaPacific

05 ABOUT THE REGIONAL DATA HUB (RDH)

The Asia–Pacific Regional Data Hub (RDH) was established in 2020 with the aim to support evidence-based, strategic and policy-level discussion on migration through a combination of outputs and initiatives. RDH was funded by the Migration Resource Allocation Committee (MIRAC) with a mandate to implement IOM's Global Migration Data Strategy at a regional level and promote coherence across the multitude of programs and initiatives involving data collection and information management (IM) across the region. RDH's work focuses on building data collection and information management capacity across the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and Country Offices through enhanced engagement between ROAP units, ongoing development of IM capacity and expertise, and endorsement of cross-fertilization and information exchange. Moreover, RDH is constantly strengthening the collaboration with other UN agencies and partners across the region.

THE THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF RDH, ALIGNED WITH THE IOM GLOBAL MIGRATION DATA STRATEGY, ARE:

Objective 1
Strengthen the regional evidence base on migration

Objective 2
Develop the capacities of States and other relevant partners to enhance the national, regional, and global migration evidence base.

Objective 3
Ensure more evidence-based IOM- and United Nations system-wide programming, operations, policy advice and communications.

REGIONAL DATA HUB GOALS

Goal 1: Centralizing Information

Goal 2: Leveraging quantitative insights

Goal 3: Harmonizing data processes

Goal 4: Disseminating good data practices

The available migration data are mapped into six broad migration themes to ease the analysis of the relevant data and its navigation through different sub-themes present. RDH's six thematic pillars are the following:

MIGRANT STATISTICS

TYPES OF MIGRATION

MIGRATION POLICY

MIGRATION AND VULNERABILITY

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

MIGRATION AND INNOVATION

The RDH team comprises data analysis and information management specialists. We cooperate and work in synergy with all ROAP thematic units and IOM data initiatives, such as Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Global Data Institute (GDI), Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and other IOM data and research initiatives.

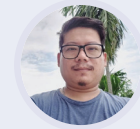## THE RDH TEAM

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