



ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL
DATA HUB UPDATE

DATA HUB NEWSLETTER



Many Afghan families travel to Pakistan through the "Zero Point" of Spin Boldak. © IOM 2023/ Léo Torrétou.

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RDH GENERAL UPDATES

Read about RDH recent research products, capacity building activities and support to Country Offices in the region in line with our three primary objectives and IOM's Global Migration Data Strategy.

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UPDATES FROM IOM ROAP THEMATIC UNITS

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Read about what RDH does and how it is aligned to IOM's Global Migration Data Strategy. Learn more about the team and their profiles.

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CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT TO COUNTRY OFFICES

National Secondary Data Review (NSDR) Webinar

The Asia–Pacific Regional Data Hub (RDH) hosted its third internal webinar, titled “Introduction to National Secondary Data Reviews (NSDRs): Strengthening Migration Data in Alignment with Global Frameworks in the Asia–Pacific Region”, which took place on 30 November 2023. The objective of the third NSDR webinar was to introduce the concept and benefits of the NSDR, outline how Country Offices can actively participate and contribute to the NSDR development, particularly in the realm of capacity-building activities. This webinar directly engaged with colleagues and focal points from IOM Country Offices of Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Viet Nam, all of which are the part of the upcoming NSDRs. Aligned with RDH’s mission to fortify the regional evidence base on migration and foster capacity-building, the NSDRs have been developed for over 15 Asia–Pacific countries. These reviews serve as crucial tools to identify and assess the availability and gaps of migration data at the country level. The NSDRs [Indonesia](#) and [Mongolia](#) have been endorsed by the government and published.



The Global Data Institute (GDI) Regional Strategy Meeting

The Global Data Institute (GDI) organized a three-day Regional Strategic Meeting in Berlin aimed to discuss strategic data vision in line with Director General Amy Pope’s vision for harnessing the potential of migration to serve vulnerable communities and align data and analysis workflows across global, regional and country levels. This included a comprehensive review of the implementation and progress of the IOM Migration Data Strategy, emphasizing recent IOM strategic developments, GDI Flagship Initiatives, Regional Data Hub (RDH) priorities and initiatives, and planning for joint initiatives in 2024. The meeting brought together the GDI leadership, representatives from the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), global coordination teams and regional data focal persons from seven regional offices. Thematic sessions facilitated interactive discussions and additional consultations with government stakeholders and donor counterparts broadened the engagement and scope of IOM’s strategic data vision. On behalf of the RDH Asia–Pacific, Chandan Nayak delivered a presentation on “Strengthening Migration Data in Asia and the Pacific”.



Protection and Information Management

On 4 December, Ashok Rai, the RDH Information Management Officer led a session on “Protection and Information Management”. The session focused on Data Protection, Data Subject Rights and IOM Data Protection Principles followed by practice session on context and considerations to be made for protection related data.

Moreover, the RDH IM Team assisted the Republic of Marshall Islands Country Office in developing static maps for the different communities from Ailuk and Arno atolls. The team is also developing a dashboard on hazards mapping based on different government and non-governmental partners’ data collection initiatives.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT TO COUNTRY OFFICES

Data and Policy Training – Lao's People Democratic Republic

IOM Lao PDR, in partnership with the Department of Research Institute under the Ministry of Planning and Investment, conducted a two-day training among Government officials with the aim to enhance understanding and utilization of migration governance tools. The training, which took place between 2–3 November 2023 in Vang Vieng, Lao PDR, focused on policy development, migration data and gender, as well as migration and development. RDH, represented by Gabriela Alvarez, Data Analyst, provided a section on Essentials Migration Data, covering the migration data cycle, from data collection, management, analysis and research. She also presented the findings of the National Secondary Data Review for Lao PDR, with the aim to showcase the coverage and main gaps of migration data at the country level. Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Statistical Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, were among the Government officers that attended the training.



Migration Data Management Training – Nepal

The RDH team was invited to conduct a training session on good practices of migration data management for Government officials in Nepal in collaboration with IOM Nepal. On 25 November 2023, Gabriela Alvarez opened the two-day training by delivering a presentation on Regional Migration Data and Trends mainly drawn from the newly published [Asia–Pacific Migration Data Report 2022](#). This session generated significant interest among the participants, leading to numerous questions regarding the methodologies employed by RDH in data collection and analysis for the publication of the report. The participants included officials from the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, National Statistics Office and Ministry of Health and Population, among others. The discussion on migration data management within Ministries garnered considerable interest, with participants providing intriguing perspectives on the collection, management and dissemination of migration data.



IRASEC Winter School Presentation Lecture

The IRASEC Winter School on Transnational Migration in South-East Asia 2023 took place on 29 November, organized by the Research Institute of Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC) in collaboration with European and Southeast Asian universities. Aimed at fostering discourse in the social sciences and humanities, the annual winter school promotes comparative and regional research methodologies. The RDH team, led by Dr. Anny Yip-Ching Yu and Gabriela Alvarez, presented key findings from the [Asia–Pacific Migration Data Report 2022](#) to PhD students participating in IRASEC's doctoral school on transnational migration in Southeast Asia. The presentation delved into migration trends and dynamics in Asia and the Pacific, with a focus on Thailand and Malaysia, providing valuable insights for early-career researchers in the region.

Regional Policy Support and Capacity Development (REPEX) Workshop

The IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) organised a three-day Regional Policy Support and Capacity Development workshop in Bangkok, Thailand from 12-14 December in collaboration with the Policy Coordination Unit from IOM Headquarters and with the support of the Migration and Sustainable Development Division. The workshop's overarching goal was to leverage global frameworks and IOM's policy expertise to foster improved migration governance. Gabriela Alvarez from RDH delivered a presentation on the significance of data analysis in informing effective migration policies. The workshop built upon several key initiatives and tools designed to strengthen IOM's policy capacity.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT TO COUNTRY OFFICES

Regional Research Capacity Building Workshop

The RDH team, in collaboration with the IOM Research Unit, conducted the Regional Research Capacity Building Workshop for IOM Staff in the Asia-Pacific Region that took place from 14–16 November 2023 in Bangkok. The three-day training was conducted by Dr. Pablo Rojas Coppari, Senior Research Officer, and saw the intervention of key speakers from HQ covering topics on the fundamentals of research production within IOM, utilizing existing resources and introducing new ones. 25 representatives from the 9 IOM Country Offices and the ROAP participated in the training.

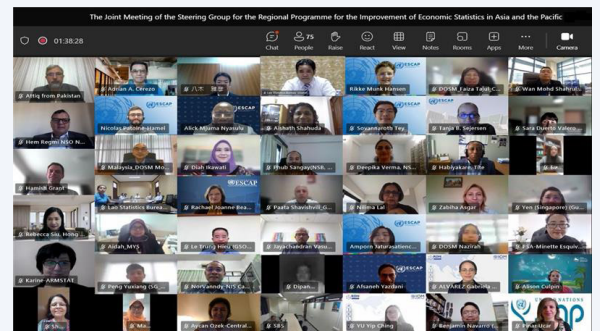


RDH presentation at the ILO High-level Regional Meeting on International Labour Migration Statistics in South Asia

As part of the Governance of Labour Migration in South and South-East Asia (GOALS) programme's capacity-building efforts, a regional workshop on "Statistics of International Labour Migration and Migrant Recruitment Costs in South Asia" was organized. The event was coordinated by the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (ITCILO), ILO Department of Statistics and ILO Regional Office for South Asia. Held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 29 to 30 November, the workshop aimed to enhance the statistical capacities of ILO Member States in the South Asian region. It facilitated a platform for dialogue among stakeholders, sharing of action plans to improve migration statistics and practices on measuring SDG Indicator 10.7.1. During the three-day meeting, the RDH team presented IOM's work on migration data in South Asia. The presentation, attended by high-level government officials from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan and other stakeholders, contributed to the ongoing efforts to promote evidence-based policy making and enhance statistical capabilities in the region.

RDH Presentation at the Joint Meeting of the Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics

On 1 November 2023, the RDH team gave a presentation on initiatives and tools related to migration data and statistics at the Joint meeting of the Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics hosted online by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Other agencies presenting their initiatives included the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNICEF and Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. The meeting was attended by UN agencies, international organizations and National Statistical Offices (NSO) representatives from Asia-Pacific countries.



Transition of Mr. Chandan Nayak, RDH Asia-Pacific Coordinator, to Senior Role at IOM Headquarters in Geneva

The RDH expresses sincere gratitude as Chandan Nayak, Coordinator of RDH at the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), bids farewell. Chandan is transitioning to a new role as the Senior Information Management and Digitalization Coordinator at the IOM Headquarters in Geneva. Chandan has been a valuable part of the RDH team, contributing significantly to its success and growth. As he takes on new responsibilities at HQ, the RDH team wishes him the very best in all his future endeavors and appreciates the camaraderie, insights, and shared experiences.

Following his transition, the RDH team emphasizes directing any queries related to RDH with a copy to rdhroapsupport@iom.int. For matters concerning the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), it is recommended to include @DTM Asia and the Pacific in the correspondence.



Migration Protection and Assistance (PxD) Unit

The PxD Unit conducted an internal regional webinar on Trafficking in Persons (TiP) data, to engage with experts from IOM HQ and ILO and gain insights into the latest ILO-IOM [Human Trafficking Evidence Gap Map](#). The Unit also conducted the fourth data collection round to monitor and update facts and figures on trafficking into forced criminality from IOM country offices in the region. Lastly, IOM Solomon Islands released “[A situational analysis of the nexus between Gender-Based Violence, Trafficking in Persons and the logging industry in Solomon Islands](#)”.

Migration Health Unit (MHU)

The regional MHU participated as the Principal Recipient of the Project of Tuberculosis Elimination Among Migrant Population (TEAM) in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries (2022 – 2024) in the Review of TB control targeting migrants and cross-border referral systems and practices along the northern Thailand – Myanmar border. The meeting was organized by the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) and the University of Oslo between 17-18 October 2023 in Chiang Rai, Thailand. The meeting aimed to develop and suggest a uniform secure system for referrals between the countries in the region. Moreover, The MHU Unit was invited to participate in the 6th Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion Working Group on Health Cooperation and to share updates on GMS regional health cooperation. The meeting was held by the ADB between 13–15 December in Beijing, People’s Republic of China. Lastly, in support to IOM Cambodia and IOM Lao PDR, The MHU Unit in coordination with the Health System Research Institute (HSRI) in Thailand organized the Cross-border Meeting on Migrant Health Collaboration among Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand on 20–21 December in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand. The meeting aimed to strengthen health collaboration on migration and to join efforts in solving health problems that will mutually benefit participating countries.

Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion (LMI) Unit

The [final evaluation report](#) of IOM’s [Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking \(CREST\)](#) project, funded by the Government of Sweden, highlights the progress IOM has made over the last six years through the CREST project in working with businesses to uphold the [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#). Under the CREST project, the report “[International Labour Migration in a Changing Climate](#)” was published which provides insights from [Malaysia, Thailand and South East Asia](#) on how and in what contexts, international labour migration can be a viable adaptation strategy to climate change. In addition, the rapid review of “[Famili I Redi](#)” programme evaluates the design and implementation of the five-day predeparture training program, focusing on its successes, areas for enhancement and potential for ongoing learning. [IOM Best Practice Guide for Employers of Migrant Workers](#) in the Hospitality Sector in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), China has been developed to support employers in the care sector in Hong Kong SAR, China to develop voluntary measures to promote safe, orderly and regular migration. The report “[Bridging the Digital Divide: Assessment of the Digital Skills of Migrant Workers and the Perspective of Employers in Thailand](#)” assesses the current usage of digital technology among migrant workers, including their skills level and needs across different digital competence areas, as well as the perception of employers regarding digital skills.

Migration Environment, Climate Change Reduction (MECR) Unit

The MECR Unit for Asia and the Pacific has been supporting IOM’s overall contributions to COP 28 preparations and has continued to engage with partners across the region. On 1 November 2023, MECR and IOM Republic of Korea presented at a United Nations climate experts dialogue with representatives of the Government of the Republic of Korea. This was jointly convened with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). On 8 November, MECR also presented at a bilateral briefing with Australian Government counterparts from Home Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Moreover, between 13–17 November, MECR has contributed to the Asia Pacific Climate Week 2023, including participation in a joint event with Raoul Wallenberg Institute and UNFCCC on “[Bridging the nexus: Climate Change, Human Mobility and Human Rights](#)”. Lastly, the Unit is continuously involved in different publications. Among these, the “[Report on Assessing Progress on Ocean and Climate Action: 2022–2023](#)” was recently finalized. The work, which aims at raising awareness of the effects of climate change on oceans, was shared at the COP28 Virtual Ocean Pavilion Preview Event on 22 November 2023.



01



UN WOMEN – Policy Brief: Enhancing Gender-Responsive Approaches in the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework

In collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), UN WOMEN recently published this policy brief. It is based on the lessons learned from the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and offers recommendations to integrate a gender approach in ASEAN's initiatives across several dimensions, including health, human security and economic integration. When diving in these sectors, their relation to migrants is often reported. For example, there is a focus on migrant women's health, migrant workers' social security rights and their economic integration. Read more about this policy brief [here](#).

Mixed Migration Centre – Review 2023

This Review is the Mixed Migration Centre's flagship annual report, and it delves into recent events and trends affecting people on the move. The report suggests alternative approaches to current migration policies. It includes a global overview of mixed migration in five regions, essays, interviews with experts and family members of those who have migrated, snapshots, survey data results and graphics. Specifically, the review's section on Asia tackles migration policy changes in Japan and Australia due to labour shortages, Bangladesh's migration scenario, and how Indonesia's private sector could improve refugees' healthcare rights, among others. You can find the report [here](#).



02

03



Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) – 25 Years of Progress on Internal Displacement (1998 – 2023)

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Guiding Principles and IDMC's founding, IDMC published this report, which assesses the progress made in addressing and resolving internal displacement. It includes examples of policies and legal frameworks created in the past 25 years to address internal displacement. The document also focuses on IDPs in the Asia-Pacific region and provides data on IDPs disaggregated by age, sex and sub-region. Discover more about the report [here](#).

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Global Appeal 2024

The Global Appeal 2024 presents the organization's expectations, priorities and budgeted activities for 2024. It represents a call for investment in a migration reality with more than 17 displacement situations and plans for more than 50 country operations. The report offers regional summaries, including for Asia and the Pacific, which explains frequent humanitarian and climate-related emergencies. The region has seen a decline in funding to support a expected 15.6 million forcibly displaced people in 2024, mainly in Afghanistan and Myanmar. Find out more about the report [here](#).

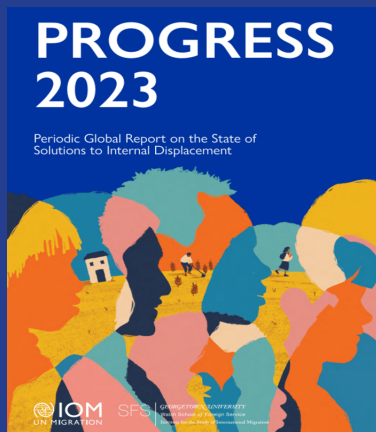


04



GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE (GDI) LAUNCH

The GDI launch event, held on 21 November, brought together a diverse group of 50–80 participants from various sectors, including government, international agencies, universities, philanthropies, civil society, media and the private sector. With the crucial support of the German Federal Foreign Office, this pivotal event served as a key platform to show synergies between the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and the IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre and work with Regional Data Hubs. The proceedings began with brief opening remarks by IOM Director General, Amy Pope and State Minister Tobias Lindner. Three interactive presentations on GDI's pillars – data for action, data for insight and data for foresight – formed the central theme of the event. The event concluded with a panel discussion featuring experts and policymakers exploring climate change as a key driver of internal displacement and broader human mobility.



Moreover, the IOM'S GDI and Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) developed the Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement or "Progress". In 2022, 71.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) were recorded in 110 countries. This number is expected to triple in the coming decades due to the consequences climate change. IOM Director General Amy Pope affirmed that Progress is "[intended to contribute to a people-centered, data-driven foundation of IOM's work](#)". The report explains the collective efforts and actions to find solutions to the more than 70 million IDPs globally, analyses existing data and amplifies voices and experiences of IDPs, returnees and host communities. Read more about Progress [here](#).

2023 INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

The 2023 Second Session of the International Dialogue on Migration, called "[Think about Tomorrow, Act Today: The Future of Human Mobility and Climate Change](#)" took place on 5–6 October 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The aim of the second session was to bring together key stakeholders, including United Nations system organizations, states, civil society, the private sector, migrants and their communities, to increase a multi-level understanding, cooperation and trust among participants. Several IOM high-level keynote speakers and moderators joined the panels including the IOM Director General Amy Pope, Ugochi Daniels, the IOM Deputy Director General for Operations and Michele Klein Solomon, IOM Regional Director for Central and North America and the Caribbean. At the end of September 2023, IOM published the report [Thinking about Tomorrow, Acting Today: The Future of Climate Mobility](#), from which the session described above is named.

As the consequences of climate change increasingly threaten the world, it is crucial to understand how human mobility intertwines with dimensions of climate and adaptation policy, action and implementation. This report explains the future-thinking approach that is needed to address the challenges ahead for human mobility in the climate change context.





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:

 <p>Objective 1 Strengthen the regional evidence base on migration</p>	 <p>Objective 2 Develop the capacities of States and other relevant partners to enhance the national, regional, and global migration evidence base.</p>	 <p>Objective 3 Ensure more evidence-based IOM- and United Nations system-wide programming, operations, policy advice and communications.</p>
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REGIONAL DATA HUB GOALS




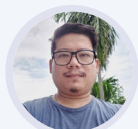






			
Goal 1: Centralizing Information	Goal 2: Leveraging quantitative insights	Goal 3: Harmonizing data processes	Goal 4: Disseminating good data practices

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

				
Vacant	Anny Yip-Ching Yu	Mohammed Tayib	Ashok Rai	Florence Owino
Coordination	Data Analysis and Research	Regional DTM Support	Information Management	Information Management
				
Gabriela Alvarez	Mohammad Saleem Kashaf	Jasmine Tham	Barbara Porrovecchio	Richa Sharma
Data Analysis, Research and Support	Database and Application Development	Data Analysis, Research and Support	Data Reporting, Research and Support	Analysis and Support

HELPFUL DATA LINKS



IOM Asia–Pacific
Migration Data
Portal



IOM GMDAC's
Migration data
portal



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



IOM DTM Human
Mobility Impacts
monitoring website



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



Pacific Data Hub

For more information, please contact the RDH Team at
Data Portal: <https://ap-migrationdata.iom.int/en>
Email: rdhroapsupport@iom.int
Web: <https://roasiapacific.iom.int>