



ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL
DATA HUB UPDATE

DATA HUB NEWSLETTER



An IOM mental health and psychosocial support counsellor, leads a session with women in Paktika province, Afghanistan. | © IOM 2022/ Léo Torrétou.

01 RDH GENERAL UPDATES

Discover 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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02 UPDATES FROM IOM ROAP THEMATIC UNITS

Get to know about data-related activities from Regional Thematic Units, including publications and workshops.

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

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05 IOM GLOBAL UPDATES

Go through the research and commitments undertaken by IOM, following the most pressing issues around the world.

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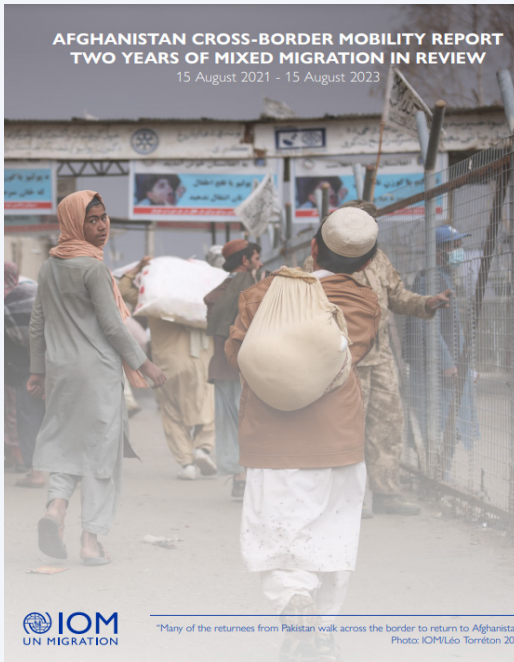
06 ABOUT THE REGIONAL DATA HUB

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

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RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS



Afghanistan Cross-Border Mobility Report-Two Years of Mixed Migration in Review

In February 2024, RDH with the support of IOM Afghanistan, IOM Pakistan and IOM Islamic Republic of Iran published the Afghanistan Cross-Border Mobility Two-Year Report. With the aim of better informing humanitarian operations, this analysis provides an overview of the mixed cross-border situation which has unfolded during the political transition since mid-August 2021 to the lead-up of events in Pakistan post-August 2023. Data on inflows, outflows and returns are available. This report aligns with IOM's commitment to be the pre-eminent source of migration and displacement data for action, with the ultimate aim to save lives and deliver solutions. You can read the report [here](#).

Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2024

RDH served as the coordinating unit for IOM's contribution to United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Statistics Division's flagship publication, the SDG Progress Report, which was launched on 15 February 2024. Through this contribution, RDH highlighted IOM's significant work across the region, which has strengthened SDG data availability and evidence-based policy in Asia-Pacific. Such areas of contribution focused on SDG indicator 10.7.1 through IOM's multi-country initiative Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST), as well as IOM Viet Nam's National Scheme of Digital Transformation in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Find out more about such initiatives [here](#).





CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT TO COUNTRY OFFICES



The Migration School also featured distinguished guests and speakers from IOM Headquarters, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), Tribhuvan University, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security and the National Planning Commission. These experts provided informative sessions across various themes, enhancing the program's depth and quality. This collaborative initiative was funded by IOM Development Fund and organised by IOM Nepal in coordination with the Tribhuvan University Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security and the National Planning Commission.

Expert contribution to the School on Migration Studies in Nepal

On 13 February 2024, Jasmine Tham, RDH Support Officer, and Barbara Porrovecchio, RDH Reporting Officer, gave a presentation on regional migration trends and dynamics at the School on Migration Studies (SMS) in Kathmandu, Nepal. Their presentation delved into key themes related to regional migration, such as exploring regional migration patterns, identifying popular global destinations, assessing the impact of unsafe migration flows and understanding the influence of COVID-19 on mobility.



Regional Migration Program (RMP) Meeting

Dr. Anny Yip-Ching Yu, RDH's Regional Migration Data Analysis and Research Officer, participated in the Asia Regional Migration Program (RMP) Meeting from 21 to 23 February 2024. The RMP's main objective was to facilitate the dialogue among all Asia RMP country focal points on how to strategically align with IOM institutional priorities, strengthen program management and coordination. More specifically, RDH and IOM Thailand Migration Data and Research Unit (MDRU) jointly facilitated the break-out session on data and evidence, to explore data and research challenges and needs in the region and discuss ways forward to enhance regional coordination and support to share best practices, provide technical guidance and promote the quality of research and evidence for decision making.



Asia-Pacific Regional Commemoration of International Women's Day

On 8 March RDH participated to the Asia-Pacific Regional Commemoration of International Women's Day, which was jointly convened by ESCAP and UN-Women, to show women and girls' contributions to reshape the economic landscape. This year's theme, "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress", sheds light on several critical topics on inclusivity and equality in our societies through economic empowerment for women and girls. The Commemoration served as a possibility to conduct policy dialogue, capacity building and networking with other stakeholders to address the gender dimension of poverty, facilitate the exchange of knowledge, share lessons learned and explore possible gender-sensitive solutions and recommendations to address digital, green and care transformations.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT TO COUNTRY OFFICES

Expert Group for Refugee, Internally Displaced People and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS)

From 18 to 20 March, Dr. Olga Aymerich, RDH Coordinator, together with Dr. Anny Yip-Ching Yu participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Implementing Guidance on Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CVRS) Systems with a focus on Forced Displacement, Statelessness and Children on the Move. It was organized under the joint cooperation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) and the Expert Group for Refugee, Internally Displaced People and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS). The aim of such workshop is to strengthen the capacity of National Statistical Offices and relevant line ministries to achieve inclusive CRVS systems, produce and use inclusive data thereof.



Consultation Workshop on Inclusion of Migration Indicators into Population Census 2025 in Lao People's Democratic Republic

To strengthen national migration data for evidence-based migration policy, IOM Lao PDR is working closely with the Lao Government to support the inclusion of migration indicators for the 2025 Population Census. On 21 March, IOM Lao PDR organized a consultation workshop with the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), other governmental stakeholders from the Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group (ITWG) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The goal is to facilitate the collection of migration data, to ensure that policy development and decision-making are informed by comprehensive and accurate data in Lao PDR.

Representing RDH, Dr. Anny Yip-Ching Yu led the consultation on national migration data needs for policymaking and the training on the international standards and good practices of migration data collection and analysis through census. The event was organized under the project "Enhancing Evidence-Based Migration Policy through Digital Applications in Lao People's Democratic Republic".



Welcome to the new RDH Coordinator

On 1 March 2024, Dr. Olga Aymerich joined the team as the new Coordinator of RDH at the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP). Dr. Aymerich has extensive knowledge on post-conflict contexts, with experience in Iraq, South Sudan, Yemen, Turkey and Lebanon. The team also welcomed Stanly (Satt Paing Oo), who joined the Information Management (IM) group. We warmly welcome Olga and Stanly and look forward to working with them.



Migration Protection and Assistance (PxD) Unit

The PxD Unit facilitated a two-day MiMOSA training for IOM Thailand on 29-30 January. This training aims to build country missions' capacity for improved handling of data on assistance to vulnerable migrants and return and reintegration. Another MiMOSA training was conducted for IOM Philippines on 8-9 February.

The PxD Unit released its latest publication into online scams, titled "IOM's Regional Situation Report on Trafficking in Persons into Forced Criminality in Online Scamming Centers in Southeast Asia". This report serves as a comprehensive "One-Stop Overview" for counter trafficking stakeholders to find key facts and figures from IOM and provides recommendations to improve victims' protection measures. Lastly, IOM Solomon Islands released a report titled "Country Capacity Assessment on Trafficking in Persons: Solomon Islands", which assesses the capacity of Solomon Islands to prevent and respond to instances of trafficking in persons, including in the fishing industry context. Moreover, this report has generated interest in conducting similar assessments for Fiji and Vanuatu.

Migration Health Unit (MHU)

The ASEAN Secretariat-IOM Thematic Brown Bag Discussion Series on "Improving Border and Health Surveillance in the ASEAN region", held by RO MHU and ASEAN Health Division on 29 January successfully convened 98 participants in Asia to enhance health surveillance across the ASEAN region. This session aimed to improve border and health surveillance in the ASEAN region and emphasized the use of digital technology and cross-border cooperation to manage health challenges associated with human mobility.

RO MHU supported IOM Laos for organizing the Migration Health Cooperation, Cross-border Mobility and Public Health Measures and Procedure Workshop. The workshop was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 23 February with 42 participants from different ministries and a representative from Health System Research Institute from Thailand. Its objective was to enhance sensitization of primary actors on the issue and importance of migrant's health and build cooperation amongst various government authorities.

Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion (LMI) Unit

IOM and UN-Women jointly published the "Manual for Inclusive and Sustainable Reintegration of Returning Migrant Workers in South Asia", which presents key ideas and considerations for the Colombo Process Member States to incorporate into their reintegration policies. In addition, IOM published a brief on "Enhancing Employability and Decent Work for Migrant Workers through the Mutual Recognition of their Skills and Qualifications". This product showcases Colombo Process Member States' achievements towards improving the skills and employability of migrant workers and promoting mutual recognition of their skills and qualifications.

Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) Unit

In January, the Document Examination Support Center (DESC) as Secretariat of the Asian Network for Document Examination (ANDEX) launched the ANDEX Entry-Exit Stamp Specimens E-library. The ANDEX E-library serves as a centralized and comprehensive repository for the accessibility of entry and exit stamps from various border checkpoints. Moreover, on 30 January, the DESC team, in coordination with IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina, delivered a Verifier Travel Document and Bearer (Verifier TD&B) demonstration to the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The demonstration provided an opportunity to present the system to the Border Police and seek their interest in using Verifier TD&B as a secondary inspection tool.



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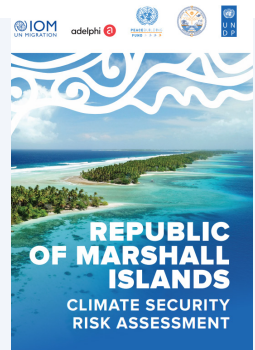


Migration Governance Indicators Profile 2023 | Mongolia and Republic of Palau

IOM Mongolia and IOM Republic of Palau published the Migration Governance Indicators Profile 2023. This document presents a summary of developed areas of migration governance and those to be further developed in each country, as assessed through the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) process. This process is comprised of a set of 100 indicators, which help countries assess their migration governance structures. Find out more about the Mongolian publication [here](#) and the Republic of Palau publication [here](#).

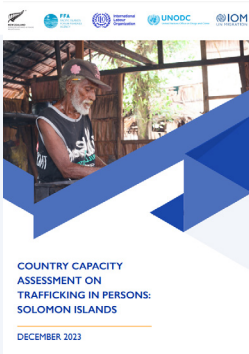
Climate Security Risk Assessment (Republic of Marshall Islands)

Security and risk in the Pacific context take on a different form beyond the more traditional conceptions of security. The region's inclusion of climate change as a security risk derives from the past and current experiences of the Pacific islanders, who are threatened by climate change, with important consequences for individuals, communities and governments. The document lists proposed actions to shape regional security environment through national and regional action. Read the report [here](#).



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Country Capacity Assessment on Trafficking in Persons: Solomon Islands

The document addresses the issue of poor working conditions, human trafficking on fishing vessels in the Pacific, and employment in the region. It serves as a guiding tool to inform capacity-building interventions under several IOM and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) projects. The report touches upon several fields, including legislation and policy, protection, prosecution and prevention. Find out more about the topic [here](#).

Impacts of COVID-19 on Internal Migrant Workers in Southern Viet Nam and the Roles of Relevant Stakeholders

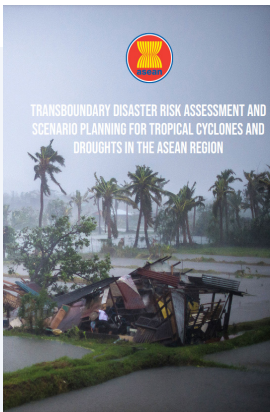
This report analyzes the experiences and needs of internal migrant workers and employers in Southern Viet Nam during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. With strict lockdowns and movement restrictions, the region experienced disruptions to supply chains and the temporary closure of factories, impacting millions of internal migrant workers. The need for stable livelihoods and access to skills development were reported as the migrant workers' main concerns. Read the document [here](#).



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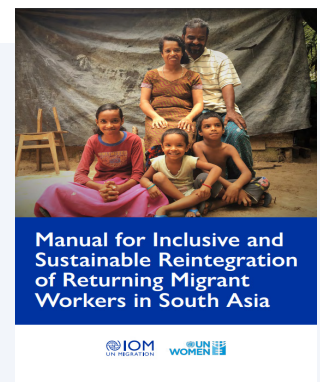


The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): Transboundary Disaster Risk Assessment and Scenario Planning for Tropical Cyclones and Droughts in the ASEAN Region

The study explains the potential impacts of cyclones and droughts in the ASEAN region under several climate change scenarios and offers recommendations to ASEAN Member States to increase their preparedness to climate-related disasters. The report had specific case studies on Cambodia, Viet Nam and the Philippines. The report takes into consideration vulnerable groups, including displaced people, for risk assessment and scenario planning. You can find the report [here](#).

UN Women and International Organization for Migration (IOM): Manual for Inclusive and Sustainable Reintegration of Returning Migrant Workers in South Asia

This report tackles the needs of migrant workers, specifically focusing on their reintegration when they return to their country of origin. The manual provides practical guidance on designing, implementing and monitoring and evaluating reintegration assistance programmes for returnees in South Asia. Three main reintegration areas are covered: economic and labour market reintegration, social reintegration and psychosocial reintegration. Several stakeholders can benefit from this report, including policymakers, practitioners, and service providers. Read the document [here](#).



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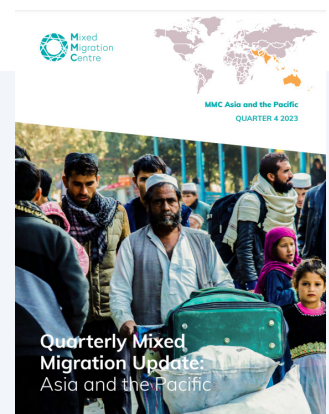


United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): Casinos, Money Laundering, Underground Banking, and Transnational Organized Crime in East and Southeast Asia: A Hidden and Accelerating Threat

This report highlights how casinos, junkets and cryptocurrency have emerged as a critical piece of the money and banking laundering reality in East and Southeast Asia, increasing transnational organized crime in the region. The analysis has found that some criminal activities also included human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Criminals lure workers into trafficking, using promises of lucrative employment, while they are often obliged to carry out cyberfraud and scam activities. Find out more about the brief [here](#).

Mixed Migration Centre: Quarterly Mixed Migration Update - Quarter 4 2023

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 increased displacement in Myanmar during renewed armed clashes, human trafficking issues linked to the cyber scam industry in Southeast Asia and intensified crackdowns on undocumented migrants in Malaysia. 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



IOM LAUNCHED ITS STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2028

IOM launched its global five-year Strategic Plan, which aims at achieving safe, orderly and regular migration and at supporting vulnerable migration groups. Guiding the Organization until 2028, the plan is a result of extensive consultations with IOM staff, migrants, Member States and other UN agencies. The plan outlines three overarching goals that will guide IOM's work: saving lives and protecting people on the move, driving solutions to displacement with the use of data and expertise to address crises, and facilitating pathways for regular migration. Research has shown climate change is the top driver of migration, and the Plan precisely emphasizes reducing its risks. The Plan, which was launched on 10 January 2024 in N'Djamena, Chad, can be found [here](#).



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024

In observance of the International Women's Day on 8 March, IOM emphasizes the urgency for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. As we approach 2030, it is crucial to stand by the responsibilities and goals outlined in the global frameworks, by working towards the development of peace, the eradication of poverty, discrimination and violence, which largely concern women and girls in several areas of the world. IOM reinforces the urgent need for unified action to support migrant, displaced and diaspora women and girls, by committing to gender-sensitive financial strategies for sustainable development. Read more about this topic [here](#).



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION VOLUME - 62 ISSUE 1

In February 2024, the International Migration Volume 62-Issue 1, a refereed bimonthly review of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), was published. The review tackles current migration issues as analyzed by demographers, economists, and sociologists all over the world. Focusing on the facts and challenges that characterized 2023, the International Migration provided a space for scholars to advance migration information. You can find more information on this volume [here](#).





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


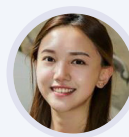





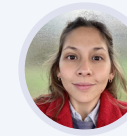


			
Goal 1: Centralizing Information	Goal 2: Leveraging quantitative insights	Goal 3: Harmonizing data processes	Goal 4: Disseminating good data practices

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

				
Olga Aymerich	Anny Yip-Ching Yu	Mohammed Tayib	Ashok Rai	Satt Paing Oo
Coordination	Data Analysis and Research	Regional DTM Support	Information Management	Information Management
				
Gabriela Alvarez	Mohammad Saleem Kashaf	Jasmine Tham	Barbara Porrovecchio	Boon Benjapornkulpong
Data Analysis, Research and Support	Database and Application Development	Data Analysis, Research and Support	Data Reporting, Research and Support	Missing Migrants Project

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>