



Children play in the Carteret islands, Papua New Guinea. The islands are being impacted by rising sea levels caused by climate change. © Muse Mohammed / IOM

**The International Organization for Migration (IOM)’s Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand** oversees, plans, coordinates and supports IOM activities in the Asia and the Pacific region with key responsibilities of project review and endorsement amongst others.

The Regional Office provides technical support to Country Offices; liaises with governments, development partners and civil society; and help Member States to build their migration management capacity. It also assists in the areas of emergency response, disaster risk reduction and climate-induced migration.

ROAP thematic specialists work in the areas of: Emergency and Post Crisis; Migration Protection and Assistance; Immigration and Border Management; Migration Health; Labor Migration and Human Development; and Migration, Environment and Climate Change.

Other specialists work in the fields of Regional Policy and Liaison; Media and Communications; Programme Support; Project Development, Resource Management and Field Security.

The office works closely with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

It also supports regional migration management initiatives including the Colombo Process on Overseas Employment; the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

## KEY MIGRATION FACTS IN ASIA-PACIFIC

- The number of international migrants in the region has grown from almost 31 million in 1990, to 42 million as of mid-2020, representing 15 per cent of the global international migrant stock of 281 million by mid-2020 – almost half are women (DESA, 2020).
- Almost 83 million people from Asia-Pacific countries lived outside their countries of origin as of mid-2020 – 30 per cent of the world’s international migrant stock (DESA, 2020).
- Among all migrants residing in the region, nearly 82 per cent came from Asia-Pacific countries, making most migration in the region intraregional (DESA, 2020).
- Five of the world’s top ten remittance receiving countries are in the region, which received nearly USD 306 billion in remittances in 2021 accounting for the largest proportion of global remittance flows (40%) (World Bank/KNOMAD, 2022).
- In 2021, an estimated 13 per cent of trafficking victims assisted by IOM worldwide were originally from Asia-Pacific countries of which, 70 per cent were exploited within the region, making intraregional human trafficking predominant in Asia and the Pacific.
- Forced labour constituted the primary type of exploitation in 2021, with 92 per cent of the IOM-assisted victims of human trafficking reportedly subjected to this type of exploitation, particularly in the domestic, construction and fishing sector (IOM, 2022).
- Almost 80 per cent of sudden onset disaster-induced displacement worldwide occurs in the region. In 2021, 18.9 million new disaster displacements occurred in the Asia-Pacific region, mainly driven by droughts, earthquakes, typhoons, flooding and volcanic eruptions (IDMC, 2022).

# Asia and the Pacific: Regional Strategy 2020-2024

## The Regional Strategy aims to:

- Address the drivers of displacement and provide solutions for those displaced.
- Significantly scale up support to governments in enhancing migration management and governance.
- Strengthen IOM support for migration dialogues and collaborative actions in the region.
- Enhance knowledge and the evidence-base for effective migration policy, programme support and innovation in the region.

## Thematic Priorities



**MIGRATION POLICY:** To strengthen global governance of migration in line with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, including implementation and review processes.



**EMERGENCY AND POST CRISIS:** To address the drivers and consequences of forced migration, during preparedness, response, recovery and transition (to stability) phases.



**MIGRANT PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE:** To contribute to the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations, including victims of human trafficking, exploitation and abuse, unaccompanied and separated migrant children, stranded migrants and migrants in detention, while also ensuring sustainable return and reintegration for returning migrants at their communities of origin.



**MIGRATION HEALTH:** To provide health assessments to facilitate migration; to offer health assistance to migrants, particularly those affected by crises; and to promote migrant health, including access to healthcare.



**LABOUR MIGRATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT:** To work with the private sector to protect migrant workers throughout the labour migration cycle; build the capacity of governments to improve labour migration governance at all levels, including the mainstreaming of migration into national and sub-national policies; and improve the sustainable development impacts of well managed labour mobility.



**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT:** To promote the development of migration policies and the capacity of States to respond to migratory challenges by building the capacity of relevant border agencies, enhancing data collection and analysis, and facilitating information sharing.



**MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE:** To address the migration, environment and climate change nexus, supporting policy development and forging partnership at the regional and national level with UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations and academic institutions.



## FACTS ABOUT IOM

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration is a related agency of the United Nations.

Currently with 174 member states and a further 8 states holding observer status and with offices in over 100 countries, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. It is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all and does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.



IOM works in the five broad areas of migration management: **migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, addressing forced migration, and addressing the impact of climate change on migration.**

Cross-cutting activities include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The UN Sustainable Development Goals recognize the nexus between migration and development and aim to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.

