

PROGRAMME Highlights



At a glance



Beneficiaries

Given the focus on policy reforms both at the state and migration corridor level, the short to long term coverage of beneficiaries is very wide. The direct beneficiaries included:

- Government policy makers and departments working with migrant workers from the Colombo Process Member States (CPMS).
- Non-state actors involved in the migration cycle with a special emphasis on civil society organizations, Trade Unions, employer organizations, recruitment agents and sub-agents.
- Women and men migrant workers and their families from CPMS in south Asia, with a focus on labour sending to Countries of Destination and returnees to Countries of Origin.
- Academic institutions and researchers working in the migration area.



Partner(s)

- South Asian Regional Trade Union Council (SARTUC)
- International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)
- Employers and Business Membership Organisations (EBMOs) of South Asia
- Relevant Government departments from South and South East Asia
- International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) - India
- Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) - Pakistan
- Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) - Bangladesh
- Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) - Sri Lanka
- Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM) - Nepal



Project Period

01 August 2020 – 31 January 2024



Development Partner

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Overview

Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the “Governance of Labour Migration in South and South-East Asia” (GOALS) is the first UN Joint Programme on international labour migration between International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

The overall programme goal was to ensure that labour migration is safe, orderly and regular for all women and men from Colombo Process Member States through strengthened collaboration and effective migration governance.

The programme was built on three inter-linked and inter-related outcomes –

- 1 Colombo Process Member States develop and progress actionable commitments for strengthened labour migration governance and policy coherence through multilateral dialogue;
- 2 Selected members states in South Asia have improved labour migration policies and practices, in particular on skills development and qualifications recognition, fostering fair and ethical recruitment, and sustainable reintegration; and
- 3 The evidence base on labour migration is strengthened to inform knowledge, dialogue, policy making and action.

Overall Programme Achievements



Strengthened platform for policy discussions for both inter and intra-regional dialogue - through Colombo Process Thematic Area Working Groups.



Enabling environment for safe, orderly and regular labour migration enhanced through **regional and country-level gender-responsive frameworks and models developed** under the programme, tested in national level pilots.



Enhanced evidence base on labour migration for policy makers and other stakeholders.

The programme **established an effective One UN approach** – advancing coordinated, inclusive and collective UN action, aligning with system-wide accountability. ILO, IOM and UN Women brought in their constituents complementing the discussion and implementation of the interventions. The approach also increased cross-sectoral collaboration between labour, migration and women ministries to enhance regional and national policy framework for effective migration governance.



Colombo Process Thematic Area Working Group meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka. © IOM



Regional Symposium on Women Migrant Workers with a focus on Gender Responsive Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements.
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Key results and achievements



Ensured strengthened labour migration governance and policy coherence through multilateral dialogue

- Colombo Process Thematic Area Working Groups mainstreamed gender into their meeting agendas and workplans with increased participation of women and women's groups
- Between 2021 and 2023 – **11 TAWG meetings held under GOALS with participation of over 181 representatives** from Colombo Process Member States.
- At least **13 positive policy changes and practices were actioned** by Colombo Process Member States and **16 joint positions adopted** to advance objectives and activities foreseen in their workplans.
- Increased active participation of civil society, trade unions, and other stakeholders in the intergovernmental meetings and policy dialogues promoting the multi-stakeholder approach in improving migration governance.



Supported skills development and qualifications recognition

- **South Asian Qualification Referencing Framework has been developed** and agreed at the technical level by seven South Asian Member States.
- **National Skills Passport** was developed and implemented in Pakistan.



Fostered fair and ethical recruitment practices

- Supported International Trade Union Confederation to launch **Migrant Recruitment Advisor** in Bangladesh and expand in Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- Capacity of South Asian member states and relevant stakeholders strengthened on gender responsive bilateral labour migration agreements – using the UN Network guidance on BLMAS.
- Translated and adapted UN Women's Toolkit for Gender-Responsive Employment and Recruitment in Bangladesh and Nepal.
- National-level recruitment cost survey (SDG indicator 10.7.1) was conducted in Nepal.



Developed solutions for sustainable reintegration

- Launched a **mapping report** of reintegration measures in South Asia.
- **South Asia Reintegration Manual** developed to enhance a more inclusive and sustainable reintegration interventions which was formally supported by four South Asian Colombo Process member states. The Reintegration Manual (Model) was piloted in Sri Lanka and India (State of Telangana).
- A **Regional Framework** on the Prevention of Gender-based Violence and Harassment against Women Migrant Workers in South and South-East Asia was developed offering promising strategies for stakeholders to accelerate the prevention actions.



Supported knowledge, dialogue, policy making and action through evidence-based approach

- The first sub-regional knowledge hub – **South Asia Centre for Labour Mobility and Migrants (SALAM)** was established with academic institutions and think tanks from five South Asian countries. **15 academic papers and policy briefs have been published along with 18 regional-level public lectures** with participation of over 675 participants have been organized.
- **17 collaborative forums, meetings and events were organized** where knowledge products produced under the programme and its partners were shared with Member States and other stakeholders. A total of 905 participants have participated in these meetings and capacity building programs representing governments, employers, workers, academia, media and UN agencies.
- **Gender assessment of skills development opportunities** in **Pakistan** and **Sri Lanka** were completed as well as the assessments of gender data on migration in Bangladesh and in **Nepal**.

- The **Regional Symposium on Women Migrant Workers** was organized bringing together gender advocates to connect with representatives from governments, workers' and employers' organizations to specifically discussed issues and ways forward to enhance gender equality in labour migration governance.



Progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment

- Women's rights organizations have been increasingly engaged in consultations, policy dialogues resulting in increased gender-related national updates and recommendations for the TAWG workplans made by CPMS that **ensure women's access to safe migration and decent work**.
- CPMS gained better understanding of the **importance of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis** necessary for the development of migration policies and procedures to be more gender-responsive.



Skills Passport distribution ceremony in Karachi, Pakistan. © ILO

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