

TRIANGLE in ASEAN



AT A GLANCE

→ Partners

ASEAN Secretariat and related ASEAN bodies, ASEAN Trade Union Council (ATUC), ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE), labour ministries, workers' and employers' organizations, recruitment agency associations and civil society organizations at the national level

→ Donors

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Global Affairs Canada (GAC)

→ Duration

2015-2025

→ Target beneficiaries

Women and men migrant and potential migrant workers, their families and communities from and within ASEAN, tripartite constituents, ASEAN bodies, recruitment agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector

→ Geographical focus

TRIANGLE in ASEAN engages at the regional level through ASEAN institutions and has country level interventions in six key countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam)



PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Labour migration has long been a critical factor behind the economic and social dynamism of the ASEAN region and its people. Disparities in development between Member States, alongside demographic changes in destination countries, means that migration makes a substantial contribution to improved livelihoods and increased labour market efficiency.

Due to the high costs, long duration, and considerable complexity of navigating the regular channels for migration, many ASEAN migrants are employed precariously in destination countries without legal status. Regardless of the documents they hold, migrants within the region often experience exploitation and abuse because of inadequate protection of their labour rights during recruitment and employment.

Women face additional challenges in accessing safe and legal migration opportunities, with the type of work available to them often paying less and affording fewer legal protections due to lack of formalization. Protectionist policies in some countries restrict the movement of women by sector, destination or other circumstances perceived as dangerous or contrary to traditional social values.

In addressing these challenges, the TRIANGLE in ASEAN programme is a part of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) global efforts to promote fair migration. Through delivery of technical assistance and support to governments, social partners, civil society and regional bodies, TRIANGLE in ASEAN will create a suite of policies, tools and services that enhance the contribution of labour migration to stable and inclusive growth and development. The Programme extends the successful partnerships with the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Global Affairs Canada, building on years of working together to improve labour migration governance in the ASEAN region.

- Safe and fair labour migration -

TRIANGLE in ASEAN



MAIN ACTIVITIES

TRIANGLE in ASEAN works on three key areas:

1. **Protection:**
Women and men migrant workers are better protected by national and regional labour migration governance frameworks.
2. **Development:**
Policies and programmes enable women and men migrant workers to contribute to and benefit from economic and social development.
3. **Mobility:**
Labour mobility systems are gender-responsive and increase the efficiency of labour markets in the ASEAN region.

TRIANGLE in ASEAN also has three cross-cutting themes that inform the implementation of activities:

- Women's empowerment and gender equality
- Private sector engagement
- Communications, advocacy and visibility

TRIANGLE in ASEAN delivers services directly to migrant workers and their communities through a network of Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs) established in the six focus countries. These MRCs are implemented in partnership with government institutions, trade unions and civil society organizations and provide a variety of services in countries of origin and destination tailored to the target population. Over the past seven years, these MRCs have become trusted community services and will become institutionalised over the life of TRIANGLE in ASEAN, building an environment that enables informed migration choices and increases positive and inclusive migration experiences.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

From 2010 - 2016, TRIANGLE in ASEAN generated substantial outcomes at regional and national levels.

At the regional level, TRIANGLE in ASEAN has strengthened labour migration governance through:

- Supporting dialogue at the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour, which annually brings together tripartite representatives from all ASEAN member States to discuss key labour migration challenges.
- Developing the International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database for ASEAN to improve the availability of reliable data that can be used to inform migration policies and programmes.
- Adopting ASEAN-wide and sub-regional action plans for skills recognition and labour mobility.
- Increasing the capacity of ACE, ATUC and civil society organizations to contribute to the formulation of labour migration policies.

At national level, TRIANGLE in ASEAN has delivered the following outcomes:

- Provided support for the development of 26 policy instruments, including national labour migration policies and legislation and bilateral Memoranda of Understanding.
- Trained 23,102 tripartite stakeholders at national and provincial levels on labour migration governance issues (39% women).
- Provided 75,351 migrant workers, potential migrant workers, and their communities with individualized support services (41% women).
- Enabled US\$2.45 million in compensation awarded to migrant workers faced with labour rights abuses.

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