



TRIANGLE in ASEAN and the global COVID-19 pandemic

During the first quarter of 2020, the COVID-19 crisis developed into a global pandemic accelerating in terms of intensity and reach. The ILO estimates that full or partial lockdown measures are affecting nearly 2.7 billion workers, representing 81 per cent of the global workforce.

While we are still to see the full impact of the crisis on migrant workers in the ASEAN region, it is clear that this group of workers are among the most vulnerable. In Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, migrant workers represent a significant share of the workforce. They often serve on the front lines, carrying out essential jobs in transport, agriculture and food production, construction and other services including domestic work. These sectors are characterised by high levels of temporary, informal or unprotected work, with low wages and lack of social protection. Other ASEAN member states are to a various degree depending on remittances that migrant workers sends home. Close to 50 per cent of all intra-ASEAN migrants are women.

Reports from TRIANGLE partners indicate that migrants are among the first to lose their jobs due to the economic impact of the crisis. Many are unable to return home as countries are closing their borders and those that do manage to return are often confined to ill-equipped quarantine centres. Further, migrant workers are often suffering discrimination and abuse, worsening working conditions including reduction or non-payment of wages, cramped or inadequate living conditions. They are often unable to access their rights to labour and social protections, including COVID-19 testing and treatment.

TRIANGLE in ASEAN responds to the crisis by supporting its partners to cater to emergency needs of migrant workers in countries of origin and destination including food distribution, masks and hand sanitizers, and by providing policy advice to constituents and other stakeholders rooted in International Labour Standards.

Here you can read more about how COVID-19 is impacting migrant workers in [Thailand](#) and [Malaysia](#) and some of the responses to the crisis.

Recruitment fees and related costs: What migrant workers from Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Myanmar pay to work in Thailand

The report, published on 31 March, presents the findings of a survey on recruitment fees and related costs paid by migrant workers from the three countries to work in Thailand. The focus is on low-skilled migrant workers

who are the most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse because of their low educational qualifications and limited asset base. The survey used a standard methodology developed by the World Bank-led Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) initiative, making it possible to compare migration costs across corridors.

[Read more](#)



More Choices, More Power: Opportunities for Women's Empowerment in Labour Migration from Viet Nam

Through an in-depth analysis of survey data and qualitative interviews, the report proposes that the key to increasing women's power cannot be found in any one place, whether it be a place of origin or work destination abroad. Instead, power can be found within a confluence of local and foreign factors of migration. This research therefore emphasizes that the best strategy for improving the outcomes of migration for women and provincial development is in removing limitations to women's agency and enabling access to more options from which they can choose.

[Read more](#)



TRIANGLE in ASEAN Key Results 2011-2019

IMPROVING LAW AND POLICY

34 policy and legislative instruments

adopted with technical assistance from TRIANGLE in ASEAN.

REDUCING MIGRATION AND REMITTANCE COSTS

376 employment agencies have committed to codes of conduct

on fair and ethical recruitment in Myanmar and Viet Nam.

1 new Code of Conduct for Cambodian recruitment agencies was finalised with TRIANGLE in ASEAN support in 2019.

SaverAsia

The **Saverasia.com** helps migrant workers to compare and find cheapest transfer services for sending money home. SaverAsia app is being developed.

ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

798,273 persons reached with research and communications materials,

ranging from pamphlets on migration distributed in villages to social media campaigns. This includes 301,153 in 2019.

BUILDING LOCAL AND REGIONAL CAPACITY

36,476

people from ASEAN member states were trained

on labour migration governance issues. This includes 4,982 people (53% women) in 2019.

SERVICES TO MIGRANT WORKERS

157,262

migrant workers accessed services since 2011 from

45% women

28

Migrant Worker Resource Centres in six countries in 2019.

US\$4,787,431

was ordered in compensation to migrant workers for legal claims.

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

35 research products published, including in 2019:

- Public attitudes towards migrant workers in Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand
- More choices, more power: Opportunities for women's empowerment in labour migration from Viet Nam
- Effective return and reintegration of migrant workers with special focus on ASEAN Member States
- The future of work and migration
- Digitalization to promote decent work for migrant workers in ASEAN
- Implementation of recommendations from the 3rd to 10th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Gender budgeting

While all activities promote gender equality, since 2015

more than **20%** of all activity funds are spent on women.

Our impact: TRIANGLE in ASEAN Key Results 2011-2019

TRIANGLE in ASEAN is a partnership between Australia, Canada, and the ILO that works together with ASEAN institutions, governments, workers, employers, and civil society to protect and promote migrant workers' rights in ASEAN. TRIANGLE in ASEAN aims to maximize the contribution of labour migration to equitable, inclusive, and stable growth in the region. The programme engages closely with regional and national tripartite constituents in

ASEAN to improve policy and legal frameworks on migration, enhance the knowledge base, and deliver services to thousands of migrant workers and members of their families. TRIANGLE in ASEAN is committed to innovative, rights-based interventions with a focus on women's equality and empowerment.

This infographic summarizes TRIANGLE in ASEAN's key results for 2011-2019. [Read more](#)



NEWS AND RECENT EVENTS



ATUC action papers published

The ASEAN Trade Unions Council published three action papers in March:

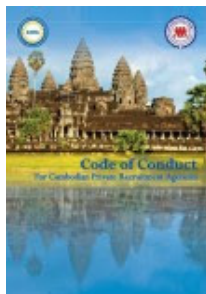
- The use of digital technology to promote decent work for migrant workers in ASEAN
- Realizing the rights of migrant workers to join trade unions
- Realizing the rights of migrant workers to social protection



ATUC Information System for Migrant Workers 2.0

The ASEAN Trade Unions Council has also relaunched its [ATUC Information System for Migrant Workers 2.0](#) as a multi-lingual service, with case reporting forms available in six languages including Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Lao, Thai and Vietnamese.

MOST RECENT TRIANGLE PUBLICATIONS



Code of Conduct for Cambodian Private Recruitment Agencies



**Recruitment fees and related costs:
What migrant workers from Cambodia,
the Lao People's Democratic Republic,
and Myanmar pay to work in Thailand**



TRIANGLE in ASEAN Key programme results 2011-2019



More Choices, More Power: Opportunities for Women's Empowerment in Labour Migration from Viet Nam

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events are on hold due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

QUARTERLY BRIEFING NOTES (QBN)

- TRIANGLE in ASEAN and DMA Global are at final stages of developing the multi-lingual **SaverAsia mobile app**. User testing of the Bahasa Indonesia, Burmese, Khmer and English language versions of the app is ongoing in Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar.

QBN ASEAN

- On 29 January, the **Code of Conduct for Cambodian Recruitment Agencies** was officially launched. The Minister of Labour and Vocational Training and the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia hosted the launch, provided key messages and emphasized the commitment to support and encourage the implementation of the code by the private recruitment agencies.

QBN Cambodia

- TRIANGLE in ASEAN and the Migrant Worker Resource Centres cooperated on a **training on "Case story writing", a workshop on Migrant Workers' Family Networking**, and provided inputs to a workshop **developing Information, Education and Communication material**.

QBN Lao PDR

- In **Myanmar**, TRIANGLE in ASEAN contributed to a training and a seminar on **Media and Migration** and participated in a **TV show run by the BBC Media Action** to discuss labour migration governance issues.

QBN Myanmar

- The **Thai** Department of Employment, in collaboration with TRIANGLE in ASEAN, organized the first **national meeting on the Operations of the Migrant workers assistance centres (MWAC)**.

QBN Thailand

Connect with TRIANGLE in ASEAN