

Protecting the Rights of Migrant Workers through Empowerment and Advocacy in Malaysia

Factsheet (DRAFT), 23 September 2016

At a glance

- **Partners:** Trade unions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and migrant associations.
- **Donor:** USDOL
- **Duration:** February 2016 – December 2019
- **Target beneficiaries:** Women and men migrant workers with regular and irregular status. Main focus is on **Indonesian workers in manufacturing, construction and domestic work.**
- **Geographical focus:** Kuala Lumpur/Selangor, Penang, Johor

Project aim and objectives

Protecting the Rights of Migrant Workers through Empowerment and Advocacy in Malaysia builds capacities of trade unions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and migrant associations to deliver higher quality assistance and rights education to migrant workers, and enhances coordination and dialogue to improve advocacy on behalf of migrant workers.

The project aims to ensure that, after three years, **migrant workers – and organizations and associations supporting them – are empowered to better protect and advocate for migrants' rights.**

Towards the achievement of this goal, the following outcomes/results are expected:

- Objective 1: Improved education of foreign migrant workers regarding their individual and collective labour rights.
- Objective 2: Improved advocacy on behalf of foreign migrant workers.

Project outcomes

- Outcome 1. The capacity of trade unions, CSOs and migrants' associations to deliver higher quality assistance to migrant workers is enhanced.
- Outcome 2. Migrant workers better understand their individual and collective labour rights, and how to safeguard their rights.
- Outcome 3. Enhanced coordination and dialogue amplifies the work of trade unions, CSOs and migrants' associations in advancing migrant workers' rights.
- Outcome 4. Increased public awareness of migrant workers' rights, and more positive attitudes towards migrant workers.

Main activities

- Baseline survey on migrant workers' awareness of their rights; attitudes and perceptions of trade unions, CSOs and migrants' associations; and the communication channels used by migrants.
- Mapping of trade unions and CSO service providers and migrants' associations across Peninsular Malaysia, including sectors and nationalities reached; and identification of possible new partners.

- Development and roll out of tools and training to build the capacity of trade unions, CSOs and migrants' associations to deliver higher quality services.
- Support to CSOs, trade unions and migrants' associations to conduct outreach and provide support and assistance to migrant workers.
- Development of a common agenda among partners to identify policy advocacy priorities.
- Coordination strengthened with external partners, including Government, private sector, embassies and source country partners.
- Study on public attitudes to migrant workers and labour migration policies.
- Migration Works campaign and media engagement to promote a more positive image of migrant workers.