



Ship to Shore Rights South-East Asia: Regional programme on labour migration in the fishing sector

QUICK FACTS

Countries: Sub-Regional- Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam

Evaluation date: 15 December 2024

Evaluation type: Project

Evaluation timing: Final

Administrative Office: ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

Technical Office: MIGRANT, FUNDAMENTALS and SECTOR

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Donor(s) & budget: EU – 10M€

Key Words: Fishing, Seafood Processing, Labour Migration, Forced Labour, International Labour Standards, South-East Asia



BACKGROUND & CONTEXT	
Summary of the project purpose, logic and structure	The S2SR programme is a 4-year and 4 months (53 months) EU-funded initiative with the overall objective of promoting regular and safe labour migration among Southeast Asian countries, in particular in the fishing and seafood processing industry. It is implemented by ILO in partnership with the International IOM and UNDP across seven ASEAN countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The S2SR programme interventions contribute to the overall objective of expanded opportunities for safe and regular migration into decent work in South-East Asian countries, particularly for women and men in the fishing and seafood processing sectors.
Present situation of the project	The project finished on December 2024
Purpose, scope and clients of the evaluation	<p>The overarching purposes of the evaluation are accountability and learning by assessing and understanding the extent to which the action was able to achieve goals as required by the donor; inform through knowledge and learning the design and development of improved future programming in the migration space; and understand how the action contributed towards overall organizational learning, in support of the realization of IOM, UNDP and ILO strategies including the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) and Programme and Budget (P&B).</p> <p>The final evaluation period included the beginning of the S2SR programme in August 2020 until its conclusion in December 2024. Geographically, the evaluation covered interventions at the regional level and country-level work.</p> <p>The primary end users of the evaluation's findings are the management team of the S2SR programme, the ILO administrative unit (ROAP), relevant Country Offices, the ILO technical units at headquarters (MIGRANT, FUNDAMENTALS and SECTOR), IOM, UNDP, the donor (European Union) and ASEAN.</p>
Methodology of evaluation	The evaluation employed a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis. The methodology included document reviews, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions with key stakeholders. Quantitative data were sourced from ILO progress reports to the EU and secondary sources.
MAIN FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS	<p>Coherence: The S2SR programme effectively collaborated with major initiatives such as IOM PROMISE/CREST, ILO TRIANGLE in ASEAN, and Safe and Fair, ensuring resource efficiency and preventing duplication. Partnerships among ILO, UNDP, and IOM leveraged their strengths in policy, protection services, and research.</p> <p>Relevance: The programme addresses critical vulnerabilities in the fishing and seafood processing sectors. Its design aligns with stakeholder needs and strategic frameworks like the SDGs and ILO's DWCPs and P&B.</p> <p>Effectiveness: The programme achieved notable successes:</p> <p><u>Legal and Policy Reforms:</u> Supported legislative advancements in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam, aligning national policies with international</p>

labour standards. **Regional Coordination:** Facilitated the ASEAN Declaration and Guidelines on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers, strengthening cross-border governance. **Labour Inspections:** Improved enforcement mechanisms, such as PIPO inspections in Thailand and joint inspection models in Indonesia. **Anti-Trafficking Efforts:** Enhanced victim identification and referral systems in multiple countries. **Worker Empowerment:** Established 23 Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs), benefiting over 236,000 workers through legal assistance, training, and counselling. **Research and Advocacy:** Published 23 studies and conducted awareness campaigns, like Myanmar’s successful Yay Kyi Yar initiative, informing policy reforms and safe migration practices.

Efficiency: The project’s financial and human resources were efficiently utilized in the target countries to achieve the intended outcomes.

Impact: The programme contributed to legislative reforms, improved labour standards enforcement, and empowered migrant workers with critical information and services.

Sustainability: The programme fostered stakeholder ownership and institutionalized reforms. However, sustainability risks persist due to reliance on external funding, political instability, and limited national budget allocations.

RECOMMENDATIONS, LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES

Recommendations

- 1. Promote Ratification of International Labour Standards.** Support ratification and implementation of key standards (e.g., C.188, C.181, C.29) by aligning national laws, strengthening enforcement mechanisms, collaborating with social partners, and enhancing labour inspection effectiveness.
- 2. Improve Labour Inspection Systems.** Strengthen labour inspection frameworks fishing, seafood processing through inter-agency cooperation, learning from models like Thailand’s PIPO system and Indonesia’s collaborations.
- 3. Strengthen Capacity of Unions and CSOs.** Conduct needs assessments and develop tailored capacity-building plans to improve unions’ and CSOs’ management, advocacy, legal knowledge, and service delivery.
- 4. Enhance Fair and Ethical Recruitment** by promoting international labour standards, regulating recruitment agencies, ensuring contract transparency, and ethical recruitment practices.
- 5. Sustain MRCs with Financial and Technical Support.** Provide continuous support to MRCs to improve services across migration stages.
- 6. Enhance Training and Skills for Migrant Workers.** Develop programmes to improve safety, skills, labour rights awareness, and language proficiency for fishers and seafood workers.
- 7. Promote a Just Transition for Local Fishers.** Support local fishers in adapting to climate and economic changes through training, alternative livelihoods.
- 8. Strengthen National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs).** Enhance NRMs to provide timely, coordinated support for migrant workers, including trafficking victims.



	<p>9. Scale-Up the GLP Experience. Expand the Good Labour Practices (GLP) model regionally by customizing to local contexts.</p> <p>10. Develop a Future Exit Strategy for S2SR. Plan an exit strategy that transfers responsibilities to local stakeholders, embeds tools into national frameworks, and ensures sustainability of critical components like MRCs and labour inspections.</p>
<p>Main lessons learned and good practices</p>	<p>Lessons Learned</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need for Sustained Capacity Building: Continuous capacity building is essential for authorities to enforce labour regulations effectively. 2. Enhanced Regional and ASEAN Coordination: Greater regional collaboration within ASEAN is necessary to align policies and ensure comprehensive protection for migrant workers across borders. 3. Community-Centric Communication: Initiatives like Myanmar’s Yay Kyi Yar campaign demonstrated the importance of culturally and linguistically relevant communication strategies to engage migrant workers effectively. 4. Importance of Political Will: Political commitment is pivotal for implementing legislative reforms and ethical recruitment practices. 5. Cross-Border Collaboration: Including both origin and destination countries in migration corridors, such as Cambodia/Myanmar to Thailand, strengthens collaboration and worker protections. 6. Role of Unions and CSOs: Unions and CSOs play a vital role in addressing violations, improving access to justice, and strengthening labour inspections, amplifying the voices of migrant workers. <p>Good Practices</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adaptive Programming for Complex Contexts. The S2SR program successfully demonstrated flexibility by embedding adaptive mechanisms to respond swiftly to diverse legal, social, and economic conditions across countries. 2. Institutional Partnerships for Sustainability. Collaboration with local civil society organizations, unions, and government agencies proved effective in delivering sustained support to migrant workers. 3. Bilateral Agreements for Regulated Labor Migration. Bilateral labor agreements, like the potential Cambodia-Thailand model, provide safe and structured migration pathways, reducing vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation.. 4. Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs). MRCs in six Southeast Asian countries effectively support migrant workers through services such as pre-departure orientation, legal assistance, and reintegration support.