ENHANCING PROTECTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

BACKGROUND

Migrant workers are on the front line in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic fallout have exacerbated their vulnerability, especially for women and migrant workers with irregular status. Overcoming this crisis means including migrant workers in response and recovery plans.

IOM implements 18-month regional initiative, funded by Sweden and in partnership with the Migrant Forum in Asia, to enhance protection of migrant workers in Asia impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project aims to support migrant workers and their families impacted by COVID-19 to become more resilient and have access to safe, orderly and regular labour migration during recovery.

The project builds on IOM’s COVID-19 response outlined in IOM Strategic Response and Recovery Plan (SRRP) 2021 and is implemented as part of IOM regional Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking Project in Asia (CREST).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

1. Strengthen the evidence base on the impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers and their families
   - Facilitate policy dialogues with migration-stakeholders and provide technical assistance to policy makers
   - Promote the inclusion of migrant workers in recovery plans, including access to vaccinations
   - Provide guidance on addressing the vulnerabilities of migrant workers during and after COVID-19

2. Provide technical assistance to policy makers and private sector to prepare for a just recovery of labour migration
   - Carry out assessments on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on migrant workers
   - Support the development technology solutions and assessments to capture the voices of migrant workers
   - Help harmonize data collection and research efforts on the impacts of COVID-19 on migrant workers

3. Help strengthen access to effective remedy for migrant workers
   - Support civil society in providing migrant workers with accurate and rights-based information on available grievance mechanisms
   - Establish and implement a regional assistance fund for migrant workers
   - Convene a multi-stakeholder dialogue to promote more effective transitional justice mechanisms

4. Support civil society in assisting migrant workers impacted by COVID-19
   - Establish a regional coordination and funding mechanism to strengthen civil society support to migrant worker communities
   - Support in providing direct support services and relief to migrant workers
   - Develop training programmes for migrant works on financial literacy and management of remittances
PARTNERSHIP

Civil society and private sector plays key roles in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact for Migration. This project builds on IOM’s existing partnerships and networks, including governments, private sector and civil society under the CREST project.

We work with Migrant Worker Forum Asia (MFA), a regional network of non-government organizations, associations and trade unions of migrant workers, and individual advocates in Asia who are committed to protect and promote the rights and welfare of migrant workers. Together we aim to engage civil society stakeholders and strengthen their capacity to promote safe, orderly and regular labour migration.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONTACT

This project aligns with objectives (1), (6), (7), (10), (15), (16), (17), (23) of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and builds upon following principles:

- International collaboration;
- Human rights;
- Migrant-centred;
- Whole-of-society and whole-of-government;
- Gender-responsive;
- Rule of law and due process.

About CREST

Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) is an initiative implemented by IOM that supports businesses in upholding the human and labour rights of migrant workers in key sectors and migration corridors.

Building on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, we develop partnerships and projects with businesses to build commitments to end exploitation of migrant workers, implement human rights standards that address migrant workers’ vulnerabilities, and promote collaboration across sectors and all stakeholders for sustainable positive change.

About IOM

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM is part of the United Nations system, as a related organization.

To find out how your organization can support this initiative, contact IOM CREST regional management:

Email: IOM_CREST@iom.int
Phone: (+84.28) 3822 2057
For more information, visit our website crest.iom.int