



Recommendations from Lao PDR National Tripartite Preparatory Workshop

14th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour “Recovery and labour migration in the post pandemic future”

30 August 2021

Sub-Theme 1: Protection of migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic – Current situation

1. Ensure access to COVID-19 tests, vaccines, health and medical care for all migrant workers in origin and destination country is easier, more inclusive and does not discriminate on any basis.
2. Require that destination employers notify workers in advance of any workplace closure, and ensure all policies and benefits for the workers are fully implemented in accordance with laws, regulations and labor agreements.
3. All migrant workers should be able to benefit from social protection and other government schemes, including migrant worker welfare and other emergency funds, in origin and destination
4. All migrant workers in need, regardless of status, should be able to access emergency humanitarian support, including food, shelter and medical care.
5. Ensure access to justice for migrant workers, including in relation to wages disputes, protection against unfair termination of labour contracts and support for return migration/repatriation in the case of terminations.
6. Ensure equitable access to health and safety in workplaces and in all migrant worker housing.
7. Protect all migrant workers from undue loss of migration status and presumption of fault when in irregular status, and facilitate visas and work permits extensions during the outbreak of COVID 19 and in future similar crises.
8. Support for migrant workers who need or are forced to return, during quarantine, and with reintegration processes, including access to emergency income support, skills development, and job seeking in communities of origin.



Sub-Theme 2: Recovery and the post pandemic future

9. Ensure labour protection gaps are closed in destination, especially where informality or non-standard forms of employment cause decent work deficits, and where unregulated sectors are not covered by labour laws and social protection schemes, including domestic work and seasonal/short-term employment.
10. Ensure no one is left behind through inclusive labour market and job recovery, through protection and promotion of fair recruitment, control and reduction of fees and costs payable by migrant workers, and prevent the increase of migration fees as a result of COVID 19 related costs.
11. Strengthen procedures and processes for occupational health and safety inspections in destinations to ensure these reach migrant workplaces
12. Destinations must ensure the payment of all social security benefits, including pensions to the migrant workers on their return.

The meeting was held on 30 August 2021 at Vientiane, Lao PDR, and online.