

Snapshot The Safe Labour Migration Programme in Sri Lanka

Since 2010, Switzerland has been supporting the Safe Labour Migration Programme (SLMP) in Sri Lanka with the purpose of maximizing the benefits for migrant workers and their families, while increasing contributions of migration to development in Sri Lanka.

The SLMP is linked and directly contributes extensively to the Migration Partnership between the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Sri Lanka.

This partnership offers an excellent opportunity to deepen and expand the dialogue and cooperation in the field of migration, to identify opportunities to improve the overall governance of migration as well as to work towards constructive solutions to the challenges of migration.



At the national level this collaboration has introduced number of positive changes and has witnessed the following achievements during the last phase;

- More than **127,000 prospective migrant workers** received pre-departure and pre-employment orientation, including legal aid and psychosocial services.
- **70%** of **Development Officers Foreign Employment** trained to provide effective services for migrant workers.
- Migrant Worker Societies facilitated supports to over **6000 families of migrant workers** affected by Covid19.
- **95%** of grievances of **women and men migrant workers and their families** in the project areas resolved.
- Over **1100 migrant workers** given guidance counselling for skills development/certification
- **Migration Information Centres** established in divisional secretariats to provide Safe Labor Migration information.
- **158 Migrant Workers Societies** with over **3400 active members** function at village level in 4 districts.

TARGET 10-7



RESPONSIBLE AND WELL-MANAGED MIGRATION POLICIES

The SLMP is well aligned with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, contributing to the SDG target 10.7 by aiming to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people”.



The SLMP supports decent work, enhance the productive potential of labour migration and the wellbeing of migrant workers and their families through improved labour migration processes, labour market regulations and access to targeted services for migrant workers.

Between April – July 2020, 5630 families in Sri Lanka received food assistance and hygiene items. 4056 families were supported with home gardening activities to secure their livelihoods. SDC and the State Secretariat for Migration also support the COVID-19 test capacities at the International Airport in Colombo to facilitate the return of migrants (CHF 1 million contribution to IOM).

Sri Lanka was able to present the best practices and national experiences at the regional and global level through consultative process such as Colombo Process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue and Global Forum on migration and development, while importantly were also able to translate number of the regional and global policy decision and learnings into practices at the national level.

SLMP supports the effective implementation of the National Labour Migration Policy, led by the Ministry of Foreign Employment.

Based on the past learnings of the former SLMP Phases, this phase emphasizes on the provision of specialised services for migrant workers at the district level (pre-departure, protection and justice services)

It is aimed that the experience of this national programme contributes to and substantiates regional and global policy dialogue on Migration and Development along defined thematic priorities.

At present, the SLMP Phase IV is supported by the Embassy of Switzerland and implemented in close collaboration with the State Ministry of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification (MFE) and Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE).

SLMP Phase IV (2020 – 2024) targets towards;

<p>Outcome 01</p>	<p>The Government of Sri Lanka implements policies securing the rights and protection of migrant workers and their families</p> <p><i>Output 1.1 - Foreign Employment Ministry's systems and representatives are capable to review, coordinate and monitor efficient migration related policies</i></p> <p><i>Output 1.2 - The Government develops actionable commitments for strengthened labour migration governance coherent with regional policies and frameworks</i></p>
<p>Outcome 02</p>	<p>Migrant workers societies and network support their communities and influence policies</p> <p><i>Output 2.1 - Women and men migrant workers receive peer support from migrant worker societies and networks</i></p> <p><i>Output 2.2 - Migrant workers' contributions in policy dialogue is strengthened at district, national and regional level</i></p>
<p>Outcome 03</p>	<p>Women and men migrant workers access gender-responsive skills qualification and have increased employability in local and global economies</p> <p><i>Output 3.1 - Women and men MWs access occupational guidance on skills development and (self-) employment</i></p> <p><i>Output 3.2 - Vocational Training Instructors understand (foreign) employer worker requirements and Employers are aware of benefits of hiring Sri Lankan MWs</i></p>

All implementation partners are funded with CHF 4'650'000

- National Level — International Labour Organization
- National Level — iesc International Executive Service Corps
- Vavuniya — Federation of institutions for Rural Management (FIRM)
- Anuradhapura — SAFE Foundation
- Puttalam — VOICE Area Federation
- Kandy — Seemasahitha Samadana Samithiya (SAMADANA)
- Kurunegala — Centre for Human Rights and Community Development (CHRC)