ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

IOM
UN MIGRATION

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**REGIONAL STRATEGY
2020–2024**

IOM
UN MIGRATION

FOREWORD

In November 2019, the IOM Strategic Vision was presented to Member States. It reflects the Organization's view of how it will need to develop over a five-year period, in order to effectively address complex challenges and seize the many opportunities migration offers to both migrants and society. It responds to new and emerging responsibilities – including membership in the United Nations and coordination of the United Nations Network on Migration – as we enter the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. As part of the implementation of the Strategic Vision, I asked each of the Regional Offices to develop its own strategic priorities for the 2020–2024 period, integrating key elements of the Vision to respond to emerging needs within the region.

This regional strategy reflects the essential role that IOM plays in the field of human mobility: protecting, assisting and supporting migrants across the world, developing effective responses to the shifting dynamics of migration, and serving as a key source of advice on migration policy, research, data and practice. It also highlights the critical work that IOM undertakes in emergency situations, developing the resilience of communities and mobile populations, and particularly those in vulnerable situations, while building capacity within governments to manage all forms and impacts of mobility.

Most importantly, this strategy highlights the current and future regional and cross-regional trends and challenges with respect to migration and situations of displacement, and outlines how IOM will seek to address them, including through collaboration with United Nations agencies and other partners.

I would like to thank colleagues at all levels of the Organization – and particularly at the regional and country levels – for their diligent and insightful work in developing this strategy, which places IOM's global strategic objectives in context and sets out a course of action to achieve them. It is particularly timely, given the high salience of human mobility in public discourse, and as operational needs on the ground, particularly in the humanitarian sphere, are becoming more complex in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under this strategy, IOM colleagues will engage with a wide range of stakeholders in all countries in the region, along with key regional bodies, including economic communities, consultative processes and multilateral forums, on the priorities it sets out. I and all my colleagues look forward to working with you over the next years to ensure that migration is safe, orderly and regular for the benefit of all. Together, we can respond to the needs and aspirations of migrants and displaced populations around the world, building societies fit for a modern, mobile and interconnected world.

António Vitorino
Director General
International Organization for Migration

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
CSO	civil society organization
DRR	disaster risk reduction
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LDC	least developed country
PIF	Pacific Island Forum
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNCT	United Nations country team
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group

1.
INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION[1]

Over the last seven decades, IOM has served the needs of migrants and Member States in supporting improved migration management outcomes within a variety of contexts across the globe. The Organization's strong operational presence, its expansive range of partnerships and its demonstrated commitment to principled action in upholding migrants' rights and governments' responsibilities in managing migration across its multiple dimensions have positioned IOM to continue leading the global discussion on migration in the coming years. The reputation of IOM as a principled and pragmatic operational actor is underpinned by responsive and flexible programming and partnerships addressing long-standing migration management challenges, as well as emerging trends and needs among migrant populations.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) in 2015 and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration were watershed moments for the global community to cooperatively address migration issues across many critical dimensions. As recognized in the 2030 Agenda and promoted in the IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development,[2] human mobility is inextricably linked with sustainable development. As such, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the commitment to "leave no one behind" will not be achieved without due consideration of migration. As evidence shows across the globe, migration can be a powerful driver of sustainable development for migrants and their communities in countries of origin, transit and destination. To this end, IOM will continue to support Member States in leveraging the potential of migration through a whole-of-government approach to achieve sustainable development outcomes for all.[3] Such support will contribute to shaping the global discourse on migration, including by offering an important and evidence-based counter-narrative within contexts of rising nationalism and xenophobia, and where migration has become politicized and polarizing.

IOM Regional Strategy for Asia and the Pacific 2020–2024 is guided by the IOM Strategic Vision and responds to the national priorities of Member States across the region.

The core values and principles of IOM are at the heart of its work. The Organization holds itself to high standards, guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including upholding human rights for all. Respect for the rights, dignity, empowerment and well-being of all migrants and (associated) communities remains paramount. IOM has always assisted governments in their effective implementation of international standards in their programming and will continue to do so. In addition to the values enshrined in the IOM Constitution, the Organization continues to adhere to the core United Nations values of integrity, professionalism and respect for diversity, ensures that it is accountable to its beneficiaries, and plays an active role in preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.

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[1] For definitions of migration-related terminology used in this strategy, see: IOM, *Glossary on Migration,* International Migration Law No. 34 (Geneva, 2019). Available at www.iom.int/glossary-migration-2019.

[2] IOM, *IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development* (Geneva, 2020). Available at https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-institutional-strategy-migration-and-sustainable-development.
As a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), IOM has a clear responsibility to articulate its mandate and promote its activities in pursuing the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. IOM activities in support of Member States' commitments under the 2030 Agenda and related regional migration and sustainable development initiatives will provide critical anchors for cooperation and dialogue in the years to come.

[3] Within this approach, IOM shall directly contribute to the Decade of Action in fast-tracking progress towards achievement of the SDGs, facilitating partnerships and collective outcomes characterized by greater coherence and impact across IOM activities and IOM-supported initiatives.

In assuming a more prominent role in leading the global discussion on migration and leveraging its presence and programmes across a range of contexts, IOM has expanded to incorporate new competencies and developed new partnerships. Building on its reputation as a responsive and flexible operational partner, it has become a key interlocutor to a range of stakeholders on migration policies and practices. The Organization's key role in supporting the implementation of critical United Nations reforms, including its leadership as the Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration as system-wide support to the State-led Global Compact for Migration, is accompanied by both opportunities and challenges. As a forward-looking organization, IOM must continue to navigate emerging trends in global governance and multilateralism, seeking out opportunities to adapt and remain relevant, while remaining committed to and guided by the principles and operational posture that have enabled its development and the positive impact on migrants' lives across the globe.

It is in this context that IOM in Asia and the Pacific will pursue the following key strategic objectives in the next five years (2020–2024):

(a) Address the drivers of displacement and provide solutions for those displaced

IOM will use its expanded evidence base and operational expertise to support governments and partners to directly pilot and implement programmes that target drivers of displacement – be they natural hazards, conflict or economic factors – supporting preparedness and prevention measures, as well as potential development solutions, and engaging relevant interlocutors at various levels. In addressing the drivers and impacts of displacement, IOM will further strengthen its humanitarian programming to ensure accountability, attain durable outcomes and support enhanced resilience. Finally, IOM will strengthen its focus on innovative and collaborative solutions for displaced and migrants in vulnerable situations, emphasizing expansion beyond the commonly understood sustainability of durable solutions (return, resettlement and (re)integration). Such support is envisioned to include an expanded portfolio of programming to address migrants' material and physical needs and consideration for legal and financial remedies related to land, debt and rights, thus affording opportunities for displaced families to determine their own paths to empowerment and self-sufficiency. Intersecting vulnerabilities affecting specific categories of migrant and mobile populations, such as gender, age, ethnicity and legal status, are major factors underlying disparities in access to employment, income and social protection, and will be addressed through context-appropriate programming at different stages of the migration process.

(b) Significantly scale up support to governments in enhancing migration management and governance

IOM will provide technical and programmatic support to governments and national stakeholders in enhancing migration management and governance. Such support will include cooperation to enhance the harmonization of legal frameworks, policies and regulations at the bilateral and multilateral levels, as well as strengthening organizational structures and cooperation mechanisms – be they national, regional or international – that shape the roles and responsibilities of States regarding mobility and migration in all their forms. In its engagement with Member States, the Organization shall seek to support governments in enhancing relevant functions within their respective national systems to ensure safe, orderly and humane management of migration, while improving the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration. Building on its existing

cooperation with governments, IOM will further consolidate its shared expertise and experience in operational and rights-based policy support, with a view to scaling up its work in this area.

(c) Strengthen IOM support for migration dialogues and collaborative actions in the region

IOM will strengthen its support for migration dialogues and cooperative actions among countries through multilateral processes across the region, such as the Bali Process, the Colombo Process and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, and reinforce actions pursued by regional entities such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Pacific Island Forum (PIF). Such collaboration promises to bolster the region's voice in global forums, particularly in relation to the humanitarian and development agenda, where by many countries in the region are increasingly assuming more prominent roles. Further to and through its role within the United Nations Network on Migration in the region, as well as its active engagement in implementing key United Nations reforms, IOM will seek to lead the United Nations system's efforts on the migration-related priorities of the 2030 Agenda, the Global Compact for Migration and other global and regional frameworks. To this end, IOM will strengthen collaboration with traditional partners and forge new cooperative arrangements with a range of non-traditional actors that have the potential to add important perspectives and capabilities in addressing migration challenges and opportunities that contribute to sustainable development outcomes.

(d) Enhance knowledge and the evidence-base for effective migration policy, programme support and innovation in the region

Given the dynamic and diverse landscape of migration and mobility in Asia and the Pacific, improved and up-to-date data are critical to the formulation of policy, programming, and regional and international dialogue in advancing rights-based, people-centred migration governance. Challenges to advancing improved and coherent migration governance are compounded by a persistent and unsubstantiated narrative that casts migration negatively without recognizing its many positive contributions to sustainable development outcomes. Seeking to address this, and building on its existing collaboration, IOM will strive to be the main reference point for knowledge on migration by enhancing and consolidating systematic data collection and analysis that builds evidence to broaden the understanding of migration pathways, drivers, decision-making, dynamics, complexities, challenges and opportunities. Disaggregated data will continue to be collected as evidence of the different needs and challenges that migrants of all genders and ages face in the region directly attributable to or exacerbated by gender and age. Seizing opportunities to incorporate such evidence within policymaking, programme design and in informing discourse, IOM will strengthen collaboration and build new partnerships with a host of interlocutors, including migrant communities, governments, United Nations and non-United Nations agencies and development actors, academia, the media, and civil society. These partners will, in turn, benefit from accurate, timely and unbiased information, contributing to strengthening the alignment between migration and sustainable development on all levels.

Since early 2020, countries and populations across Asia and the Pacific region have been impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic. While the short-term impacts are already being felt most acutely by vulnerable groups, the longer-term, socioeconomic, development-related and humanitarian consequences are yet to be fully determined as the context within specific countries, across subregions and globally evolves. Consequences of the pandemic will continue to impact the needs of migrants and other populations on the move, communities and governments, and must therefore be fully reflected in IOM programming, which has already been adapted to account for the particular response requirements within various operational contexts. This regional strategy should therefore be read with due consideration of the potential uncertainty of contextual developments and will be reviewed periodically to ensure the necessary response to address the ongoing and emerging impacts of the pandemic and other significant regional and global developments.

2.

POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE REGION

2. POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL OUTLOOK FOR THE REGION

2.1. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

IOM in Asia and the Pacific encompasses 40 countries, stretching end to end from Afghanistan to the farthest Pacific island State of Kiribati, and consists of five subregions: the Pacific, South-East Asia, East Asia, South Asia and South-West Asia.

As such, Asia and the Pacific does not represent a single, coherent migration environment. Instead, the region comprises five distinct sociocultural, political and economic subregions, each with unique mobility and development dynamics within and between them. Geophysical conditions shape migration realities across this expansive region, which is home to a large continental landmass, as well as the world's largest maritime environment.

The Asia and the Pacific region is home to nearly 60 per cent of the world's 7.7 billion people[4] and has 23 of the world's 38 megacities.[5] It also hosts three of the five largest economies of the world – China, Japan and India – and is the largest consumer market, with growing local businesses.

While such trends and global averaging across the Asia and the Pacific region are indicative of a positive socioeconomic trajectory, there is tremendous diversity in terms of governance and economic systems within and across the five subregions, as the region, for example, hosts several highly advanced economies, as well as some of the world's least developed countries (LDCs), some of which are poised to transition to mid-income country status in the next decade.[6] Such disparities in levels of socioeconomic development and the existence of opportunities within countries and subregions continue to shape migration patterns, and increasingly prompt dialogue and cooperation at the bilateral, subregional and pan-regional levels.

The region is becoming increasingly connected internally and globally. Multitudes of ongoing and planned activities in infrastructure development, technology transfer, business cooperation and investment are serving to deepen regional and global interdependence. The need for infrastructure development alone is estimated at USD 26 trillion for the 2016–2030 period.[7] Organic and planned regional integration, such as that pursued by ASEAN through infrastructure, as well as institutional, digital and people-to-people connectivity, is occurring in an accelerated and deeper manner. Various regional and intraregional trade arrangements have been developing as well, shaping overall development and human mobility within the region.

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[4] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Population Division, *World Population Prospects 2019* (New York, 2019). Available at https://population.un.org/wpp.

[5] Megacities are defined as cities with a population of over 10 million people, (UN DESA, *World Urbanization Prospects (The 2018 Revision)* (New York, 2019). Available at https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-Report.pdf.)

[6] UN DESA, Graduation from the LDC category. Available at www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category/ldc-graduation.html.

[7] Asian Development Bank (ADB), *Meeting Asia's Infrastructure Needs* (Mandaluyong, Philippines, 2017). Available at www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/227496/special-report-infrastructure.pdf.

This broader picture has its challenges: inequality continues to persist, with nearly 400 million of the world's poor residing in the region.[8] As regional connectivity deepens, there are risks of environmental impacts, increased transnational crime and geopolitical tension. Problems that are generally associated with rapid urbanization are also prevalent across the region – for example, high population density, lack of job opportunities, exploitation, lack of affordable housing, congested informal settlements, inadequate infrastructure, pollution, high criminality and endemic poverty.

Disasters and natural hazards, which are expected to increase in scale and intensity with climate change and environmental degradation, are a constant threat to the region's populations and economies. Compounding existing economic, political and social challenges, the region's geographical position and risk profile render it particularly vulnerable. Indeed, around 86 per cent of the disasters induced by natural hazards reported annually worldwide occur in Asia and the Pacific, 30 per cent of which lead to losses in lives, livelihoods and infrastructure, often with long-term consequences for displaced populations.[9] Violence against women and girls, including gender-based violence, has been shown to increase in prevalence and severity in communities experiencing a disaster.

2.2. CURRENT AND FUTURE KEY PARTNERS

Located in Bangkok, a main regional hub hosting nearly 40 United Nations regional offices and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP),[10] the IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is well-placed to enhance relationships with a host of strategic regional partners.[11] Furthermore, IOM co-leads several coordination groups and is engaged in many joint initiatives with other United Nations agencies on migration and mobility as key emerging issues in the region.

IOM works with regional and multilateral frameworks and institutions (such as ASEAN, PIF and SAARC), regional development banks and regional frameworks.[12] It also facilitates and supports migration dialogues such as regional consultative processes (RCPs) on migration, including the Bali Process, the Colombo Process and the Abu Dhabi Process, as well as the Silk Routes Partnership of the Budapest Process and the Almaty Process.

Against a backdrop of shifting development partnerships, and acknowledging the decline in official development aid as more countries across the region are expected to "graduate" from LDC status, along with the existence of protracted humanitarian crises, and new and emerging challenges presented by a range of structural and dynamic challenges and opportunities, IOM will expand its range of partnerships with both traditional and non-traditional actors. Such partnerships are anticipated to develop in critical fields, such as the intersection of humanitarian, development, peace and security, as well as climate change, human rights, disaster risk reduction (DRR), migration health, border integrity and labour mobility. IOM remains committed to fighting gender inequality in the region and is an active member of the regional Gender in Humanitarian Action group.

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8   The number refers to the poverty line threshold (USD 1.90). (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Poverty and inequality. Available at www.unescap.org/our-work/social-development/poverty-and-inequality.)

9   Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), *GRID 2020: Global Report on Internal Displacement* (Geneva, 2020). Available at www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2020.

10 UNESCAP covers 10 countries under the IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

11 Building on its engagement in the UNSDG and Regional Coordination Mechanism, as well as the IASC, IOM is engaged in the new Regional Collaborative Platform as part of the United Nations Reform process at the regional level, including co-chairing of the Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) for Human mobility and Urbanization with UN-Habitat. In addition to its role for the United Nations Network on Migration at the regional level, IOM co-leads the Disaster Displacement Working Group as a mechanism to bring together the United Nations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations for prevention and solutions to displacement.

12 Including, but not limited to, ASEAN, SAARC, PIF, ADB, Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) cooperation framework, and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

In the context of increasing disasters and climate change impacts, and to mainstream environmental sustainability in IOM programming, IOM will be working with key United Nations partners, such as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as under the Inter-agency Standing Framework (IASC), and will continue to closely engage with traditional donors and non-traditional ones, such as the Green Climate Fund.

With the localization of the SDGs and implementation of migration policies at the local level, IOM will advance its partnership with vibrant networks of mayors and governors (e.g. through the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network) and the budding initiatives of Smart Cities, with which IOM has sought to build engagement. This is particularly important in the context of sustainable urban development, as the current rate of urbanization and growth of cities is not considered environmentally sustainable.

IOM works with a range of civil society partners in the region at the national and regional levels on a variety of joint activities – from the implementation of programming and capacity-building, to advocacy, research and supporting migration dialogues. IOM will strengthen and expand partnerships harnessing synergies in policy and operational areas that will benefit migrants, communities and countries.

Understanding the important role that the private sector plays, IOM partnerships with private sector entities is growing, with a range of new partners at the national and regional levels. Opportunities for further collaboration present themselves as national businesses venture into regional and global markets. IOM is poised to expand its engagement in the Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) programme and the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS). IOM is widely recognized as an important thought leader and operational partner in tackling modern slavery, human trafficking and other forms of exploitation in supply chains in the region. Under a platform such as its biannual Border Management and Identity Conference (BMIC), IOM is likewise positioned to expand collaboration with a host of government authorities and international and regional organizations, as well as relevant private sector entities.

3.

MIGRATION OUTLOOK FOR THE REGION

3. MIGRATION OUTLOOK FOR THE REGION

Asia and the Pacific is a region of both origin and destination, hosting 15.2 per cent (or about 41.3 million) of the world's international migrants. Approximately 32 per cent (82.5 million) of the world's migrants originate from Asia and the Pacific,[13] half of whom are female. About one quarter of the countries in the region host over a million international migrants, most of whom move between countries within the region. In 2019, the countries in the region are estimated to have received USD 287 billion in remittances,[14] and 6 out of the global top 10 countries of recipients are in this region.[15] In recent years, while remaining a region of origin of international students, it has also become a destination for a growing number of students.[16]

Beyond these numbers, the migration and mobility landscape in Asia and the Pacific is dynamic, diverse and complex, characterized by circular and seasonal migration, regular and irregular migration, large populations of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced populations, and stateless persons, as well as South–North and South–South migration patterns.[17] Migration drivers in the region are multiple and varied, with a range of push and pull factors within and across subregions. Employment and education opportunities prompt mobility, as does persisting inequality, conflict, disasters, climate change and environmental degradation.[18]

Looking ahead, these drivers and mobility patterns will be shaped by emerging trends, including the growing impacts of environmental and climate change on human mobility; the demographic shift attributable to a rapidly ageing population in East and South-East Asia; and the bulging youth population in South and South-East Asia, coupled with persistent youth unemployment;[19] as well as increased regional connectivity characterized by growing networks and corridors of mobility that facilitate the movement of goods, people and services. Such mobility may also enable transnational crime or other negative impacts and increase pressures on and threaten the sustainability of rapidly expanding urban settlements. The persistent challenges of people smuggling and trafficking in persons, as well as protracted humanitarian crises, will continue to undermine peace and security, threaten the lives and safety of individuals, and remain important challenges in many contexts.

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[13] Akiko Kikkawa, Raymond Gaspar and Cyn-Young Park, "International migration in Asia and the Pacific: Determinants and role of economic integration", ADB Economics Working Papers Series, No. 592. Available at www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/532176/ewp-592-international-migration-asia-pacific.pdf.

[14] World Bank, "Covid-19 crisis through a migration lens", Migration and Development Brief No. 32 (Washington, D.C., 2020). Available at www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialprotection/publication/covid-19-crisis-through-a-migration-lens.)

[15] World Bank, "Record-high remittances sent globally in 2018", press release, 8 April 2019. Available at www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/04/08/record-high-remittances-sent-globally-in-2018.

[16] IOM, *World Migration Report 2020* (Geneva, 2019). Available at https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2020.pdf.

[17] Ibid.

[18] Ibid., pp. 73–85.

[19] International Labour Organization (ILO), "Global employment trends for youth 2020", data set, available at www.ilo.org/asia/media-centre/news/WCMS_737997/lang--en/index.htm; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "UNDP Hosts 2019 Asia-Pacific Forum on Youth Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Guangzhou", press release, 7 November 2019, available at www.cn.undp.org/content/china/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/undp-hosts-2019-asia-pacific-forum-on-youth-leadership--innovati.html.

3.1. IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE ON HUMAN MOBILITY

The adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation have increasingly contributed to migration, a trend which is expected to persist and grow. Over 95 per cent of disaster displacement that occurs in the region is due to climate and weather-related, sudden-onset disasters such as storms and floods.[20] The region is highly vulnerable to climate impacts and slow-onset environmental changes and degradation due to its reliance on natural resources and agricultural sectors, persistent poverty, and the location of major cities in coastal and low-lying areas exposed to natural hazards. Slow-onset processes, including sea-level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and droughts, along with climatic changes linked to shifting precipitation and temperature patterns, have also had tangible impacts.

Although too complex to enumerate and go into detail, slow-onset processes accelerated by climate change interact with or impact other economic, social and political drivers of human mobility. This results in environmental migration – internally and across national borders – which may occur either pre-emptively or in response to loss and damage associated with progressively deteriorating environmental conditions. In particular, the small island developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean recognize climate impacts on migration as a priority to address and are at the forefront of developing solutions.[21]

3.2. DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS

Due to increasing life expectancy and decreasing birth rates, the world's population is getting older.[22] This trend is quite evident in the region. By 2050, the share of people aged 60 and over will be more than three times that in 1950.[23] Globally, this trend is anticipated to have an impact on economic performance, fiscal pressures, labour markets and human mobility patterns in developed and developing countries alike.

Countries, including Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Singapore, have been taking various measures and approaches in addressing ageing populations and labour shortages, including by importing foreign labour. The Republic of Korea has been implementing employment permit systems (EPS), and Japan has recently started specific skilled workers programme with 12 countries, mostly in Asia.[24] Thailand is employing many migrants from neighbouring Myanmar, Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, among others. Some 33 per cent of Singapore's entire labour force is foreign.[25] While the resulting human mobility is mutually beneficial for both origin and destination countries, much progress remains to be made in improving the conditions under which these migrants are engaged and live and ensure that their rights are upheld.

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[20] IDMC, *GRID 2019: Global Report on Internal Displacement* (Geneva, 2019). Available at www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/2019-IDMC-GRID.pdf.

[21] For example, Fiji and Vanuatu developed displacement and planned relocation policies/guidelines in the context of disasters and climate change.

[22] Akiko Kikkawa, Raymond Gaspar and Cyn-Young Park, "International migration in Asia and the Pacific" (see footnote 13).
By 2050, globally, it is projected that 1 in 6 people will be 65 years old or above. Those 80 and above are expected to make up 4.5 per cent of the global population.

[23] In Japan, people 65 years old and above comprise a quarter of the population, and this ratio is expected to reach a third of the population by 2050. (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Asia-Pacific Human Development Report, Shaping the Future: How Changing Demographics Can Power Human Development* (New York, 2016)).
The Republic of Korea is expected to overtake Japan by 2045 as having the oldest population. (United Nations, "Growing at a slower pace, world population is expected to reach 9.7 billion in 2050 and could peak at nearly 11 billion around 2100", press release, 17 June, 2019, available at https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_PressRelease_EN.pdf; World Bank, World Bank Development Indicators 2020, available at http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries.)

[24] Japan, Ministry of Justice, "New status of residence: "Specified Skilled Worker", webpage. Available at www.moj.go.jp/EN/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/nyuukokukanri01_00127.html.

[25] ILO, "Foreign workers in Singapore", article. Available at http://apmigration.ilo.org/news/singapore-and-foreign-workers.

3.3. SKILLING AND RE-SKILLING MIGRANTS AND PORTABILITY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

Migrants in Asia and the Pacific require access to reliable, timely and verified information and advice on employment, available services and administrative processes linked to labour mobility. Gaps remain in assessing the demand and supply of workers and jobs in selected sectors such as construction, caregiving and hospitality. A more thorough mapping of the skills mismatch and increased efforts to undertake qualitative and quantitative empirical data and analysis would enable better strategic insight into labour demand and supply. This would, in turn, strengthen the interlinkages between migration and global competitiveness, while facilitating decision-making of relevant ministries, sectoral skills councils, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and other related institutions.

As development continues to advance in countries across the region, it is expected that many migrants will return home in the next decade for either opportunities or retirement.[26] For this cohort, concerted efforts and cooperation of both countries of origin and destination are critical to ensuring necessary re-skilling and portability of social protection for migrant workers, as well as facilitating greater intraregional mobility.

3.4. IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Although data on irregular migration are inherently limited, available research and studies indicate that a considerable proportion of international migration within and from the Asia and the Pacific region is irregular. Over the years, this has been sustained by a combination of restrictive policies and difficulties for migrants in accessing information about regular channels, thus creating space for organized criminal activities that facilitate irregular border crossing at points of entry/exit. Long and porous land and sea borders, a lack of opportunities in countries of origin, as well as threats to the lives and well-being of individuals, contribute to making irregular migration and migrant smuggling a significant challenge in the region. While most of these movements occur between neighbouring countries, irregular migration routes are also known to extend much further over land and by sea, between non-contiguous countries. Worldwide, it is estimated that 62 per cent of people in modern-day slavery situations are in the Asia and the Pacific region, exploited in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, construction, fishing, hospitality and the sex industry.[27] While many individuals migrate to escape modern-day slavery situations, irregular migrants are often at risk of trafficking and attendant forms of exploitation and abuse. Migrant women face gender-related discrimination, resulting in context-specific forms of irregular migration that require urgent responses, both in terms of legal and operational support.

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[26] Akiko Kikkawa, Raymond Gaspar and Cyn-Young Park, "International migration in Asia and the Pacific" (see footnote 13).

[27] ILO, "Forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking", webpage. Available at www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index. htm.

3.5. CHILD MIGRANTS AND CHILDREN "LEFT BEHIND"

Some 33 million of the 272 million international migrants in 2019 were children,[28] corresponding to about one child for every eight international migrants. Some 40 per cent of international child migrants were born in Asia.[29] Child migrants – whether accompanied or unaccompanied, or separated from family and friends – are regarded as vulnerable. On the opposite end of the spectrum are children left behind by parents who migrate and leave children in the care of ageing grandparents. While they may be less vulnerable than migrating children, there are clear social and developmental impacts that result from such mobility.

3.6. DISPLACEMENT

While the primary drivers of annual displacement in Asia and the Pacific are environmental hazards and natural hazards,[30] there are locations where conflict contributes to persistent and long-term displacement of populations, whether internally and across borders. Data indicates that there are some 3.5 million refugees and 1.4 million stateless persons in the region.[31]

The majority of countries in the region have made great strides in strengthening policies, allocating requisite funding and forging partnerships with relevant agencies to better manage and take full accountability for the drivers of displacement and the needs of affected populations. Linking humanitarian work with development and peace processes to address prevention and achieve medium-term outcomes towards SDGs requires investment in both policy and operational capacities, particularly in enhanced data and information management for crisis prevention and response, vulnerability tracking, risk management systems, disaster recovery processes, resolution of displacement situations, stabilization, peacebuilding, and transitional justice and reform.

3.7. RURAL-TO-URBAN MIGRATION

While rapid urbanization has brought many benefits, including driving economic growth, it has been accompanied by a host of challenges, including an upsurge in informal settlements, strained access to basic services and adequate housing, and increasing demand for natural resources, among others. Many of the urban centres in the region are found in coastal and low-lying areas, increasing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards. Widening inequalities are witnessed to be occurring between and within cities. Indeed, while human mobility is one of the major forces for urbanization and creates important socioeconomic links between urban and rural communities, migration often occurs in the context of livelihood enhancement and poverty reduction, which, in some instances, is a precursor to international migration.[32]

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[28] UNICEF, Child Migration section. Available at https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-migration-and-displacement/migration.
[29] UNICEF, What We Do section. Available at www.unicef.org/eap/what-we-do/migration.
[30] In 2019, just over 19 million people were displaced from disasters, while approximately 800,000 were displaced by conflict in the region (IDMC, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2020*.)
[31] Many of those displaced by both conflict and disasters are in contexts of protracted crisis, including in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Myanmar and Bangladesh. (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Regional Summaries: Asia and the Pacific, in: *Global Report 2019* (Geneva, 2019). Available at www.unhcr.org/the-global-report.html.)
[32] IOM, *World Migration Report 2015* (Geneva, 2014), available at https://publications.iom.int/system/files/wmr2015_en.pdf; UNESCO, Policy Briefs on Internal Migration in Southeast Asia (Bangkok, 2018), available at https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/policy-briefs-internal-migration-southeast-asia.

3.8. COVID-19 IMPACTS

While countries across the region have taken proactive roles in cooperating to address emerging public health challenges, the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has served as a dramatic demonstration of the need to integrate migrants and migrant health into development. The intrinsic links have become more evident to policymakers and the general public, with a growing need to integrate migration and health issues within mitigation, response and development policies, and to account for the mobility patterns that continue to shift in light of the evolving situation and governments' responses. Indeed, as regards the broad landscape of human mobility and development in the region, the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to prompt major shifts in patterns and trends that will require renewed efforts to sustain dialogue and cooperation among governments and multilateral partners, as well as the private sector, to adjust, and where possible, harmonize, their respective approaches.

Notwithstanding such obstacles, achieving many of the goals of the 2030 Agenda requires regional integration and cooperation on migration – for development in the region will be, to a large extent, contingent upon sustained international migration. The return of migrants to countries of origin has been accompanied by increased unemployment, debt, asset loss and general welfare losses. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, migrants were left to find opportunities that were not available at home, and there is little evidence that local or national reopening or stimulus will fully address the structural economic conditions required to enable people to get back to work. Decreases in remittances[33] will have compounded effects on tax revenues required for large-scale stimulus and economic restructuring. Enabling migrants to return to work and sustaining overall mobility for growth, is a core element of the socioeconomic recovery required across many sectors in Asia and the Pacific.

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[33] World Bank, "COVID-19 crisis through a migration lens" (see footnote 14).

4.
REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

4. REGIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES[34]

Responding to these trends, and in close collaboration with its partners, IOM in Asia and the Pacific, in the next five years, will strive to find the most effective and sustainable way of assisting migrants and promoting their rights, dignity and well-being, while expanding support to Member States in achieving their priority objectives in pursuing improved migration governance. In the coming five years, the following strategic priorities, grouped under the three pillars of resilience, mobility and governance, will guide IOM in the region.[35]

4.1. RESILIENCE

Addressing the adverse drivers and risks of migration that contribute to vulnerability, IOM will seek to build national, community and individual resilience by focusing on the following:

(a) Deepening the understanding of migrants' risks, vulnerabilities and coping strategies by consolidating primary and secondary data and analysis, particularly on the drivers of migration and displacement, to enhance IOM expertise;

(b) Focusing on supporting authorities at the national and subnational levels (provincial, municipal and community) in the implementation of relevant policies, in line with international standards, thus increasing migrants' agency and the active participation of the private sector and wider society in contributing to sustainable development processes and outcomes;

(c) Focus on leveraging the Organization's operational strengths within models for innovative, multisectoral programming and policy, with a particular emphasis on enhancing the effectiveness of programming that bridges the humanitarian–peace–development nexus (HPDN) and its contribution towards achievement of the SDGs.

With the largest DRR and humanitarian programme portfolios of all regional operations, IOM in Asia and the Pacific will seek to emphasize prevention, preparedness and mitigation in reducing the vulnerability of people on the move, while informing and addressing humanitarian response needs and post-crisis action throughout the region. Countries in the region have increased efforts towards building resilience at the local and national levels, while regional policy frameworks, such as ASEAN's Culture of Prevention, contribute to frameworks for relevant approaches. In light of the natural hazard risk profile that prevails across much of the region, Member States have invested heavily in their national response and mitigation capacities. As such, IOM has, in many locations, transitioned from a role of responder to that of technical advisor to government actors, supporting and enabling localization and local accountability, including in crisis operations.

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[34] These strategic priorities respond to the pillars described in the IOM Strategic Vision. The IOM Strategic Results Framework (SRF) and its four objectives – humanitarian response and resilience (SRF Objectives 1 and 2), mobility (SRF Objective 3) and governance (SRF Objective 4) – capture the areas highlighted in the Strategic Vision. The strategic priorities in this regional strategy will be tackled through coordinated cross-thematic approaches to contribute to the broader regional goals.

[35] Given the vast coverage and diversity of the region, further elaboration of priorities in the specific subregional contexts will be addressed at the subregional and country levels.

Leveraging these gains, IOM will support increased resilience-building within the region by consolidating evidence and expertise, both in operations and policy development. Despite the severe and visible impacts of climate change, there is an acknowledged gap across the region for robust data and evidence on the links between climate change, development and migration, both internal and international. To this end, IOM anticipates increasing efforts to undertake relevant scenario-building, which will include analysis of rural areas exhibiting outmigration attributable to climate change and food insecurity, as well as internal climate migration to urban areas, especially megacities in low-lying coastal areas, and informal settlements. Building resilience against the adverse impacts of climate change is key to preventing forced migration and displacement in the region, as well as to addressing the myriad social and economic impacts of internal and international migration not classified as forced, but are often linked to losses related to environmental degradation. Enhancing knowledge and data on migration trends associated with these environmental impacts, including slow-onset events, the range of different disaster scenarios, and the specific vulnerabilities of the different age and gender groups, will support IOM in prioritizing policy and programming that embraces prevention as a principle in addressing forced and unsafe migration.

IOM efforts to build resilience will include expanding its work with national governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and private sector partners to focus on solutions, in particular, to ensure that migrants and displaced people returning home (or wanting to return home) are able to reintegrate effectively and sustainably within their communities.[36] This means a whole-of-IOM approach that integrates models to promote:

(a) Individualized reintegration responses to address the economic, livelihoods, social, legal and psychosocial needs of returnees;

(b) Community responses to promote participatory processes to address social and economic factors that put returnee reintegration at risk of further displacement, irregular migration or other negative outcomes;

(c) Institutional responses to hand over and support governments' accountability in addressing long-term needs while ensuring mechanisms for justice and stability that reduce risks to affected populations.

4.2. MOBILITY

In advancing multiple avenues for enhanced protection of migrants and their communities, enhancing pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration and maximizing the developmental gains of migration, IOM will prioritize actions to:

(a) Invest in and scale up innovative solutions and technologies;

(b) Advance partnership on mobility and work with transnational communities and the private sector.

Given the dynamic landscape of mobility in the Asia and the Pacific region and its complex migration flows, and in light of the increasing connectivity expected in the coming decades, it is important that governments are equipped with the knowledge, technical capacity and

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[36] Individual migrants and communities with heightened vulnerabilities or risk profiles will remain a priority. These include those returning from detention, those with significant health needs, unaccompanied and separated migrant children, victims of trafficking and associated forms of exploitation and abuse, displaced and conflict-affected persons, and survivors of gender-based violence in need of services and justice mechanisms.

requisite tools to respond to new and emerging challenges, while remaining committed to integrating emerging rights-based approaches to address specific risks associated with the introduction of automated border and migration management procedures.

To this end, governments across the region have advanced efforts, in some cases through public and private sector partnerships, to address a number of critical migration issues. This includes upgrading border management, linking and harnessing transnational communities in support of development of origin communities, tracking and monitoring risks and movement in crises, and using big data within strategies to implement programmes and global frameworks such as the SDGs.

Building on such progress in the region, and within its efforts to support governments in policy formulation and responses linked to broader sustainable development, IOM will invest in further building and tailoring its institutional data collection and management tools, such as the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), in order to gain a better understanding of particular mobility flows and challenges. Given the continuum of mobility, IOM will invest in improving understanding of such mobility dynamics in relation to urbanization. IOM will also support governments in achieving necessary technological and infrastructural improvements in relation to border management information systems (BMIS), supporting improved capacities to collect and manage biographical and biometric data of people cross-border movements, and, ultimately, supporting evidence-based policymaking.

IOM will increase its support to governments in managing mobility pathways, supporting governments and the private sector in countries of origin and destination throughout the migration process to ensure consistency of rights-based and gender-responsive messaging and programming. Such efforts will contribute to empowering migrant workers so that they are better able to contribute to community development. Furthermore, IOM will place emphasis on skills development to promote better employment opportunities, working conditions and safe migration pathways, especially for women, and enhance partnerships with the private sector, training institutions, CSOs and governments. Finally, enabling safe migration is an economic tool for individual and community development. IOM recognizes the potential for the private sector to take action that delivers rapid and concrete impact on the lives of migrants. IOM will intensify support for businesses to uphold human and labour rights of migrant workers in their operations and supply chains.

Investing in solutions and technologies goes hand in hand with advancing partnerships. In particular, IOM will seek to bridge the public and private sectors in effectively managing mobility through innovation and coherent policy responses, incorporating the use of technology to address rapidly changing migration realities and new cross-border mobility patterns. In advancing these partnerships, IOM will focus on identifying priority fields for the development of innovative and well-thought-through processes, procedures and systems that recognize the linkages between migration and development. Such an approach promises to contribute to the growth and prosperity of countries of origin and of destination, while benefiting migrants themselves. This includes working with diaspora communities and facilitating temporary return or return and reintegration, which will remain highly relevant to migrants within a number of important sectors across the region, including construction and transport, rural development and agriculture, and commerce – all of which are important for sustainable development, both nationally and regionally.

4.3. GOVERNANCE

In supporting enhanced governance across Asia and the Pacific, IOM will focus on the following priorities:

(a) Advancing its work in supporting good migration governance, strengthening institutions to apply a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, and further support both horizontal and vertical policy coherence and the implementation of policies that harness the potential of migration for sustainable development;

(b) Supporting governments in adopting policies and effective responses for addressing emerging trends and risks, such as the impact of climate change and disasters on migration;

(c) Expanding its work in support of migration dialogues and partnerships.

With the multidimensional reality of migration and mobility that predominates across the Asia and the Pacific region, governments and stakeholders have been integrating migration and mobility into development plans and agendas. Harmonization of multisectoral efforts remains a challenge in rolling out coherent policies and developing systems and tools to ensure accountability – both at the local and national levels. The multitude of challenges encountered in responding to the complex drivers of mobility, as well as emerging issues such as extremism, conflicts and climate change, will require concerted and increasingly coordinated efforts. These, as well as other security threats that may impact mobility, will figure prominently in the engagement of IOM with governments in ensuring rights-based approaches to managing migration.

With the increase in relevant dialogues and cooperation across borders, both sub- and cross-regionally, IOM will scale up its support in enhancing bilateral, regional and international cooperation, maintaining momentum for increased cooperation that countries have been pursuing in recent years on issues of common concern along the mobility continuum. This would include providing technical assistance to existing RCPs and other dialogues and cooperation in forging new ones. To this end, IOM will further enhance its collaboration with networks of local governments, the private sector, academia, CSOs, international financial institutions and other stakeholders, to advance work undertaken at the national level.

4.4. ACROSS PILLARS

In light of the intrinsic linkages between resilience, mobility and governance, IOM will scale up activities in support of each of these priorities while consolidating its work across the region with an expanding network of partners, including governments, other United Nations agencies, non-governmental actors, and academic and research institutions, as well as the private sector. IOM will also scale up its work with regional and international financial institutions in further mainstreaming migration to enable greater positive impact of migration in development outcomes.

IOM will pursue these priorities within its efforts to accelerate achievement of the SDGs and in its implementation of other global and regional frameworks, such as the Global Compact for Migration, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, SAMOA Pathway[37] and the New Urban Agenda, and the follow-up and review processes to the Global Compact, which include voluntary national reviews and regional cooperation. Such efforts will likewise contribute to the implementation of regional frameworks, plans of actions and programmes of regional entities and consultative processes. In all its programming and engagement with partners across the region, IOM will further child-sensitive and gender-responsive[38] approaches within and across all three pillars.

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[37] Formally, SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action. For more information about the Samoa Pathway, visit www.2030caribbean.org/content/unct/caribbean/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/samoa-pathway.html.

[38] IOM will not meet its objective of safe, humane and orderly migration for all unless gender equality is considered. (United Nations Reneral Assembly resolution 73/195 on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (A/RES/73/195) of 19 December 2018. Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_73_195.pdf.)

5.
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In pursuing its objectives during the strategy period, IOM in Asia and the Pacific will recognize the importance of leveraging its vast operational footprint and hands-on experience from IOM programmes and of IOM staff across the region. To this end, the IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific will continue to prioritize institutional development, enhancing capacity, knowledge and resource bases across IOM operations.

5.1. POLICY CAPACITY AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION)

IOM in Asia and the Pacific will seek to bring to bear the wealth of experience and expertise held across the Organization, with specific emphasis on incorporating learning and best practices from country-level operations from within Asia and the Pacific, as well as global and regional policy initiatives. More systematic knowledge management will not only support staff in the region in learning and sharing good practices, but also directly benefit Member States and a range of partners. The ability of IOM to interface with government authorities and contribute to shaping policy direction at the local, national and regional levels hinges on the Organization's ability to demonstrate learning and evidence gleaned through on-the-ground programming. As such, within the region, the Policy and Data Hub will be built up, with the aim of supporting policy development and decision-making, building on institutional tools such as the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), the Migration Governance Indicators and Migration Profiles, as well as a variety of DTM initiatives in line with the IOM Migration Data Strategy. The Regional Office will leverage established competencies and products, including thematic studies and put forward by IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, as well as expanding its collaboration with partners to enrich internal expertise and facilitate cross-fertilization with the experience of partners.

5.2. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

IOM is committed to delivering consistently high-quality and timely responses, assure high-impact outputs vis-à-vis objectives, and continuously aims to incorporate learning to improve migration outcomes. Focusing on accountability to migrant populations, partners and donors, IOM ensures that its credibility is maintained and strengthened. MiGOF objectives and principles are already embedded in programmes and activities within the region, with results-based management principles guiding both planning and reporting. During the strategy period, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific will commit to utilizing and building monitoring and evaluation capacity to enable more critical analysis of its approaches to programming and for its collaboration within the United Nations country team (UNCT) framework and with other partners. Such efforts will improve IOM support to Member States in implementing regional and international frameworks and ensure that learning informs a shared understanding of challenges and enables cooperative course correction going forward. To this end, IOM staff across the region will participate in monitoring and evaluation training to enhance necessary skills and share respective experiences to enrich learning outcomes.

5.3.   COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY

In light of the multidimensionality and complexity of migration, strategies for inclusive and consistent communication remain key to informing perspectives, enabling critical debate and advancing the objectives of improved migration management. With its extensive operational reach, rich knowledge base and the global platform afforded to it as the leading migration agency, IOM is well-positioned to lead the global conversation on migration. Acknowledging this opportunity, IOM in Asia and the Pacific will seek to improve its ability to effectively communicate and create visibility for key issues impacting upon migrants and societies, contributing to generating a shared understanding of challenges and opportunities while reinforcing positive migration messages. To this end, IOM will seek to develop the capacity of staff and partners, making use of multiple outlets to advance contextualized messaging and advocacy, including joint advocacy within the United Nations system through its role in the United Nations Network on Migration, as well as in the UNCTs. In an effort to reinforce the voice of migrants and their communities, IOM will endeavour to bolster platforms for migrants to share their experiences and work with an expanded range of migration partners.

5.4.   INNOVATION

Over several decades, IOM has earned a reputation of being a "can do" organization. It is perceived to be adept, responsive and quick. In light of a changing migration landscape and the evolving needs of beneficiaries – and cognizant of a dynamic and fraught funding environment – IOM recognizes the need to further embrace innovation at various levels – both institutionally and in terms of its role in coordinating United Nations system-wide engagement on migration and in response to emerging migration challenges. Indeed, the demonstrated ability of IOM to adapt within a range of contexts and over time attests to a culture of innovation within the Organization, though it is one that must be nurtured and further institutionalized. IOM in Asia and the Pacific has benefited from some innovative tools and initiatives across thematic, country and regional undertakings. In tandem with the work on improving knowledge management, the Organization will facilitate innovation development internally, as well as with partners, including migration stakeholders, the private sector, diaspora and transnational communities, and research institutions.

5.5.   STAFF DEVELOPMENT

To achieve organizational objectives and maintain competence to meet expectations and challenges now and in the future, IOM recognizes the need to further invest in staff development. Indeed, as the Organization's single most important asset, IOM staff should be cultivated to ensure they can continue to perform in their roles and contribute to achieving the Organization's objectives in fulfilling commitments to migrant populations and Member States. As such, institutionalization of staff development must continue apace and be regularly upgraded to ensure staff efficiency, effectiveness, consistency, currency and confidence, and that potential weaknesses are addressed at an early stage. In Asia and the Pacific, IOM will continue promoting a culture of learning and knowledge-sharing, skills development and investment in the human resources of IOM across country offices. The Regional Office will maximize institutional resources and tools to achieve these aims and will build networks to explore other opportunities with partners for the purpose of cross-fertilization.

6.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT: IOM IN THE REGION IN 2024

6. CONCLUDING STATEMENT: IOM IN THE REGION IN 2024

By 2024, IOM in the Asia and the Pacific region will have further consolidated its expertise and capacities within key migration contexts across the region and expanded and deepened its cooperation and collaboration with a diversified range of interlocutors and partners, contributing to advancing shared migration governance objectives. The Organization's voice and reputation as a pragmatic and principled partner will have been strengthened through the conscientious efforts of country and regional programmes, strategic positioning within relevant forums, demonstrated impact of its operations and policy expertise across a range of critical issues within the region, as well as its proactive approach to partnerships. In short, during the coming strategy period, IOM in Asia and the Pacific region will aspire to strengthen its position as the leading migration organization in the region, remaining focused on improving migration outcomes for people and society.

To this end, IOM in Asia and the Pacific shall invest in institutional development and strengthening, with an emphasis on developing staff capacity, realigning its capacity to adapt to emerging mobility dynamics while enabling strategic expansion of the Organization's partnerships. This expansion will have a particular focus on engagement with non-traditional partners and will emphasize enhanced efforts to build national capacities relevant to enabling better-managed migration within various contexts. Recognizing the diversity of the region and the many unique subregional dynamics that exist, IOM will elaborate specific subregional strategies, which will be guided by and buttress the Organization's broader regional strategic framework.

The essence of the Organization's commitment to migrants and Member States across the region in the coming strategy period is reflected in the words of the IOM Director General, Mr António Vitorino, who acknowledges that:

> "In the current challenging political climate, migrants make for an easy scapegoat for all the problems that plague society. We need to constantly remind the international community of the reality, both historic and contemporary, that when well-managed migration works, closed societies can become open and political tensions fade away. Whether we are living, working, loving or building, we do so together."[39]

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[39] UN DESA, "Bring global migration compact 'to life', urges UN chief", news article. 18 December 2019. Available at www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/international-migrants-day-2019.html.

ANNEX: IOM IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Key areas covered in the region through programming, policy, research and partnerships

With its large footprint and network of stakeholders across the region, IOM in Asia and the Pacific currently implements a range of programmes and activities in the field of emergency and post-crisis response, migrant protection and assistance, immigration and border management, migration health, labour migration and human development, environment and climate change, as well as migration policy, data and research. The IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok, Thailand, oversees, coordinates and supports IOM activities in the region and provides technical support to country offices and leads engagement with partners. In supporting migrants and governments across the five subregions, IOM works closely with regional and multilateral partners (including the United Nations country teams), civil society and the private sector, as well as academic and research institutions. IOM also provides technical assistance to migration dialogues, including inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration.

IOM geographic coverage and offices and their functions in the region

Covering the 40 countries of this region, IOM in Asia and the Pacific has an operational presence in 33 countries, which are supported by some 3,000 staff. IOM also works with regional and multilateral frameworks and institutions, regional development banks and regional frameworks. It also facilitates and supports migration dialogues on regional consultative processes on migration, such as the Bali Process, the Colombo Process and the Abu Dhabi Process, as well as the Silk Routes Partnership of the Budapest Process and the Almaty Process.

As Bangkok is a main regional hub hosting nearly 40 United Nations regional offices and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is well-placed to enhance relationships with a host of strategic regional partners. Furthermore, IOM co-leads several coordination groups and is engaged in many joint initiatives with other United Nations agencies on emerging issues relating to migration and mobility in the region.

The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific oversees, plans, coordinates and supports IOM activities within the region. The Regional Office is responsible for project reviews and endorsements, and provides technical support to country offices, particularly in the areas of project development, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilization, resource management, and liaison coordination with regional and subregional governments, United Nations agencies and other key partners.

A Country Office with Resource Mobilization Functions, in Japan, supports the development of funding policies, establishes priorities and procedures, prepares proposals and develops fundraising strategies and mechanisms for national programmes and projects in line with the Organization's strategic focus and priorities.

The country office based in Australia is a Country Office with Coordinating Functions for the Pacific, helping address specific subregional migration issues and emerging trends and promotes increased IOM membership in the Pacific subregion. The office establishes priorities for project development and resource mobilization, and stimulates, directs and supports project development within the cluster of offices working in the context of subregional strategies, policies and consultative processes.

Country offices and sub-offices implement a wide range of projects addressing specific migration needs. These offices keep abreast of and analyse migration issues and emerging trends in the country, in order to develop appropriate responses and contribute to regional strategies and planning.

IOM offices in the region

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific									
Afghanistan	Australia	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Brunei Darussalam	Cambodia	China	Cook Islands	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Fiji
India	Indonesia	Islamic Republic of Iran	Japan	Kiribati	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Malaysia	Maldives	Marshall Islands	Federated States of Micronesia
Mongolia	Myanmar	Nauru	Nepal	New Zealand	Pakistan	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Philippines	Republic of Korea
Samoa	Singapore	Solomon Islands	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Timor-Leste	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Viet Nam

Total staff count: **>4,400**

- Country offices
- Country Office with Resource Mobilization Functions
- Country Office with Coordinating Functions for the Pacific
- Countries covered by the Regional Office in Bangkok
- Countries covered by the Country Office with Coordinating Functions for the Pacific

Note: Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Singapore are covered by the Regional Office. Cook Islands, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu are covered by the Country Office with Coordinating Functions for the Pacific, based in Australia.