

# Safe and Fair:

## Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region



### Programme Narrative - Indonesia



*Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region* is part of the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, a global, multi-year initiative between the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN). Safe and Fair is implemented through a partnership between the ILO and UN Women (in collaboration with UNODC) with the overriding objective of ensuring that labour migration is safe and fair for all women in the ASEAN region. Migration can be beneficial for all actors involved. Migrant women are able to access higher paid jobs, whilst increasing their agency and improving their position in the family and community. It is estimated that 63.9 Billion US Dollar were received in remittances in Southeast Asia in 2016. It is estimated that women's remittances can make up half of this. The programme aims to strengthen labour migration governance and address risks inherent in migration systems that can result in violence and trafficking, strengthen rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to violence against women and labour migration governance and support access to essential services. This will be done by:



Photo: (Up) ILO-PKWGUI / Anastasia Cindy, (Down) UN Women/Staton Winter

- ✓ Improving the frameworks that govern labour migration and ending violence against women;
- ✓ Improving access to information and services for women migrant workers and opportunities for them to network and organise;
- ✓ Producing data and evidence on the experiences of women migrant workers; and
- ✓ Campaigning to generate a better understanding of the contribution of women migrants.

### Programme Objectives

1. Women migrant workers are better protected by gender-sensitive labour migration governance frameworks;
2. Women migrant workers are less vulnerable to violence and trafficking and benefit from coordinated responsive quality services;
3. Data, knowledge and attitudes on the rights and contributions of women migrant workers are improved.

### At a Glance

**Duration:** 2018 – 2022

**Implementing organizations:** ILO and UN Women

**Stakeholders:** women migrant workers, Ministry of Manpower, Ministry for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, National Authority for Placement and Protection of Indonesia Migrant Workers (BNP2TKI); labour union, Placement Agency Association, civil society, community-based organizations and university

**Budget:** EUR: 25.5 Million

**Target beneficiaries:** current, potential and returnee women migrant workers and their families.

**Cross-cutting themes:** women's voice and agency; rights-based approaches; broad engagement of stakeholders.

**Geographical areas:** Greater Jakarta, Cirebon District (West Java Province), Blitar District / Tulungagung District (East Java Province), East Lampung District, (Lampung Province). With a possibility to support the knowledge sharing or technical assistance to East Nusa Tenggara province

## Background

Since the early 1980s, Indonesian migrant workers have been playing an increasingly important role in Indonesia's labour market. Recent research shows just how much labour migration contributes directly to improving people's lives. In 2016, Indonesian migrant workers sent over IDR 118 trillion back to Indonesia in remittances. 67 per cent of all migrant workers are women and remittances from women are more likely to be spent on health, education, family and community development. Most Indonesian women migrant workers are from poor rural areas where there are lack of alternative job opportunities for prospective



migrant workers. The data shows that there are 49 per cent of women migrant workers, especially from village or rural area fall out of the labour force after returning home (World Bank Survey 2017). Women are also more likely than men to experience multiple forms of discrimination, exploitation and abuse.

The Indonesian Government has made progress including through Parliament passing Law No. 18/2017 on the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers. The provisions of Law 18/17 mandate the government to enhance legal protections of workers throughout each of phase of the migration cycle. The law lays out the roles and responsibilities of national and sub-national level duty bearers and calls them to strengthen service delivery and improve coordination. Safe and Fair will bringing the gender lens to bear on the implementation Law 18/17 and ensure the operationalization of Law 18/17 will enhance coordination at different levels of government and key stakeholders in providing support to migrant workers protection and empowerment.



Photo: UN Women

The positive experiences and contributions of women migrant workers can only be fully ensured if their safety, labour and human rights are fully protected. Irregular migrants and migrant domestic workers, among others, are at particular risk due to their status and isolation. Whether migrating through regular or irregular channels, women migrants can face violence and abuse from intermediaries and employers, as well as from partners and others.

Violence against women migrant workers and trafficking are part of the broader spectrum of violence against women, and are driven by cultural and gendered norms. Such cultural and gendered norms – including the use of gender specific bans that prohibit the migration of women – also impact the migration opportunities available to women, restricting their ability to access regular migration into skilled, safe and well-paid employment. For migrant women, including survivors of violence, services are not well equipped to meet their needs - they are frequently challenging to reach, and are often not well coordinated among institutions, including policing criminal justice, health and social welfare services.

## Contact

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