

Webinar Series

## Social Health Protection for Migrant Workers and their Families

Organized by P4H-CONNECT and the Australian National University

### Background

The four-part webinar series entitled Social Health Protection for Migrant Workers and Their Families addresses social health protection (SHP) for international migrant workers. As defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO), SHP is “a series of public or publicly organized and mandated private measures against social distress and economic loss caused by the reduction of productivity, stoppage or reduction of earnings or the cost of necessary treatment that can result from ill health”. SHP includes health care benefits, sickness benefits and paid maternity leave.

The primary focus of the webinar series is the region of Asia and the Pacific, since the countries in this region are the source, transit and destination sites for migrants and their families. Approximately 83 million people in this region live outside their countries of birth; they constitute 30% of the world’s international migrant population. This region is also a major destination for migrant workers, attracting 24 million individuals (ILO 2021). The economies of many countries rely substantially on the labour of migrant workers and/or remittances from migrant workers.

The UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, states that migrant workers and their families are entitled to enjoy equality of treatment with nationals of the state of employment in relation to access to social and health services. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration contains several key objectives addressing social protection for health. In 2022, the first WHO World Report on the Health of Refugees and Migrants found that documented and undocumented migrants often have inadequate SHP. Insufficient or inadequate SHP for vulnerable populations has led to forgone care, financial burden, and impoverishment among the migrant populations. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted, widened, and intensified the coverage gap in some countries.

Challenges for countries in providing SHP include high levels of irregular and circular migration, support for returned migrant workers, and national resource constraints. Global shocks and threats like climate change and financial and governance crises intensify the flows of international migrant workers. Some countries within the region of Asia and the Pacific – particularly the six Champion Countries of the Global Compact (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand) – have introduced several innovations for migrant workers and their families. These include regularization procedures for irregular migrants to enable access to a country’s SHP (e.g., Thailand), bilateral social security agreements (e.g., between Australia and Japan, and India and the Republic of Korea) and compulsory health insurance for overseas workers (e.g., the Philippines).

In this webinar series, we will hear from speakers from the region of Asia and the Pacific, as well as from countries in Africa and South America, about the challenges surrounding and regional solutions for SHP for migrant workers.



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Labour  
Organization



World Health  
Organization



## Objectives

Through the webinar series, we aim to promote knowledge sharing and dialogue on SHP for migrant communities. We will focus on sharing lessons learned from Asia and the Pacific with other countries, as well as between the region's own countries. These are the objectives:

- (1) To outline the extent and focus of SHP for migrant workers and their families in host and sending countries.
- (2) To describe the challenges, gaps, and plans in SHP for migrant workers and their families.
- (3) To identify key topics and concerns to support regional and national stakeholders in developing and implementing SHP for migrant communities in the region.

## Outputs

The presentations and discussions during the webinars will be captured in a report and shared among P4H stakeholders and in appropriate forums to stimulate further discussions on SHP for migrants.

Over the course of the webinar series, we will conduct a survey to capture the perspectives of participants on both the knowledge gaps and areas that are important to help country or regional stakeholders design SHP policies for migrant communities. The outcome of the survey will be shared among participants and incorporated in the report to inform discussion on potential actions that can be undertaken collaboratively to improve SHP of migrant communities. The survey outcomes will also help P4H collaborative actions including follow-up studies and designing tools to translate knowledge into policy as feasible.

## Target audience

We propose to invite representatives from government, social security institutions and national programmes providing SHP to international migrant workers; key non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions who have expertise and interest in SHP for migrant communities; regional and national stakeholders, including the ILO, International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Health Organization (WHO), Asian Development Bank, ASEAN Economic Committee and the Migration Council of Australia.

## Agenda

The series will consist of four webinars: (1) a regional outlook, (2) country experiences from the region of Asia and the Pacific, (3) knowledge gained from other regions, (4) gender dimensions of, and impact of climate change on, SHP policies. Each 1.5-hour webinar will be recorded and disseminated by email and on P4H's YouTube channel. The proposed agendas are as follow.

<b>Webinar 1</b> <b>Regional and Country Experience in Social Health Protection for Labour Migration</b> <b>April 26 2023</b>	
2 mins	Welcome  Moderator: Christine Phillips, Professor, ANU College of Health and Medicine
10 mins	Opening by P4H and ANU <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Claude Meyer, Head of Partnership for Health Financing Unit, WHO, Geneva</li><li>• Russell Gruen, Dean, ANU College of Health and Medicine</li></ul>
20 mins	Regional overview and International legal framework for labour migration in the region of Asia and the Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nilim Baruah, Migration Specialist, ILO Regional office for Asia and the Pacific</li><li>• Marielle Phe Goursat, Chief Technical Adviser, SHP, ILO Regional office for Asia and the Pacific</li></ul>
30 mins (15 mins each)	Thailand: health coverage and protection of migrant workers and families <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thaworn Sakunphanit, Vice Chairman, Foundation for Research on Social Protection and Health</li><li>• Nyan Linn, Head of Programs, Dreamlopmnts</li></ul>
20 mins	Q&A session with speaker panel
3 mins	Survey and closing of Webinar 1

<b>Webinar 2</b> <b>Regional and Country Experience in Social Health Protection for Labour Migration</b> <b>May 2023</b>	
2 mins	Welcome and opening, with recap of Webinar 1 and introduction to Webinar 2  Moderator: Christine Phillips, Professor, Australian National University (ANU)
10 mins	WHO/IOM
20 mins	Australia: SHP for migrant workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker: Christine Phillips, professor of social foundations of medicine, ANU, executive member, Refugee Health Network of Australia</li> </ul>
20 mins	Philippines: Innovative SHP for Filipino workers [Speaker to be determined]
20 mins	Singapore: SHP for migrant workers Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeremy Lim, Board Member and Chair, Medical Services Committee, HealthServe, Singapore (NGO focusing on migrant community) and director of the Leadership Institute for Global Health Transformation, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore</li> </ul> [Alternative: someone from Indonesia to share Indonesian SHP]
15 mins	Q&A session with speaker panel
3 mins	Survey and closing of Webinar 2

<b>Webinar 3</b> <b>Cross-Regional Sharing on Social Health Protection for Labour Migration</b> June 2023	
2 mins	Welcome and opening with recap of Webinar 2 and introduction to Webinar 3  Moderator: To be confirmed
10 mins	Summary of key themes on SHP in the region of Asia and the Pacific
20 mins	Lessons learned from Colombia SHP
20 mins	Lessons learned from South Africa SHP
30 mins	Q&A panel with speakers from Asia and the Pacific / Colombia / South Africa – cross-regional dialogue
8 mins	Survey and closing of Webinar 3

<b>Webinar 4</b> <b>Cross-Cutting Issues on Social Health Protection and Migrants: Gender-Sensitive Policies and Preparation for Climate Change</b>	
5 mins	Welcome and opening with recap of Webinar 3 and introduction to Webinar 4
20 mins	Women and girl migrants: towards gender-sensitive SHP  Moderator: Christine Phillips, professor, ANU, and representative from Latin America
20 mins	SHP for migrants: preparing for climate change Speaker: Quynh Nguyen, Senior Lecturer, School of Politics & International Relations, ANU
15 mins	Survey findings and priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christine Phillips, Professor of Social Foundations of Medicine, ANU</li> </ul>
20 mins	Q&A session with speaker panel