

October 2024

TRIANGLE IN ASEAN PROGRAM INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

BACKGROUND

The Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development in ASEAN program (**TRIANGLE in ASEAN**) extends the cooperation between Australia, Canada and the International Labour Organization (ILO) on protecting migrant workers and enhancing the development impact of labour migration.

The program delivers technical assistance with the overall goal of maximising the contribution of labour migration to equitable, inclusive and stable growth in the ASEAN region. TRIANGLE in ASEAN works regionally with ASEAN, particularly the ASEAN Committee on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW), and nationally in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Myanmar (since the coup in 2021, limited to engagement with civil society organisations only) with a smaller presence in Malaysia and Vietnam.

Australia's support to the current phase of TRIANGLE in ASEAN is AUD 24 million over the November 2015 – September 2025 period. Canada's support is CAD 9.5 million over the December 2016 – September 2024 period.

THE EVALUATION

Due to Canada's contribution concluding on 30 September 2024, ILO commissioned an independent evaluation of TRIANGLE in ASEAN from January to June 2024. The evaluation assessed progress towards achieving program objectives, and identified lessons learned and potential investments into labour migration programs once the current phase of TRIANGLE in ASEAN concludes (September 2025).

Overall, the evaluation found that TRIANGLE in ASEAN has considerably achieved its end of program outcomes in strengthening migration governance in the ASEAN region and empowering migrant workers to identify and demand their rights and access decent work. The strong partnerships and development of trust over the lengthy implementation period have been significant drivers of this outcome. As the programs remain highly relevant to tackling existing and emerging challenges in the ASEAN region in relation to labour migration, the evaluation strongly recommended the continuation of TRIANGLE in ASEAN beyond the current phase.

DFAT RESPONSE TO THE EVALUATION

DFAT, in consultation with ILO, has developed a management response to the evaluation's recommendations.

DFAT welcomes the findings of the TRIANGLE in ASEAN final evaluation. In summary, we consider it to be a robust and fair assessment of the strengths and challenges of the program which provides valuable insights to sharpen program performance in any successor programs.

DFAT agrees or partially agrees with all 10 recommendations that will strengthen program performance over the remainder of the investments. DFAT notes 6 recommendations for future Australian support for labour migration in ASEAN, which will inform decision making for a successor program.

	Recommendation	Response	Action Plan	Timeframe
1.	Fund a further phase of the program.	NOTED	DFAT will consider future program options.	By September 2025
2.	Align funding periods if possible.	NOTED	DFAT will endeavour to align funding periods with a co-donor should a future program be co-funded.	By September 2025
3.	Review the classification of results framework indicators and adjust during the design of any future phase.	NOTED	DFAT will review the results framework and consider lessons learnt from TRIANGLE in ASEAN for a future investment.	By September 2025
4.	Revisit the theory of change when developing the next phase of the program and build in descriptions of how the outcomes interact and include areas that are currently missing from the program.	NOTED	DFAT will review the theory of change and consider lessons learnt from TRIANGLE in ASEAN for a future investment.	By September 2025
5.	Support campaigns focused on the ratification of C189 (Domestic Workers Convention 2011) and C190 (Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019)	PARTIALLY AGREED	DFAT supports ongoing campaigns on the ratifications of C189. DFAT will consider support, in a future investment, for campaigns to ratify C190 .	By September 2025
6.	Identify if there are funding opportunities that would allow the joint funding of national program coordinator positions in Malaysia and Viet Nam.	NOTED	DFAT will consider national program coordinator positions in all target ASEAN Member States for a future investment.	By September 2025
7.	If funding can be identified, expand the program to include national activities in Indonesia and the Philippines.	NOTED	DFAT will consider in a future investment.	By September 2025

8.	Continue to ensure a strong focus on sectors and topics that support gender transformative policies.	AGREED	<p>Gender equality is a priority for the Australian Government. DFAT supports the implementation of gender equality in TRIANGLE in ASEAN, and welcomes the ILO team's ongoing efforts to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement the TRIANGLE in ASEAN gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) strategy. • allocate budget for activities that promote and support gender equality. • provide GEDSI training to partners. • ensure the active participation of women in program activities. • strengthen gender equality in the labour migration sector by supporting workers in the domestic and care economy and addressing gender-based discrimination. 	By September 2025
9.	Continue to roll out disability equality training and build the capacity of partners on disability inclusion as well as identifying other areas in the operational side of the program where disability inclusion can be improved such as procurement, recruitment, and the accessibility of publications.	AGREED	<p>The promotion of disability equity and rights is a priority for the Australian Government.</p> <p>DFAT supports the implementation of disability equity and rights in TRIANGLE in ASEAN and welcomes the ILO team's ongoing efforts to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement the GEDSI strategy. • allocate budget for disability inclusion activities. • build partners' capacity through GEDSI training and ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities in program activities. • promote disability inclusion within the labour migration context. • strengthen partnership with the Cambodian Disabled People's Organization and Kampong Cham Women and Children with Disabilities Forum. • advocate disability rights in ASEAN fora such as the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML). 	By September 2025
10.	Develop short key message briefings to accompany knowledge products.	AGREED	DFAT acknowledges the importance of TRIANGLE in ASEAN publications being accessible and usable for consumers, including translating summary documents into local languages.	By September 2025

			DFAT notes the need for a dedicated communication specialist.	
11.	Clarify with partners that migrants without IDs are still eligible to attend program events.	AGREED	DFAT encourages ILO to explore alternative solutions that would allow migrant workers without identification to fully participate in TRIANGLE in ASEAN activities.	By September 2025
12.	Continue to identify ways to partner with ASEAN ACT.	AGREED	DFAT encourages the ILO team to continue to find opportunities to collaborate with ASEAN-ACT.	By September 2025
13.	Continue to share the successes of the program with other regional and country offices, and globally through HQ and among program partners.	AGREED	DFAT remains committed to promoting and sharing the program's achievements across all Australian posts in the ASEAN region and other posts as relevant. DFAT encourages the ILO team to continue to actively promote the program within the ASEAN region and through its platforms with key stakeholders and at ASEAN regional and national events.	By September 2025
14.	Provide security training and psychosocial support for front-line civil society organisations and trade union workers.	AGREED	DFAT supports the ILO team's approach to extend psychosocial training and services employees of partners including migrant workers resource centre and civil society organisations' staff, as well as for migrants displaced by conflict. DFAT encourages the ILO team to continue to seek opportunities to provide security training for frontline civil society organisation officials.	By September 2025
15.	Where feasible provide funds for implementing partners to train their partners.	AGREED	DFAT is committed to locally-led development and welcomes the ILO's efforts to seek opportunities to maximise outreach and training by its partners to grassroot organisations and migrant workers resource centres.	By September 2025
16.	Work with national governments to provide more opportunities for non-government partners to participate in AFML related activities throughout the year.	AGREED	DFAT encourages the ILO team to continue implementing activities that align with recommendations from the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML) in each of the target ASEAN Member States.	By September 2025