

## **DFAT MANAGEMENT RESPONSE**

### **INDEPENDENT MID-TERM EVALUATION OF TRIANGLE IN ASEAN**

#### **(IMPLEMENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION)**

DFAT welcomes the Independent Mid-Term Evaluation's (the Evaluation) assessment that the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) TRIANGLE in ASEAN investment has made good progress and provides value for money. The Evaluation further found that the program remains highly relevant for the countries involved (ASEAN) as well as for Australia. Importantly, the program has made substantial achievements on gender equality - most of the gender targets have been reached or exceeded.

The stakeholders interviewed during the Evaluation were very satisfied with the output produced by the program, and welcome the continuation of TRIANGLE in ASEAN.

The Evaluation of TRIANGLE in ASEAN was commissioned by the ILO and conducted by Mr Theo van der Loop, Development Consultant. The Evaluation involved a desktop study of relevant documents, as well as engagement with key stakeholders, including in two program countries (Thailand, Cambodia) and ASEAN stakeholders in Jakarta.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provided input into the Evaluation's terms of reference, review plan and final report. Evaluation experts, Clear Horizon, quality assured the final report and found it to be of good quality.

DFAT supports the Evaluation's recommendations to the ILO:

- 1) Relevance and strategic fit
  - a. Continue to leverage cost-sharing with other (labour) migration projects and selected international organisations by maintaining a high level of pro-active collaboration.
- 2) Validity of intervention design
  - a. Prioritise the different components of the originally highly ambitious research agenda;
  - b. Streamline and prioritise two design elements in the Theory of Change (ToC) and the M&E Plan which have proven to be rather ambitious; and
  - c. Involve more pro-actively the employers' and workers' organisations.
- 3) Intervention progress and effectiveness
  - a. Continue the organisation of the flagship ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML); and continue to track the progress in the implementation of the recommendations, 149 to date.
- 4) Efficiency of resource use
  - a. Implement the proposal for restructuring of the DFAT investment and monitor closely the interests of donors (DFAT, GAC and others) to support the TRIANGLE in ASEAN program from 2020.
- 5) Effectiveness of management arrangements
  - a. Maintain as far as possible the current staff set-up at regional and national level but re-arrange the division of tasks and employ the Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Officer as soon as possible;
  - b. Maintain close relations with ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW), and the ASEAN Secretariat, and increase the frequency of the Regional Program Advisory Committee meetings; and
  - c. Streamline and update the cross-cutting strategies.

- 6) Impact orientation and key stakeholder populations
  - a. Revise the Sustainability and Impact Strategy; and
  - b. Explore the design of ways forward for the Migrant Resource Centre Network in terms of sustainability including cooperating closely with the Safe and Fair program.
- 7) Gender equality and non-discrimination
  - a. Discuss the new Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy (WEGES) Action Plan (attached to the 2018 Progress Report) with Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and DFAT in a joint meeting and assess the degree of common understanding.

The findings of the Evaluation validate DFAT's own assessments of ILO as an effective implementing partner and that TRIANGE in ASEAN is a fit-for-purpose program delivering results. DFAT will continue to work closely with ILO to ensure implementation of the evaluation's recommendations.