

CARAM Asia Task Force on Migration, Health, HIV and Well-Being

Introduction of the Task Force

Throughout the migration cycle, governments of origin and sending countries treat migrant workers as a commodity. Their well-being and health rights are largely ignored. Migrant workers suffer from discrimination as reflected in health issues such as mandatory health and HIV testing with deportation, lack of access to HIV services and treatment, no information on health, limited access to health services, and poor working and living conditions.

Using various human rights and health rights frameworks, CARAM Asia developed the Migration, Health and HIV (MHH) programme by combining the previous Task Force on Empowering Migrants Living with HIV (TFEM) and the State of Health (SoH) Programme to focus on migrant workers' health rights. The objective of the MHH is to promote the health rights of migrants through reform of discriminatory policies and equity in provision and access of health services for migrant workers, including sexual and reproductive health and HIV.

This programme also pays special attention to the health and well-being of undocumented migrant workers, as well as documented migrants who are deported for health conditions, especially HIV. Empowerment of migrants living with HIV and their spouses to be meaningfully involved in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and policies is an integral part of the MHH Task Force.

Task Force Objectives:

The objective of the Migration, Health, HIV and Well-Being Task Force is to promote the health rights and well-being of migrants by advocating to reform discriminatory policies and include migrant workers under all targets of SDG-3 on “Ensuring healthy lives and promoting Well-being for all at all stages”.

Task Force Key Issues:

- 1.Mandatory HIV Testing and related deportation***
- 2.HIV Risks and Vulnerabilities (subgroups and***
- 3.intersecting communities)***
- 4.Access to Treatment***
- 5.Mental Health of Migrants***
- 6.Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights***
- 7.Gender Based Violence and its Impact on Health of***
- 8.Migrants (cross-cutting issue with above issues)***
- 9.Addressing HIV positive Migrants access to treatment***
- 10.during the pandemic***
- 11.Advocacy on HIV Financing***
- 12.Eradication of Stigma and discrimination***

MHH STRATEGIC PLAN (2025-2027)

Strategy	Objectives	Activity	Output (Tangible) and Outcome (Intangible)	Impact Indicator
1. Undertaking and/or coordinating access to services for migrant workers such as access to legal services, health services and any related services through establishing proper and functioning referral mechanisms and outreach.	1. Enhance access to health, HIV & AIDS related services for migrant workers.	<p>1.1. Establish collaboration with HIV testing services, provide testing for STI syphilis and hepatitis C</p> <p>1.2. Providing psycho-social counselling and referral services to hospitals, clinics and HIV testing services etc.</p> <p>1.3. Cross boarder case referral/ case management and exchange of data. Cross border HIV services.</p> <p>1.4 Provide health services in detention and prisons.</p> <p>1.5. Coordinate with other organizations and link up with government processes to enhance access to ARVs for HIV positive migrants importantly during emergencies and emerging health issues and pandemics.</p> <p>1.6 Support community</p>	<p>1. MWs will have access to HIV testing.</p> <p>2. Many MWs will be tested for HIV, they are aware of their HIV status.</p> <p>3. MWs are provided with counselling and linked to health services.</p>	<p>1. No transfer of infection to others.</p> <p>2. Reduced number of HIV infections</p> <p>3. MWs have increased access to health services</p>

		leaders, MWs' groups and enhance access to internet for migrant leaders/volunteers for better collaborate with community, CARAM members and other service providers.		
2. Undertaking media, campaigns and related publicity initiatives for the advancement of migrant workers' rights.	1. Eradicate stigma and discrimination and prevention of new HIV infections.	<p>1.1. Awareness raising on HIV prevention among migrant workers via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream media engagement • Use of social media, development of Digital contents for MWs' awareness and develop printed IEC material on HIV prevention. <p>1.2. Sensitization training for stakeholders (relevant government officers, health care providers etc.).</p>	<p>1. Large number of migrants are aware of HIV risk and risky behaviors,</p> <p>2. Health care providers are sensitized to provide health services to HIV positive migrants and PLHIV with proper care and in recognition of their health rights.</p>	<p>1. The barrier of stigma and discrimination in accessing health services is reduced.</p> <p>2. The discriminatory practices in the health sector are removed.</p>
3. Undertaking Participatory Action Research (PAR) & related activities in knowledge creation and dissemination for the advancement of	1. Enriching the knowledge base through Participatory Action Research (PAR).	1.1. Undertake research - tracking on current budget allocation and its impact on services for HIV programmers for migrant	1. Updated and evidence-based information and knowledge is generated to be used for awareness and advocacy.	1. Relevant stakeholders are aware and have knowledge of the research related areas.

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<p>migrant workers' rights.</p>		<p>workers.</p> <p>1.2. Undertake research on current situation of SRH services for women migrant workers, MSM and other vulnerable groups in destination countries (those not covered in previous research).</p> <p>1.3. Share findings and recommendations of studies with all relevant stakeholders in MW's sending and receiving countries.</p> <p>1.4. Undertake policy dialogues with stakeholders in MW's sending and receiving countries</p>	<p>2. All relevant stakeholders and government officers in MW's sending and receiving countries are engaged and aware of MW's health and HIV related issues.</p>	
<p>4. Undertaking relevant capacity-building initiatives depending on the needs of the identified stakeholder (e.g MWs, CSOs, etc).</p>	<p>1. Capacity building of key stakeholders and CARAM Asia members at national and regional levels.</p>	<p>1.1. Conduct capacity building workshops on budget allocations with key stakeholders for implementation of advocacy action plans on HIV financing.</p> <p>1.2. Capacity building in understanding the gender perspective and how it</p>	<p>1. CARAM members and other partners have enhanced knowledge and capacity on HIV financing advocacy, gender perspectives and on conducting research.</p>	<p>1. CARAM members and other partners have implemented advocacy action plans on HIV financing.</p> <p>2. CARAM members and other partners have conducted studies on the subject.</p>

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		<p>intersects with migration, HIV, etc. Sexual violence and exploitation – sex workers (HIV risk and public health).</p> <p>1.3. Regional capacity building of CARAM Asia members and community leaders on conducting research (PAR, Assessment, Surveys etc.).</p>		
<p>5. Undertaking advocacy activities both at the national, regional and international levels for the advancement of migrant workers' rights.</p>	<p>1. Ensure inclusion of migrants' health rights with focus on HIV & AIDS and well-being in national and regional plans and policies.</p>	<p>1.1. Actively engage with governments (ministries & relevant departments), organize meetings, roundtables, and other activities to do advocacy on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of migrant workers' vulnerability to HIV & AIDS and other health risks at policy level. • HIV Financing - budget allocation for migrant worker's HIV & AIDS related health services. • Removal of mandatory health and HIV testing as legal requirement 	<p>1. High level government officials are engaged in the discussion and convinced for required changes in policies.</p> <p>2. Stakeholders at various levels are aware of MWS' health and HIV related issues.</p>	<p>1. There is a change required in certain policies.</p> <p>2. Stakeholders at various levels are recommending policy changes to protect MW's health rights with a focus on HIV & AIDS.</p>

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		<p>for working abroad.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of deportation policies based on HIV positive status and other health conditions like TB, STIs and any other sickness. - Advocacy against criminalization of MWs with HIV/AIDS and TB. • Engage Medical Community for advocacy on migrant worker's health issues. • Advocacy at South Asian level, look at bilateral and multilateral frameworks. • National social protection system should cover treatment. <p>1.2 Engage the governments particularly in receiving countries on above advocacy areas.</p> <p>1.3 Develop policy recommendations based on various research findings</p>		
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		<p>and approach high-level government officials in sending and receiving countries on advocacy areas listed above.</p> <p>1.4. Prepare report for CEDAW committee and other relevant platforms.</p> <p>1.5. Make interventions at regional and international forums (IOM, SAARC, ASEAN, GCM, ADD, CP etc.).</p>		
6. Mobilizing Resources for the implementation of the Strategic Plan	1. Resource mobilization and collaboration among TF members to represent CARAM at various platforms.	1.1 TF Proposals submission, reaching out to corporate sector, crowd funding via social media.	1. Availability of the resources.	1. Sustainability of CARAM programs.

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