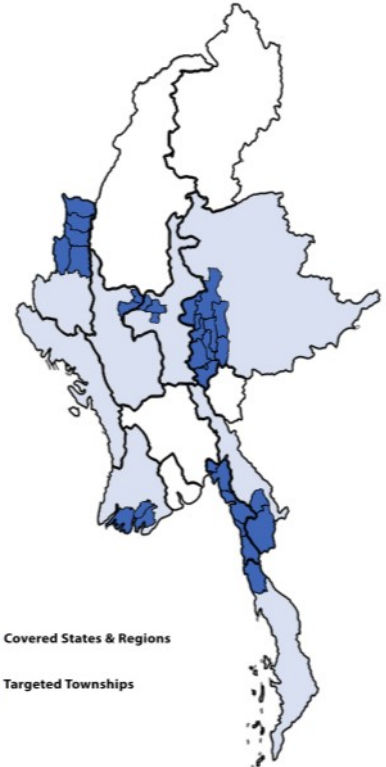




Young women attend a peacebuilding workshop in Mon State © IOM 2015

## AREAS OF WORK



## OVERVIEW

Migration has increasingly become a widespread livelihood strategy for people in Myanmar. Today, 25 per cent of Myanmar’s population consists of migrants – both internal and international. The underlying drivers for movement are complex and interrelated, and include unstable and physically demanding rural work; lack of stable and viable employment opportunities; chronic poverty and indebtedness; new industrial zones and industries; unpredictable weather patterns; conflict; and the desire to support the education of siblings as well as to pursue personal ambitions.

While the social, economic and environmental drivers of migration in Myanmar vary widely, Myanmar migrants share one goal: to improve their lives. And in this desire to improve one’s life, labour migration is the most common form of mobility. IOM Myanmar’s Labour Mobility and Human Development (LHD) Programme’s overall objective is to help labour migrants and their families to leverage the economic and social benefits of migration and to mitigate unintended or negative consequences. Reflecting the reality that migration for many people is a necessity rather than a choice, LHD also supports diversifying livelihood choices in communities of origin, to make migration beneficial for those who migrate and those who stay behind.

The LHD Programme works closely with government and non-government partners at local, national and international levels to foster synergies between labour migration and development, and to support safe, informed and gainful labour migration for migrants, their families, communities, and for Myanmar as a whole.



Group work at a safe migration training in Mawlamyine, Mon State © IOM 2014

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Tailors at work in Thaton, Mon State © IOM 2016

## SERVICE PROVISION

LHD's skills development trainings provide aspirant migrants and migrant-sending households with practical skills for employment and self-employment through migration. Migrants can upskill before or during migration and use acquired skills in their home communities upon return. Remittances-receiving families, employing remittances as start-up capital, may use these skills to start new businesses. Job matching support in collaboration with employers assists graduates of skills courses to find employment. Other service provisions for migrants include supporting the establishment and running of government Migrant Resource Centres, which provide official and reliable information on international migration, as well as offer counselling and referral to services needed throughout the entire cycle of migration.



A trainer demonstrates cooking skills at a hospitality training session in Shan State © IOM 2018

## LHD IS SUPPORTED BY...



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## POLICY AND ADVOCACY

LHD supports the Government of the Union of Myanmar to coordinate, develop and implement policies to capitalise on mobility and create more effective development and poverty reduction interventions. This includes efforts to mainstream migration into Myanmar's national development policies, such as through the National Plan of Action for the Management of International Labour Migration. LHD also facilitates whole-of-society discussions on labour migration and development at the state and regional level and supports initiatives to increase the developmental role of migration in line with diverse local realities.

## RESEARCH

LHD's research generates evidence-based understandings of the reality of migration for national and local stakeholders, allowing them to develop strategies for effective development and poverty reduction. To increase sustainability, research is undertaken under strategic partnerships with the government, local academic institutions and CSOs. Research includes a mixed-method study on labour migration patterns and impacts on rural livelihoods at the individual, household and community levels in four Myanmar states/regions; a qualitative study exploring brokerage practices in international labour deployment; and studies examining the impact of migration on children and the elderly.

## PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

The private sector has a key role in protecting the rights of migrant workers. LHD engages with the private sector and international recruitment agencies in Myanmar to promote sustainable solutions for ethical recruitment and fair labour through the International Recruitment and Integrity System (IRIS) social compliance scheme, as well as through IOM's Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) partnership initiative.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach in rural communities provides aspirant migrants and their families with information and tools to frame migration within their overall livelihood strategies. LHD cooperates with local CSOs and influential community members to communicate migration messaging in local villages in a way that is contextually appropriate. Methods include face-to-face trainings, theatre shows, media and social media engagement. To overcome financial barriers to migration for vulnerable rural households, IOM's community-based revolving funds channel funding to finance migration journeys through committees managed by villagers themselves.

