



Ship to Shore Rights South-East Asia

Safe Migration for Decent Work in the Blue Economy

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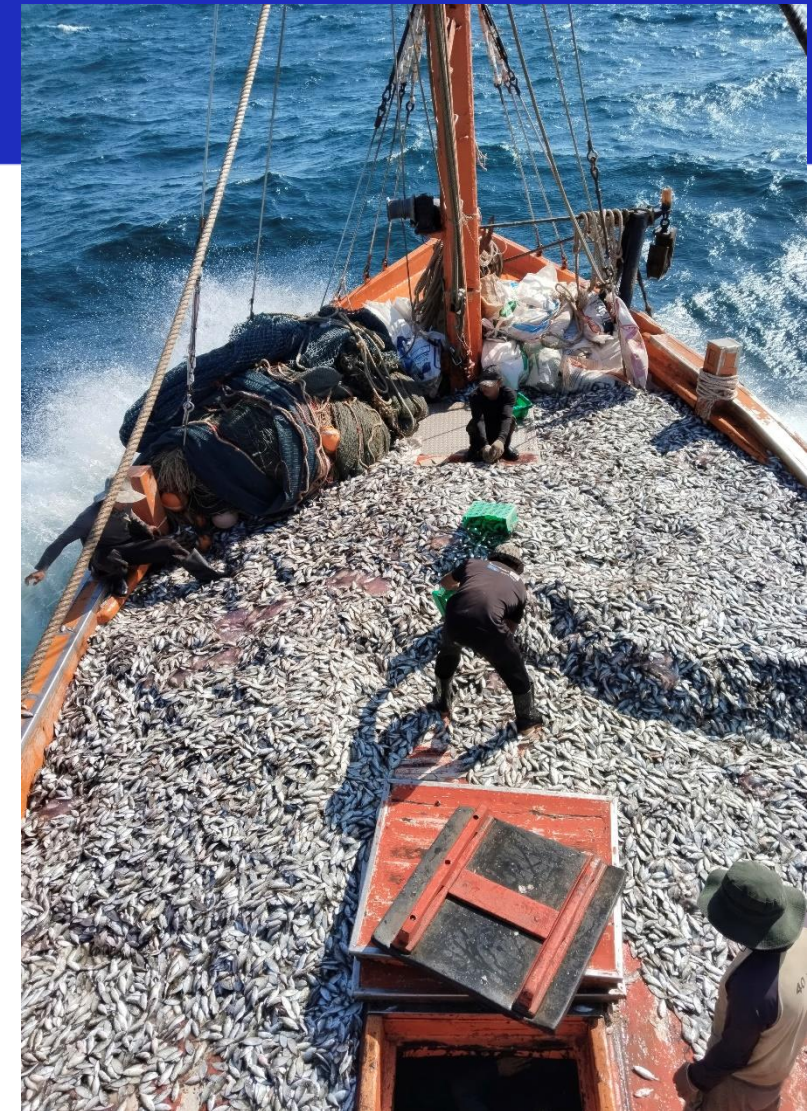
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP)

The SEAFDEC/JICA Regional Workshop on Enhancing Policies and Countermeasures Against IUU fishing in Southeast Asia

8 October 2025

Overall objective

To promote safe labour migration and decent work for a sustainable fish and seafood supply chain (including capture fisheries and aquaculture and post-harvest processing) in South-East Asia



Programme Framework



1. Increase ASEAN and sub-regional connectivity and cooperation on safe labour migration and decent work in the **fish and seafood supply chain**.
2. Support national authorities to design, implement and enforce **stronger legal and policy frameworks** on labour migration, labour protection, and sustainable fisheries.
3. Promote **a culture of accountability**, sustainable corporate practices, due diligence, and responsible fishing practices among employers and enterprises, including promoting promising practices and exchanging knowledge.
4. Promote **social dialogue**, increase freedom of association and collective bargaining, and empower migrant workers, their families and communities to protect and assert their human and labour right.

Context and Background

- The Blue Economy is key employment source (over 53 million people)
- Accounts for 84% of global fisheries and aquaculture employment.
- COVID-19 worsened vulnerabilities, especially for migrant fishers and export-dependent sectors.
- Domestic seafood supply impacted by food service closures.
- Emerging challenges and opportunities require ongoing support on labour rights and migration governance.
- The project is a second phase and builds on past successes, the new regional programme will strengthen regional cooperation, include aquaculture, and expand to Malaysia and ASEAN partnerships.
- **Governance established** (Regional PSC, National advisory committees)

Countries

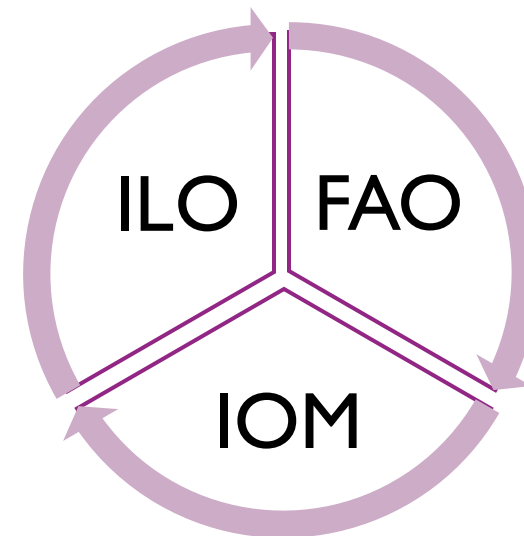
6 countries of action:

- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Regional activities with ASEAN



Who?

- Donor
 - European Union
- Implementing agencies
 - ▶ International Labour Organization (Lead agency)
 - ▶ International Organization for Migration
 - ▶ Food and Agriculture Organization



Project Stakeholders

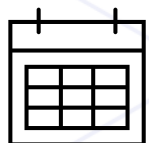
Regional

- ASEAN Secretariat and sectoral bodies including labor and migration related and Fisheries Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) (FAO also proposes to work with these stakeholders)
- Fisheries bodies (SEAFDEC, RPOA-IUU, IOTC, WCPFC) (FAO also proposes to work with these stakeholders)

ILO will be working with national level stakeholders (Gov, Businesses, employer's organizations, migrant worker organizations, etc.)

FAO will only engage in regional activities

Implementation Arrangements



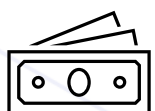
Duration

1 January 2025 – 31 December 2028 (48 months)
FAO will focus on 2026 and 2027 implementation



Multi-Partner Agreement (MPCA)

1. International Labour Organization (ILO)
2. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



Budget (EU Funded)

Total project budget: USD 11,800,823
FAO Budget: 434,763.47 (3.95%)

- **Links to the Blue Transformation** to ensure the sustainable expansion of aquatic food systems; and the **Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)**, protection of survivors of trafficking,
- **Leverages technical and sectoral competencies** of the ILO, IOM, and FAO ensuring gender-sensitive and rights-based approaches.
- **Aligns regionally with ASEAN goals** to foster stronger collaboration between origin and destination countries, supporting exchange and learning through both top-down and bottom-up approaches.
- **Addresses the links** between labour migration, forced labour, and human trafficking in the fishing and seafood processing sectors.
- **Builds the capacity** of key stakeholders, including government authorities, trade unions, civil society, community-based and grassroots organizations, communities, and both potential and current migrant workers.

FAO's Involvement

- FAO will lead the implementation of **regional activities** related to capacity building on IUU fishing, Port State Measures, and Sustainable Fisheries Management.
- Three activities under 2 Outputs
 - (1) **2.1.3** Provide technical support to the development and implementation of national policies and legal frameworks to combat IUU fishing and fisheries sustainability. [2026]
 - (2) **2.2.4** Strengthen national and regional capacity on traceability systems to support the elimination of illegal fishing products in the supply chain. [2026]
 - (3) **3.1.2** Support the training, knowledge exchange on climate change adaptation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture among employers and businesses: [2027]



FAO's Involvement 1

Activity 2.1.3 Provide technical support to the development and implementation of **national policies and legal frameworks to combat IUU fishing and fisheries sustainability**. [timeframe in 2026]

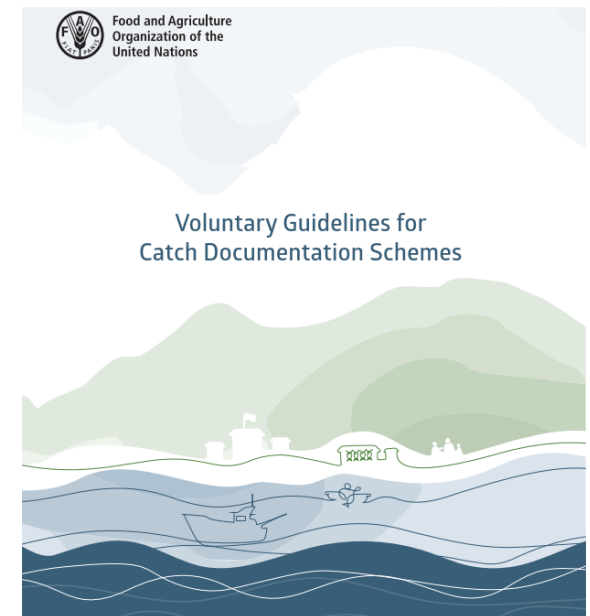
- All project countries have NPOA-IUU and accession to PSMA (except Malaysia)
- Additional Guidelines have been developed including PSMA (Port Inspection guidelines), legal checklists and legal guidance; Flag State performance, Transshipment, Global Record and Catch documentation (Next activity 2.2.4)
- PSMA GAP process undertaken in some countries
- FAO suggest to analyze these national and regional policy documents with key stakeholders (linking with legal issues) .
- Develop and agree key knowledge products and disseminate findings.



FAO's Involvement 2

Activity 2.2.4 Strengthen national and regional capacity on traceability systems to support the elimination of illegal fishing products in the supply chain. [2026/2027]

- All project countries have NPOA-IUU and accession to PSMA (except Malaysia)
- Additional Guidance has been developed by FAO and SEAFDEC eACDS and RFMOS
- FAO proposes to analyze these national and regional policy documents with key stakeholders – with a value chain approach
- Develop and agree key knowledge products and disseminate findings.



FAO's Involvement 3

Activity 3.1.2 Support the training, knowledge exchange on climate change adaptation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture among employers and businesses: [2027]

- Identify stakeholders during 2026
- Carry out needs assessment in relation to Climate Change, fisheries and aquaculture;
- Analyze national and regional policy documents with key stakeholders (in terms of project target (labor migration and labor protection) .
- Develop and agree key knowledge products and disseminate findings.

Synergy with SEAFDEC – for discussion!

- Discussions as part of the Regional Workshop on Enhancing policies and Countermeasures Against IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
- Integration as part of the broader SEAFDEC work plan ?
- How to engage with the ASEAN working groups (e.g. Fisheries)?
- Discussions with FAO capacity building program and global alignment (transboundary, traceability, etc.)
- Any other issues?

Questions & Answers

Thank you!