



Mixed
Migration
Centre



Photo: Arnaud Finistre/MSF/2019

Webinar “The experience of refugees and migrants in host countries in Southeast Asia: Findings from research in Malaysia and Indonesia”

Thursday, 27 May 2021

8:30-10:00 (Geneva)

13:30-15:00 (Jakarta/Bangkok)

16:30-18:00 (Sydney)

[Click here to register to join us](#)

Asia is characterized by fast evolving and complex population movements, including the large-scale and often irregular movement of migrants and refugees. Throughout the region, many take great risks to escape life-threatening situations, such as conflicts, violence, discrimination, or natural disasters, embarking on perilous journeys by land or sea. Others, motivated in search of better opportunities, migrate to work in often dangerous, dirty, and demeaning (3D) jobs, exposing them to risks such as exploitation and trafficking.

Malaysia hosts one of the largest refugee and migrant populations in Asia, mainly thanks to its abundance of job opportunities and its long history of relative tolerance towards refugees and migrants. Meanwhile, Indonesia has historically been a transit country for many refugees and asylum seekers en route to other locations, mainly Australia. However, since 2013 when Australia implemented policies aimed at curbing irregular maritime movements to its borders, refugees and asylum seekers in transit in Indonesia have entered a situation of protracted transit or involuntary immobility.

With an increasingly permanent refugee and migrant population in both countries, it is crucial and urgent to have regional and national mechanisms to ensure protection and respond to people in mixed migration movements, including refugees and asylum seekers. Given the situation, on 27 May 2021, MMC-Asia will host a webinar discussion on “The experience of refugees and migrants in host countries in South East Asia” presenting 2 research reports on Malaysia and Indonesia.

Key research questions of MMC's reports on Malaysia and Indonesia:

1. What are the mixed migration patterns in Malaysia and Indonesia?
2. What are some of the risks facing refugees and migrants in Malaysia and Indonesia? What are their needs?
3. How can relevant stakeholders collaborate to address those risks in order to ensure safe and orderly migration as well as their access to basic services in host countries?

The webinar aims to create an open dialogue between different stakeholders, and to inform decision-making and humanitarian responses to assist refugees and migrants in the region.

Agenda

13:30 -
13:40

Welcoming and Opening Remarks

Jennifer Vallentine, Manager, Mixed Migration Centre Asia

Bram Frouws, Head of the Mixed Migration Centre

13:40 -
14:10

Presentation of MMC research reports on Malaysia and Indonesia

Presentation 1 – Mixed migration in urban settings: the case of Kuala Lumpur
Hanh Nguyen, Researcher, Mixed Migration Centre Asia

Presentation 2 – Involuntary immobility: the case of Indonesia
Bryony Lau, Consultant, Mixed Migration Centre Asia

14:10 -
14:40

Panel discussion

Discussant 1: Cross-country collaboration on the protection of refugees and migrants in Southeast Asia
Eric Paulsen, Representative of Malaysia, ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

A letter from a Rohingya refugee in Malaysia

Discussant 2: Different protection risks and needs of refugees and migrants in Malaysia
Lilianne Fan, Co-Founder, Geutanyoe Foundation

Discussant 3: Refugees' experience in Indonesia
Jamaluddin Mohammadi, Refugee residing in Indonesia

Discussant 4: Legal and policy framework on refugee issues in Indonesia
Gading Gumilang Putra, National Information and Advocacy Officer, Jesuit Refugee Service Indonesia

14:40 -
15:00

Q&A from the floor and closing