

MMC Asia and the Pacific

QUARTER 2 2024



Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Asia and the Pacific

This Quarterly Mixed Migration Update (QMMU) covers Asia and the Pacific. The core countries of focus for this region are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam and Australia. Depending on the quarterly trends and migration-related updates, more attention may be given to any of the countries over the rest.

The QMMUs offer a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region. These updates are based on a compilation of a wide range of secondary (data) sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens. Similar QMMUs are available for all MMC regions.

MMC is a global network engaged in data collection, research, analysis, and policy and programmatic development on mixed migration, with regional hubs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America, and a global team based across Copenhagen, Geneva and Brussels. For more information on MMC, the QMMUs from other regions and contact details of regional MMC teams, visit mixedmigration.org and follow us at [@Mixed_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

MMC's understanding of mixed migration

"Mixed migration" refers to cross-border movements of people, including refugees fleeing persecution and conflict, victims of trafficking, and people seeking better lives and opportunities. Motivated to move by a multiplicity of factors, people engaged in mixed migration have a range of legal statuses as well as a variety of vulnerabilities. Although entitled to protection under international human rights law, they are exposed to multiple rights violations along their journey. Mixed migration describes migrants travelling along similar routes, using similar means of travel – often travelling irregularly, and wholly or partially, assisted by migrant smugglers.

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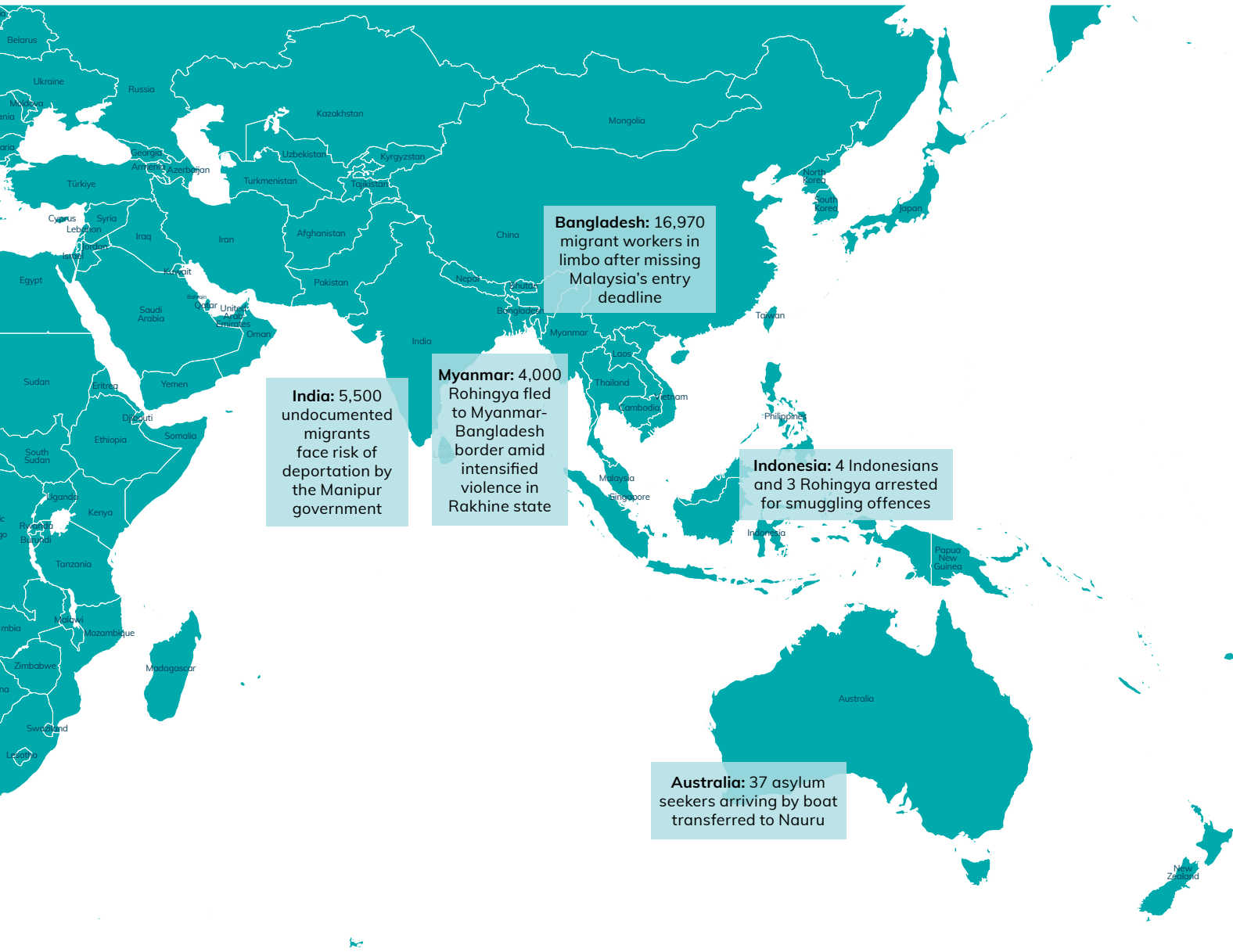
Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Asia and the Pacific

Quarter 2 - 2024

Key Updates

- **Bangladeshi migrants top arrivals to Italy by sea:** Bangladeshi nationals account for [23% of the 11,416 irregular sea arrivals to Italy last quarter](#). They also account for [12% of all recorded fatalities](#) on Mediterranean crossings in 2024. A tragic incident in June involving a capsized boat [near Lampedusa](#), carrying migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Syria, and Egypt, continues to highlight the extreme risks faced by migrants attempting these sea crossings.
- **Contrasting refugee policies in India:** Manipur state [deported 38 Myanmar refugees](#) on May 2 and more deportations are anticipated in the coming months. Simultaneously, [14 refugees](#) were the first group to be granted citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), reflecting India's policy dichotomy in relation to refugees.
- **Reports continue to emerge of forced conscription efforts in Myanmar, alongside tightened travel controls:** Across Myanmar, men and some [women](#), are [reportedly being forcibly recruited](#) into the Myanmar military. Simultaneously Myanmar's de facto authorities have tightened travel controls by [suspending overseas work permit applications](#) for men and requiring all citizens to obtain [unique identifier numbers](#) to leave the country.
- **Sharp rise in Vietnamese irregular migration to the UK and US:** Vietnamese nationals [led Channel crossings](#) to the UK in the first quarter of 2024, [with a tenfold increase](#) between Jan 1 and April 21 compared to the previous year. In the US, Vietnamese arrivals via Mexico [totalled 3,293 in 2023, an over tenfold increase compared to 263 in 2022](#). In 2024, [2,383 arrivals](#) were recorded to the US border within the first two months alone.
- **Rohingya face continued issues in Myanmar and Bangladesh:** Between February and April 2024, [over 300 Rohingya were pushed back to Myanmar](#) while attempting to cross the border into Bangladesh. [Reports also cite increasing risks of abduction](#) by armed groups within Bangladesh. Within Myanmar, [escalating conflict between the Arakan army and the military have seen Rohingya caught in the crossfire](#).

Regional Overview*



*Information on the map relates to selected updates and does not represent all mixed migration within and out of Asia and the Pacific.

Mixed Migration Regional Updates

Bangladeshi migrants leading arrivals to Italy by sea

Bangladeshis continue to be among the leading nationalities attempting perilous sea crossings to Europe, comprising the largest arrivals to Italy by sea in the first quarter of 2024 – accounting for [23% of the total 11,416 arrivals](#). During a visit to Bangladesh in May, IOM Director General, Amy Pope disclosed that [12% of recorded migrants who perished while crossing the Mediterranean](#) in 2024 were from Bangladesh. A recent incident occurring in June, when a boat carrying migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Syria, and Egypt [capsized near Lampedusa](#), further highlights the extreme risks faced by migrants attempting these sea crossings. While Italy provides some regular migration pathways for Bangladeshi migrants, issues relating to [unscrupulous recruitment actors](#), including the submission of fraudulent documents and extortionate recruitment fees, have been cited as key reasons why current regular processes are not sufficient. This has resulted in a severe backlog, of [at least 20,000 applications](#).

While [Italy, with the largest Bangladeshi population in Europe, has been the preferred destination](#) within the EU for Bangladeshi migrants, the UK has also seen an increasing number of Bangladeshi asylum seekers. In 2023, [almost 11,000](#) claimed asylum after entering the UK on visas, making them the second largest nationality after Pakistan in this regard. In response, the UK and Bangladeshi governments signed an [agreement to expedite returns](#) of undocumented Bangladeshi migrants, including those with rejected asylum claims and overstayed visas. This agreement aims to streamline the repatriation process and aligns with the UK government policy on deterring irregular migration.

Escalating conflict in Rakhine State pushes Rohingya to Bangladesh

Since [November 13, 2023](#), the situation in Rakhine State has deteriorated due to escalating clashes between the Arakan Army and the military. The renewed violence has compelled [4,000 Rohingya to cross into Bangladesh](#), as of the end of May 2024, in search of safety. At the border, [reports of Bangladeshi authorities pushing back over 300 Rohingya](#) between February and April 2024, have emerged. Additionally, [reports came to light of abductions of Rohingya from the refugee camps](#) in Bangladesh by armed groups, who allegedly handed them to the military in Myanmar in return for payment.

Climate-related events continue to compound challenges faced by Rohingya refugees in the overcrowded camps in, and around, Cox's Bazar. In June, heavy monsoon rainfalls triggered landslides, claiming the lives of [eight Rohingya](#) within the camps. Cyclone Remal, which struck Bangladesh on 26 May, prompted the [evacuation of approximately 800,000 people](#) and [placed 27,000 Rohingya refugees](#) at risk of landslides. With the onset of the monsoon season in June, [concerns among the Rohingya community](#) have escalated due to their precarious living conditions in makeshift shelters made from bamboo and tarpaulin. These conditions leave them particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate-related events, which are [exacerbated by climate change](#). The occurrence of these extreme weather events underscores the urgent need for robust disaster response and enhanced support mechanisms to protect displaced Rohingya populations in Cox's Bazar.

On a positive note, the World Food Programme announced an increase in food rations for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, raising the monthly per person allocation from [USD 10 to USD 11](#), with a goal to reach full rations of USD 12.5 by August, highlighting the critical need for continued humanitarian aid.

Reports of continuing conscription and escalating violence in Myanmar

In Myanmar this quarter, de facto authorities' forced conscription efforts, which began in February, have reportedly intensified. Both men and in some instances [women](#) have [faced continued conscription efforts](#) across the country. Additionally, de facto authorities have imposed travel restrictions, [suspending overseas work permit applications](#) for men and requiring all citizens to obtain [unique identifier numbers](#) to leave the country. These measures are reportedly aimed at tightening out-migration and preventing conscription aged men from leaving Myanmar. As a result [some have sought to cross irregularly into Thailand](#).

In the west of Myanmar, Rohingya remain [caught in the crossfire between conflict between the Arakan Army and the military](#). Reports have also emerged of the [forced conscription of Rohingya men by both sides](#) of the conflict.

Thailand's policies pose risks for migrants

Over the past quarter, Thailand has grappled with complex challenges surrounding refugees and migrants fleeing Myanmar amid [escalating conflict and military conscription](#) in their home country. While precise figures are unavailable, estimates indicate a doubling of [irregular arrivals into Thailand](#) in March 2024 compared to the previous year. In early April, intensified clashes between the [Karen National Unity and Tatmadaw in Myawaddy](#) led to the displacement of [over 5,000 individuals](#) seeking refuge in Mae Sot, Thailand. Despite initial preparations by the Thai authorities [to accommodate up to 100,000 refugees](#), temporary camps were subsequently shut down, and [thousands were repatriated to Myanmar](#) by the end of April despite [concerns about the ongoing conflicts](#).

Simultaneously, a recent [policy change to the government visa sponsor programs](#), announced by the Thai Labour Ministry, will impact Myanmar migrants in Thailand. Under this new requirement, migrants from Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar can no longer renew their visas in Thailand and must return to their home country for an extension. This policy raises significant concerns, especially given [Myanmar's recent ban on conscription-aged men working abroad](#), potentially exposing returning migrants to the risk of forced conscription.

This quarter, Thailand faced criticism from human rights groups for its treatment of refugees, including [allegations of targeting foreign dissidents](#) and increasing forced returns, particularly since the military coup in 2014. The recent [arrest of a Vietnamese activist](#) in June has further raised concerns about the treatment of political activists seeking refuge in Thailand, echoing similar incidents involving arrests of activists from [Cambodia](#) and [Vietnam](#) reported in previous quarters. [Human rights groups](#) have also urged Thailand to cease the forced return of refugees to Myanmar, citing significant risks to their safety and well-being amid ongoing conflicts in Myanmar.

Thailand resumes refugee resettlement and proposes amnesty for undocumented migrants

Despite these challenges, there have been positive developments emerging in Thailand over the quarter. UNHCR and Thai authorities have [resumed refugee resettlement programs](#) at two out of a total nine refugee camps along Thai-Myanmar border, with eligible refugees to be resettled in the United States from June. The resettlement programs have been on pause for a decade. Additionally, in early June, the Thai Labour Ministry proposed an amnesty plan to [regularise undocumented migrants](#) from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam in Thailand, granting them right to work and stay temporarily. Pending cabinet approval, this policy is expected to benefit many Myanmar nationals seeking refuge in Thailand amidst the uncertain situation in their Myanmar.

Indonesia ramps up efforts against human smuggling whilst strengthening the safeguarding of its migrant workers

Recent developments in Indonesia have spotlighted the country's increased efforts to address migrant smuggling. This quarter, [24 Indonesian migrants were intercepted](#) at sea while attempting to enter Malaysia irregularly. Additionally, [four Indonesians were arrested](#) for their alleged role in smuggling Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Malaysia, centred on their involvement with a boat that capsized near Aceh in March, claiming [at least 70 lives](#). The ongoing trial could result in a [maximum of 15 years imprisonment](#) upon conviction for the accused. In a separate case, [three Rohingya were sentenced](#) to imprisonment of between six to eight years and fines of 500 million rupiah for their role in smuggling 134 Rohingya from Bangladesh to Aceh in December 2023.

This quarter, Indonesia continued discussions to strengthen and implement bilateral agreements facilitating labour migration pathways and safeguarding the welfare of its workers abroad. This included an [agreement with Malaysia](#) in reviewing and potentially revising a longstanding [Memorandum of Understanding from 2004](#), concerning the placement and protection of Indonesian migrant workers in formal sectors in Malaysia. Concurrently, plans are underway to expand labour migration pathways for Indonesians in [Austria](#), [Japan](#), and [Saudi Arabia](#). Additionally, the Indonesian Embassy in Phnom Penh has [facilitated the return of 57 migrant workers](#) who fell victim to cyber scam trafficking in Cambodia's Kandal province.

17,000 Bangladeshi migrants left in limbo after Malaysia's recruitment freeze

In response to reaching the cap of 2.5 million migrant workers set by the Economic Planning Unit, Malaysia imposed a [recruitment freeze of migrant workers from 15 countries](#) effective May 31. This policy mandated employers to apply for visas for migrant workers by March 31, with a two-month window to ensure migrant workers' entry into the country before the deadline. The [decision to advance the original September 30, announced in early March](#), has had a profound impact on migration to Malaysia. The accelerated deadline led to a [rush among employers to hire migrant workers](#), resulted in sudden mass arrivals of migrant workers and congestion at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, reaching [five to nine times higher](#) than the usual arrivals in the last week of May. This surge raised concerns among activists and rights groups regarding

the [welfare and vulnerability of these migrants](#), many of whom arrived without secured employment - a recurring issue highlighted in [Q4 of 2023](#).

Compounding the situation, a significant number of Malaysia-bound migrants from Bangladesh, [totalling 16,970](#) found themselves in limbo after missing the May 31 deadline to enter Malaysia, despite having all necessary travel documents. Bangladesh's appeal to extend the deadline for these migrants was [rejected](#). While the investigation by the [committee](#) set up by the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment is [underway](#), many have attributed the predicament to the [longstanding issues within migrant recruitment mechanisms](#) plagued by mismanagement and corruption. Furthermore, disruptions caused by Cyclone Remal [exacerbated flight schedules](#), further complicating the situation. These developments coincide with a [recent statement by UN experts](#), highlighting the exploitation faced by Bangladeshi migrant workers including exorbitant migration fees that often lead migrants into debt bondage in Malaysia, and advocating for enhanced protection measures.

Challenges persist for refugees in Malaysia

Malaysia has been criticised for its perceived [double standard](#) when it comes to its treatment of refugees. While Rohingya refugees continue to face increased xenophobia, expressions of solidarity are extended to other refugee groups, such as Palestinians. This quarter, refugee communities from Myanmar have appealed to the Malaysian government [to stop deportations back to Myanmar](#), given the ongoing conflict and human rights concerns within the country. This appeal comes after persistent [immigration raids](#) as reported [last quarter](#), which have resulted in the apprehension of undocumented migrants, including recognised [refugees and those with active asylum claims](#).

Contrasting refugee policies in India include both granting citizenship and deportation

In May, the Indian government [granted citizenship to the first group of 14 refugees](#) under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The CAA has been the subject of controversy, due to its exclusion of Muslims, since its enactment in 2019. The CAA provides a pathway to citizenship for non-Muslim refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who fled to India before 2015.

Simultaneously, on May 2, the Manipur state government moved to [deport 38 Myanmar refugees](#), a process that [has been delayed since March](#). Despite escalating conflicts in Myanmar, more deportations are anticipated with the state's Chief Minister announcing plans to deport a total of [5,500 "illegal immigrants"](#), although specific details regarding the nationality breakdown, particularly how many are from Myanmar, remain unclear.

This juxtaposition highlights the complexities and contentious nature of India's approach to refugee policies, where the granting of citizenship under specific criteria contrasts sharply with the deportation of others.

Escalating challenges in Vietnamese irregular migration to the UK and US

Irregular migration among Vietnamese nationals to the UK has recently garnered increased attention, with a significant uptick in sea arrivals in 2024. Between January 1 and April 21, 2024, 1,266 Vietnamese migrants made the journey across the Channel to the UK, marking [a tenfold increase](#) compared to the previous year. In the first quarter of 2024, Vietnamese nationals constituted [the largest group crossing the Channel](#). This uptick follows the [tragedy in 2019, where 39 Vietnamese migrants](#) lost their lives attempting to cross into the UK in the back of a lorry, and point to [well-established smuggling networks spanning across Vietnam and Europe](#), despite increased scrutiny and risks. Migrants not only face perilous conditions during the journey but also risk reported [coercion into working for smugglers and threatened violence](#) against their family members in Vietnam, often involving Vietnamese mafia groups.

Despite the [considerable risks and exorbitant smuggling costs](#) – up to £20,000 per person – many view migration as the only viable means to escape [economic hardships and pursue better prospects](#). In April, the UK government signed [a new agreement with Vietnam](#) aimed at mitigating irregular migration and establishing safer migration pathways. This agreement follows a March [social media campaign aimed at deterring sea crossings to the UK](#). Additionally, a joint operation between UK and France forces in April led to [16 arrests of Vietnamese](#) individuals, allegedly involved in the smuggling network. In Brussels, [17 individuals were arrested](#) for their alleged roles in trafficking networks involving Vietnamese migrants.

Concurrently, the crossing of Vietnamese nationals to the US via Mexico has also seen a sharp rise. In 2023, arrivals [totalled 3,293, marking a more than tenfold increase compared to 263 in the same period in 2022](#). The trend has continued into 2024, with [2,383 arrivals](#) recorded within the first two months alone. The cost of such crossings, facilitated by smugglers can soar to USD 75,000 per person, underscoring the desperate lengths many are willing to go to leave Vietnam.

Australia and Tuvalu's solidification of climate visa initiative

In May, Australia and Tuvalu solidified their cooperation under the Australia-Tuvalu Falepili Union treaty with the [signing of an explanatory memorandum](#). This memorandum detailed the implementation of special visas for up to 280 Tuvaluans annually, specifically targeting those affected by climate change. While there have been several mobility schemes forged between countries in the Pacific affected by climate change, this initiative marks the world's [first bilateral agreement](#) explicitly linking climate change and mobility. The agreement offers visa holders the right to indefinite permanent residency in Australia, unrestricted access to benefits and rights without a minimum residence period, and freedom for unlimited travel to and from Australia. In exchange, Australia has the right to vet Tuvalu's security or defence agreements with other nations, benefiting from [strengthened cooperation on security and stability](#) in the Pacific.

Nauru's asylum seeker population reaches 100, while Australia nears 1 million humanitarian milestone

Separately, Australia's handling of asylum seekers and its controversial offshore processing scheme continue to draw scrutiny. In June, Australia transferred [37 individuals](#), from Bangladeshi (33) and Vietnam (4), who arrived in two boats on May 9 and 10 respectively. As of May, [64 people remain detained](#) on Nauru, including [one individual who opted to stay on the island](#) since 2013, bringing the total number of individuals held on Nauru to 101. This marks a shift since [June 2023 when the last refugee was evacuated](#) from the island and has showcased the Governments unwavering commitment to the controversial offshore system. Claims of mistreatment including allegations of [inadequate healthcare access and restrictions on smartphone use](#) have surfaced among asylum seekers currently on Nauru, compounded by the lack of resources on the remote island, though these allegations have been [disputed by Nauruan officials](#).

In parallel, Australia celebrated a significant milestone by welcoming a total of [978,000 humanitarian arrivals](#) as of June 2024 since 1947, with expectations to reach one million humanitarian visas in the 2025-26 financial year. However, the 2024 budget review highlights challenges within the humanitarian program, which remains [capped at 20,000 places](#) annually despite previous government pledges in 2021 to increase the quota to 27,000. This reflects the ongoing debate over resource allocation and national priorities within Australia.

Pakistan's ongoing deportations heighten uncertainty for Afghan communities

Pakistan has extended the validity of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards for Afghan refugees, which [expired on April 1, to June 30](#), providing temporary relief for registered refugees amidst increasing pressure and crackdowns. However, the mass deportation of undocumented migrants from Pakistan, which [began in October 2023](#), continues this quarter. [Hundreds of families have been forced to return to Afghanistan](#). Following the return of [Afghans](#) in the first phase of deportation, the [second phase](#) is expected to begin at the end of this quarter, causing [significant fear and uncertainty](#) among Afghans in Pakistan. The second phase is likely to impact 800,000 Afghans, including those holding Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC).

Pakistanis face risks at sea and crackdown on irregular migration to Europe

Meanwhile, the province of [Balochistan in Pakistan has become a major hub](#) for Pakistanis migrating irregularly to Europe via Iran, Türkiye and the Mediterranean Sea. The dangerous journeys undertaken by migrants often end in tragedy, as seen in the recent two shipwrecks off the coast of Italy, where [Pakistani migrants were among the 12 recorded deaths](#). In Europe, a [Pakistani smuggling network was dismantled](#) in Romania, which had been exploiting Schengen zone access to facilitate onward movement to other EU countries using Romanian work visas.

Thematic Focus:

The Humanitarian Crisis and Its Impact on Afghan Women's Migration

Nearly three years after August 2021, Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis has deepened significantly, with [approximately 23.7 million Afghans](#) in need of humanitarian assistance. The exacerbated economic insecurity following the political change has compounded these issues, leading to widespread poverty and unemployment. Recent natural disasters, including flooding [in 25 of 34 provinces](#) and earthquakes, have further devastated homes, agricultural land, and infrastructure across the country. Food insecurity remains critical, affecting [over a third of the country's population](#), with 14.2 million people facing severe food shortages. As of the end of 2023, [4.2 million Afghans are internally displaced](#) and the majority of people will remain in the country as migration is often a last resort and only for those who can gather the resources to leave. The avenues for regular cross-border mobility are severely restricted, with considerable delays in issuing national identity documents, the withdrawal of foreign consulates, and increasing costs and scrutiny for those on the move, pushing many Afghans to consider risky, irregular pathways to neighbouring states.

Alongside limited regular pathways, neighbouring countries are ramping up deportations of Afghans, targeting both recent arrivals and those who have been residing there for years. Since the announcement of the 'Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP)' in October, 2023, [over 645,000 Afghans have "returned"](#) from Pakistan between September 2023 and June 2024. The Pakistani Government is about to start a second phase of its IFRP plan, likely [to send back more than 800,000 Afghans](#). In 2023, Iran also deported [more than 651,000 Afghans](#) and deportations continued in 2024 with [nearly 3,400 Afghans deported](#) in a single day on June 24. Additionally, IOM recorded [12,820 returns of Afghans from Türkiye](#) via plane between January and the end of June this year. While Europe suspended all deportations to Afghanistan in August 2021, some EU countries have already started to talk publicly about resuming deportations. In Austria, the Ministry of Interior continued to state that it would [resume deportations to Afghanistan](#) as soon as possible, and in Germany, lawmakers are [in talks with Uzbekistan](#) to send Afghan deportees back to Kabul via a stopover in Tashkent.

Changing dynamics of Afghan women migration after August 2021

Afghan migration has been primarily dominated by young men seeking opportunities and safety abroad. However, with no prospect of improved conditions for women in Afghanistan, these dynamics are likely to change with more women compelled to leave the country, and via irregular routes. In April MMC [published research](#) based on interviews with almost 1,000 Afghan women in Türkiye about their migration experiences. Since August 2021, the share of women reporting a lack of access to rights and freedoms as among the top three reasons for leaving, [has increased](#). Women interviewed also reported experiencing higher levels of sexual and gender-based discrimination after August 2021 compared to before the takeover. These findings reflect the deteriorating situation for women in Afghanistan, including bans on education, employment, access to public services, and justice, along with [severe restrictions imposed on their freedom of movement](#). They also highlight how the political change is shifting migration dynamics.

The closure of many foreign embassies in Afghanistan has severely impacted access to visas and legal travel options. These compounded barriers likely force women to cross borders, often undocumented and irregularly, to travel to/through Iran and Pakistan. Compared to movements before August 2021, [land routes](#) have become more prevalent among Afghan women due to the temporary suspension of commercial flights, inflated ticket prices, cessation of passport issuance and the prohibition of Afghan women from boarding flights unaccompanied by a male guardian. In addition, the financial costs of irregular journeys for women are often higher compared to men. In the second quarter of 2024, MMC's 4Mi enumerators in Türkiye confirmed that smugglers continue to charge higher fees for unaccompanied women.

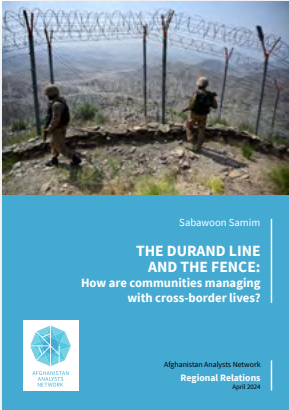
Afghan women must also navigate more dangerous migration routes as neighbouring countries close borders and scale up deportations and pushbacks to limit arrivals. Consequently, Afghan women on the move face amplified physical and psychosocial protection risks during their journeys. [MMC findings](#) from Afghan women en route to Türkiye indicate an increase in the proportion of women engaging smugglers after August 2021 (78%) compared to before (60%). They also reported experiencing protection risks, including having to pay higher bribes to cross borders, extortion, harassment, robbery, sexual and physical violence, and detention, perpetrated by smugglers, border guards, and the police. This increase is happening in a context in which protection responses in most countries en route in the region (Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan) are limited.

In addition, since August 2021, not only has access to assistance en route become more limited, but the types of needed assistance have also changed. A higher proportion of women interviewed by MMC now report a need for [safe spaces and resettlement assistance](#) in Türkiye compared to before August 2021. Many women who have fled Afghanistan for asylum or resettlement find themselves stuck, waiting for their cases to be processed, risking becoming undocumented and at risk of deportation as their visas expire.

Afghan women must not be forgotten

The evolving landscape of Afghan women's migration since August 2021 underscores an urgent need for international action. As the restrictions on women's rights in Afghanistan persist, more women are compelled to leave the country. The barriers to regular migration, exacerbated by the closure of foreign embassies and increased costs of journeys, force Afghan women into hazardous, irregular routes. These journeys are fraught with exploitation, violence, and risky journeys to/through countries like Iran and Pakistan. The international community must acknowledge these compounded difficulties and urgently provide safe, regular pathways for Afghan women seeking refuge. In responding to the humanitarian crisis, the international community must prioritize the protection and rights of Afghan women in all diplomatic and humanitarian efforts. Ignoring their plight only emboldens the repressive policies against women and exacerbates the displacement situation. It is imperative to address these issues comprehensively to ensure the safety and dignity of Afghan women and to uphold the principles of justice and equality.

Highlighted New Research and Reports



[The Durand Line and the Fence: How are communities managing with cross-border lives?](#)

Afghanistan Analysts Network | April 2024

The Durand Line, which serves as the de facto border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, has never been officially recognised by any Kabul government. It cuts through the heart of Pashtun tribes, who share family ties, religion and traditions. For most of its existence, it made little practical difference to the lives of the people living on either side. However, Pakistan's decision in 2017 to fence the entire Line, a project which is now almost complete, has physically split communities. This report explores what that has meant to the lives of those living on the Durand Line, exploring the damage done and some of the partial solutions found by locals, albeit at some cost and some risk.



[The Effects of Irregular Migration on Child Labor: The Situation of Migrant Children in Türkiye](#)

Turkish Red Crescent | April 2024

In the context of rising irregular migration, this study aims to identify and analyse the patterns of irregular migration, its underlying causes and consequences, and its associated risks for both host and origin countries. Specifically, the research focuses on Türkiye, one of the largest irregular migration routes globally, with a special emphasis on migrant children. Using a mixed-method approach, the study also investigates the rights violations and potential risks faced by children in irregular-migrant households without registered identification and evaluates the impact of these conditions on child labour.



[From Crisis to Collaboration: Reflections on ASEAN's protection mechanisms for forced migration](#)

Centre for Policy Development | April 2024

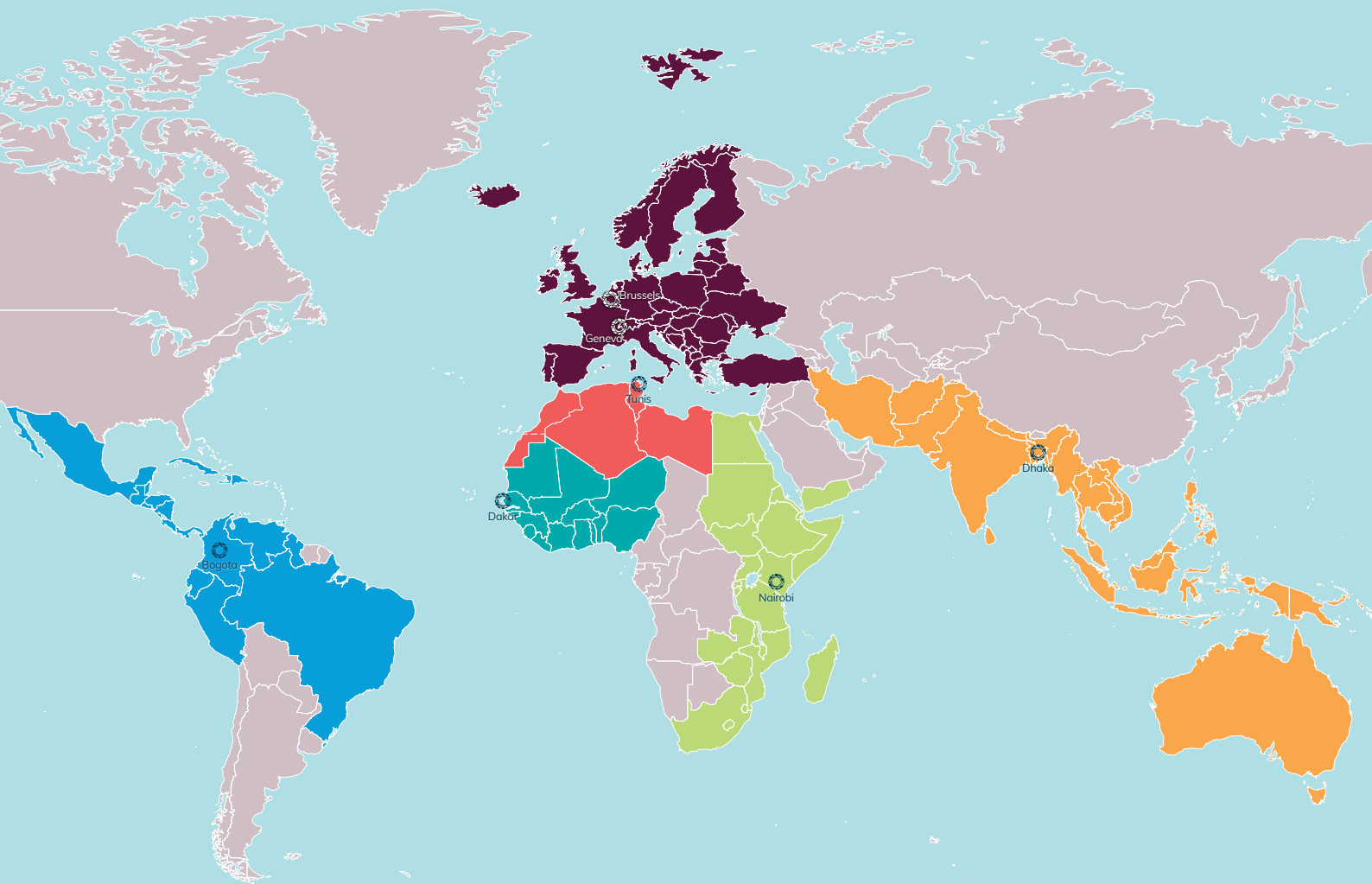
Given the patchwork nature of protection available to displaced persons in ASEAN, this report is the first attempt to summarise what already exists at the ASEAN level to address forced migration, identify gaps that remain and how they can be addressed. Taking a pragmatic approach, the report demonstrates how to make the most of existing frameworks and processes over a ten-year period to strengthen ASEAN's forced migration architecture. The report also highlights gaps in this existing architecture and puts forward ideas for how this could be improved. Rather than create an entirely new regional architecture, this report shows there are opportunities to build on frameworks and processes that already exist within ASEAN.



[Labor Migration in Asia: Trends, Skills Certification, and Seasonal Work](#)

ADB, ILO, OECD | May 2024

This report is based on the discussions at the 13th ADBI-OECD-ILO Roundtable on Labor Migration in Asia: Integrating Skills Development and Certification into the Labor Migration Cycle, held on 27–28 June 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. Chapter 1 analyses labour migration flows in Asia and relevant policy developments, including a section on the flow and cost of remittances. Chapter 2 looks at the pathways for middle-skilled migration and the accompanying skills recognition or certification approaches in Singapore and Thailand, focusing on the construction sector. Chapter 3 examines programs for seasonal workers in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Nordic countries and the United Kingdom.



MMC is a global network engaged in data collection, research, analysis, and policy and programmatic development on mixed migration, with regional hubs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America, and a global team based across Copenhagen, Geneva and Brussels.

MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis, and expertise. MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based mixed migration responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

MMC is part of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

For more information visit:
mixedmigration.org and follow us at [@Mixed_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

