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# LIFT Forum 2019: Diversifying Opportunities, Protecting Rights in Migration and Work



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FORUM  
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To expand the opportunities for safe migration, LIFT began funding migration related projects in 2016.



CSO and LO Network for Migrants (Myanmar)



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# *Data gaps*

- *An Appraisal of data and statistics on labour migration in Myanmar recommended:*
- developing standard definitions and concepts
- harmonization of data collection systems to ensure comparability
- Ethical collection and sharing of data with respect to protection of privacy and confidentiality

# LIFT Migration Partners: Addressing the data gap

In depth research in 4 states and regions (Ayewaddy, Mandalay, Rakhine, Shan) looking at relationships between migration and poverty (*Capitalizing Human Mobility for Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Mobility in Myanmar, CHIME*)

Findings:

Low incidence of return

Motivation for migration: for more stable employment opportunities, change social status

Ability to migrate dependent on access to information, on presence and action of migration facilitators and

On available migration financing options



Over 50% of all migrants sent remittances home. 82% through formal financial institution.

Did not find any evidence of direct relation between changes in poverty rankings and internal migration.

Remittances mostly used for immediate needs.

International remittances also supported community infrastructure; social events.



# Data through the Complaints Mechanism

- Support to improve the operation and recording of data in the MOLIP Complaints Mechanism
- More than 2,000 migrants filed cases related to contract substitution, excessive recruitment fees, missing persons, workplace injuries and deaths.
- New recording mechanisms allow for greater analysis.



# Opportunities for Comprehensive policy protection

- More migrants migrating through regular channels to more countries with more diverse jobs available.
- Greater recognition of irregular migrants and the need to address their status through documentation and to protect all migrants.
- More coordination with countries of destination (government to government, employers associations, NGOs)

# LIFT Migration Partners: Supporting Policy

Provided technical input for reform of the Law Relating to Overseas Employment (1999)

Development 2<sup>nd</sup> five year National Action Plan on International Labour Migration (2018 – 2023) with greater attention to protection of migrants, recruitment processes and includes annual monitoring systems.

# Internal migration governance



- Twinning of relevant stakeholders in places of origin and destination to increase understanding of the problems faced throughout the migration cycle and how to jointly address issues of documentation, access to social security, housing, safety, return and reintegration.



# Decent work

Certain sectors of work which employ large numbers of migrants (internally and internationally) leave migrants vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.



Domestic workers are excluded from many labour protections in Myanmar (ie Holiday and Leave Act) and have difficulty exercising their rights where they are included due to the nature of their workplace (Labour Organizing Law, Social security Law).

A ban imposed on domestic workers migrating overseas left domestic workers without any protection and dependent on brokers.

Women from rural areas not prepared for work in factories or for life in busy, congested urban areas. Lack skills needed for the work.

# LIFT Migration Partners: Decent work

Provided analysis and raised awareness of the impact of the ban on domestic workers migrating. The ban is now lifted.

Consultations on international standards for domestic workers, (Convention No 189, Decent Work for Domestic workers)

Provided technical input on the development of legal protection of domestic workers; particularly with Parliamentarians.

Supported trainings and skills development for domestic workers.



# LIFT Migration Partners: Decent Work

- A training school (Aung Myin Hmu) for rural workers entering the garment industry in Yangon with accreditation by the National Skills Standards Authority
- Working with employer associations on adoption of national occupational competency standards and there has been support from clothing brands such as H&M in establishing training lines within factories.
- Working with public TVET and private training providers
- Skills training for victims of trafficking in jewelry making, hair dressing, computer literacy, coffee making, baking, sales and several languages

# Addressing gender gaps

- Advocating for Gender based violence and harassment policies in the workplace, including in factories
- Increasing access to legal services for women garment workers and domestic workers
- Highlighting gender as a root cause of the lack of protection and recognition of domestic workers through public campaigns and events
- Inclusion of women government officials in labour attache trainings

# LIFT Migration Partners: Addressing Information Gaps



- Regular chat shows Yay Kyi Yar on safe migration, financial literacy, labour rights broadcast on state radio, reaching 3.2 million listeners
- Garment workers attending drop in information centres at the Sunday café share important tips through messaging to their friends after the session.



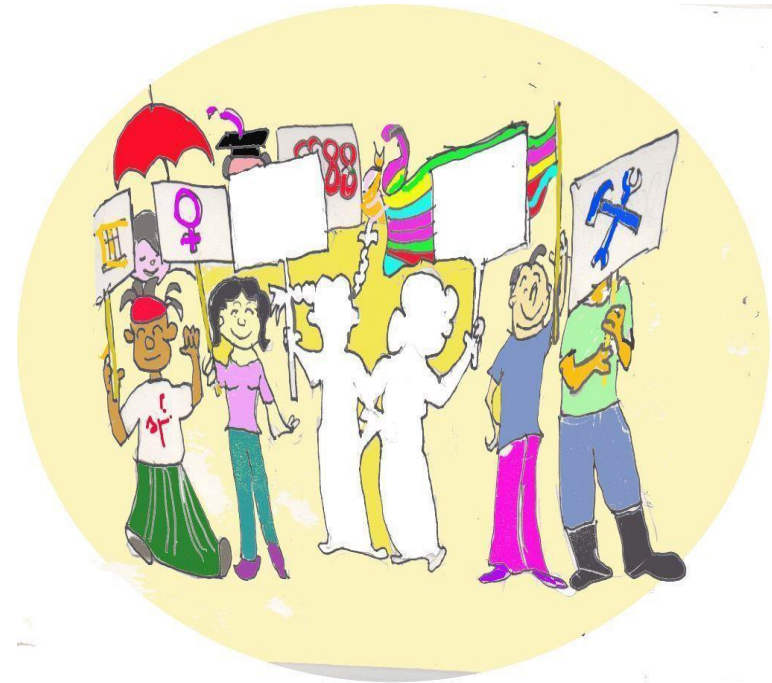
# Addressing information gaps



- Live travelling theatre shows in Chin State with messages on safe migration
- Facebook Miss Migration chatbot provides interactive consultations and delivers relevant information. Launched in May 2018, the Miss Migration Chatbot had responded to more than 4,300 questions

# Strengthening Migrant Communities

- Establishing vibrant networks of garment workers through drop in centres with activities and outreach to provide peer support
- Providing counselling, safe shelter and creative therapies for trafficked women
- Working with labour organisations for inclusion of migrants and connectivity between unions cross border.





# Thank you

LIFT 10 year Forum, June 12<sup>th</sup> 2019

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