

**MMC Asia and the Pacific**

**QUARTER 2 2022**



# 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, Thailand 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 hosted in DRC regional offices in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, and a small global team in Geneva. For more information on MMC, the QMMUs from other regions and contact details of regional MMC teams, visit [mixedmigration.org](https://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 in mixed flows 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. Those in mixed migration flows travel along similar routes, using similar means of travel - often travelling irregularly, and wholly, or partially, assisted by migrant smugglers.

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Haroon Honari (2018)

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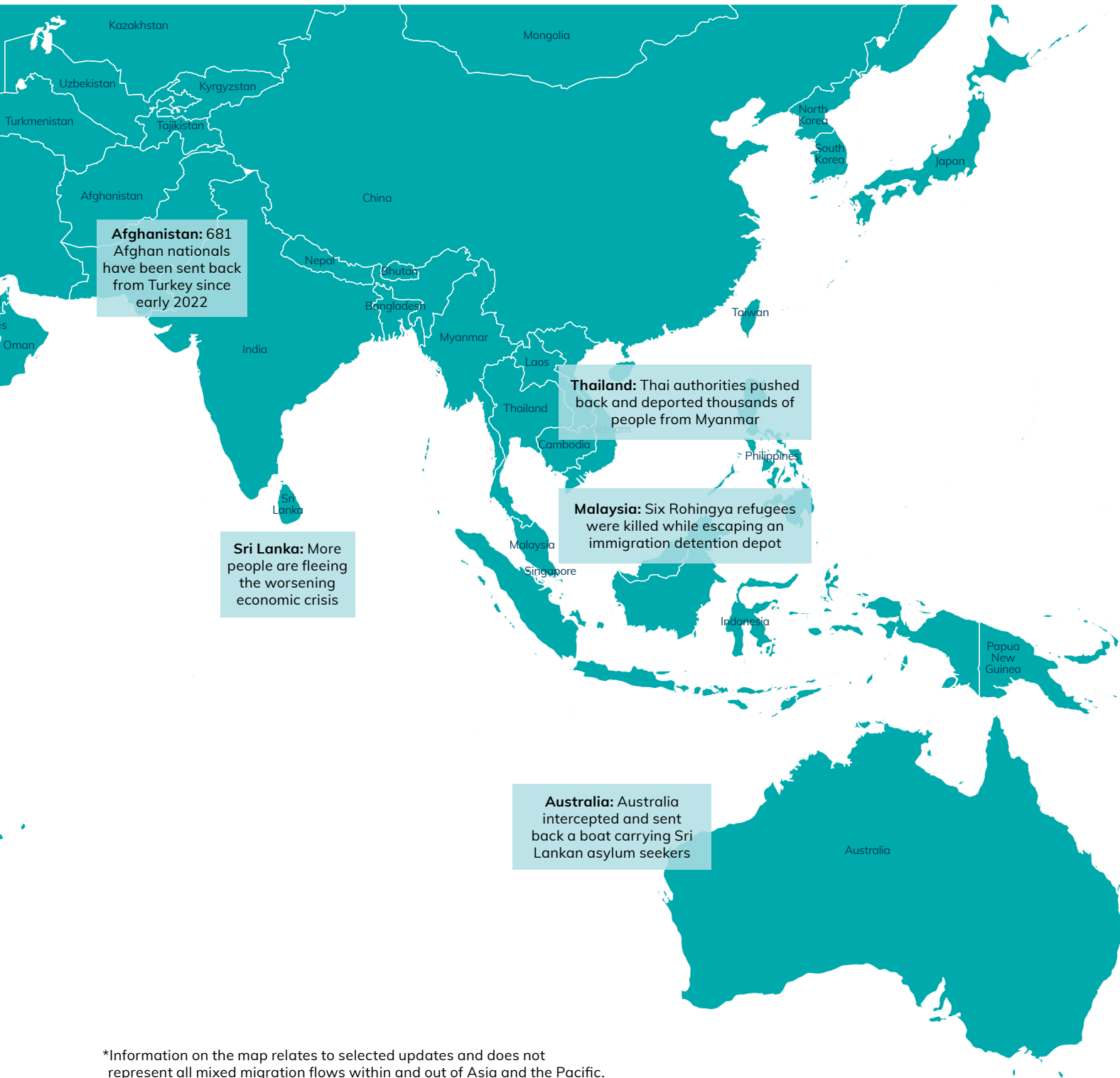
# Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Asia and the Pacific

## Quarter 2 - 2022

### Key Updates

- **Renewed tensions between Afghanistan and Iran increase risks for Afghan refugees and migrants:** The Iranian authorities have claimed [extremists are entering Iran among Afghan refugees](#) and have strengthened security forces along the border. Iranian police patrols in predominantly Afghan neighborhoods have also increased significantly, and police [are arresting undocumented Afghans](#) in the streets, on buses and trains, and in stores and workplaces.
- **Rohingya refugees apprehended while crossing to Bangladesh from India:** Around 2,000 Rohingya refugees have reached Bangladesh amid refugee raids in India. The Bangladesh authorities have [engaged more security forces](#) to stop the new arrivals and arrested [dozens of refugees](#).
- **Climate change-induced extreme weather events have displaced millions of people in South Asia:** In northeastern India and Bangladesh, [at least 100 people were killed](#) and [millions displaced](#) by storms, flooding and landslides caused by severe monsoon rains.
- **Aid shortage risks compounding a humanitarian crisis for Rohingya refugees in Bhasan Char:** Donor reluctance to aid Bhasan Char is preventing basic services from scaling up, leaving refugees in limbo. Many have attempted to leave the island for better living conditions.
- **Protests in support of refugees took place across the region:** A number of protests organized by refugees themselves and members of the public took place in [Pakistan](#), [Iran](#), [Australia](#), and [Bangladesh](#).
- **New measures across the region to strengthen migrant and refugee protection:** This quarter saw some improvement in efforts to protect migrant workers, refugees, and asylum seekers across Asia and the Pacific, including in [Malaysia](#), [Taiwan](#), [New Zealand](#), [Australia](#), and [Japan](#).

## Regional Overview\*



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

# Mixed Migration Regional Updates

## Mixed migration from Asia and the Pacific

### Turkey deports hundreds of Afghan refugees and migrants

On 22 April, [227 Afghan nationals](#) were flown to Kabul from Turkey's Malatya airport, a move Turkish authorities claimed combats mass "[illegal entries](#)" from Afghanistan. The deportees were among [681 Afghan nationals](#) who have been sent back to Afghanistan since the resumption of charter flights from Turkey in early 2022. Despite ongoing conflict and [insecurity](#) in Afghanistan, three more charter flights have been scheduled. According to news reports, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are being arrested and packed into 25 immigration detention centers across Turkey, awaiting deportation. The authorities plan to build eight more of such centers to detain more "[irregular migrants](#)".

Afghans held in Turkish detention centers, as well as those deported, face inhumane conditions. An April report by Mezopotamya – a Turkish news agency – documented torture and mistreatment of Afghans in detention centers. Nearly 100 Afghan refugees and migrants were forced to sign "[voluntary return papers](#)". This deportation process is putting many in dangerous situations. On 31 March, [four Afghan youths](#) were mistakenly deported to Syria. The youths were immediately arrested and detained by a Syrian militant group for a month before being released to a temporary shelter with an uncertain future in Syria.

An [increasingly hostile environment](#) towards refugees and migrants in Turkey is increasing the risks for Afghans. The Ukrainian refugee outflow stemming from the Russian invasion compounds additional challenges for displaced Afghans, and may risk [overshadowing](#) the support needed for them and other groups of refugees in Turkey and Europe.

### Renewed tensions between Afghanistan and Iran increase risks for Afghan refugees and migrants

While the presence of Afghan refugees and migrants is not new in Iran, xenophobia and discrimination are reported to have increased over the past few months. Tensions between the two countries were growing again in early April when two Iranian clerics were [stabbed to death](#) by an Afghan national at a shrine in northeastern Iran. Soon after that, [videos of harassment and torture of Afghan refugees in Iran](#) circulated on social media, sparking outrage, anger, and fear among Afghan populations in Iran.

The Iranian authorities have claimed [extremists are entering Iran among Afghan refugees](#). The government therefore launched a new [national census](#) with an aim to identify people without documentation in the country. Iran also [dispatched military units](#) to the 1,000-kilometer border with Afghanistan in early May on the grounds of security concerns. Simultaneously, the Taliban [ordered all border forces](#) to prevent human trafficking and stop the flows of people moving irregularly between the two countries.

Afghan refugees and migrants in Iran are stuck in the middle of these tensions. According to news reports, Iranian police patrols in predominantly Afghan neighborhoods have increased significantly, and police are arresting undocumented Afghans in the streets, on buses and trains, and in stores and workplaces. In Bushehr province, undocumented Afghan migrants and refugees are not [given accommodation or access to work](#). Deportations of Afghans from Iran have also increased, with [over 6,000 being deported every day](#), compared to [2,500-3,000 per day](#) in the last quarter. Despite these challenges, more Afghans are attempting to reach Iran, as Afghanistan grapples with armed conflicts and [a severe economic and humanitarian crisis](#), with millions struggling to survive amid rising levels of hunger and poverty.

## Mixed migration within Asia and the Pacific

### Rohingya refugees apprehended while crossing to Bangladesh from India

This quarter saw an increasing number of Rohingya refugees moving to Bangladesh due to fear of arrest and detention in India. On 29 May, [26 Rohingya refugees](#), including 12 minors and eight women, were arrested and sent to a detention center in Assam after attempting to cross the border to Bangladesh. [Three other groups of Rohingya refugees](#) traveling from India were apprehended after arriving in Bangladesh earlier in May.

According to news reports, Rohingya refugees in India have been making “[desperate efforts](#)” over the past several months to enter Bangladesh. Since its electoral victory in 2017, the Bharatiya Janata Party – the Hindu-nationalist party in India – has launched a campaign aiming to [identify and detain](#) all Rohingya Muslim refugees and deport them to Myanmar. The campaign resulted in [around 1,000 Rohingya refugees being imprisoned](#) in different parts of the country over the past four years and a few dozen being deported to Myanmar after being charged with illegal entry into India. The remaining Rohingya population in India is now worried that they will be taken to detention centers in India and deported to Myanmar.

[Around 2,000 refugees](#) have already reached Bangladesh through different routes from India to seek safety and better living conditions. The Bangladesh authorities have vowed to [engage more security forces](#) to stop Rohingya from coming to Bangladesh. [A military-run infrastructure project](#) along Bangladesh’s borders with Myanmar and India was extended until 2024 to strengthen the border security and combat the smuggling of human and illicit goods into Bangladesh.

### Rohingya refugees risked their lives escaping an immigration detention depot in Malaysia

On 20 April, [528 Rohingya refugees](#) escaped from the Sungai Bakap Immigration Detention Depot in Nibong Tebal, in Malaysia’s northwestern Penang province. The refugees, among [some 664 Rohingya detainees](#), broke out from the depot, reportedly after fear and anger relating to [the death of a fellow detainee](#) from illness and lack of access to medication. Most of the refugees were later arrested by police. However, [six](#) were tragically killed while trying to cross the [North-South Expressway](#), including two men, two women, a

boy and a girl. On 26 April, Malaysian authorities called on the local population to find the 61 Rohingya who remained missing, raising alarm about the further criminalization of refugees in the country.

The incident shines a spotlight on Malaysia's immigration policy and Rohingya refugees. Rohingya comprise the largest refugee group in Malaysia, which has been hosting them for decades. The refugees have faced increasing mistreatment due to the lack of a legal protection framework in Malaysia. On 29 April, the Interior Minister announced that Malaysian authorities [solely would decide who could remain in the country and be given refugee cards](#). It also suggested that the government would not acknowledge the refugee status of those who hold UNHCR-issued documents, increasing barriers to protection and assistance for refugees in the country. The announcement came while Malaysian authorities continued to arrest undocumented migrants and refugees, and place them in immigration detention depots, which are [hotspots for disease and infection](#).

## Climate change-induced extreme weather events displaced millions of people in South Asia

In northeastern India and Bangladesh, [at least 100 people were killed](#) and [millions displaced](#) by storms, floods, and landslides. In May, an unusual combination of a heatwave, floods, and landslides [killed at least 41 and displaced more than two million people](#) in the northeastern and southern parts of India. In June, Bangladesh experienced the worst monsoon rains in more than a century, which submerged [thousands of houses](#) and impacted [more than seven million people](#). Experts said the catastrophic rain-triggered floods were an outcome of [climate change](#), and severe damage to crops and livestock will likely take a toll on food security in the two countries in the coming months.

Climate change and natural disasters have accounted for a large number of forced displacements in Asia and the Pacific. According to [UNHCR's Global Trends Report](#) released in June 2022, displacements due to natural disasters in 2021 occurred in [China \(6 million\), the Philippines \(5.7 million\), and India \(4.9 million\)](#). The number of people forced to flee their homes due to climate change and natural disasters has [increased](#) every year over the past decade. Meanwhile, studies have revealed that extreme weather events, such as super cyclones, will have a [much more devastating impact](#) on people in South Asia in the coming years.

## Aid shortage risks compounding a humanitarian crisis for Rohingya refugees in Bhasan Char

On 31 March, [1,535 Rohingya refugees](#) reached Bhasan Char, marking the 13th phase of relocation to the island. By June, there were about [28,000 Rohingya refugees](#) in Bhasan Char. The number of Rohingya relocated to the island remains relatively small compared to nearly one million currently residing in cramped camps in Cox's Bazar, but they are also in great need of basic services and protection.

Bhasan Char remains a controversial topic for donors and international aid groups. While an agreement between UNHCR and the Government of Bangladesh in October 2021 opens the door to humanitarian assistance on the island, foreign donors still appear split on how to respond. The United States – the largest donor to the Rohingya response – stated that its funding [“does not currently support Bhasan Char”](#). However,

donor reluctance to aid Bhasan Char is preventing basic services from scaling up, leaving refugees in need of assistance. Many have attempted to leave the island for better living conditions. On 13 May, for instance, three Rohingya refugees were [captured and detained](#) by the local police while trying to flee Bhasan Char.

Meanwhile, refugees in Cox's Bazar remain in desperate need of aid. Fires broke out in April and May, destroying houses and severely injuring people in the camps, including [children](#). A scabies outbreak has also swept through the camp and affected [some 20,700 refugees](#). According to WHO, the scabies prevalence rate was at [10.2 percent](#) in May and is predicted to rise in the absence of a mass treatment campaign.

## Thailand steps up the arrest and deportation of refugees

This quarter saw a continuation of immigration raids by the Thai authorities. On 8 April, the Thai police arrested and detained [five Vietnamese political dissidents](#) as they failed to present their residence documents in Thailand. The dissidents, all granted refugee status by UNHCR, were released after three days. However, the arrest raised concerns among [over 90,000 refugees](#) in Thailand, many of whom entered the country to seek protection from persecution, and now are at risk of [criminalization](#).

Along the Thailand–Myanmar border, video footage obtained by Fortify Rights shows Thai soldiers [destroying a makeshift footbridge](#) over the Waw Lay River – a key border crossing point that people use to flee violence in Myanmar. Thai authorities [have also pushed back and deported thousands of people from Myanmar](#), despite customary international law forbidding the return of people to countries where their lives may be in danger, and Prime Minister Chan-O-Cha's [commitment to respect the principle of non-refoulement](#). Consequently, Myanmar refugees have been stuck in a “[game of ping-pong](#)”, going back and forth across the border, as the violence by Myanmar's military shows no sign of ending.

## More people are fleeing the economic crisis in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's forex crisis, starting in late 2021, has turned out to be the country's worst economic crisis in more than 70 years, and is prompting an increase in outward migration. Economic and political turmoil has resulted in an [acute shortage of essential items](#) and interrupted safety nets including health care. Officials have [urged Sri Lankan migrants](#) working abroad to send remittances. Major power cuts and the soaring cost of food and fuel have triggered [mass protests](#) in the country. Many are resorting to seeking asylum in the neighboring countries and further afield to Australia.

News reports documented that [at least 300 Sri Lankans](#) have attempted to get to Australia over the past few weeks. While most boats were intercepted by the Sri Lankan navy, [two managed to make it to Australian waters](#). The asylum seekers in those boats were later sent back to Sri Lanka. Despite the continuation of Australia's “[turning back boats](#)” policy under its new government, it is predicted that Australia will face [many more boat arrivals](#) in the coming months, driven by the collapse of Sri Lanka's economy.

Meanwhile, more Sri Lankans are arriving in India. By the end of June, India's southeastern state of Tamil Nadu recorded total new arrivals of [96 Sri Lankan asylum seekers](#). According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, India is currently hosting [nearly 59,000 Sri Lankan refugees and migrants](#) both in and outside refugee camps in Tamil Nadu and Odisha.



## The politicization of immigration policy puts lives in limbo in Australia

The 2022 Australian Federal Election presented an opportunity for [more than 19,000 people recognized as refugees](#) in the country. Before the election, the Labor Party promised to [grant permanent visas](#) to the refugees, who have been living in limbo. Meanwhile, the Coalition also executed a “[last-minute political fix](#)” on the eve of the election, enabling the release of 26 refugees from different immigration detention sites across the country.

The release was [welcomed](#) by UNHCR, stating that it helped put an end to indefinite uncertainty for the refugees, some of whom had spent [nine years](#) in Australian detention centers. However, it is unclear if there is any permanent arrangement for the released refugees. Many have reportedly been granted [a temporary six-month visa](#) with restrictions on movement and work opportunities. The six-month period - described by the news report as “[borrowed time](#)” - is not enough for many refugees to recover from prolonged detention-related trauma. Simultaneously, rights groups called for durable solutions for refugees and asylum seekers as “[an urgent priority to whoever is elected](#)” in Australia.

That call for change remains answered. Soon after their victory in May, the Labor Party sent [a group of Sri Lankan asylum seekers](#) back to Sri Lanka after their vessel was intercepted by Australian authorities. While the new government claimed that the asylum seekers were “[processed](#)” before being flown back to Sri Lanka, the move was widely criticized, as it demonstrates a continuation of the inhumane border and immigration policy.

## Protests in support of refugees took place across the region

A number of protests organized by refugees themselves and members of the public took place in this quarter. In Iran and Pakistan, Afghans protested the restrictions on movement and limited job opportunities, demanding better treatment and protection. In Islamabad, on 19 April, dozens of Afghan refugees demonstrated in front of the UNHCR office, carrying signs with the slogan: “[Either kill us or save us from this misfortune.](#)” The protest followed the [killing of at least eight Afghan refugees](#) in an airstrike and artillery shelling in the country. Similar protests in Iran descended into violence. Video footage from early April shows a group of Afghan protesters throwing rocks at Iran’s consulate in Herat, chanting “[death to Iran,](#)” inciting a new tension between the community and the country.

Demonstrations were held across Australia in support of [refugee rights](#) on World Refugee Day. Campaigners urged the government to provide better protection for people fleeing conflict in Afghanistan and Ukraine. In Bangladesh, [Rohingya refugees across 34 camps](#) in Cox’s Bazar staged a peaceful rally on 19 June. The demonstration, under the banner “[Let’s Go Home](#)”, voiced their wish to be repatriated to Myanmar with safety and dignity. The refugee community also handed out leaflets with the [demands that must be met](#) for repatriation to occur, including the cancellation of the 1982 citizenship act that denies their citizenship rights, assurance of security of the Rohingya, and end of persecution of innocent people of Myanmar.

## New measures across the region to strengthen migrant and refugee protection

On 1 April, Indonesia and Malaysia signed [a memorandum of understanding](#) to improve the protection of domestic migrant workers. The agreement follows several incidents involving the abuse of Indonesian domestic workers in Malaysia. It aims to put in place a system that matches Indonesian workers with suitable employers, as well as to strengthen [wage protection and complaint mechanisms](#). The agreement marks an important first step to protecting foreign workers employed in low-skilled sectors in Malaysia, many of whom are [refugees](#) and undocumented migrants.

Some other countries in the region have implemented initiatives to facilitate permanent pathways for migrant workers. In Australia, thousands of Pacific Islander workers will qualify for permanent residency through [a green card-style lottery scheme](#). In Taiwan, foreign students and migrant workers in manufacturing, construction, fisheries, caregiving, and some agricultural areas will be given [a long-term work permit](#) that can later lead to permanent residency.

In terms of refugee protection, countries have also made efforts to receive asylum seekers and end refugee detention. Japanese authorities have [admitted 1,316 Ukrainian refugees in the first six months of 2022](#) - in contrast to 74 refugees from around the world in 2021—with public opinion and political leaders suggesting a tentative interest in shifting from Japan's historical inaccessibility to refugees. Meanwhile, in New Zealand, an independent review found long-term detention “[wrong at every level](#)” and contrary to national values. The report also outlined a set of [recommendations](#) for legal changes with regard to immigration detention. The government accepted the recommendations and [promised](#) to stop imprisoning asylum seekers while their claims are processed.

## Thematic Focus: Andaman Sea: As movements from Myanmar and Bangladesh resume, safe routes are needed to avoid another crisis

On 24 May 2022, [at least 17 Rohingya refugees](#) were killed after their boat capsized in bad weather off the Myanmar coast. Children drowned. The victims were among some 90 Rohingya on board who were attempting to leave Sittwe – the capital of Rakhine state in Myanmar - for Malaysia. The deaths increase concerns about the life-threatening maritime journeys to Malaysia. The number of journeys had fallen significantly early in the COVID-19 pandemic but have resumed in recent months.

Observers fear that countries involved, including Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia, are taking harsher measures to cope with the “irregular” movements of people. Hundreds of Rohingya have been intercepted in Myanmar and Bangladesh while many others have been arrested elsewhere en route to Malaysia. These events mirror the Andaman Sea crisis of 2015, and suggest an even more rigid approach by the authorities involved, further criminalizing refugees and the seeking of protection from persecution.

### Mixed movements resumed from Bangladesh and Myanmar to Malaysia

According to UNODC, more than 900 Rohingya have attempted to reach Malaysia since December, exceeding the number from the same period last year ([633](#)). Smugglers in Bangladesh and Myanmar usually facilitate the journeys, which can include both land border crossings and maritime movements. Rohingya, especially women and children, are exposed to [fatal risks during those journeys](#). According to Radio Free Asia, “[about 35 out of 100 people make it](#)”. The rest are either arrested or lose their lives. Indeed, from December 2021 to date, [more than 600](#) Rohingya have been arrested on the journey to Malaysia, and according to UNODC, at least 65 reported dead or missing.

Unlike maritime movements during 2020-2021, which were made up of Rohingya only, recent boats from Bangladesh and Myanmar to Malaysia consist of Rohingya, other Myanmar nationals, and Bangladeshi. A boat captured by the Malaysian authorities in Kuala Kurau on 1 May 2022, for example, held [143 people](#), including 134 Rohingya, four Bangladeshi nationals, and five Myanmar nationals. This kind of mixed movement, despite being on a much smaller scale, mirrors the movements in the Andaman Sea seven years ago when as many as [8,000 Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi migrants](#) were left stranded at sea after being refused disembarkation by Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand.

## Anti-refugee rhetoric continues to offset regional protection frameworks

Compared with seven years ago, regional frameworks to protect refugees and migrants have improved. [The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime](#) provides a platform for collaboration on the establishment of disembarkation options and cooperation in search and rescue efforts. ASEAN has also taken various steps to strengthen protection for migrant workers and victims of human trafficking, especially women and children.

Changes in national immigration policy, however, are limited. Australia reaffirmed the continuation of its “[turning back boats](#)” policy despite the electoral victory of the Labour Party in May 2022. Thailand continues its view of refugees as “[illegal](#)” migrants, while every country on the route remains a non-signatory to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, shying away from any responsibilities toward refugees.

Furthermore, anti-refugee and anti-immigrant political rhetoric have been on the rise. In Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Myanmar, reports on Rohingya refugees being arrested and detained have proliferated, using dehumanizing and inaccurate language - such as “[illegal migrants](#)”, “[criminal tendencies](#)”, and “[nabbing](#)”. These reports have stoked public opposition to migrants and refugees. At the same time, countries like Malaysia and Thailand have increased immigration raids, resulting in the arrest and deportation of refugees, including those with UNHCR-issued refugee cards: an act in violation of international law.

## What lessons from the Andaman Sea crisis are still applied to today’s responses?

The Andaman Sea crisis in 2015 demonstrates the complexity and [multi-dimension](#) of mixed movements as well as the responses required. Boats traveling to Malaysia include people holding different legal statuses and departing for a variety of reasons. Regardless of these differences, people in mixed movements are exposed to the same protection risks and violations on the journeys. These risks are only heightened in the absence of a comprehensive legal protection framework in transit and destination countries.

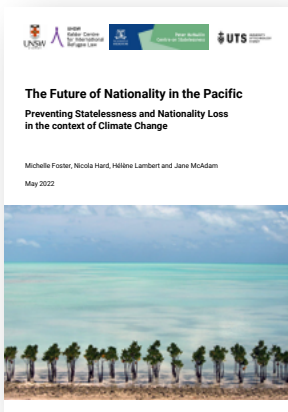
The protracted movements of Rohingya refugees and other migrant groups also prove that without proper attention to the root causes of migration, it is inevitable to avoid humanitarian and migration crises. In Myanmar, ten years after the launch of the [ethnic cleansing campaign](#) targeting the Rohingya population, the condition of people held in the Rohingya displacement camp in Sittwe remains [critical](#), with debt, lack of employment, and a generation of education-less children damaging Rohingya communities. In Bangladesh, movements in Cox’s Bazar have been increasingly restricted. Since May 2022, the local police have introduced a new “[camp-to-camp movement pass](#)”, which is required for Rohingya to visit other camps. Those who travel without the pass are reportedly [detained and beaten](#). Additionally, three months after shutting down [thousands of shops](#) owned by refugees, in April 2022 Bangladesh authorities detained [more than 300 Rohingya](#) for working outside their refugee camps. Given the dim prospects of repatriation and resettlement, and worsening conditions in Bangladesh, moving onwards is the only option for many.

## How can the region respond better this time?

In a statement on 23 May, UNHCR warned that “[collective failure to act will continue to lead to tragic and fatal consequences](#)” for those at sea, citing the deaths of the 17 Rohingya. The warning is ominous, pointing directly at predictable and amendable failures in protection response, while adding that Rohingya refugees will continue to embark on dangerous journeys in search of safety and stability, and in increasing numbers. Although the overall number of Rohingya attempting to reach Malaysia from Myanmar and Bangladesh over the past few months remains significantly lower than in May 2015, the situation is volatile and can change quickly at any time.

Given the drivers of onward movement, increasing border controls and criminalizing refugees will increase the risks of the journey, more than it will stop people from moving. Countries on the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea must cooperate to conduct search and rescue operations to save lives. Refugees who flee persecution and catastrophic conditions in Myanmar and Bangladesh should be allowed to disembark and provided with adequate assistance. States in the region should urgently agree on collective solutions to address the issue and better share responsibility for hosting refugees.

# Highlighted New Research and Reports



## [The Future of Nationality in the Pacific: Preventing Statelessness and Nationality Loss in the context of Climate Change](#)

**Michelle Foster, Nicola Hard, Hélène Lambert and Jane McAdam | May 2022**

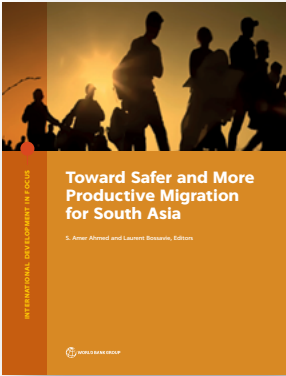
Pacific Island countries and territories bear the brunt of the worst impacts of climate change. Disasters are expected to occur more frequently, and more powerfully. Over time, rising sea levels may even submerge low-lying areas of land. Most research into statelessness and climate change in the Pacific has focused on the question of whether, if a country were submerged, statehood would survive, and whether this would leave citizens of that country stateless. As a matter of law, the question about ongoing statehood in this context is unsettled; in practice, it is likely that people will have left the country long before loss of territory occurs. This report identifies risks of statelessness and nationality loss under current citizenship laws and recommends reforms that will support Pacific Islanders to retain and pass on their citizenship.



## [Labor Migration in Asia: COVID-19 Impacts, Challenges, and Policy Responses](#)

**Asian Development Bank Institute, OECD, ILO | May 2022**

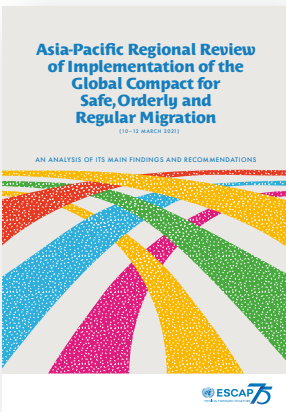
This publication analyzes the region's labor migration outlook, corresponding economic and policy developments, and changes caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. It considers labor migration to and from different Asian economies and details policy approaches in major origin and destination economies of labor migrants.



## [Toward Safer and More Productive Migration for South Asia](#)

**World Bank | May 2022**

International migration for temporary employment is key to South Asia’s development path, in terms of both jobs and remittance flows. However, multiple challenges prevent migration from achieving its full development potential. Building on rigorous analytics, this book highlights policy actions that can be taken at all stages of the migration cycle, including after return, to minimize the risks and maximize the benefits of migration for migrants themselves, their families, and the home economy. The book provides policy options to address information gaps on employment opportunities overseas, to prepare migrants adequately for their experience overseas, to diversify destinations and occupations abroad, and to maximize the benefits of return migration.



## [Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific | May 2022**

This report provides an overview of migration levels and trends in Asia and the Pacific, and analyses the different inputs to and outputs from the 2021 Asia-Pacific Regional Review, with a view to identifying emergent opportunities for evidence-based regional and national implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

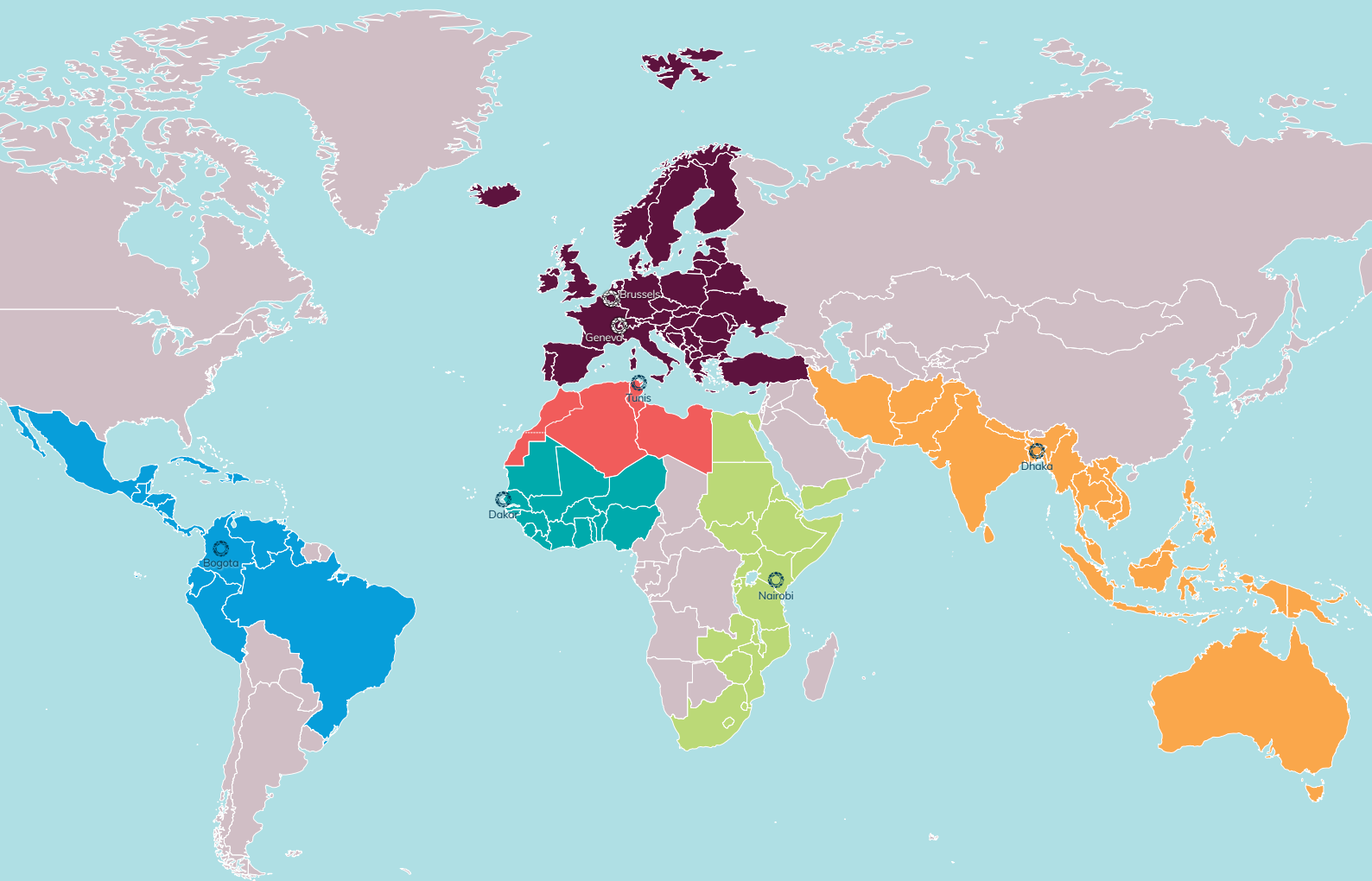
The analytical part of the report is written with a focus on the critical importance of evidence-based initiatives to achieve the specific objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. The theme of capacity-building, informed by analysis, is threaded throughout both the discussion and interpretation of the results, as well as the recommendations that follow.



## [Exploring the Environment-Conflict-Migration Nexus in Asia](#)

**Danish Refugee Council, Stockholm Environment Institute | June 2022**

This study examines the nexus between climate change, migration and conflict within Asia, with particular attention to Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, the three Asian countries where the Danish Refugee Council is currently active, as well as the experiences of Afghans in Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, and of Rohingya people in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.



MMC is a global network engaged in data collection, research, analysis, and policy and programmatic development on mixed migration, with regional hubs hosted in DRC regional offices in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, and a small global team in Geneva.

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 protection 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 and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Global and regional MMC teams are based in Brussels, Geneva, Dakar, Nairobi, Tunis, Bogota and Dhaka.

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

