



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2023 Regular Annual Meeting

20-22 June, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Agenda item 9: Panel Discussion – Labour Mobility: Trends, Best Practices and Emerging Issues for Immigration Agencies in the Pacific

Recommendations

Members are invited to **note** trends, best practises and emerging issues in labour mobility for immigration agencies.

Purpose

This session provides an opportunity for members to share experience, challenges, policy intervention and initiatives to address the demand of labour mobility while balancing these demands with border security.

Background

2. Managing safe migration is one of the greatest challenges of our times. Of the world's nearly 200 million migrants, the ILO estimates that 90 million men and women were migrant workers in 2005, and the figure is steadily rising. While the numbers of international migrants from, and within, the Pacific are small in overall terms, the importance of labour mobility and its impact on societies and economies in many parts of the Pacific cannot be underestimated. Pacific island communities benefit from migration through remittances, transfers of skills and knowledge, networks that can lead to entrepreneurship and new markets and a lifeline for some households who continue to receive income from abroad and adapt to changing circumstances.

3. Labour migration is a multi-faceted phenomenon which comprises temporary migration including circular movement of agricultural workers to particular countries, or migration aboard maritime and fishing vessels around the world. It comprises migration of skilled trades and professional workers, both as permanent migrants or temporary workers. In the last few years, a growing number of Pacific Island countries have begun developing national labour migration policies, or action plans to increase migration opportunities or scale of remittances. This is a positive trend; however, national capacity to implement, monitor and evaluate policies still poses a challenge.

4. Consequently, Members will be invited to share their experiences and discuss what are the emerging trends and practises across the region being adopted as best practises to manage emerging issues in labour mobility. It is an opportunity to learn how other countries are dealing with the increasing trend of labour mobility, including initiatives and policy intervention to address demand and maintain the balance of ensuring border security and detection of illegal entries. This session provides an opportunity to unpack some of the emerging issues that are being experienced across the region with a specific focus on immigration agencies.