International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Technical support to LIFT implementing partners to incorporate migration into their Programming

Supported by LIFT's Delta Window, IOM is currently implementing a project entitled "Migration as Livelihood Diversification Strategy in the Delta (MILDAS)." In addition to leading activities intended to leverage migration for development, IOM is offering its technical support to other LIFT Implementation Partners (IPs) so that they can take into consideration the migration dynamics of their beneficiaries and stakeholders into project designs and interventions, as the mobility patterns of beneficiaries and stakeholders may have direct or indirect impacts on their intervention outcomes.

Why LIFT IPs and migration?

Migration, both internal and international, is increasingly becoming a livelihood diversification option for people in Myanmar. Migration changes who is present in communities during different periods of the year and who holds responsibilities in households and in the larger community. It also influences how people strive to better their lives as different knowledge, attitudes and skills are emphasized during times of increased mobility. It is important that LIFT IPs understand how these changes affect beneficiaries and stakeholders as they try to serve the rural poor. Under this context, IOM is willing to offer its expertise on sharing knowledge of migration dynamics migration into programming to the LIFT IPs so that their interventions have improved development outcomes.

1. Sharing **knowledge on migration dynamics** in LIFT IPs' target areas

IOM can provide information on the migration dynamics in Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta townships based on available knowledge and future studies and consultations. This data cover migratory flows into, within and out of the Delta; profiles of who is migrating and for how long and the impacts of migration on individuals, households and communities, distinguishing between migrating households, migrant-sending households and households not engaging in migration.

IOM can also advise IPs on which migration-related variables to integrate into their baseline, monitoring and impact evaluation studies so that IPs can analyze the linkages between their interventions and the migration of beneficiaries and stakeholders.

Additionally, IOM can provide tailored sessions for project staffs that will deepen their understandings of the nexus between migration and development, and illustrate ways to incorporate migration into development programming.

Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund

MILDAS is supported by

2. Support LIFT IPs to **incorporate migration** into their programming

IOM can support the IPs' work both on migration programming and non-migration programming.

a.   Migration Programming

Migration programming would include interventions to increase the developmental impact of migration (e.g. raising awareness to promote and facilitate safe migration, providing skills and job development sessions and offering financial services in the form of migration loans, remittances loans, micro insurance and remittance management advice). Programming may also include interventions that aim to reduce the negative consequences of migration (e.g. raising awareness of trafficking, providing assistance to the children and elderly left behind, and supporting those who took over additional duties in the absence of household members), uphold the rights of migrants and their families (e.g. promoting fair working conditions, equal access to rights and social services, and the protection of vulnerable migrants) and improve migrants' health (e.g. increasing migrants and their families' access to health services and promoting the prevention and treatment of communicable diseases among mobile populations).

b.   Non-Migration Programming

Integrating migration into non-migration programming can be valuable when the target beneficiaries are affected by migration either directly (they are migrants themselves or their household members migrate), or indirectly (they may hire migrant labourers or local labourers who migrate or they live in the same communities as migrants). When the beneficiaries and stakeholders of projects are substantially affected by migration, it would be useful for the projects to understand the drivers, natures, patterns, trends, consequences and impacts of migration to the project beneficiaries and stakeholders so that the projects can incorporate migration-related variables in their activities.

Example 1

Working-age males may migrate out of communities during seasons when communities are vulnerable to natural disasters. Understanding these out-migration patterns would help communities create a more realistic disaster preparedness and response plan and identify the households where disaster response capacities fluctuate. In communities where in-migration of seasonal labour takes place, migrants will need to be integrated into the community disaster preparedness and response plan.

Example 2

Mothers play a major role in providing nutrition for their families. When mothers migrate and children are left behind, they are usually taken care of by other female family members. There are differences, however, in the way generations understand and make decisions on nutrition; grandmothers and mothers may hold different views, for example. Understanding female migration patterns and how it affects household nutrition decisions would assist implementing partners in their activities.

Example 3

Due to increasing out-migration, communities may face labour shortages. This may result in several developments for households such as mechanization, an increased ability to take risks and try something new, like new agricultural methods and crops, a reduced interest in local livelihood options, which may differ across generations, a growing dependency on remittances and a shift in gender roles in the local economy. Understanding the changing appetite of the beneficiaries as a result of migration would enable the implementing partners to better align their support.