COVID-19 Impacts on Labor Migration in Asia

Migration Slowdown

Pre-Pandemic Asian Migration Growth*

Pandemic Asian Migration Falloff*

Remittances Decline

Pre-Pandemic vs. Pandemic Remittance Levels by Recipients

Global -18%
Asia -10%
Central Asia* -24%
East Asia* -16%
Southeast Asia -19%
South Asia -25%
Pacific -13%

*Excluding People’s Republic of China and Japan

Migrant Workers Threatened

COVID-19 Exposure

In OECD countries, migrants twice as exposed to infection vs. natives

Migrant Workers at Risks

Work in essential services ➔ Less able to telework

On temporary contracts ➔ First to be laid off

Live in crowded accommodation ➔ Difficult to ensure social distancing

Exclusion from unemployment benefit ➔ Humanitarian crisis

Post-Pandemic Imperatives

• Improve emergency preparedness
• Strengthen labor migration governance
• Enhance wage protection and wages
• Improve housing and accommodation
• Extend migrant worker social protection
• Boost skills development and technology access

Learn More

Learn More

ADB In Focus

Visit us at

www.ADB.org

@ADBInstitute

© Asia-Pacific Development

Bank 2020

Pre-Pandemic Asian Migration Growth*

Remittances Decline

Migrant Workers Threatened

COVID-19 Exposure

Migrant Workers at Risks

Post-Pandemic Imperatives

Learn More