

CARAM Asia Migration, health & globalisation

As a regional network, CARAM Asia should play a role in addressing the gaps in the current migration and development discourse. Globalisation strategies, theories and literature seem to focus primarily on the forces of globalisation as an economic development potential for migrant communities whilst neglecting the much-needed analysis and policy recommendations for the protection and promotion of migrant workers rights, including their health rights. It is therefore critical for CARAM Asia to analyse the characteristics of migration taking place today and how it is being pushed and influenced by different economic and political globalisation structures, mechanisms and strategies.

The need for CARAM Asia to realise the interplay and linkages of the three key areas *Migration, Health and Globalisation* (MHG) resulted in the decision by MHG Taskforce members to implement a capacity building workshop. As this is a new programme, there was a real need for the network to build perspectives and analysis in order to formulate solid interventions for migrant communities. 6 external resource persons and 2 from within CARAM Asia were invited to help crystallise and refine the MHG focus areas. The workshop objectives were met as a result of active participation from 27 participants representing about 15 CARAM Asia. The objectives of the workshop were:

1. Building partners' perspectives on the linkages between neo-liberal globalisation strategies, migration and health as well as to create a common CARAM Asia stand and position on these issues.
2. Capacity building for CARAM Asia partner organisations.
3. To develop a framework and analysis for the MHG programme that will help identify relevant strategies, activities and interventions that CARAM Asia can develop to bring about desired change into the lives of migrant workers. As well as to refine the current MHG programme objectives and strategies.
4. Determining information and data required in relation to health and globalisation as well as strategies for information sharing within the network.

In short, this workshop aimed to put participant's experiences, thinking and analysis into a dialog, debate and discussion. As an end result the workshop managed to spell out key focus areas and interventions for CARAM Asia to pursue in order to achieve desired health outcomes and improve the well being of migrant worker communities. The 4 key focus areas for the MHG Taskforce are listed below. As a follow up the taskforce will conduct a workshop in November to build a conceptual framework and strategise activities and outputs for each focus area.

Migration Health and Globalisation Taskforce - Key Focus Areas:

FOCUS 1:

Address the failure of healthcare systems to meet the needs and rights of migrant workers from the context of globalisation.

FOCUS 2:

Analysing the role of WTO policies (GATS Mode 4), FTAs and IFIs in influencing labour flexibilisation and the removing of labour and health rights of migrant workers.

FOCUS 3:

Examining the neo-liberal structures and agreements such as WTO, FTAs and TRIPS+ in terms of the social costs on migrant worker communities and their increased vulnerabilities to HIV infections and transmission.

FOCUS 4:

The role of donors:

Examining development aid and conditionalities and looking into the growing dependency on remittances as a financing tool for development.

Analysing the Global Fund and its role in the issues related to migration, HIV and AIDS and healthcare systems in order to highlight the real needs of migrant communities in developing countries.