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women & migration

championing
women's sexual and
reproductive rights



AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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WOMEN & MIGRATION An Annotated Bibliography

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Introduction

Migration is one of the most universal human experiences. We have all moved or have known others who have travelled from one place to another, whether it was across small distances within a country or across larger expanses of space to a different continent. In the highly globalised era of the 21st century, advances in transportation, mass communications, and an integrated global economy have meant that migration is one of the major issues on the international agenda. The reasons for migration are manifold and complex, with many migrating for greater economic opportunities, while others are forced to migrate due to political oppression, conflict or even due to climate change.

Although migration can be a positive experience that results in a better life for migrants, there are myriad challenges and obstacles which can also imperil their lives and journeys.

In this annotated bibliography, we have chosen to focus broadly on women and migration, with particular attention paid to women migrants and their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The majority of the resources annotated here use a gendered perspective and primarily centre on Asian migrants. The feminisation of migration (almost half of all migrants are female) in recent years has led to critical study of female migrants' experiences, among them the risk they face of trafficking, contracting HIV and AIDS (and other infectious diseases), and the flagrant violation of their basic human rights.

Like all migrants, women migrants, especially those in less-skilled occupations, are often denied their sexual and reproductive rights. Many destination countries do not all low-skilled migrants to bring their families, have relationships, have children or get married with nationals. Additionally, as

women migrants, they encounter a host of difficulties that are specific to their sex and gender, including sexual violence, and higher rates of maternal mortality due to lack of comprehensive sexuality education and information on preventing unwanted pregnancies, lack of access to inexpensive and safe abortion services, as well as inadequate reproductive healthcare. Women can also be denied the right to work if pregnant, since women migrant workers undergo pregnancy tests as requirements for departure and continued employment.

Thus, educating women migrants about their sexual and reproductive health and rights – and their human rights in general – is paramount. Even though female migrants may appear to be an especially vulnerable group, successful migration can also be empowering for women. It is also important to recognise that many women migrants have taken their experiences of disempowerment and channelled it into founding support and activist groups that protect and defend their own interests. The resources annotated in this bibliography often come from a policy- and-legislation perspective, since the general consensus amongst all involved is that the most effective way to improve the situation of female migrants is through just policies and proper implementation. This rights-based approach is apparent in all seven sections of the bibliography.

Finally, the bibliography is organised into seven sections: 1) An Overview of Migration; 2) Gender, Women, and Migration; 3) Human Rights Abuses (Including Sexual Violence) and Migration; 4) Legislation and Policies; 5) Migration and HIV and AIDS; 6) Migration, Health, and Rights; and 7) Migration and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. The issues discussed in each section are often interrelated and overlap, demonstrating the complexity and denseness of this topic. The Overview of Migration and the Gender, Women, and Migration sections are introductory and intended to contextualise

the resources in the rest of the sections. This annotated bibliography complements two other publications focusing on migration, gender and SRHR, produced by the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) as part of a grant supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia, to promote better health for marginalised migrants in Southeast Asia and East Asia. These other two publications are ARROW for Change bulletin Vol. 19 No. 1 2013 on Labour Migration, Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and Working Paper: International Labour Migration, Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Download copies at www.arrow.org.my or contact arrow@arrow.org.my for more information.

GENDER, WOMEN AND MIGRATION

Arya, S., & Roy, A. (Eds.). (2006). *Poverty, gender and migration: Women and migration in Asia Volume 2*. New Delhi/Thousand Oaks/London: Sage Publications. (Summary adapted from resource)

This publication is one of five volumes based on themes that emerged from the International Conference on Women and Migration in Asia in December 2003. It studies the new migratory flows among Asian women and focuses particularly on poverty and attendant issues of powerlessness that mediate women's migration. The papers from Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Philippines deal with international migration, while those from Bangladesh and India discuss internal migration and its problems. Collectively, the papers in this volume interrogate perspectives that focus on the issue of voluntariness, as well as those that give a determining role to economic structures, thereby reducing migration to a passive response. They also focus on structural and ideological factors, especially state policies, forming the contexts of migration. Lastly, the papers conceptualise women's migration not merely in terms of degradation (or improvement) in women's social marginality, but as a process of restructuring of gender relations.

Macklin, A. (2008). Legal aspects of conflict-induced migration by women. *Reproductive Health Matters*, 16(31).

This paper assesses various United Nations (UN) bodies' guidelines, handbooks, resolutions, toolkits and manuals that address issues of women and girls in conflict displacement. It points to the persistent challenges remaining in

effective implementation, and on the role of the UN bodies' implementing migration related international legal frameworks. The paper calls for UN bodies to focus on permanent residence, healthcare, literal and legal literacy for women and girls in conflict displacement.

Sweetman, C. (Ed.). (1998). *Gender and migration*. Oxford: Oxfam. (Summary adapted from the resource)

This book has articles that explore the reasons for women and men to migrate within and outside of their native countries, including employment, marriage and conflict situations. The articles include migrants from Philippines, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka migrating to Canada, Britain, United Kingdom and Lebanon. The articles also explore how migration may offer women a chance to challenge oppressive gender relations and gender discrimination, while isolated from a support system.

Orozco, A. P. (2010). *Global care chains: Towards a rights-based global care regime?* Santa Domingo: The United International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. (Summary adapted from the resource)

This document is the result of UN-INSTRAW's research into migration, gender and development in Latin America and the Caribbean and their recently launched work on "global care links" (globalisation of care). This paper focuses on the importance of caregiving in public debates surrounding development issues. It also stresses the significance of including globalisation and migration as an aspect of this issue, and raises new elements for those working on the area of social organisation of care.

Orozco, A. P., Paiewonsky, D., & Dominguez, M. G. (2010). *Crossing borders II: Migration and development from a gender perspective*. Santa Domingo: The United International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW). (Summary adapted from the resource)

This publication discusses several axes of analysis that are crucial to a full understanding of the migration and development area and explores the linkages between migration and development from a gender perspective as well as moving beyond the question of remittances. One of the objectives of this publication is to rethink the dominant paradigm of "remittances for development," which is focused solely on the economic and social profits of migration. The second objective is to explore new strategic axes which seek to highlight the particularities of women's autonomous migration from a gender perspective as well as propose critical analysis of the inequalities and inequities that underlie the decision-making process, migratory forms and processes, the sending, receiving and use of remittances.

United Nations Development Programme. (UNDP). (2007). *Settled to move: The decision to migrate and its associated risks*. New Delhi: UNDP. (Summary adapted from the resource)

The study presents the status and experiences of women migrants and of women who are left at home by their husbands who migrate. It also aims at examining the needs and pattern of mobility, migration and its impact on these women. The objectives of the study are to: provide a mapping of migrants, with their estimated numbers in the selected towns of the proposed states; examine types, patterns, differentials, streams and estimated number of migrants from rural to urban areas; study the needs and pattern of mobility and migration and its

effects on women who are left at home or women who have migrated to another destination; assess the vulnerabilities and risk status of the migrants and their family members; and understand the role of the stakeholders providing a healthy environment to these migrant women.

Alcala, M. J. (2006). *UNFPA state of world population 2006: A passage to hope: Women and international migration*. New York: United Nations Population Fund. 107p. Retrieved from www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2006/sowp06-en.pdf

According to this report, half of all international migrants - an estimated 95 million - are female migrant workers. The report examines the scope and breadth of female migration as well as the impact of the funds they send home in order to support their families and communities. It also analyses their vulnerability to trafficking, exploitation and abuse. It highlights that both their contributions and vulnerabilities still continue to be disregarded by policymakers, although they usually send a much higher proportion of their earnings back home compared to their male counterparts and also contribute billions of dollars in cash and services.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE, INCLUDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE, & MIGRATION

Amnesty International. (2011). *Nepal: Briefing to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. 49th Session, July 2011.* 15.

This paper explores the situation surrounding Nepalese female migrant workers who pursue opportunities to work in other countries, and raises concerns for these women under articles 2, 5, 6, 11, 15 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It calls for the authorities in Nepal to strengthen the monitoring of the recruitment process, impose adequate penalties for trafficking and forced labor, ensure safe migration of domestic workers as documented workers, as well as ensure effective and accessible complaints mechanisms in Nepal and other countries regardless of their immigration status. It also calls for the provision of immediate access to assistance and support for trafficked individuals, the implementation of “effective measures to prevent and eliminate intentional or de facto discrimination against women in the provision of loans,” investigate fully the trafficking of domestic workers and caregivers, bringing the perpetrators to justice.

Human Rights Watch. (2010). *From the tiger to the crocodile: Abuse of migrant workers in Thailand.* Retrieved from www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/thailand0210webwcover_0.pdf (Summary adapted from the resource)

This report is based on 82 interviews with migrants from neighboring Burma,

Cambodia, and Laos who cross the border into Thailand. It describes the widespread and severe human rights abuses faced by these migrant workers in Thailand, including killings, torture in detention, extortion and sexual abuse, as well as labor rights abuses such as trafficking, forced labor and restrictions on organising. The report makes a series of comprehensive recommendations, including to: establish an effective national commission to systematically investigate and publicise information on abuse of migrants, and refer cases for prosecution; revoke the anti-migrant provincial decrees and end torture and ill-treatment of migrants in custody; and amend the labor law to allow migrants to exercise their right to freedom of association to form their own unions.

Human Rights Watch. (2004). Help wanted: Abuses against female migrant domestic workers in Indonesia and Malaysia. *Human Rights Watch, Volume 16. No.9 (B).* Retrieved from www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/indonesia0704full.pdf

This report documents the routine abuse of women migrant domestic workers both during recruitment and training at Indonesia and in the workplace at Malaysia. Labour agencies control the migration processes at both countries, and neither Indonesia nor Malaysia has legal frameworks protecting the rights of migrant workers and Malaysia's employment laws deny domestic workers the basic protections assured to other workers. The report is based on 115 in-depth interviews, background research and firsthand accounts of severe abuses

that Indonesian domestic workers experience, as well as 16 interviews with Indonesian and Malaysian government officials.

The summary of key recommendations emerging from this paper are for: Indonesia and Malaysia to actively protect and monitor the treatment of women migrant workers and not abdicating these responsibilities to the agents; Malaysia to amend its employment and immigration laws to provide full protection under the law for migrant domestic workers; Indonesia to enact legislation on the protection of migrant workers and regulate and monitor pre-departure training centres, as well as provide a range of services for migrants returning back to the country who have suffered abuse, including healthcare, legal aid, counseling and re-integration programmes; and Indonesia and Malaysia commit to negotiating a bilateral agreement on domestic workers labor rights, freedom of movement and freedom of association. **MAP Foundation.** (2010). *What to do in case of sexual violence for migrant women: ARM Automatic Response Mechanism.* Chiangmai: MAP Foundation.

This is a training manual aimed to assist migrant and refugee women who have been raped. ARM was developed by over 600 migrant and refugee women living in the Thai-Burma border. In 2003, with the assistance from ARM support workers, a young woman and a girl from Burma took their rapist to military court. Through training, workshops and monthly meetings, the migrant women exchanged information on international law as well as Thai law about violence against women. With the ARM training manual, more migrant and refugee women have been better enabled and equipped to support survivors of sexual violence.

MAP Foundation. (2009). *A piece of justice: Migrants' experiences fighting for justice.* Retrieved from

www.mapfoundationcm.org/pdf/eng/A%20piece%20of%20Justice.pdf?phpMyAdmin=8301f226d275ced436b6eaab30961f9d

This handbook provides real stories of Burmese migrant workers working in Thailand who have been successful in taking legal action against exploitation by their employers. These exploitations include failing to pay wages, violating minimum wage and overtime regulations and providing unsafe working and living conditions. The aim of this handbook is to educate other migrant workers on the legal processes in Thailand, ensuring that they are entitled to protection under the Thai legal system, and that migrant workers can be successful in their pursuit for justice.

LEGISLATIONS AND POLICIES

CARAM-Asia. (2011). *Reality check! Rights and legislation for migrant domestic workers across Asia*. Kuala Lumpur: CARAM-Asia.

This report provides a rights-based approach to the violations and abuses faced by migrant domestic workers in destination countries; in addition, it also focuses on the workers' countries of origin and the legislations (or lack thereof) in place to protect them from exploitative recruitment agencies and mistreatment abroad. Detailing the legal framework and government responses in mostly Southeast Asian countries (three destination and three sending), this report is both critical and at times approving of the steps governments have taken to protect migrant workers, particularly in regard to governmental adoption of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention. With the focus on Southeast Asian countries (apart from Bahrain), this report would be helpful for migrant workers or researchers in the region who seek legal redress for - or protection against - rights violations.

Oco, T. C. (2010). *Decent work deficits: The situation of domestic workers in India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines*. Bangkok: Committee for Asian Women (CAW).

This is an illuminating research study into the experiences and particular obstacles and violations both local and international domestic workers encounter in India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. Methodically organised, it provides an overview of, amongst others, the general profiles and work conditions of domestic workers, as well as the various legislations to protect them. It also looks at grassroots activism and civil

society advocacy, along with government (national and regional) efforts, to better protect the rights of domestic workers locally and abroad. Throughout, the report emphatically states the precarious position of adult and child domestic workers, concluding with a list of recommendations to all stakeholders to better safeguard and recognise these often undervalued women.

Mekong Migration Network, & Asian Migrant Centre. (2012). *From our eyes: Mekong migrant reflections 2000-2012*. Retrieved from <http://www.mapfoundationcm.org/pdf/eng/From-our-eyes-mmn.pdf>

This publication combines a rights-and-policies-based perspective with the real-life experiences of migrant workers within the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). The reflections of migrants and the NGOs who work with them are provided, covering a vast range of issues from access to healthcare/justice/education, problems with mobility, and proposals for policy reform. Interspersed throughout the book are informative fact-boxes on rights, policies, legislation, and other related topics, helping to contextualise the migrants' and NGOs' reflections in order to paint a fuller picture. What is arguably most important about this publication is its migrants-centred approach, with the experiences of the migrants themselves anchoring the book. Through their insights, the migrants capably demonstrate their understanding of migration policies, thus proving their point that they should have far more input into the policies and legislation which directly affect their lives. This book empowers migrants through privileging their perspectives and amply shows researchers/experts/governments that they should be included in the policy-

MIGRATION AND HIV/AIDS

making process.

CARAM - Asia. (2009). *Living with hope: Life stories of Asian migrant workers living with HIV*. Kuala Lumpur: CARAM-Asia. (Summary adapted from the resource)

This documentation project done by CARAM Asia members provides information on the multi-faceted realities experienced by migrant workers. The publication presents a diverse set of experience of migrant workers and includes demographic profile, migration experience, and experiences related to HIV status.

CARAM - Asia (2007). *State of health of migrants 2007: Mandatory testing*. Retrieved from http://www.caramasia.org/reports/SoH2007/SoH_Report_2007-online_version.pdf (Summary adapted from the resource)

This action research, focused on the issue of Mandatory Testing, spans 16 countries across Asia, including both origin and host countries: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Dubai, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Using participatory research methods, the report collects direct experiences with mandatory health testing of a wide range of migrants across the migration cycle, from prospective migrants at their country of origin, migrants working at destination countries, and returnee migrants, including those living with HIV and those who were deported as a result of testing. The research findings were that the mandatory testing for HIV used as a screening tool for their entry to the host countries were discriminatory and dehumanising and violates basic

rights, especially the health rights of these migrants. This research points to the gap of migrant-friendly health care systems, and calls for public health practitioners, programme managers and policy makers to implement this effectively. The State also needs to review the laws and policies of mandatory testing of migrants to have a rights-based approach and to monitor employers and recruitment agencies against exploitation of migrants.

Chamrathirong, A., Boonchalaksi, W., & Yampeka, P. (2005). *Prevention of HIV/AIDS among migrant workers in Thailand (PHAMIT): The baseline survey 2004*. Nakhonprathom: Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University.

This is a baseline survey done in 2004 as part of the Evaluation and Monitoring of the Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Migrants Workers in Thailand (PHAMIT) Project. The survey is a result of 3,426 interviews of migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos PDR, which includes 2,590 male and 773 female migrant workers aged 15-29. It focuses on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of migrant workers, and highlights key outcome indicators such as migrants' knowledge of HIV/AIDS and routes of transmission, attitudes related to awareness to HIV/AIDS, sexuality and sexual partners, condom use, life skills, awareness of right of access to health services, use of contraceptive methods, reproductive health status and access to services. The information and knowledge from the baseline survey will help in the planning and smooth implementation of the designed intervention programmes.

Press, B. (2011). *The PHAMIT story: The experience of an HIV prevention project*

for migrant workers in Thailand. Bangkok: Raks Thai Foundation. (Summary adapted from the resource)

This report summarises the experience of the first phase of the Prevention of HIV/AIDS among migrant workers in Thailand Project (PHAMIT) from 2003 - 2008. It captures the highlights of the project and anecdotes as well as lessons learned and best practices. It provides an overview and background of migrants' situation in Thailand, including migrant policies, profiles and conditions that affect them, particularly HIV vulnerabilities. It also details the four objectives of the project - behavior change, increasing access to health services, psycho-social support, and advocacy. This report is intended to act as a resource for other implementing agencies on how to work with migrants.

Chamrathirong, A et al. (2012). *Prevention of HIV/AIDS among migrant worker in Thailand 2 (PHAMIT 2): The baseline survey 2010*. Nakhonprathom: Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University.

PHAMIT 2 is the continuation of the original PHAMIT Project which was implemented from 2004-2008. This document reports the findings from the baseline survey of PHAMIT 2. This project aims to expand HIV prevention services for migrants from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos who seek work in Thailand. The strategy of the project is to expand services to migrant workers, and to build a sustainable, integrated service provision network.

Conel J., & Negin J. (2010). *Migration, mobility and HIV: A rapid assessment of risks and vulnerabilities in the Pacific*.

Sydney: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Retrieved from: www.undppc.org/fj/_resources/article/files/Migration,MobilityandHIV_web.pdf

This report aims to provide a rapid assessment of migration and mobility as key influences on the distribution and spread of HIV in the Pacific. While targeted and tailored prevention programmes on mobility and HIV have been established in a number of countries, the Pacific has yet to develop appropriate responses that take migration and mobility into consideration and ensure that HIV interventions address the drivers of mobility and the specific vulnerabilities that mobility creates. It is expected that this report will contribute to the development of multi-sectoral responses required to address the HIV epidemic in the Pacific region and provide the impetus for the development of effective and targeted interventions for people on the move.

International Labour Organisation (ILO). (2009). *Mandatory HIV testing for employment of migrant workers in eight countries of South-East Asia: From discrimination to social dialogue*. Retrieved from http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_112972.pdf (Summary adapted from the resource)

This is a study on mandatory HIV testing of migrant workers, and its purpose is to promote an informed dialogue amongst representatives from governments and workers' and employers' organisations throughout Southeast Asia. The study covers eight selected countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. It's been found that hundreds of thousands of workers from the region are being tested for HIV without their informed consent each year, in contradiction of the ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work. This

is also in violation of their human rights. Some migrant workers have their rights violated even further by being denied employment as a result of their HIV status. Through this study, it is hoped that a call to action be implemented to protect the dignity of workers who are being excluded from the labor market by this negative practice of mandatory HIV testing.

Pourakhi. (2008). *Addressing vulnerabilities of women migrant workers to HIV & AIDS*. Nepal: Pourakhi.

This study is part of the advocacy attempt made to assess the existing mechanisms and initiatives of Nepal women migrant workers' vulnerabilities to HIV infection, and recommendations for enabling those mechanisms for protecting the rights of women migrant workers using a right-based approach. The study reflects lived realities of many migrant workers from Nepal.

Quesada, A., & Marin, M.L. (2009). *Unveiling HIV vulnerabilities: Filipino women migrant workers in the Arab States*. Quezon City: ACHIEVE. (Summary adapted from the resource)

This publication is a part of a UNDP regional research initiative on HIV vulnerability of Asian women workers from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka working in three countries in the Arab States: Bahrain, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The study intends to provide data to design sound and holistic programmes that address the vulnerabilities of these migrant women throughout the migration cycle, especially in the areas of human rights and public health.

Remmelts, A et al. (1997). *What do Filipino domestic helpers in Malaysia know about HIV/AIDS?* Kuala Lumpur & Amsterdam: CARAM-Asia & Department of Social Medicine, Free University of Amsterdam.

This is a research study on the situation of Filipina domestic workers in Malaysia and their knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behavior related to HIV/AIDS. It debunks a number of misconceptions about Filipina domestic workers. It is hoped that through this book, both researchers and activists re-look at and review methodologies and interventions that enable these women to take control of their bodies and their relationships and free themselves and their community from HIV/AIDS.

UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo. (2008). *HIV vulnerabilities of migrant women: From Asia to the Arab States: Shifting from silence, stigma and shame to safe mobility with dignity, equity and justice*. Retrieved from http://hdru.oprc.undp.org/resource_centre/pub_pdfs/P1105.pdf (Summary adapted from the resource)

In August 2007, the UNDP, in close partnership with CARAM-Asia, the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center, UNAIDS, IOM and UNIFEM, conducted a qualitative study to deepen the understanding on the nexus between migration and HIV. The focus of the study was on the HIV vulnerabilities faced by women migrant workers in four countries of origin: Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, and three host countries: Bahrain, Lebanon and Dubai. The study discloses that the migrant women work under unsafe conditions, live in difficult circumstances, and are often targets of sexual exploitation and violence. The intention of the study is to highlight emerging good practices between the countries of origin and host countries and to bring more effective policies and programmes for Asian migrant women.

Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW). (2000). *The health rights of migrant women. ARROWs for Change, Vol. 6, (No.2)*. Retrieved from: <http://arrow.org.my/publications/AFC/v6n2.pdf>

This bulletin on the health concerns

and rights of migrant women is both informative and succinctly conveyed. It provides an overview of key issues affecting the health of migrant women in the Asian-Pacific region. By offering definitions and a fact file, this bulletin facilitates understanding for anyone who wants to learn more about this important topic. It also provides updates on the health initiatives of various countries, an annotated list of resource recommendations, and various articles around the sexual and reproductive health and rights of female migrant workers in

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Asia and the Pacific.

Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW). (2013). Labour migration, gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights. *ARROW for Change*. 19(1). Kuala Lumpur: ARROW. Retrieved from <http://arrow.org.my/publications/AFC/v19n1.pdf>

This issue of the ARROW for Change (AFC) bulletin, ARROW's peer-reviewed bulletin that aims to contribute Asia-Pacific, rights-based and gender perspectives on global discourses on emerging and persistent issues related to health, sexuality and rights, focuses on the theme, "Labour Migration, Gender, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights." This volume presents articles that analyses the intersections between SRHR, gender and migration in East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific; identifies gaps in research, policy and programming on migration from a gender and SRHR perspective; and provides recommendations for SRHR, gender, and migration stakeholders such as policymakers; civil society organisations; service providers; advocates and activists. It also showcases examples from the region of catalytic and effective initiatives and responses addressing SRHR issues of women migrant workers.

Hoang, L.A., Yeoh, B.S.A., & Wattie, A.M. (2012). Transnational labour migration and the politics of care in the Southeast Asian family. *Geoforum*, 43(4). Retrieved from www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016718511002181

Drawing on in-depth interviews with non-parent carers of left-behind children in Indonesia and Vietnam, the paper aims to unveil complexities and nuances around

care in the context of transnational labour migration. In so doing, it draws attention to the enduring influence of social norms on the organisation of family life when women are increasingly drawn into the global labour market. By contrasting a predominantly patrilineal East Asian family structure in Vietnam with what is often understood as a bilateral South-East Asian family structure in Indonesia, the paper seeks to provide interesting comparative insights into the adaptive strategies that the transnational family pursues in order to cope with the reproductive vacuum left behind by the migrant mother.

Lan, V.H. (2011). Socio-cultural influences on the reproductive health of migrant women: A review of literature in Vietnam. Vietnam: Ha Noi School of Public Health. Retrieved from www.unfpa.org/webdav/.../publications/2011/Migrant_Vietnam_.pdf

To gain a better understanding of the links between sociocultural factors and the reproductive health of migrant women, UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office commissioned literature reviews in four Mekong sub-region countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam. This report documents the findings of the Viet Nam review and makes recommendations on how policy makers, employers and service providers could better address the reproductive health needs of migrant women.

Li, D., et al. (2012). Trends in maternal mortality in resident vs. migrant women in Shanghai, China, 2000-2009: a register-based analysis. *Reproductive Health Matters*, Volume 20 (No. 39).

This is a comparative study on maternal

mortality rates and pregnancy-related deaths in resident and migrant women in Shanghai over a ten-year period. Through a sound analysis of maternal mortality ratios and the causes of maternal mortality, this study provides invaluable statistical evidence that internal migrant women are far more at risk of death than resident women due to their lack of insurance, lower socioeconomic status, and lower education levels. However, the study also conclusively demonstrates that with proper implementation of policies, maternal deaths can be significantly reduced. More importantly, the reduction in maternal mortality rates due to these policy changes serves as an example to other developing countries that, with effective interventions, motherhood can be made much safer for even the poorest woman.

Luis, M. (2006). Gender, reproductive rights and international migration. Retrieved from <http://www.eclac.org/celade/noticias/paginas/6/27116/moral.pdf>

This paper states that the migration of women has always been important component of international migration. Women and girls have accounted for a very high proportion of all international migrants for a long time. The paper talks about how feminisation is particularly evident in the Asian region, citing ILO's estimation that 22 million Asian women work outside their home country. The main countries of origin of Asian women migrants are Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka, while the main destinations are Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The study also shows that the societal taboos surrounding sexual organs and nudity in certain cultural contexts as well as the common complications of fear and embarrassment to be examined by a male doctor are significant issues, which can be barriers to migrant women accessing health services, especially reproductive and obstetric care.

Marin, M.L. (2012). *ARROW working paper: International labour migration, gender, and sexual and reproductive health and rights in Southeast and East Asia and the Pacific*. Kuala Lumpur: ARROW. Retrieved from http://arrow.org.my/uploads/Migration_WorkingPaper.pdf

This working paper presents an overview of the sexual and reproductive health rights issues facing women migrant workers. The paper also gives insight into the reproductive health outcomes of women migrant workers, looks at policy and programme interventions, and provides recommendations for future directions.

Oh, S., & Hobstetter, M. (2011). Forced migration and adolescent reproductive health. *Gender Perspectives*, 3(2). Available from: <http://web1.iseas.edu.sg/GenderBulletin-Dec2011.pdf>

This article combines findings from a study on reproductive health in three populations along the Thailand-Burma border and research conducted on adolescent pregnancy in camps for Burmese refugees in Thailand. The data shows that adolescents in three populations—communities in eastern Burma (isolated rural villages, conflict-affected areas, and internally displaced person (IDP) areas in eastern Burma), migrant communities and refugee camps in Thailand—face difficulties in gaining access to reproductive health information and services.

OVERVIEW OF MIGRATION ISSUES

CARAM-Asia. (2002). *Foreign domestic worker campaign toolkit*. Retrieved from http://www.caramasia.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=537&Itemid=343

This toolkit created by CARAM-Asia is meant to aid the implementation of an international campaign to improve the livelihood and overall well-being of foreign domestic workers. It is thus directed at all major stakeholders, including civil society groups, NGOs, activists, government officials, and foreign domestic workers themselves. The toolkit comprises of four sections, with the first three being well-structured sources of information, covering everything from labor conditions to health concerns and policies and rights (i.e., numerous UN rights treaties/conventions and national laws). The fourth section, "action tools," is intended to facilitate understanding of the numerous issues raised previously through participatory activities. This toolkit would be highly useful for anyone interested in elevating the status of foreign domestic workers, especially in light of its emphasis on capacity building and a rights-based approach.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM). (2011). *Integrating migration, development and remittances into the Programme of Action of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UNLDC-IV)*. Retrieved from http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=redirect&action=url&goto=publications.iom.int%2Fbookstore%2Ffree%2Ffdc_english.pdf&zenid=58e182c28509bd672183988e0a25ac24

This publication examines the link between migration and potential for development (along with all its attendant issues) in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). It was intended that the information and recommendations for policy changes presented in this paper would be integrated into the Programme of Action for the UNLDC-IV. Divided into two sections, the first focuses on establishing the link between migration and development in LDCs through examining key migration trends, the effect of the global financial crisis on these trends, the ways in which remittances and other resources facilitate development, and the relationship between the environment and migration. The second section focuses mainly on policy recommendations and implementation strategies that will support and further the economic and social development in LDCs as a result of migration. This paper is most useful for advocates, activists, governments and researchers.

MAP Foundation. (2012). *Organising for justice*. Chiang Mai: MAP Foundation. Retrieved from http://www.mapfoundationcm.org/eng/pdf/eng/Organising_for_Justice.pdf

This report is intended to help Burmese migrant workers in Thailand work together for justice. It offers a succinct overview of the numerous ways in which workers the world over have historically and presently organised themselves to demand equitable treatment from their employers. Emphasising the importance of solidarity amongst workers above all, the report systematically details the various types of labour organising - from

mutual aid societies to trade unions and workers' clubs - workers can join (or form) to protect their interests as well as to enjoy recreational activities with each other. The report also effectively explains the courses of action available to workers - collective action, collective bargaining, and industrial action - should they need to demand better wages, improved working conditions, or more reasonable working hours. In addition to outlining the procedures workers can take when demanding better treatment from employers, the report further suggests how they can use external agencies such as NGOs, political parties, and the media to support their cause. As a practical guide to migrant workers in fighting for their rights, this report is useful because of its comprehensiveness and empowerment of workers.

Mekong Migration Network (MNC), & Asian Migrant Centre (AMC). (2009). *Migration in the Greater Mekong subregion: Annotated bibliography (Fourth Edition)*. Retrieved from http://www.mekongmigration.org/publications/4th%20MMN%20Annotated%20Bibliography_intro%20-%20p.%2028.pdf

This fourth edition annotated bibliography is a fairly comprehensive overview of literature on migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). Released as a complementary resource to a book about migration within the GMS, this annotated bibliography features an accessible list of references concerning key issues on the topic; these issues include, amongst others, the distribution of migrants within the region and sub-region, their quality of life, human trafficking, health affairs, and

existing policies and developments which affect their livelihoods. Helpfully divided into five sections, the first section, an overview of migration and its literature, serves to contextualise the bibliography, enabling better understanding of a complex topic.

Panam, A., et al. (2004). *Migrant domestic workers: from Burma to Thailand*. Nakhon Pathom: Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University.

This research study explores the often brutal living experiences of female migrant domestic workers from Burma working in Thailand. Fleeing the Burmese state's relentless persecution of ethnic minorities, the young women and girls examined here have crossed over the border to find low-level domestic employment in Mae Sot and Chiang Mai. As a population vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation, abuse, and numerous rights violations, the overarching goal of the study is to supply much-needed knowledge about the obstacles these women face, such as appalling work conditions, health issues, and their legal status. In providing this information, the researchers hope that policy makers and advocates can stage effective interventions to improve the dire situations of these women.

United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), & The Integrational Migration Policy Programme (IMP). (2004). *Meeting the challenges of migration: Progress since the ICPD*. Retrieved from http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2004/migration_icpd.pdf

This publication by the UNFPA evaluates the progress that has been made on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD PoA) in the decade since it was established. Focusing on the migration issues raised in the PoA, the report examines new developments

in migration and anticipates additional difficulties in the future. The publication covers quite a spectrum of topics, ranging from migration trends, changes in migration policy, human trafficking, internal migration and more. Overall, this book contains cogent analysis and would be helpful to any reader as a valuable resource on recent developments (as of 2004) in migration.

Nguyen, H.N., Hardesty, M., & Hong, K.T. (2011). In full swing? How do pendulum migrant labourers in Vietnam adjust their sexual perspectives to their rural-urban lives?. *Culture, Health and Sexuality*, 13(10).

This study explores the sexual attitudes of pendulum migrant workers in Vietnam, an emerging group of migrants who move regularly between their home villages and cities of work. Vilified in the media and in public discourses as potential transmitters of sexual diseases and other health ailments, this research study employs primary sources (i.e., the sexual perspectives of a small group of pendulum migrant workers) to understand the lived experiences of pendulum migrant sexuality. Crucially, it accomplishes this by examining the pervasiveness and thus importance of discourse as a regulator of sexual behavior: although they have moved to a more sexually liberal location like the city, these migrant workers still steadfastly observe the strict sexual moral codes of their villages. A clear relationship emerges between acceptable sexual behavior and socioeconomic circumstances, differentiating in the migrant workers' minds appropriate behavior for city people and for themselves. However, gender is a fairly critical point of difference in sexual attitudes, in that men are not expected to as strictly conform to conservative sexual behavior as women while in the city. This study also usefully suggests that since discourse is such a significant influence on mature sexual behavior, early sexual health education would be helpful to improve the

overall sexual health of rural communities. The power of discourse should therefore also be taken into account by policy-makers and health professionals.

Sobritchea, C.I., Subingsubing, D.A., & Quesada, A. (2010). *Health of our heroes: Qualitative study on access to sexual and reproductive health services and information of women migrant domestic workers*. Quezon City: Action for Health Initiatives (ACHIEVE).

This research study conducted by Action for Health Initiatives (ACHIEVE), Inc. provides a wealth of information regarding the sexual and reproductive health issues female Filipino domestic workers face in Singapore, Hong Kong, and Qatar. With stated objectives to research the sexual and reproductive health needs of these women - encompassing factors such as the availability of sexual and reproductive healthcare for migrant women in destination countries, as well as personal and structural reasons which may enable or prevent access to SRH services - the study concludes by offering astute suggestions to improve the SRH situation of migrant women throughout their migration journey. Substantiated by accounts of SRH problems faced by domestic workers while abroad, the study underscores how, amongst others, SRH education and health and labor policies (both in the Philippines and destination countries) are vital in aiding access to SRH care.

Sudhinaraset M., Astone N., & Blum, R.W. (2012). Migration and unprotected sex in Shanghai, China: Correlates of condom use and contraceptive consistency across migrant and non-migrant youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 50:68-74. Abstract available from: [www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(11\)00665-3/abstract](http://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(11)00665-3/abstract)

Despite the exceptionally large population of young internal migrants in China, as well as increasing rates of HIV and sexually transmitted infections in recent

years, condom use and contraceptive consistency among this population remains critically under-studied. This study examines the association between migration and condom use and contraceptive consistency. A cross-sectional survey of 959 youth aged 15-24 years was conducted in rural and urban Shanghai. Logistic regression was conducted to examine the association between migration status and condom use and consistent contraceptive use. Analyses are stratified by gender. (*Annotation copied from the abstract in the Journal website.*)