UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN ‘ONE ASEAN’: ARE MIGRANTS INCLUDED?

Ufara Zuwasti Curran
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is gearing towards full regional integration by 2015.

Further increase in cross-border mobility of workers and citizens is anticipated.

Health rights of migrants still need to be addressed by countries in the region.

Transition to universal health coverage (UHC) in ASEAN countries provides an opportunity to examine migrant inclusion and healthcare access.
METHODOLOGY

• Review of literature covering five out of ten ASEAN countries
# RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURES</th>
<th>RECEIVING COUNTRIES</th>
<th>SENDING COUNTRIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Country</strong></td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UHC model</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieved UHC for citizens?</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrants included?</td>
<td>Social health insurance (mixed sources: voluntary premiums, payroll taxes, and subsidies from general taxes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health protection in migration and labor policy?</td>
<td>Rolled out in 2014; deadline set in 2019</td>
<td>In addition to SHI for outbound migrants, government-run life insurance &amp; compulsory private migrant insurance offer disability, death, &amp; medical repatriation benefits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MALAYSIA**
- Two-tiered system (tax-financed public sector, private health insurance for private services)
- Private health insurance mandatory for legal migrants; Workmen’s Compensation Act guarantees disability and death benefits

**SINGAPORE**
- ‘Multiple layers of protection’ (government subsidies, medical savings, voluntary contributions)
- Private health insurance mandatory for low-/semi-skilled workers; Work Injury Compensation Act guarantees disability and death benefits

**THAILAND**
- Tax-based (payroll taxes for employed; general taxes for poor, informal sector, and civil servants)
- Comprehensive Compulsory Migrant Health Insurance offered to legal migrant workers as well as undocumented migrants

**INDONESIA**
- Social health insurance (mixed sources: voluntary premiums, payroll taxes, and subsidies from general taxes)
- Rolled out in 2014; deadline set in 2019

**PHILIPPINES**
- Social health insurance (mixed sources: voluntary premiums, payroll taxes, and subsidies from general taxes)
- Ongoing; deadline set in 2016
CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Spark regional dialogue on migrant health

Expanding discourse beyond border restrictions for infection control; exploring bilateral and multilateral mechanisms

Include undocumented migrants

Broadening the discourse from ‘ASEAN workers’ to ‘ASEAN citizens’; aligning migration and labor policies with UHC goals

Make UHC truly ‘universal’ Redefining beyond the basis of citizenship and reimagining across national borders to ensure genuine migrant inclusion
THANK YOU