

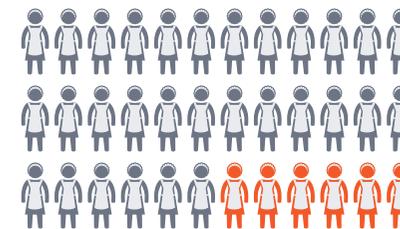


# Migrant Domestic Workers Caught in Humanitarian Crises

## What States of Origin Can Do to Counter Vulnerabilities



**11,5 million**  
migrant domestic workers globally\*



**17,2 %**  
of all domestic workers  
globally are migrants\*

\* Source: ILO 2015

# MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS CAUGHT IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

## EVERYDAY HARDSHIPS THEY MAY FACE



### IDENTITY DOCUMENTS ARE SOMETIMES WITHHELD...

- Employers, recruitment agencies or traffickers sometimes confiscate documents.
- Limits freedom of movement and may limit access to public services.



## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



### ...WHICH CAN IMPEDE THEIR MOVEMENT TO SAFETY.

- May prevent immediate access to assistance.
- Leads to reliance on consular services for new travel documents.



## WHAT STATES OF ORIGIN CAN DO

### PROVIDE TRAININGS

for consular officials on the protection of their nationals' rights and the implementation of employment agreements, crisis management, evacuation and return, development of contingency plans, information collection on nationals abroad, etc.

### ALLOW TEMPORARY ADMISSION

for nationals returning home who cannot prove their identity.



### ENSURE TIMELY ISSUANCE

of emergency travel documents and encourage nationals to email themselves a scan of their passport before going abroad. Deploy consular teams to locations with high concentrations of nationals, supported by rapid response teams sent from capital.

### ENHANCE COOPERATION

by signing bilateral employment agreements with host States to strengthen regulations protecting migrant workers. Negotiate consular representation agreements with third countries (if there is no dedicated consular presence).

Project funded by the EU

Project implemented by ICMPD



**MIGRANTS  
IN COUNTRIES  
IN CRISIS** : Supporting an Evidence-Based  
Approach for Effective and  
Cooperative State Action

Recommendations based on the MICIC Initiative Guidelines  
to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster.  
Contact: [icmpd-micic@icmpd.org](mailto:icmpd-micic@icmpd.org) / [www.icmpd.org/our-work/migrants-in-countries-in-crisis](http://www.icmpd.org/our-work/migrants-in-countries-in-crisis)

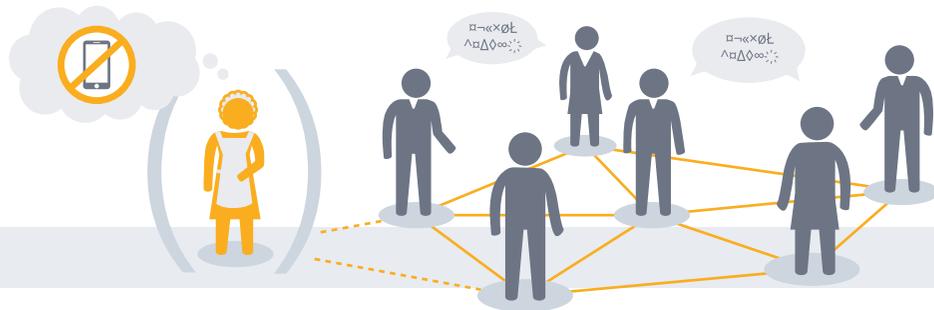
# MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS CAUGHT IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

## EVERYDAY HARDSHIPS THEY MAY FACE



### SOME MAY BE ISOLATED FROM COMMUNICATION CHANNELS...

- They may experience language barriers and lack access to social networks.
- They may even be deprived of personal freedoms and freedom of movement.



## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



### ...WHICH HAMPERS ACCESS TO CRUCIAL INFORMATION.

- Risk to be cut-off from life-saving information or services, such as evacuation efforts.



## WHAT STATES OF ORIGIN CAN DO

### SET UP REGISTRATION SYSTEMS

for nationals abroad to provide them with information and assistance: user-friendly online systems, highlighting benefits and services.

### USE MIGRANTS' SOCIAL NETWORKS

and work with civil society and diaspora organisations to reach isolated nationals abroad.



### DEVELOP CRISIS ALERT SYSTEMS

to enable authorities and nationals abroad to act according to crisis intensity.

### DEPLOY MOBILE RESPONSE TEAMS

of consular officials to reach isolated migrants and disseminate information about alert levels, evacuation plans, available assistance, etc.

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# MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS CAUGHT IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

## EVERYDAY HARDSHIPS THEY MAY FACE



### POTENTIAL DEPENDENCY ON EMPLOYERS OR RECRUITERS...

- ➔ Often faced with precarious legal situations (exclusion from labour law, right to form unions, etc.) and sometimes even debt bondage.
- ➔ Tied-visa systems: wherein workers are dependent on their employers to maintain legal status, change jobs or even leave the country.



## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



### ...MAY HAVE DIVERSE CONSEQUENCES IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

- ➔ Migrant domestic workers who stay with their employers or recruiters may be...

... locked-in & left behind.



... delivered to embassies or centers for safety and repatriation or taken along by their employers/recruiters.



## WHAT STATES OF ORIGIN CAN DO

### NEGOTIATE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

on migrant workers to regulate their protection, emergency procedures and evacuation.

### ENCOURAGE ETHICAL RECRUITMENT PROCESSES

in the State of origin and host State.



### PROVIDE PRE-DEPARTURE TRAININGS

including language training, crisis information, emergency contacts and empowerment strategies, using tools such as migrant-to-migrant learning.

### ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS

between consular posts and nationals, individual employers and recruitment agencies to facilitate the flow of information and assistance. Special events at consulates may help to familiarise nationals with emergency procedures.

# MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS CAUGHT IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

## EVERYDAY HARDSHIPS THEY MAY FACE



### SOME DOMESTIC WORKERS MAY HAVE IRREGULAR STATUS...

- ➔ Most arrive legally, but some of them may be pushed into irregularity.
- ➔ Often a negative consequence of temporary or restrictive migration schemes.

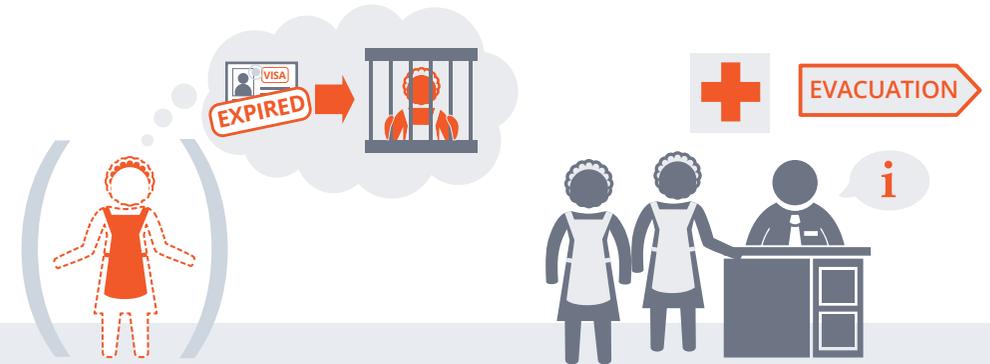


## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



### ...WHICH MAY INHIBIT THEM FROM SEEKING HELP.

- ➔ May fear fines, detention and deportation.



## WHAT STATES OF ORIGIN CAN DO

### DISTRIBUTE IDENTITY CARDS

without migration status to promote access to services, States of origin could authorise consular posts to issue status-free IDs.

### INSTITUTE A 'NO QUESTIONS' POLICY

regarding immigration status in the host State.



### NEGOTIATE EXCEPTIONS

with host and transit States regarding exit, stay and entry requirements.

### ADVOCATE

with and among States on keeping borders open to facilitate movement to safety.

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