Information Session on National Referral Mechanism Operational Guidelines
for Competent Authority (CA)
28 October 2022, Bangkok, Thailand

IOM facilitated an information session on the National Referral Mechanism operational guidelines in Bangkok, Thailand. © IOM 2022

BACKGROUND

Thailand is a country of destination, origin and transit for trafficking in persons. Sexual exploitation of both adults and children is prevalent, and migrant workers employed in labour intensive and low-wage sectors are particularly at risk of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour. In 2018, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) partnered with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) to conduct a baseline assessment on identification and referral practices for victims of trafficking (VOT) and vulnerable migrants. The assessment found that protection services are not always consistently delivered to potential VOT due to the insufficient understanding that frontline officials have of standardized processes and applicable legislation.

PROJECT OUTCOME

Output 1 — Enhanced available coordination mechanism
IOM will support the Thai Government to enhance the available coordination mechanism in identifying and assisting trafficked victims, as part of the NRM, through regular coordination meetings.

Output 2 — Improved capacity and knowledge of frontline officials and civil society organizations on the NRM
IOM will support the Thai Government to develop a standardized training manual and materials on victim identification and referral, in the framework of the NRM.

Output 3 — Improved capacity and knowledge of frontline officials and civil society organizations to better identify and assist trafficked victims
A training on Victim Identification and Referral System will be provided for frontline officials and representatives of civil society organizations, at the national and sub-national levels.

Output 4 — Enhanced public and community awareness on trafficking in persons
IOM will work closely with government and non-government partners to roll-out a national campaign on the identification and referral system.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project aims to enhance the capacity of the Royal Thai Government and civil society counterparts to better identify VOT and respond to their individual needs through a coordinated referral process.

PROJECT DURATION

33 months (1 Nov 2020 - 31 Jul 2023)

PARTNERS

- Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DATIP) MSDHS
- Office of the Attorney General
- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Thai Immigration Bureau
- Royal Thai Police
- 1300 Hotline
- Department of Children and Youth
- Non-government organizations

FUNDED BY

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UN MIGRATION

IOM facilitated a workshop on preparation of the draft National Referral Mechanism Operational Guideline. © IOM 2022

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1 coordination mechanism for technical-level NRM stakeholders established: the Steering Chair of the NRM (SC NRM)

3 policy documents developed to support the implementation of the NRM developed:

- Plan of action of the case management and NRM
- NRM flow chart
- Operational guidelines of NRM)

2,077 stakeholders (89% government; 11% non-government) engaged in workshops and information sessions on the NRM

87 members of the NRM (43% female; 57% male), trained on victim screening, identification and referral

Number of victims who were screened and identified increased by 50% from 2020 when the project started *(Source: Government Reports on Counter-Trafficking Efforts)*

41.7% and 58.3% of trained stakeholders confirmed and strongly confirmed, respectively, applying knowledge acquired through training in their implementation of the NRM

1 set of new training materials and tools provided to key stakeholders, including a module on gender and victim-centered approaches

100% of training participants demonstrated a clear understanding of gender bias and victim-centered approaches in the identification and referral of VOTs