



IOM conducted an information session on human trafficking and protection for Cambodian migrants. © IOM 2022/Jonás Córdova Gómez

KEY FIGURES

As of June 2023



453

Victims of trafficking assisted
between 2012-2023



2,229

Individuals, including migrants,
engaged in direct outreach



1,764

Representatives of
government, non-government
and international organizations
capacitated on counter-
trafficking and protection

OVERVIEW

The [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) has been engaged in efforts to combat human trafficking and protect and assist victims of trafficking since 1995. IOM has worked in Thailand and the Greater Mekong Subregion to improve the identification, protection and assistance for trafficked persons, partner with government and law enforcement officials to prosecute traffickers, and collaborate with government, private sector, and civil society actors in promoting life skills among those most vulnerable.

IOM takes a comprehensive approach to addressing human trafficking. Respect for human rights, the physical, mental and social well-being of the individual and his or her community, and the sustainability of our actions through institutional capacity development and partnerships are at the center of all of IOM's counter-trafficking efforts.

IOM also works with the humanitarian community to ensure that the risk of trafficking is mitigated and addressed from the earliest stages of humanitarian responses. More generally, recognizing there are many non-trafficked migrants who experience violence, exploitation and abuse, IOM's approach to migrant vulnerability is rooted in the belief that the human rights of all persons, including migrants, should be upheld and promoted and that all migrants who are vulnerable, regardless of their membership in any specific category or if they hold any specific status, should be afforded the protection and assistance services that they require.

Respect for human rights, the physical, mental and social well-being of the individual and his or her community, and the sustainability of our actions through institutional capacity development and partnerships are at the center of all of IOM's efforts.

From 2012 until June 2023, IOM Thailand and its partners have provided protection and assistance to close to 453 victims of trafficking (VOTs) who were trafficked for labour exploitation, forced labour, sexual exploitation, or the recent trend of forced criminality, agriculture, fishing, domestic work and hospitality, commercial sexual exploitation, pornography, construction and manufacturing are some of the sectors in which victims were exploited.

PROSECUTION

IOM aims to strengthen the criminal justice response to human trafficking and contribute to the prosecution of trafficking in persons cases. IOM continuously provides training and capacity building program for law enforcement agencies on victim screening, identification and referral based on international and national legal framework, as well as sharing of best practices in prosecuting TIP cases and its criminal syndicates. IOM actively promotes a victim-centred and trauma-informed approaches in investigating and prosecuting TIP cases and dealing with the victims of trafficking, to improve the quality of investigation and prosecution.

PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND PROTECTING VICTIMS

Through information campaigns and outreach, IOM seeks to equip vulnerable populations with the information they need to migrate safely and access assistance when necessary. Through such trainings, migrants and other stakeholders are sensitized on the benefits of regular migration, risks associated with irregular migration, migrant rights and available avenues of assistance, including social protection services. Between 2018 and 2022, over 4,600 migrants were reached. IOM also aims to address the root causes of vulnerability to trafficking through programming at the household, community and structural levels. IOM provides protection and assistance to victims of trafficking. IOM's assistance can include interpreter services, safe accommodation, medical and psychosocial support and assisted voluntary return and reintegration.



IOM works to provide protection and assistance to VOTs. © IOM 2023/Kasidit Chaikaew

POLICY, TECHNICAL AND CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT

Thailand has signed, ratified and domesticated several international treaties including the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children and the United Nations Convention against Trans-national Organized [Crime](#), including several ILO Conventions for combatting trafficking in persons and forced labour. Thailand adopted national legislation addressing the issue of trafficking and forced labour including through the “[Anti-Human Trafficking Act, B.E. 2551. \(2008\)](#)”.

IOM seeks to work within existing national frameworks and partners, government agencies, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to provide policy and technical support for combatting human trafficking. This includes support to strengthen national migration policies to facilitate the identification, referral and protection and assistance of trafficked persons, and improvements to anti-trafficking legislation and regulations and specifically their implementation in Thailand. IOM further supports the Government of Thailand by supporting the development and operationalization of the [National Referral Mechanism for the Protection and Assistance to Trafficking Persons \(NRM\)](#), and in coordination with relevant actors, to ensure timely and effective referral of migrants who need protection and assistance. Capacity building support is provided to frontline officers to effectively identify and assist the victims of trafficking and in parallel to prosecute the traffickers and its trans-organized crimes syndicates. Service-delivery partners, including shelters, are capacitated ensure the provision of comprehensive and specialized care available to all vulnerable migrants, including male and female victims of trafficking and USMCs.



Officials in Chiang Rai attended a training on the operationalization of the NRM. © IOM 2023/Suthep Kritsanavarin

CROSS-CUTTING: STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE

IOM believes the counter-trafficking programming should be designed through solid evidence. IOM Thailand conducts cross-cutting, quantitative and qualitative research in the areas of human trafficking, to better inform its own work and the work of others. IOM has been engaging universities, research institutions and individual experts to strengthen the evidence base of human trafficking in Thailand and the South-East Asia region. Specific areas of focus include human trafficking routes and trends, the causes and consequences of human trafficking both for the individual trafficked person and for society at large. IOM also maintain its solid individual data on the victim of trafficking assisted by IOM Thailand, including the data of Thai nationals who were trafficked overseas.

PARTNERSHIPS

With trafficking syndicates operating across borders, IOM supports the Royal Thai Government and its neighbouring countries, including Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, through regional, bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation.

Technical support is focused on policy dialogue, reviewing or developing Memorandums of Understanding, Standard Operating Procedures, or other practical guidance to enhance the protection of victims of trafficking. Concrete initiatives IOM has supported with include the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Law Enforcement Cooperation on Trafficking, as well as SOPs for Return and Reintegration between Thailand and Cambodia; in coordination with other partners, supporting the development of the ASEAN Declarations on the Protection of Migrant Workers in Crisis and the Protection of Migrant Fishers. Finally, IOM also work closely with the private sector to promote workers' rights, timely assistance and sustainable reintegration for victims of trafficking.

For general queries or requests for assistance, please contact:

Protection Unit: thpxu@iom.int.

Among Resi, Programme Officer, Counter Trafficking: aresi@iom.int

Saskia Kok, Head of Protection: slekok@iom.int

PUBLICATIONS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE MIGRANTS



[IOM Training Manual on Psychosocial Assistance for Trafficked Persons](#)



[Trafficking of Fishermen in Thailand](#)



[Reintegration Handbook - Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance](#)



[Protection of Migrants at Sea](#)



International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Thailand

18th Floor Rajanakarn Building, 3 South Sathorn Road, Sathorn, Bangkok 10120 Thailand

Tel: +66 2 343 9300 | Fax: +66 2 343 9399 | Web: thailand.iom.int/ | Email: iomthailand@iom.int