



MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL



MISSION IN THAILAND

## Counter-Trafficking in Persons

IOM has been working to counter trafficking in persons for over two decades with the twin goals of preventing trafficking in persons and to protect victims, in ordinary time and in crisis, while offering them support on their path to recovery.

Globally, IOM has assisted over 85,000 trafficked persons with one in seven identified victims of trafficking worldwide receiving specialized protection and assistance services. Over a quarter of trafficked persons identified and assisted by IOM originate from East and Southeast Asia.

Since 1998, IOM Thailand has worked in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region to improve the identification and assistance of trafficked persons, to partner with government and law enforcement officials to prosecute traffickers, and to collaborate with government and civil society actors in promoting life skills among those most vulnerable, thereby reducing the likelihood of future trafficking.

As a leading agency on assistance and protection for victims of trafficking (VOT) in Thailand and Southeast Asia, IOM takes consults, observes and strengthens victim identification and screening processes, performs translation services during interviews, and trains government officials (including law enforcement and social welfare officials) on protection oriented approaches to identification of victims of trafficking (VOT).

In promoting freedom and a chance at a new life, IOM also provides direct assistance to VOT including safe accommodation, medical and psychosocial support, and assisted voluntary return and reintegration. Comprehensive assistance is also extended to VOT residing in shelters throughout Thailand.



Provinces with IOM Counter-Trafficking Activities in Thailand

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## Prevention



IOM collaborates with the Royal Thai Government and key stakeholders to promote safe migration through education campaigns and workshops in vulnerable communities.

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. To date, over 210,000 migrants in Thailand have been reached.

In addition, IOM works together with NGOs and CSOs to strengthen referral networks on human trafficking and implement measures that address vulnerabilities. These include birth registrations and the distribution of medical kits for fishery and agricultural workers.

## Protection



Through a network of psychologists, interpreters, legal counsellors, IOM provides identified victims with humanitarian and direct assistance at shelters and immigration detention centres.

IOM also provides return assistance to and from Thailand. Since 1998, over 3,900 victims have returned from Thailand to their countries of origin through IOM's assisted voluntary return and reintegration programme.

For Thai victims of trafficking, reintegration assistance is provided upon their return to Thailand. With the aim of enabling them to start new lives, IOM provides livelihood support by assisting with the purchase of equipment to start new businesses. Vocational training and psychosocial assistance are also provided to promote mental well-being.

## Partnerships



Human trafficking is a multi-faceted issue requiring a comprehensive response of government and non-government entities.

In view of the fact that trafficking syndicates operate across borders, IOM's counter-trafficking activities places emphasis on cross-border cooperation. IOM assists the Governments of Thailand and Myanmar through the border cooperation mechanism (BCATIP) where it provides advice to officials on the prevention of trafficking in persons and assistance to vulnerable migrants.

Within Thailand, IOM has assisted with the establishment an inter-agency working group to jointly design and develop training events/joint activities and enhance inter-agency cooperation on human smuggling and trafficking.

## Prosecution



Together with the Royal Thai Police, IOM aims to strengthen the criminal justice responses to human trafficking and increasing the prosecution and criminalization of perpetrators.

IOM Thailand has developed a training curriculum for frontline officials who are in direct contact with the fishing industry in coastal provinces of Thailand. Enhancing the capacity these officials to adopt victim-sensitive approaches during their first interactions with potential victims of trafficking is crucial to promoting effective justice delivery.

Joint cross-border training workshops with officers from Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia and Myanmar on international cooperation in investigation of smuggling and trafficking cases are also conducted.

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