

Promoting Ethical Recruitment and Protection of Migrant Workers in Thailand



Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM works with its partners to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the well-being and human rights of migrants.

Global supply chains are complex and involve a wide range of actors, working at multiple sites, with goods and workers crossing multiple borders. Migrant workers in these supply chains are highly vulnerable to poor working conditions, abuse and exploitation, and sometimes human trafficking for forced labour. IOM is actively engaged in addressing these issues and has developed comprehensive expertise to assist governments and corporate partners in promoting fair labour and ethical recruitment.

Corporate Policy Development and Compliance Monitoring Support



Supply chain mapping and ethical recruitment support



Capacity building workshops on slavery and trafficking



Research on labour migration trends

Risk Mitigation and Assistance to Exploited Workers



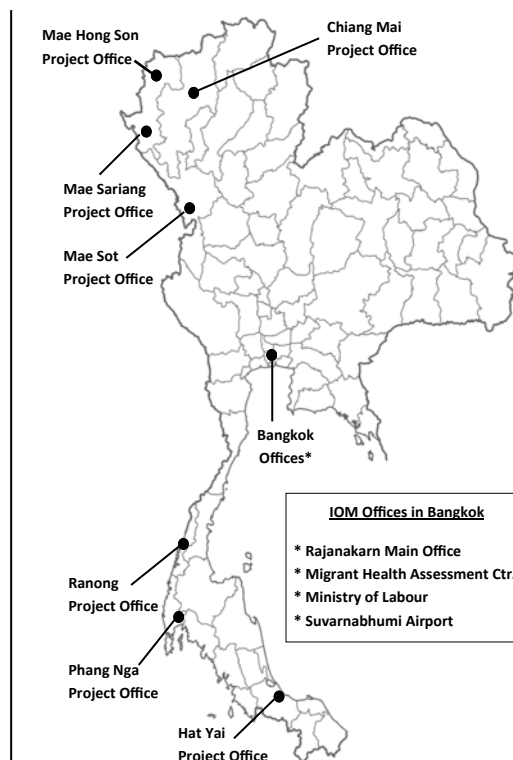
Pre-departure and post-arrival orientation programmes for labour migrants



Establishment of migrant resource centres



Provision of direct assistance to trafficked, exploited, and abused migrants



The IOM Mission in Thailand has almost 350 staff working on more than 35 active projects in 11 locations across the country. IOM Thailand has a main office in central Bangkok and ten other project offices in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region, Chiang Mai, Hat Yai, Mae Hong Son, Mae Sariang, Mae Sot, Phang Nga and Ranong.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Thailand

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Featured Projects



Partnership with Grant Thornton to Promote Ethical Recruitment

In 2016, IOM signed an MOU with Grant Thornton, a leading business adviser with technical expertise in the assessment, certification and monitoring ethical migrant labour practices. Through this partnership, both organizations will build on each other's strengths and engage with local and international companies in helping ensure that internationally recognized standards on migrant labour are met. The collaboration will help reassure consumers that the products purchased come from companies with ethical migrant labour and supply chains.



Post-Arrival Training for Migrants

IOM developed and implemented a post-arrival training program for migrant workers entering Thailand covering topics such as labour rights, relevant legislation, recourse mechanisms, access to health and social services and Thai customs and culture, which was implemented in close coordination with partner pre-departure courses conducted by IOM Missions in countries of origin.

Following the opening of registration for migrant workers through One Stop Service Centres in Thailand in 2014, IOM partnered with local authorities in targeted provinces to implement trainings for migrants undergoing the registration process.



Promoting Ethical Recruitment and Fair Labour in IKEA's Asian Supply Chains

Since 2015, IOM has been engaged with IKEA in improving procurement policies and procedures to ensure ethical recruitment and fair labour practices for migrant workers in IKEA's supply chains.

This includes capacity building workshops and support for the development of the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS), a voluntary multi-stakeholder certification process that will identify ethical recruitment intermediaries and support the "employer pays" model for ethical recruitment.

IOM is also in the process of finalizing an initiative to assist IKEA with reviewing and strengthening the recruitment process of Thai workers in the berry-picking sector in Sweden and Finland. The collaboration will provide further insights into how the recruitment process within IKEA's broader supply chain can be improved.



Responsible Recruitment and Social Compliance Training with BSCI

IOM is supporting the Foreign Trade Association's Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) in developing guidelines on responsible recruitment for global buyers and their suppliers.

Both organizations are jointly organizing trainings for Thai producers on responsible recruitment, labor supply chain management and social compliance with a particular focus on the processed food and seafood industries.

Regional Information Campaign to Address Irregular Migration

IOM has been working with the Royal Thai Government to implement an information campaign to raise awareness on safe migration in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and Myanmar.

The multi-media campaign will engage beneficiaries and partners in an interactive manner and is being supplemented by grassroots activities designed in close consultation and coordination with IOM country missions and government counterparts, and implemented according to specific country needs and contexts.



Facilitating Labour Migration of Thai Agricultural Workers to Israel

IOM has supported Government-to-Government cooperation in the deployment of Thai workers to work in Israel's agricultural sector since 2011. The project covers the entire flow of recruitment and deployment and has been successful in creating an effective, efficient and well-organized system for the ethical deployment of Thai workers to work in the agricultural sector abroad.

Thai workers benefit from reduced migration costs, skills development courses as well as pre-departure orientation sessions to familiarize them on their rights and obligations in Israel. Assistance in Israel is also provided through field monitoring visits and a telephone hotline in Thai operated by an NGO partner to lodge concerns and complaints.

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