



IOM • OIM

INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION
FOR MIGRATION



IOM MISSION IN THAILAND

Migration for the Benefit of All



About Us

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and is a Related Organization of the United Nations.

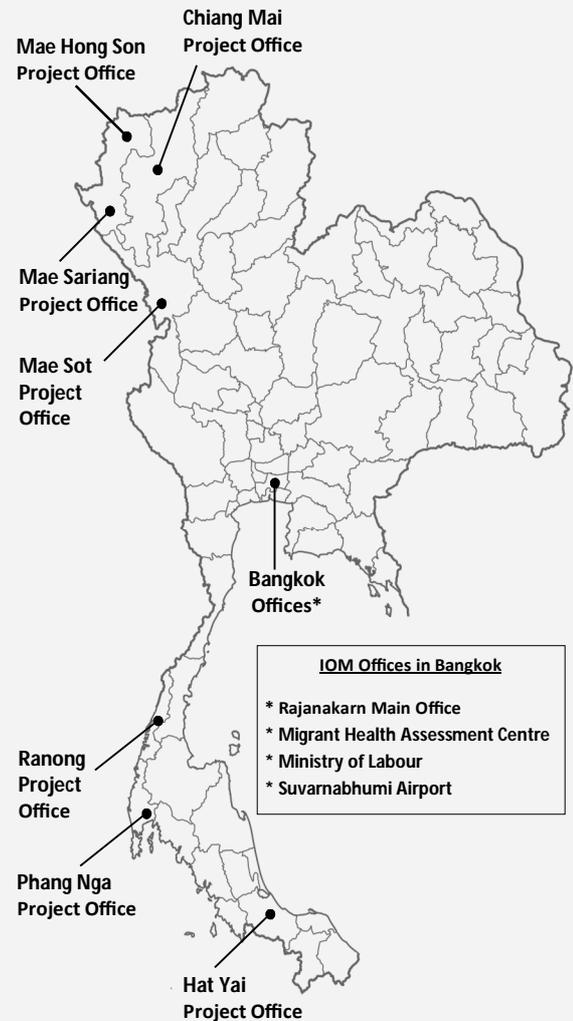
With 165 member states, a further 8 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. To advance this aim, IOM provides services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM works with its partners to meet 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.

In Thailand, IOM began its operations in 1975, assisting the resettlement of Indo-Chinese refugees to countries offering them permanent residence. Since then, IOM activities in the country have expanded significantly both in terms of their geographic reach and target populations.

With the Kingdom of Thailand joining as a member state in 1986, IOM's cooperation with the Royal Thai Government has expanded to cover all aspects of migration affecting the Kingdom and its neighbors, including labor migration, migration health, counter trafficking, emergency and post crisis, institution building, border management, security and law enforcement.

Today, IOM has a strong presence in Thailand and is one of the largest missions worldwide, with over 350 staff working on more than 35 active projects in 11 locations across the country. The IOM Mission in 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.



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MISSION IN THAILAND

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Key Activities in Bangkok

Counter Trafficking and Migrant Assistance

IOM adopts a protection-oriented approach to assisting victims of trafficking. Activities in Bangkok are largely centered on comprehensive trainings to enhance the capacity of law enforcement officers and project partners.

In addition, information campaigns are carried out on a regular basis in partnership with NGOs and government agencies to raise awareness of human trafficking and safe migration, and inform migrants of important developments such as ministerial regulations.

IOM also assists vulnerable migrants residing at the Suan Phlu Immigration Detention Centre, providing them with childcare, nutritional and psychosocial services.

Labour Migration

In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, UN agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations, IOM works to enhance the lives of labour migrants by engaging government stakeholders and employers in promoting safe and regular migration, ethical recruitment and skills upgrade.

In Bangkok, IOM works together with private sector and NGO partners to implement and provide in-demand skills training for migrants to promote better employment opportunities and conditions. Modules are tailored to needs to each individual group and cover a range of competencies with a focus on technical training.

IOM currently targets migrants working in hospitality, construction, domestic work and manufacturing and intends to expand the initiative to cover other sectors in the near future. The multi-year initiative is expected to benefit thousands of migrants from various sectors by its completion in 2024.

Emergency and Post Crisis

IOM is a leading agency in disaster preparedness, mitigation and response activities, including Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM). It also works with government agencies to address the vulnerabilities of migrants caught in emergencies.

During the 2011/2012 floods, IOM assisted in Department for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) in carrying out rapid assessments on collective center coordination and management in and around Bangkok.

IOM also procured relief items, including food and non-food items such as boats, life vests, pumps, generators and water treatment kits, and distributed them in affected areas in Greater Bangkok.

Migration Health

With the aim of providing effective health services for migrants and their host communities, IOM works in close collaboration with the Thai Ministry of Public Health to eradicate and raise awareness of health issues and diseases in vulnerable communities.

Bangkok is home to the IOM Migration Health Assessment Center (MHAC) which has been conducting health screening services for prospective migrants to the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia since 2005.

MHAC houses a laboratory that conducts tests for diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and HIV. Services, including screening for drugs, pregnancy and biochemistry, are also provided amongst others. Over 7000 Thai nationals and migrants benefit from MHAC's services every year.

Immigration and Border Management

IOM supports the Royal Thai Government and regional counterparts to tackle human smuggling and trafficking by enhancing their capacity to detect fraudulent documentation, share information and identify victims.

In Bangkok, IOM works closely with the Immigration Bureau to train frontline border officials in identifying and assisting smuggled or trafficked persons, as well as advanced document examination techniques.

IOM has also established two document examination laboratories at Don Mueang and Suvarnabhumi Airports, complete with the latest verification equipment, to prevent document fraud.

Movement and Refugee Resettlement

IOM has extensive experience in managing the resettlement of refugees and a government to government cooperation in the deployment of Thai workers overseas.

In Bangkok, IOM arranges pre-departure logistics and exit formalities for refugees accepted for resettlement, irregular migrants who are unable to remain in Thailand as well as Thai nationals deployed to Israel as labour migrants.

These include: transport to attend interviews, medical screening; arranging, collecting and verifying travel documents, exit permits and visas; pre-departure cultural orientation; booking of domestic and international flights; and pre-departure, departure and arrival notifications.

IOM's airport office at Suvarnabhumi provides departure assistance, facilitating check-in, immigration and security clearance and boarding for migrants.