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MISSION IN THAILAND

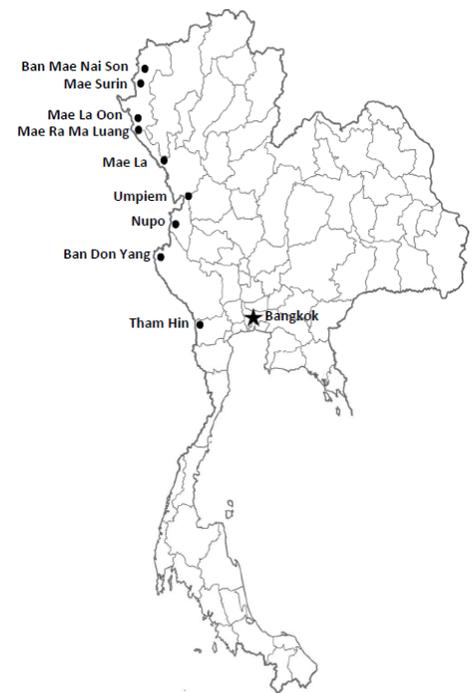
Refugee Resettlement

In 2017, IOM Thailand assisted with the resettlement of 2,670 refugees, most of whom came from nine camps on the Thai-Myanmar border. The ongoing activities include medical screening, cultural orientation and travel arrangements to eight different resettlement countries. Since 2004, over 135,000 refugees have been resettled to fourteen different countries.

IOM's history of refugee resettlement from Thailand began in 1975 in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. Over the next 15 years the organization helped nearly half a million Indochinese refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to start new lives abroad. In 1980 alone, at the peak of the exodus, IOM moved over 120,000 refugees.

Today the vast majority of refugees leaving Thailand originally come from Myanmar. As in the past, most leave Thailand for the United States, but other countries including Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom have also accepted refugees resettling out of Thailand.

Over its 38 years of resettlement operations in Thailand, IOM has worked closely with the Royal Thai Government, the UN Country Team and the embassies of resettlement countries, recognizing that third country resettlement is only one of a number of durable solutions for refugees whose well-founded fear of persecution has forced them to flee their home countries.



Locations of Refugee Camps in Thailand

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IOM Medical Staff conduct a health assessment for a refugee at the IOM Mae Sot Refugee Processing Centre. Photo: IOM 2017

Key Facts

2,670

Number of refugees resettled in 2017

8

Number of resettlement countries in 2017

905

Number of refugees who benefitted from cultural orientation conducted by IOM in 2017



A group of urban refugees complete the Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) programme conducted by IOM Thailand. Photo: IOM 2017

Information Sharing

IOM's operations team, working with the International Rescue Committee - Resettlement Support Center, and UNHCR, organizes information sessions on resettlement in the camps.

These sessions are designed to help refugees who are still unsure of whether or not to resettle to make informed decisions. They also answer important questions about the resettlement process.

Medical Screening and Assistance

IOM conducts medical screening of refugees applying for resettlement. Screening is carried out by IOM doctors and the results are analyzed in IOM laboratories in Mae Sot, Mae Hong Son and Bangkok.

Refugees are provided with treatment and counseling before they are cleared to travel.

Pre-departure treatment of refugees with communicable diseases such as tuberculosis is important not only for the refugees themselves, but also as an international public health issue.

It is designed to protect both the refugees and the people with whom they come into contact - during the resettlement process, when traveling and after they arrive in resettlement countries.

IOM also conducts pre-departure medical checks to ensure that refugees are fit to travel and, when necessary, provides medical escorts.

Cultural Orientation

IOM provides refugees accepted for resettlement to Australia and Canada a 2-5 day pre-departure cultural orientation aimed at preparing refugees for life in the country of resettlement.

Special curricula for children, families, youth, singles and parents has been developed. When requested by a resettlement country, IOM has also offered 3-4 weeks of language training designed to provide newly-arrived refugees with basic survival language skills.

IOM also produces cultural profiles of groups of refugees selected for resettlement. These are designed to help host communities to understand the needs of the refugees, in order to maximize their chances of successful integration. Information in these profiles includes their educational, religious, and cultural background.

Pre-Departure Logistics and Exit Formalities

IOM arranges pre-departure logistics and exit formalities for refugees accepted for resettlement.

These include: providing transport for refugees to attend interviews by resettlement country officials and to undergo medical screening; arranging Thai exit permits; fingerprinting (on behalf of the Thai authorities); collecting and verifying travel documents and visas; booking domestic and international flights; and pre-departure, departure and arrival notifications.

IOM's airport offices in Thailand offer departure assistance, and other IOM airport offices around the world offer global transit assistance en route to final destinations.

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