

## Humanitarian Assistance for Muslims from Myanmar and Special At-Risk Groups in Thailand

### Overview

Since 2013, IOM Thailand has provided assistance to over 3,000 Muslims from Myanmar and special at-risk groups temporarily detained in Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs), Shelters for Children and Families, and Welfare Protection Centres for Victims of Trafficking in Thailand.

Through funds donated by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) of the United States Department of State, European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), Japan, Republic of Korea and Turkey, IOM has engaged in activities focusing on improving the physical and mental wellbeing of stranded migrants temporarily detained in Thailand. Key responsibilities include:

### Medical Support

Medical check-ups and follow-up treatment are regularly conducted in Ranong, Phang Nga, Surat Thani and Songkhla with the aim of maintaining the general health of the beneficiaries. Periodic health assessments and screenings are also conducted at all locations. In addition to this, the nutritional needs of beneficiaries are looked after through supplemental nutrition support which include the provision of UHT/soy milk, high energy biscuits, boiled eggs, and fresh fruit to detainees in all IDCs and shelters.

### Psychosocial Support

With the aim to reduce migrants' psychosocial vulnerabilities, IOM conducts education and counselling sessions. Recreational and educational activities include sports events, cooking sessions, English classes and basket weaving classes. Group counselling and individual counselling with the aid of an interpreter, and educational sessions on developmental psychology are also offered to beneficiaries.

### Non-Food Items

A wide range of non-food items (NFIs) encompassing cleaning supplies, mats, fans, clothing and exercise equipment are provided. Hygiene kits containing toothpaste, soap, shampoo, detergent, mosquito repellent, and sanitary napkins are also distributed on a monthly basis at all locations to beneficiaries for daily use.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Support

Depending on needs identified in each location, WASH support such as the maintenance and replacement of water pipes, toilets, installation of water purifiers, fixing floors and other repairs are provided to ensure the general wellbeing of beneficiaries.

### Key Facts

**Project duration:** 2013 – Present

**Countries covered:** Thailand

**Project Partners:** Royal Thai Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Ministry of Public Health); UN Agencies; NGOs and CSOs

**Target Beneficiaries:** Muslims from Myanmar and special at-risk groups including Bangladeshi migrants temporarily detained in Thailand.



IOM staff conducting a health assessment in Phang Nga. Photo: IOM 2016



Funded by  
European Union  
Humanitarian Aid



From  
the People of Japan

