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Thailand is a migration hub in Southeast Asia and simultaneously a country of origin, transit and destination for large numbers of migrants. Many low-skilled workers from neighboring countries enter Thailand irregularly, often through the help of smugglers and brokers, aiming to find work and better lives.

Thailand has also been used as an important transit point for smuggled migrants transiting through Thailand. Some smuggled migrants enter Thailand legally on tourist visas before beginning their journey onwards while many others enter irregularly by boat or land from neighboring countries. The smuggling of migrants from Thailand occurs primarily via air transport, land or long boat journeys, and is often facilitated by the use of fraudulent documents.

The “*Strengthening the Border Management and Intelligence Capacity of Thai Government Officials*” program is designed to support efforts by the Thai authorities and their regional counterparts to tackle human smuggling and trafficking. Funded by the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP) of the Government of Canada, the project has been ongoing since January 2012 and is currently in its fourth phase (April 2019 to March 2022).

KEY FACTS



Donor: Government of Canada

Project Duration: January 2012
- March 2022

Areas Covered: Thailand

Project Beneficiaries:

Thai Immigration Bureau,
Royal Police Cadet Academy,
Tourist Police, Anti-Trafficking
in Persons Division Police,
Office of Attorney General,
Immigration and Law
Enforcement Officers from
Cambodia, Malaysia and
Myanmar

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE



89 immigration police, inquiry police, and prosecutors trained on strengthening inter-agency case management of smuggling/trafficking cases



347 officials from five countries trained on cross border cooperation in investigations of transnational crime including smuggling/trafficking cases



238 immigration and tourist police trained on travel document examination procedures



9110 police cadet instructors trained in human smuggling and trafficking for further dissemination to police cadets



Network of 56 trainers and resource persons on document examination created through advanced training series



Document examination laboratories established at eight immigration checkpoints, including Suvarnabhumi and Don Muang Airports, and Aranyaprated Checkpoint

PHASE IV OVERVIEW

Phase IV will see more supervisory and operational police officials being trained on intercepting trafficking and smuggling networks. There will also be a continued focus on the professional mentoring of frontline officers on the use of technical equipment and updated manuals to detect fraudulent travel documents.

Outcome 1: Thai law enforcement and immigration agencies are equipped with sustainable travel document examination and verification tools and procedures to effectively intercept human smuggling cases on a consistent and timely basis.

- Distribution of the Passport Examination Procedures Manual and handheld travel document examination equipment to frontline officers.
- Handover one workstation of Verifier TD&B to Thai Immigration Training and Development Center for training purpose among Royal Thai Police
- Trainings on passport examination, use of equipment and interview techniques (interviewing passengers at border checkpoints or airports) for trainers and participants and data management and analysis for investigation officers.

Outcome 2: Thai law enforcement agencies better promote and share knowledge, expertise and capacity on border management techniques.

- Production of additional modules related combatting smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons for Royal Police Cadet Academy's eLearning website and expand to use to other police agencies
- Trainings on combatting smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons (delivered by Phase III trainees) as well as the identification of smuggling networks and post-interception.

Outcome 3: Thai law enforcement officers have enhanced capacity for inter-agency collaboration to disrupt movements of irregular migrants and ensure holistic protection of vulnerable migrants.

- Inter-agency case management workshops on smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and transnational organized crime.
- Trainings on specialized investigation techniques to combat transnational organized and related crimes for investigation officers from multiple police agencies.

Outcome 4: Thai law enforcement officers address capacity gaps in handling vulnerable cases of irregular female migrants.

- Research on gender dimension of migrants vulnerabilities, gaps and good practices to be carried out.



Immigration officers at Aranyaprathet at a training on the use of Verifier TD&B system to detect passport fraud and imposters.



An expert trainer demonstrates interview techniques for trafficked persons at a Thailand-Myanmar Cross Border Training.



Immigration officers examine passports during a Training of Trainer (TOT) workshop on Travel Document Examination and Advanced Biometrics



Immigration police, investigators and prosecutors brainstorm during a tabletop exercise on investigating transnational crimes.