IOM Thailand National Strategy 2017-2020

“Behind Tin Walls” by Visarut Sankham
Thai Photographer
Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is a Related Organization of the United Nations and is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration. Together with its partners in the international community, 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 from an integral and holistic perspective, including links to development, in order to maximize the benefits and opportunities of migration and reduce its challenges.

The purpose of the IOM Thailand National Strategy is to outline the programmatic priorities of the Mission in the context of current migration realities in Thailand and to set thematic objectives that are in line with the strategies of the Royal Thai Government, donors and other key actors within the sphere of migration.

The actions outlined in this document will enable IOM to continue its role as the leading organization focusing on migration management and to uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants in Thailand and the wider region.
The IOM Thailand National Strategy is...

Developed in consultation with key partners:
- Royal Thai Government
- IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- United Nations Offices in Thailand
- Non-governmental Organizations and Civil Society
- Universities and Academia
- Migrants

Focused on 12 Priority Areas:
- Counter Trafficking
- Migrant Assistance
- Labour Migration
- Private Sector Engagement
- Migrant Health
- Migrant Integration
- Policy Development
- Research & Publications
- Migration & Climate Change
- Immigration & Border Management
- Resettlement & Movement Management
- Emergency Preparedness & Response

Based on a Common Set of Principles and Objectives in the IOM Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF):

1. **Adherence** to international standards and fulfillment of migrants’ rights.
2. **Formulates** policy using evidence and “whole-of-government” approach.
3. **Engages** with partners to address migration and related issues.

1. **Advance** the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society.
2. **Effectively** address the mobility dimensions of crises.
3. **Ensure** that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

Linked to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals:
**Strong Presence:** The IOM Mission in Thailand encompasses 340 staff in 10 project offices with an experienced management structure in place.

**Diversity in Programming:** Engaged in a wide range of activities with technical expertise supported by a well-developed logistics and operations unit and complemented by a strong team of finance and administration staff. Risk management is embedded within all projects.

**Partnerships:** IOM maintains strong relations with the Royal Thai Government and plays a central role within the UN Country Team on migration matters as the chair of the UN Thematic Working Group on Migration.

**Migration Trends in Thailand**

- **4 - 5 Million**
  Estimated Number of Migrants in Thailand

- **1 - 2 Million**
  Estimated Number of Irregular Migrants

**Main Countries of Origin**

- **Documented Migrants from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar**
  
  - Entered regularly through MOUs: 582,726 (31.8%)
  - Entered irregularly but fully regularized through Nationality Verification Process: 1,248,611 (68.2%)
  - Fully Regularized with Passports: 1,831,337 (60.8%)
  - Partly Regularized with Pink Cards: 1,178,678 (39.2%)

*Statistics from Ministry of Labour, December 2017.*
COUNTER TRAFFICKING

As a core area of work, IOM Thailand will continue to partner with the Royal Thai Government and civil society actors to promote protection-oriented approaches to identify victims of trafficking, prosecute traffickers and develop life skills among those most vulnerable. The Mission will also continue to support victims of trafficking by providing direct assistance in the form of psychosocial services, counselling, medical, food and non-food items, accommodation, and emergency assistance. In view of the concerns surrounding the trafficking and exploitation of migrants in the agriculture and fishing industries, IOM Thailand will endeavor to work closely with the relevant authorities to promote safe migration and inter-agency coordination in tackling the issue.

LABOUR MIGRATION

IOM Thailand aims to increase the capacity of the government and private sector in ensuring safe, ethical and beneficial labour migration. IOM will support and facilitate bilateral agreements incorporating skills development and ethical recruitment and will ensure greater access to skills development for migrant workers, especially women, to improve employability abroad and in countries of origin. IOM will work alongside key partners, such as the Ministry of Labour, in the development and promotion of evidence-based and gender-responsive policies on labour migration and protection of migrants. The Mission will also expand its work with the private sector to help ensure ethical recruitment and fair working conditions.

MIGRANT ASSISTANCE

IOM Thailand works alongside key stakeholders, governmental and non-governmental, to strengthen capacities to identify and respond to the needs of vulnerable migrants and facilitate inter-agency and international cooperation on smuggling and trafficking issues. IOM Thailand also aims to continue increasing the resilience of vulnerable migrants in Thailand through capacity building, awareness raising, and direct assistance. The Mission will advocate for the adoption of more comprehensive approaches to enhance the reintegration component of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), in order to enhance and promote self-sustainability.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

The Mission recognizes the growing role of the private sector in development, both as a partner and donor. IOM seeks to strengthen engagement with the private sector, recognizing the important value it can add to skills development programmes and the ethical recruitment of migrant workers. IOM works alongside employers and recruitment agencies to promote ethical recruitment including the employer pays principle and to ensure decent employment conditions of migrant workers. The Mission’s services will be based on IOM’s Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Trafficking and Slavery (CREST) initiative, which has been designed to help companies maximize the benefits of migrant labour in supply chains.
IOM will work alongside and provide key technical support to partners in the development of policies. This will include the Ministry of Labour in the development and promotion of evidence-based and gender-responsive policies on labour migration and protection of migrants. IOM also plans to work alongside the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of the Ministry of Interior to include a provision to address vulnerabilities of migrants in the National Plan of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, as well as to provide technical support in the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on disaster management related to migration management in crisis, as outlined in the Thailand United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF).

**MIGRATION HEALTH**

Within the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the Ministry of Public Health, one key service area is infectious disease control and prevention, with the objective of increasing access to healthcare among migrants and vulnerable Thai people. Through the provision of capacity building for practitioners in fields including diagnostics, behaviour change communication, and community mapping, IOM Thailand will raise the awareness of tuberculosis, HIV, and malaria incidence and risks within migrant and at-risk populations and enhance capacities to deliver targeted services to these communities and design evidence-based strategies and policies. The Mission will continue to deliver tailored psychosocial support to vulnerable groups, particularly those detained and long-term residents of refugee camps.

**RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

The Mission plans to undertake targeted research and produce a variety of publications contributing to increasing the knowledge and evidence base on key issues in Thailand to enhance the reputation of the Organization as the global reference for data related to migration. Key entry points within research include the impact of skills development on poverty reduction, migration as a factor in development and poverty reduction in countries of origin, and targeted research papers on the health, mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of migrant workers and their families and refugees.

**PRIORITY AREAS**

**MIGRANT INTEGRATION**

Taking into account the significant number of migrants in Thailand, many of whom are at risk of exploitation, the Mission will build upon lessons learned and best practices, such as the establishment of the Legal Clinic at Mae Sot Hospital, to develop further initiatives that enhance the social inclusion of migrants, including increased access to health and education, among other public services. The Mission will also design and deliver capacity-building and training and develop education curricula, as well as ensure strong awareness raising on the crucial role migrants play in Thailand socially, culturally and economically.
IOM - THE UN MIGRATION AGENCY

PRIORITY AREAS

MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Through targeted studies, IOM Thailand will raise the awareness of key stakeholders to more fully understand the nexus between migration, environment, and climate change in Thailand and to work in cooperation with key government partners in the formulation of evidence-based local action plans and strategies that promote migration as an adaptation strategy. IOM Thailand also plans to provide tailored capacity building to enable farmers and at-risk communities to manage their adaptation to environmental change and demonstrate enhanced coping mechanisms and resilience.

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

Through the provision of technical cooperation, IOM aims to ensure that sustainable and effective structures, capacity and mechanisms are in place to intercept human smuggling and trafficking cases on a consistent and timely basis. IOM Thailand plans to conduct capacity building to facilitate more effective coordination in identifying, investigating and prosecuting human smuggling and trafficking cases. The Mission will enhance the capacity of the Government to securely manage its maritime borders in full accordance with human rights principles.

RESETTLEMENT AND MOVEMENT MANAGEMENT

IOM will continue to contribute to the safe, dignified and humane resettlement of refugees based in Thailand. The Mission will conduct beneficiary-centered cultural orientation classes for refugees with the aim of preparing them for travel, enhancing their settlement prospects, creating realistic expectations about their country and, in particular, to enable them to become self-sufficient. In relation to Voluntary Repatriation of refugees from Myanmar, support will encompass fitness-to-travel checks to confirm health status and well-being of all refugees, ensuring that refugees are able to travel in a safe and dignified manner, and the provision of cash grants.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

As the lead agency in Thailand for Camp Coordination and Camp Management, IOM Thailand will remain prepared to provide life-saving humanitarian aid as required, in the form of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and nutritional support, psychosocial support, and temporary shelter and non-food items, in order to ensure the physical and mental health and well-being of affected populations. IOM will also work to improve coordination among relevant governmental agencies, civil society, international, non-governmental, and community-based organizations for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response.
Rights-Based Approaches, Gender and Environmental Mainstreaming

IOM Thailand will integrate international rights and norms in all of its programming, with a focus on the respect, protection, and enjoyment of migrants’ rights. In developing proposals and planning new initiatives, the impact of a project on migrants’ rights will be considered and initiatives will be designed in a way that those rights are protected and potential adverse impacts are addressed.

As a component of the rights-based approach, gender mainstreaming will also be incorporated in projects and programming. Women’s and men’s concerns and experiences will be integral to all aspects of IOM Thailand programmes so that inequality is not perpetuated. In addition, specific gender initiatives will be identified on a yearly basis by the IOM Thailand Gender Focal Point and Alternate Focal Point.

Environmental sensitivity and sustainability will be considered in the development and implementation of initiatives, to ensure that adverse environmental risks and impacts are avoided, mitigated and managed. Projects will not contribute to the loss of livelihoods for project-affected individuals, to the reduction of access to environmental resources, or to environmental injustice.

These cross-cutting themes will be incorporated and considered throughout the project cycle, from project development to final evaluation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Mission will embrace a culture of evaluation at all stages of implementation, as a key constituent element that enhances the work of the Mission, both to demonstrate impact and identify gaps that can be met through enhanced responses or new activities.

Results oriented monitoring and evaluation will be a critical element of all projects implemented by the Mission, and multi-faceted and robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms will be established to measure the effectiveness and impact of all activities.

Systematic results oriented monitoring will allow the Mission to obtain qualitative and quantitative data about needs and gaps prior to an intervention; the efficiency, efficacy, sustainability, and relevance during implementation; and the impact of the intervention at the point of and subsequent to its conclusion.

In this context, monitoring and evaluation as delivered by IOM Thailand will be designed to:

- Support substantive accountability and transparency to donors, partners, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders;
- Prompt and facilitate corrective action;
- Ensure informed decision making;
- Enable organizational and individual learning to facilitate cross-fertilisation of ideas between projects.
Close Coordination with Partners: IOM will coordinate with a range of governmental, non-governmental, and international partners in Thailand in its role as a key partner to the Government to strengthen the capacities of relevant stakeholders in managing migration while also increasing the resilience of vulnerable migrants.

Capacity Building: IOM will continue to provide tailored technical and strategic support to enhance the capacity of actors in Thailand in a range of fields, including capacity building of NGOs, in order to enhance the scope and sustainability with which they are able to independently provide quality and tailored services to vulnerable groups.

Service Delivery: IOM maintains a strong field-level presence in Thailand with 350 staff in 11 project offices, enabling the Organization to be responsive to the governments’ needs; to provide effective services to migrants; to gather first-hand information about the migration situation in the country, including emerging trends; and to quickly mobilize resources and extend assistance in the event of an emergency or crisis.

Evidence Generation and Policy Dialogue: IOM will continue to work as a global reference for data related to migration, and the Mission will undertake research and data collection to increase the knowledge and evidence base concerning ongoing and emerging issues in Thailand in order to support and enhance evidence-based policy dialogues.

Regional Cooperation: IOM stands ready to provide strategic and targeted assistance to support the ASEAN Member States’ management of migration issues within the context of regional integration and to support Thailand as a leader in the region on migration policy and practice, building upon ASEAN as an increasingly important regional mechanism for strengthening dialogue in the region.

“Migration is a phenomenon not to be condemned, but to be embraced and celebrated for its contribution to diversity and development.”

- Dana Graber Ladek
Chief of Mission, IOM Thailand