



Myanmar migrants receiving COVID-19 vaccine dose in Bangkok. © IOM 2022

OVERVIEW

In January 2020, Thailand was the second country to report a COVID-19 case. While the country's overall management of the pandemic was considered successful, measures to prevent the spread of the virus, such as lockdown measures, had negative socioeconomic impacts, as in the rest of the world.

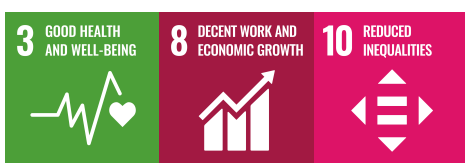
Labour migration has been an essential component of Thailand's socioeconomic growth. With a rapidly aging society, these migrants fill critical gaps in the country's workforce. Thailand hosts nearly half of all migrant workers in South-East Asia.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the disproportionate impact experienced by vulnerable migrants in Thailand and the difficulties they encountered in accessing health services – in particular, testing, treatment and vaccines. These challenges exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities and widened disparities faced by both documented and undocumented migrants.

The [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) Thailand's COVID-19 Response Strategy focused on supporting the Royal Thai Government, and communities in enhancing health systems to be responsive to the needs of migrants and mobile populations, in line with the 2005 International Health Regulations and the Sustainable Development Goals. IOM facilitated the inclusion of migrants in the national response ensuring that they had access to health services, including vaccines, and critical information about COVID-19 prevention and treatment.



IOM works with Migrant Health Volunteers (MHVs) to promote access to information on COVID-19. © IOM 2022



*Most relevant goals/objectives

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



VACCINATION

5,681 migrants directly supported by IOM to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

37,982 units of PPE, including antigen test kits, coverall gowns and disposable gloves, provided to migrants and border officials.



CAPACITY BUILDING

793 border and frontline officials trained to manage public health threats and improve prevention, detection and response.

574 Migrant Health Volunteers (MHVs) trained to raise awareness and support community-based disease surveillance.



RELIEF

24,044 migrants provided with relief packages, food and non-food items.

273 migrant households benefitting from cash-based assistance to mitigate pandemic impacts.



CASE FINDING, TESTING AND TREATMENT

247 migrants supported through active case finding and testing.

123 migrants who tested positive received treatment.



INFORMATION

143,222 individuals reached by information, education, and communication (IEC) materials through community outreach activities in migrant languages, including **39,896** from person-to-person health education.



POLICY AND DATA

1 policy paper ("Solutions to Achieve Fair and Ethical Recruitment and Decent Work of Migrant Workers in Thailand during COVID-19 Recovery") developed and submitted to the Royal Thai Government.

3 survey rounds of COVID-19 vaccine perception among migrants conducted to inform vaccination efforts.

UN Network on Migration COVID-19 Sub-working Group established and operational from 2021 to 2023; published 10 monthly situation reports about the impact of COVID-19 on Migrants in Thailand and neighbouring countries.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

