



UNITED NATIONS THAILAND NETWORK ON MIGRATION

Highlights 2022



Thailand United Nations
Network on Migration
Working Better Together

The UN Network on Migration in Thailand continues to support the Royal Thai Government (RTG), as a Global Compact for Migration (GCM) Champion country, to ensure that migration is meaningfully mainstreamed into the Government's national policies as well as within institutional frameworks, such as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). In 2022, Network partners reaffirmed their commitment to improving migration governance and promoting the well-being of migrants in Thailand.

Achievements of UN Migration Network Partners in 2022

Priority 1:

Promoting inclusion with a particular focus on ensuring migrants are part of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery effort in Thailand.

In 2022, efforts continued to ensure migrant inclusion in the overall COVID-19 response. At the end of the year, the Government of Thailand reported having administered a total of 143,727,626 first, second and third doses of vaccinations. The Ministry of Public Health's (MOPH) Department of Disease Control (DDC) reported that 5,479,363 doses had been administered to foreigners, 2,242,865 of which were to migrants from Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. MOPH estimates a second dose coverage of about 47 per cent by the end of 2022.¹

Under this priority, UN Migration Network partners worked to ensure that:

01

Migrants had increased access to health care and essential services (including testing, treatment and vaccination against COVID-19) regardless of migrant status and access to social protection.

- **74,499 migrants reached** with COVID-19 information, education and communication and materials and risk communication and community engagement interventions.

ILO	IOM	UNICEF	UN Women	WHO
-----	-----	--------	----------	-----

- **4,805 people (including 2,233 children) received** psychological first aid (PFA) services through individual and community counselling and child-friendly PFA activities in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Kanchanaburi and Lampang provinces. This support was provided by Community Migrant Health Volunteers (MHVs) who were trained on topics, including infection prevention and control and PFA. Through home visits, the trained community volunteers reached out to provide support and follow-up as needed. **UNICEF**

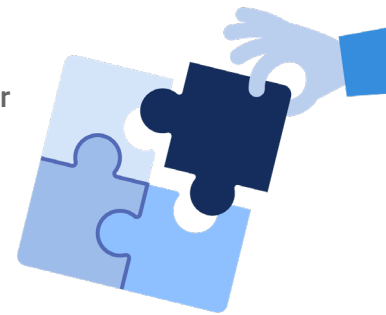


¹ Based on an estimated population of 3.9 million CLM migrants in Thailand (Thailand Migration Report 2019)

- **440 MHVs trained** to raise awareness in their communities and support community-based disease surveillance. **IOM**
- **13,474 migrants received** COVID-19 emergency support or immunization. **ILO | IOM | UN Women**
- **374 migrant volunteers and 204 migrant workers trained** to provide accurate information about health and labour rights to migrant workers. **ILO**
- **COVID-19 Hotline maintained**, providing up-to-date information on COVID-19 in migrant languages. **IOM | WHO**
- **3 rounds of the COVID-19 Vaccine Perception Survey completed.** The survey aimed to better understand migrants' attitudes towards COVID-19 and hesitations among migrant communities towards the vaccine, in order to develop evidence-informed messaging in the pandemic response. **IOM | WHO**

02

Migrants, regardless of status, are integrated into their communities and workplaces and are recognized as vital contributors to Thailand's economy and society.



- **1 UN-wide awareness-raising campaign** promoting migrant rights and social cohesion, in commemoration of International Migrants Day. High-level representatives, including ministers and ambassadors, participated in the campaign. **ILO | IOM | OHCHR | UNDP | UNESCO | UNICEF | UN Women | WHO**
- **11,928 stakeholders reached** with awareness-raising interventions to counter xenophobia and discrimination. **ILO | IOM**
- **272,594 views** of online campaigns to raise awareness to counter xenophobia and discrimination. **ILO | IOM**

Ways Forward

The Network remains committed to a continued partnership with the government in 2023, building on the achievements and development gains from the overall COVID-19 response. The Network aims to support the RTG in realizing its pledge at the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) to “**make progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage, including for wider groups of migrants.**”

At the same time, the Network also continued efforts to combat discrimination and promote evidence-based dialogue on migration in line with the RTG's 2022 IMRF pledge to “**promote public perception regarding the positive contribution of migrants and to end discrimination and stigmatization against them.**”

Priority 2:

Ensuring the protection of migrants in situations of vulnerability.

Partners worked together to reduce protection risks of individuals in vulnerable situations, in particular those who are exposed to abuse, exploitation, violence, neglect and deliberate deprivation. This was done by addressing protection threats and vulnerabilities while increasing the capacities of individuals, communities and duty bearers.

Working in partnership with other stakeholders, network partners collaborate to achieve three main outcomes:

01

The rights of migrants in detention settings are respected and conditions in immigration detention facilities are improved through strengthened operationalization of the “Memorandum of Understanding on the Determination of Measures and Approaches Alternative to Detention of Children in Immigration Detention Centres” (MOU-ATD), and there is an increase in the range of alternatives to detention for adults and the number of individuals benefiting from them with particular attention to vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, women at risk, families and those in poor health.

- **472 social workers and law enforcement officials** provided with the knowledge, skills and tools to be able to implement MOU-ATD effectively.

IOM | UNHCR | UNICEF

- **30 advocacy actions** undertaken to promote the implementation of alternatives to detention.

IOM | UNHCR

- **9 consultations** with stakeholders to develop rights-based and sustainable advocacy strategies.

IOM | UNHCR

- **3,428 vulnerable migrants** in immigration detention centres received essential food and non-food items.

IOM

- **283 mothers and children** in Shelters for Children and Families, Welfare Protection Centers for VOTs provided with essential food and non-food items.

IOM



02

Victims of trafficking (VOTs), and other migrants who are in situations of exploitation or human rights abuse and violations, have access to rights-based, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, victim-centered and trauma-informed services through strengthened identification, referral and protection.



In 2022, the number of victims of human trafficking (VOTs) who were screened and identified by the government increased, from 231 VOTs in 2020 to 572 VOTs in 2022. This represents an increase of 134 per cent (341 VOTs) being identified. This is a result of a collaborative and inclusive approach between frontline officers, including law enforcement and relevant agencies as well as NGOs. This is an indication that the National Referral Mechanism to Protect and Assist Survivors of TIP, which was approved in March 2022, is working, opening more channels to communicate, refer and assist potential victims of trafficking and VOTs.

- **123 VOTs** and other migrants who are in situations of exploitation or human rights abuse and violations provided with access to rights-based, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, victim-centered and trauma-informed services. **IOM**
- **29 judicial officials** provided with the knowledge, skills and tools to be able to interpret the law related to cases of human trafficking. **UNODC**
- **274 law enforcement officials** provided with the knowledge, skills and tools to conduct trauma-informed investigations of human trafficking. **IOM**
- **194 social workers and psychologists** provided with the knowledge, skills and tools to deliver psychosocial support to VOTs and other migrants in situations of vulnerability. **IOM**
- **1,156 children** obtained Thai nationality.* **UNICEF**
- **80 government officials trained on Human Rights, Assistance and Protection** including concepts of ATD, protection at sea, smuggling and TIP. **IOM | OHCHR**
- **42 government officials, civil society members and migrants** provided with the knowledge, skills and tools to implement policy for coordinated multi-sectoral services provision related to violence against women that respond to the needs of women migrant workers. **UN Women**
- **6,992 migrant workers** received legal assistance and essential services with the support of a UN Network partner. **ILO | IOM**
- **6,101 children** have been assisted with obtaining the -13-digit number, which denotes their legal status in Thailand.* **UNICEF | UNHCR**

*These activities are preventive measures for those at risk of exploitation due to the lack of legal status.

03

Migrant children and youth in Thailand have increased access to inclusive and equitable quality education.



- **65 Migrant Learning Centres (MLCs)** provided education to migrant children and youth, including through the use of multi-language applications and the LearnBig platform for online/home-based learning. **UNESCO**
- **93,551 active users** of the LearnBig platform. **UNESCO**

Ways Forward

This year, the RTG renewed its commitment to achieving ATD in the 2022 IMRF pledge to **“effectively implement alternatives to detention measures for migrant children.”** The Network remains dedicated to supporting the RTG in the realization of this commitment.

At the same time, the RTG’s commitment to combatting trafficking in persons (TIP) remains steadfast, as evidenced by its upgrade to Tier 2 status in the [2022 U.S. State Department’s TIP Report](#). Network members remain committed to further strengthening government capacity to prevent, protect and prosecute TIP cases in Thailand.

Priority 3:

Ensuring that labour migrants have access to safe, orderly, regular and affordable migration channels and that their rights are respected.

Network partners recognize the need to bring together government, civil society and the private sector to establish labour migration programmes and mechanisms that balance stakeholder interests, and address migrants' needs. The Network's approach aims to foster synergies between labour migration and development, and to promote legal avenues of labour migration as an alternative to irregular migration.

To this end, Network partners worked together to achieve two main outcomes.

01

Ethical recruitment and decent employment options are available for migrant workers.

In 2022, the Government continued to allow work permit extensions through in-country registrations introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic to enable migrant workers to regularize their status in Thailand. These revised processes enabled businesses to restart and scale up their workforces, contributing to the country's increased Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 3.2 per cent in 2022. Simultaneously, these measures provided migrants with broader regularization opportunities, with over 2 million migrant workers benefiting from these regular pathways.

- **1,667 stakeholders** (including government and private sector companies) provided with the knowledge, skills and tools on management of migrant workers in line with ILO standards, the Global Compact for Migration, International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) principles. [ILO](#) [IOM](#)
- **Six reports** have been published and shared on ways to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration in Thailand, including on migrant workers' vulnerabilities, best practices from businesses and governments, and recommendations for business, governments and civil society.

[ILO](#) [IOM](#)



02

Migrant workers, their employers and the general public have increased awareness on the rights and contributions of migrant workers.

- **139,389 beneficiaries** reached with awareness-raising campaigns on rights and entitlements.

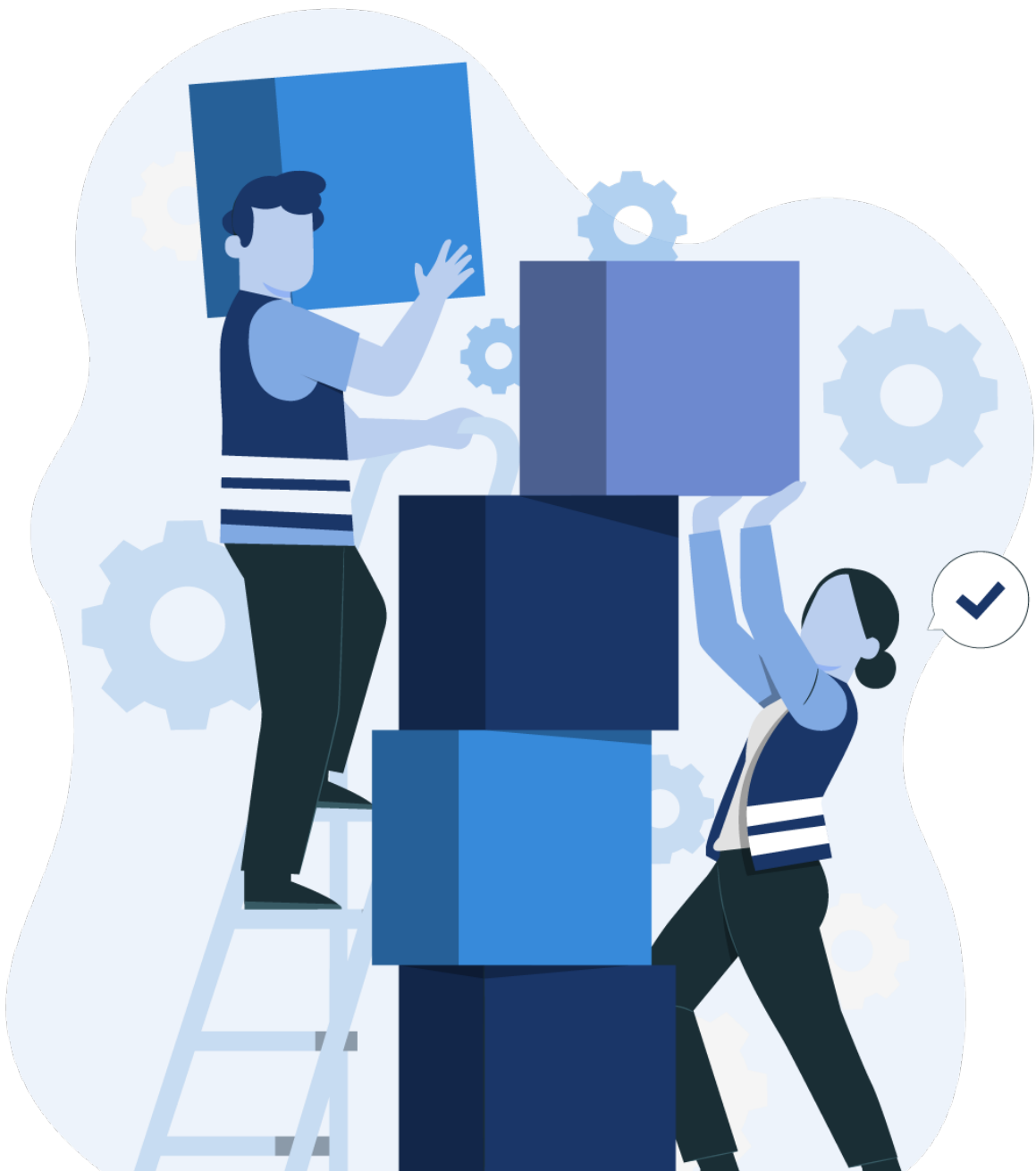
ILO

IOM

UN Women

Ways Forward

In 2022, the RTG participated in the 15th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML). In this forum, the RTG once again asserted its resolve to advance the implementation of the principles of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. Network members continued to work with the government, employers, workers and civil society to promote inclusive economic growth, productive employment and decent work for all.



UN Migration Network Sub-Working Groups

Sub-Working Group on the Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants in Thailand

In response to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on migrant communities, this working group was established to facilitate information sharing, facilitate joint advocacy and coordinate the life-saving service delivery to vulnerable migrants in Thailand. Members included UN agencies, NGOs and government stakeholders working in the field of migrant health. The working group was established in July 2021, and continued into 2022 when it became more focused on the progress of the national vaccination campaign and its coverage of migrants in Thailand. The sub-working group continued to meet on a regular basis to share information and alert participants of needs identified, supporting a continued, coordinated response. At the end of 2022, with the changing COVID-19 landscape and corresponding policy environment, the group decided to widen its scope and rename it as the 'Migrant Health Sub-Working Group' in 2023. It will continue its efforts to support coordination and information sharing between partners, building the evidence base to support advocacy and policy recommendations to ensure improved access to health services for migrants in Thailand.

Sub-Working Group on Alternatives to Detention

In 2022, the sub-working group on Alternatives to Detention (ATD) was established to enhance coordination and collaboration of the UN and its key partners on the implementation of Thailand's commitments for ATD for migrant children and their families. Furthermore, it aims to accelerate the progress towards developing and implementing ATD and rights-based sustainable solutions for migrants in situations of vulnerability. In line with the workplan of the UN Network on Migration in Thailand, and under the overall leadership of the UN Network of Migration Coordinator, the sub-working group is co-chaired by the International Detention Coalition (IDC) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with the support of IOM as a secretariat.



**Thailand United Nations
Network on Migration**

Working Better Together