



Photo: IOM 2016 / Muse Mohammed

OVERVIEW

For over five decades, Cambodian workers have migrated to Thailand in high numbers for employment, contributing vitally to Thailand's economy and playing a critical role in filling labour shortages in key economic sectors. The demand for these migrant workers is expected to grow given Thailand's booming economy and its low rates of fertility and unemployment. This is likely to influence migratory patterns in the short, medium and long term, and further emphasize the need for a comprehensive analysis of motivations and circumstances that determine mobility in both directions. There is also a need to link these movements to development and poverty reduction in both host and origin communities.

In this context, an assessment will be undertaken to shed light on the situation of Cambodian migrant workers in Thailand and to understand their challenges and aspirations. Critically, the study also aims to determine the extent to which Cambodia migrants in Thailand contribute, and could potentially contribute, to poverty reduction in Cambodia through remittance flows, skills circulation and potential return to Cambodia.

This assessment will follow on from the success of similar IOM reports, namely "Assessing Potential Changes in the Migration Patterns of Myanmar Migrants and their Impacts on Thailand" (2013) and "Assessing the Potential Changes in the Migration Pattern of Laotian Migrants and Their Impacts on Thailand and Lao People's Democratic Republic" (2016).

OBJECTIVE

The research study aims to contribute towards the Governments of Thailand and Cambodia developing transparent and rights-based migration policies and programmes which maximize the positive contributions of migration to the economies and societies of both countries.

COMPONENT 1: A holistic assessment is undertaken and a report drafted on the situation of Cambodian migrants, the challenges they face while working in Thailand, their contribution to poverty reduction in communities of origin, skills obtained while working in Thailand, and future needs and opportunities for further skills training.

COMPONENT 2: Report launched and bilateral meeting undertaken to enhance dialogue between Governments of Cambodia and Thailand, build capacity and develop evidence-based policies to capitalise upon the potential of Cambodian migrants.

KEY FACTS



Donor:

IOM Development Fund

Project Duration:

Jan 2018 – Jun 2019

Areas Covered:

Cambodia and Thailand

Management Site:

Bangkok, Thailand

Project Partner:

Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM), Chulalongkorn University

Project Beneficiaries:

Government of Cambodia; Government of Thailand; Academia; International Organizations; Civil Society

