

UNITED NATIONS THAILAND NETWORK ON MIGRATION



**United Nations
Network on Migration**

Working Better Together

In 2021, the UN Thailand Network on Migration continued to support the Royal Thai Government (RTG), as a Global Compact for Migration (GCM) champion country, working to ensure that migration is meaningfully mainstreamed into the Government's national policies as well as within institutional frameworks like the UN Country Team's Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). This year, the Network defined its first country workplan to provide clarity and strategic focus in the delivery of concrete and measurable results over a two-year period (2021 – 2023). The workplan was reviewed and endorsed by the Royal Thai Government in April 2021. This is the first report of the network against its newly formulated workplan.

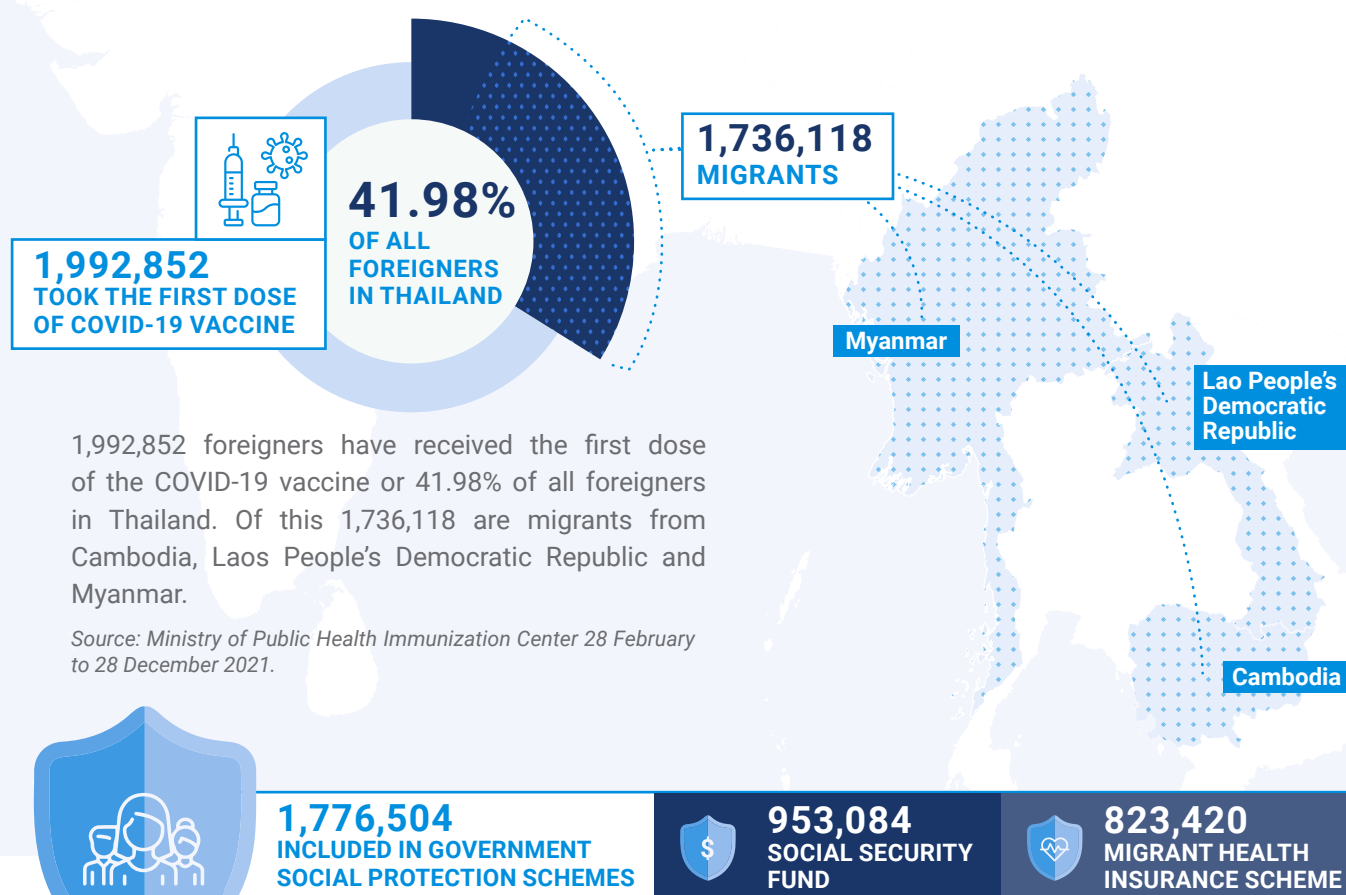
AT A GLANCE

Key Migration Statistics and Achievements of UN Migration Network Partners in 2021.

Priority 1

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

Partners agreed that ensuring the inclusion of migrants in overall response and recovery efforts was a key priority for the Network. The Network commends the Royal Thai Government for its migrant-inclusive management of the COVID-19 pandemic and in particular the flexibility it has demonstrated in applying immigration rules since 2020. The Network remains committed to continued partnership in 2022 to build on the current gains to ensure No One is Left Behind.



1,992,852 foreigners have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine or 41.98% of all foreigners in Thailand. Of this 1,736,118 are migrants from Cambodia, Laos People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

Source: Ministry of Public Health Immunization Center 28 February to 28 December 2021.

1,776,504 migrant workers included in government social protection schemes including the social security fund (953,084) and the migrant health insurance scheme (823,420).

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

01

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



- 146,832 migrants reached with COVID-19 Information Communication and Education (IEC) and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) interventions.
- 11 disease surveillance teams deployed in 11 migrant communities.
- 424 COVID-19 cases identified and referred.
- 10 service providers (Hospitals and Provincial Health Offices) capacitated to ensure the inclusion of migrants in the provision of health care and essential services.
- 21,883 migrant workers reached with IEC materials to increase the awareness and acceptance of extending social protection to migrants, including migrant domestic workers.
- 1,061 migrants provided with psychological first aid and child learning activities.

02

Migrants are integrated in their communities and workplaces and recognized as vital contributors to Thailand's economy.



- 10 skills partnerships established with the private sector, education institutes, employment services and other partners.
- 552 migrants accessing skills development trainings and skills certifications.

03

Migrants are included in government response plans for the COVID-19 pandemic.



- Migrants are included in the RTG's free vaccination programme regardless of status.
- Two regularization windows extended in 2021 to enable migrant worker to remain in Thailand, secure employment during the pandemic.
- 163 government officials provided with the knowledge, skills and tools to develop innovative policies that address key issues of students and labour migrants. These innovations are integrated in RTG plans to facilitate access to justice in overall response and recovery efforts.

Priority 2

Ensuring the protection of migrants in situations of vulnerability.

Partners work together to reduce protection risks of individuals in vulnerable situations, and in particular those who are exposed to abuse, exploitation, violence, neglect and deliberate deprivation. This is 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

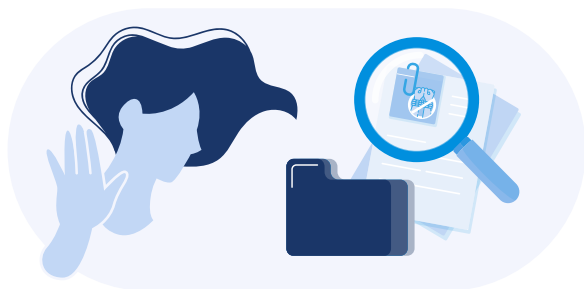
The rights of migrants in detention settings are respected and conditions in immigration detention facilities are improved through strengthened operationalization of the “Memorandum of Understanding on the Determination of Measures and Approaches Alternative to Detention of Children in Immigration Detention Centres”, 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.



- At least 7 alternatives to detention supported by Network partners.
- 76 social workers and law enforcement provided with the knowledge, skills and tools to be able to implement MOU-ATD effectively.
- Essential food and non-food items provided to 2,089 Myanmar Nationals and other vulnerable migrants in Immigration Detention Centers.

02

Victims of trafficking, 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.



- 251 victims of trafficking, 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.
- 134 judicial officials provided with the knowledge, skills and tools to be able to interpret the law related to cases of human trafficking.
- 119 social workers and psychologists provided with the knowledge, skills and tools to deliver psychosocial support to victims of trafficking and other migrants in situations of vulnerability.
- 146 migrant leaders provided with the knowledge, skills and tools to be able to assist their peers on cases of rights violation, harassment and violence against women, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 99,743 migrant workers reached with IEC on human rights and access to essential services.
- 6,797 migrant workers able to access legal assistance and essential services with the support of a Network partner.
- 573 unregistered stateless students (G) students assisted with filing and submission of documents to district offices to apply for legal status.*
- 49 children obtained Thai Nationality.*
- 422 children obtained 13 digit (legal status).*
- 154 mothers and children in Shelters for Children and Families, Welfare Protection Centers for Victims of Trafficking provided with essential food and non-food items.

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

03

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



- 66 Migrant Learning Centres (MLCs) continuing to provide education of migrant children and youth including through the use of multi-language applications and website LearnBig for online/home-based learning.
- 266,996 of views and active users of the LearnBig platform.

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 the synergies between labour migration and development, and to promote legal avenues of labour migration as an alternative to irregular migration. Towards this end, Network partners collaborate to achieve two main outcomes.

01

Ethical recruitment and decent employment options are available for migrant workers especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Between 2020 and 2021, about 1.5 million migrant workers benefited from updated policy on work extension and in-country registration allowing migrant workers to regularize their status during the pandemic.
- 1,951 stakeholders (including government officials and private sector companies) provided with the knowledge, skills and tools on management of migrant workers in line with ILO standards, GCM, IRIS principles.
- Seven evidence-based dialogues facilitated ethical recruitment, migration costs, procedures for maintaining regular migration status and changing employers.
- Eight reports on ways to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration in Thailand, including migrant workers vulnerabilities, best practices from businesses and governments, recommendations for business, governments and civil society have been published and shared.
- Partners provided safe migration information and support services in two Migrant Resource Centers (MRCs) for potential and returning migrant workers in the Kawthaung-Ranong corridor. Through these centers, migrants have access to a broad range of information and services, offering end-to-end support at all stages of the migration process.



02

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

- 137 stakeholders reached with awareness raising interventions.
- One publication shared with employers, government representatives and other stakeholders on the rights and contributions of migrant workers.
- 155,257 beneficiaries reached with awareness-raising campaigns on rights and entitlements.
- 661 women migrant workers reached with information on labour migration-related practice in Thailand during the time of COVID-19 pandemic and prevention of violence against women migrant workers.



Core Functions of the Network

As part of the two year workplan, the Network also defined three core functions:

1. **Facilitate evidence-based decision making through data:** Facilitating efficient information sharing between all migration stakeholders, identifying and addressing key migration-related data gaps, regular dissemination of information on global, regional, sub-regional and national GCM developments.
2. **Joint advocacy on migration issues:** Development of common messaging on migration issues to influence national, regional, subregional and global policies on migration. Ensuring that migration is an integral component of the UN strategic planning process—including the development and review of the (CCA) and the UNSDCF.
3. **Coordinated delivery of programming:** Maximizing resources and impact through a coordinated and targeted delivery of assistance (direct or technical), in line with the Network's defined thematic priorities.

In line with these functions and in response to the key migration issues that arose in 2021 the Network established two 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. The working group was established in July 2021 and coincided with the lockdown of construction camps and factories hosting migrant workers that restricted their movement and ability to access basic services. Network partners convened immediately to share information and plan response to ensure that essential assistance and information was provided to affected migrant workers who were unable to leave these sites.

The group continues to convene weekly and collaborate focusing its efforts to ensure migrant inclusion in the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Monthly situation reports are developed and shared by the working group and can be accessed on the [IOM Thailand Website](#). While this is a sub-working group of the Network, it is of interest to highlight that membership has been expanded to include non-UN stakeholders including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), World Vision Foundation Thailand, the Migrant Working Group and Thai Health Promotion Foundation as the main government representative within the group.

Sub-Working Group on cross-border flows from Myanmar

In response to the ongoing crisis in Myanmar and its impact on Myanmar migrants in Thailand and continued cross-border movements between Myanmar and Thailand, the UN Migration Network established a sub-working group in May 2021 to monitor the situation and ensure that the appropriate coordination platforms and strategies were in place to facilitate targeted and effective response as needed. IOM continues to gather and share information on cross-border mobility trends to monitor the risk of potential

large-scale movements and inform preparedness and response efforts of sub-network members. The Sub-Working Group also developed and disseminated joint advocacy messages to ensure that the rights of migrants are respected and mainstreamed in overall government response to the ongoing situation. Activities to support Myanmar migrants in Thailand, new arrivals with protection needs and those already in Thailand but at risk of losing their status, have been integrated into the Network's workplan.



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