



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MIGRANTS IN THAILAND SITUATION REPORT NOVEMBER 2021



Migrants returning to Cambodia showing their vaccine certificates (IOM Cambodia, 2021)

Background

South-East Asia is comprised of source, transit and destination countries and is characterized by migration inflows and outflows. Due to its unparalleled economic growth in the last decade, Thailand is a lucrative destination for labour migrants, mainly from South-East Asia. According to the Thailand Migration Report in 2019, the number of migrants in Thailand reached 4.9 million. The majority of the migrant population are from bordering countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures put in place across Thailand, migrant communities have faced an array of challenges. For many, it has resulted in loss of employment, as well as limited access to services and facilities.

Highlights

- Since the CCSA acknowledged in October that the vaccination rate amongst migrant communities needed to increase, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) announced on 14 November that Thailand's free vaccination programme was being extended to include documented and undocumented migrants.
- On 29 November the MOPH reported that 3,113,560 COVID-19 vaccines had been administered to foreign nationals in Thailand to date (919,264 in November).
- Between 2-26 November, 445,014 doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered to migrants from Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar (CLM), bringing the cumulative total to 1,539,631 (39% of the total estimated 3.9M CLM population in Thailand).
- On 24 November the Ministry of Labour (MOL) announced the resumption of MOU worker recruitment starting from 1 December 2021 with a target of 100,000 migrant workers for the first quarter of 2022. Employers who can cover the costs of quarantine facilities can initiate requests.
- The CCSA General Meeting on 26 November chaired by the Prime Minister announced an extension to the existing Emergency Decree for a further two months from 1 December 2021 to 31 January 2022.

THAILAND

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTED MIGRANT WORKERS (as of November 2021)

Myanmar



1,462,554

Cambodian



455,340

Lao



213,415

Source: Foreign workers Administration Office of the Department of Employment.

COVID-19 CASES IN THAILAND

At the end of November, Thailand reported a cumulative total of 2,115,872 positive cases since the start of the pandemic, with 20,771 deaths. 203,848 cases were reported during November, with 1,566 deaths.

On 29 November, the average number of cases reported per day had decreased by a further 11 per cent compared to the week prior (from 6,520 to 5,798), as did the average number of deaths (47 compared to 53 a week before). The average number of severe COVID-19 cases reported per day was also declining steadily. Similarly, the average number of ventilated COVID-19 cases reported per day during the last week of November was 377, compared to 417 the week prior and 438 the week before that.

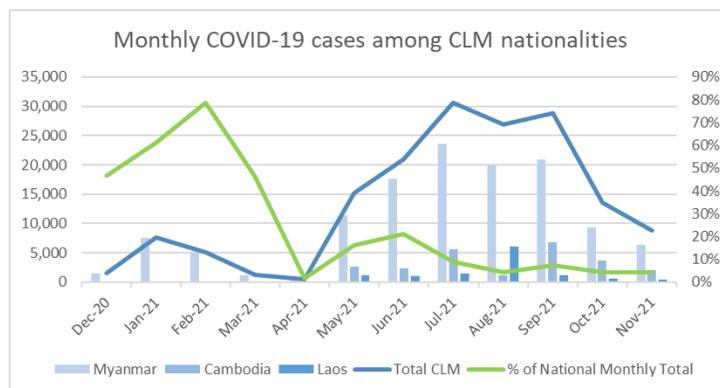
Daily reported case numbers continue to come down in Southern Thailand, although per capita infection rates are still higher than most other parts of the country:

- Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Ratchaburi and Satun were the top 5 provinces showing the highest cases per million during the last week of November
- All these provinces, apart from Songkhla, showed a second dose vaccination coverage lower than the national average of 53.8 per cent. In Songkhla it was 54.8 per cent.

Despite the encouraging trends in national-level data, COVID-19 continues to be widespread across Thailand, indicating ongoing community transmission.

COVID-19 CASES AMONG MIGRANTS

In November, 8,861 migrants from Myanmar (72%), Cambodia (23%) and Laos (4%) tested positive for COVID-19. Positive cases amongst Cambodian, Lao and Myanmar (CLM) migrants comprised 4 per cent of monthly cases reported nationwide (203,848). This data is consistent with the downward trend in positive cases.



COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

By 29 November 2021, a total of 91,658,390 doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered across 77 provinces in Thailand (+15,948,003 in November).

	Doses	Percentage of population
First dose	42,202,759	58.59 %
Second dose	30,768,857	42.71 %
Third dose	2,419,380	3.36 %

Table 1: National COVID-19 vaccination coverage

As of 29 November 2021, MOPH reported that 3,113,560 COVID-19 vaccine doses had been administered to non-Thai populations, representing 36.9 per cent of the total non-Thai population residing in Thailand. The top 3 nationalities who have received first doses are Myanmar, Cambodian and Lao nationals, reaching 1,539,631 doses (+445,041 in November):

	Myanmar	Cambodian	Lao
Total	1,064,638	317,453	157,540
Month	(+309,149)	(+94,252)	(+41,613)
	39 % of the 3.9M CLM population in Thailand		

Table 2: COVID-19 vaccination coverage among CLM populations

IOM can report that all detainees in Songkhla IDC have received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine on 25 November, an effort supported by the Public Health Office in the province.

Overall COVID-19 vaccination rates in Thailand have reached a level that can be expected to significantly reduce rates of severe illness and deaths. However, vaccination coverage is still low in

some provinces and in some important risk groups. For example, second dose vaccination rates in individuals with comorbid medical conditions is 65 per cent and those above 60 years is 61 per cent. However, coverage for pregnant women is only 14 per cent. The vaccination rate in adolescents 12-17 years of age is 67 per cent for the first dose and 56 per cent for both doses.

Despite progress in the national vaccination campaign, a wide variation in second dose vaccination coverage across provinces continues, ranging from 32 per cent to 100 per cent.

- **Top 10 Provinces** (60%-100% coverage) – Bangkok, Phuket, Chon Buri, Samut Sakhon, Pathum Thani, Samut Prakan, Phang Nga, Chachoengsao, Ranong, and Krabi
- **Bottom 10 Provinces** (32%-37%) – Bueng Kan, Nong Bua Lam Phu, Mae Hong Son, Kalasin, Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon, Maha Sarakham, Sisaket, Roi Et, Rasothon

MOPH announced a Vaccination Week between 29 November and 5 December in its effort to reach 100 million doses by the beginning of December. IOM and members of the UN Network on Migration shared this information with partners across the country, particularly in Mae Sot, Chiang Mai, Ranong and Songkhla in order to spread the word amongst migrant communities.



IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTRES (IDCs) AND ORGANIZATIONAL QUARANTINES (OQs)

For prevention and early detection of COVID-19 in IDCs, IOM plans to provide 130 Antigen test kits to Kanchanaburi IDC and 85 test kits to Tak IDC.



POLICY UPDATE

Policy updates: National control measures

Since Thailand opened its borders on 1 November to international, fully vaccinated travelers arriving by air from low-risk countries, the country has not experienced a notable increase in daily positive cases. Between 1-29 November only 171 out of the 133,061 arrivals tested positive for COVID-19 (0.13 per cent).

The CCSA General Meeting on 26 November chaired by the Prime Minister decided to extend the existing Emergency Decree for another 2 months from 1 December 2021 until 31 January 2022.

The CCSA further adjusted the disease control zoning categories from 1 December 2021, which announced that no provinces were under maximum and strict control/ dark red zones. 23 provinces were declared under 'maximum controlled area' (red), 23 under 'controlled area' (orange), 24 under 'high surveillance area' (yellow) and 7 provinces under 'Pilot Tourism/ Sandbox area' (Bangkok, Krabi, Kanchanaburi, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Phang Nga, Phuket alongside 19 other provinces operating in only some areas).

As a result of a new variant of concern, B.1.1.529 "Omicron", first detected in Southern Africa on 24 November, temporary additional measures and restrictions were put in place on 1 December for travelers from 8 south African nations (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe).

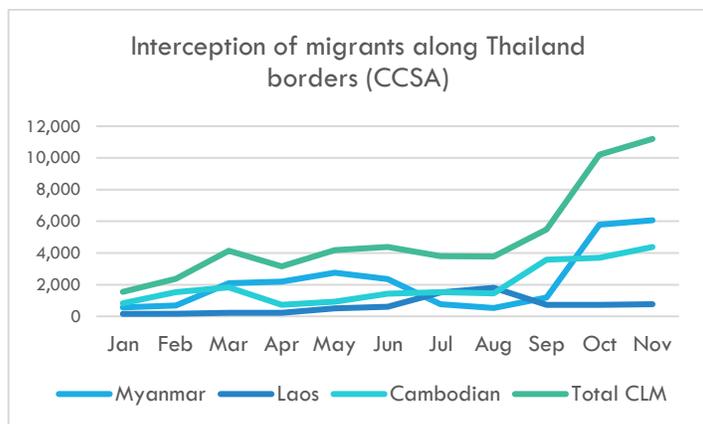
Policy updates: Migrant workers

On 24 November 2021, the Ministry of Labour (MOL) announced the resumption of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worker recruitment starting from 1 December 2021, in an effort to ease labour shortages in the country. Employers who can cover the costs of the quarantine facility can start their applications immediately. The total estimated cost for the process, including medical checks, work permit and visa, is between THB 11,490 – 22,040 per worker. For workers who have received only one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, MOL will coordinate with the Provincial Public Health Office to provide the second vaccine by the final day of quarantine. The process for the recruitment of MoU workers is summarized as follows:

1. The employer submits a request for hiring with related documents to the employment office in the area where the business is operating.
2. The Department of Employment (DOE) sends the request to the Embassy of the candidate's country of origin in Thailand.
3. The country of origin Embassy will process recruitment, selection, and contract, then prepare a list of migrant workers ("Name List") to send to the Department of Employment (DOE). The DOE then sends this to the employer(s).
4. Employers who have received the Name List will then apply for a work permit on behalf of the workers at the Department of Bangkok or at the Provincial Office depending on workplace registration.
5. DOE sends a letter to the Thai Embassy in the country of origin to issue visas (Non-Immigrant L-A) for workers and send a letter notifying the Immigration Bureau in Thailand to allow workers to enter the country according to the number of locations capacity for quarantine.
6. The workers must show a letter confirming permission to work, medical certificate proving that they are not infected with COVID-19 by RT-PCR and ATK (up to 72 hours prior to departure), proof of vaccination against COVID-19 [vaccination certificate] or a certificate showing a history of having been infected in the past 3 months issue by health authority in country of origin.
7. Workers must undergo health checks for 6 prohibited diseases. If found to have a prohibited disease, they will be sent back to their country of origin.
8. Workers receive post-arrival orientation via video conference at the workplace after quarantine. After receiving orientation, workers can obtain work permits and permission to work will start from the day the worker has been granted a visa to enter the country.

Updates on border control measures

In November, 11,199 CLM nationals were intercepted along the Thai border, a slight increase from the interceptions that occurred in October (10,200). The majority were from Myanmar (54 per cent), with the second highest number from Cambodia (39 per cent).



THAILAND - CAMBODIA BORDER

On 25 November, the Sa Kaeo Governor together with counterparts in Cambodia held a meeting to discuss border reopening plans between Thailand and Cambodia. It focused on four key areas that will be proposed to the CCSA:

- Bringing in Cambodian migrant workers to Thailand to work in the agriculture sector in January 2022.
- Day trade at Rong Kluea Market. Border crossings must follow relevant public health measures.
- Reopening of border checkpoints: Two official PoEs at Ban Khlong Luek and Ban Khao Din and two temporary PoEs.
- The proposed plan for reopening would allow only three groups of migrants to be considered to enter the country (agriculture workers, day traders, and migrants using pull carts). They have to receive full doses of vaccination and go through screening at the checkpoint.

THAILAND - MYANMAR BORDER

Announced on 20 November 2021, The Prime Minister and Defence Minister stressed the need for all army units, Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC), and police, especially patrol units at land and sea border, to increase border surveillance in order to prevent irregular migration which can exacerbate the spread of COVID-19. Since the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions in the country, drug and illegal goods smuggling have increased. Furthermore, the meeting also stressed the preparation in the response to armed groups along the Thailand-Myanmar border that has increased in severity. All

border provinces should consider humanitarian aid according to international regulations, while also taking into account public health measures.

Kanchanaburi

Due to the recent increase in interceptions of irregular migrants along the border, the Commander of a special task force unit in Kanchanaburi reported that once migrants are intercepted, public health officials will screen them for COVID-19. If tested positive, they will be transported to a field hospital. If COVID-19 is not detected, migrants will be interrogated by police. Then, they will be sent to an OQ for 14 days before being returned to Myanmar. After 14 days, they will be screened for COVID-19 again before being sent back. The four main PoEs in the following areas are being used in this strategy: Mae Sot, Chiang Rai, Ranong and Three Pagoda Pass in Kanchanaburi. Officials will have to coordinate with authorities on Myanmar side with regards to the quota of migrants they can accommodate each day.

Tak

The Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Labour held a meeting for officials in Tak Province following the CCSA's decision to resume MOU recruitment of migrant workers. Discussions aimed to ensure that sufficient quarantine facilities were available to facilitate the return of migrant workers. At present there are three State-run facilities: the Border Patrol Police (BPP) Company 344 (OQ) in Tha Song Yang District, BPP Company 345 in Mae Ramat District, and BPP Company 346 in Mae Sot. Each OQ can accommodate 50 persons. A field quarantine facility (tent) can accommodate 250 persons. There are also five other private facilities that can accommodate approximately 1,700 persons:

1. Huen Kam Fah Resort, Mae Sot: 120 persons
2. Factory facility (Alpha Derm), Mae Sot: 612 persons
3. Factory facility (Bangkok Rubber), Mae Sot: 300
4. Apartment facility, Mae Sot: 200 persons
5. Mae Sot Wattana Village Hotel: 480 persons

THAILAND - LAO BORDER

Nong Khai

On 26 November, CCSA agreed in principle on the decision to open the border at Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge I between Nong Khai and Vientiane. This is considered to be the first PoE to pilot land border crossing that will allow travelers to enter via a land border without quarantine starting on 24 December. However, this is only the decision on the Thai side. The plan will be proposed to authorities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

CAMBODIA

Total returning migrants during November 2021

 **12,531**

All migrants are tested at Points of Entry (POE) by the Rapid Response Team from the Provincial Health Department. In November, two percent of the total returning migrants tested positive for COVID-19. Sixty-one per cent of migrants who tested positive were males; 39 per cent females, and 7 per cent children.

Of the 18 PoEs, Ou Beichaon (45%) in Banteay Meanchey province had the highest number of COVID-19 cases, followed by Poi Pet (18%) in Banteay Meanchey province and Prom (13%) in Pailin province.

POLICY UPDATE

On 5 December, the Royal Government of Cambodia introduced standard operating procedures (SOPs) for management of passenger arrivals at Cambodia's international airports in line with the living in the new normal within the context of COVID-19.

It also decided to lift the ban on travelers or those who transit via or with history of travel to 10 African countries (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Angola, and Zambia) in the past three weeks from entering Cambodia. It replaced it with the implementation of additional procedures to parallel standard operating procedures for management of passenger arrivals at Cambodia's international airports for travelers or those with transit via the 10 countries or history of travel to the countries or other countries considered "countries of concern" in the past two weeks before entering Cambodia.

COVID-19 CASES IN CAMBODIA

At the end of November 2021, the cumulative total of confirmed COVID-19 cases was reported at 120,272 (+1,659), and 2,963 related deaths (+169).

OTHER UPDATES FROM CAMBODIA

IOM continues to work collaboratively with Department of Hospital Service (DHS) of the Cambodian Ministry of Health to facilitate the discussion for the development of the National Strategic Plan for Migrants' Health. In November, a consultative meeting with the Technical Working Group members and provincial health department of the border provinces was attended by over twenty participants in Kampong Chhnang. Two chapters of the Migrant Health Policy were discussed and revised following inputs from the Ministry of Health representatives.

COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

The Cambodian Ministry of Health reported the following updates with regards to their COVID-19 vaccination roll out:

- 43, 646 (100%) of health care workers were vaccinated with the first dose and second dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- 1,380,781 (100.2%) of elderly aged ≥ 60 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 1,354,748 (98.3%) with a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- 10,106,727 (101,1%) of people aged ≥ 18 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 9,746,136 (97.5%) with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- The proportion of females receiving the first dose is 50.5% and the second dose is 50.3% among total doses vaccinated.

The vaccination programme is further making progress with administering booster vaccines:

- 2,479,662 (24.8%) people aged ≥ 18 years old included health care workers, the frontline of Government officials, people aged 60 years old and older, and immunocompromised persons, were vaccinated with a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- The proportion of females receiving the booster dose is 47.7% among total doses vaccinated.

IOM, with the support from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), assisted Banteay Meanchey and Battambang Provincial Health Departments in accelerating the COVID-19 vaccination efforts for returning migrants from Thailand. The overall objective is to ensure that returning migrant workers can access to the COVID-19 vaccine and receive at least the first dose before returning to their home communities. Migrants will also be provided with COVID-19 information to minimize vaccine hesitancy and data on vaccination progress will be collected and reported in a timely manner to inform further interventions.

Since August, the number of migrants vaccinated in three provinces ((Banteay Meanchey, Battambang and Oddor Meanchey) monitored by IOM is as follows:

Type of vaccine	First dose	Second dose
Johnson & Johnson	1,045	0
Sinovac and Sinopharm	2,936	113
Astra Zeneca	0	7
TOTAL	3,981	120

Table 3: COVID-19 vaccination in three provinces in Cambodia

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - THAILAND BORDER

Between October and November the rate of Lao migrants returning from overseas and neighbouring countries, especially from Thailand, has reduced significantly. At the main border crossing in Vientiane, there was an average of 5-15 people per working day.

The Division of Points of Entry Management, Immigration Department, did not report any Lao migrants crossing the border in November, since this remains limited to cases for health care-related travel, studying abroad, or business dealings. These persons would have been approved by the National Taskforce for COVID-19 and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).



POLICY UPDATE

Policy updates: National control measures

As it prepares for re-opening its borders, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has added a Communicable Disease Control Unit at its Points of Entry. It is currently monitoring the mandatory practices in place, such as the check list of health certificates, and validity of RT-PCR test result documents. With the news of the new Omicron variant, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has prohibited arrivals from a number of countries where the variant has been recorded. Other COVID-19 control measures that remain in place include:

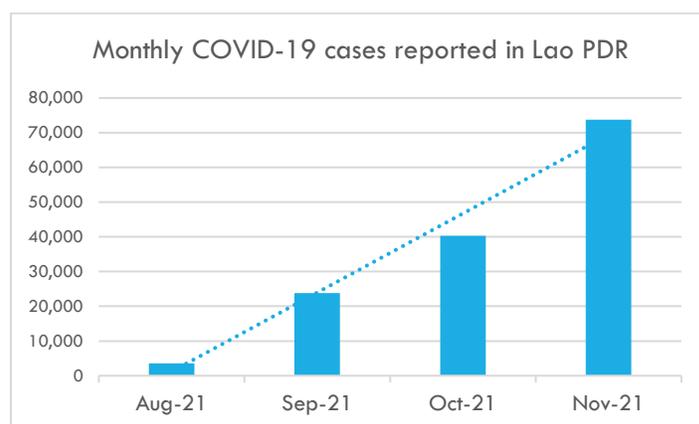
- Continued closure of all international, customary, and local borders; continued suspension of entering visas unless approved by the Taskforce.
- Domestic travel is allowed without pre-approval although quarantine is required, and some provinces require negative COVID-19 tests to be presented upon arrival. Public transport reopened with strict preventive measures.
- A number of closures are in force in all forms of entertainment venues, indoor and outdoor sports complexes. Closure of industrial factories and enterprises in areas with high local transmission, with exceptions granted only by the Taskforce.
- The Ministry of Health rolled out its plan to implement home-based care for positive COVID-19 patients that meet specified criteria (e.g. low-risk-risk factors based on their health status, who are asymptomatic or have only mild symptoms). More than 300 workers are being mobilised to work with local authorities in 7 districts in Vientiane Capital to implement home-based care.

On 3 December 2021, Lao PDR officially launched the Laos-China Bullet Train between Kunming in China and Vientiane Capital. Boten Point of Entry was opened following strict COVID-19 preventive measures, and all in-bound and outbound traffic at

main terminals within the country and at international borders have been closely supervised by the National Taskforce to ensure compliance with strict COVID-19 preventive measures.

COVID-19 CASES IN LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Lao People's Democratic Republic continues to experience increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases. The Ministry of Health (MOH) reported a total of 33,467 new cases in November, bringing the cumulative total to 79,738 since the start of the pandemic. This presented another significant increase (86 per cent) from the previous month. The total number of deaths has reached 170, of which 105 were reported in October alone.



Vientiane accounts for 37 per cent of the country's total infection rate, followed by Savannaket and Luang Prabang. The number of imported cases has significantly decreased since the 2,000 reported in September, with 166 cases reported in November (4 per cent of the total cases this month).



Figure 2: IOM Laos continues to support the national vaccination campaign across the Lao People's Democratic Republic

QUARANTINE CENTRES (QCs)

With the significant reduction in numbers of migrants returning to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, many temporary quarantines centers have been closed, especially where they use the schools, since the Ministry of Education is aiming to reopen schools during the first quarter of 2022.

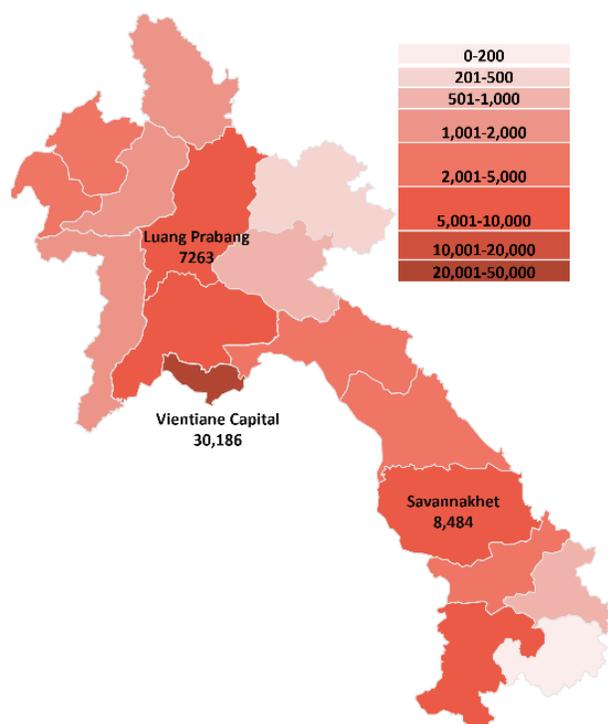


Figure 1: Distribution of COVID-19 cases in November in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (source: Centre of Information and Education for Health)

COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

During November, COVID-19 vaccination coverage continued to increase, with 53 percent of the population receiving a first dose, and 43 per cent a second dose.

	Monthly total	Cumulative total
First dose	579,122	3,891,037 (53%)
Second dose	320,189	3,164,005 (43%)

Table 4: COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (MOH)

While the Lao MOH develops its plan for administering booster doses, it is currently only offering these to frontline health workers who are considered at risk. This policy began in Vientiane Capital in November and will later expand to other provinces. The

National Taskforce also announced its plan to vaccinate adolescents from the age of 12.

MYANMAR

POLICY UPDATE

On 20 November the Ministry of Health (MOH) released its Standard Operating Procedures in Myanmar language for persons arriving in the country by air. These include instructions for testing and quarantine procedures for persons who are fully vaccinated, and for those who are not. The traveler can select private and public quarantine centres as they prefer.

Later on 30 November 2021, MOH released an announcement of precautionary measures for travelers from the Republic of Botswana and the Republic of South Africa, who will be subjected to a 14-day facility quarantine/ hotel quarantine on arrival and will be tested for COVID-19 by RT-PCR on Day 1, Day 3, and Day 11 regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

COVID-19 CASES IN MYANMAR

At the end of November, WHO in Myanmar had reported a cumulative total of 522,402 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 19,104 related deaths.

	Monthly total	Cumulative total
Cases	22,329	522,402
Deaths	405	19,104
	The test positivity rate demonstrated the decreasing trend from 4.1 to 2.1 during November.	

Table 5: COVID-19 cases and related deaths in Myanmar

COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

Since January 2021 16,849,172 people have received a COVID-19 vaccine. The Myanmar MOH has reported that 21.6 per cent of the total population are fully vaccinated. Data for coverage among vulnerable groups is currently not available.

	Cumulative total
First dose	4,990,574
Second dose	11,858,598

Table 6: COVID-19 vaccination coverage Myanmar

ACTIVITY UPDATES FROM UN NETWORK ON MIGRATION MEMBERS



IOM

IOM Thailand

On 16 November 2021, IOM Lao PDR and IOM Thailand organized its first cross-border coordination meeting at the Lao PDR – Thailand Friendship Bridge I. Respective government officials were present, including officials from Nong Khai in Thailand, and frontline officials from the Friendship Bridge I, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Public Security attended online from Lao PDR.



Figure 3: Cross-border Coordination meeting in Nong Khai

On 24-26 Nov 2021, IOM Thailand's IBM Unit conducted a training in collaboration with the Thai Immigration Commissioner, ICE Team based in Bangkok, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Transportation and Public Works (Civil Aviation Department). The training "Enhancing Lao PDR Immigration Official Capacity in Countering Passport and Identity Fraud" increased the level of knowledge and capacity of Lao frontline officials to detect and prevent the use of counterfeit travel documents.

IOM Laos

All international Points of Entry remain open for returning Lao migrants. Those returning from ASEAN countries that do not share a border with country have coordinated through Lao Embassies in their location. For example, in November, IOM continued to support returning Lao sea-workers in Malaysia through the Bali Process, in collaboration with the Lao Embassy to Malaysia, IOM Malaysia, Malaysian Immigration, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR.

IOM Myanmar

In November, IOM supported the rollout of the national COVID-19 vaccination programme in Rakhine State, assisting the Township Health Department's vaccine team with transportation and logistics support. Here, IOM continues to strengthen knowledge and awareness of key messages regarding transmission and preventative measures against COVID-19. To date, risk communication and community engagement activities of IOM have reached total of 33,712 people from both Rakhine and Muslim communities.

IOM Myanmar continues to support COVID-19 patients in IDP camps in Kachin state where 30 nutrition kits were distributed in November.

IOM Cambodia

In November, a joint project team from IOM Cambodia and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) visited some of the most active Points of Entry and Quarantine Centres in Banteay Meanchey, Oddor Meanchey and Battambang.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the provincial authorities, migrants are able now to quarantine in purpose-built quarantine centres, and schools are no longer used to host quarantined arrivals. IOM and UNFPA have been supporting the returning migrants with food provision and hygiene supplies upon their arrival (2,500 dried food packages and hygiene kits were distributed to returning migrants in Oddor Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey and Battambang at POEs and in quarantine centres in November).

IOM continues to collaborate with the provincial authorities and the provincial health departments to ensure all migrants have access to COVID-19 prevention measures to minimize the risk of wider community outbreak. With 300-400 migrants arriving at Points of Entry on a daily basis, future efforts should also address the need to provide arrivals with current and comprehensive information on current COVID-19 advice, quarantine requirements and how to access basic health and social services upon return in home communities.

UN WOMEN

In Mae Sot, in collaboration with Rights Beyond Border (RBB) and Mae Sot hospital, 215 women migrants were supported by outreach activities of migrant health volunteers to improve access to quality health services and information on COVID-19 treatment and prevention.

Under UN Women's Safe and Fair Programme, the psychosocial service hotline (available in Thai/Burmese languages) was provided by RBB in partnership with Mae Sot Hospital. 25 women migrant workers received psychosocial counselling and 3 of them were referred to GBV services.

UNICEF

UNICEF continues its work with partners including World Vision Thailand, Help Without Frontiers and One Sky, to carry out several lifesaving interventions for vulnerable migrant communities.

3,207 people (2,902 adults and 305 children) from vulnerable migrant populations living on construction sites and in markets in Bangkok and Pathum Thani province received COVID-19 prevention information through Community Engagement and Risk Communication (RCCE) activities.

Nearly 1,400 people benefited from Health Case Management support including screening, testing, tracking, first aid consultations, referral, and follow up.

470 children received UNICEF Magic Bags containing books, toys and learning materials to help young children from vulnerable groups to develop and learn.

Over 2,000 migrant children and families affected by lockdown, at home or in community isolation facilities, in the western border provinces including Tak and Kanchanaburi, will be reached with essential non-food items and hygiene supplies.

Elsewhere, UNICEF and partners continue to distribute hygiene supplies to vulnerable communities to curb the increase in COVID-19 cases in high-risk provinces including Tak, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat.



Figure 4: UNICEF together with World Vision conducting outreach activities for migrant workers at a construction camp in Bangkok