IOM UN MIGRATION

Thailand is a migration hub in Southeast Asia and simultaneously a country of origin, transit and destination for large numbers of migrants. Many low-skilled workers from neighboring countries enter Thailand irregularly, often through the help of smugglers and brokers, aiming to find work and better lives.

Thailand has also been used as an important transit point for smuggled migrants transiting through Thailand. Some smuggled migrants enter Thailand legally on tourist visas before beginning their journey onwards while many others enter irregularly by boat or land from neighboring countries. The smuggling of migrants from Thailand occurs primarily via air transport, land or long boat journeys, and is often facilitated by the use of fraudulent documents.

The **"Strengthening the Border Management and Intelligence Capacity of Thai Government Officials"** project is designed to support efforts by the Thai authorities and their regional counterparts to tackle Human Smuggling and Trafficking. Funded by the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP) of the Government of Canada , the project has been ongoing since January 2012 and is currently in its fourth phase (April 2019-March 2022).

KEY FACTS

Canada

Donor: Government of Canada

Project Duration: January 2012 - March 2022

Areas Covered: Thailand

Project Beneficiaries:
Thai Immigration Bureau, Royal Police Cadet Academy, Tourist Police, Office of Attorney General, Immigration and Law Enforcement Officers from Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

89 immigration police, inquiry police, and prosecutors trained on strengthening inter-agency case management of smuggling/trafficking cases

347 officials from five countries trained on cross border cooperation in investigations of transnational crime including smuggling/trafficking cases

450 immigration and tourist police trained on travel document examination procedures

91 police cadet instructors trained in human smuggling and trafficking for further dissemination to police cadets

Network of 115 trainers and resource persons on document examination created through advanced training series

Document examination laboratories established at 8 immigration checkpoints, including Suvarnabhumi and Don Muang Airports, and Aranyaprated Checkpoint, etc.

OVERVIEW OF PHASE IV

Phase IV will see more supervisory and operational police officials being trained on combatting trafficking and smuggling networks through travel document examination and raise awareness of the challenges of such crimes; strengthening inter-agency cooperation; academic research to support the protection of vulnerable persons who are likely to be victims of smuggling and trafficking.

Outcome 1: Thai law enforcement and immigration agencies are equipped with sustainable travel document examination and verification tools and procedures to effectively intercept human smuggling cases on a consistent and timely basis.

- Distribution of the Passport Examination Procedures Manual and handheld travel document examination equipment to frontline officers.

- Handover one workstation of Verifier TD&B to Thai Immigration Training Center for training purpose among Royal Thai Police.

- Trainings on passport examination, use of equipment and interview techniques (interviewing passengers at border checkpoints or airports) for trainers and participants and data management and analysis for investigation officers.

Outcome 2: Thai law enforcement agencies better promote and share knowledge, expertise and capacity on border management techniques.

- Production of additional eLearning modules (https://elearning.rpca.ac.th) related combatting smuggling of migrants in maritime context for the Marine Police Division and expand to use to other police agencies.

- Trainings on combatting smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons as well as the identification of smuggling networks and post-interception to immigration, tourist and marine police.

Outcome 3: Thai law enforcement officers have enhanced capacity for inter-agency collaboration to disrupt movements of irregular migrants and ensure holistic protection of vulnerable migrants.

- Inter-agency case management workshops on smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and transnational organized crime.

- Trainings on specialized investigation techniques to combat transnational organized and related crimes for investigation officers from multiple police agencies.

Outcome 4: Thai law enforcement officers address capacity gaps in handling vulnerable cases of irregular female migrants.

- Research on gender dimension of migrants vulnerabilities, gaps and good practices to be carried out.

Immigration officers at Aranyapratet check-point learning how to use of Verifier TD&B to detect passport fraud and imposters. *Photo: IOM 2017*

IOM Thailand distributed Passport Examination Procedure Manual (PEPM) 2nd Edition to Immigration Division 2. *Photo: IOM 2019*

Immigration police, investigators and prosecutors brainstorming during a tabletop exercise on investigating transnational crimes. *Photo: IOM 2017*

An expert trainer demonstrated interview techniques for trafficked persons at a Thailand-Myanmar Cross-Border Training. *Photo: IOM 2016*