

# PROMISE

POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SAFE MIGRATION, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCED JOB PLACEMENT IN CAMBODIA, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, MYANMAR AND THAILAND

## PROGRAMME INFORMATION SHEET

### OVERVIEW

Migrating for decent work and increased income is an important strategy to support livelihoods and reduce poverty for many individuals and families across South-East Asia. Thailand is a key country of destination for an estimated 3.9 million migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar (CLM), and Viet Nam. Well managed migration benefits individuals, families, businesses and economies as a whole, but gaps in policies and practices mean it can also exacerbate pre-existing inequalities resulting from unethical recruitment, exploitation, abuse, and debt. Women migrant workers face additional challenges in accessing safe and regular migration pathways, receive lower wages, and are often excluded from social protection schemes.

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the vulnerability of migrant workers to economic shock and social exclusion has been significantly exacerbated. As of July 2020, IOM estimated 310,000 migrant workers from CLM had returned to their countries of origin, the vast majority from Thailand, facing lost livelihoods and insufficient income. Migrant workers are essential to economic resilience and recovery across the region, and can act as key drivers for building back better if provided with tailored support and opportunities.

The **Poverty Reduction through Safe Migration, Skills Development and Enhanced Job Placement in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand (PROMISE) Programme**, is led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with UN Women, and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. PROMISE aims to improve employment opportunities and conditions for women and men migrants in Thailand from Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar through enhanced skills and protection, leading to poverty reduction. It achieves this through the following three outcome areas:

#### RESPONSIVE:



Migrant workers, especially women, are able to utilize decent employment and safe migration schemes through enhanced collaboration between potential employers, relevant sector associations and skills development partner.

#### INCLUSIVE:



Migrant workers, especially women, enjoy greater access to skills development in target sectors, leading to improved employability abroad and at home.

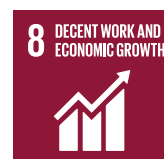
#### PROTECTIVE:



Migrant workers, especially women, receive greater protection through strengthened policy frameworks, enhanced assistance services and safe migration information at all stages of the migration cycle.

### KEY FACTS

**Donor:** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)  
**Duration:** September 2017 – August 2021  
**Areas Covered:** Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, and Thailand (CLMT)  
**Management Site:** Thailand  
**Project Beneficiaries:** Aspiring, existing and return migrants in CLMT  
**Project Stakeholders:** Private sector, skills providers, recruitment agencies, employers' organizations, governments, migrant workers, civil society organizations (CSOs), and academia.



## KEY RESULTS: SEPTEMBER 2017 – AUGUST 2020

### PROMOTED MIGRANT PROTECTION, INCLUDING RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

**168,318**

migrant workers have received direct assistance,

including pre-departure and post-arrival orientation, and safe migration information.



### EMPOWERED MIGRANT WORKERS THROUGH INFORMATION



มิตรไทย



[MitrThai.com](https://mitrthai.com), Thailand's first online migrant information hub has been launched to facilitate access of CLM migrant workers to translated and up-to-date information and referrals in relation to migrating, working and living in Thailand, in order to enhance their migration experiences to Thailand through safe migration, skills development and decent employment.

### PROMOTED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

**25,927**

migrant workers across CLMT have increased access to skills development and employment

through technical and soft skills training, jobs referrals, skills certification, and recognition of prior learning.



### SUPPORTED COVID-19 RESPONSE



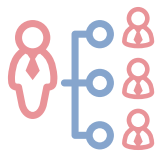
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PROMISE convened a coalition of stakeholders to support the development of a set of policy recommendations on migrant recruitment and employment for the Royal Thai Government.
- [Tips for Migrant Workers whose Job is Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), [Tips for Employers of Domestic Workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), as well as [an animated video for migrant workers on COVID-19](#) and related guidance produced in CLMT languages.
- 268 private sector stakeholders, and 123 stakeholders from civil society, government and international organizations received [20 Flash Updates](#) that provide information for migrant workers and their employers on government decisions relevant to migrant workers in CLMT during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UN Women developed [Guidance Note for Action: Addressing the emerging impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant women in Asia and the Pacific for a gender-responsive recovery](#) and produced a series of videos to raise awareness about the COVID-19 impacts on women migrant workers in Thailand.

### INCREASED PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

**490** private sector stakeholders

have been engaged through PROMISE to promote decent work, skills development and ethical recruitment for migrant workers in CLMT.

Thailand's first **Public-Private Steering Committee (PSC) on Migrant Employment**, has been established with PROMISE's support.



### IMPROVED LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

**6** policy and legislative documents

on labour migration and migrant protection developed and/or reviewed with PROMISE's expert advice and technical support.

