# Thailand's Country Report

## on Anti-Human Trafficking Response

# 2023

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# Executive Summary

# Executive Summary

Combating human trafficking continues to remain high in Thailand's national agenda in 2023. With a fresh mandate from the people, the Government attaches high priority to advancing human rights, social equality, and inclusiveness. To this end, the Government is ramping up collaborative and proactive measures aimed at strengthening its overall capacity to prosecute, protect, and prevent all forms of trafficking in persons.

Thailand has made significant progress in its efforts to combat human trafficking. Measures and mechanisms have been strengthened and implemented in a holistic and rigorous manner by relevant agencies. Partnerships with other stakeholders, such as international organizations and NGOs, have been accelerated in view of driving the whole-of-government-whole-of-society approach. In parallel, the Government continues to promote capacity building on key issues, particularly implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), advancement of victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches and reflection period, efficient human trafficking case management, and implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for labor trafficking and Section 6/1 offences.

The Government's key achievements in 2023 include a nationwide implementation of NRM that is more agile, integrated and victim-centered, vigorous prosecution of human trafficking crimes, even involving complicit officials, as well as the provision of comprehensive assistance and protection to victims. Additional measures were implemented to prevent workers of all nationalities from becoming trafficking victims. To keep up with the evolving challenges of human trafficking that transcends across border, Thailand has also fostered valuable partnerships with other countries to bolster its anti-trafficking initiatives at the regional and global levels.

## Prosecution

Law enforcement and relevant agencies have exerted their efforts in prosecuting human trafficking crimes. Pro-active and pre-emptive actions have led to a sharp rise in the number of arrests and cases prosecuted, especially in sexual exploitation. As a transit country, Thailand has tackled the regional emergence of online scam through strengthening its capacity, expertise and competence. Immigration safety net measures have been enacted to screen individuals at risk of falling victim to human trafficking. In addition, international cooperation with neighboring and like-minded countries has been advanced, with a strong commitment to level up capacity in addressing this evolving and complex transnational challenge. Faster turn-around time for human-trafficking case resolution is another concrete deliverable due to increased synergy among relevant agencies.

In 2023, a total of 314 cases were initiated, increasing from 253 cases (24.11%) in 2022. This is a result of collective efforts of the community advocacy network in reporting leads and the increased competence of law enforcement officials in examining electronic database. More importantly, investigation has also expanded to include buyers of sex services from human trafficking victims. In 2023, a total of 197 individuals were arrested, a sharp increase from 67 individuals in 2022 (194.03 percent), leading to a decrease in the number of reports on online sexual exploitation of children (Cyber Tipline) from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) from 523,159 CT in 2022 to 393,506 CT. Additionally, as online forms of human trafficking have continued to rise, the Thailand Internet Crime Against Children (TICAC), in cooperation with partners, including NCMEC, initiated 540 online sexual exploitation cases in 2023, increasing from 482 cases in 2022. The Government also delivered on its commitment to prosecute complicit state officials. In 2023, a total of 22 complicit officials were prosecuted.

Furthermore, recognizing that Thailand has been increasingly used by online scam criminal groups as a transit country for victims from various countries, the Royal Thai Police (RTP)'s Immigration Bureau was able to effectively implement screening measures and blocked foreign nationals at risk of being deceived into working in nearby countries. Immigration officers assessed tourists who lacked sustainable livelihood factors and a well-defined travel plan upon entry into the country. In 2023, a total of 4,974 individuals were denied entry into Thailand, a significant increase compared to 2,036 individuals in 2022.

Increased coordination between inquiry officers, public prosecutors, and the Courts of Justice (COJ) and their enhanced expertise and capabilities in handling human trafficking cases have contributed to faster case resolution.The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has worked in synergy with the inquiry officers and was able to file charges in 352 cases (95.65% of total cases), and the average turn-around time for decisions was 15.94 days, a faster pace than the established benchmark. Moreover, the Courts were able to expedite the trials of human trafficking cases,

increase the severity of penalties, and order higher compensation for victims. In 2023, the Courts of First Instance concluded a total of 278 cases, with 228 cases (82.01%) resolved within one year. The Courts sentenced a total of 301 individuals, with 218 cases (72.43%) of imprisonment sentence that is more than 5 years. The nature and severity of the offenses influenced the Courts' decision-making process, and led to the Courts' subsequent compensation orders totaling THB 77,107,764 (USD 2,135,567.62) in 2023, covering 103 cases (37.05%).

## Protection

The Government has continued to prioritize victim-centered and trauma-informed care approaches at the heart of providing assistance and protection to victims of human trafficking and forced labor. NRM and the reflection period have also been implemented more comprehensively and holisticly nationwide. Digital technology has been utilized to extend outreach, widen scope of protection and facilitate services to ensure protection is well-rounded from the start to social reintegration.

In 2023, The Government Provided Protection and assistance to 640 Victims of trafficking in persons, forced labor or services. a total of 292 victims came under the care of shelters, with 270 in Government's shelters and 22 in private-run shelters. The Government streamlined the existing SOPs by revising SOPs for officers working at shelters, to be on par with international principles, and in sync with the interest and plight of the victims. Subsequently, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) has adopted a standard practice to ensure the freedom of movement and communication to all adult victims to enter and leave the shelters freely, taking into consideration their safety and best interest. Additionally, MSDHS assigned all shelters to provide individualized care and services to those with specific needs, such as persons with disabilities and LGBTQI+. For victims who opted to stay outside of shelters, MHDHS appointed Officer stationed in the victims' places of origin to assist them in accessing their rights.

Furthermore, protection and assistance are provided to victims who wish to remain and work in Thailand after completion of prosecution cases.In accordance with relevant regulations of the Ministry of Interior (MOI), victims are allowed to continue working in Thailand and renew their stay permits after they expired. To increase employment opportunities, MSDHS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in employment of victims from trafficking in persons with 13 partners in the private sector.

A database of 484 qualified interpreters across relevant anti-human trafficking agencies was also developed in view of improving protection and assistance for victims. The database compiled also includes sign language interpreters to assist persons with disabilities exploited by human traffickers.

## Prevention

The Government is fully committed to improving and developing measures and mechanisms to prevent workers, regardless of nationality, from falling victim to trafficking in persons and forced labor. As "knowledge" and "awareness" are keys to successful and long-term prevention, the Government has exerted efforts in educating risk and vulnerable groups, especially the young generation. Inspection, survelliance and preventive management mechanisms were implemented more intensively, at border and in risk sectors, especially fishery and agriculture, to ensure international labor standards and human rights are accorded and risks are cushioned.

The Government has implemented measures to promote, advocate, inspect, and prevent human trafficking issues, particularly among vulnerable groups such as women and children. For example, the Ministry of Labor (MOL) conducted inspections at 1,101 establishments at risk of using child labor, covering 36,014 workers. No evidence of violations relating to child labor or forced labor was found. Also, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) and the Ministry of Education (MOE) have implemented educational projects for children and youth, preventing them from becoming victims of human trafficking.

Additionally, MOL continued to prevent human trafficking in Thai labor seeking overseas employment and migrant workers working in Thailand.In 2023, the Department of Employment (DOE) conducted inspections, surveillance, and prevention activities at border checkpoints, screening 12,344 individuals. DOE also continued to facilitate the extensions of stay for migrant workers to be able to continue to work legally in the country, as well as to protect and prevent them from becoming potential victims of trafficking in persons and forced labor. Various efforts were intensified, such as reducing visa and permit application fees for temporary stay, conducting labor and welfare inspections at business establishments and fishing vessels, and providing assistance to migrant workers through the Migrant Workers Assistance Centers across 10 provinces. Moreover, migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia, and Lao PDR have continued to receive financial aid from the Social Security Fund and Workmen's Compensation Fund.

The Government has also developed a management mechanism to prevent human trafficking in alignment with international standards. For example, MOL's Department of Labor Protection and Welfare (DLPW) has revised regulations concerning labor inspections and criminal proceedings in accordance with the Ministerial Regulations on the Protection of Labor in Marine Fisheries, B.E. 2565 (2022) with an aim to enhancing the basis of offenses and penalties, in alignment with the current employment and working conditions in fishing vessels. In addition, the Government continued to promote labor standards among Thai businesses through the Good Labor Practices (GLP). A total of 42,480 businesses, covering 2.4 million workers have implemented the GLP to elevate the quality of life for the workers to prevent them from falling victim to forced labor or services.

## The Implementation of the NRM

The Government attaches high priority to NRM as a vital tool in anti-human trafficking efforts, providing a structured framework for early identification and support system for trafficking victims. Through inter-agency collaboration, NRM ensures a comprehensive response to trafficking by integrating Thailand's 3Ps efforts: prosecution, protection, and prevention. Deriving a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach, NRM focuses on the well-being of survivors, and its monitoring and evaluation mechanisms allow for continuous improvement in anti-trafficking strategy.

In 2023, the "3Ps" (prosecution, protection, prevention) agencies have closely collaborated to ensure more effective implementation of NRM. Capacity building training for officers, SOPs and relevant instruments development, and the supervision of the implementation of the NRM at the local level were carried out in order to identify challenges and present recommendations for policy-level decisions. Progress made in 2023 included the establishment of 13 Victim Identification Centers across the country, regular capacity building activities on the implementation of NRM on the ground for officials, and monitoring and evaluation of NRM implementation nationwide by NRM Subcommittee.

## Partnership

Partnerships have been a cornerstone of Thailand's anti-trafficking strategy, across all sectors and at national, regional and global levels. Bilateral and multilateral partnerships with neighboring countries and global entities have facilitated information sharing, joint operations, and capacity-building initiatives. By fostering partnerships, Thailand takes a pragmatic approach in addressing the transnational nature of human trafficking and hence works collectively to address its root causes and eradicate it on a broader scale.

For example, on "Prosecution," the Thai authorities have closely collaborated with Myanmar authorities to assist Thai nationals falling into illegal employment in Myanmar, and were able to repatriate 525 Thais to the NRM. Bilateral and regional meetings were also held to strengthen partnership in combating human trafficking, such as with China, Myanmar, Cambodia, the Philippines, the Police Attachés at the embassies of 54 countries in Thailand, and with the international organizations and NGOs, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT), and the International Justice Mission (IJM) Foundation.

On "Protection," Thailand has strengthened cooperation on combating trafficking in persons at the sub-regional and regional levels on pressing topics, such as forced criminality and the abuse of technology, case management, return and reintegration of victims, with a view and vision towards the development of a Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM). Key partners included the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states, the interrnatinal Organization for Migration (IOM), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT Process). Further discussions on the development of TRM in collaboration with countries within the COMMIT Process are planned to bolster the efficacy of protective measures and assistance provided to victims of cross-border human trafficking.

On "Prevention," the Government has continued to carry out several projects, in collaboration with various international partners. These are follow-ups to the projects initiated in previous years to ensure that the protection of labor rights cut across all sectors, such as the Ship to Shore Rights Southeast Asia Project, promoting safe migration and meaningful work in the fishing and seafood processing sectors, supported by the European Union (EU), and the TRIANGLE in ASEAN, funded by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and supported by the Governments of Canada and Australia, aiming to raise awareness on international labor standards relating to recruitment fees and provide policy recommendations to improve cross-border labor recruitment in the agricultural sector.

Thailand's concrete deliverables and progress made in combating human trafficking in 2023 are marked by improved prosecution, increased victim protection, and proactive prevention efforts. However, challenges persist, including the need for sustained international partnership, the underlying socio-economic factors that contribute to trafficking, and resiliency to emerging trends. The Government's continuous evaluation and adjustment of policy and strategy will be pivotal to staying ahead of the evolving human trafficking challenges.

In conclusion, Thailand's comprehensive and integrated approach and tireless efforts have uplifted the nation's capacity in combating human trafficking and hence able to deliver positive results. Its strong commitment to prosecution, victim protection, prevention, and international collaboration underscores the nation's dedication to eradicate this form of human rights violation.

* * * * *

# Prosecution

As human trafficking, particularly in the form of sexual exploitation, continues to be a pressing issue in Thailand, the Royal Thai Government has proactively stepped up rigorous measures to address the issue, including stringent law enforcement, victim support and rehabilitation, and enhanced investigation on cases involving complicit state officials. Thailand's geographical centrality and regional connectivity are challenged by downside risks, particularly the regional emergence of online scam criminal groups, targeting individuals through social media, promising lucrative financial returns. Transiting through Thailand, victims from various countries were lured into forced labor and thereafter traveled to neighboring countries. In tackling this regional challenge, Thailand has responded by leveraging online media to boost public awareness, emphasizing international cooperation to promote an understanding and address the root causes collectively with neighboring countries.

The Government has continued its proactive efforts, expanding partnerships, particularly with neighboring countries, with an aim to prevent and suppress transnational crime syndicates. Capacity-building for law enforcement officers and collaboration with local NGOs have been central to these efforts, resulting in increased efficiency in the prosecution process nationwide.

## Key Progress in 2023

1. In 2023, a total of 314 human trafficking cases were initiated, an increase from 253 cases in 2022 (24.11%). This is a result of collective efforts of the community advocacy network in reporting leads and the increased competence of law enforcement officials in examining electronic database.The investigation has also expanded to include buyers of sex services from human trafficking victims. In 2023, a total of 197 individuals were arrested, an increase from 67 individuals in 2022 (194.03%).

2. Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children (TICAC) made arrests on 540 cases of online sexual exploitation offenders in 2023, compared to 482 cases in 2022. Of this total, 99 are human trafficking cases and 182 are cases related to child pornography possession. This led to a decrease

in the number of reports from the Cyber Tipline from 523,159 CT in 2022 to 393,506 CT. This reduction is attributed to the continuous efforts of law enforcement officers in combating online sexual exploitation of children.

3. The Government has continued to accelerate prosecution of complicit state officials, among others, through further investigation into previously prosecuted cases. In 2023, 22 complicit officials were prosecuted and 2 officials from previously prosecuted cases were dismissed from civil service. The rest are currently under the investigation process.

4. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has established the Witness Assistance Service to help prepare witnesses before their testimonies in courts.This service aims to facilitate witnesses, assist inquiry officers, coordinate with witnesses, arrange interpreters, prepare cases, provide guidance to witnesses for pre-trial testimonies or testimonies before scheduled court dates, as well as cases involving remote testimony through video conference. The service also offers guidance and support travel expenses for witnesses appearing in courts. Additionally, OAG is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) to accommodate the needs and necessities of witnesses from the pre-court stage to the completion of relevant legal proceedings. In parallel to an increase in the number of received testimonies in the prosecutor's office, victims are also better prepared to pursue justice in the court system.

5. OAG has worked in synergy with inquiry officers, leading to faster case resolutions. In sum, they received 368 cases, filed charges in 352 cases (95.38%), and decided not to prosecute 8 cases (2.17%), decreasing from 13 cases out of a total 347 cases (3.75%) in 2022. The average turn-around time for decisions was 15.94 days.

6. The Courts were able to expedite the trial of human trafficking cases, increase the severity of penalties, and order higher compensation for victims. In 2023, the Courts of First Instance concluded a total of 278 cases, with 228 cases (82.01%) resolved within one year. The Courts sentenced a total of 301 individuals, with 218 individuals (72.43%) of imprisonment sentence that is more than 5 years. This achievement resulted from thorough gathering of primary evidence during the investigation, which unveiled the nature and severity of the offenses and the level of harm caused. This led to the Courts' subsequent compensation orders totaling THB 77,107,764 (USD 2,135,567.62) in 2023, covering 103 cases (37.05%).

7. The Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) has examined 51 cases related to human trafficking and seized assets associated with these offenses, totaling THB 6,505,079.19 (USD 185,859.40). AMLO has submitted the seized assets to the public prosecutor to convey to the Civil Court, with total value of THB 64,057,974.50 (USD 1,830,227.84). In 2023, the court ordered that assets be forfeited for the benefit of the state amounting to THB 31,844,831.45 (USD 909,852.33).

8. Police administrators and station chiefs possess increased knowledge and understanding of screening procedures under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The number of individuals screened reached 5,076.

9. International collaboration has been strengthened, particularly through bilateral and multilateral dialogues with key neighboring partners. For example:

- Thailand has collaborated with Myanmar to enact measures to stop the transmission of electricity and internet signals to restrain operation of online scam criminal groups. Additionally, the Royal Thai Police (RTP) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) have closely collaborated with Myanmar to assist Thai nationals fallen into illegal employment, including in Laukkai, Shwe Kokko, and Tachileik. Negotiations with relevant Myanmar authorities have led to exemption for victims from being tried on illegal immigration. Subsequently, 525 individuals have been brought to NRM, among these 174 were identified as human trafficking victims.
- Thailand has extradited 4 Thai nationals to face human trafficking charges based on extradition requests from Malaysia on June 23, 2023.
- OAG and the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) convened a regional meeting with the Philippines to exchange information on combating transnational human trafficking. The purpose was to find ways to assist Thai victims in returning to their homeland and to pursue legal actions against offenders involved in cases of human trafficking with the use of force in the form of online scams.
- RTP collaborated with the Police Attachés at the embassies of 54 countries, involving a total of 100 personnel. The primary focus was on countering terrorism, online scams, and transnational human trafficking. Cooperation in tracking, apprehending, and swiftly prosecuting cross-border criminals to enhance the efficiency of combating international crime was also discussed.

10. Law enforcement agencies and civil service organizations collaborated to assist 27 Laotian girls and 4 Thai individuals who fell victim to human trafficking. They were deceived, exploited, and livestreamed to China. The court found the offenders guilty of multiple offenses, and 14 individuals were sentenced to 50 years each, and a total of 31 victims were compensated at a similar rate, amounting to THB 8,588,610 (USD 245,388.86).

11. RTP's Immigration Bureau was able to effectively implement screening measures and blocked foreign nationals at risk of being deceived into working in neighboring countries such as India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Immigration officers assessed tourists who lacked sustainable livelihood factors and did not have a well-defined travel plan upon entry into the country. In 2023, 4,974 individuals were denied entry into Thailand, compared to 2,036 individuals in 2022.

12. Taking a pre-emptive approach, RTP carried out "Cyber Vaccine," a nationwide campaign to promote cybersecurity awareness and immune the public from online scams, and also promoted the "Child Safe Friendly Tourism Project." This involved conducting training sessions and creating a handbook for both staff and tourists to prevent potential risks and ensure the safety of children in tourism-related activities.

13. Law enforcement officers, inquiry officers, public prosecutors, and Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) continued to receive trainings to enhance their capacity, knowledge, and understanding of human trafficking, protecting the rights of foreign labors, as well as preventing violations of rights related to labor laws that may lead to human trafficking. A total of 16 projects were organized and 2,549 participants undertook the trainings.

14. The Rights and Liberties Protection Department, Ministry of Justice (MOJ), assisted and provided relief to human trafficking witnesses and victims, with an increase in cases in 2023. A total of 108 individuals were provided relief, which totaled THB 2,849,706 (USD 81,420.17), a steady increase from 78 individuals (38.46%) in 2022 and the average relief per person increased by 21.51%.

15. To ensure a victim-centered approach, an ad-hoc Subcommittee on Supervising and Monitoring of Assistance and Remedies for Human Trafficking Victims was established in November 2022. Human-trafficking survivors were invited to participate in the remedy acceleration programs for existing victims. A timeline for the compensation process was shortened to be completed within 60 days from the date of notification of victims' rights. A task force appointed by the Subcommittee is responsible for a prompt progress review on a monthly basis. In 2023, a total of 391 victims out of 523 victims (from 1 January – 1 October 2023) have received financial aid, totaling THB 2,869,092.92 (USD 81,974.08), while 68 victims decided not to pursue financial aid.

## 1. Statistics on Human Trafficking Cases, Suspects and Victims

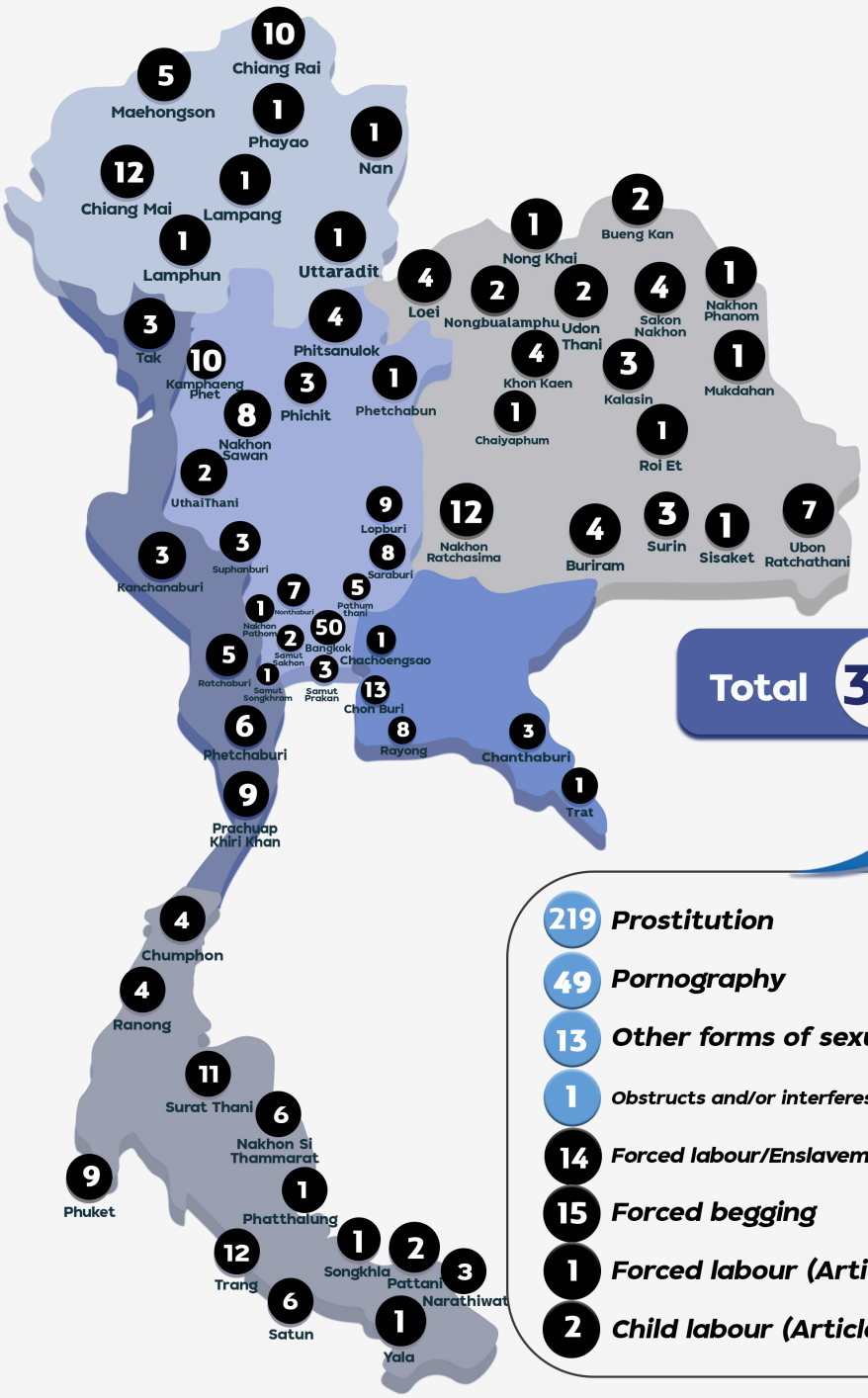
### 1.1 Number of Human Trafficking Cases

Current human trafficking situations involve perpetrators engaging in online scam criminal groups. Law enforcement agencies are committed to preventing and suppressing these crimes through organization's technological advancements and enhancing public awareness on cyber scams. The efforts focused on advancing technological competence for law enforcement personnel in collecting digital evidence, and ramped up capacity-building for officers. An emphasis has been placed on expanding inquiries and prosecutions relating to human trafficking, resulting in a rise in the number of cases to 314 in 2023 (24.11 %). (Diagram 1-2)

Diagram 1: Statistics on Human Trafficking Cases in 2023

# Statistics on Human Trafficking in 2023

**December 31, 2023**




**Total 314 Cases**

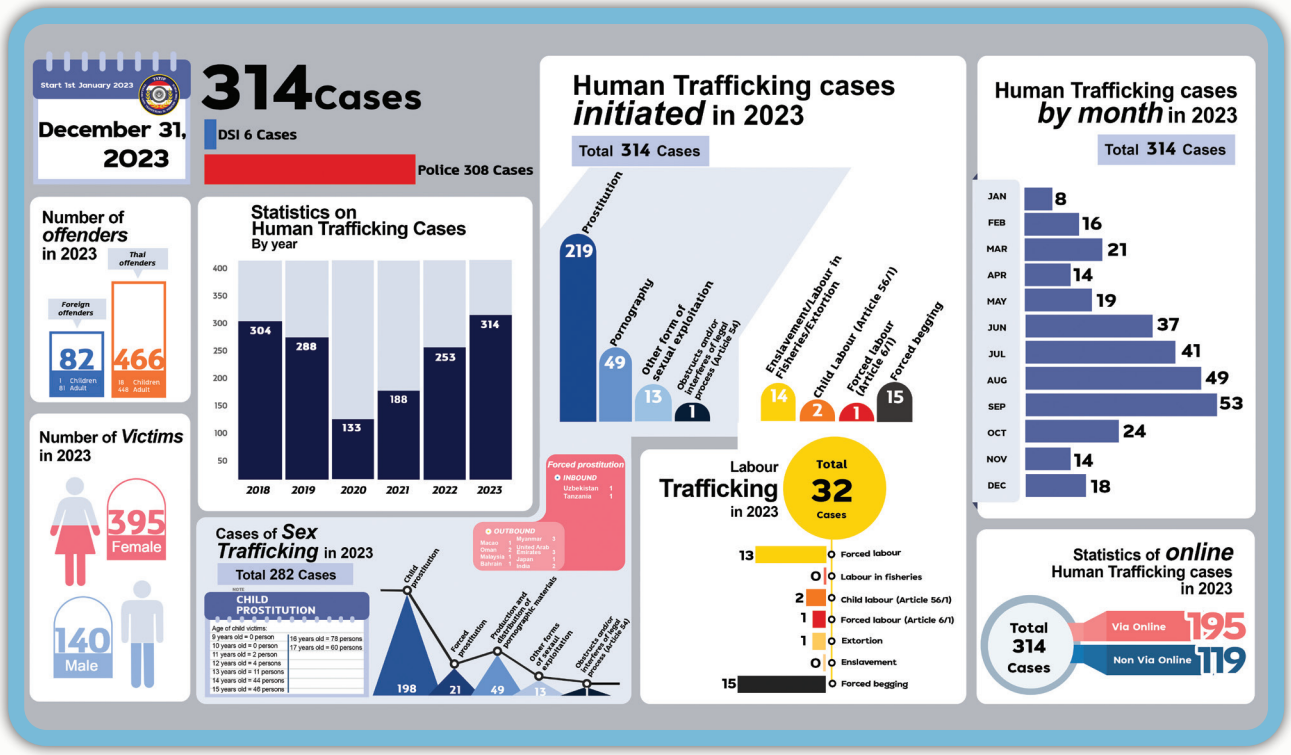
**32** Type of labor (Cases)

**282** Type of sexual (Cases)

- 219 *Prostitution*
- 49 *Pornography*
- 13 *Other forms of sexual exploitation*
- 1 *Obstructs and/or interferes of legal process (Article 54)*
- 14 *Forced labour/Enslavement/Extortion/Fisheries*
- 15 *Forced begging*
- 1 *Forced labour (Article 6/1)*
- 2 *Child labour (Article 56/1)*

**Enforced by Police and DSI (1 Jan 2023)**

Diagram 2: Statistics on Human Trafficking Cases in 2023




In 2023, there was an increase in the number of human trafficking cases, with a total of 314 cases compared to 253 cases in 2022. This can be attributed to the concerted and collaborative efforts among relevant government agencies in expanding the breadth and depth of their investigations and appraisal of human trafficking cases. Among others, exploitation in the form of prostitution remains a major concern in human trafficking. Out of total cases, 219 cases (69.75%) involved exploitation relating to prostitution. Additionally, there was an increase in cases involving trafficking of children to work as beggars, with 15 cases reported in 2023, a surge from 3 cases in 2022. Children from neighboring countries were exploited as a means to financial gain. This rise is a result of more open borders among countries in the region. A jump in the number of arrests and legal proceedings is a result of collaborative efforts among networked sectors in reporting leads, as well as rigorous law enforcement in bringing perpetrators to justice (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of Human Trafficking Cases Initiated

| Year | Total | Type of Human Trafficking Activities | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Prostitution | Pornography | Sexual Exploitation | Enslavement | Forced Begging | General Forced Labor | Extortion/Other |
| 2019 | 288 | 158 | 15 | 12 | 33 | 9 | 35 | 26 |
| 2020 | 133 | 96 | 17 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 10 + (2)* | 0 |
| 2021 | 188 | 136 | 13 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 16 + (2)* | 11 |
| 2022 | 253 | 163 | 34 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 38 + (4)* | 1 + (1)** |
| 2023 | 314 | 219 | 49 | 13 | 0 | 15 | 14 + (3)* | 0 + (1)** |

**Note**: *the numbers in brackets represent forced labor or services cases, and worst form of child labor cases, both of which are offences under Section 6/1 and Section 56/1 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.

**the numbers in brackets represent violation of Section 54 (obstructing legal proceedings related to human trafficking) of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.

As a result of increased collaboration among law enforcement agencies, prosecution of human trafficking cases has risen significantly. Close collaboration with NGOs in delivering victim care have led to greater cooperation from victims in providing information. This in turn expedited inquiry and subsequent investigation process. With increased efficacy, legal proceedings and law enforcement related to human trafficking have improved significantly.

Law enforcement agencies have adopted proactive inquiry strategy and advance collaboration with NGOs. Establishment of channels for incident reporting and communication between RTP and NGOs have increased prosecution of officers involved in human trafficking cases. Some victims were also more comfortable to provide information through NGOs. Among 314 cases initiated in 2023, 43 cases came from collaboration with NGOs and 93 cases came from victims through complaint mechanisms or victim screenings. These statistics also demonstrate joint efforts across various sectors in proactive investigations, building on lessons learnt from previous cases, with a view to breaking the cycle of human trafficking.

In 2023, legal proceedings have also been initiated against 197 individuals who were buyers of sex services, a sharp increase of 194.03% compared to 2022, leading to a decrease in the number of online sexual exploitation of children report (Cyber Tipline) from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) from 523,159 CT in 2022 to 393,506 CT.

In 2023, an emerging trend of criminals that increasingly utilized online channels for illicit activities has posed a serious and complex challenge. Proactive investigation measures were intensified to keep up with the changing patterns of criminal activities. As a result, the statistics for human trafficking cases in 2023 indicate an uptick of 195 cases that were investigated through online channels, accounting for 62.10% of total cases (Table 2). This depicts an upward trend from the previous years. Prosecution efforts have targeted upstream, that is, disrupting criminal networks from advertising fraudulent job recruitment. A total of 50 cases were appraised, leading to a notable decrease each year in the use of social media advertisements enticing individuals to work overseas.

Table 2: Statistics on Cases Committed and Reported via Different Channels

| Year | Cases | Case Committed Via | | Cases Received From | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Online (%) | Non-Online (%) | Law Enforcement Officers | Victims | NGOs |
| 2019 | 288 | 32 (11.11) | 256 (88.89) | | | |
| 2020 | 133 | 37 (27.82) | 96 (72.18) | | | |
| 2021 | 188 | 107 (56.91) | 81 (43.09) | | | |
| 2022 | 253 | 182 (71.94) | 71 (28.06) | 120 | 79 | 54 |
| 2023 | 314 | 195 (62.10) | 119 (37.90) | 178 | 93 | 43 |

### 1.2 Number of Human Trafficking Offenders and Victims

In 2023, the number of suspected human trafficking offenders were 546, a 0.37% decrease from 548 in 2022. A total of 276 offenders were female, accused of engaging in the offense relating to sexual exploitation and prostitution. It is noteworthy that despite the rise in the number of cases in 2023, the number of offenders plummeted by nearly one-third. This is attributed to the state officials' capability to expand the scope of charges against the original suspects (see Table 3).

Table 3: Number of Suspected Human Trafficking Offenders by Gender and Nationality

| Year | Total | Gender | | Nationality | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female | Thai | Myanmar | Cambodian | Laotian | Others |
| 2019 | 555 | 330 | 225 | 402 | 120 | 4 | 6 | 23 |
| 2020 | 188 | 87 | 101 | 160 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 18 |
| 2021 | 447 | 269 | 178 | 341 | 29 | 4 | 0 | 73 |
| 2022 | 548 | 287 | 261 | 472 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 62 |
| 2023 | 546 | 270 | 276 | 464 | 16 | 15 | 6 | 45 |

In 2023, there were 534 victims, with 470 being Thai nationals. Among these, 395 are female and 139 are male. A sharp decline of male victims (36.24%) from 218 in 2022 to 139 in 2023 (Table 4) is due to the fact that assistance has been provided to victims lured to work in neighboring countries, who are primarily male. Of the total 395 female victims, most were involved in sexual exploitation, with a total of 219 cases in 2023.

Table 4: Number of Victims from Human Trafficking Cases by Gender and Nationality

| Year | Total | Gender | | Nationality | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female | Thai | Myanmar | Cambodian | Laotian | Others |
| 2019 | 1,821 | 1,158 | 663 | 251 | 1,306 | 96 | 38 | 130 |
| 2020 | 231 | 66 | 165 | 162 | 5 | 5 | 46 | 13 |
| 2021 | 424 | 154 | 270 | 322 | 94 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| 2022 | 572 | 218 | 354 | 480 | 26 | 4 | 37 | 25 |
| 2023 | 534 | 139 | 395 | 470 | 25 | 18 | 6 | 15 |

## 2 Prosecution of Human Trafficking Cases

### 2.1 Screening Process under NRM[1]

In 2023, RTP has implemented additional measures to prevent and combat online human trafficking and address a key challenge that Thailand is a transit country. RTP also provided assistance and protection for human trafficking victims to ensure that they are not held at Immigration Detention Centers by increasing the efforts in screening individuals with indications of human trafficking. If identified as potential victims, the individuals would receive an automatic protection through NRM. Detailed screening is done and entry is denied to individuals at risk of falling victim to online scam networks.

RTP's Immigration Bureau has enacted rigorous immigration screening measures. It has screened and denied entry to foreign nationals, particularly those from high-risk groups with suspicious behavior who may be deceived into traveling to neighboring countries bordering Thailand

[1] U.S. Recommendation: (2) Increase efforts to identify and protect trafficking victims exploited in forced labor in cyber scam operations arriving in Thailand; cease placing victims in immigration detention centers and ensure victims are not inappropriately penalized solely for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked and (3) Fully implement the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the reflection period for victims and open victim identification centers.

as a transit point and subsequently became victims of human trafficking. Immigration officers assessed tourists entering Thailand without sustainable livelihood factors and a well-defined travel plan, and considered them potential victims of human trafficking. In 2023, a notable increase was observed, with a total of 4,974 individuals being denied entry, compared to 2,036 in the previous year (Table 5). The focus was on countries with a history of seeking assistance and having been previously assisted by Thailand. The rationale for denying entry is based on the consideration that individuals may be at risk of falling victim to human trafficking.

**Table 5: Statistics on Denied Entry for Potential Foreign Victims in Thailand**

| Year | The Number of Denied Entry for Potential Foreign Victims in Thailand | | | | | | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Myanmar | Lao PDR | Vietnam | Philippines | China | Indonesia | India | Others | |
| 2022 | 562 | 10 | 232 | 10 | 70 | 25 | 368 | 759 | 2,036 |
| 2023 | 415 | 22 | 133 | 16 | 132 | 12 | 209 | 4,035 | 4,974 |

Additionally, RTP has advanced the implementation of the NRM by conducting informational sessions for operational-level police officers and station chiefs nationwide, covering a total of 1,484 stations. Officers are required to follow the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), set by the RTP and use the "Kor Gor. Tor Ror. 01" screening form. Statistics on the results of victim screening have been collected, starting from this year 2023.

In 2023, the RTP conducted a preliminary screening of 5,076 individuals. Among these, 575 showed indications of human trafficking, 2,994 had no signs, and 1,507 were found to be violating other laws. The authorities have established victim screening centers in various provinces, including Kanchanaburi, Chumphon, Sa Kaeo, Tak, Chiang Rai, Chonburi, and Bangkok (Table 6).

**Table 6: Screening Statistics According to NRM**

| Month | Screening Statistics According to NRM | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Showed indications of human trafficking | Did not show indications of human trafficking | Violation of other laws | |
| Jan | 1 | 213 | 119 | 333 |
| Feb | 11 | 202 | 248 | 461 |
| Mar | 40 | 240 | 397 | 677 |
| Apr | 10 | 186 | 49 | 245 |

| Month | Screening Statistics According to NRM | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Showed indications of human trafficking | Did not show indications of human trafficking | Violation of other laws | |
| May | 32 | 31 | 283 | 346 |
| Jun | 47 | 605 | 146 | 798 |
| Jul | 42 | 618 | 48 | 708 |
| Aug | 31 | 703 | 34 | 768 |
| Sep | 14 | 2 | 108 | 124 |
| Oct | 24 | 6 | 55 | 85 |
| Nov | 206 | 116 | 9 | 331 |
| Dec | 117 | 72 | 11 | 200 |
| Total | 575 | 2,994 | 1,507 | 5,076 |

Moreover, RTP is in the process of seeking approval for the draft scope of utilizing digital technology to support identification and separation of human trafficking victims. This aims to establish a secure and interconnected operation at the Don Mueang Victim Identification Center with a budget allocation of THB 52,836,800 (USD 1,509,622.86) from the fiscal year 2022. In addition, a fund worth THB 96,748,420 (USD 2,764,240.57) from the Digital Development Fund for Economy and Society (DE Fund) has been allocated to enhance efficiency of victim separation from human trafficking, in line with international standards through the implementation of 7 systems.

### 2.2 Human Trafficking Cases Handled by Inquiry Officers

#### 1) Progress of Human Trafficking Cases Handled by Inquiry Officers

In 2023, 314 inquiries were conducted. Among these, 307 cases (97.77%) were completed and submitted to public prosecutors. The acceleration of case inquiries from 2022 resulted in only 8 remaining cases (3.17% of total cases). Inquiry officers ordered the prosecution of all cases arising from collaboration between inquiry officers and public prosecutors.

The inquiry officers demonstrated expertise in gathering primary evidence, contributing to the quality of the inquiry process from its inception (Table 7). Additionally, the trend of cases involving two or more defendants has decreased from 2022 (Table 8). This can be attributed to the increasing expertise in technology among the defendants. They are now capable of operating independently online, gaining access to multiple victims without the need for intermediaries or other individuals. As the scope of arrests expands, primary evidence indicates offenses committed by individual perpetrators.

Table 7: Progress of Human Trafficking Cases Handled by Inquiry Officers

| Year | Total | Under Inquiry (%) | Filed to Public Prosecutors (%) | Not Filed to Public Prosecutors (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2019 | 288 | 0 | 284 (98.61) | 4 (1.39) |
| 2020 | 133 | 0 | 130 (97.75) | 3 (2.25) |
| 2021 | 188 | 0 | 188 (0.00) | 0 |
| 2022 | 253 | 8 (3.17) | 245 (96.83) | 0 |
| 2023 | 314 | 7 (2.23) | 307 (97.77) | 0 |

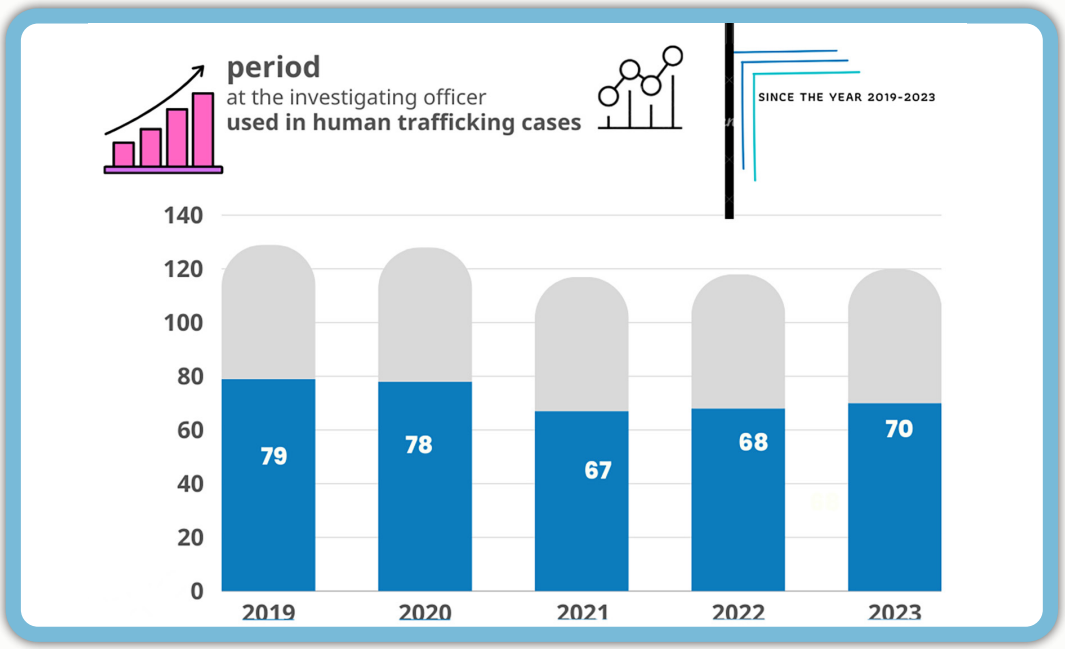
Table 8: Case Classification by Number of Suspects

| Year | Total | Cases Involving One Suspect (%) | Cases Involving Two or More Suspects (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2019 | 288 | 187 (64.93) | 101 (35.07) |
| 2020 | 133 | 103 (77.44) | 30 (22.56) |
| 2021 | 188 | 100 (53.19) | 88 (46.81) |
| 2022 | 253 | 143 (56.52) | 110 (43.48) |
| 2023 | 314 | 204 (64.97) | 110 (35.03) |

### 2) Length of Time in Handling Human Trafficking Cases by Inquiry Officers

In 2023, inquiry officers continued to maintain high standards in expediting human trafficking case inquiries and compiling case summaries.The average time taken to complete inquiries was 70 days, closely aligning with statistics from 2021 and 2022 (Diagram 3). This is due to advancement in expertise in handling human trafficking cases and enhanced capabilities of police officers in investigation and examination. This includes a seamless exchange of information among specialized investigation teams, particularly in collecting primary evidence. As a consequence, inquiry officers were able to gather evidence more efficiently, thereby expediting the prosecution process.

Diagram 3: Average Length of Time in Handling Human Trafficking Cases by Inquiry Officers during 2018 - 2023




## 2.3 Human Trafficking Cases Pursued by Public Prosecutors

### 1) Progress of Consideration of Human Trafficking Cases by Public Prosecutors

A total of 376 human trafficking cases were received by OAG (Table 9).

Table 9: Type of Human Trafficking Cases Received by Public Prosecutors

| Year | Total | Type of Human Trafficking Cases Received | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation | Forced Begging | General Forced Labor and Services |
| 2019 | 364 | 242 | 7 | 115 |
| 2020 | 241 | 191 | 3 | 47 |
| 2021 | 197 | 163 | 3 | 31 |
| 2022 | 358 | 269 | 3 | 86 |
| 2023 | 377 + (2)* | 335 | 13 | 29 |

Note: * the number in bracket represents 2 cases of violation of Section 54 (obstructing legal proceedings related to human trafficking) of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.

Out of 368 cases with arrested suspects received by the OAG in 2023, public prosecutors completed their consideration on 360 cases (97.83%), 352 of which were submitted to the Courts (Table 10 - 11).

**Table 10: Progress of Human Trafficking Cases with Arrested Suspects**

| Year | Total | Progress of Human Trafficking Cases | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Cases Submitted to the Courts (%) | Cases not Submitted to the Courts (%) | Cases under Public Prosecutors' Consideration (%) | Cases Returned to Inquiry Officers (%)* |
| 2019 | 343 | 273 (79.59) | 65 (18.95) | 0 | 5 (1.46) |
| 2020 | 225 | 202 (89.78) | 17 (7.55) | 0 | 6 (2.67) |
| 2021 | 180 | 162 (90.00) | 11 (6.11) | 0 | 7 (3.89) |
| 2022 | 347 | 323 (93.08) | 13 (3.75) | 0 | 11 (3.17) |
| 2023 | 368 | 352 (95.65) | 8 (2.17) | 3 (0.82) | 5 (1.36) |

**Table 11: Progress of Human Trafficking Cases with Fleeing Suspects**

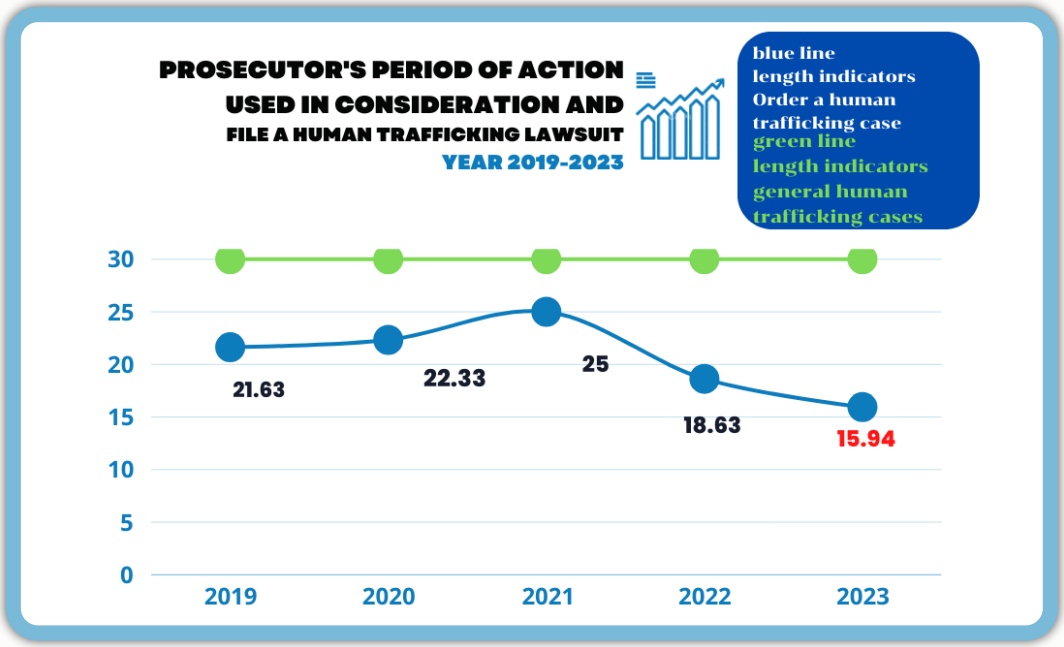
| Year | Total | Progress of Human Trafficking Cases | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Cases Submitted to the Courts (%) | Cases not Submitted to the Courts (%) | Cases under Public Prosecutors' Consideration (%) | Cases Returned to Inquiry Officers (%)* |
| 2019 | 21 | 18 (85.71) | 3 (14.29) | 0 | 0 |
| 2020 | 16 | 13 (81.25) | 0 | 0 | 3 (18.75) |
| 2021 | 17 | 13 (76.46) | 2 (11.77) | 0 | 2 (11.77) |
| 2022 | 11 | 7 (63.64) | 3 (27.27) | 0 | 1 (9.09) |
| 2023 | 11 | 5 (45.45) | 2 (18.18) | 4 (36.36) | 0 |

**Note:** Reasons for cases returned to inquiry officers included return for further investigations, accomplice to human trafficking cases without a charge of human trafficking, returned to the provincial prosecutor's office with jurisdiction, for example.

In 2023, OAG implemented a policy designating the Department of Human Trafficking in Persons Litigation as the sole unit responsible for considering and initiating human trafficking cases nationwide. This measure aimed to maintain centrality, consistency and case-by-case approach throughout the handling. Consequently, the Department, upon receiving a case, reviews and

forms an opinion before returning it to the originating prosecutor's office for further legal action. A standard lead time for initiating a general criminal case, as prescribed by indicators, is 30 days. However, the average number of days from when the Department receives a case, reviews it, and issues an order is 15.94 days (Diagram 4), indicating a quicker turnaround time than the established benchmark.

Diagram 4: Average Length of Time for Public Prosecutors' Consideration of Human Trafficking Cases




The Department of Human Trafficking in Persons Litigation under OAG established a Witness Assistance Service on 13 July 2023. This initiative was prompted by previous challenges faced by witnesses in providing testimony in court, which could potentially impact the case's adjudication process. In response, the Department issued an order to create a Witness Assistance Service, aiming to facilitate and provide convenience to witnesses involved in court proceedings. It provides support in various aspects, including notifying witnesses of court appointments, assisting inquiry officers, coordinating with witnesses, arranging for interpreters, preparing cases, offering guidance to witnesses for pre-trial testimony, or in the case of remote testimony, through video conference. The service also provides guidance and assistance in facilitating travel expenses for witnesses. Additionally, RTP has worked in collaboration with MSDHS to address witnesses' needs from the initiation of their involvement in court proceedings until the conclusion of the case.

## 2.4 Human Trafficking Cases Pursued by the Courts of Justice

### 1) Progress of Consideration of Human Trafficking Cases by the Courts of Justice

The Courts were able to expedite the trial of human trafficking cases, increase the severity of penalties, and order higher compensation for victims. In 2023, the Courts of Justice (COJ) were able to complete 278 cases out of 459 cases (60.57%), with 228 cases (82.01%) resolved within one year, and convicted a total of 218 human trafficking cases (78.42%) this year. (Table 12).

**Table 12: Decisions Reached by the Courts of Justice on Human Trafficking Cases**

| Year | Cases Submitted to the Courts | | | Decided Cases | | | | Pending Cases (as Standing at the End of Indicated Year) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cases Initiated in Previous Years | Cases Initiated in Indicated Year | Total | Convicted (% of Decided Cases) | Acquitted (% of Decided Cases) | Disposal (% of Decided Cases) | Total (% of Total Cases) | |
| 2019 | 140 | 256 | 396 | 217 (76.68) | 26 (9.19) | 40 (14.13) | 283 (71.46) | 113 |
| 2020 | 113 | 191 | 304 | 157 (78.89) | 22 (11.06) | 20 (10.05) | 199 (65.46) | 105 |
| 2021 | 105 | 127 | 232 | 66 (75.00) | 8 (9.09) | 14 (15.91) | 88 (37.93) | 144 |
| 2022 | 144 | 240 | 384 | 193 (81.78) | 24 (10.17) | 19 (8.05) | 236 (61.46) | 148 |
| 2023 | 148 | 311 | 459 | 218 (78.42) | 40 (14.39) | 20 (7.19) | 278 (60.57) | 181 |

### 2) Number of Defendants in Human Trafficking Cases Convicted by the Court of Justice

In 2023, 466 defendants in new human trafficking cases were brought before the Courts and 355 were convicted (76.18%) (Table 13). The Courts were able to maintain the conviction rate due to the increased efficacy of inquiry officers and public prosecutors to collect evidence against defendants.

**Table 13: Defendants in Human Trafficking Cases Brought Before the Courts of Justice**

| Year | Number of Defendants Subjected to the Courts' Consideration | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Convicted (%) | Acquitted (%) | Disposed (%) |
| 2019 | 386 | 304 (78.76) | 27 (6.99) | 55 (14.25) |
| 2020 | 302 | 233 (77.15) | 41 (13.58) | 28 (9.27) |
| 2021 | 125 | 82 (65.60) | 25 (20.00) | 18 (14.40) |
| 2022 | 308 | 249 (80.84) | 35 (11.36) | 24 (7.79) |
| 2023 | 466 | 355 (76.18) | 83 (17.81) | 28 (6.01) |

### 3) Severity of Punishment Handed Down by the Courts of Justice in Human Trafficking Cases

The severity of the punishment for human trafficking crimes remains high. A total of 112 defendants (37.21%) convicted this year were handed down a punishment of over 10 years of imprisonment. There is an upward trend in the number of defendants being sentenced to over 5 years' imprisonment (Table 14). The severity of the punishment reflected the judges' recognition of the severity of human trafficking crimes and in accordance with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, B.E. 2558 (2015) and the Procedures for Human Trafficking Cases Act, B.E. 2559 (2016).

**Table 14: Imprisonment Sentences of Defendants in Human Trafficking Cases**

| Year | Total Number of Defendants Sentenced to Imprisonment | Shorter than 1 Year (%) | Between 1-2 Years (%) | Between 2-5 Years (%) | Between 5-10 Years (%) | Over 10 Years (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2019 | 276 | 6 (2.17) | 8 (2.90) | 38 (13.77) | 124 (44.93) | 100 (36.23) |
| 2020 | 199 | 8 (4.02) | 15 (7.54) | 41 (20.60) | 53 (26.63) | 82 (41.21) |
| 2021 | 75 | 1 (1.33) | 1 (1.33) | 11 (14.67) | 26 (34.67) | 36 (48) |
| 2022 | 201 | 1 (0.50) | 1 (0.50) | 25 (12.44) | 66 (32.84) | 108 (53.73) |
| 2023 | 301 | 5 (1.66) | 9 (2.99) | 69 (22.92) | 106 (35.22) | 112 (37.21) |

### 4) Compensations for Punitive Purposes

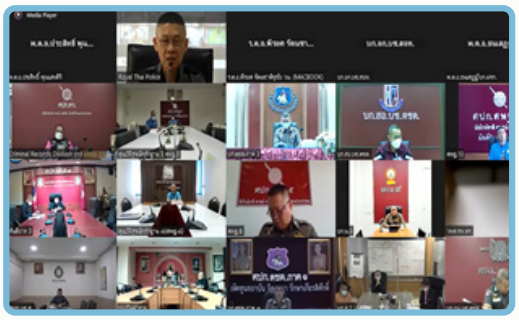
In 2023, the Courts granted a total compensation of THB 77,107,764 (USD 2,135,567.62) across 103 cases. This constitutes 37.05% of all 278 concluded cases (Table 15). In light of strong commitment to justice, the Courts continued to actively focus on prosecuting human trafficking cases and assessing suitable compensation for the victims.

**Table 15: The Amount of Compensation Awarded by the Courts Pursuant to the Judgment.**

| Year | Total Number of Concluded Cases | The Number of Cases in Which Compensation Has Been Awarded (%) | The Amount of Compensation (Baht) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2019 | 283 | 76 (26.86) | 54,180,366 |
| 2020 | 199 | 59 (29.65) | 26,047,693 |
| 2021 | 77 | 25 (32.47) | 10,774,250 |
| 2022 | 236 | 107 (45.34) | 66,598,568 |
| 2023 | 278 | 103 (37.05) | 77,107,764 |

## 3. Prosecution of Complicit Officials in Human Trafficking Cases[2]

The Government is committed to a proactive approach in the suppression and prevention of officials' complicity in human trafficking. Public officials found to have been involved in human trafficking activities, demanding or receiving benefits from those activities, or neglecting their duties in preventing and suppressing human trafficking, are subject to criminal prosecution and/or severe disciplinary actions.



RTP prioritizes capacity-building for officers and authorities responsible for disciplinary actions against state officials involved in human trafficking. Among others, training programs to enhance disciplinary operations were conducted for working officers and supervisory authorities in every unit.

In addition, MOJ convened committee meetings to oversee disciplinary actions and legal proceedings for state officials involved in human trafficking. The oversight encompasses gathering information, filtering allegations, monitoring legal proceedings, and reporting results for consideration of disciplinary measures. Quarterly meetings aim to monitor progress in investigating, expanding proactive measures, and tracking cases, including disciplinary actions against officials implicated in human trafficking.

### 3.1 Prosecution of Officials Accused of Complicity in Human Trafficking Cases

In 2023, complicit official cases were initiated against government officials, involving a total of 22 individuals. This comprised 3 new cases with a total of 20 individuals and an expansion of one existing case, involving personnel from the police, military, and local government officials (Table 16).

[2] U.S. Recommendation: (1) Proactively investigate and prosecute officials allegedly complicit in facilitating trafficking, and seek adequate penalties for convicted traffickers, which should involve significant prison terms.

Table 16: Criminal Prosecution of Suspected Public Officials in Human Trafficking Cases

| Year | Number of Public Officials | Under Investigation | Under Public Prosecutor's Consideration | Under Courts' Consideration | Completed Cases | | Fleeing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Imprisoned | Acquitted/Not Pursued | |
| 2019 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2020 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1* |
| 2021 | 17 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2022 | 35 | 17 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2023 | 22 | 21 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Note:** *deceased suspect

### 3.2 Disciplinary Actions Against Complicit Officials

In 2023, progress has been made regarding disciplinary actions against 2 previously prosecuted complicit officials from the child sexual exploitation case in Surin initiated in 2020, and the forced labor case in Ratchaburi initiated in 2022.

Table 17: Complicit Public Officials Subjected to Disciplinary Actions

| Year | Number of Public Officials | Disciplinary Actions and Other Measures | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Under Disciplinary Inquiry | Expelled | Suspended | Under Probation | Incarcerated | Dismissed by the Admin. Court | Resigned | Retired | Disciplinary Inquiry Ended |
| 2019 | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2020 | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2021 | 15 | 13 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 2022 | 34 | 31 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2023 | 22 | 22 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

**Note:** Disciplinary actions cannot be taken against retired or resigned complicit officials. However, complicit officials will continue to be prosecuted under criminal offences.

### 3.3 Cases of Prosecution of Complicit Officials Initiated in 2023

In 2023, 4 cases were initiated to prosecute 22 complicit officials. Details of the cases are as follows:

**1) Benefit-Seeking and Dereliction of Duty Case** (initiated in 2023) – 15 officials, consisting of 9 police officers, 5 DSI officials, and 1 military officer, were arrested and prosecuted on the charge of dereliction of duty for not arresting foreign nationals residing illegally and found during a raid of the house of a former Consul-General of the Republic of Nauru. The case is under investigation by RTP's Anti-Corruption Division.

**2) Kanchanaburi Forced Labor Case** (initiated in 2023) – 2 officials are facing criminal charges, including 1 police officer and 1 village headman. The charges stem from the use of force and firearms to intimidate a group of 14 Myanmar nationals working in the sugarcane fields. The case is under investigation by RTP's Anti-Corruption Division.

**3) Chiang Rai Case** (initiated in 2023) – Legal action is being taken against 3 officials implicated in collectively coercing or allowing individuals under the age of 18 to be sexually exploited at business establishments in Chiang Rai Province (Ozone and Sa-la Sod). This includes a deputy district chief, a village headman, and an assistant village headman. The case is currently under the Court's consideration.

**4) Chom Dao Case** (initiated in 2015) – Following the arrest in 2015 of the owner of Chom Dao Karaoke place, Kanchanaburi Province, for prosecution of human trafficking, 14 more officials were prosecuted for seeking benefits from the owner. In 2023, further investigations found 2 more police officer complicit in taking bribes from the owner. The case is under investigation by DSI.

### 3.4 Progress of Criminal Prosecution of Complicit Officials in 2023

**1) Valentine Case** (initiated in 2020) – In 2020, one police officer was prosecuted for benefit-seeking from the owner of Valentine Karaoke place in Saraburi Province (Officer died). In 2021, 4 more police officers were prosecuted. In 2023, these cases are under public prosecutor's consideration.

**2) Overseas Prostitution Case** (initiated in 2016) – In 2022, 1 police officer and 5 immigration officers were prosecuted for taking bribes and enabling victims to leave Thailand for Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) without conducting proper overseas workers' screening procedures. In 2023, all cases have been submitted and are under public prosecutor's consideration.

3) **Overseas Forced Labor Case** (initiated in 2022) – The case of a local politician in Sa Kaeo Province who was prosecuted for involvement in deceiving Thai workers into forced labor in Cambodia is presently under the Court's consideration.

4) **Chom Dao Case** (initiated in 2015) – In 2023, DSI is currently investigating 1 more police officer involved in bribery.

5) **Online Sexual Exploitation Case** (initiated in 2022) – In 2022, 4 police investigation officers were charged for not arresting offenders of online sex broadcasting through a Chinese mobile application at a resort in Chiang Rai Province. Moreover, 8 patrol police officers were charged for taking bribe from Chinese and Laotian nationals in exchange for not arresting them for illegal crossing into the Kingdom. In 2023, these cases have been submitted to the public prosecutors.

6) **Phangnga Case** (initiated in 2022) – A police officer was arrested and charged with forced labor of Myanmese migrant workers in an oil palm plantation. The case is under public prosecutor's consideration.

## 4. Asset Restraints and Seizures by the Anti-Money Laundering Office

### 4.1 Amount of Asset Restraints and Seizures

In 2023, AMLO issued orders to freeze and seize assets in 51 cases related to human trafficking offences. The initial value of the assets subjected to these orders was THB 6,505,079.19 (USD 185,859.40) The value of the assets filed to public prosecutor was THB 64,057,974.50 (USD 1,830,227.84) and the value of the assets ordered by the Courts to be forfeited for the benefit of the state was THB 31,844,831.45 (USD 909,852.33) (Table 18 - 19).

Table 18: Value of Assets Subjected to Restraint and Seizure Orders

| Year | Number of Cases | Total Value of Assets Subjected to Restraint/Seizure Orders (THB) |
|---|---|---|
| 2019 | 15 | 8,587,166.78 |
| 2020 | 20 | 51,201,949.60 |
| 2021 | 15 | 4,926,275.05 |
| 2022 | 84 | 40,882,661.75 |
| 2023 | 51 | 6,505,079.19 |

Table 19: Value of Assets Filed to Public Prosecutor and Value of Assets Ordered by the Courts to be Forfeited for the Benefit of the State

| Year | Value of Assets Filed to Public Prosecutor (THB) | Value of Assets Ordered by the Courts to be Forfeited for the Benefit of the State (THB) |
|---|---|---|
| 2019 | 11,681,474.08 | 401,014.26 |
| 2020 | 77,000,754.52 | 10,626,474.08 |
| 2021 | 4,926,275.05 | 304,335.12 |
| 2022 | 43,565,378.48 | 80,135,451.10 |
| 2023 | 64,057,974.50 | 31,844,831.45 |

### 4.2 Amendment of Relevant Laws

AMLO has undertaken the formulation of ministerial regulations for the return or restitution of assets related to criminal activities and compensation for damages to the victims. This initiative, established in 2023, aims to enhance the efficiency of compensating and alleviating the suffering of victims of criminal activities, including human trafficking. The process is complete and awaits official announcement in the Royal Gazette.

In 2023, there are 3 cases with victims having submitted requests for protection as follows:

1) Cambodia Case 1 - The suspect posted enticing messages on Facebook, inviting victims to work and respond to online messages in Cambodia. The victims were illegally detained and forced to work. When they sought to return to their home country, the suspect demanded each person pay THB 45,000 (USD 1,285.71) for their release. A total of 9 victims have requested protection, with combined assets valued at THB 1,076,708.83 (USD 30,763.11). The case is under the Court's consideration.

2) Cambodia Case 2 - The suspect, who is a Chinese national, posted enticing messages on Facebook, inviting victims to work as administrators of various websites in Cambodia. The victims were deceived into engaging in various fraudulent activities to benefit the suspect. If they failed to meet income targets, they were threatened to be sold to other employers. Those unwilling to work had to pay for their release. A total of 8 victims have sought protection, with combined assets valued at THB 41,067.53 (USD 1,173.36). The case is currently under the Court's consideration.

3) Bahrain Case - The suspect deceived victims into working at a discotheque in Bahrain. Upon arrival, the victims were sold to another suspect for BHD 18,000 and forced into prostitution to repay the alleged debt. Subsequently, Bahraini authorities conducted a raid, arrested the suspects, and assisted the victims in returning to Thailand. One victim has sought protection, with assets valued at THB 641,422.29 (USD 18,326.35). The case is currently under the Court's consideration.

## 5. Protection, Financial Assistance, and Rehabilitation for Human Trafficking Victims

In 2023, the Department of Rights and Liberties Protection carried out witness protection in human trafficking cases for a total of 11 individuals. This development continues from the year 2022, where 13 individuals were protected, making a cumulative total of 24 individuals. The total budget utilized for these efforts was THB 3,361,208.60 (USD 96,034.53). All witnesses involved received full safety and security, resulting in trust and confidence in the safety protection provided by government agencies, enabling effective collaboration in providing information during the justice process (Table 20).

Table 20: The Number of Protected Witnesses and Total Budget Allocated

| Year | The Number of Protected Witnesses | Total Budget Allocated (THB) |
|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 35 | 5,053,591.63 |
| 2023 | 24 | 3,361,208.60 |

The Department of Rights and Liberties Protection has undertaken efforts to assist and provide remedy to victims of human trafficking, who have suffered harm to their lives, bodies, or mental well-being, due to criminal acts committed by others. This is in accordance with the Damages for the Injured Persons and Compensation and Expenses for the Accused in Criminal Cases Act B.E. 2544 (2001) and the Amendment (No. 2) B.E. 2559 (2016), totaling 108 cases with an amount of THB 2,849,706 (USD 81,420.17). The number of assisted and rehabilitated victims has increased by 38.46% from the year 2022, with an average compensation rate per case increasing by 21.51%. Victims who have suffered harm to their lives, bodies, or mental well-being will be considered for compensation based on the severity of the offense, the extent of the damage suffered, and the opportunities for the victims to receive relief from other sources. This is to facilitate the consideration by the subcommittee or committee for assistance and remedy (Table 21).

Table 21: Statistics on the Number of Victims Receiving Assistance and Remedy

| Year | The Number of Victims Receiving Assistance and Remedy | The Amount of Financial Assistance (THB) |
|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 78 | 1,693,900 |
| 2023 | 108 | 2,849,706 |

The Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Supervising and Monitoring of Assistance and Remedies for Human Trafficking Victims, established in November 2022, was set up to accelerate and improve the remedy processes for human trafficking victims. For instance, the compensation review process was set to be completed within 60 days from the date of notification of rights to the victims. The Subcommittee will also assign a task force to follow up progress on a monthly basis and recommend areas for improvement.

Additionally, in 2023, a total of 391 victims out of 523 victims (from 1 January 2023 to 1 October 2023) have received financial aid from the Anti-Human Trafficking in Persons Fund worth THB 2,869,092.92 (USD 81,974.08). A total of 68 victims declined to accept financial remedy.

## 6. Prosecution in the Fisheries Sector

RTP's Child Woman Protection and Anti-Human Trafficking Center (CWP) has received reports of incidents involving fishermen's fatalities, disappearances, and accidents while out fishing from 2020 to 2023, totaling 354 workers. Some of these cases fall under violations of labor protection laws. The fishermen's disappearances were often attributed to accidents at sea, exacerbated by the strenuous working conditions and inadequate rest periods, leading them to decide to escape. Currently, legal proceedings have been initiated in five cases, for which inquiry officers have issued penalties to the vessels' owners.

Thailand has elevated its labor protection measures in the fisheries sector through various initiatives. Firstly, rigorous inspections by the PIPO (Port-In-Port-Out) Center ensure health insurance coverage for all nationalities of fishermen, equivalent to the social insurance of the Ministry of Labor (MOL). This includes verifying documents for contributions to the vessel owner's compensation fund, serving as a primary guarantee for the protection of fishermen in case of illness or disability. In addition, standards for health, tools, licenses, and fishing worker identification cards are scrutinized. Secondly, strict legal enforcement is in place, such as prosecuting vessel owners who engage in forced labor on their crew and addressing fraudulent practices in the issuance of fishing worker identification cards, involving both state officials and relevant authorities. Thirdly, intensive training is provided to frontline officials in the 22 coastal provinces, promoting collaboration between government agencies and NGOs to prevent and combat violations. This approach aims to enhance safety in the working conditions of fishermen, contributing to a noticeable reduction in incidents of Thai fishermen falling overboard (Table 22).

The Department of Fisheries (DOF) plays a key coordinating role in this area and conducts labor inspections at port areas, ensuring efficiency by focusing on clear inspection zones and avoiding direct inspections in front of employers for effective screening. Furthermore, DOF collaborates with

MOL and MSDHS in translating materials into multiple languages for effective communication with foreign workers, including from Myanmar and Cambodia, while addressing language-related concerns in the communication process.[3]

Table 22: Statistics on Thai Fishermen Falling Overboard Incidents

| Year | Total | Search not Found | Search Found and Alive | Search Found and deceased |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2020 | 121 | 67 | 31 | 23 |
| 2021 | 107 | 65 | 24 | 18 |
| 2022 | 78 | 45 | 18 | 15 |
| 2023 | 48 | 33 | 7 | 8 |

## 7. Examples of Human Trafficking Cases and Prosecution Progress

In 2023, as a result of strengthened collaboration between law enforcement agencies, civil society, NGOs, and other partners, as well as the enhanced capacity of law enforcement officers to trace and gather evidences, further arrests in human trafficking cases were made. Examples of cases are as follows:

### 7.1 Cases Related to Sexual Exploitation

**1) Velvet Bar Child Sexual Exploitation Case** – In March 2023, upon receiving a report from the Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.), the Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA) rescued 6 underage female victims and arrested 2 managers of the Velvet Bar in Phuket, which secretly offered child prostitution. Further investigation by CWP found that Velvet Bar was owned by a company that also owns three other bars. Charges were subsequently filed against an additional 9 suspects, 3 of whom were on the board of directors of the company and 6 of whom were foreigners who bought sexual services. An additional 4 underage female victims were rescued. As the suspects were charged with predicate offences, CWP, in collaboration with the AMLO, MSDHS and the Department of Business Development (DBD), conducted raids on 36 locations related to the suspects in 10 provinces and seized houses, land, bank accounts and cars, with a total value of more than THB 22 million (USD 0.63 million). The case is currently under the Court's consideration.

3 U.S. Recommendation: (5) Increase the use and availability of interpreters to assist victims, including in shelters and court proceedings.

**2) Chiang Rai Case** – The DOPA was notified by an international organization focused on combating human trafficking that there were businesses named "Ozone Bar" and "Sa-la Sod Bar" in Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai Province, which have been recruiting female employees under the age of 18, including both Thai nationals and foreigners. These employees exhibited patterns of drug abuse and had been encouraging customers to engage in substance abuse. Upon investigation, the authorities raided and apprehended the businesses. They found 6 underage female employees, some of whom were under 15 years old. The aforementioned female employees were responsible for serving customers, entertaining, and potentially engaging in exploitative sexual activities with customers who may seek such services from individuals under 18. This situation raises concerns about human trafficking. As part of the DOPA's special operations, assistance was provided to the 6 individuals under the age of 18 and brought other potentially-affected children into the NRM. This mechanism involves interviewing, screening, and separating the victims with the help of MDT, including social workers and assistant village headman. The owners of both establishments presented themselves as the owners and voluntarily surrendered to law enforcement officials at the Mae Sai District Office. The case is currently under the Court's consideration.

**3) Phayao Case** – Damrongtham Center, Ministry of Interior (MOI) received a report from the Immanuel Foundation stating that, in Mueang Phayao District, Phayao Province, there was a karaoke establishment named "Emmy Karaoke" that was engaging in exploitative sexual activities involving children. It reportedly recruits youths under the age of 18 to entertain customers, offering sexual services for sale. Two victims were brought to the local authorities at the Mueang Phayao District Office. These victims, aged under 18, were invited for an interview as part of NRM process to assess, screen, and separate individuals affected. One of the victims was confirmed as a victim of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, while the other was not identified as a trafficking victim. Subsequently, coordination was made to have teachers and parents pick up the victims, and further information from surveillance will be forwarded to the Provincial Office of MSDHS in Lampang Province for monitoring. The case is currently being under investigation.

### 7.2 Cases of Forced Labor and Extortion under Section 6/1 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, B.E. 2558 (2015)

**1) Chumphon Fishing Vessel Case** – CWP, in collaboration with the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW) and Chumphon Provincial Police, initiated two cases against 6 offenders. This comprised one case against the owner of the fishing vessel on the charge of forced labor under Section 6/1, and another case against the owner and 5 foreign crewmembers charged with jointly causing grievous bodily harm to a Myanmar worker. The case followed PIPO center's order, upon receiving a report on the incident, to bring the vessel back onto shore for inspection. A Myanmar national was then rescued by MDTs and transferred to a nearby hospital, as well as entered into NRM process in which he was identified as a human trafficking victim during the reflection period. All offenders were arrested and the case is currently under the Court's consideration.

**2) Kanchanaburi Forced Labor Case** – CWP, in collaboration with DOPA, received a report from the Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF) regarding a forced labor case involving Myanmese nationals in Kanchanaburi province. The employers have allegedly coerced the Myanmese nationals to work unwillingly in sugarcane field. Additionally, there have been incidents of physical abuse and threats with firearms. Authorities have taken action to provide assistance, successfully aiding a total of 14 victims, comprising 10 males and 4 females. These victims have entered the screening process as part of the operational plan for NRM, which aims to provide a period for psychological recovery, readiness to provide information, and identify 14 Myanmar workers as human trafficking victims. This exploitation involves seeking benefits through forced labor or services, as stipulated in Section 6/1. Currently, all 14 victims are undergoing necessary procedures and the case is under the Court's consideration.

**3) Indian Forced Labor in Myanmar Case** – DSI has received a request for assistance from 8 Indian nationals who were subjected to forced labor in Myanmar. The victims, IT specialists with English proficiency, were deceived by agent groups and online scam networks from Dubai, falsely promising digital marketing jobs in Thailand. Upon arrival, they were taken to work in a casino in Myawaddy, Myanmar, where they were coerced into online scams and restricted from departure. The victims endured physical harm and sought help from the Indian Embassy to pay a ransom for their release. Upon entering Thailand, they were apprehended by immigration authorities. DSI promptly provided assistance, initiating NRM screening process, collaborating with MDTs for victim identification, conducting pre-trial witness interviews, and facilitating the return of the victims to their home country as requested.

### 7.3 Cases of Lessons Learnt

1) **Forced Beggar Cases** – CWP, in collaboration with O.U.R., initiated 3 human trafficking cases, involving forced child begging in the Pattaya area, Chonburi Province. An investigation was conducted to gather evidence and information on foreign individuals involved in bringing children to beg. The authorities successfully dismantled a Cambodian beggar group that brought children aged 2-10 to beg in Pattaya. They rescued and provided care for 18 children and arrested 41 Cambodian nationals. Currently, 5 suspects have been sentenced to prison by the Courts.

2) **Chiang Rai Case** – CWP collaborated with the Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau (CCIB) and received a report from a relative of a potential victim, who was deceived into online sexual exploitation by a Chinese suspect. RTP arrested 17 suspects, 11 Thais and 6 Chinese. MDTs screened and identified 31 victims of human trafficking: 4 Thais and 27 Laotians. A total of 7 underaged Laotian victims decided to stay at a private shelter and were provided co-plaintiff's attorney, with NGOs support from "Free a Girl and Hug project." As far as the prosecution process is concerned, 22 Laotian victims were repatriated, 4 were in the process of repatriation, and 1 male Laotian victim decided to stay and work in Thailand. Further investigation has led to an investigation in Chonburi Province and an arrest of additional 31 suspects, comprising Thais, Chinese, Laotian, and Myanmese nationals. The Chiang Rai Provincial Court has convicted all 14 defendants, sentenced them to imprisonment and ordered compensation for the victims accumulating to THB 8,588,610 (USD 245,388.86).

## 8. Work of the Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (TICAC)

Prevention and suppression of online child sexual exploitation has been one of the RTP's top priorities in addressing trafficking in persons. In 2023, the RTP's TICAC investigated 1,074 potential offences and initiated a total of 540 cases, comprising 99 trafficking cases, 236 child sexual exploitation cases, 182 child pornography possession cases, and 23 other cases. TICAC also investigated 8,626 tips from the U.S. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) through Cyber Tipline cooperation. A total of 358 victims were rescued. Details are as indicated in Diagram 5.

Diagram 5: Key Achievements of TICAC

Taking a proactive approach for long-term prevention, TICAC along with D.A.R.E. instructors from police stations nationwide, have conducted training sessions on preventing online child sexual exploitation and abuse across Thailand. The training sessions were delivered to students, pupils, parents, and community leaders totaling 38,469 times, reaching 946,268 individuals in schools, educational institutions, and communities, spanning 22,164 locations nationwide. The main objective of these sessions is to boost a whole-of-society awareness and resilience on the dangers of online social media and thus enable them to be a support system in protecting children from online threats. The training aims to equip individuals with knowledge and skills necessary to prevent and respond to potential dangers on the internet and to foster a safe online environment for children.

## 9. Improving the Efficacy of Human Trafficking Prosecution[4]

### 9.1 The "Cyber Vaccine" Project

RTP has established a working committee to strengthen resilience against technology-related crime. The committee conducts training, develops personnel, and builds community networks. The committee has implemented the "Cyber Vaccine" project, aiming to provide knowledge across all sectors regarding technology-related crime and access methods. It utilizes various public relations media to create awareness and resilience against technology-related crimes. The RTP has disseminated Cyber Vaccine media through various channels from the year 2022-2023. The goal is to immune the public against online threats and to ensure that law enforcement officers are competent and adaptive to the fast-evolving nature of online crime. The initiative also focuses on educating the public at the community level to prevent them from falling victim to technology-related crimes. As part of their duties, the police engaged with the public through cyber vaccine quiz games as self-assessment activities. This enables individuals to assess their cybersecurity preparedness voluntarily.

### 9.2 Capacity-Building on the Implementation of NRM

1) CWP organized a seminar for 600 police officers nationwide on NRM, case management, and victim protection related to human trafficking and forced labor. The training highlighted deficiencies in real-life operations, focusing on the entire process from notification, identification to protection. The goal was to enhance officers' capabilities in handling these issues and providing effective assistance to victims.

[4] U.S. Recommendation: (7) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti-trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims.

2) OAG's Department of Human Trafficking in Persons Litigation conducted a seminar to outline the guidelines for implementing NRM in the capacity as public prosecutors. The seminar targeted public prosecutors in 15 pilot provinces, including Chiang Rai, Tak, Nong Khai, Khon Kaen, Kalasin, Ubon Ratchathani, Si Sa Ket, Prachin Buri, Kanchanaburi, Sa Kaeo, Ranong, Chumphon, Songkhla, Satun, and Phuket. A total of 47 participants attended. The seminar emphasized victim-centered and trauma-informed care approaches, incorporating MDTs interviews, labor inspections, increasing the use of interpreters to assist victims, and consideration in the court case review process.

3) RTP's Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) organized NRM training project for 134 officers nationwide, including those involved in prevention, suppression, and investigation. The aim is to equip them with knowledge, understanding, and effective implementation of NRM.The training emphasizes the efficient application of the revised screening form, known as "Kor. Gor. Tor. Ror. 01," in their duties related to NRM.

4) In February, OAG's Department of Human Trafficking in Persons Litigation led a delegation of representatives involved in victim protection from human trafficking to meet with the Deputy Governor of Ranong Province and the heads of relevant departments in the province. The purpose was to have a dialogue and enhance understanding among relevant agencies and practitioners about the procedures for NRM. Ranong is a strategic province given its shared border with Myanmar and various natural routes that can be abused for illegal entry into Thailand. Implementing NRM not only facilitates the screening and identification of trafficked individuals or exploited labor, but also streamlines the legal process as well as enhances the protection of victims' rights.

5) In July, DSI organized a training on NRM, both through in-person and online sessions. The training involved more than 50 participants.The objectives were to enhance knowledge, understanding, and capacity development for special case inquiry officers, and personnel involved in combating human trafficking within DSI. The aim was to provide accurate guidance on the procedures for NRM, raise awareness about human trafficking indicators (especially forced labor), and build capacity for personnel to effectively apply various practices and mechanisms relating to combating human trafficking.

### 9.3 Capacity-Building Training on Investigation of Online Human Trafficking Cases

CWP organized a practical computer forensic investigation training program for TICAC to enhance their skills in utilizing computer science in electronic evidence gathering and online investigation. The training aimed to expedite and improve the efficiency of investigations and subsequent legal prosecution of offenders. A total of 254 individuals, including TICAC members and relevant personnel, completed the training to upskill their application of information technology to support digital evidence gathering and online investigations.

### 9.4 Trainings for Public Prosecutors on Human Trafficking Cases

1) OAG's Department of Human Trafficking in Persons Litigation held a meeting on 2 February 2023, supported by the IJM Foundation, with a view to enhancing coordination among prosecutors, victims, and relevant agencies working on human trafficking cases. The focus was on improving the efficiency of protecting victims' rights, ensuring they receive proper compensation in line with the law. The meeting involved 53 participants from government and private sectors, fostering collaboration to ensure the success of cases.

2) On 14-15 and 27-28 February 2023, OAG's Department of Human Trafficking in Persons Litigation organized two practical seminars, in Sa Kaeo Province and Ranong Province to enhance the skills of prosecutors and personnel from related agencies in protecting the rights of victims in human trafficking and forced labor cases. Participants included regional prosecutors, and representatives from various government agencies, 165 individuals in total. The main objective was to develop the skills of prosecutors and personnel in border provinces to handle human trafficking and forced labor cases effectively. The seminars aimed to foster collaboration, address challenges, and improve the prosecution process related to human trafficking cases.

3) OAG's Training and Development Institute conducted training courses on 15-17 and 20-22 February 2023 to enhance skills for prosecutors in sync with the nature of cases they handle. The training comprised two sessions in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province and Krabi Province, and addressed sexual exploitation, trafficking cases, forced labor and human trafficking in fisheries, respectively. The participants totaling 74 prosecutors. These trainings focused on improving the capabilities in questioning, observing physical and mental injuries, understanding the role of prosecutors in collaborating with MDTs, and addressing challenges in human trafficking cases.

### 9.5 Capacity-Building for Inquiry Officers and MDTs

CWP, in collaboration with MOL, organized a seminar to train inquiry officers and MDTs to enhance efficiency in protection of migrant workers and legal rights. The training aimed to prevent labor law violations that could lead to human trafficking issues. The participants included inquiry officers from various agencies nationwide, including the Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau, the Immigration Bureau, and MDTs, totaling 650 participants.

### 9.6 Training to Enhance the Prosecution in Fisheries Sector

During 28-30 May 2023, CWP initiated a project to enhance the capabilities of vessel inspection and fisheries labor inspection by PIPO Center's workforce. The goal was to equip personnel in charge of controlling vessel notifications with knowledge and understanding of operational procedures according to the 2023 guidelines. This effort aims to improve skills in inspection, investigation, evidence collection, legal proceedings, and inter-agency coordination. The project fostered positive relationships between police officers, personnel from the vessel notification control center, and other relevant government entities within the jurisdiction of the province where the control center is located. A total of 693 individuals participated in this initiative.

### 9.7 Capacity-Building for Local Government Officials

On 5-18 February 2023, DOPA conducted a 14-day special training program to develop the capabilities and strategies for preventing and combatting human trafficking among provincial-level government officials. The target groups included deputy district chief, administrative officers, and legal officers, as well as mid-level administrative officers from across the country, a sum of 30 individuals. Additionally, 6 participants from NGOs (O.U.R., the Immanuel Foundation or IMF, and Destiny Rescue), 6 speakers and observers, and 8 project managers and project staff, making a total of 50 participants, attended the training. The key objective of the training was to equip participants with knowledge and skills to effectively prevent and combat human trafficking.

### 9.8 Human Trafficking Free Community Initiative

DOPA has undertaken initiatives to support experts from the central office in disseminating knowledge to regional authorities for investigation, search, arrest of offenders, and enforcement of relevant laws. Group activities involve brainstorming sessions, training in report preparation for district and provincial administrative offices, as well as dissemination to local teams and communities to empower them to protect themselves from human trafficking and contribute to monitoring networks. This includes raising awareness about human trafficking through Damrongtham Centers, supporting and promoting a conducive environment for investment in special economic zones, and fostering the integration of all sectors. So far, 12 training sessions have been conducted under the project "Human Trafficking-Free Community Sub-districts" by the DOPA. Special operation units have been established at the provincial and district levels to inspect and monitor high-risk areas for human trafficking, take action to prevent trafficking, and apprehend offenders. In March 2023, there was coordination with monitoring networks to address incidents related to human trafficking, leading to the arrest of perpetrators, legal proceedings, and assistance for victims.

### 9.9 Projects of Legal Education for Students and Educational Personnel

In July 2023, OAG conducted a legal education project for students and educational personnel on combatting human trafficking in the form of online sexual exploitation. The project aimed to enhance overall effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts, reduce the incidence of youth falling victim to or being harmed by online sexual exploitation. The initiative targeted students across three batches in the provinces of Rayong Province and Chonburi Province, with a total of 1,032 participants.

Moreover, the Department of Rights and Liberties Protection, MOJ, also conducted a knowledge-building training entitled “Human Trafficking Awareness” and “Online Threats: More Dangerous Than You Think” under the project “Costs in Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking through the Mechanism of Rights and Freedoms.” The training aimed to educate students and educational personnel on the legal aspects of human trafficking, specifically in the context of seeking sexual exploitation benefits online. The goal was to foster awareness and understanding of the issue of human trafficking among vulnerable groups, establishing a network for coordination with government agencies. The training sessions were conducted in the provinces of Ubon Ratchathani Province and Chiang Mai, Province with a total of 339 participants.

### 9.10 Training for Judiciary Officials

In January 2023, the Office of Judicial Affairs, the Court of Justice (COJ), organized a training session to enhance the capabilities of judiciary officials in the protection of rights and freedoms. The training focused on “Tools to Support Temporary Release and Victim Protection in Criminal Cases: A Case Study on Human Trafficking” and was conducted via live streaming for judicial administrators, judges, court personnel, and relevant individuals. The objective was to provide knowledge and understanding of the protection of the rights of defendants, detainees, and victims in human trafficking cases, ensuring effective consideration and judgment in alignment with the principles of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand and United Nations’ standards.

# 10. International Cooperation and Partnership with NGOs

## 10.1 Developments in International Cooperation

### 1) Cooperation with Myanmar in Assisting Victims from Laukkai

CWP has achieved success in using diplomatic channels and international cooperation to assist Thai nationals who have been human trafficking victims and requested to travel back to Thailand from Laukkai, Myanmar, due to internal conflicts in Myanmar. The CWP conducted bilateral meetings between Myanmar and Thailand, as well as trilateral meetings involving Thailand, China, and Myanmar, to plan assistance for all displaced Thai individuals. The Thailand-led trilateral meeting resulted in the requested assistance, allowing the support for a total of 525 Thai individuals who were subsequently taken through the full NRM process at the screening center in Chiang Rai Province and in Nong Jok, Bangkok.

Upon arriving in Thailand, the CWP prepared MDTs to collaboratively conduct screenings of the victims at the designated screening points. The screening identified 174 victims of human trafficking out of the total of 525 individuals. All screened victims are currently in a reflection period to facilitate cooperation in expanding the impact and pursuing legal action against the online scam network. This operation has served as a practical training for the personnel on the ground. The CWP deployed central experts to supervise and enhance the skills of local staff in carrying out their duties.

### 2) Collaboration with Police Attachés at the Embassies in Thailand

The RTP collaborated with the Police Attachés at the embassies of 54 countries, involving a total of 100 personnel. The primary focus was on countering terrorism, online scams, and transnational human trafficking. Cooperation in tracking, apprehending, and swiftly prosecuting cross-border criminals to enhance the efficiency of combating international crime was also discussed. Additionally, the meeting also

presented the issues discussed at the INTERPOL General Assembly in Austria in November 2023, where the proposal to use Silver Notices was introduced. The purpose was to coordinate and notify member countries to help track and seize assets related to financial crimes efficiently. The aim was also to effectively combat transnational crimes and ensure that the guidelines received from INTERPOL are consistently applied in Thailand.

**3) Thailand-China-Myanmar Tripartite Discussion**

In March, the Commissioner-General of RTP presided over the first tripartite discussion with China's Ministry of Public Security and Myanmar Police Force. The meeting concluded discussions on enhancing trilateral cooperation on prevention and suppression of human trafficking syndicates, rescue measures for victims being detained abroad, and to find a sustainable solution for transnational crime, particularly online scamming and gambling. In total, the meetings were held from 11 April - 16 June 2023, at the Mae Sot Police Station, Mae Sot District, Tak Province, for 26 sessions.

**4) Bilateral Meeting on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons between Thailand and Myanmar**

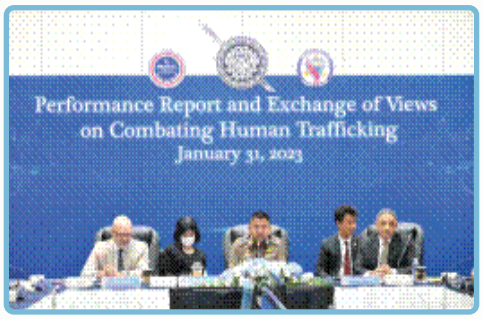
CWP joined the 10th Meeting on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons between Thailand and Myanmar. The meeting focused on assisting Thai female victims, who were deceived and coerced into prostitution in Myanmar.

**5) Human Trafficking Suspects Extradition to Malaysia**

CWP, in collaboration with NGOs and relevant agencies, extradited 4 Thai suspects to Malaysia for their involvement in a Rohingya human trafficking case. The joint effort follows penalties imposed by the Thai judicial process. The case, stemming from the discovery of mass graves in 2015, led to cooperation between Thailand and Malaysia, resulting in the extradition of 9 suspects. Four were later acquitted in Thailand and sent to Malaysia under a cross-border extradition framework, showcasing strong partnership in addressing transnational human trafficking cases.

6) Instant Platform with Foreign Anti-Narcotics and Crime Community of Thailand (FANC)

The Thai Government continued to promote partnerships with NGOs and international organizations as part of Thailand's commitment to combat human trafficking. In January, CWP has organized a meeting to explore collaboration between RTP and the Foreign Anti-Narcotics and Crime Community of Thailand (FANC) under the theme "Performance Report and Exchange of Views on Combating Human Trafficking." Representatives from 26 countries participated and joined the new instant messaging platform to be used as a channel for exchange of information and cooperation.




7) The Development of Joint Operational Plan

The Thai delegation from relevant law enforcement agencies led by OAG met with a Cambodian delegation on 16 – 19 January 2023 to develop a joint operational plan to improve cooperation on the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases, as well as the protection of victims' rights in the criminal justice procedures.

8) Regional Meeting for the Exchange of Information on Combatting Human Trafficking between Thailand and the Philippines

In September 2023, OAG and DSI participated in a regional meeting to dialogue and exchange information on combatting human trafficking between the Thailand and the Philippines. Both sides discussed strategies for assisting Thai human trafficking victims returning to their homeland, particularly the cases involving forced labor in online scam schemes and prosecuting offenders in scammer-related human trafficking cases.

9) "Child-Friendly Justice for Multi-Disciplinary Team Members: Pilot Project" Training

In January 2023, OAG, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and HUG Project, organized "Child-Friendly Justice for Multi-Disciplinary Team Members: Pilot Project" training workshop for 60 MDT members, including judges, public prosecutors, police officers, shelter officials, as well as NGOs, to enhance their understanding on appropriate procedures to work with child victims and advance effective collaboration among MDT members.

10) DSI's Bilateral Cooperation to Assist Thai and Foreign Workers

In 2023, DSI took proactive steps in fostering bilateral cooperation with various partner countries, including Myanmar, Finland, the Philippines, and Cambodia. The primary objective of this collaboration was to provide support, conduct screenings, and investigate cases related to human trafficking involving both Thai and foreign workers. This initiative specifically targeted individuals who had become victims of human trafficking, particularly within the context of deceptive practices orchestrated by scam groups.

### 10.2 Cooperation with International Organizations and NGOs

1) Seminar for Prosecutors on Witness and Evidence in Human Trafficking Cases with UNODC and ASEAN-ACT

In April and May 2023, OAG, in collaboration with the the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific and ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT), organized two seminars for prosecutors on the issues relating to witness and evidence in human trafficking cases. The seminars were attended by a total of 50 prosecutors and case officers. These seminars aimed to enhance the skills, knowledge, and understanding of prosecutors and case officers regarding witness evidence and challenges associated with it in human trafficking cases. The goal was to improve efficiency and effectiveness in prosecuting offenders and to promote a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding witness evidence in human trafficking cases. The insights gained from these seminars are intended to guide strategies for addressing challenges related to witness testimony in the adjudication process of court cases.

**2) Workshop on "Guidelines for Managing Human Trafficking Cases" with ASEAN-ACT**

In May 2023, OAG, RTP, and DSI, in collaboration with ASEAN-ACT, organized a workshop on "Guidelines for Managing Human Trafficking Cases," discussing clear strategies for providing initial legal advice. Issues focused are fact and incidents or actions indicating human trafficking offenses, particularly those relating to offenses conducted within national jurisdiction where investigators sought advice on evidence collection. Discussion also focused on offenses conducted outside national jurisdiction. The key questions addressed were the process of assigning prosecutors to investigate and increased international collaboration among ASEAN government agencies. The workshop was attended by a total of 36 government officers.

**3) Training for Prosecutors "Training of Trainers: How to be an Effective and Inclusive TIP Trainer"**

In June 2023, the OAG, in collaboration with ASEAN-ACT, organized a "Training of Trainers: How to be an effective and inclusive TIP trainer" for prosecutors. The objective was to develop a curriculum for prosecutors capable of serving as trainers in various training programs. The training aimed to enhance their capabilities and techniques as trainers, covering knowledge transfer, preparation of teaching materials, effective communication, and suitable content delivery methods for different audience. This included utilizing psychological principles in lesson planning and designing training content applicable to human trafficking-related work. The training was participated by 15 prosecutors.

**4) Meeting on Guidelines for Protecting Victims of Online Scam Related to Human Trafficking Cases**

In July 2023, OAG, in collaboration with the International Justice Mission (IJM) Foundation, organized a meeting to discuss guidelines for protecting victims of online deception related to human trafficking cases. The aim was to enhance operational efficiency with clearer guidelines and to facilitate the exchange of views and experiences among prosecutors and various organizations regarding challenges in their work. Representatives from government agencies and NGOs participated, with a total of 40 attendees.

5) Workshop Series for Judges on Consideration Procedures for Human Trafficking Cases

From February to November 2023, COJ, in collaboration with ASEAN-ACT, organized 5 workshops for judges working on human trafficking cases from the Courts of First Instance, Courts of Appeal, and the Supreme Court to enhance their knowledge, understanding, and consideration on relevant laws and legal procedures. The workshops aimed at improving efficacy and expediting the Courts' consideration procedure in accordance with the spirit and objective of the law. The workshops were attended by 179 attendees.

6) Training for Freelance Translators on the Understanding of Human Trafficking Cases

In March 2023, the COJ, in collaboration with the IJM Foundation, organized a training for 30 COJ registered and freelance translators on human trafficking cases, including legal aspects of the cases, the Courts' consideration procedures, and legal practice for human trafficking prosecution. This training promoted an understanding on how to work on human trafficking cases so as to improve their translation services for foreign litigants and witnesses in line with international laws and standards.

Additionally, the Department of Rights and Liberties Protection, MOJ, also organized a training program to enhance the skills of translators in the justice process and human trafficking cases under the project "Costs in Preventing and Combatting Human Trafficking through the Mechanism of Rights and Freedoms." The event took place in Chiang Mai Province and involved the participation of 30 independent foreign language translators. The objective was to provide training for foreign individuals residing in Thailand to enable them to assist in all stages of the justice process in human trafficking cases, fostering knowledge and understanding of laws, methodology in considering evidence, and relevant practices.

**7) Academic seminar on "Trauma-Informed Care Approach Towards Human Trafficking Victims"**

In May 2023, COJ, in collaboration with IJM Foundation, organized an academic seminar on "Trauma-Informed Care Approach Towards Human Trafficking Victims." The seminar aimed to equip participants with practical approaches towards victims, considering psychological trauma, especially when providing services in responding to inquiries or offering guidance to victims and witnesses in the court proceedings. The outlined approaches were designed to reduce psychological traumatization and enhance the application of skills and techniques, taking into account the psychological trauma of the victims in practice, thus improving the efficiency of services. The seminar had a total of 40 participants.

**8) Judges and Prosecutors Roundtable Discussion**

In September 2023, the COJ in collaboration with IJM Foundation, organized a roundtable discussion between judges and prosecutors to serve as a platform for discussing various issues and challenges and to seek appropriate solutions for resolving problems or conflicts that arise in the justice process. The aim was to enhance the efficiency of human trafficking cases and improve practices towards victims, who have experienced psychological trauma.

**9) Roundtable Discussion on Guidelines for Dealing with Victims in Human Trafficking Case**

COJ, in collaboration with OAG and IJM, organized a roundtable meeting among various agencies involved in the justice process. The purpose of the meeting titled "Guidelines for Dealing with Victims in Human Trafficking Cases" was to provide a platform for discussing various issues and challenges and to explore appropriate approaches for resolving problems or concerns arising in the justice process, particularly regarding the treatment of victims in human trafficking cases. The goal was to engage in dialogue and seek suitable solutions in collaboration with relevant agencies.

10) Workshop on the Integration of Cooperation and Information Exchange in Assisting and Preventing Victims of Human Trafficking Along Border Areas

In August 2023, DSI, in collaboration with the Exodus Road Foundation and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), organized a workshop on the integration of cooperation and information exchange in assisting and preventing victims of human trafficking along border areas. The focus was on sharing work experiences, challenges, and NRM to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement and victim assistance. The seminar aimed to support the creation of a network among organizations, of which roles and missions related to preventing and addressing human trafficking issues, particularly those in the border areas. This workshop had a multi-sector participation, from government agencies, international organizations, and private sector organizations.

11) Child Safe Friendly Tourism Project

On 6 November 2023, a training session was conducted and attended by more than 130 participants and featured speakers from the Department of Children and Youth, ECPAT Foundation, FOCUS Foundation, and GrandTech Company Limited. This collaborative effort involved representatives from various sectors, aligning with the commitment outlined in the memorandum of understanding signed by 21 organizations to promote safe and child-friendly tourism. Participants were briefed on the updates of the situation, patterns, and measures to curb child sexual exploitation in the tourism industry, as well as relevant human trafficking laws and gender-based violations. The training aimed to enhance positive image of the Thai tourism industry and instill confidence among tourists by emphasizing the whole-of-society and rigorous efforts in addressing this issue in a holistic manner.

# Protection

The Royal Thai Government remains committed to advancing inter-agency collaboration to deliver efficient protection and assistance services for human trafficking victims and forced labor, adhering to victim-centered and victim-friendly approaches. Seamless coordination among government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations is at the heart of the operation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), spanning from front-line notification to screening, victim identification, and protection.

## Key Progress in 2023

1. In 2023, the Government provided protection and assistance to 640 victims of trafficking in persons, forced labor or services, 270 of whom stayed in government shelters, 22 in private shelters, and 348 outside of the shelters.
2. NRM and the reflection period continued to be implemented nationwide.[5]
   - 400 Competent Authority officers participated in trainings on screening of potential victims of trafficking in persons.
   - 360 officers from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) in 77 provinces participated in trainings to provide protection services at Provincial Identification Centers. These Centers, established in 9 provinces, implemented the reflection period and have granted 156 potential victims protection services.
   - A review of the progress made in NRM implementation in border, coastal and high-risk provinces was conducted in 6 provinces in 2022 and 7 more in 2023. In the next phase, the review will be conducted throughout all provinces nationwide.

[5] U.S. Recommendation: (3) Fully implement the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the reflection period for victims and open victim identification centers.

3. 320 officers participated in trainings on trauma-informed care approach to provide protection services throughout all stages such as screening and identification, intake and interview.[6]

4. Protection and assistance were provided to victims, who wish to remain and work in Thailand after the completion of prosecution cases, in accordance with Section 37 of the Immigration Act B.E. 2522 (1979) and Notifications of the Ministry of Interior (MOI), allowing them to continue working in Thailand and renew their stay permits.[7]

5. The Government revised and streamlined the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for officers working at 8 shelters, in line with international principles and the best interest of the victims.

6. A database of 484 qualified interpreters across relevant anti-human trafficking agencies was developed in view of improving protection and assistance for victims. The database compiled also includes sign language interpreters to assist persons with disabilities exploited by human traffickers.

7. The Government has cooperated with partners to increase employment opportunities for victims staying in shelters, and promote awareness in self-protection from trafficking in persons, especially among students and general public through radio broadcasts and online channels for the general public. Bilateral meetings with neighboring countries were held to discuss cooperation on how to advance protection of victims.

8. Digital technology has been utilized to facilitate and reduce the wait time for victims in accessing protection services throughout the process.

9. In pursuit of a victim-centered approach, services and facilities are provided in response to specific needs of the victims, such as LGBTQI+ and minority groups staying in government shelters.

Thailand attaches priority to the protection of victims with respect for human dignity and non-discrimination regardless of gender, age, nationality, race, religion, tradition and culture, for all victims of trafficking in persons, including groups with specific needs such as persons with disabilities and LGBTQI+, who are accorded with the same protection in line with relevant international principles. Moreover, the Government is committed to a victim-centered approach in decision-making process, taking into account the best interest of victims, particularly children's self-determination,

[6] U.S. Recommendation: (4) Use victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches, including during multidisciplinary team (MDT) interviews and labor inspections.

[7] U.S. Recommendation: (6) Increase use of visas to enable victims to remain and work in Thailand after the completion of proceedings against traffickers.

and trauma-informed care in all stages, from victim screening, victim identification, protection both in and outside shelters, to sustainable reintegration into society to prevent revictimization. Thailand also adheres to the non-punishment principle in line with the domestic law that prohibits officials from taking legal proceedings against any victims on the offences of prevention and suppression of prostitution; entering, leaving, or residing in the Kingdom without permission; forging or using a forged travel document; being an alien working without permission.

In 2023, the increase in protection and assistance for victims of trafficking in persons demonstrated the effectiveness of stakeholder collaboration in all dimensions of anti-human trafficking from prosecution, protection, to prevention.

Diagram 6: Practices in Accordance with International Principles

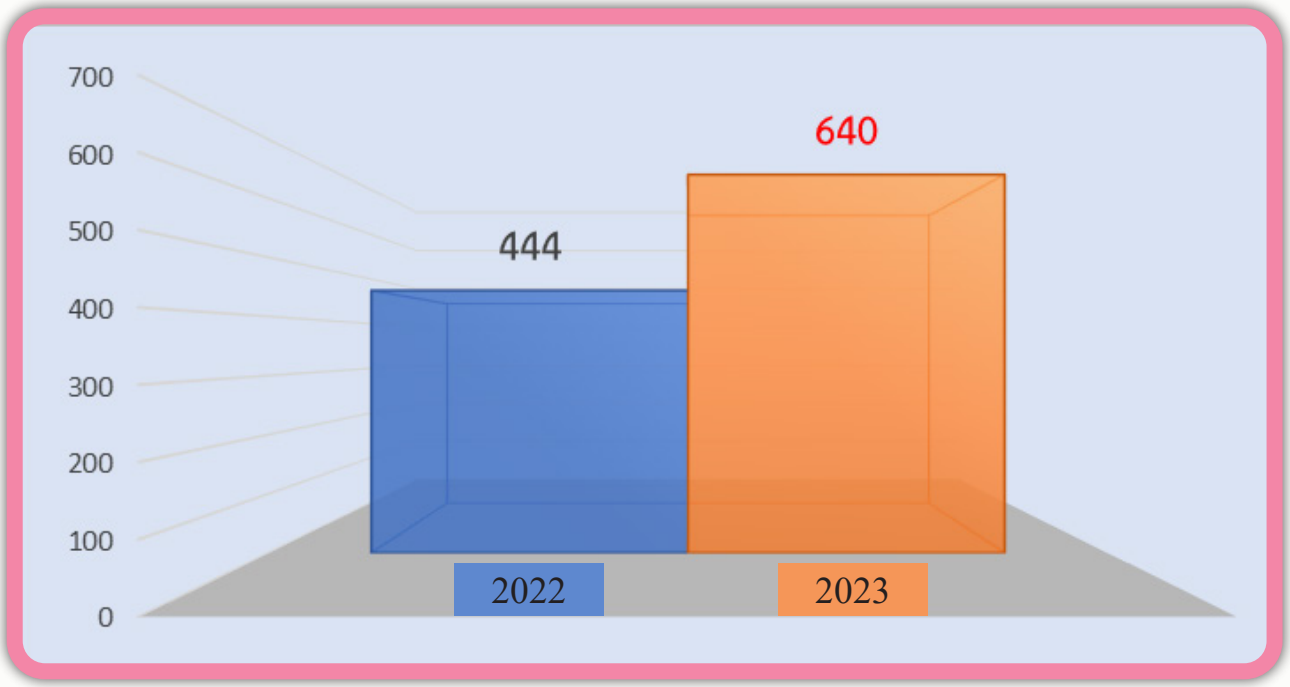
## 1. Statistics on Victim Protection and Assistance

In 2023, the number of victims of human trafficking and forced labor or services receiving protection services from the Government has increased, compared to that of last year. Achievements in 2023 are as follows:

### 1.1 Statistics on Victim Protection and Assistance in 2023

In 2023, the Government provided protection and assistance to 640 victims of trafficking in persons, forced labor or services, which comprised 248 male victims and 392 female victims. In comparison, the number of protected victims has increased from 444 persons in 2022.

Diagram 7: Comparison Between the Numbers of Protected Victims in 2022 and 2023




Out of a total of 640 protected victims were 248 males, 392 females (including 2 LGBTQI+ and 1 person with disabilities). Of this number, 312 victims were children and 328 victims were adults. The victims were divided into 2 groups, which comprised 437 victims of human trafficking and 203 victims of forced labor or services under Section 6/1 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, B.E. 2551 (2008) and its amendments (Table 23). The most common form of human trafficking was sexual exploitation (246 victims). The second most common form of human trafficking was forced laboror services (106 victims). Other forms of human trafficking included the production of sexual exploitation material (43 victims), other types of sexual exploitation (25 victims), forced begging (13 victims), slavery (2 victims) and other forms that were similar to extortion (2 victims).

## Table 23: Statistics on the Total Number of Protected Victims

| Types | Sex/Age | | | | Types of Exploitation from Human Trafficking | | | | | | | Forced Labor or Services Under Section 6/1 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Identified Victims | M | M < 18 | F | F < 18 | Prostitution | Pornography | Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation | Forced Labor or Services | Forced Begging | Slavery | Extortion | | |
| Foreigners | 75 | 12 | 35 | 28 | 18 | 6 | 5 | 63 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 42 | 150 |
| Thai | 116 | 45 | 101 | 228 | 228 | 37 | 20 | 43 | 1 | - | - | 161 | 490 |
| Total | 191 | 57 | 136 | 256 | 246 | 43 | 25 | 106 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 203 | 640 |

**Note:** (1) M = Male / M < 18 = Men under 18 years old / F = Female / F < 18 = Female under 18 years old (2) The numbers included 1 girl with disabilities in prostitution, 2 LGBTQI+ in prostitution and forced labor or services, 13 individuals with unidentified nationality, and 3 Rohingyas.

The highest number of victims of human trafficking in 2023 by nationality was Thai (490 victims), followed by Myanmar (41 victims), Indonesian (33 victims), Nepalese (13 victims) and Cambodian (12 victims). There were also 35 victims from Ghana, Malaysia, China, Tajikistan, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, for example, and 3 victims were Rohingyas (Table 24). For the 13 remaining victims, their nationalities could not be identified. This figure shows that Thai victims accounted for 76.56% of the total number of victims of human trafficking in the country in 2023.

## Table 24: Statistics on the Number of Protected Victims by Nationality

| Types | Sex/Age | | | | Types of Exploitation from Human Trafficking | | | | | | | Forced Labor or Services Under Section 6/1 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Identified victims | M | M < 18 | F | F < 18 | Prostitution | Pornography | Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation | Forced Labor or Services | Forced begging | Slavery | Extortion | | |
| Thai | 116 | 45 | 101 | 228 | 228 | 37 | 20 | 43 | 1 | - | - | 161 | 490 |
| Cambodian | - | 5 | - | 7 | 1 | - | - | - | 11 | - | - | - | 12 |
| Gnanaian | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Chinaese | 4 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | 5 |
| Tajikistani | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Tanzanian | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Nepalese | 11 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 12 | - | - | - | 1 | 13 |
| Burundian | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |

| Types | Sex/Age | | | | Types of Exploitation from Human Trafficking | | | | | | | Forced Labor or Services Under Section 6/1 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Identified victims | M | M < 18 | F | F < 18 | Prostitution | Pornography | Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation | Forced Labor or Services | Forced begging | Slavery | Extortion | | |
| Malayan | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Myanmar | 14 | 3 | 15 | 9 | 6 | 3 | - | 21 | - | - | 2 | 9 | 41 |
| Uganda | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| Rwandan | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Laotian | - | 1 | - | 6 | 4 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 7 |
| Indian | 3 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| Indonesian | 26 | 1 | 6 | - | - | - | - | 10 | - | - | - | 23 | 33 |
| Uzbekistani | - | - | 3 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Ethiopian | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| South African | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| Unidentified Nationality | 6 | - | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | - | - | - | 1 | 13 |
| Rohingya | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | 3 |
| Total | 191 | 57 | 136 | 256 | 246 | 43 | 25 | 106 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 203 | 640 |

**Note:** These numbers included victims of forced labor or services including those lured to work in cyber scam operations who travelled from neighboring countries and transited through Thailand prior to their returns to the countries of origin. The Government provided preliminary assistance in accordance with human rights principles and coordinated with respective embassies on repatriation through cooperation with governments of countries of origin.

### 1.2 Statistics on Victims Opting to Stay Outside of Shelters

In 2023, out of 640 victims, 348 victim (54.37%) opted to stay outside of shelters. Among these were 144 male victims and 204 female victims (Table 25). Victims opting to stay outside of shelters stayed with their families, had their own accommodation, or needed other forms of protection, such as children under the care of shelters for children. MHDHS appointed officers stationed in the victims' places of origin to coordinate and follow up with the victims who wished to receive assistance in accordance with their lawful rights despite their stay outside of shelters. This consisted of provision of services, individualized care, coordination with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund for remedies, claim for compensation and other remedies, periodic follow-up on legal proceedings, and different types of assistance catered to the victim's individual needs, while emphasizing the importance of victims' confidentiality.

Table 25: Number of Victims Opting to Stay Outside of Shelters

| Types | Sex/Age | | | | Types of Exploitation from Human Trafficking | | | | | | | Forced Labor or Services Under Section 6/1 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Identified Victims | M | M < 18 | F | F < 18 | Prostitution | Pornography | Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation | Forced Labor or Services | Forced Begging | Slavery | Extortion | | |
| Foreigners | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | - | - | 6 | 4 | - | - | 1 | 15 |
| Thai | 101 | 34 | 95 | 103 | 114 | 33 | 11 | 40 | - | - | - | 135 | 333 |
| Total | 106 | 38 | 99 | 105 | 118 | 33 | 11 | 46 | 4 | - | - | 136 | 348 |

**Note:** (1) M = Male / M < 18 = Men under 18 years old / F = Female / F < 18 = Female under 18 years old (2) The numbers included 1 girl with disabilities in prostitution, 2 LGBTQI+ in prostitution and forced labor or services, and 8 individuals with unidentified nationality.

### 1.3 Victims in Governments and Private Shelters

MSDHS has worked in collaboration with civil society organizations registered as private shelters to provide protection of victims of human trafficking in accordance with Section 6, and victims of forced labor or services in accordance with Section 6/1 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008). This is to ensure protection to victims without discrimination, taking into account the rights of victims, trauma-informed care, children's best interest, sexual orientation, cultural differences, and personal needs to ensure the safety of victims residing in shelters, and adherence to the victim-centered approach.

1) A total of 270 victims stayed in government shelters (42.19%). Of this number, 104 were males and 166 were females. 151 were Thai while 119 victims were foreigners. Victims who underwent exploitation in the form of prostitution were the largest group of victims (122 victims). The second largest group was victims of forced labor or services (58 victims), followed by victims of other forms of sexual exploitation, and forced beggars. In addition, among 66 victims of forced labor or services under Section 6/1, 26 were Thais and 40 were foreigners (Table 26).

## Table 26: Number of Victims Staying in Government Shelters

| Types | Sex/Age | | | | Types of Exploitation from Human Trafficking | | | | | | | Forced Labor or Services Under Section 6/1 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Identified Victims | M | M < 18 | F | F < 18 | Prostitution | Pornography | Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation | Forced Labor or Services | Forced Begging | Slavery | Extortion | | |
| Foreigners | 70 | 8 | 23 | 18 | 9 | - | 3 | 55 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 40 | 119 |
| Thais | 16 | 10 | 6 | 119 | 113 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 1 | - | - | 26 | 151 |
| Total | 86 | 18 | 29 | 137 | 122 | 3 | 8 | 58 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 66 | 270 |

**Note:** (1) M = Male / M < 18 = Men under 18 years old / F = Female / F < 18 = Female under 18 years old (2) The numbers included 3 Rohingyas.

2) 22 victims stayed in private shelters (3.44%) were all women. Of this number, there were 6 Thais, 16 foreigners, and 5 victims whose nationalities could not be identified. Victims involved in creating and distributing pornography formed the largest group of victims (7 persons), followed by victims involved in other forms of sexual exploitation (6 persons), prostitution (6 persons) and forced labor (3 persons) (Table 27).

## Table 27: Number of Victims Staying in Private Shelters

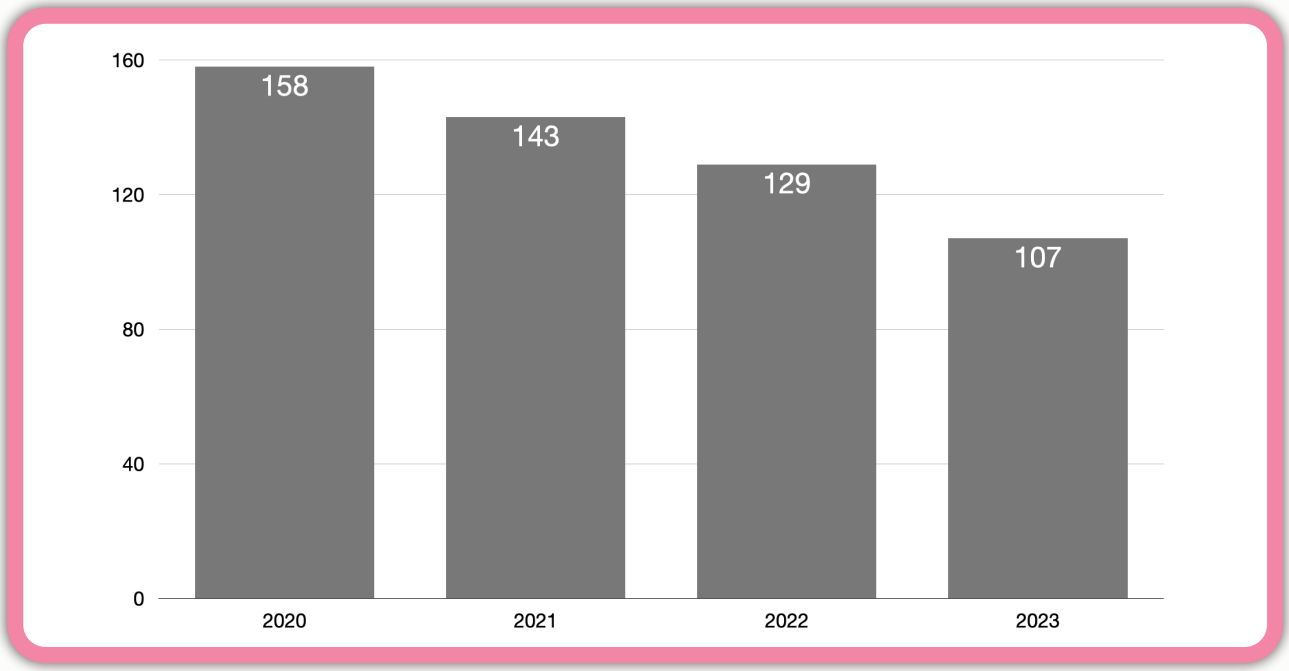
| Types | Sex/Age | | | | Types of Exploitation from Human Trafficking | | | | | | | Forced Labor or Services Under Section 6/1 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Identified Victims | M | M < 18 | F | F < 18 | Prostitution | Pornography | Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation | Forced Labor or Services | Forced Begging | Slavery | Extortion | | |
| Foreigners | - | - | 8 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 16 |
| Thais | - | - | - | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| Total | - | - | 8 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 22 |

**Note:** (1) M = Male / M < 18 = Men under 18 years old / F = Female / F < 18 = Female under 18 years old (2) The numbers included 5 individuals with unidentified nationality.

### 1.4 Victim Protection in the Shelters

Subsequent to their admission to shelters, victims who entered the Reflection Period (RP) would be able to access social welfare services, and mental and psychological rehabilitation programs, and undertake an assessment to determine their readiness to participate in the protection program, and to make decisions in legal proceedings. Once the victims decided to take legal actions, they would receive individualized care, assistance in taking criminal justice procedures and in making requests in accordance with their lawful rights.This was to ensure the victim's successful reintegration into society. In 2023, there were 292 victims admitted into the shelters, 121 of whom successfully reintegrated into society. On average, the duration of their stay was 107 days (Diagram 8). The remaining 171 victims were in the process of receiving legal assistance and family assessment for future reintegration into society. Overall, in 2023 victims were able to reintegrate into society more quickly, in comparison to 2022.

Diagram 8: Duration for Victim Protection in Shelters from 2020 to 2023 (days)




### 1.5 Statistics on Return and Reintegration of Victims into Society

In 2023, the reintegration of 437 victims into society took into account the capacity of local agencies to accommodate the victims and the principle of non-revictimization. Of the 437 victims, 346 were Thais and 91 were foreigners; 60 returned to their countries of origin and 25 were repatriated through embassies of countries of origin. The latter were victims of trafficking in persons

committed in other countries and received assistance, including from the Royal Thai Government, as they transited through Thailand. Furthermore, 6 victims were accepted for resettlement (Table 28).

Table 28: Number of Victims Repatriated to Countries of Origin

| Types of Victims' Repatriation | Prostitution | Forced Labor | Other Forms of Exploitation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thai Victims Repatriated to Places of Origin | 56 | 288 | 2 |
| Foreign Victims Repatriated to Countries of Origin by the Royal Thai Government | 4 | 54 | 2 |
| Foreign Victims Repatriated by Governments of Countries of Origin | - | 25 | - |
| Victims Repatriated by NGOs/IOs | - | - | - |
| Foreign Victims Accepted for Resettlement | - | - | 6 |
| Total | 60 | 367 | 10 |

### 1.6 Statistics on Assistance for Thai Nationals Returning from Overseas

In 2023, the Government provided assistance to 533 Thai nationals, who encountered problems related to human trafficking and forced labor or services overseas. The victims assisted were 19 victims of prostitution and 514 victims of forced labor. Myanmar was a destination country, where the highest number of Thai victims (525 victims) received assistance in repatriation from the Government (Table 29).

Table 29: Number of Thai nationals who received assistance in repatriation

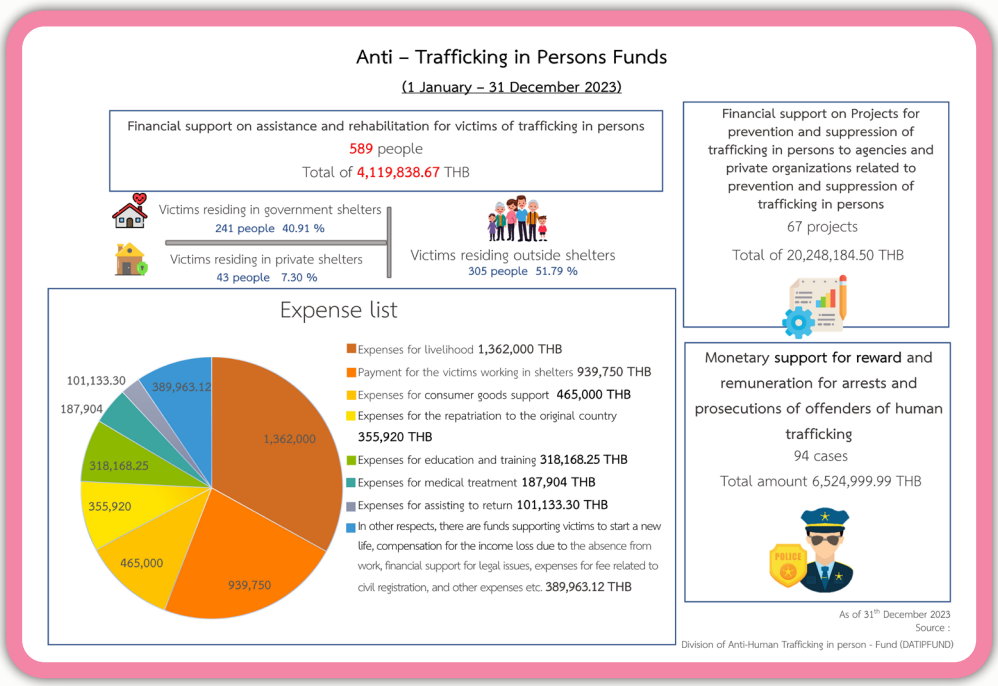
| Types | Countries of destination | Gender | | | Age | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female | LGBTI+ | 0 - 18 | 18 + |
| Prostitution | U.A.E. | - | 5 | - | - | 5 |
| | Hong Kong | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| | India | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| | Myanmar | - | 1 | 10 | - | 11 |
| Forced Labor or Services | Myanmar | 318 | 196 | - | 12 | 502 |
| Total | | 319 | 204 | 10 | 12 | 521 |

## 2. Provision of Assistance and Remedies in Accordance with Domestic Law

The Government attaches importance to providing assistance and remedies to victims of human trafficking and forced labor or services. This consists of (1) remedies for victims under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund, which are preliminary remedies from the government budget; (2) compensation claims from offenders; and (3) compensation claims for accrued wages.

### 2.1 Remedies for Victims Under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund

In 2023, 589 victims received preliminary remedies from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund. Of this number, there were victims identified in 2023 and prior years, consisting of 241 victims in government shelters (40.91%), 43 victims in private shelters (7.30%) and 319 victims who stayed outside the shelters (51.79%). A total of THB 4,119,838.67 (USD 117,709.68) remedies were provided for living expenses, shelter work remuneration, repatriation, education and training, medical treatment, assistance for victims in foreign countries returning to Thailand, funds for victims to restart their lives, compensation for the victims' loss of earnings, expenses related to legal proceedings, physical and mental rehabilitation, and other expenses.




Under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund, THB 20,279,624.50 (USD 579,417.84) was allocated for anti-human trafficking organizations that implemented 67 projects to prevent and combat human trafficking. THB 6,524,999.99 (USD 186,428.57) was allocated for rewards and compensation for people providing leads that resulted in the arrests and prosecution of human trafficking offenders in 94 cases.

### 2.2 Assistance on Compensation Claims from Offenders

In 2023, MSDHS assisted 218 victims in determining the number of claims for compensation from offenders in 134 cases, amounting to THB 101,017,052 (USD 2,886,201.49) (Table 30-31). After the amount of claim was established, the prosecutor of each case would make a claim on behalf of the victims. As for victims who decided not to seek compensation because they did not wish to pursue legal actions, their decisions were respected in accordance with the victim-centered approach.

Table 30: Claims Made by Victims Inside Shelters

| Types of Trafficking | Number of Cases | Number of Victims | Total Compensation (THB) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sex Trafficking | 39 | 53 | 27,318,331 |
| Pornography | 5 | 5 | |
| Forced Labor | 2 | 14 | |
| Total | 46 | 72 | |

Table 31: Claims Made by Victims Outside Shelters

| Types of Trafficking | Number of Cases | Number of Victims | Total Compensation (THB) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sex Trafficking | 49 | 90 | 73,698,721 |
| Pornography | 27 | 31 | |
| Forced Labor | 9 | 20 | |
| Forced Begging | 3 | 5 | |
| Total | 88 | 146 | |

### 2.3 Assistance on Compensation Claims for Victims of Forced Labor or Services

In 2023, MSDHS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour (MOL) and civil society organizations, provided assistance to 19 victims claiming compensation from their employers for accrued wages, amounting to a total of THB 1,369,931.61 (USD 39,140.90).

### 2.4 Enforcing the Courts' Order for Restitutions and Compensations

MSDHS continued to provide assistance to victims to receive remedies from offenders through the facilitation of enforcing the Court's orders in accordance with Section 15 of Human Trafficking Criminal Procedure Act. B.E. 2559 (2016). Details of MSDHS assistance between 2020-2023 appear in Table 32.

Table 32: Number of Cases Enforced by the Courts' Order

| Implementation \ Years | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number (cases) | 31 | 23 | 53 | 25 |
| Issuing orders | | | | |
| Pending for issuing orders | 1 | 11 | 11 | 2 |
| Issued orders | 30 | 12 | 42 | 23 |
| Compensation has been paid | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| Compensation has not been paid | 29 | 12 | 40 | 23 |
| Issuing writ of execution | | | | |
| Pending for Issuing writ of execution | 1 | - | - | 10 |
| Already issued writ of execution | 28 | 12 | 39 | 13 |
| Process has been terminated | - | - | 1 | - |
| Searching assets | | | | |
| In progress of searching assets | 13 | 8 | 34 | - |
| The assets have already been searched | 15 | 4 | 5 | 13 |
| The owner's name is identified, but the assets are not detected. | 11 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Name of the asset owner is not found | 4 | 2 | 2 | 8 |

## 3. Implementation of National Referral Mechanism and Reflection Period and Establishment of Victim Identification Centers[8]

Since the adoption of NRM by the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee in March 2022, a Subcommittee was established to steer and ensure effective implementation of NRM. This included conducting capacity building training for officers, developing SOPs and relevant instruments, and overseeing the implementation of NRM at the local level in order to identify challenges and present recommendations for policy-level decisions. Progress made in the past year included:

[8] U.S. Recommendation: (3) Fully implement the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the reflection period for victims and open victim identification centers.

### 3.1 Establishment of Victim Identification Centers

13 Victim Identification Centers were established across Thailand, from Bangkok to Saraburi, Sa Kaeo, Phuket, Kanchanaburi, Lamphun, Satun, Prachinburi, Chiang Rai, Songkhla, Narathiwat, Phatthalung, to Loei provinces. In 2023, 765 potential victims (497 males and 268 females) were referred from their initial screening conducted by the Royal Thai Police (RTP) and MOL to receive assistance and basic services at the Centers. This number consisted of 132 children and 633 adults (354 Thais and 411 foreigners, including 309 Myanmar nationals). The screening processes identified 252 victims, who were later referred to protection shelters, particularly Thai nationals returning to their hometown or their families. The remaining 513 individuals were transferred to relevant agencies to receive appropriate remedies according to NRM.

Table 33: Number of Interviewed Persons

| Nationality | Persons Interviewed | Gender | | Age | | Result | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female | Under 18 Years Old | Over 18 Years Old | Victims | Not Victims |
| Thai | 354 | 233 | 121 | 30 | 324 | 171 | 183 |
| Myanmar | 309 | 185 | 124 | 100 | 209 | 31 | 278 |
| Indonesian | 24 | 21 | 3 | - | 24 | 24 | - |
| Laotian | 16 | - | 16 | 2 | 14 | 4 | 12 |
| South African | 2 | - | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | - |
| Nepalese | 15 | 15 | - | - | 15 | 8 | 7 |
| Indian | 9 | 9 | - | - | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| Egytian | 5 | 5 | - | - | 5 | - | 5 |
| Chinese | 3 | 3 | - | - | 3 | 3 | - |
| Ethiopian | 15 | 15 | - | - | 15 | - | 15 |
| Turkish | 2 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 2 | - |
| Malaysian | 2 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Russian | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Sri Lankan | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Burundian | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Pakistani | 2 | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| Ugandan | 2 | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| Kenyan | 2 | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| Total | 765 | 497 | 268 | 132 | 633 | 252 | 513 |

### 3.2 Capacity Building for Officers[9]

#### (1) Information Sessions on NRM Operational Guideline for Competent Authorities

The NRM Subcommittee, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), organized workshops on NRM and Operational Guideline for Competent Authority. The workshops were attended by officers from MOI, RTP's Provincial Police Division and Immigration Bureau, MOL, and MSDHS. Following two batches of 200 officers in 2022, additional 200 officers in the remaining provinces participated in the workshops, enhancing their understanding of NRM and its implementation on the ground.

#### (2) Training Workshops for MSDHS Officers

MSDHS conducted in-house training workshops on the NRM Operational Guideline for officers at Victim Identification Centers. The training enhanced the officers' understanding on NRM, the reflection period, and a trauma-informed care approach during interview and initial protection processes, and included a simulation exercise aimed to reinforce their skills to effectively assist and manage potential victims. Two rounds of training workshops were held and included Four batches of the total 360 participants from 77 provinces, provinces, focusing on border and coastal provinces with reported human trafficking cases.

[9] U.S. Recommendation: (7) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti-trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims.

### 3.3 Follow-up on the implementation of NRM

The NRM Subcommittee conducted monitoring and evaluation of NRM implementation nationwide. Border and coastal provinces as well as those with reported human trafficking cases were selected as pilot provinces.The Subcommittee visited 6 provinces in 2022 and 7 provinces in 2023 to follow up on the management of Victim Identification Centers, including facilities, personnel, services and budgets, and gathered information on limitations and recommendations to improve NRM implementation. The follow-up found that these pilot provinces were well prepared to implement NRM, including the establishment of provincial subcommittees to implement NRM, the preparedness of local facilities, and the adoption of long-term plans to provide assistance to potential victims of trafficking in persons. Concurrently, reported challenges and recommendations were submitted to the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee for further policy decisions. Additional visits to cover all 77 provinces in Thailand were planned to gather relevant information and feedbacks to improve the efficiency of NRM at the national level.

### 3.4 Improvement/Enhancement of NRM Implementation and Victim Identification Centers

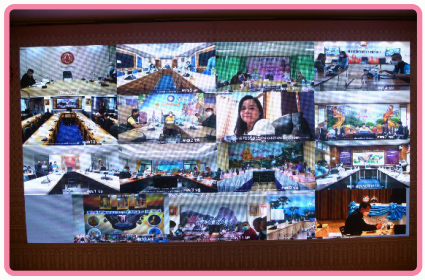
The Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA), MOI, supported and provided facilities for protection services for potential victims of human trafficking and forced labor and services, in accordance with NRM. Budget proposals were drafted to enhance the equipment and facilities, as recommended by NRM Subcommittee, including:

**(1) Enhancing Victim Identification Centers in 10 Pilot Provinces**

DOPA was granted THB 8,476,800 (USD 242,194.29) for the fiscal year 2023 to support the project in the 10 pilot provinces accordingly. At the same time, DOPA established Victim Identification Centers in all provinces nationwide with appropriate facilities and equipment as recommended by NRM Subcommittee.

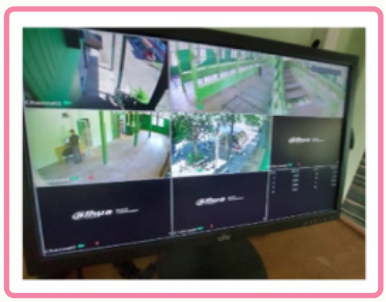
**(2) Preparatory Meeting on the Implementation of NRM Operational Guideline, Case Management, and Victim Protection and Assistance (2022)**

Investigation and Legal Affairs Bureau, DOPA organized a hybrid preparatory meeting on 24 February 2023 at MOI, chaired by Mr. Sittipong Juljarern, Permanent Secretary of MOI, and attended by Police General Surachate Hakparn, Deputy Commissioner-General of RTP; Mr. Pravit Roykaew, Deputy-Director General of the Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation, and all provincial governors across Thailand. The meeting aimed to enhance the capacities of Provincial Subcommittees on Anti-Trafficking Centers to effectively and efficiently implement the NRM Operational Guideline. During the meeting, the Permanent Secretary of MOI reaffirmed the importance of implementing existing policies and orders regarding the implementation of NRM Operational Guideline. In addition, participants shared best practices and recommendations, including those concerning coordination between agencies and NGOs.



### (3) Follow-up and Evaluation of Victim Identification Center Enhancement Project

Officers from the Law Enforcement Center of the Department of Provincial Administration visited Victim Identification Centers in 10 pilot provinces to follow up and evaluate the Centers' Enhancement Project. This aimed to enhance the capacity of officers in implementing anti-human trafficking action plans as well as to publicize their work, in accordance with the Action Plan on the National Referral Mechanism, Case Management, Victim Protection (B.E. 2565). The working group also held consultations with regional agencies related to the implementation of NRM Operational Guideline and Anti-Human Trafficking Act as well as recurring challenges and limitations, paving way for further regional solutions. The working group also evaluated the Victim Identification Center Enhancement Project in light of the objectives determined by NRM Subcommittee.



## 4. Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking

MSDHS, as the main protection agency, provided services to victims of human trafficking and forced labor, based on a victim-centered approach and individualized care for those with specific needs, in accordance with international principles and standards.[10] Progress made in 2023 is as follows:

### 4.1 Implementation of SOPs for Practitioners Providing Protection Services at Shelters for Victims of Trafficking in Persons

In 2022, MSDHS developed SOPs for practitioners providing protection services at shelters for victims of trafficking in persons, incorporating recommendations from victims who had received protection services in the shelters, in line with the survivor engagement concept. In 2023, the shelters across the country put SOPs into action in a more unified manner, covering protection services during the reflection period, individualized care and reintegration programs.

### 4.2 Development of SOPs for Practitioners Providing Protection Services to Victims Staying outside of Shelters

MSDHS developed SOPs for practitioners providing protection services to victims who do not wish to stay in the shelters. SOPs assisted provincial officers in providing appropriate follow-up and individualized care for the victims in the same manner as the established procedures for the shelters and in line with international standards.

### 4.3 Freedom of Movement and Communication for Adult Victims[11]

Following the adoption of SOPs for practitioners providing protection services at shelters for victims of trafficking in person, MSDHS adopted a standard practice guaranteeing the freedom of movement and communication to all adult victims to enter and leave the shelters freely, taking into consideration their safety and best interests.

[10] U.S. Recommendation: (9) Ensure government- and NGO-operated shelters provide victims with adequate trauma-informed and individualized care, such as legal assistance and psychological care, and implement consistent policies on victim services across all shelters.

[11] U.S. Recommendation: (8) Increase the ability of victims, especially adults, to move freely in and out of shelters and access communication devices and reassess shelter placements periodically to ensure victims are not required to remain in shelters longer than necessary.

## Freedom of Movement in Welfare Protection Centers

Mr. A (pseudonym), a Thai national, received protection services at a shelter. Relevant officers follow the established procedures regarding the reflection period. When he wished to buy a mobile phone with a SIM-card to contact his family and asked the officers at the shelter, the latter accompanied him to a nearby commercial center. After the purchase, he often used his phone inside the shelter. In addition to his personal mobile data subscription, a dedicated room with Wi-Fi connection was also available.

During his stay, Mr. A was allowed to take local buses to a nearby commercial center to purchase personal items. Later, he also booked a taxi via mobile application. As a religious man, the officers often invited him and others who are interested to visit local temples to make merit on religious holidays.Upon his request, the officers also accompanied him to a local bank to transfer some money for his relatives. He was also granted a two-day leave to visit his relatives at home, and was allowed to book a transport service online to pick him up at the shelter and drop him at a bus station.

### 4.4 Services for Victims with Specific Needs

MSDHS assigned all shelters to provide individualized care and services to those with specific needs, such as persons with disabilities and LGBTQI+.

Rooms in shelters could be adapted according to specific needs of the victims (family / persons with disabilities / LGBTQI+)

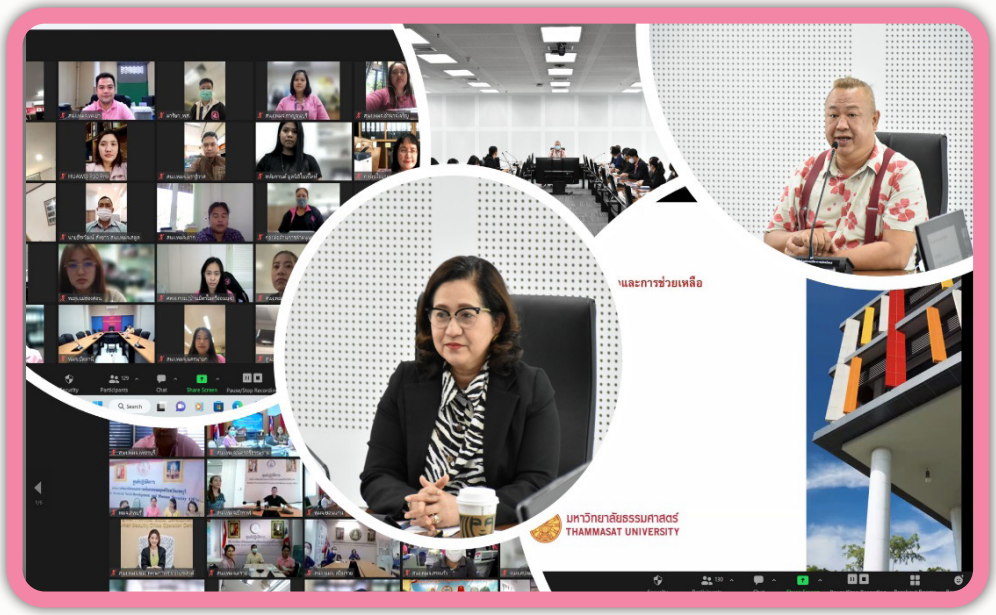
## 5. Enhancing the Use of Trauma-Informed Care Approach[12]

MSDHS prioritizes a trauma-informed care approach in protection services and legal procedures, including at the 9 shelters and 3 other registered private-run shelters. Progress made in 2023 is as follows:

### 5.1 Workshop on Trauma-Informed Care Approach in NRM

MSDHS organized a hybrid workshop to enhance the officers' understanding and capacity on trauma-informed care approach in NRM.The workshop was attended by 450 officers who will be conducting screening interviews and providing services at the central and provincial levels from all 77 provinces. Participants were informed about providing trauma-sensitive services to the victims as well as self-care to prevent secondary trauma.

[12] U.S. Recommendation: (4) Use victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches, including during multidisciplinary team (MDT) interviews and labor inspections.




5.2 Training Workshop on Trauma-Informed Care Approach for Government and Private Shelters

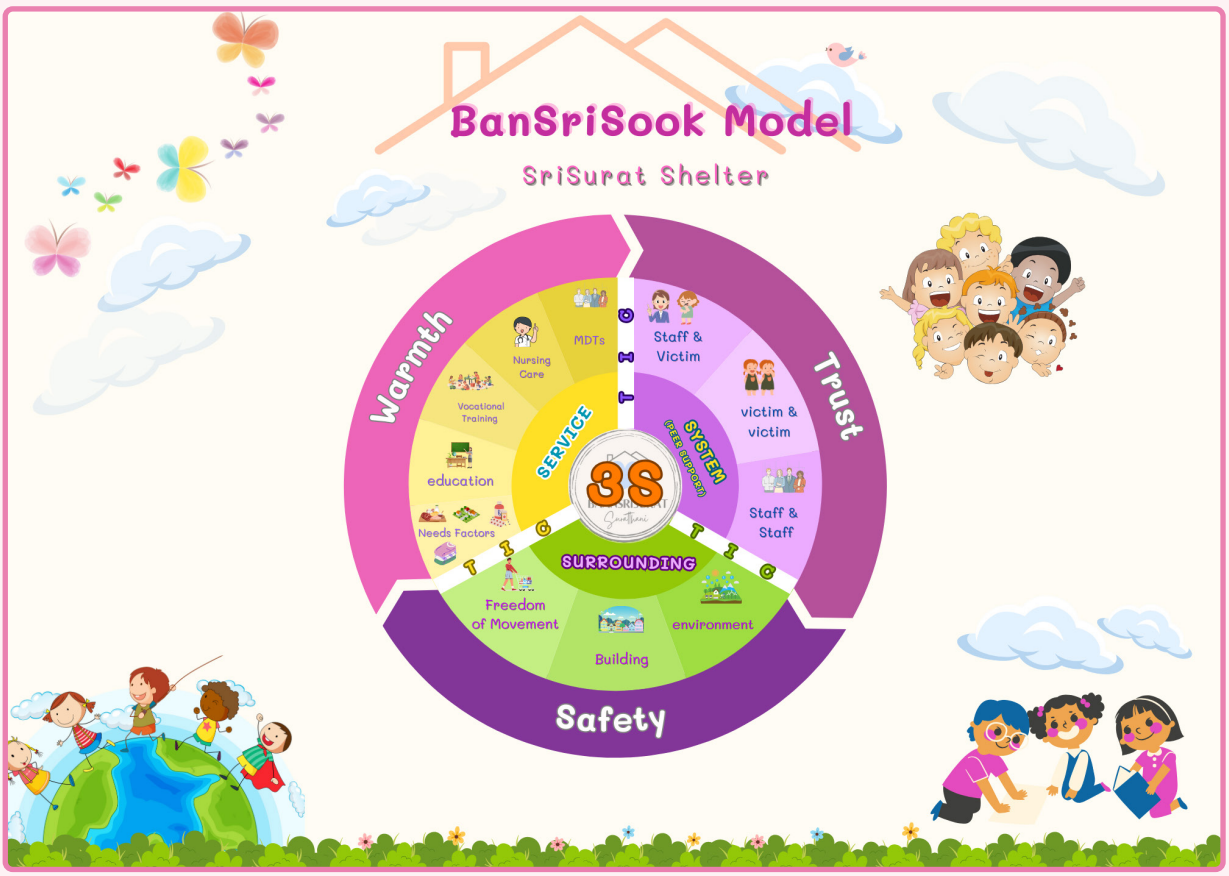
MSDHS organized a "Workshop to Determine Trauma-Informed Care Procedures for Victims of Human Trafficking" to enhance the understanding and capacities of practitioners at government and registered private shelters. The workshop series covered 10 batches of the total 350 practitioners from 12 institutions between February and March 2023. During the training, experts and participants exchanged experiences and developed common standard practices to provide trauma-informed care.

## Examples of Application of Trauma Informed Care (TIC): TIC in Shelter

### "Seal the Wound with Plaster" Activity

The activity focused on providing counselling for those receiving protection services to give them safe space to tell stories of how they were mistreated by families or those surrounding them. The Trauma-Informed Care approach was applied to this activity in healing the emotional wounds of victims. Counsellors would observe the ways the victims talked and their facial and eye expressions to understand the severity of their trauma. These victims were also encouraged to embrace themselves to help heal the emotional wounds they had and improve their sense of self-worth.

### Bann Sri Suk Model Activity



### 5.3 Capacity-Building Trainings for Shelter Officers and Other Relevant Officers in Determining Financial Remedies for Victims and Use of Victim Impact Statement (VIS)

MSDHS held capacity-building trainings in determining financial remedies for victims for 3 batches of its legal officers and social workers.The trainings also provided additional information on the use of Victim Impact Statement (VIS) to reduce the effect of trauma on victims' mental health. VIS could also be used in courts for the determination of compensation to be paid by offenders to the victims.

## 6. Increasing Number of Interpreters and Interpretation Service System for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Shelters and Court Proceedings[13]

MSDHS prioritizes providing protection services to victims on a non-discriminatory basis and regardless of nationality or race. Foreign victims would receive the same treatment as that of Thai victims and be assisted by interpreters, who have been professionally trained and equipped with knowledge on victim protection. A database of interpreters was compiled to provide services to victims in shelters and other protection agencies. Progress made in 2023 was as follows:

### 6.1 Increasing Number of Interpreters in Judicial System for Protection of Victims.

MSDHS, together with the Rights and Liberties Protection Department, Ministry of Justice (MOJ), organized a training for interpreters working in the judicial system. The training aimed to enhance interpreters' understanding of practices for victim protection.

### 6.2 Compiling List of Interpreters and Assessing Their Readiness to Provide Interpretation Services (MSDHS/Rights and Liberties Protection Department/courts/MOL)

MSDHS, in collaboration with the Rights and Liberties Protection Department, the Office of the Judiciary, and MOL, compiled a list of interpreters for victim protection to ensure the accessibility of interpretation services in a timely and efficient manner.

Table 34: Numbers of Interpreters

| Agencies | Language | | | | | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Burmese | Khmer | Vietnamese | Lao PDR | English | Chinese | Rohingya | |
| MSDHS | 187 | 46 | 20 | 2 | 33 | 25 | 7 | 320 |
| Rights and Liberties Protection Department | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Courts of Justice | - | - | - | - | 7 | 2 | - | 9 |
| MOL | 95 | 43 | 3 | 9 | - | - | - | 150 |
| Total | 287 | 89 | 23 | 11 | 40 | 27 | 7 | 484 |

### 6.3 Providing Interpretation Services in Shelters to Ensure Comprehensive Victim Support

MSDHS offered a weekly schedule of interpretation services for the victim protection process and court proceedings.

[13] U.S. Recommendation: (5) Increase the use and availability of interpreters to assist victims, including in shelters and court proceedings.

## 7. Creating Guidelines on Assistance for Victims Staying and Working in Thailand After the Completion of Prosecution[14]

The Government prioritizes the victim-centered approach, in particular the permission for victims of human trafficking and forced labor or services to stay in the Kingdom legally. The victims entering Thailand illegally would not be charged with illegal entry. They would also be permitted to stay in the Kingdom during the prosecution process and work outside of shelters. The Government and private shelters were responsible for obtaining stay and work permits for victims who wished to stay and work in Thailand.

MOI issued the following Notifications permitting victims to stay in the Kingdom:

1) Notifications of MOI B.E. 2554 (2011) permitting victims of human trafficking to stay in the Kingdom for 6 months during the prosecution process. The victims were also permitted to work during the period;

2) Notifications of MOI B.E. 2559 (2016) extending the duration of stay from 6 months to 1 year; and

3) Notifications of MOI B.E. 2560 (2017) permitting victims' attendants to remain with the victims and victims, who have completed the legal proceedings to continue working for 2 more years in Thailand and request for an extension of 1 year at a time if they so wish.

4) In 2023, 92 victims were permitted to stay and work in Thailand according to Section 37 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, B.E. 2551 (2008) and relevant cabinet resolution.

**Table 35: Numbers of Victims of Trafficking in Persons Permitted to Stay in Thailand**

| Repatriation of Victims to Countries of Origin | Prostitution | Forced Labor | Other Forms of Exploitation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Foreign victims granted stay permits | 4 | 86 | - |
| Foreign victims granted work permits | - | 2 | - |

[14] U.S. Recommendation: (6) Increase use of visas to enable victims to remain and work in Thailand after the completion of proceedings against traffickers.

## 8. Use of Digital Technology to Advance Victim Protection

MSDHS uses digital technology to facilitate advance assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in persons. Application of digital technology includes, among others, the online screening of potential victims, meetings to determine financial remedies for victims, interviews, compensation claims from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund and post-reintegration follow-up of victims. Progress made was as follows:

8.1 The use of online meeting platforms in assisting victims of human trafficking in claiming compensation;

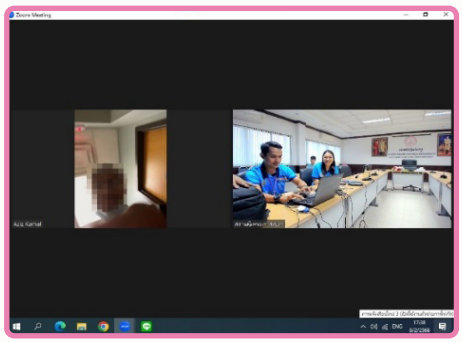
8.2 Request for remedies for victims under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund as follows:

- Application for remedies for victims through the information system of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund (DATIPFUND)
- Request for remedies from DATIPFUND via the website www.datipfund.com;

Notifications of the victims' rights.

8.3 Post-reintegration follow-up of victims of human trafficking via social media platforms, such as Line, Facebook and WeChat

8.4 Survivor engagement in preparation for the repatriation or resettlement of victims living in shelters via social media platforms. For example, a shelter in Songkhla created a Facebook group to engage with resettled survivors in order to prepare for resettlement.



## 9. Cooperation with Partners to Improve Efficiency in Victim Protection

The Government by MHDHS enhanced cooperation with all relevant agencies, both domestically and internationally, in order to increase efficiency in protection of victims of trafficking in persons.

### Domestic Partnership

**9.1 Increasing Opportunity to Provide Income for Victims in Shelters through Cooperation with Private Sector**

MSDHS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in employment of victim from trafficking in persons with 13 partners in the private sector, which were ready to employ adult victims.

**9.2 Cooperation with Radio Stations to Share Knowledge with the Public in the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons**

**9.3 Cooperation with Educational Institutions in Raising Awareness of Trafficking in Persons (MOU Songkhla)**

MSDHS, in collaboration with education institutions in Songkhla, organized activities to raise awareness on self-protection from human trafficking for students near the shelter. Four awareness-raising The shelter.activities were conducted attended by 243 participants. The collaboration was expanded into an MOU for further awareness-raising activities in the area, which took place in December 2023.

### 9.4 Mobilizing Local Support against Human Trafficking

The whole-of-society support is crucial to create an immune system within the community against human trafficking. To this end, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund provided financial contributions of THB 1,093,400 (USD 31,240) for the capacity-building program of the Committee of the Social Assistance Centers to prevent human trafficking in local communities. The purposes were to create a monitoring network against human trafficking at the local level and ensure that the local communities would be protected against human trafficking through the Social Assistance Centers. There were 74 Social Assistance Centers from 7 upper southern provinces, with a total of 222 participants in the program. The participants had better understanding of the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking, including channels through which they could report any incidents or suspicion of human trafficking activities, coordinate the referral and formulate a monitoring plan to prevent human trafficking that took into account the context of their communities. The Centers also raised awareness of human trafficking and various channels through which suspicion of human trafficking could be reported through local broadcast systems, local committee meetings, coordination via Line groups to build networks at the local and provincial levels.

### 9.5 Cooperation in Exchange of Coordination Experience at Regional Level

MSDHS, in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), held a meeting as part of the Project for Strengthening Regional Network for Combating Trafficking in Persons in Mekong Region, which aimed to strengthen cooperation for combating trafficking in persons between the subregional countries. The meeting was a platform to share information, innovation, policy and good practices among Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand, laying out a framework for organizing the 11th Mekong Regional Workshop with the main theme of “How to incorporate perspectives of gender and social vulnerabilities into the protection process.”

**9.6 The 28th Bilateral Meeting between Thailand and Myanmar on Case Management and Return and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking**

MSDHS, in collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar, hosted the 28th Bilateral Meeting on Case Management and Return and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking, as part of the cooperation under MOU between the two countries on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children. This bilateral meeting focused on management of victim protection, provision of welfare and legal assistance to victims of trafficking in persons in the care of agencies in both countries to enhance efficiency of victims' repatriation and reintegration into society.

**9.7 Training on Case Management for Officers at the Transit and Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking and Other Vulnerable Groups in Banteay Meanchey Province, the Kingdom of Cambodia**

MSDHS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), hosted a training in case management for protection and assistance of victims of trafficking in persons, at the Transit and Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking and Other Vulnerable Groups in Banteay Meanchey Province, for 15 officers from Cambodia. Experts from the Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University, provided basic knowledge and technical skills which could be applied to their work at the Center, and exchanged knowledge on social welfare work with the participants. An observer from JICA also participated in the training.

**9.8 The Regional Task Force Meeting (RTF) and The 15th Senior Official Meeting of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT Process)**

MSDHS, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), acted as a joint-secretariat of COMMIT Process and hosted the Regional Task Force Meeting (RTF) and 15th Senior Official Meeting of COMMIT Process in hybrid format titled "Comprehensive Approach

to End Trafficking in Persons." Attended were 70 participants from the MSDHS, relevant agencies from the public and private sectors. Member states of COMMIT Process reflected on challenges and lessons from the implementation of the 4th COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPAIV) and proposed strategies for the 5th COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPAV), in particular enhancing the value and roles of COMMIT Process to promote the sustainability of the Process. The meeting went through a pilot program and agreed on important activities that would contribute to developing the Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM). It also discussed challenges and responses to human trafficking in relation to forced criminality and human trafficking caused by the abuse of technology.

# Prevention

The Government continued to develop measures and mechanisms to prevent Thai citizens and foreign nationals from falling victim to human trafficking and forced labor. This includes efforts to raise awareness about access to assistance, proper procedures for legal employment, inspection, and protection by adhering to the Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Additionally, there was a focus on enhancing the capabilities of officials to efficiently inspect, screen, separate, and assist in protecting individuals who may be victims of human trafficking or forced labor.

## Key Progress in 2023

1. The Government has implemented measures to promote, advocate, inspect, and prevent human trafficking issues, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children and women. This includes:

- The Ministry of Labor (MOL) conducted inspections at 1,101 establishments at risk of using child labor, covering 36,014 workers. No evidence of violations relating to child labor or forced labor was found.
- The Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) implemented the "Child Safe Friendly Tourism Project," under which a committee has been established to review eligibility for enrollment in the Child Safe Friendly Tourism Project, expanding the involvement of travel-related agencies, setting clear timelines for activities, improving the Child Safe Friendly Tourism logo, and creating a handbook for Child Safe & Friendly Tourism in both Thai and English.
- As far as educating children and youth as a preventive approach is concerned, a series of trainings were held, namely 7 projects/activities for a total of 10,310 children and youths in preventing them from falling victims of human trafficking.
- The Ministry of Education (MOE) developed MOE Safety Center system for safe schools, employing three measures - prevention, cultivation, and suppression. Also, MOE has developed a digital platform to report any unsafe incidents affecting students, teachers, and staff for the care,

assistance, and protection of all children and youth, preventing them from becoming victims of human trafficking.

• The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) has implemented measures to regulate beggars nationwide, involving 341 individuals.

2. MOL continued to prevent human trafficking among Thai labor seeking overseas employment. The Department of Employment (DOE) conducted inspection, surveillance, and prevention activities at border checkpoints, screening 12,344 individuals. They have halted the travel of 264 people and initiated legal proceedings against unauthorized recruitment agencies, with 341 cases currently under investigation. Most cases involve charges related to facilitating job placements for job seekers to work abroad without a license.

3. DOE continued to facilitate the extension of stay for migrant workers to enable them to work legally in the country, as well as to protect and prevent them from being trafficked as forced labor victims. Efforts were carried out through the following measures:

• Reducing the visa fees and permit application fees for staying temporarily in the Kingdom.

• Promoting businesses to recruit foreign labor under bilateral MOUs with sending countries. In 2023, 288,699 migrant workers have been recruited through these bilateral MOUs.

• Conducting labor and welfare inspections at 55,341 workplaces, covering 507,131 migrant workers. Among this number, 1,680 workplaces/employers were found in violation of labor laws, 1,384 employers' cases were sent to inquiry officers for further investigation, and 296 employers were issued fine penalties, totaling THB 1,360,000 (USD 38,857.14).

• Partnerships with international organizations and NGOs form an integral part of prevention efforts. The Government's Migrant Workers Assistance Centers across 10 provinces have worked in synergy with international organizations and NGO, in providing recommendations, considering complaints, and coordinating with relevant agencies in order to provide assistance to migrant workers, totaling 33,061 individuals.

• Social Security Fund distributed a total of THB 1,070,020,000 (USD 30,572,000) to 436,105 Myanmar, Laotians, and Cambodian migrant workers. Additionally, a total of THB 212,570,000 (USD 6,073,428.57) from the Workmen's Compensation Fund was distributed to 12,488 migrant workers for reasons such as illness and deaths.

4. The Department of Fisheries (DOF) and Port-In Port-Out Control Centers (PIPO) continued to inspect 11,861 vessels at ports, covering 21,325 fisheries workers, to ensure that workers received protection in accordance with the law. Officials found 30 vessel owners in violation of the labor laws. In addition, a comprehensive examination of 258 sea fishing vessels, covering 4,529 employees at sea revealed no legal violations. Moreover, DOF worked in collaboration with MSDHS, MOL, and

RTP, in conducting screenings under NRM for 33,563 migrant fisheries workers across 22 coastal provinces. As a result, 14 individuals were suspected to be victims of human trafficking or forced labor. Subsequently, MDTs at the provincial level were dispatched to carry out further assessments. Following a thorough examination, the teams concluded that none of the workers were victims of human trafficking.

5. The Government continued to develop a management mechanism to prevent human trafficking in alignment with international standards, as follows:

- The Department of Labor Protection and Welfare (DLPW) has revised regulations concerning labor inspections and criminal proceedings in accordance with the Ministerial Regulations on the Protection of Labor in Marine Fisheries, B.E. 2565 (2022). This revision aims to enhance the basis of offenses and penalties, aligning them with the current conditions of employment and working conditions in fishing vessels.
- In 2023, law enforcement officers conducted 2,130 initial victim screenings for 72,889 workers following MOL SOPs. Through this process, 112 potential victims were identified and entered screening process under NRM.
- The Government continued to promote labor standards among Thai businesses through the Good Labor Practices (GLP). A total of 42,480 businesses, covering 2.4 million workers have implemented GLP to elevate the quality of life for the workers to prevent them from falling victim to forced labor or services.

6 A total of 6 capacity-building trainings and workshops were held for 1,641 law enforcement officers on the implementation of SOPs and NRM to enhance their understanding, efficacy, and coordination with MDTs on victim identification.

## 1. Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Children

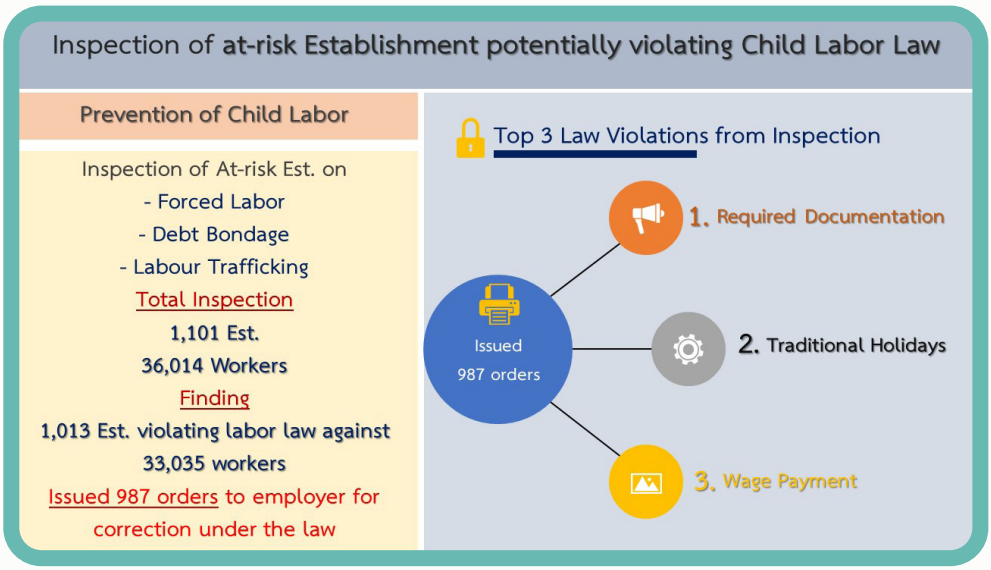
The Government has focused on enacting comprehensive measures to prevent human trafficking, particularly in the vulnerable groups of women and children. This involves promoting awareness and understanding of human trafficking in various forms. Additionally, efforts have been made to promoting and developing vocational skills among women to prevent them from becoming human trafficking victims. The Government was also committed to the development and training of officials to enhance their capability and effectiveness. This includes conducting inspection with a view to protection and prevention, ensuring the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. Systematic solutions have been rigorously implemented to address problems on beggars and to prevent subsequent exploitation in the human trafficking cycle.

### 1.1 Prevention of Trafficking in Children

(1) Frequent Inspection of Employers and Business Establishments to Prevent the Worst Form of Child Labor

DLPW has conducted labor and welfare inspections at 1,101 employers and business establishments at risk of child labor and forced labor, covering 36,014 workers. A total of 1,013 business establishments and 33,035 workers were found in violation of labor law. DLPW issued 987 MOL rectification orders, and 3 business establishments were prosecuted. However, no case of labor trafficking or forced labor was found. The causes of violation mostly concerned failure to prepare required documentation, provide appropriate leave days and holidays for employees, and wage payment-related issues.

Diagram 9 : Inspections of Business Establishments at Risk of Child Labor



(2) Raising Public Awareness

- In June, DLPW organized an event on the "World Day Against Child Labor" under the International Labor Organization's theme "Social Justice for All. End Child Labor!" The objective was to advocate and raise social awareness on the importance of preventive measure in addressing the issue of child labor. This included fostering collaboration to solve the problem with relevant stakeholders across all sectors. Participants in the event included representatives from government agencies, private sector, diplomatic missions of Cambodia, Lao PDR, the United States, the European Union, and the international organizations' resident missions in Thailand. The attendees also comprised employers, employees, members of civil society, students, as well as those joining the event through the Zoom Meeting platform.

- The Department of Tourism, in its role as the secretariat of the sub-committee for the Child Safe Friendly Tourism Project, implemented the project by reviewing the Child Safe Friendly Tourism logo, expanding its application to travel-related entities such as airlines, land transportation, and water transportation. These entities were encouraged to participate, and a clear timeline for implementation was established. Additionally, the sub-committee decided to create a Handbook for Child Safe & Friendly Tourism in both Thai and English, incorporating content related to governance measures and aviation, led by the RTP.

- MOE has been enhancing MOE Safety Center to ensure school safety using a three-pronged strategy: prevent, cultivation, and suppression. They have been developing a digital platform for real-time reporting of incidents affecting students, teachers, and staff. The initiative

includes training teachers to communicate with students effectively, addressing issues promptly, and ensuring transparency. The system employs a Big Data structure for comprehensive and up-to-date information on issue resolution.

- A series of trainings were held for children and youth to prevent them from becoming victims of human trafficking, with 7 projects/activities targeting a total of 10,310 individuals: TICAC continued to implement the Drug Abuse Resistance Education to Child Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E. 2 C.A.R.E.) to protect school and university students from falling victim to sexual exploitation, and to prevent human trafficking.

  - TICAC, in collaboration with Chongfah Xinseng Wanishbamrung School and O.U.R. Foundation, disseminated knowledge on human trafficking for students in schools. The initiative aims to educate and raise awareness specifically regarding the production and distribution of pornography.

  - RTP conducted "Talk the Case, Take a Case" project to enhance awareness and understanding among students on various forms of human trafficking. The initiative aims to prevent and suppress proliferation of human trafficking issues among students and establish a monitoring network. The targeted audience includes 600 individuals, comprising at-risk students, from both public and private educational institutions, in Phetchaburi, Rayong, Nakhon Ratchasima, Phitsanulok, Prachuap Khiri Khan, and Songkhla provinces.

  - The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) conducted 4 training sessions to raise awareness, promote prevention, and establish networks to combat human trafficking among children, youth, students, and teachers from schools in Ubon Ratchathani and Chiang Mai provinces. A total of 339 individuals participated in the training sessions.

  - The Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) organized training sessions to enhance knowledge, understanding, and awareness of human trafficking issues. Renowned speakers were invited to educate the public in "Core Village," comprising 620 villages across 30 border provinces. The training sessions reached a total of 6,200 participants, including youth in the targeted areas.

  - Stella Maris, in collaboration with Talitha Kum Thailand and the Royal Thai Police (RTP), conducted workshops on "Comprehensive Education Management and Collaborative Child Trafficking Prevention" for students and teachers. The workshops took place from February to October 2023, involving 33 schools and a total of 3,171 participants. The developed training curriculum has been integrated into the human trafficking subject of the school's core curriculum across eight academic disciplines.

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THAILAND

• The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, MSDHS, has advanced measures and mechanisms for preventing and addressing child trafficking issues at the provincial level, focusing on high-risk areas. The Provincial MSDHS Offices have initiated activities to prevent children from entering the trafficking process. This includes raising awareness among children and youths about risks of new forms of human trafficking, enhancing skills to build resilience in children and youth, protecting them from harm related to online media use, and preventing them from being lured into the trafficking process. The efforts also involve developing networks for prevention and resolution, as well as creating public relations materials to raise awareness in the areas.

• MSDHS supported 8 Women and Family Development Learning Centers and 4 Protection and Occupational Centers to address human trafficking issues. Through the "Child Protection Club, Warm Home Creation" initiative, the focus is on empowering youth leaders to tackle problems such as human trafficking, family violence, and teenage pregnancy. In the fiscal year 2023, 834 individuals participated in activities, and 23 clubs were established in 13 provinces. These clubs act as a vigilant network to monitor, report incidents, and actively assist at-risk groups. Currently, there are 89 clubs/networks in schools and communities across 22 provinces.

• MSDHS conducted the "Building Family Protective Barriers Against Social Threats." The aim was to strengthen resilience and provide knowledge on social threat awareness, preventive measures against human trafficking, family violence, and unplanned teenage pregnancies. The target group included volunteers from the Thonburi community development and human security area, as well as single-parent families facing social issues, the sum of 43 individuals.

### 1.2 Prevention of Trafficking in Women

(1) Pre-Departure Support Programs for Thai Women

On 2-3 March 2023, MSDHS organized a workshop to prepare Thai women before traveling to the Republic of Korea (ROK). The workshop featured speakers from the Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) in Thailand. The session aimed to prevent issues such as deception and human trafficking victimization, providing information on how to seek assistance when facing problems. Participants gained essential knowledge for readiness before relocating to ROK, including communication channels, seeking help through foreigner service centers, understanding the situation of Thai migrants, language preparation, values, culture, the lifestyle of Thai women as spouses, and entrepreneurship in ROK. The target group comprised 40 individuals.

(2) Raising Awareness Campaign on International Women's Day

On 8 March 2023, DLPW organized the International Women's Day event for the fiscal year 2023, under the theme "Women's Labor: Promoting Gender Equality and Valuable Work." The objective was to raise awareness among all women about their own value and advocate for societal recognition of the importance of women's work. The event provided a platform for exchanging ideas and had 387 participants, including female workers, employers, representatives from public sector agencies, state enterprizes, representatives from employer organizations, employee organizations, and the public.

### 1.3 Prevention of Forced Begging

MSDHS has been actively addressing the systematic issues of beggars to prevent subsequent exploitation in human trafficking. Nationwide efforts have been exerted to regulate beggars, encountering a total of 341 beggars of various nationalities (265 Thais, 65 Cambodians, 10 Myanmese, and 1 unidentified nationality), increasing from 167 beggars recorded in 2022 (51.03%). This surge is attributed to the resumption of tourism in Thailand after COVID-19. The increase involves both Thai and foreign tourists, contributing to a higher presence of beggars in urban areas and popular tourist spots.

MSDHS carried out preventive measures against forced beggars as follows:

(1) Legal, Policy, and Regulatory Measures

- The implementation of the Beggar Control Act B.E. 2559 (2016) and its six ordinances includes the categorization of beggars and talent performers, an issuance of a guideline for identification cards for talent performers, the process and criteria for screening beggars, as well as the legal procedures for handling beggars.

- The implementation of the 2nd Action Plan for Beggar Control 2023–2027 under the vision of "Reducing Number of Beggars, Creating an Understanding Society through Efficient Systems and Mechanisms," includes elevated measures and controlled guidelines. This encompasses safeguarding and enhancing the quality of life for beggars, whilst addressing any at-risk groups that may enter the beggar circle. The plan also focuses on promoting and supporting the demonstration of abilities, developing skills for employment. It aims to enhance the efficiency in communication with society and target groups, as well as to elevate measures and mechanisms that support work practices. The plan further emphasizes elevating collaboration within the network to prevent and address begging-related issues.
- The evaluation of the Beggar Control Act B.E. 2559 (2016) to enhance the legislation to be contemporary and aligned with changing contexts.

(2) Proactive Measures to Prevent Forced Begging

- The integration of the network in organizing continuous beggar control activities across all provinces includes regular monthly organization plans, plans for organizing activities in significant events, and plans for an integrated beggar control in the Bangkok metropolitan area. Relevant agencies such as RTP, MSDHS, local government agencies, and Friends-International Thailand have joined hands in the collaborative efforts. Additionally, there was a joint operation with RTP to address individuals seeking benefits by bringing people to beg in Chonburi.
- Improving the quality of life for the local population to prevent at-risk groups from becoming beggars. Under the MOU on collaboration to develop protective systems for vulnerable individuals and beggars in communities with 30 municipal governments, including the city of Pattaya, a cooperative network was established to drive vigilance, protection, and development for target groups at the local level, particularly in economically significant cities.
- The protection and development of the quality of life for children and families engaged in beggary and street vending involve 12 families. The focus is on promoting children's entry into the education system, ensuring family members have employment, and accessing rights and welfare benefits. This initiative aims to promote a more secure and support ecosystem for their overall well-being.
- MDTs and volunteers have been established to carry out on-the-ground operations and develop the quality of life for individuals engaged in beggary. This collaborative effort involves families and communities, following individual development plans for 105 people. The team focused on changing attitudes, supporting livelihoods, and ensuring access to welfare rights. The goal is to prevent a return to beggary and to establish a stable source of income.

(3) Efforts to Prevent Exploitation of Individuals Engaged in Begging

The efforts to prevent exploitation of individuals engaged in beggary, particularly those accompanied by children without supporting documentation, include collaborative initiatives such as conducting DNA testing. This collaboration involves the Department of Social Development and Welfare (DSDW) and the Central Institute of Forensic Science under MOJ. While awaiting the results of DNA testing, beggars with children have been placed under protection in DSDW care and development facilities. In 2023, a total of 10 individuals engaged in beggary, accompanied by 16 children, all Cambodian nationality, entered protection program. DNA testing results confirmed genuine blood relations for one pair. The findings were reported to the local police station for further coordination with the Immigration Police and Provincial Immigration Offices. Subsequently, actions were taken to repatriate the individuals to their home country, with 9 pairs awaiting the test results.

(4) Efforts to Prevent Individuals from Re-Engaging in Beggary and Enhance Officers' Knowledge and Mechanisms to Support Effective Work Practices

- After screening, if the findings indicate that individuals belong to specific target groups, such as children, pregnant women, the elderly, mentally challenged individuals, and people with disabilities or special needs, they will be referred to relevant agencies for protection under the law. If the screening indicates that the person is unable to engage in employment, lacks familial support or caregiving, has no other means of livelihood, and/or is facing difficulties entering the protection and quality of life development system of DSDW, support rendered will focus on vocational and life skills training, rehabilitation activities for mental health, attitude adjustment, and preparedness before reintegrating into society.
- Online capacity-building programs continued to be carried out to prevent illegal and forced beggary, in line with the Beggar Control Act B.E. 2559 (2016). In 2023, 122 officers were trained to increase their understanding on forced beggar in order to prevent, protect, and improve the lives of beggars.

(5) The Promotion and Development of Street Performers

Relevant agencies have focused on separating beggars from talent performers. An emphasis has been placed on encouraging local government organizations, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and private sector organizations to open public spaces for street performers to showcase their talents. A total of 2,257 areas have been designated for this purpose, leading to opportunities for employment, income generation, and social integration. This initiative also aims to prevent vulnerable individuals from entering beggary. Additionally, an online application system for street performers has been developed, and identification cards have been issued to 1,008 street performers.

## 2. Prevention of Human Trafficking Among Thai Labors Seeking Overseas Employment

The Government remains committed to implementing measures to prevent trafficking of Thai workers seeking overseas employment, aiming to address the issue of illegal migration for employment, which could make individuals vulnerable to human trafficking organized by international criminal networks. The goal is to provide information on legal avenues for Thai individuals desiring to work abroad, ensuring that they have access to lawful information regarding overseas employment.

### 2.1 Dispatch of Thai Workers Overseas

Employment overseas through legal processes must be conducted with proper evaluation by and permission of the DOE. In 2023, 61,175 Thai workers were sent to employment overseas through five key channels, namely: through recruitment agencies (28,196 workers); through the DOE (11,882 workers); through training and internship opportunities organized by Thai employers (1,738 workers); through opportunities from employers based in Thailand (12,607 workers); and those who found overseas employment opportunities themselves (6,752 workers) (Table 36).

Table 36: The Number of Thai Workers Sent to Employment Overseas in 2023

| | Channels | Total Numbers | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female | Total |
| 1 | Recruitment Agencies | 21,981 | 6,215 | 28,196 |
| 2 | DOE | 10,274 | 1,608 | 11,882 |
| 3 | Found Overseas Employment Opportunities Themselves | 3,810 | 2,942 | 6,752 |
| 4 | Opportunities From Employers Based in Thailand | 11,188 | 1,419 | 12,607 |
| 5 | Training And Internship Opportunities Organized by Thai Employers | 996 | 742 | 1,738 |
| | Total | 48,249 | 12,926 | 61,175 |

## 2.2 Protecting Thai Overseas Workers

(1) Protecting Thai Berry Pickers in Finland

The Department of Employment (DOE) took further steps to prevent the risk of recurrence of Thai berry pickers falling victims to human trafficking by issuing new measures:

- DOE will only grant permissions to travel to Finland to Thai berry pickers, who enter DOE-approved employment contracts with the DOE-approved Thai coordinators of Finnish wild berry companies.
- DOE placed certain Finnish wild berry companies on a Blacklist for not resolving complaints and problems concerning Thai berry pickers in 2022.
- Severe penalties were imposed on companies in Thailand involved in unfair payments or supporting labor incurring illegal debts. This strict enforcement also aims to combat human trafficking effectively.
- Regulation was enacted to ensure new workforces deployed for the first time to harvest berries in Finland constitute only 10% of the total workforce destined for picking berries in Finland. This applies to all hiring companies in Thailand.
- Cooperation with Finnish employers to ensure the welfare of Thai workforces by requiring them to ensure appropriate welfare is accorded, such as accommodation, effective workforce supervision, and arranged transportation. Companies are required to submit accommodation photos to DOE, to obtain approval from the Royal Thai Embassy (RTE) in Helsinki and engage in collaboration with pertinent Finnish agencies for a thorough evaluation. These measures are crucial for assessing the qualification of Finnish companies and facilitating the allocation of quotas.

(2) Protecting Thai Berry Pickers in Sweden

DOE has closely engaged with the Swedish Embassy in Thailand, and taken further steps to prevent the risk of recurrence of Thai berry pickers from falling victims to human trafficking by issuing new measures:

- A more intensive pre-departure training program for Thai berry pickers, ensuring they are well-informed about details of their employment contract, as well as relevant work conditions associated with berries picking in Sweden.
- Additional communication channels were established, such as a LINE group, to promptly address and monitor any work-related complaints from laborers engaged in harvesting forest fruits in Sweden for swift actions.
- Revised and standardized employment contracts, incorporating the emblem of DOE, were used as part of the standardized contract, to enhance clarity and consistency.
- Regulation was enacted to ensure new workforces deployed for the first time to harvest berries in Sweden constitute only 10% of the total workforce destined for picking berries in Sweden. This applies to all hiring companies in Thailand.

### 2.3 Surveillance and Prevention of Those Deemed Suspicious to Illegally Travel to Work Overseas

DOE, through 25 border checkpoints in 19 provinces, continued to implement measures to prevent outgoing Thai workers from working illegally overseas, with information coordinated from both public and private sector entities, each with its own criteria for identifying individuals with high-risk behaviors. Examples include direct preliminary interviews with travelers, examination of travel histories, scrutiny of information from the destination country, and in-depth interviews with travelers.

In 2023, 246 workers out of 12,344 inspected, were denied departure from Thailand (Diagram 10). The top five destinations for illegal employment were Australia, Malaysia, ROK, the UAE, and Russia. Those denied departure were also provided with information on the risk of illegal travel to work overseas to minimize their risk of falling victim to human trafficking in the future.

Diagram 10: Surveillance and Prevention of Those Deemed Suspicious to Illegally Travel to Work Overseas

### 2.4 Inspections of Recruitment Agencies for Thai Overseas Job Seekers

(1) In 2023, DOE inspected 181 recruitment agencies which were authorized to send Thai workers for overseas employment. No unlawful practice was found. DOE also investigated reported cases of recruitment agents operating without licenses and labor frauds. Accordingly, 301 individuals were charged in 341 cases of labor frauds and recruitment of workers without a license, all of which were with inquiry officers.

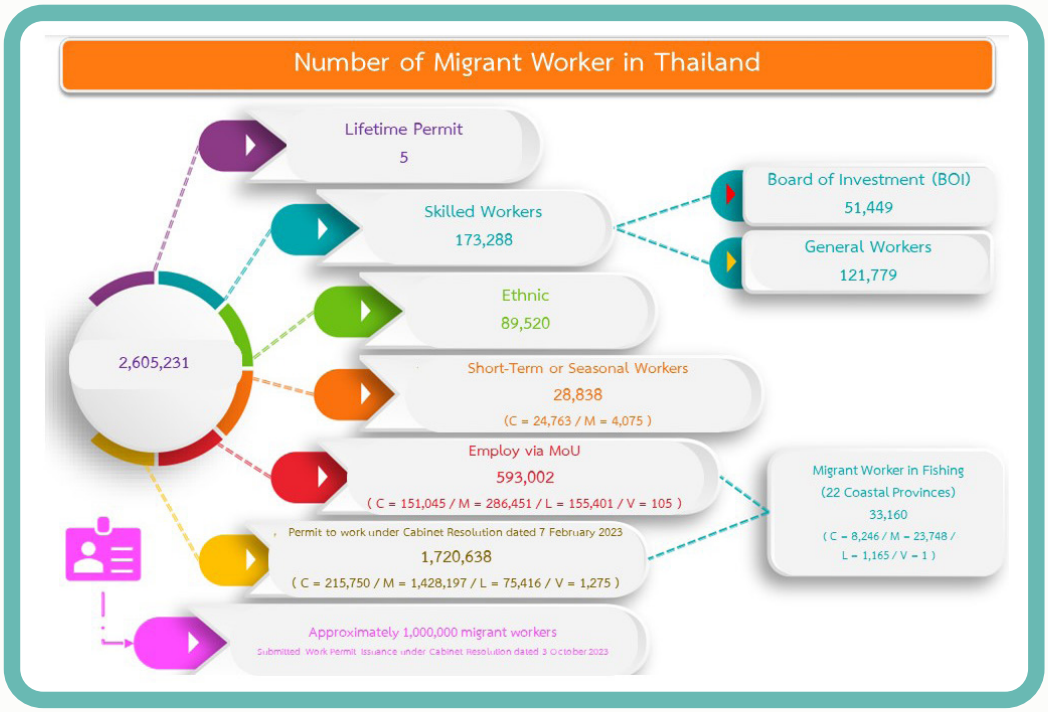
(2) DOE conducted searches and reviewed Facebook accounts that advertised job placements without authorization. A total of 37 cases were identified, with 33 cases undergoing prosecution. Public notifications were issued to inform individuals of accurate information regarding legal overseas employment, totaling 2,098 online media posts.

(3) DOE, in collaboration with RTP, has undertaken investigations into individuals exhibiting behaviors that may constitute offenses related to unauthorized job placement advertisements. In 2023, a total of 41 cases were investigated jointly to prevent and combat offenses related to illegal recruitment by unauthorized agents and their Facebook job advertisements. A list of individuals involved in these offenses has been compiled as a database to monitor and prevent recurrent offenses, aiming to protect job seekers from future harm. This initiative is geared towards raising awareness and preventing potential harm to job seekers in the future.

## 3. Prevention of Trafficking in Migrant Workers in Thailand

In 2023, there are 2,605,231 registered migrant workers in Thailand (Diagram 11). The Government continued to implement measures to facilitate the extensions of stay for migrant workers, as well as to protect and prevent them from becoming potential trafficking or forced labor victims.

Diagram 11: Number of Migrant Workers in Thailand



Efforts were carried out through the following measures:

### 3.1 Extension of Migrant Permit Renewal

In 2023, the Cabinet approved MOL's proposals to extend stay for migrant workers, including:

(1) Extension of stay for 1,732,421 migrant workers with work permits has allowed them to work longer in Thailand from originally 13 February 2023 to 13 February 2025;

(2) Permissions and extension of temporary stay were granted for around 1,000,000 migrant workers with no work permits on several occasions. The current deadline is until 13 February 2025;

(3) A special provision was granted for migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar, who entered the Kingdom to work under MOUs. This provision applies to employment contracts with a duration of 4 years or more, from 1 November 2020 to 31 December 2023. These individuals are considered under special circumstances and are employed on a temporary basis, with the arrangement extending until 30 April 2024.

(4) Reduction of visa and permit application fees for staying temporarily in Thailand for migrant workers, who are recruited under MOUs. The visa fees were reduced from THB 2,000 (USD 57.14) to THB 500 (USD 14.29), and the permit application fees from THB 1,900 (USD 54.29) to THB 500 (USD 14.29).

### 3.2 Enhancing Efficiency in Legal Migrant Workers Recruitment via Government-to-Government Channels (Bilateral MOUs with Sending Countries)

Putting migrant workers under the umbrella of MOUs provides employers with a channel to bring in foreign labors from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam to address labor shortages. Migrant workers entering the country under MOUs are granted permission to stay in Thailand (L-A Visa) and work for a period of 2 years, with the option to extend for an additional 2 years. In total, they are allowed to stay in the Kingdom for work purposes for a period of 4 years. Once this period expires, they must return to their home country and stay for a duration of 30 days before being eligible to return and work in the country under MOUs again. The procedures for migrant worker recruitment comprise: (1) submission of a demand for migrant workers; (2) submission of a demand to employ migrant workers; (3) recruitment process by the country of origin and submission of name lists of migrant workers to employers through relevant embassy in Thailand and MOL; (4) submission of a work permit application by employers on behalf of migrant workers; (5) approval for migrant workers to be employed with the employer, including visa and immigration procedures; (6) migrant workers arrive at the Post-Arrival and Reintegration Centre for Migrant Workers to receive training, and approval of work permits. In 2023, there are 593,002 current migrant workers, who have been recruited via the bilateral MOUs. Currently, there is a prevailing demand for migrant workers totaling 239,863 individuals.

### 3.3 Frequent Inspections of Recruitment Agencies

A total of 288 recruitment agencies were inspected in 2023. No agency was found in violation of laws and regulations. It was observed that, due to frequent inspections and strict law enforcement, most recruitment agencies have become more cautious and increased their efforts in complying with all relevant regulations.

### 3.4 Frequent Inspections of Employers and Business Establishments

In 2023, DOE conducted labor and welfare inspections at 55,341 workplaces, covering 507,131 migrant workers, to ensure that workplaces uphold workers' rights in compliance with laws and regulations to prevent migrant workers from becoming victims of human trafficking or forced labor. Of this number, 1,680 workplaces/employers and 3,516 migrant workers were found in violation of labor laws, 1,384 employers' cases and 1,233 migrant workers' cases are under inquiries, and 296 employers were issued penalties totaling THB 1,360,000 (USD 38,857.14) (Diagram 12). Most of the offences are employments without work permits, and for not reporting employments of migrant workers. No case of labor trafficking or forced labor was found.

Diagram 12: the Inspections of Employers and Migrant Workers

**Inspection and Prosecution of Employer/Establishments/Migrant Workers**
**Budget Year 2023**

| Employers/Establishments | | |
|---|---|---|
| Inspection | 55,341 | Persons/Est. |
| Prosecution* | 1,680 | Persons/Est. |

| Migrant Workers | | |
|---|---|---|
| Inspection | 507,131 | Workers |
| Prosecution** | 3,516 | Workers |

| *Prosecution of 1,680 Employers/Est. violating ... | |
|---|---|
| Employ migrants w/o work permit (Article 9) | 672 |
| Unable to report workers employment within 15 days | 976 |
| Confiscate workers documents (Article 13) | 2 |
| Violate both Article 9 & 13 | 14 |
| Other Violation | 16 |

| **Prosecution of 3,516 workers violating .... | |
|---|---|
| Work w/o Permit (Article 8) | 3,168 |
| Unable to report employment within 15 days (Article 64/2) | 310 |
| Unable to present Work Permit upon inspection | 26 |
| Violate both Article 8 & 64/2 | 12 |

| *Cases Status of Employment/Est. | |
|---|---|
| Fine (Administrative Action) | 296 |
| Referred to inquiry officials | 1,384 |
| Fine | 1,360,000 Baht |

| **Cases Status of Migrant Workers | |
|---|---|
| Fine (Administrative Action) | 42 |
| Referred to inquiry officials<br>1) Fine (Criminal Action)<br>2) Being investigated | 3,352<br>2,119<br>1,233 |
| At Court / Fine | 119 |
| Fine | 12,031,250 Baht |

**Total fine = 13,391,250 Baht**

When DOE identifies violations under Section 8 of the Foreigners' Working Management Emergency Decree, B.E. 2560 (2017) and its relevant amendments, officials are mandated to report any violations to migrant workers. Subsequently, they are empowered to bring the workers in for questioning to proceed with legal actions. In cases where migrant workers have entered the country illegally, inquiry officers have the authority to conduct additional fact-finding inquiries to enhance the effectiveness of the labor importing process. MOL will provide support by supplying information, facts, and evidence relating to the investigation of any illegal actions in the importing of migrant workers in all instances.

### 3.5 Migrant Workers' Rights and Improving Networks in Providing Assistance to Migrant Workers

The Government has worked to ensure that all migrant workers are provided with equal rights and protection, without discrimination against nationality, gender, or social status, in accordance with relevant international principles. Migrant workers are similarly protected, as Thai workers, under the Social Protection Act, B.E. 2533 (1990) and relevant amendments, and the Financial Compensation Act, B.E. 2537 (1994) and relevant amendments. For those not eligible for protection under the legislations, officials have ensured that they are compensated by their employers, in the event of injury or illness.

1) Social Security Fund

In 2023, there was a total of 1,400,532 migrant workers protected under the social security system, disaggregated into 1,029,515 Myanmar nationals, 176,717 Cambodian nationals, 70,930 Laotian nationals, 1,578 Vietnamese nationals, and 121,792 other nationalities.

Social Security Fund distributed a total of THB 1,070,020,000 (USD 30,572,000) to 436,105 migrant workers from Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Cambodia, 117,808 more than in 2022 (37.01% increase). The funds were distributed on various grounds under the Social Protection Act, including, among others, medical services, childbirth, disabilities, deaths, child support, and unemployment.

2) Workmen's Compensation Fund

During the same period, a total of THB 212,570,000 (USD 6,073,428.57) from the Workmen's Compensation Fund under the Financial Compensation Act was distributed to 12,488 migrant workers from Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Cambodia, 3,768 more than in 2022 (43.21% increase). The funds were distributed for reasons such as illness, deaths, and leave.

The increase in the number of workers who received assistant funds was due to proactive public relations measure by the Social Security Office's (SSO) to raise awareness among registered workers and developed benefit service system through the e-self-service system that can be accessed anytime, anywhere.

3) Migrant Workers Assistance

The Government's Migrant Workers Assistance Centers across 10 provinces (namely Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakarn, Chonburi, Ranong, Surat Thani, Songkhla, Tak, Chiang Mai, Nakhon Ratchasima, and Khon Kaen) have ensured protection of migrant workers by working in collaboration with international organizations such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and NGOs such as Raks Thai Foundation, the Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF), the Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN), and the Migrant Working Group (MWG). The Centers and their network of partners provided recommendations, considered complaints, and coordinated with relevant agencies, to help migrant workers in Thailand. In 2023, the Centers and their partners provided services to a total of 33,061 migrant workers.[15]

Currently, Centers to assist migrant workers continue to advance their support. In 2023, the criteria for disbursing assistance to migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam, who come to work in Thailand, were established. Operational guidelines for disbursing expenses according to the mentioned criteria have been formulated. The objective is to provide effective and seamless assistance to migrant workers facing difficulties in their work, including support for food, accommodation, and transportation expenses.

### 3.6 Protection of Labor Rights under the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998)

1) DLWP created public relations media on workers' benefits in three languages through various channels, such as DLWP's website, official Line account, and by labor inspectors to inform migrant workers through various networks. Additionally, there were public relations efforts, such as "Indicators of Behaviors that may be Subject to Forced Labor," aimed at informing both businesses and migrant workers. As a result, in 2023, there was an increased access to government service channels. Foreign workers were increasingly reporting cases where they were not receiving benefits according to the law:

- A total of 6,548 employees across 54 establishments filed complaints for labor inspection in cases where employers violated or did not comply with the Labor Protection Act. Labor inspectors investigated the veracity of the claims and issued orders to ensure that the employers complied with the law.[16]

[15] U.S. Recommendation: (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement.

[16] U.S. Recommendation: (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement.

• MOL has continued to strictly implement the Labor Protection Act to ensure that all workers, both Thai and foreign nationals, receive fair benefits and welfare without discrimination. In 2023, DLWP assisted 598 workers who requested for compensation under the Labor Protection Act. A total of THB 160,830,943.79 (USD 4,595,169.82) was compensated to those workers.

2) MOL has identified target groups for labor inspections in establishments that hire migrant workers. In 2023, a total of 2,552 establishments underwent labor inspections, covering 54,694 migrant workers, comprising 43,138 from Myanmar, 2,524 from Lao PDR, 5,345 from Cambodia, and 3,687 from other nationalities. The top three industries that employed migrant workers and underwent inspections were (1) manufacturing, (2) wholesale and retail trade, automotive repair, and (3) construction. Preliminary screenings were conducted to identify indicators of forced labor according to SOPs, and no violations related to forced labor were found.

## 4. Prevention of Trafficking in the Fishery Sector

DLPW continued to provide protection to fishery workers through various activities to prevent them from becoming victims of human trafficking. It is also responsible for ensuring that no underage children are working in fishing vessels and that workers received labor rights as stated in the Labor Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (1998). Efforts were carried out through the following measures.

### 4.1 Seabooks for Migrant Workers

DOF issued seabooks for migrant workers working in Thai vessels in accordance with the Royal Thai Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015). The seabook registration and issuance provided an important source of data for migrant workers' management, helping to prevent labor abuses and human trafficking in the fisheries sector. Currently, there are 39,569 migrant workers with active seabooks, including Myanmar nationals, Cambodians, Laotians, Vietnamese, and other nationals.

### 4.2 Fishery Worker Inspections

PIPO facilities continued to regularly carry out vessel inspections. In 2023, PIPO conducted 11,861 vessels inspections at ports, covering 21,325 workers. A total of 30 vessels' owners were found to be in violation of the law and regulations, mostly related to the issues of rest time, wages payment documents, and work contracts. A total of 15 workplaces/employers were issued rectification orders. A total of 15 cases are being prosecuted.

In addition, PIPO, in collaboration with the Marine Department, DOF, Royal Thai Navy, RTP, and relevant agencies conducted 258 vessels inspections at sea, covering 4,529 workers. No violation was found. This was the result of strict inspection and strong law enforcement at ports, which helped prevent vessels from committing illegal activities.

The provincial fisheries labor management centers held 22 meetings in 2023 to address challenges in labor inspection plans for sea fishing vessels. Representatives from various agencies collaborated to adjust operational methods based on local conditions, ensuring effective protection and assistance for workers.

Furthermore, MOL has arranged 35 interpreters in 22 key provinces to facilitate communication, providing support for operational activities. They offer consultations, guidance on processing requests, workers screening according to SOPs, and legal explanations to protect the rights of migrant workers in accordance with labor laws. Additionally, they engage in public relations activities to disseminate information to foreign workers and support NRM operations, aiming for confidence-building on the actions of the authorities.

### 4.3 Fishery Worker Management via Provincial Labor Coordination Centers for Sea Fishery Workers

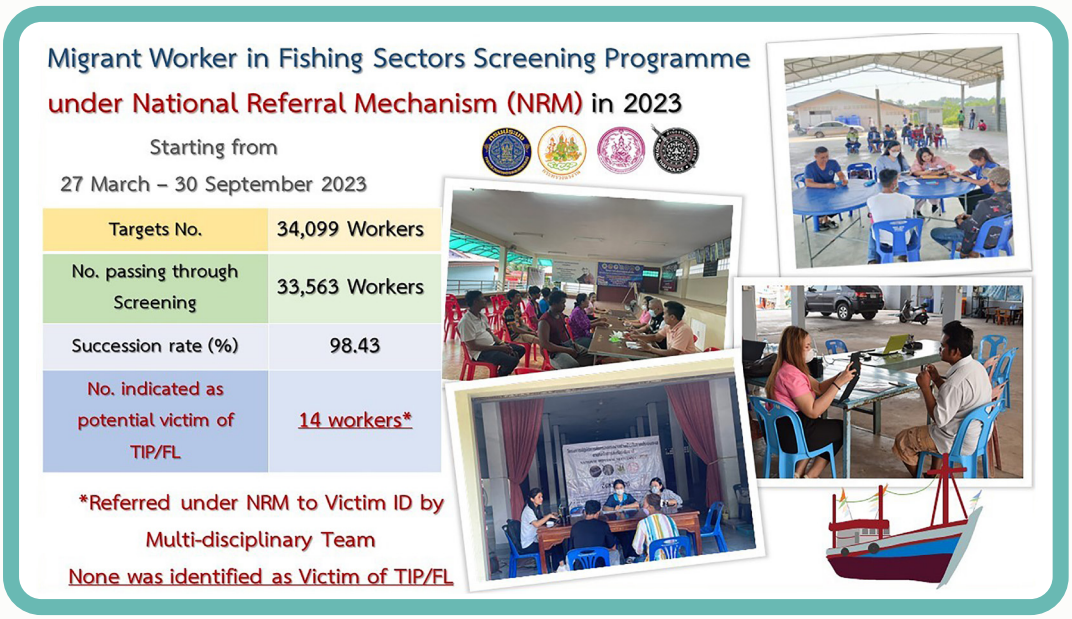
1) DOE has promoted knowledge, understanding, and proper compliance with the law among a total of 83,038 fisheries workers and employers, thus preventing them from becoming victims of human trafficking.

2) DOE managed migrant workers through Provincial Labor Coordination Centers for Sea Fishery Workers in 22 provinces. The objective is to address labor shortages in the fishing industry and combat human trafficking in fisheries. DOE promoted legal compliance among fisheries business owners, ensuring protection by inspecting employment conditions and living standards according to labor laws. Public relations campaigns were conducted to raise awareness and encourage collaboration among business owners, workers, and government sectors in addressing human trafficking issues in fisheries, aligning with international standards. In 2023, 8,405 individuals were granted work permits and 25,372 work permits were renewed, following the Cabinet's resolutions. Moreover, 2,519 individuals under MOUs were granted work permits, with 25 renewals. These efforts aim to facilitate the systematic hiring and departure of migrant workers, ensuring adherence to contractual agreements and supporting the Government's policies for preventing and combatting human trafficking issues.

### 4.4 Migrant Sea Fishery Workers Screenings Under NRM[17]

DOF has commenced the screening of migrant workers in the fishery sector in accordance to the NRM, in collaboration with MSDHS, MOL, and RTP in 22 coastal provinces. This operation began on 27 March to 30 September 2023. Out of the target of 34,099 individuals, a total of 33,563 foreign workers have undergone screening, accounting for 98.43%. During the screening, 14 migrant workers were identified as potential human trafficking victims or individuals subjected to forced labor or services. Among these cases, 9 workers were found in Phuket and 5 workers in Satun. The cases have been referred to the provincial MDTs for further investigation, and after thorough examination, it was determined that none of the workers were victims of human trafficking.

Diagram 13: Migrant Sea Fishery Workers Screenings Under the NRM




### 4.5 Measures on Accidents on Fishing Vessels and the Loss of Fishery Workers at Sea

The Government has established guidelines and operational measures regarding incidents involving accidents on fishing vessels and the loss of fishery workers. The following were the outlined procedures:

1) Prompt Incident Reporting and Coordination for PIPO officers:

- Upon receiving a report of a fishing boat accident or other incidents, PIPO will coordinate immediately with relevant agencies that can provide immediate assistance, such as DOF, RTN, Marine Police, or coordinate with the boat owners through phone or radio communication.

[17] U.S. Recommendation: (3) Fully implement the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the reflection period for victims and open victim identification centers.

• Support necessary information for rescue efforts, including the name, age, nationality, and identification number of the involved individuals, photos demonstrating their identifiable features, the date and time of the incident, the location coordinates (if available), the name of the fishing boat, registration number, boat size, and type of equipment.

• Report the incident to the authorities across the hierarchy without delay and share information through the LINE group "Kor. Ror. Por.-PIPO" as soon as the incident is known or occurs.

• The head of PIPO center orders MDT to inspect the involved boat, conduct interviews with crew members or individuals associated, and ensure compliance with relevant regulations.

• After completing the inspection, incident details are reported to the authorities across the hierarchy in the form of an official letter.

• Coordinate and monitor cases in which crew members on the fishing boat are missing. If they are not found or confirmed to be deceased, report to the relevant authorities promptly.

• In cases where fishing boat crew members have a history of missing, injuries, illness, or death due to disputes, accidents, or falling overboard, the head of PIPO center orders the inspection of the respective boat during the next three consecutive inbound and outbound notifications and emphasizes checking the status of the fishing boat by conducting inspections under the "Specific Inspection Group."

2) DLPW has established guidelines for officials in the Department in the event of a fishing vessel accident or a crew member falling overboard. A meeting was convened to explain operational procedures for inspecting workplace conditions, in accordance with the Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Act B.E. 2554 (2011) in the sea fishery sector. The objective was to enhance the knowledge, understanding, and awareness of safety among safety inspectors in the 22 coastal provinces. This initiative aims to promote safety awareness and practices for individuals working on fishing boats.

3) Relevant agencies have organized awareness-raising initiatives aimed at enhancing understanding among government officials, vessel owners, and migrant fishery workers about occupational safety practices on fishing vessels:

• DLPW conducted a meeting to brief on safety measures for working in confined spaces on fishing vessels. The session aimed to explain the legal aspects of occupational safety in confined spaces and relevant practices to ensure safety while working in such environments. The meeting was attended by 100 participants, including fishing vessel owners, workers, and other stakeholders.

• Marine Police conducted inspections of fishing vessels and fishery workers in port areas and sea regions across 22 coastal provinces.The inspection revealed a total of 2,381 fishing vessels and 24,679 fishery workers in the designated areas.

• Marine Police whose oversight covers 22 coastal provinces carried out visits and discussions with fishery operators to ensure compliance with regulations, including no forced labor, overtime work without compensation, document seizures, and unpaid wages.

• Partnership between government and NGOs to build capacity and knowledge for stakeholders in the fishery sector has been supportive to the efforts. For instance, Stella Maris collaborated with the Faculty of Nursing, Prince of Songkla University, and relevant government agencies in Songkla, Pattani, and Satun, in organizing training sessions for volunteer crew members of fishing vessels on "Basic First Aid, CPR, and Search and Rescue from Fire Incidents and Man Falling Overboard." The training took place between May 2022 and September 2023), with 11batches and a total of 415 trained individuals. The participants included 198 Thai crew members, 115 Myanmar crew members, 100 Cambodian crew members, and 2 Laotian crew members.

## 5. At-Risk Labor Inspection and Protection

### 5.1 Inspection of Registered Workers, At-Risk Workers, and Seafood Processing Establishments

DLPW conducted inspections in 22 coastal provinces.The targeted groups include those at risk of labor rights violations, the worst forms of child labor, and establishments with difficult access and irregular inspections. These inspections aimed to concretely address and solve these issues efficiently, supported by collaboration among relevant agencies. Furthermore, businesses identified as at-risk groups were marine fisheries, production of certain product types such as sugarcane, textile manufacturing, shrimp farming, fish farming, pig farming, or other animal farming, as well as other businesses within the production chain, construction businesses, falling under "3D" category, dirty, difficult, and dangerous jobs. Additionally, inspections covered establishments reporting the employment of child labor aged between 15 and 18 years old. The inspections' results are as follow:

1) DLPW inspected 19,292 business establishments, covering 640,680 workers. A total of 19,017 business establishments and 626,668 workers were found in violation of labor law. DLPW issued 6,098 MOL rectification orders and 12 business establishments were prosecuted. Most violations were failure to prepare required documentation, failure to provide holidays for employees, and issues related to wage payments.

2) DLPW inspected 1,101 business establishments at risk of child labor and forced labor, covering 36,014 workers. 1,013 business establishments and 33,035 workers were found in violation of labor law. DLPW issued 1,498 MOL rectification orders, and 2 business establishments were prosecuted. However, no case of labor trafficking of forced labor was found. Most violations were failure to prepare required documentation, failure to provide holidays for employees, and issues related to wage payments.

3) DLPW, in collaboration with relevant agencies, inspected 123 seafood processing establishments in 22 coastal provinces, covering 16,469 workers. 2 workplaces/employers and 1,352 workers were found in violation of labor law. DLPW issued 2 MOL rectification orders. Most violations were failure to provide holidays for employees and issues related to wage and wage payments.

4) DLPW conducted inspections of the seasonal workers to prevent and address human trafficking issues related to labor, with a focus on protecting agricultural workers who are not employed year-round and those engaged in non-business-related household work. Special attention was given to at-risk groups of forced labor or exploitation, such as child labor under 18 years of age and female migrant workers. As a result of these operations, involving 260 individuals, no violations were found.

### 5.2 At-Risk Labor Inspection by RTP

RTP conducted inspections on at-risk workers by developing plans to inspect services and entertainment venues, and businesses in areas prone to human trafficking, exploitation, prostitution, forced labor, and services, including the exploitation of children as beggars. In a total of 1,258 inspections, no violation was found.

### 5.3 Screening of Individuals Potentially Victimized by Labor Exploitation, Forced Labor, or Human Trafficking

In 2023, MOL conducted integration inspections to seek preliminary indicators for individuals suspected of being victims of labor exploitation, forced labor, or labor trafficking. The operations were carried out both at the central and regional levels, in collaboration with relevant agencies, following SOPs and NRM.

Integration inspections were conducted for at-risk establishments in the central area, totaling 93 operations involving 210 establishments and 6,569 workers. No violations relating to forced labor or labor trafficking was found.

Additionally, integration inspections were conducted for at-risk establishments in regional areas, totaling 649 operations involving 2,052 establishments and 104,924 workers. No violation relating to forced labor or labor trafficking was found.

## 6. Development of Management Mechanisms for Human Trafficking Prevention

### 6.1 Legal Amendments and Improvements

1) DLPW Regulation on Labor Inspection and Criminal Prosecution in Accordance with MOL's Ministerial Regulations on the Protection of Labor in the Marine Fisheries, B.E. 2565 (2022) B.E. 2566 (2023)

DLPW has revised the "Regulation on Labor Inspection and Criminal Prosecution in Accordance with MOL's Ministerial Regulations on the Protection of Labor in the Marine Fisheries, B.E. 2565 (2022) B.E. 2566 (2023)" to adjust the offenses and penalties to be in line with the current employment and working conditions in fishing vessels. This includes amendments to the Ministerial Regulations on the Protection of Labor in the Marine Fisheries B.E. 2565 (2022) to address issues related to human trafficking, forced labor, and illegal labor practices.

The 2023 version of the regulation provides details on the procedures and government measures or criminal proceedings that are essential. It categorizes the details for labor inspections in marine fisheries establishments and addresses (1) employment (2) rest periods (3) employment contracts (4) self-reporting (5) employee registration (6) wage payment documentation (7) wages (8) holidays and leave and (9) welfare. The regulation has been in effect since 26 April 2023.

2) Revisions of the Labor Relations Act B.E. ... (...) and the State Enterprise Labor Relations Act B.E. ... (...)

DLPW has been making efforts to amend laws to align with the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Conventions, specifically(1) No. 98 on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining and (2) No. 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize. Currently, the draft Acts have been proposed for consideration by the Cabinet. However, to ensure its completion in sync with the demand on the employee's side, the Cabinet has requested MOL to review the issue of amending workers' rights to file complaints. This is to empower workers with the right to collective bargaining and protection against intimidation and unfair practices by employers. MOL is currently in the process of considering necessary actions. Upon completion, the proposal will be submitted to the Cabinet for further consideration.

### 6.2 Victim Screenings Following the SOPs and NRM[18]

MOL has instructed its affiliated agencies within both the central and regional offices to operate in accordance with the SOPs for preliminary screening inspections. These inspections aimed to identify preliminary indicators for individuals suspected of being victims of labor exploitation, forced labor, or human trafficking. Additionally, the agencies were directed to follow NRM for further actions. In 2023, law enforcement officers conducted 2,130 initial victim screenings for 72,889 workers following SOPs. Through this process, 112 potential victims were identified and entered screening process under NRM.

### 6.3 Guidelines for Labor Inspection in Establishments at Risk of Child Labor, Forced Labor, Debt-Bondage, and Human Trafficking, and Interview Guidelines for Labor Inspectors[19]

1) MOL assigned its affiliated agencies to operate according to NRM and SOPs and conduct meetings to explain the operational guidelines relevant to each unit, including organizing training for officers responsible for preventing and combatting forced labor, services, and human trafficking. This aimed to ensure that they have knowledge of working practices in accordance with laws related to the prevention and suppression of human trafficking and forced labor, allowing them to perform their duties effectively.

2) DLPW is in the process of developing interview guidelines for labor inspectors and language coordinators. These guidelines will serve as a framework for conducting interviews with workers and obtaining accurate information to assess whether the interviewed individuals may be at risk of harm from human trafficking, forced labor, or services. Collaboration with community networks is being pursued to exchange knowledge and create a comprehensive framework for labor interviews.

3) DLPW has improved guidelines for inspecting businesses at risk to child labor, forced labor, debt-bondage, and human trafficking, with the goal of enhancing problem-solving effectiveness. The strategy involves systematic management, clear measures, and continuous implementation that align with NRM to ensure legal benefits for workers. In pursuit of this, high-risk industries have been redefined to broaden the scope of labor inspection and preliminary screening interviews.

[18] U.S. Recommendation: (3) Fully implement the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the reflection period for victims and open victim identification centers.

[19] U.S. Recommendation: (11) increased awareness among relevant officials of trafficking indicators such as debt-based coercion, excessive overtime, confiscation of documents, and non-payment of wages.

Upon detecting any warning signs, additional efforts are undertaken to gather more information to thoroughly assess if a worker is a potential victim. This facilitates efficient referral for assistance, and those who are potential victims can receive support and progress through subsequent stages of the separation process, as outlined by NRM swiftly.

### 6.4 National Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons B.E. 2566 (2023)

The Government has a National Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons for the years 2018 – 2037. It serves as a long-term strategic framework for Thailand's efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking over a 20-year period, aligning with the country's 20-year National Strategy. Currently, the Government is implementing the Action Plan for the years 2023 – 2027 (5-year period). This version of the operation plan consists of four main components: (1) Legal proceedings and law enforcement; (2) Prevention of human trafficking; (3) Assistance and protection for victims of human trafficking; (4) Management and administration of the human trafficking database system. In 2023, there were 90 projects/activities under the plan, with a total budget of THB 347,398,565 (USD 9,925,673.29).

### 6.5 Prevention of Complicit Officials in Human Trafficking

The Government has undertaken measures to prevent state officials, both domestically and internationally, from being involved in human trafficking. If a misconduct is found, an investigative process and inquiry into the wrongdoing rigorously ensue. The committee on preventing state officials from being involved in human trafficking, headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, established a subcommittee to oversee disciplinary actions and legal proceedings against state officials implicated in human trafficking. The Minister of Justice serves as the chairperson of the subcommittee. In the fiscal year 2023, three meetings were held to monitor disciplinary actions and criminal cases involving state officials. Additionally, 22 state officials were identified to be involved in human trafficking as previously mentioned.

## 7. Improving Capacity and Efficacy of Labor Inspection

### 7.1 Enhancing the Capacity of Labor Inspectors and Law Enforcement Officers on the Implementation of SOPs for Labor Trafficking and Section 6/1 Offences[20]

MOL, in collaboration with relevant agencies, continued to enhance the capacity of labor inspectors and law enforcement officers through capacity-building activities, projects, and seminars on the implementation of SOPs, NRM, and victim identification with MDTs. In 2023, a total of 6. A total of 6 capacity-building trainings and workshops were held for 1,641 law enforcement officers.

1) Workshop for labor inspectors on the implementation of the action plan on NRM, case management, and assistance to victims of human trafficking and forced labor or services, B.E. 2565 (2022). There were 2 sessions with a total of 190 participants.

2) Workshop to support officials in assisting migrant workers and addressing cases of human trafficking and forced labor at the Migrant Workers Assistance Centers. The workshop was attended by 30 participants, including government officials and representatives from civil society organizations.

3) Workshop on enhancing understanding of workers towards the retention of documents by foreign workers, organized by HRDF, in collaboration with ILO and DOE. The participants included government officials and representatives from civil society organizations, the total of 68 people.

4) Training program to develop skills in identifying victims of human trafficking in collaboration with MDTs. Participants included the MOL officers and relevant agencies, with a total of 8 sessions and 625 trainees.

5) Training program for appointing officers under the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, B.E. 2565 (2022). The training included 8 batches of MOL officers, totaling 402 participants.

6) Training program under "Child Safe Friendly Tourism Project" to enhance the knowledge and understanding of tourism professionals in providing services and being aware of protecting children from human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The project included 5 training sessions with a total of 326 participants.

[20] U.S. Recommendation: (7) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti-trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims.

## 8. Strengthening Complaints Mechanisms and Raising Public Awareness

The Government is committed to strengthening complaints mechanisms and channels as part of the efforts to ensure protection and prevention of human trafficking and labor exploitations.

### 8.1 Foreign Language Interpreters and Coordinators

MOL hired 111 foreign languages interpreters and coordinators in the Myanmar, Cambodian, and Vietnamese languages to be stationed at 10 Migrant Workers Assistance Centers nationwide, coastal provinces and key provinces with a high number of migrant workers hired, Post-Arrival Center, the 1506 Hotline, Fisheries Workers' Rights Violation Prevention Project, Anti-Trafficking in Persons in Migrant Workers Project, and the Migrant Workers Employment Project. These interpreters and coordinators have helped facilitate effective communication between government officers and migrant workers. This included identifying victims of forced labor and other forms of exploitation and ensuring that they receive necessary assistance and support according to their needs.

### 8.2 Hotlines and Complaint-Receiving Mechanisms

1) The 1506 Hotline, operated by MOL, is dedicated to handling complaints on labor cases and providing consultations for Thai and migrant workers and employers. In 2023, the hotline provided services to a total of 5,096,595 calls on issues covering social security fund, domestic and international employment, wages, employee benefits, and labor training.

2) The 1300 Hotline, operated by MSDHS, is dedicated to receiving complaints on human trafficking cases. In 2023, the hotline received information on 71 suspected human trafficking cases. The complaints received reflected public awareness of the 1300 Hotline service, workers' rights, and potential signs of dangers of human trafficking. Accordingly, all cases were referred to relevant authorities for further investigation, victim identification, and assistance.

### 8.3 Raising Awareness Campaigns

All relevant agencies vigorously issued public awareness campaigns through its communication channels to raise awareness on potential risks, how to detect signs of forced labor, child labor, and complaints-receiving mechanisms and hotlines to report potential crimes.

1) The Rights and Liberties Protection Department (RLPD), MOJ, created online promotional media on platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, and Facebook to warn people against the danger of Thais being deceived into working and becoming victims of human trafficking abroad. The total number of views has reached approximately 2 million.

2) DOE launched a public relations campaign to prevent deception and illicit activities in overseas employment. The campaign involved disseminating knowledge through online media, radio, various print media, mobile outreach, briefings for community leaders, local government organization leaders, job seekers, students, and those interested in working abroad. The aim was to raise awareness about the correct procedures for working abroad, inform about the risks and penalties associated with foreign employment. The campaign has successfully reached a nationwide audience of 418,045 people.

### 8.4 Digitizing the Communication Channels for Coordination among Public Prosecutors, Victims, and Various Agencies Involved in Protecting the Rights of Human Trafficking Victims

1) Utilizing digital technology, OAG has expanded communication channels for coordination among public prosecutors, victims, and relevant agencies involved in protecting the rights of human trafficking victims. Through the website www.caht.ago.go.th, in the fiscal year 2023, there were 10 requests for coordination and assistance.

2) DOE has opened complaint channels for both Thai and migrant workers in Thailand through "DOE Help Me" application, the Facebook page of the Central Employment Registration and Workers Protection Division, and the website www.doe.go.th/helpme. These digital platforms offer services in six languages to assist migrant workers in obtaining international-standard protection. In the fiscal year 2023, there were 236 complaints filed, and actions were taken to assist the complainants by coordinating with relevant agencies.

### 8.5 Raising Awareness Activities on Anti-Human Trafficking Day

MSDHS has been organizing an annual campaign on Thailand's Anti-Human Trafficking Day since 2009 to demonstrate a strong commitment with "Zero Tolerance" towards eliminating human trafficking issues in Thailand. In 2023, MSDHS conducted two activities on Anti-Human Trafficking Day:

1) "Kick Off" campaign which included the introduction of anti-human trafficking ambassadors, a panel discussion on "Online Media and Human Trafficking," a mini concert featuring artists, and exhibition showcasing efforts of relevant organizations in prevention and suppression of human trafficking. The event had 892 participants both onsite and online.

2) Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign under the theme "TOGETHER WE CAN Stop. Human. Trafficking." this event aimed to convey the importance of uniting all sectors in combating human trafficking. The opening ceremony was presided over by the Minister of Social Development and Human Security. The activity included the presentation of honorary plaques and cash awards for outstanding contributions in the prevention and suppression of human trafficking, as well as a TikTok video competition for the anti-human trafficking campaign. Additionally, there were exhibitions showcasing Thailand's efforts in preventing and combating human trafficking. The event had 1,139 participants both onsite and online.

## 9. Advancing Partnership on Human Trafficking Prevention

The Government is committed to the whole-of-government whole-of-society approach to human trafficking prevention. Thus, partnerships and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including international organizations, civil society, NGOs, and businesses, have been advanced in support of anti-trafficking efforts.

### 9.1 Good Labor Practices (GLP)

The DLPW has continued to promote and expand the implementation of GLP among businesses and private entities to adopt the guidelines on improving employment and working conditions based on the "4 No's, 6 Have's" principle. The principle strictly prohibits child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and human trafficking, while promoting the labor management system, freedom of association, dialogue with employers, safe working environment, sanitation and waste management, and appropriate welfare for workers. In 2023, a total of 42,480 businesses had implemented GLP, covering 2,445,194 workers in poultry farms, general business establishments, seafood industry, and shrimp farms.

### 9.2 Thai Labor Standard: TLS 8001

MOL has established the Thai Labor Standard (TLS) 8001-2020 to establish a baseline for business practices of social responsibility regarding labor. This aims to encourage all businesses to voluntarily implement these standards in their workplaces and develop management systems comparable to international standards. The focus is on improving the quality of workers' lives, enhancing sustainable business development, and fostering global trade competitiveness. In addition, the standards address the current legal and labor law amendments, aiming to ensure the well-being of employees and provide benefits related to social insurance.

Key provisions of TLS 8001-2020 include 14 points on businesses' social responsibility on the labor issues. These points cover general requirements, management systems, labor enforcement, compensation, working hours and break times, holidays and leave, employee choice, discipline and penalties, gender equality and anti-harassment measures, child labor, female labor, freedom of association and collective bargaining, occupational safety and health, and labor welfare.

Currently, there are 2,355 businesses acknowledged TLS and social responsibility (Corporate Social Responsibility: CSR), covering 221,067 workers. Moreover, 1,286 businesses are currently adhering to the TLS system, benefiting 544,901 employees by raising the quality of their working lives.

### 9.3 Key Cooperation with International Organizations

The Government has continued to carry out several projects, in collaboration with various international partners initiated in previous years to ensure the protection of labor rights has cut across all sectors, such as:

1) The Ship to Shore Rights Southeast Asia Project, funded by MFA and supported by the European Union (EU), conducted a study on the impact of COVID-19 on the fishery workers in the Southeast Asian region. The project promoted safe and regular migration for the fisheries and seafood processing industry workers in Thailand. It aimed to enhance coordination among stakeholders in Southeast Asia to promote safe migration and meaningful work in the fishing and seafood processing sectors through a holistic approach, integrating human rights. The project also contributed to addressing issues in the supply chain of fish and seafood in the Southeast Asian region through the SEA Forum for Fishers. In 2023, the project produced and released videos showcasing positive developments in the Thai fishery sector. These videos include a 360-degree presentation and interviews with stakeholders such as the EU, MOL, employer representatives, employee representatives, and the ILO. The project presented the progress of the Thai fishery sector at the 111th ILO Conference in Geneva in June 2023. The content is also available on YouTube.

2) TRIANGLE in ASEAN, funded by ILO and supported by the Governments of Canada and Australia, aims to raise an awareness on international labor standards relating to recruitment fees and provide policy recommendations to improve cross-border labor recruitment in the agricultural sector. The project responded to the needs of employers and respected the rights of labor. In 2023, the project supported experts in providing information during consultations on recruitment fees in collaboration with the ILO and relevant private sector stakeholders. Additionally, consultations were conducted with employers in the agricultural sector on the topic of cross-border labor recruitment to develop policy recommendations.

# Future Action Plans

## Prosecution

1. Enhance measures for the officers conducting proactive investigations and legal proceedings against government officials allegedly complicit in human trafficking and consider appropriate and sufficient penalties for individuals found guilty of human trafficking offenses, including suitable long-term imprisonment sentences. An inter-agency meeting on this matter is scheduled in March 2024.

2. Promote international collaboration on evidence collection for prosecuting offenders, both domestically and internationally, especially the transmission of information that can be utilized as evidence in court proceedings. Increase efforts to identify and protect trafficking victims exploited in forced labor in cyber scam operations arriving in Thailand; cease placing victims in immigration detention centers and ensure victims are not appropriately penalized solely for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked. The meeting to draft international collaboration SOP with Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, and the Philippines is planned in 2024.

3. Continue to fully implement and advance the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the reflection period for victims, as well as open more victim identification centers. The law enforcement agencies will also continue to closely engage with relevant stakeholders to improve NRM guidelines and mechanisms, elevating Thailand's anti-human trafficking efforts.

4. Promote and develop the knowledge and understanding of officers in recruiting language interpreters, ensuring a focus on the victim-centered approach. This involves providing training to increase the number of interpreters who can assist victims, including in shelters and court proceedings.

5. Continue to train law enforcement officers to ensure effective implementation of guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008) and its amendments. These trainings aim to equip officers with the necessary skills to identify and separate victims from situations involving forced labor efficiently.

6. Strengthen efforts to investigate human trafficking activities in cases of labor rights violations and complaints from migrant workers that indicate potential forced labor, including referring cases that may involve human trafficking in the labor sector from labor inspectors to MDTs and law enforcement agencies. Develop collaborative plans for labor inspections in various workplaces between the Ministry of Labour (MOL), Department of Fishery (DOF), and Royal Thai Police (RTP). The victim-centered approach will continue to be emphasized throughout the process.

7. Foster collaboration between organizations and operational staff, as well as stakeholders across all sectors, including by organizing seminars to enhance teamwork and cultivate a positive working attitude for future collaborations. Provide budgetary support following NRM and assist in supplying technological tools to streamline work processes for agencies.

## Protection

1. Further advance implementation of NRM and continuously monitor its progress with a nationwide coverage. Roundtable meetings will be conducted among relevant government officials to exchange views on areas of improvement and determine the effective guidelines for implementing the NRM.

2. Strengthen the support system for trafficking victims by implementing a trauma-informed care approach, ensuring a safe and secure environment not only during interviews but also within and outside shelters.

3. Develop the Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM), in collaboration with countries within the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT Process), ensuring measurable outcomes, amplifying the influence of joint endeavors and bolstering the efficacy of protective measures and assistance provided to victims of cross-border human trafficking.

4. Enhance sign language services for improved communication access. Provide training to interpreters, foster collaboration, and broaden support to more individuals in need, especially victims requiring sign language assistance.

## Prevention

1. Organize capacity-building project on "developing capabilities in preventing and addressing issues related to forced labor or services, and labor trafficking for graduate workers, voluntary workers, and expanding working network in local areas." This is to create knowledge and understanding about preventing and combating labor trafficking and forced labor or services, expanding working network, and raising awareness about reporting incidents related to labor trafficking and forced labor or services, both online and through complaint forms provided by MOL to graduate workers, voluntary workers, and relevant organizations in local areas, totaling 8,120 people.

2. Conduct training courses for officials under MOL to enhance their knowledge and understanding of policies related to preventing and combating human trafficking and forced labor or services. This includes providing assistance to victims of human trafficking and forced labor or services in accordance with domestic and international laws. The objective is to ensure that those who have completed the training are appointed as officials under the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008), and its amendments. The target group includes heads of government units affiliated with MOL in 76 provinces.

3. Conduct training programs on labor protection and combating human trafficking at sea. The Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Center (Thai-MECC) has developed a curriculum for the protection of labor and combating human trafficking at sea and scheduled training plans for the fiscal year 2024.

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# List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| AMLO | The Anti-Money Laundering Office |
| ASEAN | The Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| ASEAN-ACT | ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking |
| BHD | Bahraini Dinar |
| CA | Competent Authority |
| CCIB | The Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau |
| CIB | The Central Investigation Bureau |
| COJ | The Courts of Justice |
| COMMIT Process | The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking |
| CSR | Corporate Social Responsibility |
| CWP | The Child Woman Protection and Anti-Human Trafficking Centre |
| D.A.R.E. 2 C.A.R.E | The Drug Abuse Resistance Education to Child Abuse Resistance Education |
| DATIPFUND | The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund |
| DBD | The Department of Business Development |
| DLPW | The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare |
| DNA | Deoxyribonucleic acid |
| DOE | The Department of Employment |
| DOF | The Department of Fisheries |
| DOPA | The Department of Provincial Administration |
| DSDW | The Department of Social Development and Welfare |
| DSI | The Department of Special Investigation |
| EU | The European Union |
| FANC | The Foreign Anti-Narcotic and Crime Community of Thailand |
| FOM | Freedom of Movement |
| GLP | Good Labor Practice |

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|---|---|
| HRDF | The Human Rights and Development Foundation |
| IJM | The International Justice Mission |
| ILO | The International Labour Organization |
| IMF | The Immanuel Foundation |
| IOM | The International Organization for Migration |
| ISOC | The Internal Security Operation Command |
| JICA | Japan International Cooperation Agency |
| KOWIN | The Korean Women's International Network |
| Lao PDR | Lao People's Democratic Republic |
| MDTs | Multidisciplinary Teams |
| MFA | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| MOE | The Ministry of Education |
| MOI | The Ministry of Interior |
| MOJ | The Ministry of Justice |
| MOL | The Ministry of Labour |
| MOTS | The Ministry of Tourism and Sports |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MSDHS | The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security |
| MWG | The Migrant Working Group |
| MWRN | The Migrant Workers Rights Network |
| NCMEC | The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children |
| NGOs | Non-Governmental Organizations |
| NRM | The National Referral Mechanism |
| OAG | The Office of the Attorney General |
| O.U.R. | Operation Underground Railroad |
| PIPO | Port-In Port-Out Control Centers |
| RLPD | The Rights and Liberties Protection Department |
| ROK | The Republic of Korea |
| RP | The Reflection Period |
| RTE | The Royal Thai Embassy |
| RTG | The Royal Thai Government |

| | |
|---|---|
| RTN | The Royal Thai Navy |
| RTP | The Royal Thai Police |
| SOPs | The Standard Operating Procedures |
| SSO | The Social Security Office |
| THB | Thai Baht |
| TICA | Thailand International Cooperation Agency |
| TICAC | Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce |
| TLS | The Thai Labor Standard |
| TRM | The Transnational Referral Mechanism |
| UAE | United Arab Emirates |
| UNDP | The United Nations Development Program |
| UNODC | The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| USD | U.S. Dollar |
| VIS | Victim Impact Statement |

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