

# COVID-19: Impact on migrant workers and country response in Thailand

Update: 3 July 2020

International Labour Organization Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR¹

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Prepared by Anna Engblom, Natthanicha Lephilibert, and Nilim Baruah. Valuable comments and inputs were received from Deepa Bharathi.

#### Statistics and data on movements

As of 25 June 2020, Thailand has reported 3,158 COVID-19 infections, of those 1,740 are male and 1,418 are women. A total of 3,038 have recovered, 62 are hospitalised and 58 people have died. Thailand has conducted 468,175 tests for the virus to date. While the first COVID-19 case reported outside of China was reported on in Thailand on 13 January 2020, the numbers have remained very low. On 24 June 2020, Thailand announced that it had been free from local coronavirus infections for the last 30 days. During this period, a few cases has been reported, but all are linked to individuals entering Thailand from abroad.

In the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, there was a sudden, largely unexpected outflow of tens of thousands of migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar traveling back to their home countries and communities. A combination of factors motivated the return; including importantly the partial lockdown of Bangkok and order by the Thai Interior Ministry to close 18 border points taking effect on 23 March. Other facts included a fear of the COVID-19 pandemic worsening, migrants having lost their jobs or expecting to lose them, and the work permits of migrants under the National verification system which was due to expire.

As neither Thailand nor the three countries of origin were prepared for the large outflow of migrants, large numbers of migrants congregated on both sides of the borders, raising alarm in terms of the spread of COVID-19. Origin country governments, in particular the Government of Myanmar, made an appeal to migrants to delay their return, initially to April 15 and later extended to April 30 to allow time to set up proper quarantine facilities. With lock-down measures in place in Thailand, border closures and restrictions on inter-provincial travel, it became very difficult for migrants to return home.

The number of returnees peaked in late March/ early April, with only a small number able to return home after that. However, responding to the pressure of stranded migrants wanting to return home, the Government of Myanmar, allowed migrants wishing to return to apply online with the Myanmar Embassy

in Bangkok. By mid June, more than 30,000 migrant workers have registered and approximately 1,500 of them are being repatriated daily via the Mae Sot and Ranong Checkpoints (at a cost of THB 1,050 each for the bus fare).

While the Thai government has not made official statistics available, reports from Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar indicate that at least 310,000 migrant workers have returned to these countries, the vast majority from Thailand, during the March-June period (including more than 90,000 to Cambodiavii, close to 120,000 to Lao People's Democratic Republicviii and another 100,000 to Myanmarix). It is likely that the official numbers of returnees reported on above are underestimates as many returnees cross through unofficial border points, the majority of all migrant workers remain in Thailand due to border closures. Sex disaggregated data is not available.

As of December 2019, there were 2,788,316 registered migrant workers in Thailand<sup>x</sup> and an unknown, number of undocumented migrant workers. The available data on returnees indicate that around 10 per cent of all documented migrants have left the country.

Thailand is also sending migrant workers to many countries across the globe. During the 4 April-18 June period, a total of 39,511 Thai nationals have returned back to Thailand.\*i However, it is not possible to say how many of those were migrant workers as the data is not disaggregated per visa type.

### **Government containment measures**

In order to prevent further spread of COVID-19, the Governor of Bangkok introduced a wide-ranging business closure on 21 March 2020 followed by an emergency decree to control the pandemic announced by the Prime Minister on 26 March. Subsequently, all schools, universities, malls, markets, dine-in restaurants, salons, spas, gyms, massage parlours, theme parks, sports venues, conference halls, cinemas and theatres were closed until further notice. Supermarkets, fresh food markets and restaurants offering takeaway food

remained open. Preventive measures also include postponing the Songkran Holiday.

The emergency decree also banned all foreigners with very few exceptions from entering the Kingdom. The exceptions includes shippers, diplomats, drivers, pilots and others with special permit by Prime Minister.\*ii Importantly, the Thai Interior Ministry ordered the closure of 18 border points taking effect on 23 March\*iii making travel to and from Thailand, with a few exceptions, impossible. Further, travel between provinces was prohibited unless deemed essential and when such travel took place, quarantine requirements were put in place.

On 3 April 2020, the Prime Minister imposed a nationwide curfew from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. aiming to control and limit public movement and the spreading of the virus. International arrivals were also tightly restricted, requiring medical clearances prior to departure and 14-day self-isolation after arrival. On 4 April, Thailand put in place a ban on inbound passenger flights.

Over the past weeks, these measures have been gradually lifted with various restrictions being partly or fully removed. Most recently, in an announcement in the Royal Gazette dated 12 June, the Thai Government eased a number of restrictions, including lifting of the nationwide curfew for a 15-day trial period, effective from 15 June 2020 until 30 June 2020 with no restrictions on movement overnight. All educational institutions were also allowed to resume operations from 15 June, subject to compliance with physical distancing and COVID-19 prevention measures.xiv On 29 June 2020, the emergency decree was extended until end of July 2020.xv

Importantly, by mid-June, passenger transportation between provinces have been resumed and all quarantine requirements for domestic travel removed. Specific prevention measures for public transport remain in place which require for example that passenger numbers must be restricted to less than 70 per cent of the vehicle's capacity. \*vi\* Domestic flights resumed gradually as of 1 May 2020 with extraordinary public hygiene measures to reduce the possibility of Covid-19 transmission.\*vii

As all current new COVID-19 infections are reportedly stemming from individuals entering Thailand from abroad, international entries remain closely restricted and monitored. However, Thailand will ease a ban on international passenger flights into the country from 1 July, nearly three months after first imposing it on 4 April. The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand will permit international passenger flights to operate into Thailand carrying 11 permitted categories of passenger. These include returning Thai nationals; foreign nationals with a valid Thai work permit, or those studying in the country; and any passenger covered by a "special arrangement" with a foreign country. The authority did not specify if transit passengers are allowed, or when scheduled international passenger flights will resume.\*

# Problems faced by women and men migrant workers

The economic disruptions caused by COVID-19 are having a huge impact on the Thai economy as tourist figures and merchandise exports have been severely affected by the pandemic, the slowdown of trading partner economies, and supply chain disruptions in many countries. According to Siam Commercial Bank's Economic Intelligence Centre (EIC) latest projection, Thailand's GDP could contract by 7.3 per cent in 2020.xix Following global patterns, the decline of the economy will likely take a heavy toll on employment. Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Council estimates that some 8.4 million workers are at risk of job loss, 2.5 million of whom are in the tourism sector (excluding retail and wholesale trading sector), 1.5 million in the industrial sector and 4.4 million in other parts of the service sector.xx The labour force in Thailand was just below 39 million in 2019xxi.

While there are no official figures available yet, ILO implementing partners reports that migrant workers were among the first to lose their jobs as employers downsized their work forces. The Migrant Working Group, a member based

organization that advocates for the rights of migrant workers in Thailand, estimates that as many as 700,000 migrant workers — mostly in tourism, services and construction industries — have lost their jobs since the lockdown started in late March.\*\*\* These workers are in a very grim situation as they find it difficult to find new jobs, have limited option to go back home and have very little access to government aid in Thailand. The Migrant Working Group reports having received requests for help in terms of face masks, hand sanitizers and dried food from as many as 200,000 migrant workers.\*\*

Many of those that are fortunate enough to remain employed, report employment related problems. A rapid assessment interviewing migrant workers in several countries, including Thailand, during April-May 2020 finds that 32 per cent report work-related problems or abuses such as inability to refuse work during lockdown, being pushed to take unpaid leave, had their personal documents kept by employer, were threatened to have their contacts terminated, or other forms of harassment and violence.\*\*

A majority of the respondents in this assessment were women.

The rapid assessment also found that 33 per cent have insufficient personal protective equipment (masks, hand sanitizer). On the positive note, it seems efforts by the government, workers, employer and civil society organizations have been effective in disseminating information about COVID-19; 98 per cent of all responded aid they were well-informed about prevention and symptoms, but slightly less aware of what to do concretely in case of symptoms (women 74 per cent, men 67 per cent). \*\*\*

Further, distancing measures are difficult to implement where migrant workers are living in cramped dormitories and other housing facilities with overall poor sanitary conditions. According to a May news story, the Department of Health of the Ministry of Public Health is working on a plan to reduce infections in migrant workers housing, with an initial focus on those in the construction sector. While Thailand has not seen the same outbreaks of COVID-19 infections in dormitories and other forms of migrant workers housing, there has been reports of infections spreading within the Immigration Detention Centres.

arrested 2,498 foreign nationals in total, including 1,276 Myanmar, 1,016 Cambodians, 142 Laotians, and four Vietnamese who had either overstayed their visas before the border closure or attempted to enter Thailand during its border closure.xxviii

Migrant workers in certain occupations face heightened risk. The partial lockdown exempts construction, a sector heavily dependent on migrant workers. Many migrants are heading to work on high-rise buildings and apartment complexes and building sites, with only a few wearing face masks or bandanas around their nose and mouth. Many domestic workers have been dismissed by employers of fear for bringing COVID-19 into the home where they work, while those that have continued to work have reported of not being given a day off and having to work long hours for no extra pay. Workers in entertainment and retail are also losing jobs due to the requirement to shut down such businesses during this period.xxix For women, there may be an additional risk of sexual and other harassment in migrant accommodation,xxx and at times of lockdown and quarantine, the risk may increase.xxxi

While migrant workers have the same right to access social security including health care and paid sick leave as Thai workers, in reality many are excluded. This includes migrants working in the informal sectors (including domestic work, agriculture, and fishing), regular workers whose employers for various reasons have not enrolled them in the social security system, and undocumented migrant workers. These groups have limited access to COVID-19 testing and treatment and might not seek medical support due to costs involved, and fear of the repercussions of engaging with authorities, including deportation for those in irregular status. Pregnant women migrants within these groups may not be able to access necessary medical care, and women if they face violence, may not be able to access essential health and social services.

In normal circumstances, women migrant workers are at risk of multiple intersections of discrimination and violence based on race, ethnicity, nationality, age, migration status or other sex- or gender-associated characteristics\*\*\*.

Previous epidemics globally have seen increased rates of violence against

women as freedom is restricted, economic tensions are felt, and women are isolated from support systems. While official data is not available, coordinated essential services for women workers and especially women migrant workers facing violence is important.

Migrants who have left Thailand and returned to their countries of origin also face challenges. Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic are quarantining migrant returnees. Initially this was done as self-regulated home quarantine but more recently at government or community-based quarantine centres close to their homes.\*\*xxiii In some cases, returnees are met by fear from their community members which may fuel stigmatization and discrimination\*\*xxiv\*. The ILO COVID-19 note on Myanmar further elaborates on the situation of Myanmar returnees.\*\*xxxv\*

Following concerns from the employers that the outflow of migrant workers will result in labour shortages as the economy is starting to open up again, the Thai government has entered into discussions with the Myanmar governments on how to manage migrant workers during the pandemic.\*\*

### Responses by governments to assist migrant workers

On 21 April, the Cabinet approved a second round of automatic visa extensions for those holding temporary stay status. This decision allows all non-Thai nationals holding all visa types to stay in Thailand until 31 July. The 90-days reporting requirement is also suspended until 31 July. XXXVII Later, on 2 June 2020, the Cabinet decided that migrant workers from Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar under the MOUs between Thailand and the three neighbouring countries, will be allowed to stay and work temporarily in Thailand until 31 July 2020.

Earlier, the Ministry of Interior, with the approval of the Cabinet, issued an announcement allowing migrant workers from the three countries holding border passes, to continue to stay and work in Thailand from 1 June to 31 July. In

case any borders re-open before 31 July, workers who holding an expired Border Pass must exit Thailand and return to their country of origin within seven days of borders re-opening.xxxviii

On 29 April, the Department of Fisheries announced new registration procedures for the Thai fishing industry for migrant workers from Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. There are two rounds of registration: the first round is between 1 May-30 June 2020 and the second round is between 1 July - 30 September 2020.\*\*\*

According to the new registration, migrant workers must be over 18 years of age; in possession of unexpired and sealed passports, passport substitutions or documents certifying the status of persons and shall apply for the seaman books, together with employers, at one of the 22 costal Fisheries Provincial Office.\*\*

Following the discovery of COVID-19 infected migrants in immigration detention centers in April, a government spokesman said that Thailand would treat all patients for the disease regardless of their legal status on humanitarian grounds.xii

More broadly, the Royal Thai Government has initiated a number of policy responses to COVID-19. Responses, up to date, includes the May 31 approval of a THB 1.9 trillion baht (US\$59.7 billion) stimulus package, the kingdom's biggest-ever cash injection to be channelled through the approval of three key emergency decrees providing financial support to businesses and people hit by the COVID-19 fallout. The first decree authorises the Finance Ministry to borrow about THB 1 trillion to fund the government's economic and social rehabilitation to provide support to people adversely affected by the virus outbreak. The second emergency decree is authorising the Bank of Thailand to provide THB 500 billion soft loans to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) hit by the COVID-19 fallout. The third emergency decree is to support bond market liquidity with THB 400 billion via the Corporate Bond Stabilisation Fund (BSF), established by the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Thailand. xliii

On 28 April, the Cabinet approved an increase in the coverage of the temporary financial assistance (cash transfers) scheme of THB 5,000/month that was

introduced in March. By increasing the size of the fund from THB 45 billion to THB 240 billion, a total of 16 million COVID-19 affected individuals outside of the social security system (up from initially 9 million), are now eligible to apply for a cash benefit of 5,000 Baht per month for three months. In the same sitting, the Cabinet also approved a proposal to provide financial aid to 10 million farmers. Under this scheme, budgeted at THB 150 billion, affected farmers will receive THB 5,000 per month from May to July this year.xiii In order to apply, however, you need to have the 13 national identity digits, while effectively excludes migrant workers.

For more information on the government of Thailand's general COVID-19 measures and guidance, see ILO's <u>COVID-19 and the world of work: Country policy responses</u> database.

## Snapshot of responses by the ILO and the UN system

MAP Foundation, HomeNet and the Human Right and Development Foundation (HRDF) (civil society organisations) are running Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs) supported by the ILO in Chiang Mai, Bangkok and Mae Sot respectively. These centres are providing information to migrant workers and their communities on a range of issues, including COVID-19. Importantly, the MRCs also provide legal assistance to migrant workers suffering labour rights violations. Since early April they are also providing emergency support to migrant workers stranded in Thailand without jobs in northern, central, and southern provinces of Thailand. As of June 15, with support from the ILO, more than 5,500 migrant workers and their family members were reached with various types of emergency services including food, personal protective equipment, hygiene articles and information on how to avoid contracting COVID-19, prevent further spread and what to do in case of illness in partnership.

In partnership with the Raks Thai Foundation, ILO is conducting trainings and disseminating COVID-19 information and PPE among Cambodian migrant

workers, particularly women, in Rayong and Chonburi. Facebook live sessions on COVID-19 is used as a means to communicate with migrant workers during the lockdown. ILO is supporting the Migrant Working Group (MWG) to assist migrant workers, particularly women employed in the service sector, domestic work and construction sector, in Chiang Rai. A total 3,000 migrant workers will be provided with PPEs, food and legal assistance to file for unemployment benefits and other services, including in the context of violence and exploitation faced by women migrant workers. IOM, with support from ILO, has conducted several online psychosocial sessions to women migrant workers in the MSDHS shelter in Surat Thani during COVID-19 pandemic.

The ILO has developed various resources and tools on COVID-19, including:

- Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic:
   Recommendations for policy-makers and constituents<sup>xliv</sup>
- Experiences of ASEAN migrant workers during COVID-19: Rights at work,
   migration and quarantine during the pandemic, and re-migration plans<sup>xlv</sup>
- COVID-19 and Women Migrant Workers in ASEANxivi
- Impact on migrant workers and country response in Malaysia xlvii
- Impact on migrant workers and country response in Myanmarxiviii
- Safe return to work: Guide for employers on COVID-19 preventionxlix
- COVID-19 and the world of work: Country policy responses<sup>1</sup>
- ILO Standards and COVID-19 (coronavirus): FAQ<sup>II</sup>
- An employers' guide on managing your workplace during COVID-19; iii
- Social protection responses to the Covid-19 crisis: Country responses in Asia and the Pacific
- COVID-19 and public emergency services liv

IOM has developed a set of information sheets, policy notes and tools for governments, employers, and migrant workers. These resources are available on the <u>IOM COVID-19 Response</u> portal. Some of the resources include:

- COVID-19 Flash Update: Government Guidance Affecting Migrant Workers and their Employers in Thailand and Neighbouring Countries<sup>lv</sup>
- Rapid assessment Round 2: COVID-19 related vulnerabilities and perceptions of non-Thai populations in Thailand<sup>Mi</sup>

- COVID-19: Guidance for employers and business to enhance migrant worker protection during the current health crisis. Nii
- <u>Tips for Migrant Workers whose Job is Affected by the COVID-19</u>

  <u>Pandemic</u>, available in English, Lao, Khmer, Myanmar and Thai. Mill
- COVID-19 Flash Update: Government Guidance Affecting Migrant Workers and their Employers in Thailand and Neighbouring Countries, lix
- <u>Tips for employers of domestic workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic</u>, available in English and Thai <sup>|x|</sup>

### Key considerations and recommendations going forward

Migrant workers are among the most vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic for numerous reasons as elaborated above. To address these issues, the ILO suggests the following recommendations:

- The ILO welcomes the decision to extend the deadline for renewals of work permits and visas for certain groups of migrant workers (those who underwent national verification) until 30 November 2020. Similar consideration should be given those who entered Thailand under the MOU mechanism and migrant workers holding valid border passes who's documents now expires 31 July, granting them prolonged right to stay and permit to work.
- The government should consider **developing guidelines and minimum requirements for migrant workers housing and dormitory facilities** following the COVID-19 outbreak with due consideration to the realities and needs of women migrant workers. Inspection of housing facilities needs to be undertaken to ensure that there are structures in place that allow proper social distancing and hygiene efforts. Recent developments including enhancing dormitory management practices and improved standards for migrant workers housing in Singapore could be considered. The scope of the Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Act, B.E. 2554 (2011) could also be expanded to cover work-

- related places, especially worker's accommodation provided by the employer. In the absence of official regulation, quality of construction camp varies across locations and construction companies.
- Prevent and combat spread of COVID-19 in immigration detention centres by putting in place proper hygiene and social distancing standards including avoiding overcrowding, and consider suspending detentions for smaller violations when such standards cannot be ensured.
- In view of potential labour shortages as the Thai economy is beginning to open up, the government should consider ensuring that currently unemployed migrant workers are given access to unemployment schemes and other social protection benefits making it possible for them to remain in Thailand under acceptable conditions. Consider extending the 30 days grace period allowed to find new employment before work permit expires for all workers, including domestic workers.
- Given that a large number of migrant workers returned home at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government should consider waiving visa fees, including re-entry visa fees for returning migrant workers as a mean to lessen the financial burden on migrant workers, and to facilitate reduction of labour shortages as the economy is opening up. This will also increase the incentives for regular migration.
- Governments in countries of origin and Thailand should ensure that all statistics are sex disaggregated so that it can be used effectively in policy and program decisions.
- Continue to run public information campaigns targeting migrant
  workers and include information on the specific needs of women on
  matters relating to the COVID-19 pandemic in appropriate migrant
  languages. The campaigns should cover issues such as how to stop the
  spread of COVID-19, signs of infection and who to contact for help, how to
  social distance and self-isolate, information on immigration updates, and
  border closures. Information about emergency support including hotlines,
  shelters and support in case of violence and harassment, available for
  migrants should also be made shared.
- Ensure that employers of migrant workers in essential services identify and mitigate all risks of exposure arising from COVID-19.

- Urgently develop occupational health and safety guidelines in Thai and migrant languages for both employers and workers. These should take needs of specific occupations such as domestic workers, construction, those involved in home-delivery etc. into consideration.
- Make sure that dismissals of migrant workers are not made on discriminatory grounds. Dismissals should only be made in cases when the need is genuine and other alternatives have been exhausted such as reducing work hours, limiting or restricting the hiring of new employees, limiting overtime, limiting weekly or general work holidays, reducing workforce wages, implementing temporary lay-offs.
- Ensure that those that lose their jobs receive their salaries, social security and other benefits due to them, and that personal documents are returned.
- Ensure that all migrant workers, including irregular migrant workers, have
  access to legal remedies and compensation for unfair treatment, abuse
  and interpretive services to assist in their access to justice in these cases.
  Ensure that in cases of violence, women migrant workers specific needs
  including being supported by women officials is respected. The Migrant
  Workers Assistance Centres operated by the Ministry of Labour may take
  the lead in this regard in coordination with relevant departments in
  Ministry of Social Development and Human Security when dealing with
  cases of violence against women.
- It is important that migrant workers are treated equally in all health protection measures. For example, in case of confirmed or suspected infection, migrant workers, regardless of their migration status, should have access to free COVID-19 testing and treatment, quarantine facilities that permit social distancing, where such facilities are available for other groups. Such facilities should cater to the needs of different migrant workers, including ensuring safe spaces for women migrant workers, and appropriate privacy, hygiene and sanitation provisions.
- Extend social protection and stimulus measures adopted to counter economic impacts of COVID-19 to cover all migrant workers, including those working in informal sectors, to minimize further spread.

- Ensure that all migrant workers, including those who do not have regular immigration status, who face loss of work and income have access to humanitarian assistance and emergency relief, including food, shelter and provision of personal protective equipment such as masks and hand sanitisers. The specific needs of women in these circumstances should be considered and responded to.
- Consider to **release all immigration detainees** as these establishments often are overcrowded, have poor sanitation and healthcare facilitates which make them vulnerable to spread of COVID-19.
- Countries of origin to coordinate with Thailand on the return of migrants regarding screening, quarantining, and limiting the numbers allowed to cross the border at a time. Migrant workers who wish to return to their country, should be allowed to do so.

### ILO labour migration projects in Thailand

**TRIANGLE in ASEAN** is a partnership between the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and the ILO. TRIANGLE in ASEAN delivers technical assistance and support with the overall goal of maximizing the contribution of labour migration to equitable, inclusive and stable growth in ASEAN.

Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region is part of the multi-year EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls. Safe and Fair is implemented by the ILO and UN Women in collaboration with UNODC, led by the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Safe and Fair is implemented with the overriding objective of ensuring that labour migration is safe and fair for all women in the ASEAN region

#### **End notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Official portal of Ministry of Public Health, Thailand: <a href="https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/eng/index.php">https://ddc.moph.go.th/viralpneumonia/eng/index.php</a> [accessed 25 June 2020].

https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/?utm\_campaign=homeAdUOA?Si%23countries [accessed 25 June 2020].

WHO: WHO statement on novel coronavirus in Thailand, <a href="https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/13-01-2020-who-statement-on-novel-coronavirus-in-thailand">https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/13-01-2020-who-statement-on-novel-coronavirus-in-thailand</a>, [accessed 25 June 2020].

iv The Nation: *Thailand 'free of local COVID-19 case for a month'*, 24 June 2020, <a href="https://nation.com.pk/24-Jun-2020/thailand-free-of-local-covid-19-case-for-a-month">https://nation.com.pk/24-Jun-2020/thailand-free-of-local-covid-19-case-for-a-month</a> [accessed 25 June 2020].

<sup>v</sup> The Irrawaddy: *Thailand Allows Stranded Myanmar Migrants to Return*, 19 May 2020, <a href="https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/thailand-allows-stranded-myanmar-migrants-return.html">https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/thailand-allows-stranded-myanmar-migrants-return.html</a>, [accessed 25 June 2020].

vi Migrant Working Group: A brief overview of the situation, laws and policies concerning migrant worker management during the Covid-19 outbreak, 22 June 2020.

vii IOM Cambodia, COVID-19 Response Situation Report 3, 27 May 2020,

https://www.iom.int/sitreps/cambodia-situation-report-3-covid19-preparedness-and-response-13-april-15-may-2020, [accessed 25 June 2020].

viii Data retrieved by ILO staff from Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR. According to the source, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare have recorded 119,401 returnees from 20 March-17 June 2020.

ix IOM Myanmar, COVID-19 Response Situation Report 8, 12 June 2020,

https://www.burmalibrary.org/sites/burmalibrary.org/files/obl/2020-06-12-IOM-Myanmar-COVID-19-Response-Sitrep-8-en-red.pdf, [accessed 25 June 2020].

<sup>x</sup> Ministry of Labour, 2019

xi Data retrieved by ILO staff from the Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs through phone, 25 June 2020.

xii Bangkok Post, *Emergency decree bans entry to foreigners*, 25 march 2020, <a href="https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1886270/emergency-decree-bans-entry-to-foreigners">https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1886270/emergency-decree-bans-entry-to-foreigners</a>, [accessed 25 June 2020].

xiii ILO: COVID-19 and the world of work: Country policy responses,

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/country-responses/lang--en/index.htm [accessed 25 June 2020].

xiv Royal Gazette no. 137, special edition no. 138, 12 June 2020,

http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2563/E/138/T 0050.PDF?fbclid=IwAR2bQQNfzRIRZ xCOGkY7r AqZy887HDCWfVtntDHoR4z5t-b2jWuavoAPC0, [accessed 25 June 2020].

xv Bangkok Post: Govt logs 7 new Covid cases, extends emergency, 29 June 2020,

https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1942784/govt-logs-7-new-covid-cases-extends-emergency, [accessed 29 June 2020].

xvi Royal Gazette no. 137, special edition no. 139, 12 June 2020,

http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2563/E/139/T 0028.PDF, [accessed 25 June 2020].

xvii Bangkok Post, Domestic flights resume with extra safety protocols, 2 May 2020,

https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1911300/domestic-flights-resume-with-extra-safety-protocols, [accessed 25 June 2020].

xviii Flight Global: Thailand to ease international flight ban, 1 July 2020,

https://www.flightglobal.com/networks/thailand-to-ease-international-flight-ban/139076.article, [accessed 3 July 2020].

xiix Thailand Business News: Thai bank forecasts 7.3% GDP contraction in 2020, 8 June 2020,

https://www.thailand-business-news.com/banking/79466-thai-bank-forecasts-7-3-gdp-contraction-in-2020.html, [accessed 25 June 2020].

xx Bangkok Post, NESDC: 14.4m workers at risk, 28 May 2020,

https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1925808/nesdc-14-4m-workers-at-risk, [accessed 25 June 2020].

- wi World Bank, derived using data from International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT database. The data retrieved in March 1, 2020. <a href="https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.TOTL.IN?locations=TH">https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.TOTL.IN?locations=TH</a>, [accessed 25 June 2020].
- xxiii Bloomberg Quint: *Migrant Workers on Virus Front Line as Asia Returns to Work*, 15 May 2020, <a href="https://www.bloombergquint.com/onweb/migrant-workers-on-virus-front-line-as-asia-returns-to-work">https://www.bloombergquint.com/onweb/migrant-workers-on-virus-front-line-as-asia-returns-to-work</a>, [accessed 25 June 2020].
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Migrant Working Group: A brief overview of the situation, laws and policies concerning migrant worker management during the Covid-19 outbreak, 22 June 2020.
- xxiv ILO, Experiences of ASEAN migrant workers during COVID-19: Rights at work, migration and quarantine during the pandemic, and re-migration plans, 3 June 2020, <a href="https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/issue-briefs/WCMS\_746881/lang--en/index.htm">https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/issue-briefs/WCMS\_746881/lang--en/index.htm</a>, [accessed 29 June 2020].
- xxvi Bangkok post: Fears over packed housing, 1 May 2020,
- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1910796/fears-over-packed-housing, [accessed 29 June 2020].
- xxvii See https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/1925572/abuse-of-migrants-refugees-counterproductive; https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/08/thailand-should-free-detained-migrants-amid-pandemic; and https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/22/call-release-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-immigration-detention-centers-thailand.
- https://www.newtv.co.th/news/59195, [accessed on 30 June 2020].
- xxix International Labour Rights Forum: COVID-19 Impact on Migrant Workers in Thailand, 27 March 2020, https://laborrights.org/blog/202003/covid-19-impact-migrant-workers-thailand, [accessed 25 June 2020].
- xxx ILO: High rise, low pay: Experiences of migrant women in the Thai construction sector, 2016, https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/WCMS 537743/lang--en/index.htm [accessed 8 May 2020].
- un Women: Action brief: A guide for action to stem increasing violence against women amid the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific, 2020, <a href="https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-">https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-</a>
- <u>library/publications/2020/05/action-brief-a-guide-for-action-to-stem-increasing-violence-against-women-amid-the-covid-19,</u> [accessed 8 May 2020].
- wxiii UN Women: Action Brief: Guidance for action: Addressing the emerging impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant women in Asia and the Pacific for a gender- responsive recovery, 2020,
- https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/guidance-for-action-addressing-the-emerging-impacts-of-the-covid-19-pandemicnder-responsive-recovery, [accessed 8 May 2020].
- xxxiii The Irrawaddy: *Myanmar's Mon State Consolidates Quarantine Centers for Returning Migrants*, 6 April 2020, <a href="https://www.irrawaddy.com/specials/myanmar-covid-19/myanmars-mon-state-consolidates-quarantine-centers-returning-migrants.html">https://www.irrawaddy.com/specials/myanmar-covid-19/myanmars-mon-state-consolidates-quarantine-centers-returning-migrants.html</a>, [accessed 25 June 2020].
- xxxiv Cambodianess.com: Coming Home in COVID-19 Times: Migrant Workers Follow Cambodia's Directives, 11 April 2020, <a href="https://cambodianess.com/article/coming-home-in-covid-19-times-migrant-workers-follow-cambodias-directives">https://cambodianess.com/article/coming-home-in-covid-19-times-migrant-workers-follow-cambodias-directives</a>, [accessed 25 June 2020].
- xxxv ILO, COVID-19: *Impact on migrant workers and country response in Myanmar*, 22 June 2020, <a href="https://www.ilo.org/yangon/publications/WCMS">https://www.ilo.org/yangon/publications/WCMS</a> 749466/lang--en/index.htm, [accessed 30 June 2020].
- The Nation: Exodus of 1,500 migrant workers daily sparks worry of Thai labour shortage, 9 June 2020, <a href="https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30389324?utm">https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30389324?utm</a> source=category&utm medium=internal referral, [accessed 25 June 2020].
- xxxvii IOM Covid Flash Report Update on 24 April 2020,
- https://thailand.iom.int/sites/default/files/COVID19Response/24-04-
- <u>2020%20IOM%20Flash%20Update%20on%20COVID-19%20for%20Migrant%20Workers%20in%20Thailand.pdf</u> [accessed on 30 June 2020].
- xxxviii https://www.immigration.go.th/en/?p=6838 [accessed on 1 July 2020].
- xxxix Notification of the Department of Fisheries on Form, Procedure, Duration and Places for Fishing Boat Owners to notify their wishes to employ migrant workers on board a fishing boat and to make a name list of employers. <a href="http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2563/E/101/T">http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2563/E/101/T</a> 0017.PDF [accessed on 1 July 2020].
- xl Government Gazette, Notification of the ประกาศกระทรวงมหาดไทย เรื่อง การยกเว้นข้อห้ามมิให้คนต่างด้าวเข้ามาในราชอาณาจักรเป็นการเถพาะ สาหรับคนต่างด้าวสัญชาติกัมพูชา ลาว และเมียนมา สามารถมายื่นคาขอ รับหนังสือคนประจ าเรือ เพื่ออยู่ในราชอาณาจักรเป็นการชั่วคราว และท างานกับนายจ้างในกิจการประมงทะเล, http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2563/E/100/T 0020.PDF

```
xii Thai Enquiry: Thailand discovers 53 new coronavirus cases; majority of cases from migrant detention center prompting fears of Singapore scenario, 2 April, 2020, <a href="https://www.thaienquirer.com/12273/thailand-discovers-53-new-coronavirus-cases-majority-of-cases-from-migrant-detention-center-prompting-fears-of-singapore-scenario/">https://www.thaienquirer.com/12273/thailand-discovers-53-new-coronavirus-cases-majority-of-cases-from-migrant-detention-center-prompting-fears-of-singapore-scenario/</a>, [accessed 1 July 2020].
```

xiii Thailand Business News: Thailand passes record Bt1.9-trillion stimulus package, 1 June 2020, <a href="https://www.thailand-business-news.com/banking/79466-thai-bank-forecasts-7-3-gdp-contraction-in-2020.html">https://www.thailand-business-news.com/banking/79466-thai-bank-forecasts-7-3-gdp-contraction-in-2020.html</a>, [accessed 1 July 2020].

National News bureau of Thailand: *5,000-baht cash relief extended to 16 million people.* 28 April, 2020, <a href="https://thainews.prd.go.th/en/news/detail/TCATG200428200905050">https://thainews.prd.go.th/en/news/detail/TCATG200428200905050</a>, [accessed on 1 July 2020].

xliv ILO: Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, <a href="https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS">https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS</a> 743268/lang--en/index.htm, [accessed 25 June 2020].

xIV ILO: Experiences of ASEAN migrant workers during COVID-19: Rights at work, migration and quarantine during the pandemic, and re-migration plans, 3 June 2020, <a href="https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/issue-briefs/WCMS">https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/issue-briefs/WCMS</a> 746881/lang--en/index.htm, [accessed 25 June 2020].

https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/issue-briefs/WCMS\_746979/lang--en/index.htm (coauthored with UN Women)

xivii ILO, COVID-19: Impact on migrant workers and country response in Malaysia, 8 May 2020, <a href="https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/issue-briefs/WCMS">https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/issue-briefs/WCMS</a> 741512/lang--en/index.htm, [accessed 25 June 2020].

xiviii ILO, COVID-19: *Impact on migrant workers and country response in Myanmar*, 22 June 2020, https://www.ilo.org/yangon/publications/WCMS 749466/lang--en/index.htm, [accessed 3 July 2020].

xlix ILO, Safe return to work: Guide for employers on COVID-19 prevention, 7 May 2020,

https://www.ilo.org/actemp/publications/WCMS\_744033/lang--en/index.htm, [accessed 25 June 2020].

<sup>1</sup> ILO, *Country policy responses*, data base, <a href="https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/country-responses/lang--en/index.htm">https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/country-responses/lang--en/index.htm</a>, [accessed 25 June 2020].

ii ILO: An employers' guide on managing your workplace during COVID-19, https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\_dialogue/---

act emp/documents/publication/wcms 740212.pdf [accessed 25 June 2020].

ILO: Social protection responses to the Covid-19 crisis: Country responses in Asia and the Pacific, <a href="https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/briefingnote/wcms\_739587.pdf">https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/briefingnote/wcms\_739587.pdf</a> [accessed 25 June 2020].

liv ILO: COVID-19 and public emergency services, 12 April 2020,

https://www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/publications/WCMS 741467/lang--en/index.htm [accessed 25 June 2020].

<sup>IV</sup> IOM: COVID-19 Flash Update: Government Guidance Affecting Migrant Workers and their Employers in Thailand and Neighbouring Countries, 18 June 2020,

https://thailand.iom.int/sites/default/files/COVID19Response/18-06-

2020%20IOM%20Flash%20Update%20on%20COVID-

19%20for%20Migrant%20Workers%20in%20Thailand.pdf, [accessed 25 June 2020].

loi IOM, Rapid assessment Round 2: COVID-19 related vulnerabilities and perceptions of non-Thai populations in Thailand, 12 June 2020, <a href="https://reliefweb.int/report/thailand/rapid-assessment-round-2-covid-19-related-vulnerabilities-and-perceptions-non-thai">https://reliefweb.int/report/thailand/rapid-assessment-round-2-covid-19-related-vulnerabilities-and-perceptions-non-thai</a>, [accessed 25 June 2020].

IOM: COVID-19: Guidance for employers and business to enhance migrant worker protection during the current health crisis, 7 April 2020, <a href="https://iris.iom.int/sites/default/files/IOM-">https://iris.iom.int/sites/default/files/IOM-</a>

COVID%2019 Employer Guidance V1.pdf, [accessed 25 June 2020].

IOM: Tips for Migrant Workers whose Job is Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, https://thailand.iom.int/sites/default/files/Infosheets/Info%20Sheet%20-

Migrant%20Workers%20whose%20job%20is%20affected%20by%20the%20COVID-19%20pandemic ENG.pdf, [accessed 25 June 2020].

lix IOM: COVID-19 Flash Update: Government Guidance Affecting Migrant Workers and their Employers in Thailand and Neighbouring Countries, 10 April, <a href="https://thailand.iom.int/sites/default/files/Infosheets/10-04-18">https://thailand.iom.int/sites/default/files/Infosheets/10-04-18</a>

2020%20IOM%20Flash%20Update%20on%20COVID-

19%20for%20Migrant%20Workers%20in%20Thailand.pdf, [accessed 25 June] 2020.

<sup>k</sup> IOM: Tips for employers of domestic workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic, https://thailand.iom.int/sites/default/files/Infosheets/Info%20Sheet-

%20Employers%20of%20domestic%20workers ENG.pdf, [accessed 25 June 2020].

hid Ministry of Manpower, Singapore: Joint MND-MOM Media Release on New Dormitories with Improved Standards for Migrant Workers, 1 June 2020, <a href="https://www.mom.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/2020/0601-joint-mnd-mom-media-release-on-new-dormitories-with-improved-standards-for-migrant-workers">https://www.mom.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/2020/0601-joint-mnd-mom-media-release-on-new-dormitories-with-improved-standards-for-migrant-workers</a>, [accessed 29 June 2020].