



**Royal Thai Government's
Progress Report
on Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts**

(1 January – 31 March 2019)

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Progress Report

In 2019, the Royal Thai Government remains committed to fighting trafficking in persons with a steady increase in the budget allocated to strengthen anti-human trafficking efforts. Compared to the allotment of 3,641.98 million THB (114.96 million USD) in fiscal year 2018, the budget in fiscal year 2019 increased by 4.53 percent to 3,806.82 million THB (120.16 million USD¹). Key achievements in the areas of prosecution, protection, and prevention during 1 January - 31 March 2019 are as follows:

Prosecution

1. Statistics on Human Trafficking Litigation, Suspects, and Victims

In the first quarter of 2019, 33 human trafficking cases were initiated. A total of 86 suspects were arrested and 209 victims were identified. Over 80 percent of the victims were Myanmar workers transported through Thailand en route to the third countries.

Table 1: Human Trafficking Cases Initiated

Year	Total	Types of human trafficking activities							
		Prostitution	Pornography	Sexual exploitation	Enslavement	Forced begging	Labour (general)	Labour (fisheries)	Extortion/ Other
2015	317	245	-	-	-	3	30	39	-
2016	333	244	3	-	-	8	32	43	3
2017	302	246	7	2	-	26	14	7	-
2018	304	249	4	5	-	8	29	6	3
2019	33	19	1	1	-	1	5	-	6

Table 2: Number of Human Trafficking Suspects, Classified by Gender and Nationality

Year	Total	Gender		Nationality				
		Male	Female	Thai	Myanmar	Cambodian	Laotian	Other
2015	690	372	318	617	47	1	10	15
2016	600	265	335	462	35	26	41	36
2017	427	145	282	361	9	25	3	29
2018	532	229	303	424	30	15	4	59
2019	86	56	30	62	14	0	1	9

¹ The exchange rate is 31.68 THB/USD as of late March 2019.

Table 3: Number of Trafficking Victims, Classified by Gender and Nationality

Year	Total	Gender		Nationality				
		Male	Female	Thai	Myanmar	Cambodian	Laotian	Other
2015	982	451	531	360	409	9	87	117
2016	824	411	413	333	238	52	58	143
2017	455	88	367	327	53	26	30	19
2018	631	282	349	345	205	28	14	39
2019	209	124	85	26	170	0	2	11

The statistics demonstrated a downward trend of the monthly average of human trafficking cases, resulting in no small part from the deterrent effect of prosecuting interconnected crimes of migrant worker smuggling. Since 2018, the Royal Thai Police has intensified its efforts to crack down on the smugglers of migrant workers, particularly transnational organised syndicates that smuggled migrant workers from neighbouring countries via Thailand. The police initiated 9 cases in 2018, involving 61 offenders and 151 victims. During January-March 2019, the police dismantled transnational smuggling syndicates and arrested influential persons in 10 cases, involving 54 offenders and 169 victims. The effective suppression of migrant smuggling rings helped bring down the number of human trafficking cases and at the same time prevent illegal migrants from falling victims to trafficking in persons and exploitation.

2. Human Trafficking Cases in the Judicial Process

2.1 Human Trafficking Cases Handled by Inquiry Officers

During January-March 2019, a total of 25 human trafficking cases were completed by inquiry officers.

1) Out of three cases initiated in 2017 and under inquiry at the end of 2018, two were completed during this timeframe. The remaining case involves extra-territoriality, awaiting evidence from a foreign country in order to proceed.

2) Out of 74 cases initiated in 2018 and under inquiry at the end of the year, 47 were completed. 13 pending cases have extra-territorial elements, while the other 14 cases took place in the country toward the end of the year.

3) A total of 33 cases were initiated in the first quarter of 2019, two of which were already filed to the public prosecutors while the other 31 are presently under inquiry.

Table 4: Progress of Human Trafficking Cases Handled by Inquiry Officers

Year	Total	Under inquiry	Filed to public prosecutors	Not filed to public prosecutors
2015	317	0	312 (98.42%)	5 (1.58%)
2016	333	0	329 (98.80%)	4 (1.20%)
2017	302	1 (0.33%)	298 (98.68%)	3 (0.99%)
2018	304	27 (8.88%)	276 (90.70%)	1 (0.33%)
2019	33	31 (93.94%)	2 (6.06%)	-

2.2 Human Trafficking Cases Pursued by Public Prosecutors

1) One case from 2017 is still under consideration due to its extra-territoriality which requires evidence from a foreign country in order to proceed.

2) In the first quarter of 2019, the public prosecutors issued orders to prosecute 18 cases from 2018, thereby reducing the number of cases from 2018 still under consideration to ten. During the same period, a total of 67 cases, those with and without suspects included, were filed to public prosecutors. Out of this number, the public prosecutors have issued orders to prosecute 61 cases, while the other six cases are still under consideration.

Table 5: Cases with Suspects to be Submitted to the Court

Year	Total number of cases	Decision reached by public prosecutors			Cases returned to inquiry officers
		Order to prosecute (%)	Order not to prosecute (%)	Still under consideration (%)	
2015	281	273 (97.15%)	8 (2.85%)	-	-
2016	446	438 (98.20%)	7 (1.57%)	-	1
2017	396	385 (97.22%)	11 (2.78%)	-	-
2018	331	298 (90.04%)	24 (7.25%)	5 (1.51%)	4
2019	62	60 (96.77%)	-	2 (3.23%)	-

Table 6: Cases without Suspects to be Submitted to the Court

Year	Number of cases	Decision reached by public prosecutors			Cases returned to inquiry officers
		Order to prosecute (%)	Order not to prosecute (%)	Still under consideration (%)	
2015	5	4 (80%)	1 (20%)	-	-
2016	19	16 (84.21%)	2 (10.53%)	-	1
2017	22	16 (72.73%)	4 (18.19%)	1 (4.54%)	1
2018	26	18 (69.23%)	1 (3.84%)	5 (19.23%)	2
2019	5	1 (20.00%)	-	4 (80.00%)	-

Note that the public prosecutor shall return a case to the inquiry officer in order that a procedural aspect of the investigation be rectified in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code before further proceeding.

2.3 Human Trafficking Cases Pursued by the Courts of Justice

During the first quarter of 2019, 182 human trafficking cases (both pending cases at the end of 2018 and newly initiated cases) were brought before the Courts of First Instance across Thailand. The Courts convicted defendants in 41 cases, acquitted defendants in six cases, and disposed of eight cases. A total of 127 cases are still in process.

Table 7: Decisions Reached by the Courts in 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	Acquitted	Disposed	Total	
2015	115	223	338	173 (85.64%)	24 (11.88%)	5 (2.48%)	202	136
2016	136	468	604	298 (79.05%)	37 (9.81%)	42 (11.14%)	377	227
2017	227	330	557	319 (81.59%)	54 (13.81%)	18 (4.60%)	391	166
2018	166	279	445	235 (77.05%)	24 (7.87%)	46 (15.08%)	305	140
2019	140	42	182	41 (74.55%)	6 (10.91%)	8 (14.55%)	55	127

As of 28 February 2019

In terms of defendants, a total of 67 defendants (29 males and 38 females) were submitted to the Courts. Among them, 59 were Thai and eight were of other nationalities. The following table shows the number of defendants classified by the Courts' decisions.

Table 8: Number of Defendants Classified by the Courts' Decisions

Year	Number of defendants subjected to the Courts' consideration			
	Total	Convicted	Acquitted	Disposed
2015	287	254 (88.50%)	26 (9.06%)	7 (2.44%)
2016	493	366 (74.24%)	69 (14%)	58 (11.76%)
2017	638	466 (73.04%)	154 (24.14%)	18 (2.82%)
2018	438	316 (72.15%)	57 (13.01%)	65 (14.84%)
2019	67	49 (73.13%)	8 (11.94%)	10 (14.93%)

As of 28 February 2019

The imprisonment sentences handed down to convicted defendants is shown in the following table.

Table 9: Severity of Imprisonment Imposed on Defendants in Human Trafficking Cases

Year	Total number of defendants sentenced to imprisonment	Shorter than one year	Between 1-2 years	Between 2-5 years	Between 5-10 years	Over 10 years
2015	244	10 (4.10%)	7 (2.87%)	74 (30.33%)	73 (29.92%)	80 (32.79%)
2016	310	18 (5.81%)	8 (2.58%)	100 (32.26%)	117 (37.74%)	67 (21.61%)
2017	377	9 (2.39%)	10 (2.65%)	109 (28.91%)	118 (31.30%)	131 (34.75%)
2018	236	1 (0.42%)	4 (1.69%)	47 (19.92%)	60 (25.42%)	124 (52.54%)
2019	42	-	-	9 (21.43%)	15 (35.71%)	18 (42.86%)

As of 28 February 2019

3. Combatting Official Complicity in Human Trafficking Cases

During January-March 2019, the Thai Government made greater efforts in suppressing government officials involved in human trafficking cases. In the Chom Dao case, the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) has expedited the criminal prosecution process of three inquiry officers accused of distorting their inquiries. The three alleged inquiry officers are presently put under inquiry by the DSI officers.

For the Mae Hong Son case, the judicial process was completed with 15 public officials criminally prosecuted for having been involved in the use of children in sexual activities remunerated in cash. In 2018, the Court of Justice sentenced four public officials (two police officers and two local administrative officers) to imprisonment. Later, on 25 January 2019, the Provincial Court of Mae Hong Son sentenced two more police officers to imprisonment terms of 15 years and four months and of 15 years and 12 months for raping with the use of physical force against a person who was incapable of resistance, for conspiring to rape, for taking away minors over the age of 15 and under the age of 18 from their mothers or guardians for sexual abuse despite the minors' consent, and for

conspiring to obtain such minors for sexual abuse despite the minors' consent. The Court also acquitted one other police officer, whose case is being re-considered by the Court of Appeal.

4. Asset Restraint and Seizure

In the first quarter of 2019, the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) pursued 4 cases involving a predicate offence of human trafficking. The AMLO restrained and seized 355,194.30 THB (11,211.94 USD) of assets and submitted these cases to public prosecutors. These assets were to be brought before the Civil Courts for their orders of forfeiture for the benefits of the State.

In order that monies forfeited and proceeds from the sale of property seized can be used to pay restitution to victims of trafficking, the AMLO drafted amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act and completed 3 public hearings. The first one, in which 100 AMLO officers participated, was organised on 25 February 2019. The second, held on 25 March 2019, was attended by 250 representatives from various associations, financial institutions and professionals in the non-financial sector. The latest was held on 26 March 2019, engaging 100 law enforcement officers, regulators, and relevant government officials. Once the last public hearing, scheduled for June 2019, is accomplished, the draft amendments will be proposed to the Cabinet and subsequently to the Parliament for approval.

5. Witness Assistance and Protection

During January-March 2019, the Rights and Liberties Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice continued to provide:

5.1 Protections for a total of 17 witnesses in human trafficking cases in accordance with the Witness Protection Act, B.E. 2546 (2003) using the total budget of 511,286.22 THB (16,139.09 USD), and

5.2 Restitutions for nine victims of trafficking in accordance with the Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expenses for the Accused in Criminal Case Act, B.E. 2544 (2001) with the total budget of 129,935 THB (4,101.48 USD).

Moreover, in order to increase the efficiency of witness protection in human trafficking cases, the Rights and Liberties Protection Department proposed an amendment to the Witness Protection in Criminal Case Act, B.E. 2546 (2003) to broaden the scope of human trafficking offences under this Act to allow more witnesses to access witness protection according to special provisions. On 29 January 2019, the Cabinet approved the draft amendment, which is now under the consideration of the Office of the Council of State.

6. Thailand Anti-Trafficking in Persons Task Force (TATIP) and Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (TICAC)

In the first quarter of 2019, TATIP and TICAC continued to stringently crack down on offenders, especially trafficking syndicates, through improved collaboration and trust building measures with victims and witnesses in order to compile more targeted information for further investigations.

6.1 TATIP has implemented measures and followed operation guidelines set forth in the Plan for Children, Women and Families Protection and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Plan of the Royal Thai Police. The operation teams of experts in human trafficking cases implemented various measures to steadily improve efficiencies in investigating offenders and protecting children, women and families. Officers aim at conducting quality inquiries and evidence gathering, focusing on the investigations of trafficking syndicates which could lead to further investigations of the masterminds, transporters, harbourers, employers, brokers, and sponsors of illegal activities, particularly in cases involving forced begging, forced prostitution, forced labour, illegal migration, and transnational organised trafficking in persons. The police set up a system of inquiries, victim identification and preliminary assistance in line with international standards and the principles of human rights. Proper care and protections are extended to both victims of trafficking and witnesses in human trafficking cases. The police also strengthened cooperation with other government agencies, private sector, NGOs, and international organisations in conducting identifications of and providing assistance to victims according to relevant laws, regulations, international standards and human rights principles. Additionally, police officers regularly exchanged information, constantly improved inter-agency coordination, created efficient communication channels for emergency cases, and improved forensic efficacy for electronic investigations and evidence verification.

During January-March 2019, TATIP made progress in three human trafficking cases. In the first two cases, two victims contacted NightLight, an allied NGO, for help and were brought to TATIP. The result of trafficking victim screening and identification performed jointly by TATIP, MSDHS, interpreters, and NightLight showed that they were victims of trafficking in forced prostitution. Litigations were initiated and arrest warrants issued, although the suspects fled from the authorities. In the meantime, the victims were placed under NightLight's care. In the third case, TATIP conducted further investigation on a TICAC's case regarding a 23-year-old suspect, who had produced and distributed child pornographic materials in Prae Province, which led to the arrest of another suspect in Pang Nga Province and the exhibits were transferred to the local police.

6.2 During January-March 2019, TICAC made progress in 13 cases: three cases involving human trafficking, three cases of child sexual abuse, and seven cases related to possession of child pornographic materials. Key progress appears below:

6.2.1 The collaboration among law enforcement agencies, i.e. TICAC, TACTICS, INTERPOL, as well as allied NGOs (HUG Project, CAC, A21) led to the arrest of one person for having possessed child pornographic materials for his own or others' sexual satisfaction. Further child-centric

investigative approach led to the arrest of the same suspect for having sexually abused children under 15 regardless of their consent and for having had sexual intercourse with children under 13 who were not linked to him by marriage.

6.2.2 Following the case of late 2018 in which a suspect was arrested in Prae Province for having possessed child pornographic materials, the collaboration among the Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) and the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) through its Cyber Tipline, TICAC, Provincial Police Region 8, local police, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division (ATPD), Pang-Nga Shelter for Children and Family, and allied NGOs (For Freedom International, HUG Project) led to the arrest of another suspect in Pang-Nga Province on the ground of human trafficking. Taking a victim-centric approach, victim identification was conducted by a capable team who made efforts to avoid re-victimising or traumatising victims.

6.2.3 TICAC, TACTICS, ATPD and the metropolitan police, with the cooperation from the FBI through the ICACCOPS, successfully arrested a German suspect charged with having possessed child pornographic materials for his own or others' sexual satisfaction, in accordance with the First Paragraph of Section 287/1 of the Penal Code. This case demonstrates the close and effective partnerships between Thai and foreign law enforcement agencies.

7. Progress of the 2019 Plan

7.1 TATIP is in a process of developing “TATIP I lert u,” a mobile application to provide an alternative channel for the public to lodge complaints and report incidents or tip-offs related to human trafficking, thereby improving the assistance for victims of trafficking. The data – personal information, pictures of the incident, geographical location of the incident, etc. – will be sent to the human trafficking assistance centre that operates 24/7. Upon verification of the data received, the centre will coordinate for the prompt dispatch of officers to the crime scene to assist victims. “TATIP I lert u” is presently undergoing a testing period and will be officially launched soon on both iOS and Android.

7.2 In addition to the Child Advocacy Centres (CACs) in Chiang Mai, Chonburi, Phuket, Ubon Ratchathani and Kanchanaburi Provinces, TICAC is currently preparing to set up more CACs in targeted provinces this year to provide better coverage of protection, assistance and rehabilitation services for child victims.

7.3 Thailand continued to strengthen its partnerships with foreign government agencies, international organisations, and NGOs. Key activities are as follows:

1) During 18-20 February 2019, the Centre for the Advocacy of Children, Women, Families and the Suppression of Human Trafficking, together with the Immigration Bureau Provincial Office, the Special Branch Bureau of the Royal Thai Police, ATPD and DSI attended the 8th bilateral meeting on the fight against human trafficking with the Myanmar Police in Nay Pyi Daw. Both sides exchanged information and followed up on prominent cases such as the Rohingya case in Nakhon Sri Thammarat Province, the Ambon-Benjina case regarding the compensation for Myanmar fishing crew, a case involving perpetrator using forged visa, and a case involving the smuggling of Myanmar workers into Thailand.

2) During 25-26 February 2019, TICAC representatives participated in a “Child Sexual Exploitation – Southeast Asia, Regional Dialogue” seminar in Manila, the Philippines to enhance the cooperation in intelligence sharing for the fight against child sexual exploitation.

3) During 4-8 March 2019, the Royal Thai Police met representatives from the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), ASEANAPOL and INTERPOL. The meeting aimed to strengthen cooperation in data sharing for the prevention and suppression of child sexual exploitation and to set up a network of joint operations to monitor the EU residents who might sexually exploit children in Southeast Asia.

8. Capacity Building for Officers

8.1 The Royal Thai Police organised two capacity building training programmes for officers to improve their skills in prosecution of human trafficking cases. Details of the training are as follows:

1) During 8-21 March 2019, the Seminar on Victim Identification and Human Trafficking Case Inquiry and Investigation was held in Surat Thani Province. A total of 200 police participants shared their experiences and jointly developed guidelines to improve methods and efficiencies in the inquiry and investigation of human trafficking cases.

2) During 4-6 March 2019, the TICAC organised a seminar in Chonburi Province to train TICAC officers to develop their skills, with the objective of enhancing operational efficacy in tackling cyber crimes against children. Participants included 74 police officers from across the country, representatives from NGOs (Hug Project and A21), and HSI and FBI officers. The seminar provided them with an opportunity to share their experiences in combatting cyber crimes involving child victims while bringing to the fore the child-centric approach. They were also trained to track and investigate cybercrimes, which have more complexity and use more advanced cyber technology.

8.2 The Office of the Attorney General organised two capacity building projects during January-March 2019:

1) The Project to Enhance the Capacity of Public Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Officers Dealing with Transnational Criminal Organisations: Human Trafficking Cases – This project aimed to reinforce the understanding of public prosecutors and officers from the Royal Thai Police, DSI, MSDHS, MOL, the Department of Provincial Administration, and the AMLO, among others, about the *modus operandi* of transnational criminal organisations in order to enhance officers' collaboration in the prosecution of such organisations, especially with regard to international criminal cooperation and extradition. The project was held three times: during 17-18 January 2019 in Bangkok, 12-13 February 2019 in Udon Thani Province, and 28 February 2019 in Chiang Mai Province.

2) The Project on the Prosecution of Human Trafficking for Public Prosecutors – Held during 7-8 March 2019 in Bangkok in partnership with the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Section of the Embassy of the United States of America in Thailand, this project aimed to educate assistant public prosecutors with a solid foundation on human trafficking law prior to their assignments in provincial areas and to enable them to prosecute human trafficking cases with precision, comprehensiveness, speed and impartiality, especially regarding the investigations and proceedings before the Courts.

8.3 On 26 March 2019, the Rights and Liberties Protection Department organised a capacity building seminar for officers working on the protection of witnesses in human trafficking cases in compliance with the Witness Protection in Criminal Case Act, B.E. 2546 (2003). Another seminar of the same nature will be held on 26 April 2019. In addition, the Rights and Liberties Protection Department has authored a handbook on the assistance and protection of witnesses in human trafficking cases.

8.4 The DSI organised an information sharing meeting (the second in a series of four meetings) among anti-human trafficking agencies (TIPNET), during 13-14 February 2019, in Nong Khai Province. The meeting aimed at enhancing efficacy of preventive measures and prosecution of various forms of trafficking in persons. In addition to DSI officers, participants included civil society networks from Nong Khai Province and nearby North-eastern provinces, as well as representatives from the Lao PDR. At the meeting, participants learned about the role and responsibilities of DSI and various types of human trafficking cases. Participants also exchanged views and jointly developed guidelines to improve Thailand – Lao PDR bilateral cooperation in victim protection and assistance and development of a systematic approach in sharing information and intelligence.

8.5 The MSDHS has organised 5 training sessions on victim identification, assistance and protection with a total of 221 participants, including representatives from various government agencies and stakeholders involved in conducting victim identification throughout the country. Such training was organised as part of a series of 24 training sessions planned for fiscal year 2019 that aim to provide training for 980 officers in total.

9. Further Investigation on Prominent Cases of 2018

9.1 The Ugandan Transnational Sex Trafficking Case

Due to the coordination among the Immigration Bureau, ATPD and NGOs for the investigation on the Ugandan trafficking syndicate, 15 cases were initiated, 20 arrest warrants were issued and four suspects were arrested. The Criminal Court already ruled on one case, sentencing a defendant to a prison term of four years and six months and a payment of 1,075,143 THB (33,937.59 USD) as compensation for the victims. Evidence for other cases is being gathered for filing to the public prosecutors.

The inter-agency efforts continued in the first quarter of 2019. Further investigation resulted in the prosecution of four more cases with five suspects (one suspect was already arrested, while the other four are subject to arrest warrants). These cases are still under inquiry. The Royal Thai Police has been continuously working to bring all offenders to justice.

9.2 The Facebook Case

The suspects who lured the victims on Facebook and published their sexual pictures and videos in a closed and paid LINE group (an instant-messaging mobile application) were arrested for (1) having produced, possessed and distributed child pornographic materials to satisfy one's own or others' sexual desire; (2) having entered pornographic or obscene contents into a computer system that is accessible to the public; and (3) having committed human trafficking. On 12 December 2018, the Criminal Court sentenced a defendant to a 52-year prison term, which was subsequently reduced by half to 25 years and 12 months following the defendant's confession. The defendant saw his properties confiscated and was ordered to pay compensations of 3,038,000 THB (95,896.46 USD) to the victims.

Moreover, the cooperation between the ATPD, HSI, NGOs (the HUG Project and A21), and the Bangkok Centre for Children and Families led to the discovery of five additional child victims and the initiation of one more case involving one suspect. On 8 February 2019, this case was filed to the Department of the Trafficking in Persons Litigation of the Office of the Attorney General.

9.3 The Two Victoria's Secret Cases

(1) The Special Case No. 43/2560

The DSI officers and the public prosecutors collaborated in investigations agreed to initiate criminal proceedings against 17 suspects charged with conspiring to traffic persons by means of (1) exploiting persons and minors; (2) recruiting others into prostitution for their own gain; (3) organising a group of three persons or more to jointly commit human trafficking or conspiring to commit human trafficking by becoming a member of an organised criminal syndicate; and (4) conspiring to procure or lure minors over the age of 15 and under the age of 18 for prostitution regardless of their consent. The DSI officers have arrested and pressed charges against six out of the 17 suspects. The other 11 suspects have had arrest warrants issued against, but they are still at large.

Vis-à-vis the six arrested suspects, the public prosecutors filed criminal charges on the grounds of numerous violations of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, B.E. 2551 (2008), the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act, B.E. 2539 (1996), the Penal Code, the Immigration Act, B.E. 2522 (1979), and the Prevention and Suppression of Involvement in Transnational Organised Crime Act, B.E. 2556 (2013).

The Criminal Court subsequently ruled on this case, sentencing two defendants to prison terms of three years and four months, one defendant to an eight-month prison term, and another defendant to a six-year prison term under the authority of the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act, B.E. 2539 (1996), while acquitting two defendants of all charges. As a consequence, the public prosecutors lodged appeals with the Court of Appeal against all defendants on the grounds of conspiracy to commit human trafficking and other offences. The cases are now under the consideration of the Court of Appeal.

(2) The Special Case No. 5/2561

The DSI, with the support from public prosecutors, initiated litigations against 45 suspects on the grounds that they had (1) committed human trafficking in a joint operation by two persons or more; (2) committed human trafficking by seeking benefit from prostitution, procuring, luring or inducing persons for prostitution regardless of their consent; (3) procured, lured or brought persons, regardless of their consent, for indecency to satisfy others' sexual desire; (4) owned, run, managed or supervised prostitution activities or brothels; and (5) assisted aliens in any way so that they are not arrested for their wrongdoings. The DSI officers have pressed charges against 45 suspects, three of whom were juristic persons or corporations. Among the arrested individuals, six were arrested on the spot and one has been taken into custody, while arrest warrants have been issued against the rest who are still at large.

The public prosecutors filed to the Criminal Court charges against seven arrested individuals, together with two juristic persons. Apart from this, charges were filed against 17 suspects on the run, while an order of non-prosecution was issued on 19 suspects.

On 24 September 2018, before the Criminal Court, two defendants confessed and were each convicted to prison terms of 22 years and 12 months for conspiring to commit human trafficking and other offences, in accordance with the Penal Code, the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, B.E. 2551 (2008), and the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act, B.E. 2539 (1996). Nevertheless, the public prosecutors further lodged appeals with the Court of Appeal against both defendants for organising a group of three persons or more to commit human trafficking, which is an offence that carries heavier punishments according to the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, B.E. 2551 (2008) and its amendments.

On 27 August 2018, the Criminal Court sentenced a total of five defendants to imprisonment: two defendants each to prison terms of 15 years and 12 months, two defendants each to prison terms of 15 years and four months, and one defendant to an 80-month prison term for having (1) procured, lured or brought persons for prostitution regardless of their consent; (2) procured, lured or brought women regardless of their consent for indecency to satisfy others' sexual pleasure; and (3) owned, run, managed or supervised prostitution activities or brothels, under the authority of the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act, B.E. 2539 (1996) and the Penal Code. On these same charges, however, the Court acquitted the two juristic persons. In the same ruling, the Court acquitted five individual defendants from conspiracy to commit human trafficking charge, in accordance with the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, B.E. 2551 (2008) and its amendments.

Consequently, the public prosecutors lodged appeals with the Court of Appeal against all acquitted five individuals and two juristic persons on the grounds of conspiring to commit human trafficking and all other relevant offences. Their cases are pending consideration by the Court of Appeal.

Protection

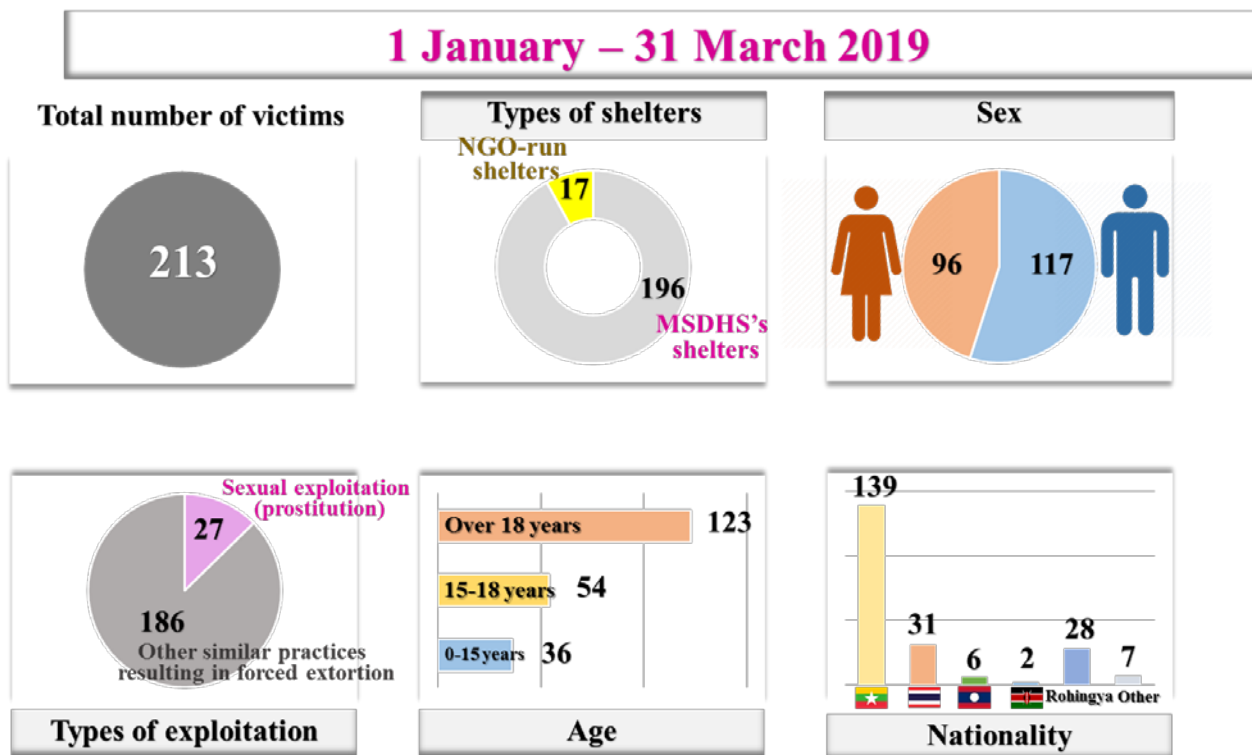
1. Respecting Victims' Rights to Decide on Receiving Protection

Victims of trafficking have the right to decide whether they want to be protected in the MSDHS shelters or NGO-run shelters. For security reasons, they can also choose to be under witness protection scheme provided by relevant government agencies, including the Department of Special Investigation (DSI), the Royal Thai Police, or the Rights and Liabilities Protection Department under the Ministry of Justice.

During January – March 2019, a total of 213 victims (117 male and 96 female victims) chose to be protected in the MSDHS shelters. Among the female, 27 were female victims of sexual exploitation while the rest were victims of forced extortion. In addition, 17 other female victims of sexual exploitation chose to be protected in an NGO-run shelter.

Diagram 1: Statistics Relating to Victims of Trafficking Decided to be Under the Shelter's Protection

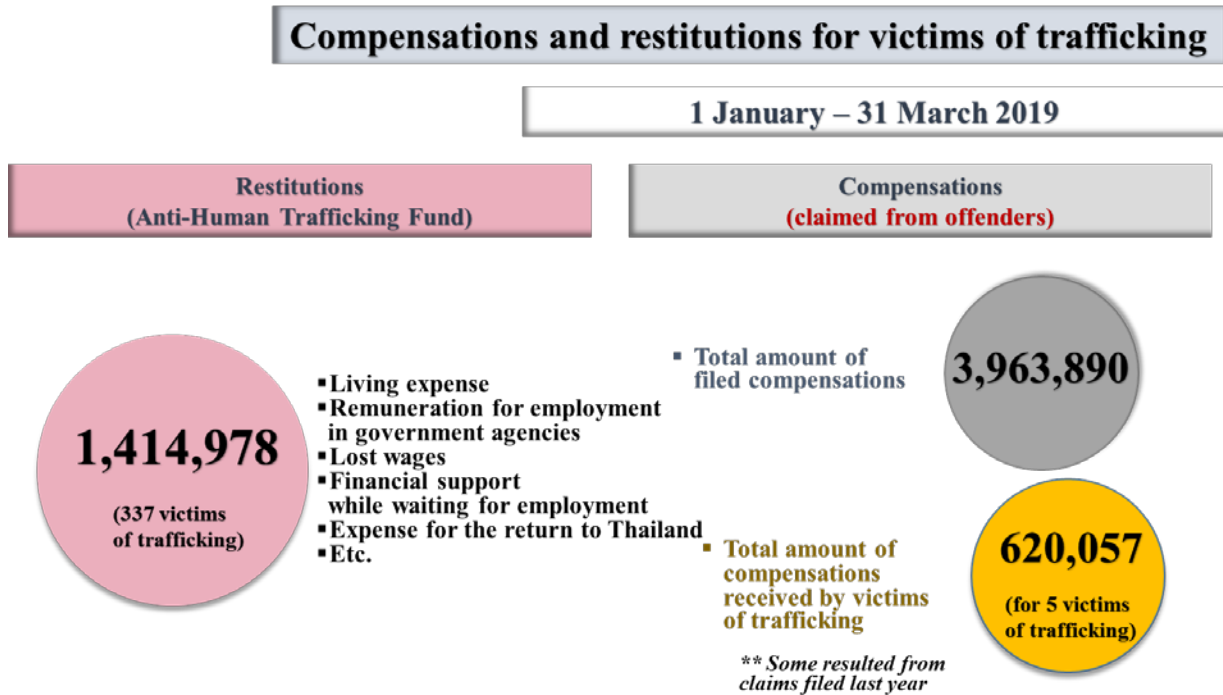
Statistics Relating to Victims of Trafficking Decided to be under Protection in Shelters



2. Remedies through Compensations and Restitutions until Reintegration into Society

From 1 January 2019 until present, victims of trafficking, including those newly admitted and those under the protection since previous years, have received restitutions from the Anti-Human Trafficking Fund at the total amount of 1,414,978 THB (44,664.71 USD) as an assurance of the Government's continued assistance in accordance with the victims' rights until their sustainable return and reintegration into society.

Diagram 2: Compensations and Restitutions for Victims of Trafficking



Moreover, training workshops and meetings have been organised to increase efficiency and effectiveness of determining compensations for government officials throughout the country based on the Guideline on Claims for Compensation. During January – March 2019, five victims have already received 620,057 THB (19,572.51 USD) in compensations from the offenders.

3. Increased Capacity and Number of Interpreters

The MSDHS has continued to provide quality training for interpreters to ensure effective communication in assisting and protecting victims. To overcome the insufficiency and concentration of trained and registered interpreters in the central region, the MSDHS has extended training courses for interpreters to other areas of the country, including Northern Thailand in 2018 and two training courses in Southern and Central Thailand during February - March 2019. These demonstrate our efforts to expand the coverage of

qualified interpreter throughout the country to assist the multidisciplinary teams in providing protection for the victims of trafficking. Furthermore, the MSDHS is planning to develop a mobile application to better coordinate protection efforts of concerned agencies while providing victims with greater access to interpretation services.



4. “Protect-U” Mobile Application For Victims to Improve Access to Other Protection Services

To increase access to assistance for the victims of trafficking, the MSDHS has developed a mobile application for victims, those who are at risks of being trafficked and the general public. The application will have incident reporting feature so that information can be quickly conveyed to relevant agencies for rapid and effective responses. Another feature of the mobile application will include information on the rights of the victims. To further promote the knowledge on the rights of victims, the contents extracted from the Rights of Trafficked Persons Handbook translated into seven languages will be incorporated into the application to facilitate and enhance the understanding of the victims. Through this application, products made by victims can also be purchased online which would promote their sustainable reintegration into society.

“Protect-U” PROTECT-U M-SOCIETY
MSDHS stands ready to protect you

Mobile Application for Better Access to Protection Services

The image displays four screenshots of the Protect-U mobile application. The first screenshot shows a registration form with fields for name, phone number, and address. The second screenshot shows a warning message in Thai and English regarding confidentiality. The third screenshot shows the main menu with options like 'แจ้งข้อมูลการค้ำบชช', 'สิทธิผู้เสียหาย', and 'ดาวน์โหลดเอกสาร'. The fourth screenshot shows a list of notification services in multiple languages (English, Vietnamese, Myanmar, Lao, Khmer, Chinese). To the right, there is a QR code for scanning, and buttons for downloading the app from Google Play and the App Store. A banner at the bottom right says 'Presented by : DATIP (MSDHS)'.

Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DATIP)

Presented by : **DATIP (MSDHS)**

5. Integrated Cooperation with Relevant Agencies to Better Provide Effective Protection

In the area of victim protection, the MSDHS has continuously promoted cooperation among various agencies including the government agencies, private sectors, NGOs and international organisations. In January-March 2019, various agencies worked closely with the MSDHS to enhance cooperation in this area. For example, **the International Justice Mission (IJM)** of Thailand has discussed with the MSDHS in organising training programs to enable officials perform a trauma-informed approach and to equip them with the knowledge on the use of the Assessment Survivor Outcome Tool. Furthermore, the MSDHS has continued cooperation with **Save the Children** to develop the Child Witness Support program to assist children in the judicial process and equip Thai officials with the knowledge on the role of case managers. **The Embassy of the United Kingdom**, through the Border Force Project, has assisted in implementing the Reflection Period approach. In the field of victim identification, **Winrock International** has provided support and helped improve the efficacy of victim identification process.



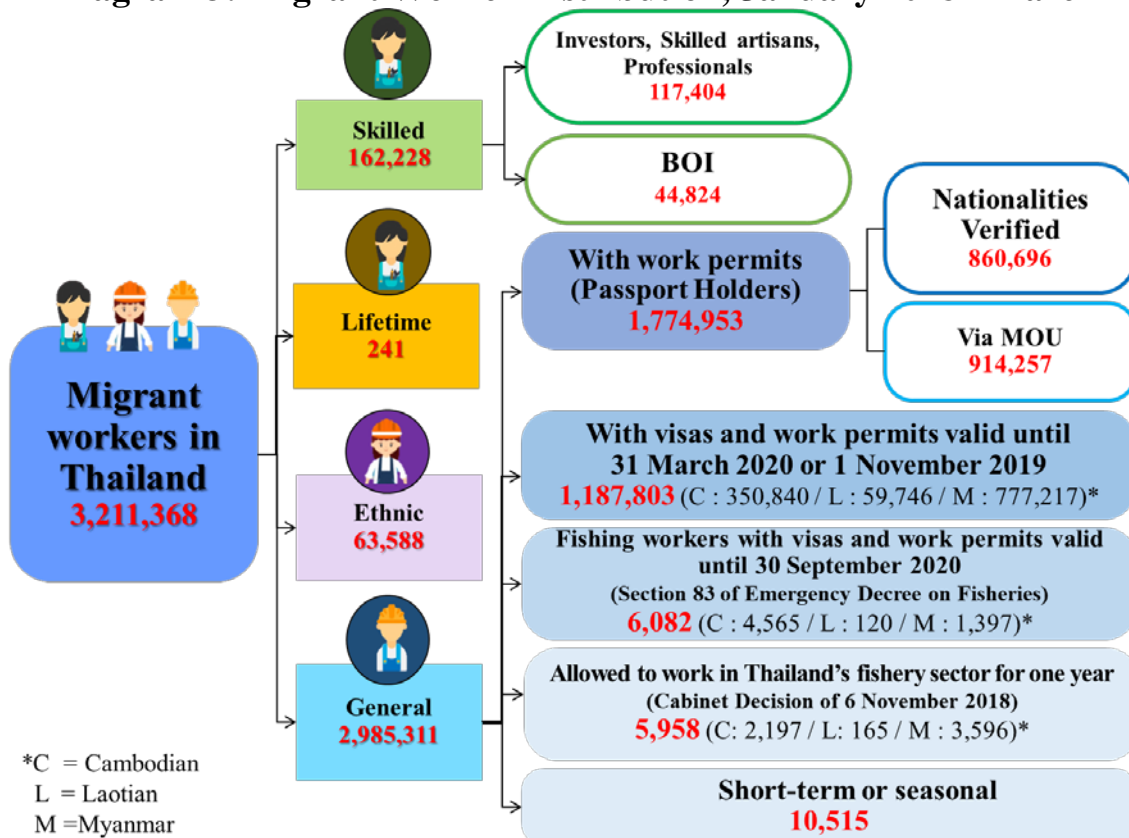
In February 2019, the MSDHS together with International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) launched a “Social Reintegration Handbook for Thai Victims of Trafficking” to be a guideline for relevant agencies in protecting Thai victims of trafficking who are repatriated from overseas and other victims in Thailand. In addition, the MSDHS organised three workshops (in Bangkok, Ubon Ratchathani, Chiang Rai/Phayao Provinces) aimed at putting the Handbook into practice. The MSDHS is also planning to organise two more related workshops during the first half of 2019. The handbooks have been distributed to relevant agencies responsible for the reintegration of victims with a view to supporting and enhancing their work efficiency.

Prevention

1. Labour Management

During January – March 2019, the Thai Government continued to expedite the migrant workers recruitment via MOUs with neighbouring countries; the legalisation and registration of migrant workers; and the development of migrant workers database to enable the monitoring, inspections and protections of migrant workers in accordance with the law. Until March 2019, the number of migrant workers who are actively working in Thailand totalled 3,211,368 as shown in **Diagram 3**. Deadline for registration and visa extension process for migrant workers, who obtained identity documents from origin countries (passport/temporary passport/certificate of identity/travel document), has been extended from 31 January 2019 to 31 March 2019 to accommodate more workers. Workers, who have completed the process, will be allowed to work in the sea fishing sector in Thailand for one more year, in accordance with Section 83 of the Emergency Decree on Fisheries, B.E. 2558 (2015) and are required to register their personal data and apply for a Seabook at the One Stop Service Centres (OSS) in 22 coastal provinces. Until present, a total of 5,958 migrant workers have received the Seabooks.

Diagram 3: Migrant Worker Distribution, January 2018 - March 2019



2. Employer Change

In 2018, the Ministry of Labour initiated an electronic method for application to change employers in order to simplify the process and facilitate workers. An application for an employer change can be submitted to Provincial Employment Office via an e-mail system. In 2018, 440,439 people used the service of this email system, while the number during January – March 2019 totalled 230,606 people. Out of this number, the employment of 76,933 migrant workers and the exit of employment of 76,088 migrant workers were reported by employers, whereas a total of 77,585 migrant workers reported their entry into employment. So far, the Ministry of Labour has received 671,045 entries of information in total.

The Department of Employment of the Ministry of Labour has been developing a change-of-employer notification system under the Legalisation of Migrant Worker Project initiated in accordance with the Emergency Decree on Foreigners' Working Management (No. 2) B.E. 2561 (2018). The new system will be available online via a website and a smart phone application in 2019. It will serve as an alternative channel to provide services, increase efficiencies and reduce redundancies.

3. Inspections of Migrant Labour Recruitment Agencies and Outbound Employment Agencies

During January - March 2019, the Department of Employment conducted inspections of 29 migrant labour recruitment agencies and found no violation of the laws.

Inspections were also conducted on 40 employment agencies sending Thai workers abroad. One employment agency was found guilty of breaching the Employment and Job Seeker Protection Act, B.E. 2528 (1985) amended by the Employment and Job Seeker Protection Act (No. 2), B.E. 2537 (1994). The employment agency was charged with failure to issue a receipt acknowledging the payment from workers for expenses incurred from providing services. Currently, officers are collecting additional evidence for the consideration of registration penalty.

Moreover, inspections were conducted on brokers and 56 illegal brokers were prosecuted. They had charges pressed against them for seeking overseas jobs for workers without a permit and for misrepresenting as a broker licensed to send workers overseas, as well as for accepting payment in cash or assets in return for such service.

4. Labour Inspections

During January - March 2019, the Ministry of Labour carried out inspections on a total of 27,946 legal workforce establishments, industries susceptible to human trafficking, fishing vessels and seafood processing facilities. Out of this number, inspectors found 2,197 establishments to be in violation of the law, initiated the prosecution process of 3,940 cases and completed the prosecution of 3,393 cases.

Table 10 shows accumulated numbers and details of the inspections, including inspections of fishing vessels during January 2018 – March 2019, which can be described as follows:

(1) **Legal Workforce Establishments:** A total of 52,469 establishments were inspected, while 12,322 establishments were found to have violated the law. The prosecution process of 15,147 cases were initiated and 13,167 cases were completed, accounting for 86.93 percent of the total cases initiated. Common offences involved unpaid wages, violation of holiday rights and a lack of employee registration lists.

(2) **Industries Susceptible to Human Trafficking:** A total of 2,549 establishments were inspected, while 708 establishments were found in violation of the law. The prosecution process of 723 cases were initiated and 708 cases were completed, accounting for 97.93 percent of the total cases initiated. Common offences included unpaid wages, violation of holiday rights and a lack of documentation concerning work requirements.

(3) **Fishing Vessels:** A total of 94,327 fishing vessels were inspected at the Port In – Port Out Controlling Centre (PIPO) in 22 coastal provinces, while 546 fishing vessels were found in violation of the law. The prosecution process of 546 cases were initiated and 512 cases were completed, accounting for 93.77 percent of the total cases initiated. Common offences included incorrect records of resting hours, incorrect employment contracts, and incorrect wage payment documentations.

(4) **Seafood Processing Facilities:** A total of 460 establishments were inspected. Out of this number, a total of 134 establishments were found in violation of the law. The prosecution process of 134 cases were initiated and all cases were completed. Common offences included a lack of documentation on work requirements or employee registration lists, and the absence of overtime payment documentations.

Table 10: Labour Inspections Conducted, January 2018 - March 2019

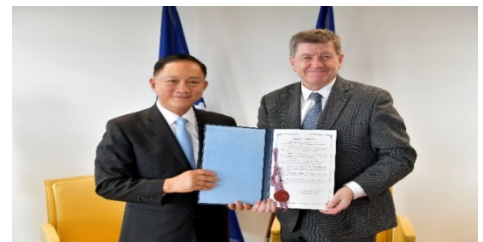
Categories of Labour Inspections	Inspection Conducted		Found Guilty of Violating Labour Laws		Prosecution Process				Case Completed	
					Under Extensive Investigations	Reviewed by Inquiry Officers	Reviewed by Public Prosecutors	Reviewed by Court	Order Issued	Prosecuted
	(Places/Vessels)	(Persons)	(Places/Vessels)	(Persons)	(Places/Vessels)	(Cases)	(Cases)	(Cases)	(Orders)	(Cases)
Legal Workforce Establishments	52,469	1,763,507	12,322	503,887	538	1442	-	-	12,263	904
High Risk Establishments	2,549	136,582	708	25,233	-	15	-	-	692	16
Fishing Vessels	94,327	1,124,090	546	6,098	-	34	-	-	486	26
Seafood Processing Establishments	460	80,486	134	11,507	-	0	-	-	129	5
Total	149,805	3,104,665	13,710	546,725	538	1,491	-	-	13,570	951

Remarks: An order can be issued to an establishment that violates the law along with the initiation of prosecution process.

5. The Ratification of the C188 - Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)

On 30 January 2019, the Minister of Labour submitted an instrument to the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland, to ratify C188, making Thailand the first country in Asia and the fourteenth in the world to have entered into the Convention.

Thailand is undertaking the process towards the promulgation of the Protection of Labour in Fisheries Act, which was approved by the Legislative Council on 14 February 2019. Enforcement of this new act will begin in 2019, serving as a legal tool for the implementation of the ratified Convention. The Ministry of Labour has, moreover, carried out the drafting process of the action plan in line with the Protection of Labour in Fisheries Act. Activities and projects in the pipeline encompass the drafting of relevant legislation, rules and regulations, the construction of a fishing vessel database, the registration of Thai fishing vessels, the creation of a system of linked databases of seafarers, the training of frontline officers, the awareness raising activities for stakeholders, and the inspection in accordance with the law.



6. Good Labour Practice (GLP)

During the period of January 2018 - March 2019, the Ministry of Labour launched a significant number of awareness raising activities to promote and support the adoption of GLP among various lines of business, such as sea

fishing, shrimp farming and poultry industries. During January - March 2019, 1,980 additional businesses adopted the GLP guidelines in improving employment and working conditions, bringing the total number of businesses practicing GLP to 10,787 throughout the country.

Furthermore, the Thai business sector has been encouraged to adopt the Thailand Labour Standard (TLS), which sets the standards, rules and regulations for businesses to conduct self-inspections and self-audit in compliance with the TLS. The set of standards and regulations range from an administrative system, labour rights and labour protection. They are meant to improve workers' quality of life, promote sustainable business development, and enhance competitiveness in the global market. At present, a total of 1,281 businesses have joined the TLS, including 573 businesses that produce for export worth approximately 538,285 million baht in total.

In addition, the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare of the Ministry of Labour has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of International Trade Promotion of the Ministry of Commerce to jointly award the Thailand Trust Mark (T-Mark) to businesses that adopt and meet the TLS standards, emphasizing the importance that the Thai Government attaches to ethical employment. So far, a total of 214 businesses have received the T-Mark.

7. Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Preventive Measures against Labour and Child Exploitation

7.1 Working Children in Thailand National Survey of 2018

In March 2019, the Ministry of Labour, in collaboration with the National Statistical Office of Thailand and the ILO, published the Working Children in Thailand National Survey of 2018. The survey adhered to internationally accepted methodological standards, with the goal of gathering information of working children throughout the country. The survey demonstrated that there are approximately 10,470,738 children at the age between 5 and 17 years old in Thailand, 408,679 or 3.9 percent of them are working children. The outcome and relevant statistical data are being used to analyse the overall child labour and hazardous child labour situation in Thailand, the analysis of which will be used as a foundation for the formulation of an action plan and pragmatic measures towards more effective solution to the exploitation of children, particularly in high-risk areas and businesses.

7.2 Education for Children in Need

The Thai Government has undertaken a multi-stakeholder approach in synergising cooperation among government agencies, private sector, civil society and international organisations to provide education for children in need, including children of foreign workers. Between January and March 2019, the Plan International Thailand organised informal education programmes for

disadvantaged, foreign, and undocumented children in eight schools in Chiang Mai Province.

8. Training and Awareness Raising

8.1 Training on Anti-Sex Trafficking

Office of the Attorney General, in collaboration with the TICAC of the Royal Thai Police and various NGOs, organised a seminar on enhancing the efficacy of anti-sex trafficking measures in schools on 22 February 2019 in Bangkok. The seminar, which was part of a continuous project carried out in 2018, aimed at building capacity for prosecutors and officers from relevant agencies in resolving issues of sexual exploitation at schools. It also provided an opportunity to assess the efficacy of previous activities, formulate guidelines for improvement, analyse challenges, and propose improvements for future training programmes and techniques.

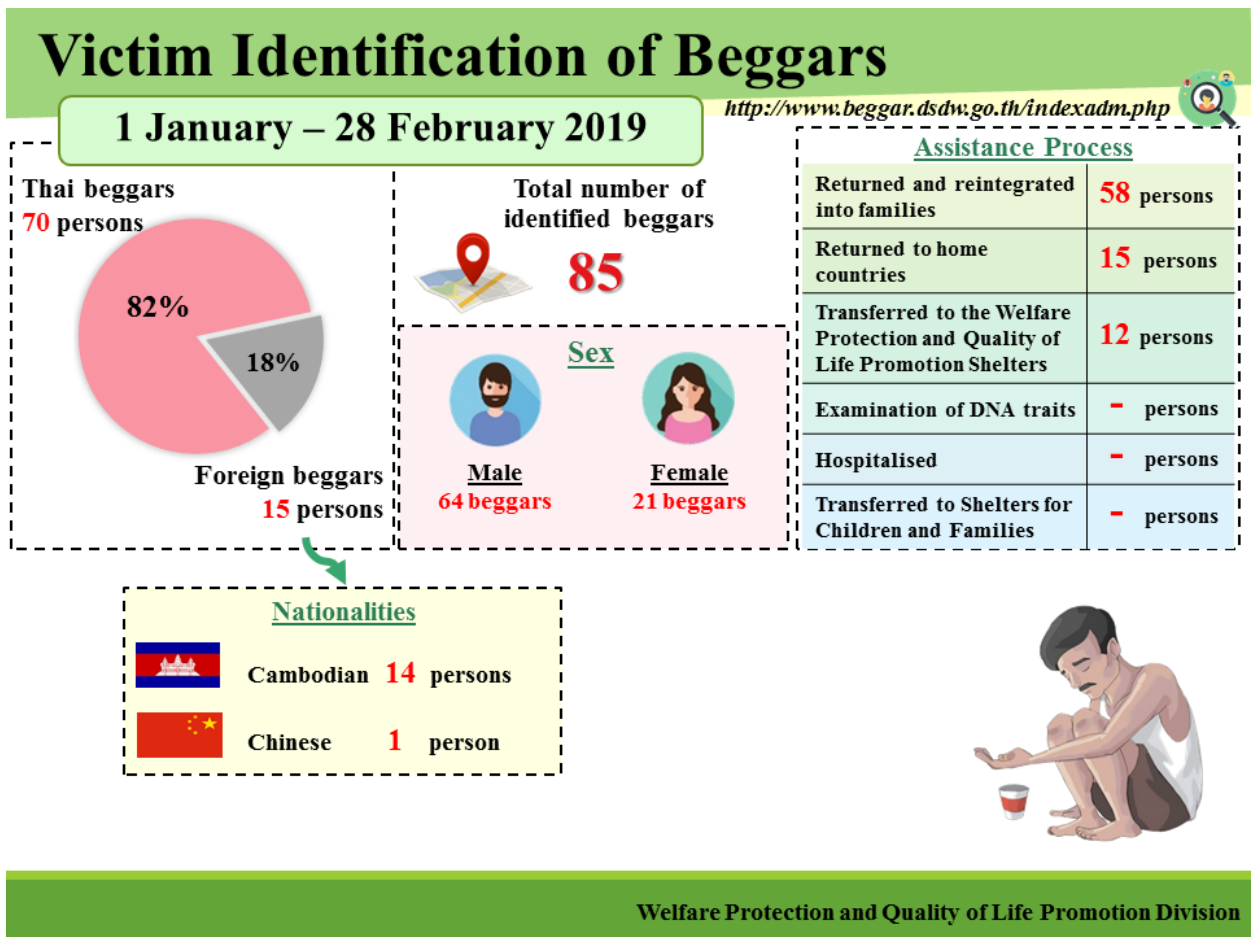
8.2 Awareness Raising on Labour Rights and Laws

The Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation collaborated with the Migrant Union Network in Thailand (MUNT) in organising a seminar to exchange views and experiences among NGOs and migrant workers in Thailand, particularly those working in 22 coastal provinces. The seminar explored challenges and discussed solutions to human rights violation and labour trafficking. Training topics also included social insurance and other benefits entitled to migrant labour according to the laws. It helped both employees and employers to better understand their roles and rights and, in turn, enhanced the Government's management of labour issues.

9. The Regulation of Begging

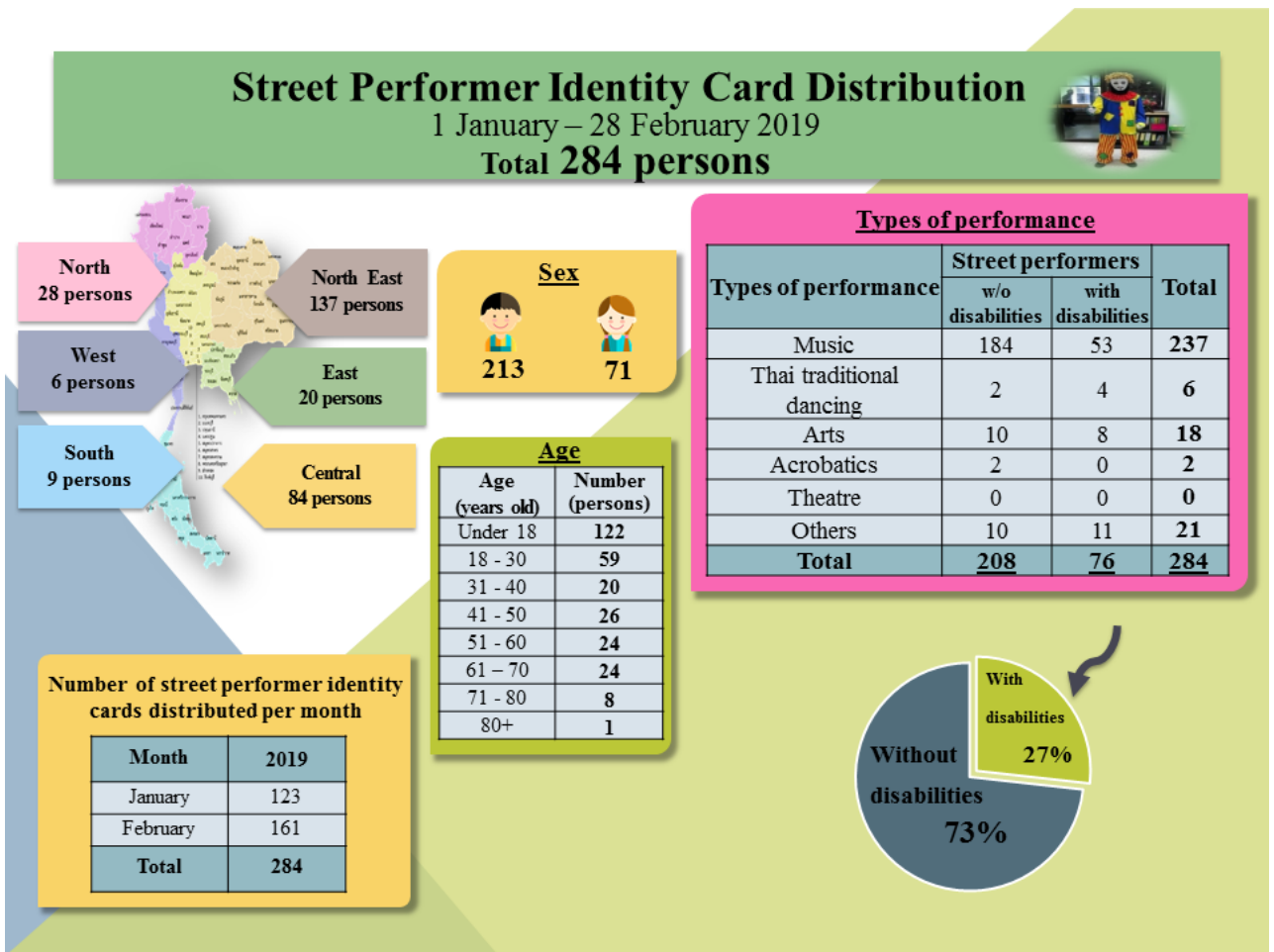
The MSDHS continued to regulate begging. During January – March 2019, a total of 85 beggars were identified and provided with assistance as shown in **Diagram 4**

Diagram 4: Victim Identification of Beggars, January – February 2019



In addition, the MSDHS has been supporting street performers in developing their skills, with the aim of differentiating between street performers and beggars. Until 28 February 2019, a total of 284 street performers have been issued a street performer identity card as demonstrated in **Diagram 5**

Diagram 5: Street Performer Identity Card Distribution, January – February 2019



List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMLO	Anti-Money Laundering Office
ATPD	Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division
CAC	Child Advocacy Centre
DSI	Department of Special Investigation
EU	European Union
GLP	Good Labour Practice
HSI	Homeland Security Investigation
IJM	International Justice Mission
ILO	International Labour Organization
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MSDHS	Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
NCMEC	National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children
OSS	One Stop Service Centre
PIPO	Port In - Port Out Controlling Centre
TACTICS	Thailand's Action Taskforce for Information Technology Crime Suppression
TATIP	Thailand Anti-Trafficking in Persons Task Force
TICAC	Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
TLS	Thailand Labour Standard
T-Mark	Thailand Trust Mark
