



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

(1 January – 31 March 2020)

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## Progress in January - March 2020

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# Prosecution

## 1. Statistics on Human Trafficking Litigation, Offenders, and Victims

### 1.1 Number of Human Trafficking Cases

Two additional human trafficking cases in 2019 were reported to the Thai authorities; one was a prostitution case and the other was a forced begging case. This brought the total number of cases initiated in 2019 to 288. Both cases are currently under the inquiry officer's consideration.

During January – March 2020, 34 human trafficking cases were initiated. Of this number, 29 cases were related to sex trafficking (23 prostitution cases, three pornography cases and three other forms of sexual exploitation cases), and five cases were forced labour or services. (Table 1).

**Table 1: Human trafficking cases initiated**

Year	Total cases	Types of human trafficking activities							
		Prostitution	Pornography	Other forms of sexual exploitation	Forced begging	Enslavement	Labour	Fisheries	Extortion / Other
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	288	158	15	12	9	33	31	4	26
2020 (Jan-Mar)	34	23	3	3	-	-	5	-	-

### 1.2 Number of Human Trafficking Offenders

The Thai authorities arrested a total of 49 human trafficking offenders (21 males and 28 females). In terms of nationality, 37 offenders were Thais, two were Myanmar nationals, four were Cambodians and six were other nationals (two Chinese, one South Korean, one Japanese, one Uzbek and one Turkish). Details appear in [Table 2](#).

**Table 2: Number of human trafficking offenders**

Year	Total (persons)	Gender		Nationality				
		Male	Female	Thai	Myanmar	Cambodian	Laotian	Other
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	555	330	225	402	120	4	6	23
2020 (Jan-Mar)	49	21	28	37	2	4	-	6

### 1.3 Number of Human Trafficking Victims

During January – March 2020, a total of 55 victims of trafficking (13 males and 42 females) were rescued. In terms of nationality, 46 victims were Thais, five victims were Laotians, three victims were Cambodians and one victim was Turkish (Table 3).

**Table 3: Number of victims of trafficking**

Year	Total (persons)	Gender		Nationality				
		Male	Female	Thai	Myanmar	Cambodian	Laotian	Other
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	1,821	1,158	663	251	1,306	96	38	130
2020 (Jan-Mar)	55	13	42	46	-	3	5	1

### 1.4 Prosecution of Forced Labour Case

In January 2020, Thailand Anti-Trafficking in Persons Task Force (TATIP) of the Royal Thai Police (RTP) Headquarter joined the ongoing investigation of a suspected forced labour case by an operator of food processing business in Nakhon Ratchasima Province. With the support of TATIP, the investigation initially undertaken by the provincial police and officers of the Ministry of Labour (MOL) found that a 52 year-old Thai female employer had confiscated the travel documents of 39 Laotian migrant workers (24 males and 15 females) and deducted their travel expenses to Thailand from their salaries. The employer had claimed that the migrant workers had a two-year contract and that they still owed those expenses to the company. However, the said employer failed to present such work contract because none had

been signed, thus constituting an offense under the Emergency Decree on Managing the Work of Aliens, B.E. 2561 (2018) and the Labour Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998) / B.E. 2562 (2019).

TATIP in collaboration with regular inquiry officers of RTP and the multi-disciplinary team further investigated the case, interviewed the migrant workers, and accordingly established that the employer's actions were those of forced labour and violated Article 4 (confiscation of identity documents) and Article 5 (using debts of an individual or others' as unwilful bondage) of Section 6/1 of the Emergency Decree Amending the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008) / B.E. 2562 (2019). The case is currently under inquiry officer's consideration. The 39 victims of forced labour were admitted to government-run shelters according to their gender; two male victims subsequently changed to work for a new employer in Nakhon Ratchasima Province. Advance witness hearings had been conducted for all the victims.

## **2. Prosecution of Human Trafficking Cases <sup>1</sup>**

### **2.1 Human Trafficking Cases Handled by Inquiry Officers**

Victim-centred and trauma-informed approaches continued to be used by RTP and the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) in the prosecution process. This included ensuring sufficient number of female inquiry officers for cases with female victims of trafficking. Key outcomes since January 2020 are as follows:

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

Of the 34 cases initiated during January – March 2020, 32 cases (94.12 percent) are currently under inquiry officer's consideration, while two cases have been completed and filed to public prosecutors (Table 4).

Meanwhile, progress was made in the prosecution of cases from the previous years, with two additional cases from 2018 and 59 additional cases from 2019 filed to public prosecutors.

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<sup>1</sup> US Recommendation: improve the capacity of law enforcement to proactively prosecute and convict labour traffickers and identify labour trafficking victims.

**Table 4: Progress of human trafficking cases handled by inquiry officers**

Year	Total	Under inquiry	Filed to public prosecutors	Not filed to public prosecutors
2016	333	0	329 (98.80%)	4 (1.20%)
2017	302	1 (0.33%)	298 (98.68%)	3 (0.99%)
2018	304	2 (0.66%)	300 (98.68%)	2 (0.66%)
2019	288	19 (6.60%)	269 (93.40%)	0
2020 (Jan-Mar)	34	32 (94.12%)	2 (5.88%)	-

Note: One case initiated in 2017 and two cases initiated in 2018 are still under inquiry. All of these cases involve extra-territoriality and require evidence from concerned countries in order to proceed with the inquiry process.

## 2.2 Human Trafficking Cases Pursued by Public Prosecutors

During January – March 2020, the Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation, Office of the Attorney-General (OAG), received a total of 83 human trafficking cases from inquiry officers across Thailand. Of this number, RTP and DSI have arrested the suspects in 81 cases and are pursuing arrest warrant in two cases. Classified by types of exploitation, 63 cases were sex trafficking, 18 cases were forced labour or services, and two cases were forced begging. Details appear in Table 5.

**Table 5: Case classification by types of exploitation**

Types of Exploitation	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (Jan-Mar)
(1) Prostitution, pornographic material production and distribution, and other forms of sex trafficking	335	325	286	242	63
(2) Forced begging	13	25	14	7	2
(3) Forced labour or services or similar forms of exploitation/ slavery or similar practices	135	68	57	115	18
Total	483	418	357	364	83

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

Public prosecutors completed consideration of 66 cases out of 83 cases received by OAG. The completed cases were issued prosecution orders; 63 cases were issued prosecution orders for human trafficking offence and three case was issued prosecution order for other criminal offence. In addition, three cases were returned to inquiry officers for additional witness and evidence gathering and 12 cases remain under prosecutor’s consideration (Table 6 and Table 7).

**Table 6: Progress of human trafficking cases with arrested suspects**

Year	Total	Progress of Human Trafficking Cases			
		Cases issued prosecution orders for human trafficking offence (%)	Cases issued prosecution orders for other criminal offences (%)	Cases under public prosecutor's consideration (%)	Cases returned to inquiry officers (%)
2016	446	438 (98.20%)	7 (1.57%)	-	1 (0.22%)
2017	396	385 (97.22%)	11 (2.78%)	-	-
2018	331	294 (88.82%)	31 (9.37%)	2 (0.60%) cases still under consideration of the Attorney General	4 (1.21%)
2019	343	271 (79.00%)	64 (18.66%)	3 (0.88%)	5 (1.46%)
2020 (Jan-Mar)	81	63 (77.78%)	3 (3.70%)	12 (14.81%)	3 (3.71%)

**Table 7: Progress of human trafficking cases with suspects being pursued by the authorities**

Year	Total	Progress of Human Trafficking Cases		
		Cases issued prosecution orders for human trafficking offence (%)	Cases issued prosecution orders for other criminal offences (%)	Cases under public prosecutor's consideration (%)
2016	19	16 (84.21%)	2 (10.53%)	-
2017	22	16 (72.73%)	4 (18.19%)	1 (4.54%)
2018	26	23 (88.46%)	1 (3.85%)	-
2019	21	16 (76.19%)	3 (14.29%)	2 (9.52%)
2020 (Jan-Mar)	2	-	-	2 (100%)

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

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

During January – March 2020, a total of 153 human trafficking cases were brought before the Courts of Justice across Thailand. Of this number, 113 were pending cases from 2019 and 40 cases were submitted by public prosecutors during the reporting period.

Accordingly, the Court of First Instance decided on 19 cases, with suspects being convicted, and is considering 134 cases. (Table 8).

**Table 8: Decisions reached by the courts on human trafficking cases**

Year	Cases submitted to the Courts			Decided cases				Pending cases (as standing at the end of indicated year/period)
	Cases pending from previous years	Cases submitted in indicated year	Total	Convicted	Acquitted	Disposed	Total	
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	256	396	217 (76.68%)	26 (9.19%)	40 (14.13%)	283	113
2020 (Jan-Mar)	113	40	153	19 (100%)	-	-	19	134

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

During January – March 2020, 35 defendants (24 males and 11 females) were brought before the Courts (Table 9). In terms of nationality, 25 were Thais and 10 were other nationalities. All of them were convicted by the Courts for human trafficking offence. As of 29 February 2020 (latest information at the time of printing), 232 defendants are awaiting trials.

**Table 9: Number of defendants classified by the courts' decisions**

Year	Number of defendants subjected to the Courts' consideration			
	Total (persons)	Convicted	Acquitted	Disposed
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	386	304 (78.76%)	27 (6.99%)	55 (14.25%)
2020 (Jan-Mar)	35	35 (100%)	-	-



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

All of the said 35 convicted human traffickers were sentenced by the Courts to imprisonment. Six persons were handed down imprisonment term of over ten years (Table 10).

**Table 10: Imprisonment sentence of 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
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	276	6 (2.17%)	8 (2.90%)	38 (13.77%)	124 (44.93%)	100 (36.23%)
2020 (Jan-Mar)	35	2 (5.72%)	-	16 (45.71%)	11 (31.43%)	6 (17.14%)

### 3. Combatting Official Complicity in Human Trafficking Cases<sup>2</sup>

#### 3.1 Number of Officials Involved in Cases related to Human Trafficking

One additional official, a school principal in Ubon Ratchathani Province, was arrested and charged by the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division of RTP and DSI for human trafficking offence by facilitating sexual exploitations of girls from Lao PDR younger than 18 years old and involving in organised human trafficking activities. This brought the number of complicit officials in human trafficking activities to 60 persons since 2013. Details appear in Table 11.

At present, the abovementioned case is under consideration of DSI. Previously, the authorities arrested two accomplices; their cases were filed by public prosecutors and are currently under the Courts' consideration.

<sup>2</sup> US Recommendation: proactively investigate and prosecute officials allegedly complicit in facilitating trafficking, and convict and punish those found guilty with adequate sentences.

**Table 11: Number of officials prosecuted in criminal cases related to human trafficking**

Year	Number of public officials	Imprisoned	Acquitted	Under Courts' consideration	Under public prosecutors' consideration	Still under inquiry/ investigation			Not pursued by PACC	Fleeing
						DSI	PACC	NACC		
2013-2016	44	25 (23)	7 (9)	0 (0)	7 (3)	0 (0)	0 (4)	0 (0)	3 (3)	2 (2)
2017	11	7 (4)	0 (0)	0 (3)	10 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
2018	2	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
2019	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
2020 (Jan-Mar)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>34 (27)</b>	<b>7 (9)</b>	<b>0 (4)</b>	<b>17 (3)</b>	<b>2 (0)</b>	<b>1 (6)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3 (3)</b>	<b>2 (2)</b>

Note: Numbers in brackets are statistics from 2018.

Furthermore, progress was made in the prosecution of complicit officials in human trafficking cases from previous years. Specifically, three police officers from Khong Chiam case in 2016 and one police officer from Phu Ruea case in 2017 were issued prosecution orders for receiving bribes.

### 3.2 Progress of Disciplinary Actions against Complicit Officials

Two more public officials complicit in human trafficking activities were expelled from government service. Both were police officers; one from Phu Ruea case in 2017 was expelled for receiving bribes, and the other was expelled for concealing and detaining migrant workers in Prachuap Khiri Kan Province. (Table 12).

**Table 12: Public officials subjected to disciplinary measures for involvement in human trafficking**

Year	Subjected to disciplinary measures	Expelled from government service	Suspended from government service	Case terminated	Still under consideration of their agencies of affiliation			
					Army	Police	Government agencies	Local administrative organisations
2013-2016	44	31 (30)	4 (0)	4 (4)	0 (4)	4 (4)	1 (1)	0 (1)
2017	10	7 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (4)	0 (1)	0 (0)
2018	2	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
2019	2	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
2020 (Jan-Mar)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

Note: Numbers in brackets are statistics from 2018.

#### **4. Asset Restraint and Seizure by the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO)<sup>3</sup>**

Progress was made in the revision of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, B.E. 2542 (1999) to allow victims of trafficking to receive compensation from the assets confiscated in the predicate offence for all kind of damages, not limited to property as prescribed by the current Act.

In February 2020, the Sub-committee of Legal Advisors of AMLO held three more rounds of meetings to consider the relevant amendments. The revised Act is expected to be submitted for approval by AMLO's full committee in March 2020 and for approval by the Thai Cabinet in April 2020.

#### **5. Witness Assistance and Protection**

One witness in human trafficking case was provided protection by the Rights and Liberties Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) in accordance with the Witness Protection Act, B.E. 2546 (2003). A total budget of 619,092.13 THB (20,568 USD) was spent for this purpose (Table 13).

**Table 13: Statistics of witness protection in human trafficking**

Year	Numbers of Witness under Protection	Amount of Budget
2018	15	2,449,637.67 THB (81,383 USD)
2019	193	2,441,104.10 THB (81,099 USD)
2020 (Jan)	1	619,092.13 THB (20,568 USD)

Furthermore, in January 2020, MOJ's Department of Rights and Liberty Protection collaborated with RTP, OAG and the Hug Project in providing protection to a female witness who was a victim of trafficking. The said witness was misled by a Thai agent to work in the Republic of Korea where she was physically abused and forced into prostitution by a foreign employer. Trauma-informed care approach was applied during the witness protection. For example, a team of female officers were assigned to provide 24-hour safety to the witness and were instructed to be mindful of the witness' mental condition. In addition, recreational activities were organised for the witness to destress and reduce anxiety. At present, the witness stays in a government shelter.

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<sup>3</sup> US Recommendation: increase the provision of financial compensation and restitution to victims.

## **6. Efficiency Enhancement of Human Trafficking Prosecution<sup>4</sup>**

### **6.1 International Cooperation**

The Royal Thai Government's law enforcement agencies continued to work with countries of origin, countries of destination, international organisations, and other partners in promoting cooperation to combat human trafficking through exchange of information and intelligence, better understanding of the prosecution process in other countries, enhanced capacity of law enforcement officers, and possible mutual assistance in prosecution of human trafficking cases. Key efforts during January – March 2020 are as follows:

6.1.1 DSI received a request from the Myanmar Police Force in tracing a Myanmar female national who committed crime against Myanmar's anti-trafficking in persons law by misleading Myanmar nationals to come to work in fisheries sector in Thailand where they were detained and forced to work on a fishing vessel. DSI was successful in pursuing the said individual who was arrested on 24 January 2020 in Ratchaburi Province for violation of Thailand's Immigration Act B.E. 2522 (1979) and subsequently handed over to the Myanmar police on 29 January 2020 through collaboration with the Immigration Bureau and the Embassy of Myanmar in Thailand. In addition, DSI coordinated with the Myanmar Anti-Trafficking Police Force to obtain information on victims of trafficking in cases that the said Myanmar national was issued arrest warrant for consideration of further actions including prosecuting the accomplices and providing protection and assistance to the victims in Thailand.

6.1.2 On 7 February 2020, the Court of Justice in collaboration with ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking Initiative organised a seminar for judges on cases related to human-trafficking, labour trafficking and sexual exploitations. A total of 30 judges from the Court of Appeal and the Courts of First Instance in Bangkok, Regional District 1 and Regional Direct 2, attended. They exchanged views on issues related to the relevant law, consideration of human trafficking cases, and key standard practice for the Court of Appeal's Trafficking in Persons Division with a view to further enhance the efficacy of the adjudication of human trafficking cases in the Thai legal system.

6.1.3 On 24 February 2020, DSI officers and public prosecutors working on a case of forced prostitution of Thai female nationals in the United Arabs Emirates visited the UAE to exchange information and intelligence with UAE authorities for the prosecution of the case. The delegation also met with the Thai community to gather information related to the case and had a meeting with the

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<sup>4</sup> US Recommendation: improve the capacity of law enforcement to proactively prosecute and convict labour traffickers and identify labour trafficking victims.

Royal Thai Embassy in Abu Dhabi to discuss ways to assist Thai female nationals lured into prostitution in the UAE and to prevent future cases.

## **6.2 Enhancing Collaboration with NGOs and the private sector**

The Thai authorities continued to strengthen collaboration with NGO community in enhancing the efficacy of the prosecution process in all steps. Tangible collaboration in this regard includes:

6.2.1 The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division of RTP collaborated with the Exodus Road Foundation in assisting victims of trafficking in four cases. As a result, the authorities were able to rescue 10 victims and arrested four suspected human trafficking offenders. ATPD also collaborated with the said Foundation in providing assistance for five boy victims of trafficking in the Hua Lamphong case of 2019 by helping to renovate the home of their families and finding jobs for the victims.

6.2.2 On 30 January 2020, ATPD met with a group of NGOs comprising of Alliance Anti Traffic, Ronnasit Foundation, A21 Foundation, and International Justice Mission (IJM) Thailand to exchange views and information on planned collaboration between ATPD and NGOs in witness and evidence gathering of human-trafficking cases, particularly forced labour or services in fisheries and industrial sector, in 2020. The aim of the said collaboration was to enhance the efficacy of the prosecution of human trafficking cases. Both sides would also strengthen collaboration with regard to online human trafficking cases and scheduled to meet every 2 – 3 months.

6.2.3 In February 2020, Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children (TICAC) Task Force in collaboration with Rapha House and Zoe International established two additional Children's Advocacy Centres (CACs) in Chiang Mai, increasing the number of CACs to seven across Thailand.

6.2.4 The Children, Women, Families Protection and the Anti-Human Trafficking Centre of RTP, together with the Hug Project, and the Durebang of the ROK had formed a close, cross-country network in order to better assist Thai women lured into prostitution in the ROK.

6.2.5 OAG and TICAC met with True Corporation, an internet and e-money service provider, to discuss the facilitation in the information sharing of human trafficking offenders and asset recovery to pay compensations and remedies for the victims of trafficking.

### **6.3 Enhancing Capacity of Prosecution**

In line with a recommendation in the 2019 TIP Report, Thailand continued to support the development and implementation of victim-centred and trauma-informed care approaches among law enforcement officers who oversee trafficking cases including through collaboration with NGOs.

During January – February 2020, the Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation of OAG collaborated with IJM Thailand in organising trainings for public prosecutors of the Office of Regional Public Prosecution, Region 8, to promote a better understanding of trauma-informed care for victims of human trafficking. The next round of trainings will be organised for public prosecutors of the Office of Regional Public Prosecution, Region 7.

In addition, OAG in collaboration with Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.), an international NGO, organised trainings on online investigation for 12 public prosecutors, including collecting and assessing the accuracy and credibility of digital evidence and in presenting the evidence to the Courts.

Furthermore, the Thai authorities continued to recognise the important role of interpreters in the Courts' adjudication process of human trafficking cases that involved foreign offenders, victims, and witnesses. On 19 March 2020, the Office of Judiciary organised a training for 30 foreign language interpreters to promote their understanding of human trafficking, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and related laws. The aim was to enhance the quality of interpretation and the efficacy of the Courts in the hearings and adjudications of human trafficking cases.

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## **Protection**

As the Royal Thai Government's focal point on protection and assistance of victims of human trafficking, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) continued to develop and put in place measures and mechanisms to protect and assist victims of human trafficking and of forced labour or services in accordance with human rights principles, victim-centred approach, and trauma-informed care.

Progress on the protection and assistance of victims of human trafficking and forced labour or services during January – March 2020 is as follows:

### **1. Collaboration on Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking and Victims of Forced Labour or Services**

#### **1.1 Revision of Preliminary Victim Identification Form**

MSDHS in collaboration with Royal Thai Police (RTP), Ministry of Labour (MOL), Department of Provincial Administration, Department of Special Investigation (DSI), Department of Rights and Liberties Protection, and Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO), together with NGOs including the HUG Project, Winrock International, Stella Maris, A21 Foundation, Labour Protection Network (LPN), Operation Underground Railroad Organisation (O.U.R.), LIFT International, and Nightlight International, developed the Revised Preliminary Victim Identification Form to include victims of forced labour or services and children subjected to the worst forms of child labour, in addition to victims of trafficking.

The revised Form would ensure wider and greater application of victim-centred and trauma-care approaches in identifying victims and enhancing protection in line with their needs. It would also enable collection of comprehensive information on their perpetrators that would better assist the authorities in the prosecution process.

On 15 January 2020, the National Coordinating and Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Performance Committee chaired by Mr. Jurin Laksanawisit, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, approved the revised Preliminary Victim Identification Form that will identify victims of human trafficking as well as victims of forced labour or services in accordance with the Emergency Decree Amending the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008) / B.E. 2562 (2019). MSDHS has been assigned to develop additional guidelines for victim identification interview by the multi-disciplinary team and to organise trainings to promote common understanding of the Form.

### **Inter-Agency Meeting to Revise Preliminary Victim Identification Form**



## **1.2 Provision of Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking and Victims of Forced Labour or Services<sup>5</sup>**

To ensure appropriate assistance for victims of trafficking, the multi-disciplinary team continued to assess the needs of each victim after their preliminary interview. In addition, MSDHS continued to inform the victims of their rights to government protection including access to government-run or registered private-run shelters. Even in cases where the victims opted not to stay in the shelters, MSDHS social workers in the multi-disciplinary team would continue following up with them in order to ensure the provision of protection appropriate to their challenges and needs.

In 2019, the Thai Government provided protection to a total of 1,560 victims of trafficking. Since then, 1,118 victims had concluded their protection program and returned to society, and 442 victims have remained in government-run and registered private-run shelters.

In addition to the abovementioned 442 victims from 2019, 75 new victims were admitted to MSDHS shelters (71 persons) and registered private-run shelters (4 persons) during January – March 2020. They comprised of 36 victims of trafficking and 39 victims of forced labour or services. This amounted to a total of 497 victims

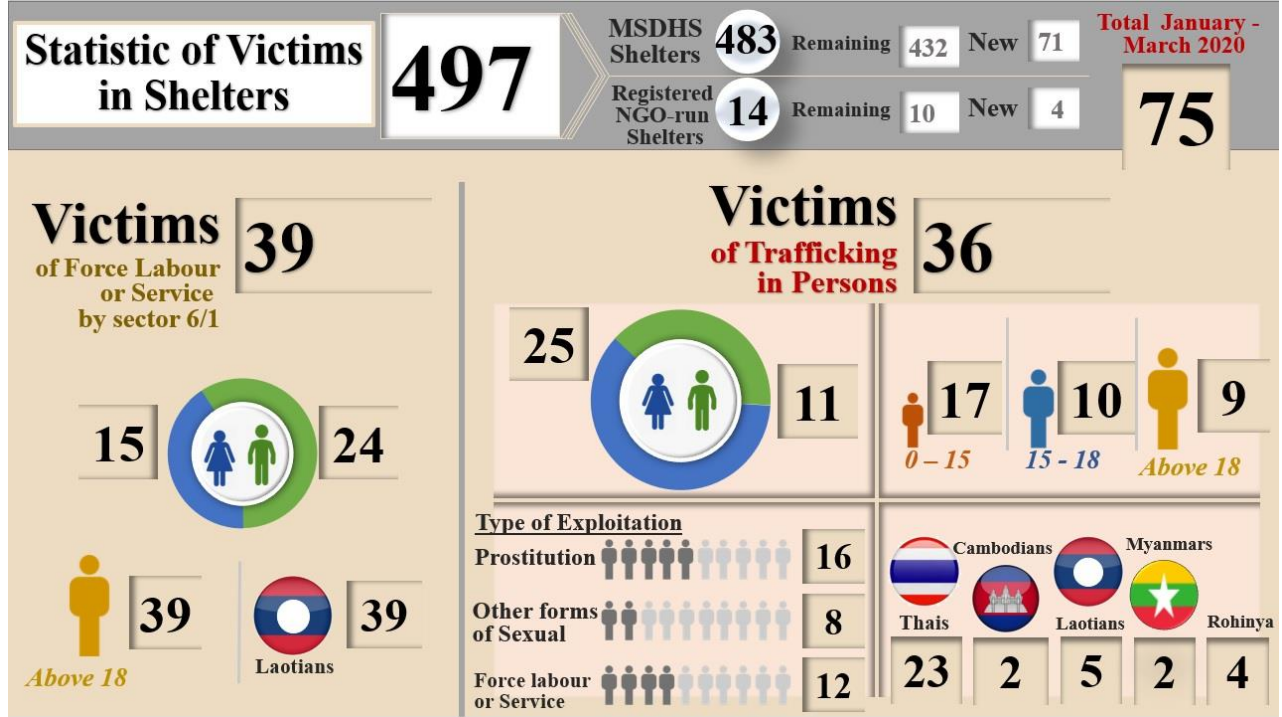
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<sup>5</sup> US Recommendation: ensure government and NGO-run shelters provide victims with adequate trauma-informed care, including legal assistance and psychological care.



currently in the care of MSDHS and registered NGO partners. Details appear in [Diagram 1](#).

**Diagram 1: Victims of Human Trafficking and Victims of Forced Labour or Services in Shelters**



In addition, during January – March 2020, Thailand cooperated with countries of origin to facilitate 163 victims of trafficking in the shelters in Thailand to return to their homelands. Of this number, 152 persons were Myanmar nationals, eight were Cambodians, and three were Laotians. The repatriation was conducted in accordance with the agreed standard procedure between Thailand and the countries of origin to ensure safety of the returning individuals as well as sustainable reintegration into their societies, while preventing them from falling prey to human trafficking again.

## 2. Remedies for Victims of Human Trafficking and Forced Labour or Services<sup>6</sup>

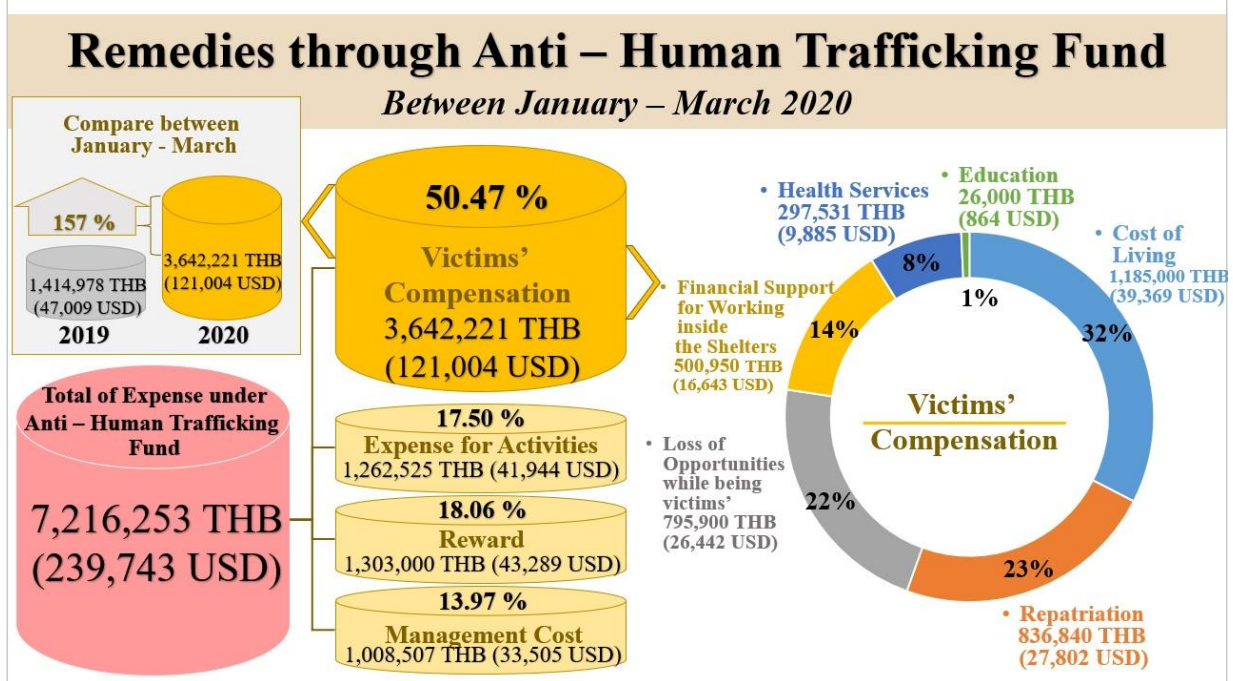
The Emergency Decree Amending the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008) / B.E. 2562 (2019) grants equal rights to protection for victims of human trafficking and victims of forced labour or services. This included physical and mental care, legal assistance, as well as financial remedies.

<sup>6</sup> US Recommendation: increase the provision of financial compensation and restitution to victims.

During January – March 2020, a total of 7,216,253 THB (239,743 USD) was disbursed from the Anti-Human Trafficking Fund. The majority (50.47 percent) of the disbursed amount equivalent to 3,642,221 THB or 121,004 USD was used as remedies and services provided to victims of trafficking and victim of forced labour. This represented a significant increase of 157 percent compared to the same period in 2018 (1,414,978 THB or 47,009 USD).

Of the said remedies disbursed for the victims, 32 percent (1,185,000 THB or 39,369 USD) was used for living expenses, 23 percent (836,840 THB or 27,802 USD) was used for repatriation to homelands, 22 percent (795,900 THB or 26,442 USD) was used as compensation for loss of work opportunities, 14 percent (500,950 THB or 16,643 USD) was used to pay for victims working inside the shelters for personal security or they were unable to find jobs outside the shelters, 8 percent (297,531 THB or 9,885 USD) was used for medical expenses including 235,659.25 THB or 7,829 USD for medical treatments of one victim with bloodstream infection, and one percent (26,000 THB or 864 USD) was used for education and training expenses. Details of other expenses appear in Diagram 2.

**Diagram 2: Remedies and Compensation Disbursed from the Anti-Human Trafficking Fund**



All victims of human trafficking are entitled to receive remedies and compensation from the Anti-Human Trafficking Fund in accordance with their rights and individual needs. On average, all victims wishing to receive assistance from the Fund will be provided a remedy of 9,000 THB per year for initial living allowance,

to be disbursed in three equal instalments of 3,000 THB. Other remedies such as medical expenses, loss of economic benefits, and expenses for repatriation to homelands are considered on case-by-case basis. In 2019, the highest total disbursement from the Fund for a victim was 156,326 THB (5,193 USD) and 125,400 THB (4,166 USD) for another victim under the care of A21 Foundation. During January – March 2020, a victim received as high as 242,595.25 THB (8,060 USD) in remedies and compensation from the Fund for living expenses, loss of economic benefits and medical expenses.

*A Cambodian male victim of trafficking under the care of a MSDHS shelter requested to work in Thailand for two more years after the legal proceedings of his case concluded. MSDHS provided him with assistance in requesting a permission by the Ministry of Interior for a temporary stay in Thailand, disbursing the Anti-Human Trafficking Fund to cover expenses related to work permit application including medical check-up and health insurance, and applying for a work permit at a local Provincial Employment Office. At present, the victim is working in the construction sector and is regularly visited by the multi-disciplinary team to check on his living and work conditions.*

In addition to financial remedy, MSDHS partnered with Thailand Association of Social Workers and Save the Children Thailand in organising a pilot project to enhance the capacity of officials at eight MSDHS shelters in becoming case managers on victims' rehabilitation, particularly children and vulnerable group affected by mental trauma. In the said project, a team of experts in social work, youth and adolescent psychology, and law provided support for shelter officials in taking the role of case manager by enhancing their ability to manage individual cases and plan effective assistance for individual victims until their return to the society and starting of a new life.

### **3. Promoting Mobile Application "PROTECT-U" to Reach Wider Audience<sup>7</sup>**

On 15 January 2020, MSDHS officially launched mobile application "PROTECT-U" as an additional channel to assist and protect victims of trafficking. Identities of the users are kept confidential by MSDHS, thus fostering an environment conducive for members of the public to report on human trafficking crimes without fear of retribution.

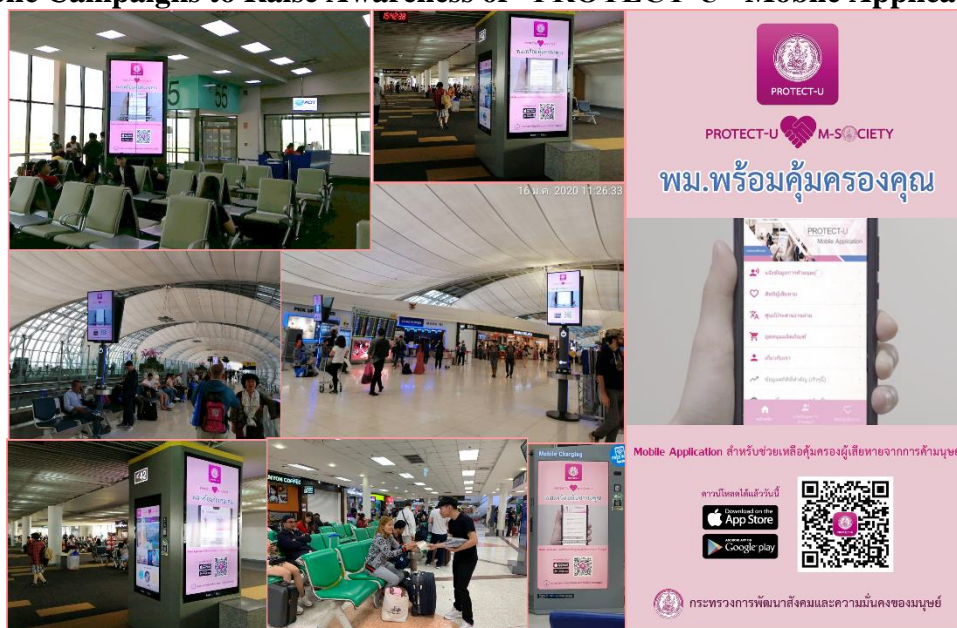
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<sup>7</sup> US Recommendation: foster an environment conducive to reporting human trafficking crimes without fear of criminal prosecution, including spurious retributive charges pursued by employers.

Since then, MSDHS received information on four suspected human trafficking activities through the application. Of this number, two cases were further established by MSDHS officers and referred to the law enforcement agencies. In addition, the application has been used as an online resource on the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and related laws.

MSDHS continued to encourage the general public and at-risk groups to make use of PROTECT-U. This included public campaigns at key airports and provinces across Thailand for Thais travelling to work abroad. As of March 2020, there were 410 active users of the application.

### Public Campaigns to Raise Awareness of “PROTECT-U” Mobile Application



## 4. Cooperation with Countries of Origin on the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking

Thailand continued to attach importance to collaboration with countries of origin and other international partners in providing protection for victims of trafficking and promoting their reintegration to society. Details of Thailand’s efforts in this regard during January – March 2020 are as follows:

- Bilateral meeting between Thailand – Myanmar on management of case and repatriation and reintegration of victims of trafficking on 17 – 19 February 2020. The meeting aimed to enhance efficacy in protection of victims through exchange of information, coordination on prosecution, and follow-up visits. One week prior to

the meeting, social workers from Myanmar also made a visit to interview victims in MSDHS shelters to collect information for national verification and speedy reintegration into the society upon their return.

#### **Bilateral Meeting between Thailand and Myanmar, 17-19 February 2020**



*At the bilateral meeting on anti-human trafficking between Thailand and Lao PDR in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, in 2018, both sides discussed an issue concerning a search for the family of a Laotian who is speech-impaired and has been residing in a MSDHS shelter for a long time, even though the said person was not a victim of trafficking. Subsequently, during 25 – 26 February 2020, officers of both countries conducted a DNA test of the said Laotian and a person in Lao PDR believed to be her mother. The test result is still pending. In the case that result indicates familial relations between both persons, MSDHS would help facilitate the said Laotian in the shelter to return and reunite with her family in Lao PDR.*

### **5. Consultative Forum with NGO Stakeholders**

The Thai Government continued to implement multi-stakeholder approach in providing protection and assistance for victims of trafficking, taking into account opinions and comments from government agencies, private sector, and civil society.

On 10 January and 9 March 2020, MSDHS as Thailand’s focal point on the protection and assistance for victims of trafficking hosted the “Open Heart” Forum with Thai as well as international NGOs. They were joined by relevant Thai government agencies, private sector, and international agencies.

Participants from NGO community and international agencies included World Vision Foundation of Thailand, FACE Thailand, The Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights Foundation, Foundation for Women, SR Law, Human Rights and Development Foundation, Labour Protection Network, Stella Maris Seafarers Center Songkhla, IJM, A21, HUG project, Talitha Kun Thailand, Fortify Right, Nightlight Foundation, Zoe International, Rafa Foundation, United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons, IOM, and Japan International Cooperation Agency. Thai government agencies present at the meeting were OAG, RTP, MOL, MFA, MOJ, AMLO, Office of the Council of State and Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Centre.

The Forum provided an opportunity to exchange information on anti-human trafficking efforts so that both the government agencies and NGOs could effectively proceed under the same direction. It fostered greater understanding in working together and encouraged greater role for NGOs in supporting the Government's efforts on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking.

Recommendations from the "Open Heart" Forum on 10 January 2020 have been presented to the National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Committee on 6 March 2020. The National Committee then assigned the relevant government agencies to pursue their implementation accordingly.

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## Prevention

### 1. Migrant Workers' Labour Management

#### 1.1 Extension of Work Permits for Migrant Workers of Three Nationalities

The Royal Thai Government, led by the Ministry of Labour (MOL) continued to implement the policy to manage migrant workers of three nationalities (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar) working in Thailand whose work permits would expire before 31 March 2020 and during 31 March – 30 June 2020. The goal was to facilitate and provide both employers and migrant workers with options by allowing the latter to continue to work in Thailand without having to return to their home countries, and to ensure that all migrant workers receive assistance, protection, and benefits provided by the laws.

Accordingly, the Royal Thai Government set the policy to extend the work permits of this group of migrant workers for the maximum of two years. The same process as MOU recruitment system has been used to register eligible migrant workers at One Stop Service (OSS) centres across Thailand from 2 September 2019 to 31 March 2020. The very aim was to prevent the migrant workers from unfair recruitment and reduce expenses that would have been incurred if they were to return home, thus reducing their vulnerabilities to debt bondage and subsequently human trafficking.

To facilitate and save the time of the employers and the migrant workers in registering for work permit extension, e-Workpermit (CLM) and paperless system have been used at four OSS centres in Bangkok since 10 January 2020 and at 38 OSS centres in other provinces since 16 December 2019. The Minister of Labour himself visited OSS centre in Bangkok on 23 January 2020 to ensure the effective work of the OSS centres and accordingly recommended further improvement of their services including “Fast-Track Lane” for employers with fewer than five migrant workers, additional signage providing clear information on relevant process, and increased dissemination channels of information to the employers such that they would bring their migrant employees into the process of work permit extension within the designated period.

The said efforts have resulted in greater convenience, faster proceeding, and greater satisfaction for both the employers and the migrant workers, contributing to significant increase in the number of migrant workers under registration, from 81,037 persons during 2 September to 31 December 2019 to 1,253,766 persons as of

30 March 2020. To date, a total of 707,659 migrant workers have had their work permit extended and official identity cards issued by the Thai authorities.

## **1.2 Cooperation with Labour Sending Countries**

While MOU recruitment system has been instrumental in promoting safe and orderly migration of Cambodian, Laotian, and Myanmar workers to Thailand, it still has challenges, including complex procedures and high expenses in the countries of origin. This has resulted in some migrant workers choosing coming to Thailand illegally with help of unscrupulous agents or organised criminal networks. In some cases, they ultimately fell prey to labour trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

For this reason, MOL continued to work with the authorities of Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar to address those challenges. This included negotiations on streamlining the recruitment process and reducing expenses in sending migrant workers of three nationalities to work in Thailand through the MOU system. In this way, the migrant workers would be accorded rights and protection under relevant labour laws of Thailand and are safeguarded from labour trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

## **2. Increasing the Efficiency in Protecting Migrant Workers along the Borders and in the Agricultural Sector**

### **2.1 Inspection of Business Establishments<sup>8</sup>**

Given a number of violations by employers found in 2019 and taking action in line with the recommendation in the 2018 TIP Report, MOL increased strict measures to inspect at-risk labours along Thailand's borders to prevent violations by employers and to ensure that seasonal migrant workers under Article 64 of the Foreigners' Working Management Emergency Decree, B.E. 2560 (2017) received protection and benefits as prescribed by the Law.

During January – March 2020, 55 business establishments were inspected, of which 43 establishments were found in violation of relevant labour laws; one establishment was prosecuted, 41 establishments were issued orders, and one other was being followed up. Common offenses include unpaid wages, wages below the minimum wages and no days off which the authorities have implemented through

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<sup>8</sup> US Recommendation: enforce regular payment of wages, requirements that employers pay recruitment fees of migrant workers, and the rights of employees to retain possession of their own identity and financial documents.



fact-finding and collection of evidence and found no forced labour or labour trafficking among the inspected cases. The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, MOL, also issued an additional order to the responsible offices along the borders to inspect more strictly business establishments that had a history of violating the labour laws and to expeditiously inspect the rest of business establishments.

## **2.2 Cooperation with Thailand's Neighbouring Countries to Protect Seasonal Migrant Workers<sup>9</sup>**

MOL is determined to improve working conditions of seasonal migrant workers. This included commencing negotiations to amend the agreement with Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar on importing short-term labour for the agricultural sector through MOU system in order to enable seasonal migrant workers to work in Thailand in suitable sectors. The goal was to improve the employment conditions and to protect of seasonal migrant workers in accordance with the law, while reducing their cost of working in Thailand. During 13 – 14 January 2020, the Thai delegation led by Director-General, Department of Employment, MOL, met with Myanmar Ministry of Labour in Naypyidaw, Myanmar. Both sides agreed to amend the MOU to allow short-term employment in Thailand's agricultural sector for up to two years through an employment contract between employers and migrant workers. At present, the Thai side is in the process of establishing a working group for further discussion.

In addition, the Social Security Office continued to ensure that seasonal workers in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry received compensation from the Workmen's Compensation Fund in cases of sickness, injury, disabilities, disappearance or death relating to work for the employer, and rehabilitation for work as prescribed by Ministerial Order under the amended Workmen's Compensation Act B.E. 2561 (2018) which became effective on 20 March 2019.

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<sup>9</sup> US Recommendation: Inspect employment locations in border regions with workers employed under border-employment arrangements for trafficking.

### **3. Progress of Implementation of ILO Convention No. 188 on Work in Fishing (2007)**

MOL continued to enhance the standard of labour protection in the fishing and fishery sectors, including employment, working and living conditions at sea, work safety, access to health benefits, social security, welfare and other protection in line with the international standard. Efforts in this regard included the ratification of ILO Convention No. 188 on Work in Fishing on 30 January 2019 and the enactment of the Labour Protection in Fisheries Act B.E. 2562 (2019) that became effective on 18 November 2019.

The abovementioned Act specifies duties of vessel owners and labours at sea in accordance with international standards, including on-board accommodation and food, vessel inspection certificate, and medical certification that workers are ready to work at sea. From November 2019, MOL collaborated with Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Public Health in developing 11 secondary laws of the Act. As of February 2020, all of these secondary laws already became effective. MOL will monitor their enforcement and submit an annual report to the Cabinet in July of every year.

In addition, the Thai authorities continued to inspect commercial vessels to ensure that the vessel operators' comply with the Labour Protection in Fisheries Act and that the rights of labours under the Act are protected and their violators are duly punished. Key outcomes of the inspections are as follows:

Inspection of vessels at Port In – Port Out Controlling Centres (PIPO) - During January – March 2020, 17,234 commercial fishing vessels of 10 – 29 gross tonnage using trawl, surrounding nets, and Anchovy lift nets as well as commercial fishing vessels of 30 gross tonnage or more were inspected, covering 210,483 labours. The inspectors found incorrect documents on given break-time on seven vessels involving 114 labours. Of this number, the multi-disciplinary team issued orders for the employers of five vessels to correct the situation in accordance with the Law. Their cases were already concluded. The other two vessels are under investigation.

Inspection of vessels at sea - Inspections continued to be conducted by the multi-disciplinary team on operating vessels at risk of violating the Law, irrespective of their sizes, especially during the fishing seasons or in areas where frequent violations have been recorded. During 1 January – 31 March 2020, 141 vessels were inspected, covering 2,302 labours. Officers found violation of the Emergency Decree on Fisheries B.E. 2557 (2014) on one vessel. The employer of the said vessel was prosecuted for employing labours without seaman book and the case was concluded.

#### **4. Progress of Implementation of Protocol of 2014 to ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (PO 29)**

The Thai authorities continued to enhance the identification of victims of trafficking to ensure effective implementation of Protocol of 2014 to ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (PO 29) that Thailand ratified on 4 June 2018 and the Emergency Decree Amending the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008) / B.E. 2562 (2019) that became effective on 8 April 2019. The said Emergency Decree gives clear definition of forced labour offense and prescribes corresponding penalties. It also devises measures to assist and protect victims of forced labour in the same way as victims of trafficking; such measures are also in line with U.S. recommendations in TIP Report 2019. The National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Committee has set up four sub-committees in order to comprehensively enhance the prevention of at-risk groups from human trafficking and forced labour or services. This included the sub-committee on prevention of forced labour and labour trafficking which on 20 March 2020 set up a working group to further enhance collaboration among government agencies, the private sector and NGOs in implementing measures to prevent and suppress forced labour in the fisheries sector.

In addition, Thailand's continuing efforts to ensure effective implementation of the abovementioned Convention and Decree are as follows:

##### **4.1 Capacity Trainings for Officials and Other Stakeholders<sup>10</sup>**

The Thai authorities continued to attach importance to capacity building for government officials and other stakeholders such as local communities to enhance their abilities in preventing human trafficking. This included promoting a better understanding of relevant Thai laws and regulations.

In order to enhance the preparedness of officials in carrying out their work in accordance to the Emergency Decree Amending the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008) and to raise an awareness of the Decree among other stakeholders, MOL organised training courses for 6,920 participants as follows:

1) Trainings organised by the Prevention of Human Trafficking on Labour Operation Centres in all 76 provinces of Thailand during January – March 2020.

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<sup>10</sup> US Recommendation: improve the capacity of law enforcement to proactively prosecute and convict labour traffickers and identify labour trafficking victims.

A total of 6,827 MOL officials, local partner networks, and other stakeholders attended.

2) Trainings organised by the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare for 93 labour inspectors during 12 – 13 December 2019 and 13 – 14 February 2020.

In addition, MOL plans to conduct trainings for two batches of officials in Bangkok and all other provinces of Thailand in May and July 2020 in preparations for their appointments as anti-human trafficking officers under the Emergency Decree Amending the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008). The training would equip these officers with necessary skill sets while enabling them to reach out and provide assistance to victims of forced labour and labour trafficking across Thailand in a more effective and timely manner.

## **4.2 Outcomes of Labour Inspections**

MOL continued to enhance the effectiveness of labour inspections in order to prevent human trafficking as well as labour abuse and malpractice. This included vigorous screenings of labours at workplaces/fishing vessels and those at-risk groups, fact-finding and verifying of suspected human trafficking activities or labour abuse / malpractice, and providing inputs on improving preliminary victim of trafficking / forced labour identification form detailed in the Chapter on Prevention (Section 1.1).

To date, MOL officers inspected registered business establishments, at-risk groups, and fishing vessels totalling 26,993 workplaces/fishing vessels and 581,599 labours. No case of labour trafficking or forced labour or services was found. Nevertheless, officers found unlawful practices with regard to labour protection at 2,360 workplaces. Of this number, processes for 2,671 cases have been completed (16 cases were finalised and 2,655 cases were issued finalised orders) and found no forced labour or labour trafficking cases. Most common offenses included unpaid wages, paying below minimum wages, no provision of day-offs, no work regulations, and no wage payment documents. Details appear in [Table 1](#). Subsequently, MOL was able to claim a total of 62,054,348.82 THB (2,061,606 USD) in benefits in accordance to the Law for the workers.

**Table 1: Result of Labour Workforce Establishments, High Risk Establishments and Fishing Vessels' Inspection**

Categories of Labour Inspections	Inspections conducted		Found Guilty of violating labour laws		Under Extensive Investigations	Prosecution Process				Issuing Orders
						Reviewed by Inquiry officers	Reviewed by Public Prosecutors	Reviewed by Courts	Final Inspection Case	
(1 January - 31 March 2020)	Places/Vessels	Persons	Places/Vessels	Persons	Places/Vessels	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Orders
Labour Workforce Establishments	9,154	348,649	2,360	106,564	50	-	-	-	13	2,297
High Risk Establishments	464	20,165	361	15,920	6	-	-	-	2	353
Fishing Vessels (PIPO)	17,234	210,483	7	114	2	-	-	-	-	5
Fishing Vessels (at sea)	141	2,302	1	5	-	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,993</b>	<b>581,599</b>	<b>2,729</b>	<b>122,603</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2,655</b>

**Note:** If an enterprise violates labour laws and related laws, a competent authority may issue its order as well as submit the case for prosecution.

## **5. Consideration on Ratification of ILO Convention No. 98 on Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining (1949)**

Thailand attaches importance to promoting labours' access to right to organise and collective bargaining and has been collaborating with ILO and the tripartite in this regard.

Progress was made in the amending process of the draft Labour Relations Act B.E. ... and the State Enterprise Labour Relations Act B.E. ... In particular, the draft Labour Relations Act has completed the first reading by the Council of State and is on track for the planned submission for the Cabinet's approval in 2020.

While Thailand is in the process of considering the ratification of ILO Convention No. 98 on Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining, MOL by Department of Labour Protection and Welfare continued to encourage migrant workers in all provinces of Thailand to set up migrant workers' network in order to have a bargaining power with their employers in protecting their benefits prescribed by the Law. This measure would also help protect migrant workers from forced labour and labour trafficking. As part of the efforts to strengthen the migrant workers' network in this regard, MOL organised two training sessions for approximately 200 migrant workers to enhance their skills in monitoring, detecting, and reporting violation of the

Labour Protection Act and the Anti-Human Trafficking Act. The training sessions were held between 15 – 17 and 27 – 29 January 2020.

## **6. Public Outreach Activities and Campaigns**

Thai government agencies in collaboration with the private sector and NGOs continued to carry out public campaigns and outreach activities to raise awareness of human trafficking among risk groups. Key examples are as follows:

6.1 OAG continued the vigorous efforts in the prevention and suppression of online sexual exploitation and the production and distribution of pornographic materials, following the national Young Executive Producer Contest on “Stop Sexual Exploitation” in 2019. During January – February 2020, OAG coordinated with the Office of the Basic Education Commission of the Ministry of Education, the Department of Education of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, sports universities and schools under the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, and Talitha Kum Thailand, an international NGO, in conducting awareness raising campaigns for students across Thailand, training the teachers on psychological counselling, and developing policy guideline on the assistance and protection of students from human trafficking.

6.2 On 17 January 2020, MSDHS, the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Women Empowerment and Development Organisation of Phitsanulok Province, and Naresuan University jointly organised the Workshop for Volunteer Networks Against Human Trafficking in Phitsanulok Province. The goal was to promote awareness of anti-human trafficking issues among women leaders, youth leaders, and volunteers from 17 provinces in Northern Thailand and to empower these target groups in helping with the prevention and suppression of human trafficking in their local areas. Ms. Christa Hayden Sharpe, Regional President, Asia Pacific, IJM was invited as a guest speaker to share her experiences in working in anti-human trafficking. Approximately 150 persons attended the workshop.

6.3 In March 2019, MOL together with IOM and the National Catholic Commission on Migration (NCCM) provided trainings for leaders of local and migrant workers in Bangkok and six provinces in North and Northeastern Thailand, namely Udon Thani, Nong Khai, Loei, Nakhon Phanom, and Nakhon Sawan. The aim of the trainings was to promote knowledge and understanding of labor rights, labor law, and human trafficking. A total of 290 persons participated.

## **7. Use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to Enhance the Prevention of Human Trafficking**

In addition to PROTECT-U mobile application that was created to enhance the protection of victims of trafficking, the Thai authorities also made use of ICT as well as social media to enhance the efforts in preventing at-risk groups from human trafficking.

Since January 2020, ATPD has been using the ATPD Data Centre (ADC) mobile application developed to collect in a central database detailed information on locations at risk of human trafficking such business establishments for agriculture, services, and fisheries, schools, and other places. The goal was to enhance the access and use of this information by ATPD officers in the analysis of at-risk groups and the planning of anti-human trafficking efforts. At present, the ADC has been used to collect information amounting to 445 times/locations.

In addition, ATPD implemented the “Together” project that aimed to further strengthen anti-human trafficking network in Thailand. This included creating ATPD’s official Facebook page (@ATPDPolice) to disseminate public information and awareness-raising campaigns on anti-human trafficking and to receive reports of suspected human trafficking cases. As of 31 March 2020, the Facebook page had a total of 53,813 followers.

## **8. Promotion of the Good Labour Practice (GLP)**

The Thai Government continued to encourage Thai companies and businesses to adopt the voluntary Good Labour Practice (GLP) as a guideline to enhance employment conditions and working environments in general businesses, maritime fishing industry and related businesses. This included implementation of measures against use of child labour or forced labour, workplace discrimination, and human trafficking, as well as measures to promote good labour management system, freedom of association, opportunities to share opinions with employers, safe working environment, sanitation waste management, and suitable welfare for employees.

As of 31 March 2020, a total of 15,671 businesses have adopted the GLP guideline.

## **9. Progress of “ATLAS” Project with U.S. Department of Labour**

From 2019, MOL continued to collaborate with U.S. Department of Labour (DOL) in supporting the five-year Attaining Lasting Change for Better Enforcement of Labour and Criminal Law to Address Child Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking Project (ATLAS Project) being conducted by Winrock International.

Supports by MOL for the said project is highlighted in the meetings between the Permanent Secretary of Labour and Ms. Tanya Andrade, ATLAS Project Manager, and Mr. Joyjit Deb Roy, Executive Vice President (Global Programs and Development), Winrock International, in Bangkok on 14 November 2019 and 6 February 2020 to discuss project implementations in three activities, namely; legal development, law enforcement, and effective coordination between law enforcement agencies and social protection agencies related to human trafficking, forced labour and child labour.

At present, Winrock International is in the process of presenting the report of preliminary information survey to DOL and will present a work plan to MOL. MOL will continue to collaborate with DOL in ensuring that the ATLAS Project achieves its intended objectives in promoting international cooperation on issues related to child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.

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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMLO	Anti-Money Laundering Office
ATPD	Anti Trafficking in Persons Division
CAC	Children's Advocacy Centre
DOL	Department of Labour
DSI	Department of Special Investigation
GLP	Good Labour Practice
IJM	International Justice Mission
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	The International Organisation for Migration
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LPN	Labor Protection Network
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOL	Ministry of Labour
MSDHS	Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
NACC	National Anti - Corruption Commission
NCCM	National Catholic Commission on Migration
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
OAG	Office of the Attorney-General
OSS	One Stop Service
OUR	Operation Underground Railroad
PACC	Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission
PIPO	Port in – Port out Control Centre
ROK	Republic of Korea
RTP	Royal Thai Police
TATIP	Thailand Anti-Trafficking in Persons Task Force
TICAC	Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce
UN-ACT	United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons

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