



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

1 January - 31 March 2023

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Executive Summary

During the first quarter of 2023, the Royal Thai Government (RTG) continued its proactive and whole-of-society efforts in carrying out the national agenda of zero-tolerance towards trafficking in persons. Priority was placed on expediting the effective implementation of newly-established mechanisms; improving laws and regulations; elevating the capacity of government agencies on prosecution, protection, and prevention measures; as well as advancing collaboration with non-governmental organisation (NGOs) and survivors in policy formulation and implementation.

At the policy level, the Government continued to allocate a significant budget for anti-human trafficking efforts. In the 2022 fiscal year, a total of THB 441.77 million (USD 12.69 million) was allocated, consisting of THB 292.18 million (USD 8.40 million) from the annual budget and an additional special budget of THB 149.59 million (USD 4.30 million) for the development of the Don Mueang Human Trafficking Victim Identification Centre, bringing the accumulated anti-human trafficking budget between 2017 - 2022 to THB 4,902.31 million (USD 140.87 million). In the 2023 fiscal year, the Government allocated THB 297.67 million (USD 8.55 million) from the annual budget for anti-human trafficking efforts, with an additional THB 67.45 million (USD 1.94 million) from the national reserve fund to expedite the effective implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Nationwide Implementation of NRM and Extended Reflection Period

NRM, adopted in 2022, has served as a guideline for the Government to provide assistance and protect potential victims throughout the process from the initial screening to official victim identification, prosecution, protection service, and reintegration into the society. Between January - March 2023, 55 potential victims were found from initial screening process and referred to Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) for victim identification. 26 were later identified as victims of human trafficking during the extended reflection period and subsequently referred to shelters for protection services.

Furthermore, provincial victim identification centres were established in all 10 pilot provinces for NRM implementation, where local operational plans with clear structure and tasks assigned to each local agency were introduced and practiced, and budgets were allocated to provide assistance and services for potential victims.

Structural Improvements and Legal Amendments

The Government remained committed to improving regulations and guidelines to ensure that they are in line with the Government's policies and international principles. This included the revision and development of guidelines to further strengthen the implementation of NRM, such as the ongoing revision of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and interview form for labour trafficking and Section 6/1 offences as a result of evaluation and consultations with NGOs and survivors, the development of a new screening form for law enforcement officers to expedite the screening process, and the development of a new manual for the operation of the Port-In Port-Out Control Centres (PIPO) to increase the efficacy of vessel inspections.

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) also developed SOPs for Shelter Operation, which include a guideline for Freedom of Movement (FOM) for all shelters' officials to ensure that their operations are in line with international principles, particularly the trauma-informed and individualised care.

Legal revisions to improve the efficacy of victims' protection and remedies were also introduced, including the revised provisions on penalties under the Department of Labour Provision and Welfare (DLPW) regulation, which increases severity of the penalties for violation of fisheries laws and reduces the timeframe for initiating the criminal cases against offenders. In addition, the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Supervising and Monitoring of Assistance and Remedies for Human Trafficking Victims set a timeframe for relevant agencies to promptly provide assistance to and determine appropriate remedies for victims.

Enhancing Efficacy of Government Agencies

Emphasis was placed on enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officers, public prosecutors, Court personnel, shelter officials, labour inspectors, and other relevant officials. A series of trainings and workshops on the effective implementation of NRM and SOPs on labour trafficking and Section 6/1 offences, the use of trauma-informed care and victim-centred approaches, and SOPs for Shelter Operation were provided. Most of such capacity-building programmes were organised in collaboration with partner countries, international organisations, and NGOs, such as the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Justice Mission (IJM) Thailand, Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.), and HUG Project.

The Development of the Five-Year Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons

RTG is developing a Five-Year Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons (2023 - 2027), which will provide guidelines for relevant agencies in advancing their efforts in eliminating all forms of trafficking in persons. For 2023, priority will be placed on the followings:

- Enhance efficacy of prevention and suppression of online human trafficking committed by domestic and transnational crime syndicates;
- Ensure effective implementation of NRM and explore opportunities to develop the Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM) with other countries;
- Develop tech-enabled solutions, and promote the use of digital technology and innovation in tackling human trafficking;
- Develop measures to protect victims of human trafficking and forced labour in line with international principles;
- Provide trainings for officials with a view to develop experts at national and agency levels to serve as a support mechanism for nationwide implementation of anti-trafficking measures; and
- Enhance collaboration with relevant domestic and international stakeholders, particularly NGOs and survivors.

* * * * *

Prosecution

The Royal Thai Government (RTG) continues to advance its proactive and sustainable efforts in combatting all forms of trafficking in persons with a focus on systematic development to increase the efficiency of the prosecution process, including capacity-building for officials, use of technology to facilitate operations, as well as engagement with survivors in policy formulation and implementation to ensure that victim-centred and trauma-informed procedures continue to be used efficiently in prosecution operations. In addition, emphasis has also been placed on ensuring the effective implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) nationwide through trainings for relevant officers.

Key Progress during January - March 2023

1. During the first quarter of 2023, 38 new human trafficking cases were initiated. A total of 72 new and pending cases from previous years were submitted to public prosecutors, while the Courts were in the process of considering 191 cases, 44 of which were already completed and convicted. Online conferencing and voice records of victims' testimonies continued to be used during court proceedings in accordance with the Electronic Court Procedures Regulation implemented since 2021, resulting in more convenient, efficient, and timely court proceedings.¹

2. The Government continued to actively prosecute cases against complicit officials, including through further investigation of previously prosecuted cases. Between January - March 2023, complicit official cases were initiated against 15 public officials, while cases of five complicit officials from previous years were submitted to public prosecutors for consideration.²

3. Law enforcement officers, inquiry officers, and Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) continued to receive training on the implementation of NRM and the use of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for labour trafficking and Section 6/1 offences under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, B.E. 2558 (2015) to enhance their capacity and efficacy on victim identification. Royal Thai Police (RTP) provided simulation-based learning workshops for police chiefs and management-level police officers from 1,484 police stations across the country, with the participation of relevant MDTs. A new screening form (Kor Gor. Tor Ror. 01) was also provided as a tool for officers to enhance the efficiency and the speed of screening process.³

¹ U.S. Recommendation: (1) Increase trafficking prosecutions and convictions, particularly for labor trafficking.

² U.S. Recommendation: (4) Proactively investigate and prosecute officials allegedly complicit in facilitating trafficking and convict and punish those found guilty with adequate sentences.

³ U.S. Recommendation: (2) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of new guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti- trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims, (3) Ensure multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) are composed of officials who are trained and have sufficient experience working

4. The Royal Thai Police Cadet Academy improved the police cadet curriculum by including human trafficking subjects in the required and elective courses, as well as training workshops with government agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). RTP organised the first training workshop in January 2023 with 121 police cadet participants.

1. Statistics on Human Trafficking Cases, Suspects and Victims⁴

1.1 Number of Human Trafficking Cases

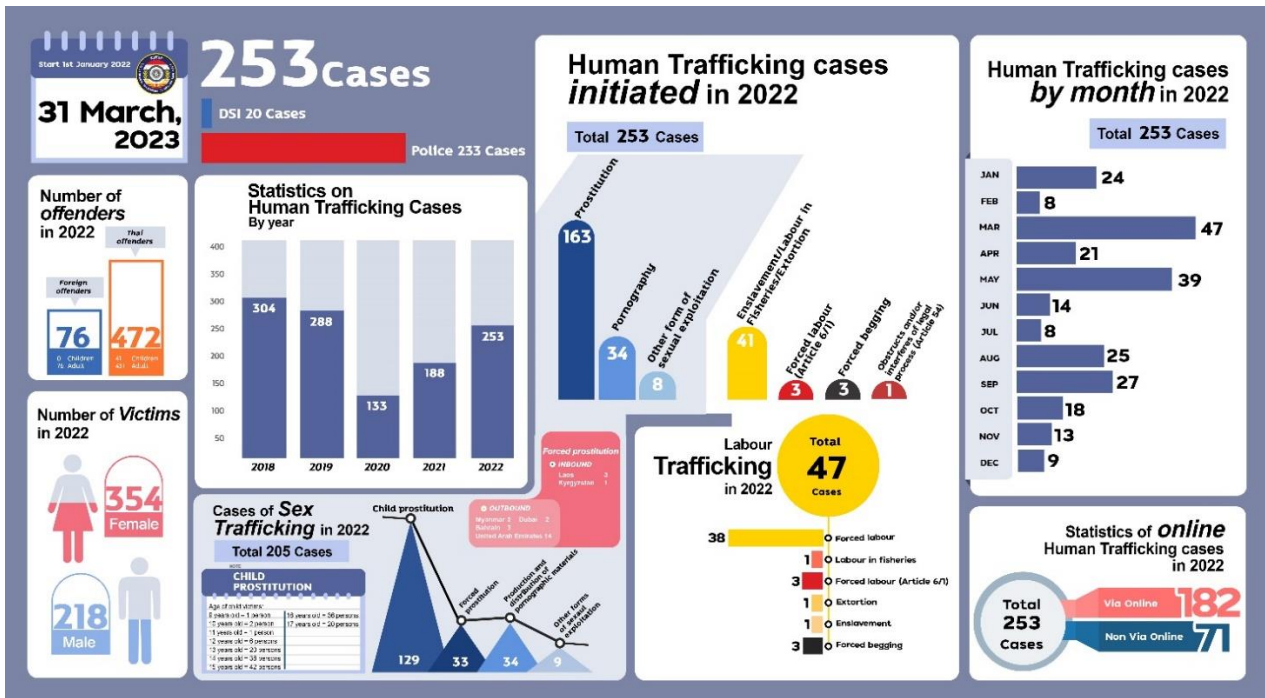
Five additional human trafficking cases from 2022 were reported after the release of the RTG's 2022 Country Report, bringing the total number of cases initiated in 2022 to 253 cases. (Diagram 1)

Diagram 1: Statistics on Human Trafficking Cases in 2022



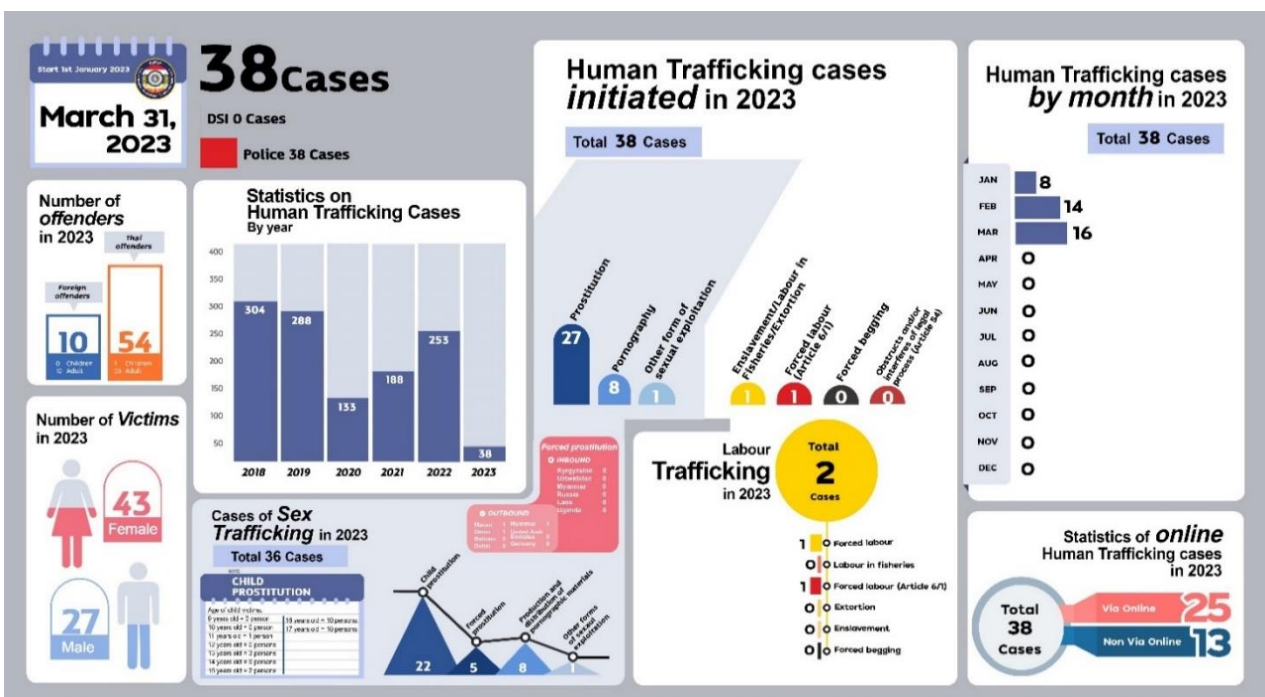
trafficking cases to improve the effectiveness of victim identifications, and (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims.

⁴ U.S. Recommendation: (1) Increase trafficking prosecutions and convictions, particularly for labor trafficking.



During the first quarter of 2023, 38 human trafficking cases were initiated, 36 of which were related to sex trafficking (prostitution, pornography, and sexual exploitation) and the other two cases was related to forced labour. Of this number, 25 cases were committed via online channels, reflecting the evolving nature of crimes and the increased capacity of officials in digital investigation. 16 out of 38 cases were reported by NGOs and victims through complaint mechanisms or victim screenings.⁵ (Diagram 2 and Table 1 - 2)

Diagram 2: Statistics on Human Trafficking Cases During January - March 2023



⁵ U.S. Recommendation: (14) Foster an environment conducive to victims and advocates reporting human trafficking crimes without fear of facing spurious retributive charges pursued by employers, including by utilizing recent legal amendments to dismiss cases filed with dishonest intent or to intimidate defendants.

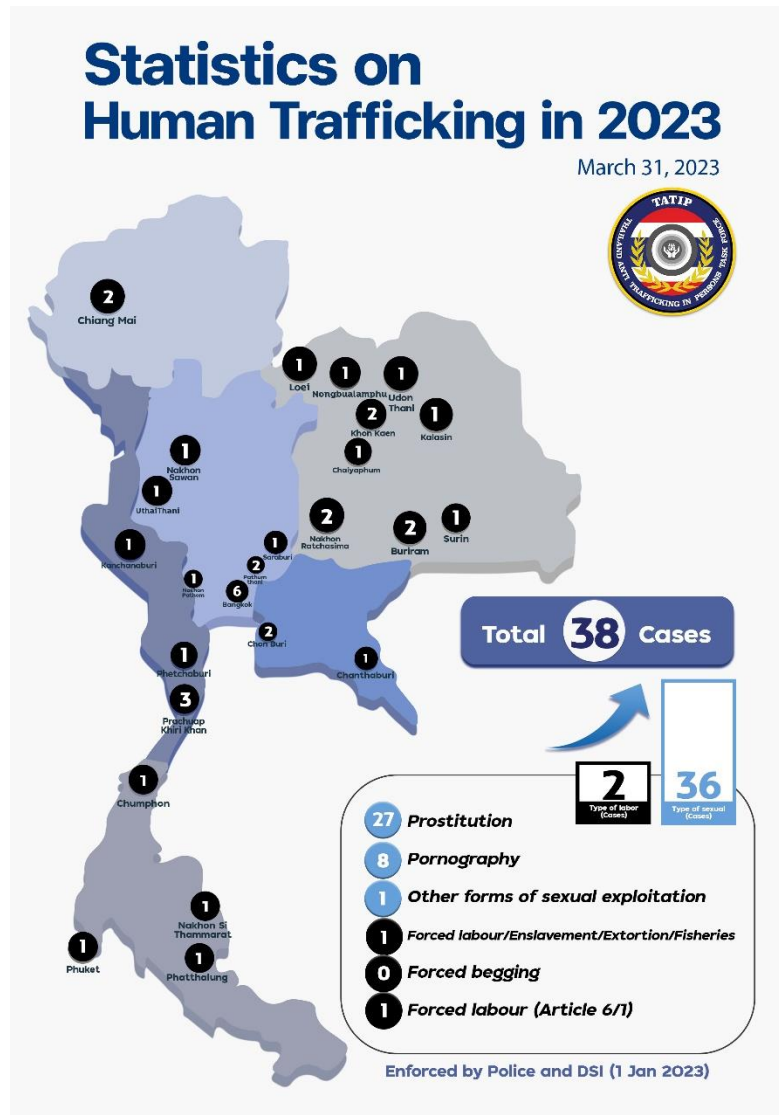


Table 1: Number of Human Trafficking Cases Initiated

Year	Total	Types of Human Trafficking Activities							
		Prostitution	Pornography	Sexual Exploitation	Enslavement	Forced Begging	General Forced Labour	Forced Labour in Fisheries	Extortion/ Other
2017	302	246	7	2	-	26	14	7	-
2018	304	249	4	5	-	8	29	6	3
2019	288	158	15	12	33	9	31	4	26
2020	133	96	17	6	-	2	8 + (2)	2	-
2021	188	136	13	7	2	2	15 + (1)	2	11
2022*	253	163 + (1)	34	8	1	3	38 + (3)	1	1
Jan - Mar 2023	38	27	8	1	-	-	1 + (1)	-	-

Note: (1) In 2020, the number in brackets represents one forced labour or services case, and one worst form of child labour case, both of which are offences under Section 6/1 and section 56/1 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act respectively.

(2) In 2021 - 2023, the number in brackets represents forced labour or services cases, which is an offence under Section 6/1 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.

(3) *The number of cases in 2022 were updated after the release of RTG's 2022 Country Report.

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

Year	Cases	Cases Committed via		Cases Received from			Suspects' Detention		
		Online	Non-Online	Law Enforcement Officers	Victims	NGOs	Fleeing	Bail Out	Detained
2019	286	32 (11.19%)	254 (88.81%)						
2020	133	37 (27.82%)	96 (72.18%)						
2021	188	107 (56.91%)	81 (43.09%)						
2022	253	182 (71.94%)	71 (28.06%)	118	79	54	16	5	163
Jan - Mar 2023	38	25 (65.79%)	13 (34.21%)	22	12	4	4	1	15

1.2 Number of Offenders from Human Trafficking Cases

From last year, there were additional 79 suspected human trafficking offenders, bringing the total number of offenders in 2022 to 548.

During January - March 2023, a total of 64 human trafficking offenders were apprehended, all of which were charged with cases related to sexual exploitation. (Table 3)

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

Year	Total	Gender		Nationality				
		Male	Female	Thai	Myanmar	Cambodian	Laotian	Others
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	188	87	101	160	2	7	0	18
2021	447	269	178	341	29	4	0	73
2022*	548	287	261	472	4	6	4	62
Jan - Mar 2023	64	35	29	54	2	0	1	7

Note: *The number of suspects in 2022 were updated after the release of RTG's 2022 Country Report

1.3 Number of Victims from Human Trafficking Cases

A total of 70 human trafficking victims were identified from cases initiated during January - March 2023. An additional 29 human trafficking victims were identified from cases initiated in 2022, bringing the total number of victims from cases initiated in 2022 to 572. (Table 4)

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

Year	Total	Gender		Nationality				
		Male	Female	Thai	Myanmar	Cambodian	Laotian	Others
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	231	66	165	162	5	5	46	13
2021	424	154	270	322	94	0	2	6
2022*	572	218	354	480	26	4	37	25
Jan - Mar 2023	70	27	43	51	15	0	1	3

Note: *The number of suspects in 2022 were updated after the release of RTG's 2022 Country Report

2. Prosecution of Human Trafficking Cases⁶

2.1 Human Trafficking Cases Handled by Inquiry Officers

1) Progress of Human Trafficking Cases Handled by Inquiry Officers

During January - March 2023, inquiry officers received a total of 38 human trafficking cases, six of which were already submitted to public prosecutors. They were also able to complete an additional 60 cases from 2022, all of which were submitted to public prosecutors. (Table 5 - 6)

Table 5: Progress of Human Trafficking Cases Handled by Inquiry Officers

Year	Total	Under Inquiry	Filed to Public Prosecutors	Not filed to Public Prosecutors
2018	304	1 (0.33%)	300 (98.68%)	3 (0.96%)
2019	288	0 (0.00%)	284 (98.61%)	4 (1.39%)
2020	133	2 (1.50%)	128 (96.24%)	3 (2.26%)
2021	188	1 (0.53%)	187 (99.47%)	0 (0.00%)
2022*	253	32 (12.65%)	221 (87.35%)	0 (0.00%)
Jan - Mar 2023	38	32 (84.21%)	6 (15.79%)	0 (0.00%)

Note: (1) Pending cases from 2018, 2020 and 2021 are under consideration of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI)

(2) *The number of cases in 2022 were updated after the release of RTG's 2022 Country Report.

⁶ U.S. Recommendation: (1) Increase trafficking prosecutions and convictions, particularly for labor trafficking.

Table 6: Case Classification by Number of Suspects

Year	Total	Cases Involving One Suspect	Cases Involving Two or More Suspects
2018	304	219 (72.04%)	85 (27.96%)
2019	288	187 (64.93%)	101 (35.07%)
2020	133	103 (77.27%)	30 (22.56%)
2021	188	100 (53.19%)	88 (46.81%)
2022*	253	145 (57.31%)	106 (41.89%)
Jan - Mar 2023	38	22 (57.89%)	16 (42.11%)

Note: *The number of victims in 2022 were updated after the release of RTG’s 2022 Country Report.

2.2 Human Trafficking Cases Pursued by Public Prosecutors

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

A total of 72 human trafficking cases were received by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) during January - March 2023. (Table 7)

Table 7: Type of Human Trafficking Cases Received by Public Prosecutors

Year	Total	Type of Human Trafficking Cases Received		
		Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation	Forced Begging	General Forced Labour and Services
2017	418	325	25	68
2018	357	286	14	57
2019	364	242	7	115
2020	241	191	3	47
2021	197	163	3	31
2022*	358	269	3	86
Jan - Mar 2023	72	64	0	8

Note: *The number of cases received by public prosecutors in 2022 were updated after the release of RTG’s 2022 Country Report.

Out of 72 cases received by OAG during the first quarter of 2023, public prosecutors were able to complete their consideration on 46 (63.89%) cases, 44 of which were submitted to the Courts. In addition, OAG also completed its consideration of an additional 28 cases from 2022, with 26 cases submitted to the Courts. (Table 8 - 9)

Table 8: Progress of Human Trafficking Cases with Arrested Suspects

Year	Total	Progress of Human Trafficking Cases			
		Cases Submitted to the Courts (%)	Cases not Submitted to the Courts (%)	Cases under Public Prosecutors' Consideration (%)	Cases Returned to Inquiry Officers (%)
2017	396	385 (97.22%)	11 (2.78%)	0	0
2018	331	294 (88.83%)	33 (9.97%)	0	4 (1.2%)
2019	343	273 (79.59%)	65 (18.95%)	0	5 (1.46%)
2020	225	202 (89.78%)	17 (7.55%)	0	6 (2.67%)
2021	180	162 (90.00%)	11 (6.11%)	0	7 (3.89%)
2022*	347	321 (92.50%)	13 (3.75%)	2 (0.58%)	11 (3.17%)
Jan - Mar 2023	66	44 (66.67%)	2 (3.03%)	18 (27.27%)	2 (3.03%)

Note: *The number of cases received by public prosecutors in 2022 were updated after the release of RTG's 2022 Country Report.

Table 9: Progress of Human Trafficking Cases with Fleeing Suspects

Year	Total	Progress of Human Trafficking Cases			
		Cases Submitted to the Courts (%)	Cases not Submitted to the Courts (%)	Cases under Public Prosecutors' Consideration (%)	Cases Returned to Inquiry Officers (%)
2017	22	17 (77.27%)	4 (18.18%)	0	1 (4.55%)
2018	26	23 (88.46%)	1 (3.85%)	0	2 (7.69%)
2019	21	18 (85.71%)	3 (14.29%)	0	0
2020	16	13 (81.25%)	0	0	3 (18.75%)
2021	17	13 (76.46%)	2 (11.77%)	0	2 (11.77%)
2022	11	6 (54.55%)	1 (9.09%)	3 (27.27%)	1 (9.09%)
Jan - Mar 2023	6	0	0	6 (100.00%)	0

Cooperation with NGOs in the Prosecution Process

RTP, OAG, and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) continued cooperation with NGO partners on the co-attorney programme to provide assistance to victims in all stages of the prosecution process. In 2022, the International Justice Mission (IJM), SR Law, HUG Project, and the Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.) provided services as co-attorneys for 75 victims in 13 human trafficking cases related to forced labour, sexual exploitation, and child sexual exploitation.

This collaboration resulted in effective presentation of evidence to the Courts, comprehensive protection of the victims' rights, and provision of assistance to the victims throughout the prosecution process, leading to effective prosecution as well as successful reintegration of victims into society.

2.3 Human Trafficking Cases Pursued by the Courts of Justice

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

During the first three months of 2023, the Courts of Justice were in the process of considering a total of 191 human trafficking cases, consisting of 148 pending cases from 2022 and 43 cases initiated in 2023. The Courts were able to convict 44 out of 46 cases (95.56%) considered during this period. (Table 10)

Table 10: Decisions Reached by the Courts of Justice on Human Trafficking Cases

Year	Cases Submitted to the Courts			Decided Cases				Pending Cases (as Standing at the End of Indicated Year)
	Cases Initiated in Previous Years	Cases Initiated in Indicated Year	Total	Convicted (% of Decided Cases)	Acquitted (% of Decided Cases)	Disposed (% of Decided Cases)	Total (% of Total Cases)	
2017	227	330	557	319 (81.59%)	54 (13.81%)	18 (4.60%)	391 (71.27%)	166
2018	166	279	445	235 (77.05%)	24 (7.87%)	46 (15.08%)	305 (68.54%)	140
2019	140	256	396	217 (76.68%)	26 (9.19%)	40 (14.13%)	283 (71.46%)	113
2020	113	191	304	157 (78.89%)	22 (11.06%)	20 (10.05%)	199 (65.46%)	105
2021	105	127	232	66 (75.00%)	8 (9.09%)	14 (15.91%)	88 (37.93%)	144
2022	144	240	384	193 (81.78%)	24 (10.17%)	19 (8.05%)	236 (61.46%)	148
Jan - Mar 2023	148	43	191	44 (95.65%)	2 (4.35%)	0	46 (24.08%)	145

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

From January - March 2023, 66 out of 72 defendants (91.67%) in new human trafficking cases being brought before the Courts were convicted. There were also additional 30 defendants brought to the Courts in 2022, 22 of which were convicted, representing the highest conviction rate (80.84%) since 2017. (Table 11)

Table 11: Defendants in Human Trafficking Cases Brought before the Courts of Justice

Year	Number of Defendants Subjected to the Courts' Consideration			
	Total	Convicted	Acquitted	Disposed
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	302	233 (77.15%)	41 (13.58%)	28 (9.27%)
2021	125	82 (65.60%)	25 (20%)	18 (14.40%)
2022*	308	249 (80.84%)	35 (11.36%)	24 (7.79%)
Jan - Mar 2023	72	66 (91.67%)	6 (8.33%)	-

Note: *The number of defendants in 2022 were updated after the release of RTG's 2022 Country Report.

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

The severity of the punishment for human trafficking crimes remains high with an upward trend in the number of defendants being sentenced to over five years' imprisonment and the continuing downward trend of the punishment of shorter than two years' imprisonment (Table 12). During the first quarter of 2023, 45 out of 57 defendants (78.94%) were sentenced with a punishment of more than five years' imprisonment. The severity of the punishment reflected the judges' recognition of the severity of human trafficking crimes, in accordance with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, B.E. 2558 (2015) and the Procedures for Human Trafficking Cases Act, B.E. 2559 (2016).

Table 12: Imprisonment Sentences of Defendants in Human Trafficking Cases

Year	Total Number of Defendants Sentenced to Imprisonment	Shorter than 1 year	Between 1 – 2 years	Between 2 – 5 years	Between 5 – 10 years	Over 10 years
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 (19.9%)	60 (25.42%)	124 (52.54%)
2019	276	6 (2.17%)	8 (2.90%)	38 (13.77%)	124 (44.93%)	100 (36.23%)
2020	199	8 (4.02%)	15 (7.54%)	41 (20.60%)	53 (26.63%)	82 (41.21%)
2021	75	1 (1.33%)	1 (1.33%)	11 (14.67%)	26 (34.67%)	36 (48.00%)
2022	201	1 (0.50%)	1 (0.50%)	25 (12.44%)	66 (32.84%)	108 (53.73%)
Jan - Mar 2023	57	1 (1.75%)	0	11 (19.30%)	23 (40.35%)	22 (38.60%)

3. Prosecution of Complicit Officials in Human Trafficking Cases⁷

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

3.1 Prosecution of Officials Accused of Complicity in Human Trafficking Cases

During the first three months of 2023, complicit official cases were initiated against 15 public officials, while cases of five officials from previous years, one from 2022 and four from 2021, were submitted to public prosecutors for consideration. (Table 13 - 14)

Table 13: Criminal Prosecution of Suspected Public Officials in Human Trafficking Cases

Year	Number of Public Officials	Under Investigation	Under Public Prosecutor’s Consideration	Under Courts’ Consideration	Completed cases		Fleeing
					Imprisoned	Acquitted/ Not Pursued	
2013 - 2016	44	-	-	3	30	8	3
2017	11	-	-	2	9	-	-
2018	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
2019	2	-	-	-	1	-	1
2020	3	-	-	1	1	-	1*
2021	17	2	13	1	-	1	-
2022	35	24	9	2	-	-	-
Jan - Mar 2023	15	15	-	-	-	-	-
Total	129	41	22	10	42	9	5

Note: *deceased suspect

⁷ U.S. Recommendation: (4) Proactively investigate and prosecute officials allegedly complicit in facilitating trafficking and convict and punish those found guilty with adequate sentences.

3.2 Disciplinary Actions Against Complicit Officials

Table 14: Complicit Public Officials Subjected to Disciplinary Actions

Year	Number of public officials	Disciplinary actions and other measures								
		Under disciplinary inquiry	Expelled	Suspended	Under probation	Incarcerated	Dismissed by the Admin. Court	Resigned	Retired	Disciplinary inquiry ended
2013 - 2016	44	3	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
2017	11	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
2018	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	17	13	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
2022	35	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Jan - Mar 2023	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	129	70	45	-	-	-	-	-	4	10

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

3.3 Cases of Prosecution of Complicit Officials Initiated in 2023

Since January 2023, two cases were initiated to prosecute 15 complicit officials, while the other two cases from previous years involving five complicit officials were submitted to public prosecutors. Details of the cases are as follows:

1) **Nauru Consul Case** – (initiated in 2023) 14 officials, consisting of nine police officers and five Department of Special Investigation (DSI) officials, were arrested and prosecuted on the charge of not arresting foreign nationals with illegal residency found during a raid on the house of a former Consul-General of the Republic of Nauru in Bangkok, in exchange for money.

2) **Chom Dao Case** – (initiated in 2015) In 2023, further investigations found one police officer to be complicit in taking bribes from the owner of the workplace. The case is being under investigation by DSI.

3.4 Progress of Criminal Prosecution of Complicit Officials in 2023

1) **Valentine’s Case** – (initiated in 2020) In 2022, one complicit official who was charged in 2020 died while under prosecution. In 2023, the case of four police officers, charged in 2021, was submitted to public prosecutor.

2) **Overseas Prostitution Case** – (initiated in 2016) In 2022, further investigations found one police officer to be in complicity by taking bribes from victims to allow them to leave Thailand for Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) without conducting proper overseas workers’ screening procedures. In 2023, the case of this complicit officer was already submitted to public prosecutor.

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

4.1 Amount of Asset Restraints and Seizures

In January - March 2023, the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) issued orders to freeze and seize assets in 12 cases related to human trafficking offences, involving 30 offenders and accomplices. The initial value of the assets subjected to these orders were THB 476,555.66 (USD 13,694.13). (Table 15 - 16)

Under the Anti-Money Laundering Act (No.6), B.E. 2565 (2022), which came into force in July 2022, during January - March 2023, AMLO has filed applications for compensations of THB 1,076,708.83 (USD 30,939.91) from assets seized by the Courts to be used as financial remedies for nine victims of labour trafficking in Cambodia.

Table 15: Value of Assets Subjected to Restraint and Seizure Orders

Year	Numbers of Cases	Total Value of Assets Subjected to Restraint / Seizure Orders (THB)
2018	15	477,058,488.94
2019	15	8,587,166.78
2020	20	51,201,949.60
2021	15	4,926,275.05
2022	84	40,882,661.75
Jan - Mar 2023	12	476,555.66
Total	161	583,133,097.78

Table 16: Value of Assets Filed to Public Prosecutors and Value of Assets Ordered by the Courts to be Forfeited for the Benefits of the State

Year	Value of Assets Filed to Public Prosecutors (THB)	Value of Assets Ordered by the Courts to Be Forfeited for the Benefits of the State (THB)
2018	526,124,240.44	55,865,721.56
2019	11,681,474.08	401,014.26
2020	77,000,754.52	10,626,474.08
2021	4,926,275.05	304,335.12
2022	43,565,378.48	80,135,451.10
Jan - Mar 2023	6,644,529.48	-
Total	669,942,652.05	147,332,996.12

5. Examples of Human Trafficking Cases and Prosecution Progress

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

5.1 Cases Related to Sexual Exploitation



1) **Overseas Prostitution Case** – The Child Woman Protection and Anti-Human Trafficking Centre (CWP), in collaboration with Pavena Foundation for Children and Women, rescued three victims of sexual exploitation aged between 27 and 29 years old, who were lured into prostitution in a karaoke lounge in Myanmar.⁸ Six offenders were arrested, while two offenders remain in Myanmar. The case is currently under investigation.

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

3) **Line and Onlyfans Cases** – CWP initiated a case against two offenders who used online platforms to lure and sexually exploit under-aged boys. The victims were filmed and exploited through private chat groups on the Line applications and Onlyfans.com. In return, the offenders received THB 200 - 500 fees from online group members. The case is currently under investigation.

⁸ U.S. Recommendation: (14) Foster an environment conducive to victims and advocates reporting human trafficking crimes without fear of facing spurious retributive charges pursued by employers, including by utilizing recent legal amendments to dismiss cases filed with dishonest intent or to intimidate defendants.

4) **Operation “Cracking Down on Sor Jeaw’s Syndicate” and “Saving Wild Rabbits”** – CWP were able to rescue four victims aged between 13 and 19 years old who were lured into prostitution in Chanthaburi and Nakorn Ratchasima. Six offenders were arrested and prosecuted for human trafficking.



5) **Operation “Look Kae Noi Online”** – (initiated in 2021) The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division (ATPD), in collaboration with the O.U.R., made arrests in four online child sexual exploitation cases in which the offenders used online platforms to offer child prostitution services. In 2023, the Court completed three out of four cases, sentencing the offenders up to 13 years and six months of imprisonment with THB 120,000 fine.

6) **Forced Prostitution in Bahrain Case** – (initiated in 2016) ATPD received a report from the Royal Thai Embassy (RTE) in Manama of six Thai women lured into forced prostitution in Bahrain by job recruitment agencies. DSI, RTE, and MSDHS facilitated their repatriation to Thailand, and initiated the case against seven offenders, some of which were sentenced up to nine years and four months of imprisonment during 2017 - 2018.⁹ In 2022, the Court further sentenced another offender to nine years and four months of imprisonment with THB 100,000 fine (with 5% interest per year since the case was submitted to the Court) to be paid to each victim.

7) **Forced Prostitution in Abu Dhabi Case** – (initiated in 2019) DSI received a report from the Alliance Anti Traffic Thailand (AAT) on six Thai women lured into forced prostitution in Abu Dhabi, UAE by job recruitment agencies. The victims managed to escape the confinement and sought assistance from RTE in Abu Dhabi, where their repatriation to Thailand was facilitated.¹⁰ In 2022, the Court sentenced three out of five offenders to 8 - 12 years of imprisonment with THB 80,000 - 120,000 fines, while the other two offenders are fleeing. The case is under the consideration of the Court of Appeals.

8) **Forced Prostitution in Dubai Case** – (initiated in 2020) DSI received a report of 3 Thai women lured into forced prostitution in Dubai, UAE by job recruitment agencies. The victims were rescued and repatriated back to Thailand by RTE in Abu Dhabi.¹¹ In 2022, the Court sentenced one out of six

⁹ U.S. Recommendation: (14) Foster an environment conducive to victims and advocates reporting human trafficking crimes without fear of facing spurious retributive charges pursued by employers, including by utilizing recent legal amendments to dismiss cases filed with dishonest intent or to intimidate defendants.

¹⁰ U.S. Recommendation: (14) Foster an environment conducive to victims and advocates reporting human trafficking crimes without fear of facing spurious retributive charges pursued by employers, including by utilizing recent legal amendments to dismiss cases filed with dishonest intent or to intimidate defendants.

¹¹ U.S. Recommendation: (14) Foster an environment conducive to victims and advocates reporting human trafficking crimes without fear of facing spurious retributive charges pursued by employers, including by utilizing recent legal amendments to dismiss cases filed with dishonest intent or to intimidate defendants.

offenders to seven years of imprisonment with THB 581,071.38 fine. The case is under the consideration of the Court of Appeals. Three offenders fled charges.

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



1) **Footwear Factory** – CWP, in collaboration with the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW), rescued 15 migrant workers who were illegally smuggled to Thailand, and forced to work overtime, bonded by debts, taken their identity documents, and withheld wage payments by a footwear factory in Nakorn Pathom. Three offenders were

charged with Section 6/1 offences. The case is under the Court's consideration.¹²

2) **Chumporn Fishing Vessel Case** – CWP, in collaboration with DLPW and Chumporn Provincial Police, initiated two cases against six offenders. This comprised one case against the owner of the fishing vessel on the charge of forced labour under Section 6/1, and another case against the owner and five foreign crewmembers on the charge of jointly causing grievous bodily harm to a Myanmar worker.¹³ The case followed the Port-In Port-Out Controlling Centre (PIPO)'s order, upon receiving a report on the incident, to bring the vessel back onto shore for inspection. A Myanmar national was then rescued by MDTs and transferred to a nearby hospital, as well as entered into NRM process in which he was identified as human trafficking victim during the reflection period.¹⁴ All offenders were arrested and the case is under investigation.

3) **Online Scammer Case** – Since 2021, CWP, Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce (TICAC), Thailand Anti-Trafficking in Persons Taskforce (TATIP), RTP, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), have been rescuing Thai workers in Cambodia who were forced to work as scammers for online investment. To date, RTG rescued a total of 1,105 Thais, 258

¹² U.S. Recommendation: (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement, (8) Increase awareness among relevant officials of less understood trafficking indicators, such as debt-based coercion, excessive overtime, confiscation of documents, and nonpayment of wages, and (13) 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 and contracts.

¹³ U.S. Recommendation: (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement.

¹⁴ U.S. Recommendation: (6) Ensure the use of trauma-informed procedures by government officials during interviews with potential victims, including during labor inspections, and (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims.

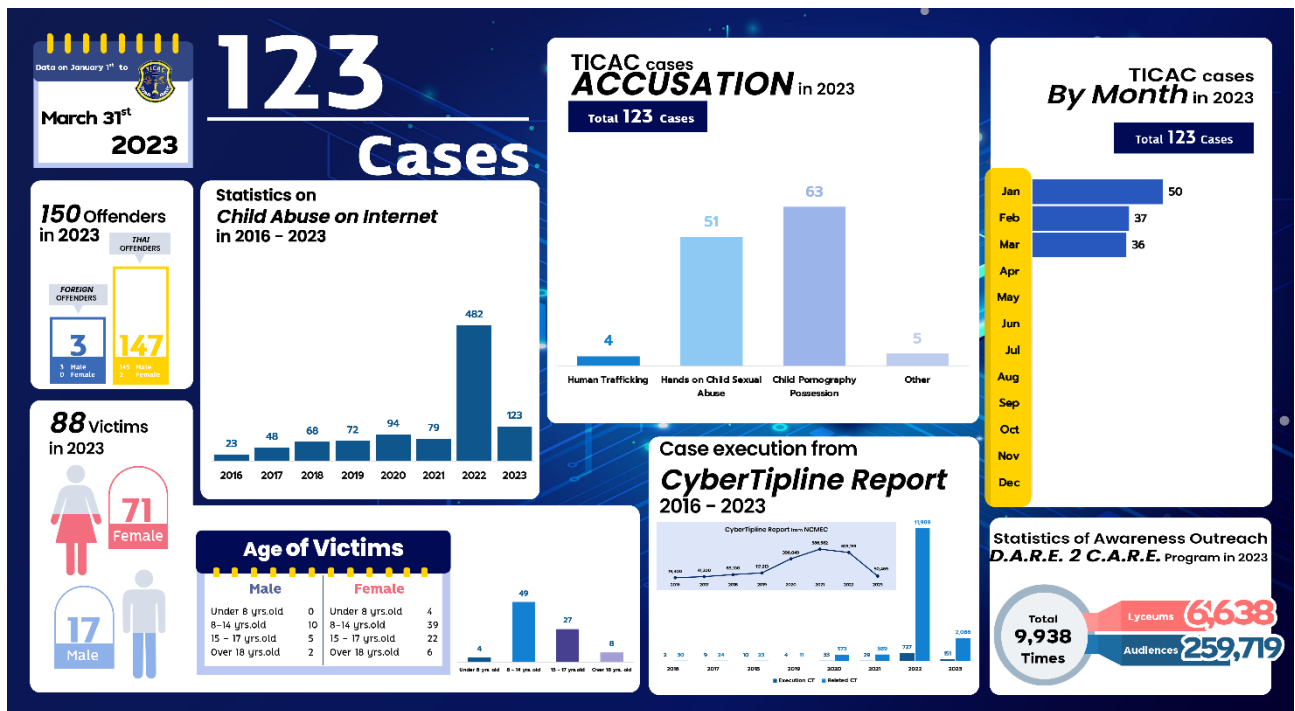
of whom were identified as human trafficking victims. The Courts has also completed four cases, sentencing 14 offenders with 8 - 13 years' imprisonment. In addition, investigations on financial trails of online scamming syndicates were conducted and assets were seized on money laundering charges.

As part of efforts to crack down on transnational online scamming networks that could lead to human trafficking crimes in the future, 107 immigration police officers were prosecuted in February 2023 for taking bribes, failure to perform duties, and granting extension of stay despite incomplete and forged documents to foreign nationals involving in online scammer syndicates between January 2020 - November 2022.

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

From January - March 2023, TICAC investigated 228 potential offences and initiated a total of 123 cases, comprising four sex trafficking cases, 63 child pornography possession cases, 51 child sexual exploitation cases, and five other cases. TICAC also investigated 2,066 tips from the U.S. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) through Cyber Tipline cooperation. A total of 88 victims were rescued. Details appear in [Diagram 3](#).

Diagram 3: Key achievements of TICAC



7. Improving the Efficacy of Human Trafficking Prosecution

7.1 Improving Police Cadet Curriculum to Include Human Trafficking Subjects¹⁵

CWD, together with the Royal Thai Police Cadet Academy, improved the police cadet curriculum by including human-trafficking subjects in the required and elective courses, such as the use of trauma-informed care approach in the interview process, investigation of human trafficking cases, laws related to human trafficking, transnational crime and intelligence, investigation of online child sexual exploitation, and human trafficking suppression for frontline law enforcement officials. The curriculum also includes a training workshop with government agencies and NGOs working on human trafficking cases, such as ATPD, the 1300 Hotline, the HUG Project, O.U.R., and Labour Protection Network (LPN), to enhance their understanding on human trafficking and forced labour cases, as well as to advance a comprehensive approach in combatting trafficking in persons. The new curriculum will help ensure that all newly graduated police officers across the country are trained and acquire sufficient knowledge to effectively investigate human trafficking cases.

7.2 Capacity-Building on the Implementation of NRM and SOPs¹⁶



In February 2023, ATPD organised a series of simulation-based learning workshops for police chiefs and management-level police officers from 1,484 police stations across the country, with the participation of relevant MDTs, to enhance their knowledge, understanding, and capacity on the implementation of NRM and SOPs. A new screening form (Kor Gor. Tor Ror. 01) was also provided as a tool for officers to enhance the efficiency and the speed of screening process.

¹⁵ U.S. Recommendation: (2) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of new guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti- trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims, (3) Ensure multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) are composed of officials who are trained and have sufficient experience working trafficking cases to improve the effectiveness of victim identifications, (6) Ensure the use of trauma- informed procedures by government officials during interviews with potential victims, including during labor inspections, and (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims.

¹⁶ U.S. Recommendation: (2) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of new guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti- trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims, and (3) Ensure multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) are composed of officials who are trained and have sufficient experience working trafficking cases to improve the effectiveness of victim identifications.

7.3 Workshop to Enhance Skills on Integrated Prosecution and Protection Approach



In February 2023, OAG organised two workshops for 165 provincial officials and NGO representatives to enhance their skills on prosecution and protection of human trafficking and forced labour victims, as well as strengthen their coordination on prosecution and prevention efforts.

7.4 Workshops on the Use of Trauma-Informed Care Approach in Prosecution Process¹⁷

OAG organised two training workshops for 74 provincial officials in February 2023 to advance their skills on trauma-informed care approach in the prosecution process, particularly on sexual exploitation and trafficking cases, as well as forced labour and human trafficking in fisheries.

7.5 Publications of Human Trafficking Laws and Regulations in Thai and English

The Office of the Judiciary published the “Regulation of the President of the Supreme Court on the Proceedings of Human Trafficking Cases, B.E. 2559 (2015), Recommendation of the President of the Supreme Court Regarding Guidelines of Case Administration Pursuant to the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons Act, B.E. 2551 (2008), and Recommendation of the President of the Supreme Court on Guidelines for the Treatment of the Injured Person in Human Trafficking Cases, B.E. 2565 (2022)” in Thai and English both in hard copy and online format, to serve as operational guidelines for relevant officials and the public.



¹⁷ U.S. Recommendation: (6) Ensure the use of trauma-informed procedures by government officials during interviews with potential victims, including during labor inspections, and (8) Increase awareness among relevant officials of less understood trafficking indicators, such as debt-based coercion, excessive overtime, confiscation of documents, and nonpayment of wages.

7.6 Trainings for Governing Officers on Prosecution



In February 2023, DOPA organised a two-week capacity-building training workshop for 50 governing officers across the country, other relevant officials, and NGOs on prevention and prosecution of human trafficking cases. The workshop aimed to enhance their skills in handling human trafficking cases and equip them to be leaders in each province to work on human rights cases as ‘DOPA S.W.A.T’.

7.7 Human Trafficking Free Community



In January 2023, DOPA held a workshop for provincial governing officers with a goal of advancing both theoretical and practical knowledge of human trafficking prosecution and prevention. The training included techniques on investigation, inspection, apprehension, law enforcement.

8. International Cooperation and Partnerships with NGOs

8.1 International Cooperation Development

1) The Development of Joint Operational Plan

The Thai delegation from relevant law enforcement agencies led by OAG met with a Cambodian delegation on 16 - 19 January 2023 to develop a joint operational plan to improve cooperation on the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases, as well as the protection of victims’ rights in the criminal justice procedures. RTG also plans to develop similar bilateral cooperation with the Chinese Government later this year.



2) Instant Platform with the Foreign Anti-Narcotic and Crime Community of Thailand (FANC)



The Government continued to promote collaboration with international organisations and NGOs. In January 2023, RTP held a meeting with the Foreign Anti-Narcotic and Crime Community of Thailand (FANC), in which representatives from 26 countries participated and joined the new instant messaging platform to be used as a channel for exchange of information and cooperation.

3) “Child-Friendly Justice for Multi-Disciplinary Team Members: Pilot Project” Training

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



4) Thailand-China-Myanmar Tripartite Discussion

In March 2023, RTP held the first tripartite discussion with China’s Ministry of Public Security and Myanmar Police Force to enhance trilateral cooperation on prevention and suppression of human trafficking syndicates, rescue measures for victims being detained abroad, and to find a sustainable solution for transnational crimes, particularly online scamming and gambling.

8.2 Cooperation with International Organisations and NGOs

1) Training on “The road towards Tier 1: Capacity Building for the Royal Police Cadet Academy”



With financial support from the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, CWP, in collaboration with other relevant agencies and NGOS such as the Royal Police Cadet Academy, OAG, MSDHS, AMLO, Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau (CCIB), ATPD, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Justice Mission (IJM) Thailand, O.U.R. and HUG Project, organised “The road towards Tier 1: Capacity Building for the Royal Police Cadet Academy” for 121 police cadets between 6 - 10 January 2023. The training aimed at enhancing their understanding on the process of prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons, national and transnational referral mechanisms, the use of trauma-informed care, technology and digital forensic investigation, the role of anti-money laundering on suppressing organised crimes, and the rights of human trafficking or forced labour victims, as well as fostering networks between police cadets and other officers.¹⁸

2) OAG Roundtable Discussion

OAG, with financial support from IJM Thailand, organised a roundtable discussion on enhancing efficacy of the Coordination Center for Trafficking Victims (CCTV) and other agencies responsible for protecting the rights of human trafficking victims. 53 officers participated in the discussion to exchange information and enhance coordination.

¹⁸ U.S. Recommendation: (2) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of new guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti- trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims, (3) Ensure multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) are composed of officials who are trained and have sufficient experience working trafficking cases to improve the effectiveness of victim identifications, and (6) Ensure the use of trauma- informed procedures by government officials during interviews with potential victims, including during labor inspections.



3) Workshop for Judges on Consideration Procedures for Human Trafficking Cases

In February 2023, the Courts of Justice, in collaboration with ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT), organised a workshop for judges working on human trafficking cases from the Courts of First Instance, Courts of Appeal, and the Supreme Court to enhance their knowledge, understanding, and consideration on relevant laws and legal procedures. The workshop aimed at improving efficacy and expediting the Courts' consideration procedure in accordance with the spirit and objective of the law.

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



In March 2023, the Office of the Judiciary and the Court of Justice (COJ), in collaboration with IJM Thailand, organised a training for 30 COJ registered and freelance translators on human trafficking cases, including legal aspects of the cases, the Courts' consideration procedures, and practices for human trafficking prosecution, to enhance their understanding on working human trafficking cases and improve the effectiveness of their translation services for foreign litigants and witnesses in line with international laws and standards.

Protection

The Royal Thai Government (RTG) continued to advance inter-agency cooperation to provide effective protection and assistance services to victims of trafficking in persons and forced labour or services in line with the victim-centred and victim-friendly approaches. Government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and international organisations worked closely together throughout all stages under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) from front-line notification, screening, victim identification, and protection.

Key Progress during January - March 2023

1. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) and relevant agencies continued to implement NRM across the country. During January - March 2023, 55 potential victims were found from the initial screening process and referred to Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) for victim identification. During the reflection period, 26 were identified as victims, all of which were subsequently referred to shelters for protection services.¹

2. Provincial Victim Identification Centres were established in all 10 pilot provinces for NRM implementation, where local operational plans with clear structure and tasks assigned to each local agency were introduced and practiced, and budgets were allocated to provide assistance and services for potential victims.²

3. Since January 2023, the Government provided protection services to 71 newly identified victims of human trafficking, 41 of which chose to stay in government shelters, whereas 30 opted to stay outside of shelters.

4. During this period, the Government provided a total of THB 1,091,370.18 (USD 31,361.21) financial remedies from the Anti-Trafficking in Person Fund to victims. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) also provided a total amount of THB 444,000.00 (USD 12,758.62) compensation to 15 victims of criminal cases.

¹ U.S. Recommendation: (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims.

² U.S. Recommendation: (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims.

5. The Government provided legal assistance to 35 victims in filing charges for compensation claims against their offenders, with the total amount of THB 13,427,320.37 (USD 385,842.54) composed of compensation for victims' physical and mental injuries, loss of reputation and freedom, as well as loss of income.

6. A series of trauma-informed care trainings were held for 350 personnel across all 12 government and private-run shelters, as well as 450 officials responsible for interviewing, identifying and providing services to victims across 77 provinces to enhance their efficacy in using trauma-informed approach in all stages under NRM, particularly during the extended reflection period.³

7. MSDHS has developed the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Shelter Operation, which include a guideline for Freedom of Movement (FOM), for all shelters' officials to ensure that their operations are in line with international principles.⁴

8. In February 2023, an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Supervising and Monitoring of Assistance and Remedies for Human Trafficking Victims, which was established in November 2022 and consists of human trafficking survivors and NGO representatives as committee members, set a 60-day timeframe for relevant agencies such as the Royal Thai Police (RTP), the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), MSDHS and MOJ to provide assistance and determine the appropriate amount of remedies for victims from the date of notifying victims of their rights.

1. Implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and Reflection Period⁵

Since its adoption by the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee in March 2022, NRM has served as a guideline for all relevant agencies to assist and protect potential victims from the initial screening to official identification.

³ U.S. Recommendation: (2) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of new guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti- trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims, (3) Ensure multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) are composed of officials who are trained and have sufficient experience working trafficking cases to improve the effectiveness of victim identifications, (6) Ensure the use of trauma- informed procedures by government officials during interviews with potential victims, including during labor inspections, and (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims.

⁴ U.S. Recommendation: (5) Increase the ability of victims, especially adults, to move freely in and out of shelters and access communication devices and reassess shelter placements periodically to ensure victims are not required to remain in shelters longer than necessary, (9) Ensure government and NGO-operated shelters provide victims with adequate trauma-informed and individualized care, such as legal assistance and psychological care, and develop consistent policies on victim services across all shelters, and (11) Expand legal alternatives to foreign victims' placement in shelters, such as enabling victims to exit the shelter system when they are ready to pursue outside employment opportunities.

⁵ U.S. Recommendation: (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims.

1.1 Implementation of NRM

Implementation of NRM continued to be carried out countrywide. Between January - March 2023, 55 potential victims were found from initial screening process and referred to MDTs for victim identification. During the reflection period, 26 were identified as victims, all of which were subsequently referred to shelters for protection services.



Furthermore, provincial Victim Identification Centres were established in all 10 pilot provinces, where local operational plans with clear structure and tasks assigned to each local agency were introduced and practiced, and budgets were allocated for assistance and services for potential victims.

1.2 Cooperation with International Organisations and Civil Society on the implementation of NRM⁶



⁶ U.S. Recommendation: (2) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of new guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti- trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims, and (3) Ensure multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) are composed of officials who are trained and have sufficient experience working trafficking cases to improve the effectiveness of victim identifications.

The NRM Subcommittee, in collaboration with MSDHS and with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), arranged a series of meetings and consultations with civil society, such as “*Open Heart Discussion on Anti-Human Trafficking*”, “*Civil Society’s Participation in NRM*” and “*Recommendations for the Government’s Human Trafficking Prevention and Suppression Efforts*”, to enhance cooperation and coordination among government agencies and NGOs in implementing NRM. A total of 77 representatives from government agencies and 32 NGOs participated in the meetings.

2. Protection and Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking

2.1 Victim Screening and Identification

During January - March 2023, relevant agencies screened 689 persons. 71 persons were identified as victims. Details appear in [Table 1](#).

Table 1: Number of Interviewed Persons during January - March 2023

Nationality	Persons Interviewed	Gender		Age		Result	
		Male	Female	Under 18 years old	Over 18 years old	Victims	Not Victims
Thai	72	24	48	49	23	53	19
Myanmar	575	442	133	13	562	16	559
Rohingya	2	2	0	0	2	1	1
Cambodian	8	8	0	2	6	0	8
Laotian	7	4	3	1	6	1	6
Others	25	18	7	0	25	0	25
Total	689	498	191	65	624	71	618

2.2 Protection and Assistance for Victims

During the first three months of 2023, the Government continued to provide protection and assistance to 71 victims of human trafficking, and forced labour or services. Of this number, 41 (57.75%) chose to stay in government shelters, where they were provided with protection and assistance services, in line with the victim-centred and trauma-informed care approaches.⁷ Another 30 victims (42.25%) opted to stay outside of shelters and continued to receive the same protection and assistance as those who stayed in shelters, namely periodic visits and financial aid from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund, in accordance with their voluntary needs.⁸ Emphasis was placed on ensuring the confidentiality of the victims who did not wish to reveal their personal information. Details appear in [Table 2 - 4](#).

⁷ U.S. Recommendation: (6) Ensure the use of trauma-informed procedures by government officials during interviews with potential victims, including during labor inspections, and (9) Ensure government and NGO-operated shelters provide victims with adequate trauma-informed and individualized care, such as legal assistance and psychological care, and develop consistent policies on victim services across all shelters.

⁸ U.S. Recommendation: (12) Do not make victims’ formal identification and access to services dependent on their willingness to participate in investigations against their traffickers.

Table 2: Victims Entering Shelters during January - March 2023

Total number of victims	Victims staying outside shelters	Victims staying in shelters	
		Government shelters	Private-run shelters
71	30 (42.25%)	41 (57.75%)	0 (0.00%)

Table 3: Statistic of Victims Entering Government Shelters during January - March 2023

			Nationality				Total Number of Males and Females	All Ages	All Types	
			Thai	Laotian	Myanmar National	Rohinya				
Types of exploitation	Age	Gender								
		Prostitution	Child	Male	3	-	-	-	3	24
	Female			21	-	-	-	21		
	Adult		Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	
			Female	-	-	-	-	-		
	Pornography	Child	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Female	-	-	-	-	-		
		Adult	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	
			Female	-	-	-	-	-		
	Forced begging	Child	Male	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
			Female	-	-	-	1	1		
		Adult	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	
			Female	-	-	-	-	-		
	Forced labour	Child	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
			Female	-	-	-	-	-		
		Adult	Male	-	-	12	-	12	16	
Female			-	-	4	-	4			
Total	Child	Male	3	-	-	-	3	25	41	
		Female	21	-	-	1	22			
	Adult	Male	-	-	12	-	12	16		
		Female	-	-	4	-	4			
All nationalities			24	-	16	1				

Table 4: Victims Opting to Stay outside of Shelters during January - March 2023

Nationality	Prostitution			Pornography			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Thai	0	20	20	9	0	9	9	20	29
Laotian	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	0	21	21	9	0	9	9	21	30

2.3 Reintegration of Victims into the Society

Between January - March 2023, 24 victims in shelters returned to their families and reintegrated into society. Of this number, 15 returned to their countries of origin, four were resettled and five exited the shelter system and remained in Thailand for their employment according to their wishes.⁹ Details appear in [Table 5](#).

Table 5: Statistic of Reintegration of Victims into Society during January - March 2023

Nationality	Number of Victims Reintegrating into Society	Government Shelters	Privately-Run Shelters	Note
Thai	5	5	0	Returned to families
Myanmar	13	13	0	Returned to country of origin
Laotian	2	2	0	Returned to country of origin
Rohingya	4	4	0	Resettled
Total	24	24	0	

2.4 Witness Protection Programme¹⁰

The Rights and Liberties Protection Department (RLPD), MOJ continued to protect 22 witnesses under the Witness Protection Programme, 21 of which have been in the Programme since 2022. During January - March 2023, a total of THB 1,500,554.90 (USD 43,119.39) was spent on activities for these witnesses such as recreational activities, education, psychiatric care, and family reunification assistance. ([Table 6](#))

Table 6: Numbers of Witnesses and Budget used for Witnesses Protection in Trafficking Cases

Year	Numbers of Witnesses Receiving Assistance	Amount of Budget (THB)
2021	16	5,236,312.74
2022	35	5,053,591.63
Jan - Mar 2023	22*	1,500,554.90

Note: 21 witnesses have been receiving protection since 2022.

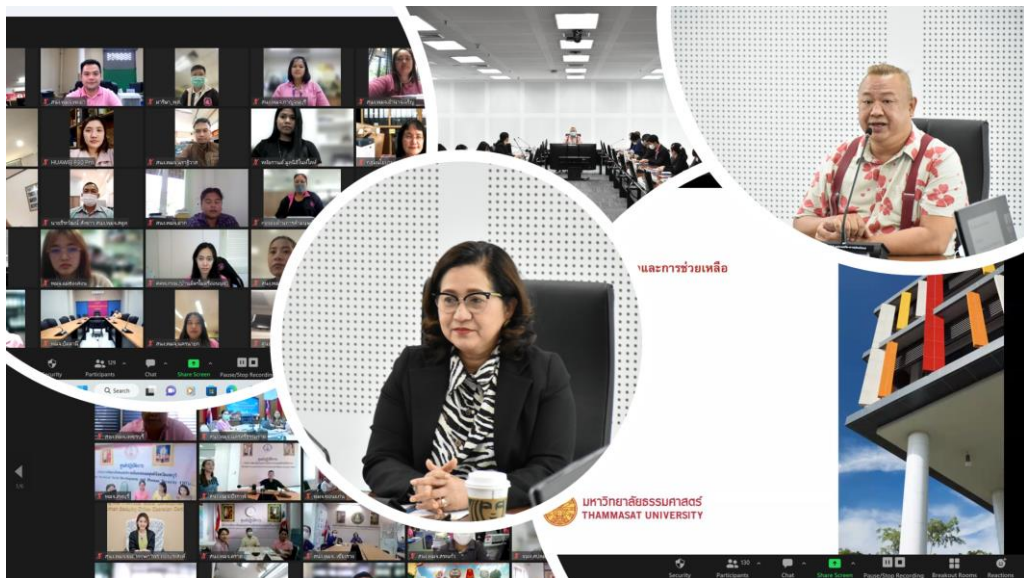
⁹ U.S. Recommendation: (11) Expand legal alternatives to foreign victims' placement in shelters, such as enabling victims to exit the shelter system when they are ready to pursue outside employment opportunities.

¹⁰ U.S. Recommendation: (14) Foster an environment conducive to victims and advocates reporting human trafficking crimes without fear of facing spurious retributive charges pursued by employers, including by utilizing recent legal amendments to dismiss cases filed with dishonest intent or to intimidate defendants.

3. Enhancing the Use of Trauma-Informed Care Approach¹¹



A series of trauma-informed care trainings were held for 350 personnel across all 12 government and privately-run shelters, as well as 450 officials responsible for interviewing, identifying and providing services to victims across 77 provinces to enhance efficacy in using an adequate trauma-informed approach in all stages under NRM, particularly during the extended reflection period.



¹¹ U.S. Recommendation: (6) Ensure the use of trauma-informed procedures by government officials during interviews with potential victims, including during labor inspections, and (9) Ensure government and NGO-operated shelters provide victims with adequate trauma-informed and individualized care, such as legal assistance and psychological care, and develop consistent policies on victim services across all shelters.

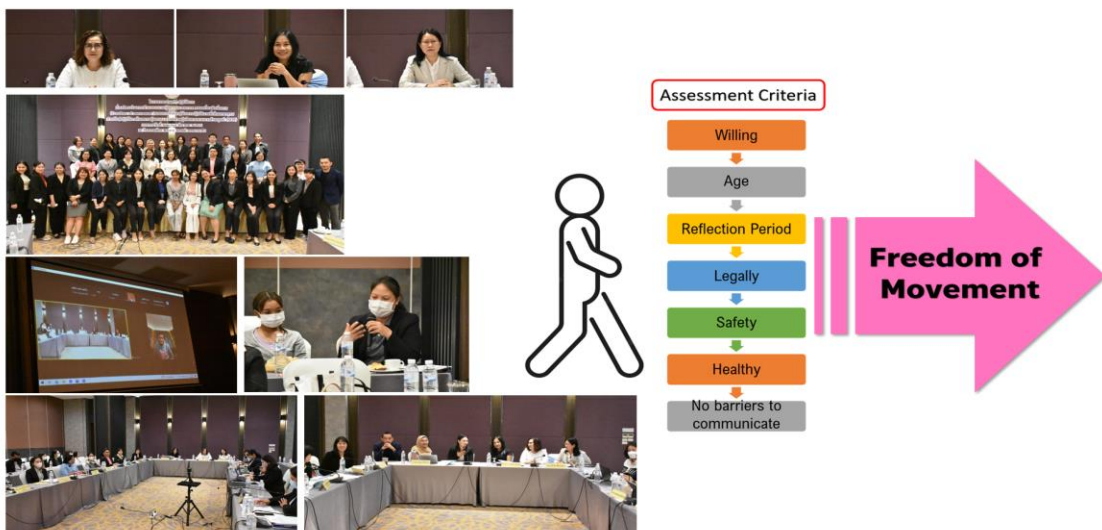
4. Advancement of Shelter Services

4.1 Development of SOPs for Shelter Operation¹²



MSDHS, in consultation with survivors who previously received services from shelters, officials from privately-run shelters, and NGO experts working in shelters, developed SOPs for Shelter Operation, which include a guideline for FOM for all shelters' officials to ensure that their operations are in line with international principles. SOPs became effective in March 2023.

4.2 Guideline for FOM and Accessibility to Communication Devices¹³



¹² U.S. Recommendation: (5) Increase the ability of victims, especially adults, to move freely in and out of shelters and access communication devices and reassess shelter placements periodically to ensure victims are not required to remain in shelters longer than necessary, and (9) Ensure government and NGO-operated shelters provide victims with adequate trauma-informed and individualized care, such as legal assistance and psychological care, and develop consistent policies on victim services across all shelters.

¹³ U.S. Recommendation: (5) Increase the ability of victims, especially adults, to move freely in and out of shelters and access communication devices and reassess shelter placements periodically to ensure victims are not required to remain in shelters longer than necessary.

MSDHS and shelters jointly developed the assessment criteria for the implementation of FOM in order to ensure victims' safety in line with human rights principles. The criteria became effective in March 2023 as part of SOPs for Shelter Operation.

4.3 Capacity-Building Workshop on the Implementation of FOM¹⁴



In January 2023, MSDHS, in collaboration with ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT), held a capacity-building workshop for officials working in shelters, with a focus on preparation of the victim impact statements and the use of victim-centred and trauma-informed care approaches.

4.4 Installation and Renovation of Mock Courts



¹⁴ U.S. Recommendation: (9) Ensure government and NGO-operated shelters provide victims with adequate trauma-informed and individualized care, such as legal assistance and psychological care, and develop consistent policies on victim services across all shelters.

MSDHS, in collaboration with the Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.), installed and renovated moot courts in all government shelters in order to familiarise the victims with the setting and witness testimony procedure in courts.

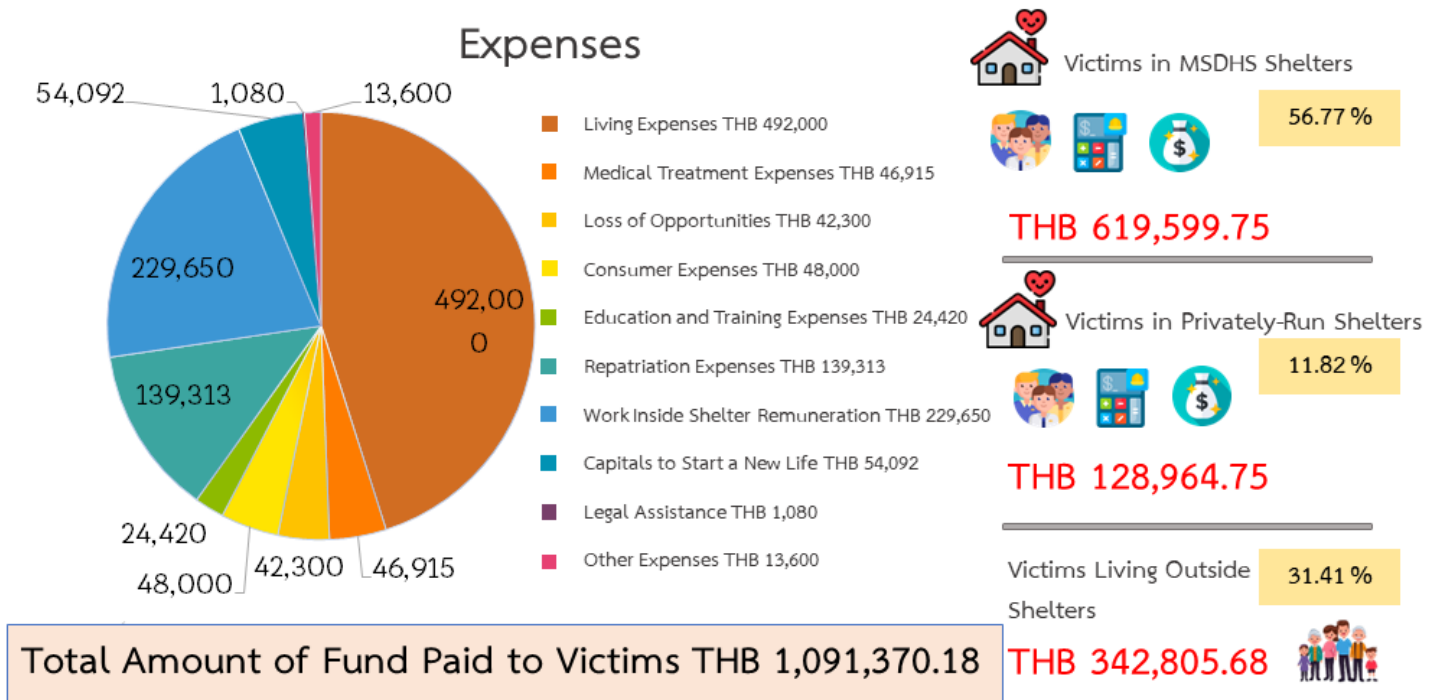
5. Financial Assistance for Victims

The Government continued to provide financial remedies to victims of trafficking in persons and forced labour or services. The financial remedies came from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund as a primary source, MOJ’s fund for criminal cases who suffered from physical and mental trauma, and claims from offenders through legal assistance from government agencies.

5.1 Remedies for Victims under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund¹⁵

From January - March 2023, a total of THB 1,091,370.18 (USD 34,361.21) of financial assistance from the Anti-Human Trafficking Fund were paid to victims. Of this amount, THB 748,564.50 (USD 21,510.47) or 68.59% was provided to victims staying in shelters, and THB 342,805.68 (USD 9,850.74) or 31.41% was provided to victims staying outside shelters. The compensation was paid for living expenses, medical treatment, essential items, education and training, repatriation, work inside shelter remuneration, reintegration into society, and other expenses including legal assistance and rehabilitation. Details appear in Diagram 1.

Diagram 1: Financial Assistance from Anti-Trafficking Fund by Category



¹⁵ U.S. Recommendation: (12) Do not make victims’ formal identification and access to services dependent on their willingness to participate in investigations against their traffickers.

In addition, an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Supervising and Monitoring of Assistance and Remedies for Human Trafficking Victims, which was established in November 2022 and consists of survivors and NGO representatives as committee members, set a 60-day timeframe for relevant agencies such as RTP, OAG, MSDHS and MOJ to provide assistance and determine the appropriate amount of remedies for victims from the date of notifying victims of their rights. The Ad-Hoc Subcommittee will also set up a working group to monitor and expedite the assistance services and hold meetings on a monthly basis.

Case Study: Rebuilding a New Life from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund

While staying in the shelter, an underage female victim was provided with training on sewing, as part of the efforts to provide individualised care to increase opportunities for victims to pursue employment after reintegration.

At the end of the protection service, the shelter undertook assessment for reintegration and found that the victim had potential to master her skills in sewing and develop her own sewing business. MSDHS therefore approved THB 59,000 (USD 1,695.40) from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund for the victim to take a six-month advanced sewing course, and THB 12,000 (USD 344.83) to take a non-formal education. The costs of the accommodation were also covered throughout her study period with the case manager being assigned to follow-up on her development.

Recognising the victim's capabilities and her readiness to pursue a sewing business, the case manager then requested THB 64,092 (USD 1,841.72) from the Fund for the victim to start a new life with a view to prevent her from being re-victimised. Currently, with the financial assistance from the Fund, the victim was able to rebuild her life by running her own sewing business. She was also involved in the development of SOPs for Shelter Operation and provided useful recommendations to advance protection services in line with victims' best interest.

5.2 Compensation for Victims and Witnesses in Criminal Cases

RLPD provided compensation in accordance with the Compensation for Victims and Expenses for Defendant in Criminal Cases Act, B.E. 2544 (2001) and B.E. 2559 (2006) amendment, to 15 victims, amounting to THB 444,000 (USD 12,758.62). Details appear in [Table 7](#).

Table 7: Statistics of compensation provided to victims in the criminal cases (Trafficking in Persons Cases)

Year	Number of Victims Receiving Compensation	Total Compensation (THB)
2021	51	546,620
2022	78	1,693,900
Jan - Mar 2023	15	444,000

5.3 Assistance on Compensation Claims from Offenders

The Government continued to ensure that all victims receive equal financial remedies from offenders, regardless of their decision to stay in or out of shelters. During the first quarter of 2023, the Government provided legal assistance to 35 victims with a total claim amount of THB 13,427,320.37 (USD 385,842.54) against their offenders, and to 93 additional victims from 2022 with a total amount of THB 32,792,876.00 (USD 942,324.02). Details appear in [Table 8](#).

Table 8: Claims made by Victims

Year	Number of Cases	Number of Victims Receiving Compensation	Total Compensation (THB)
2022*	166	297	103,331,840.00
Jan - Mar 2023	16	35	13,427,320.37

Note: *The number of cases and victims receiving compensation in 2022 were updated after the release of the RTG's 2022 Country Report.

6. Cooperation to Enhance Efficacy of Protection and Assistance Service

6.1 The Operation Centre for Protection of Rights relating to Human Trafficking Cases

Following the establishment of two Operation Centres for Protection of Rights relating to Human Trafficking Cases within the Provincial Justice Offices in Chiang Mai and Ubon Ratchathani in November 2022, the Centres conducted two capacity-building workshops in January 2023 for local officers in order to jointly develop action plans on protecting and providing legal assistance to victims of human trafficking.

As a result of the newly introduced action plans, the Centres were able to provide assistance services to 18 victims filing for compensation claims from the offenders, and also reviewed 106 financial remedies requests filed during 2020 - 2022 in order to ensure that all victims receive compensation in accordance with their rights. In addition, the Centres also organised activities to increase awareness among children, youths and workers in local communities on anti-human trafficking, as well as set up a public network of 400 people to collaborate with government officials in preventing trafficking in persons in communities.

6.2 Thailand-Cambodia Cooperation on the Establishment of the Transit and Reception Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking and Other Vulnerable Groups in Poipet, Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia



RTG and the Cambodian Government signed an MOU in 2016 to establish the Transit and Reception Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking and Other Vulnerable Groups in Poipet, Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia. The Centre, once completed, will provide all-inclusive services to victims of human trafficking and other vulnerable groups. The services would include mental and psychological rehabilitation, short-term and long-term vocational training as well as skills development programmes.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)'s Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) granted financial assistance to the construction of the Centre, which began in September 2022. TICA also provides technical assistance for the operation of the Centre, including development of operational guidelines and trainings for officials from the Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSVY) who will operate the Centre upon its completion.

6.3 The 27th Thailand-Myanmar Case Management Meeting (CMM) on Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking

MSDHS, in cooperation with Myanmar's Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, held the 27th Thailand-Myanmar Case Management Meeting (CMM) on Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in February 2023. The Meeting was one of the activities included in the joint operational plan under the 2009 MOU between Thailand and Myanmar on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which aims to promote cooperation among relevant agencies of both countries in protecting and providing legal assistance to victims in order to ensure their effective repatriation and reintegration.



6.4 Thailand-Lao PDR Bilateral Meeting



MSDHS' Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DATIP) and Lao PDR's Division of Secretariat to the National Guiding Committee on Anti-Human Trafficking held a meeting in March 2023 in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, where both sides approved the second phase of the operational plan (2023-2025) under the MOU between RTG and the Government of Lao PDR on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons, signed in 2017. The plan was developed based on the review of the first phase of operational plans, to enhance effectiveness of cooperation as well as to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in both countries.

* * * * *

Prevention

The Royal Thai Government (RTG) continued to carry out and advance preventive measures in order to ensure that Thai citizens and foreign nationals residing in Thailand – regardless of their nationality, gender and social status – would not fall victim to human trafficking and forced labour, as well as receive equal treatment and access to services in accordance with their rights.

Key Progress during January - March 2023

1. Between October 2022 - February 2023, labour inspectors across the country continued to use the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for labour trafficking and Section 6/1 offences and conducted 1,108 initial victim screenings, covering 27,673 workers. They were able to identify 13 potential victims who were then referred to the Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) for further identification, in accordance with the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).¹

2. The Ministry of Labour (MOL) conducted a series of workshops and discussions with relevant government agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to evaluate and review the efficacy of SOPs. The information and recommendations received will be used to revise the interview form and improve the efficacy of SOPs, which will be submitted to the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee for approval.²

3. A series of capacity-building workshops were held for 138 labour inspectors and MDTs on the implementation of SOPs and NRM to enhance their understanding, efficacy and coordination on victim identification. The workshops will be further conducted throughout 2023.³

4. The Royal Thai Police (RTP) conducted a series of capacity-building trainings for 390 police officers and MDT members to increase their efficacy in protecting migrant workers' rights and preventing violations of labour laws,

¹ U.S. Recommendation: (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims, (8) Increase awareness among relevant officials of less understood trafficking indicators, such as debt-based coercion, excessive overtime, confiscation of documents, and nonpayment of wages, and (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement.

² U.S. Recommendation: (2) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of new guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti- trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims, and (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims.

³ U.S. Recommendation: (2) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of new guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti- trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims, (3) Ensure multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) are composed of officials who are trained and have sufficient experience working trafficking cases to improve the effectiveness of victim identifications.

which are key factors leading to trafficking in persons. RTP plans to organise more trainings for additional 260 officials throughout 2023.

4. The Government continued to promote public awareness on human trafficking and forced labour through trainings and public awareness campaigns, especially among risk groups, including migrant workers in Thailand, Thai labour seeking overseas employment, and youth, to prevent them from being lured into forced labour and becoming victims of human trafficking. In 2023, the campaign reached 3,510 people.

5. A new manual for the operation of the Port-In Port-Out Control Centres (PIPO) was developed to include several measures to increase the efficacy of vessel inspection at PIPO facilities. A series of training will also be provided to 882 relevant officials throughout 2023.⁴

1. Legal Amendments and Improvements

During January - March 2023, Thailand continued to review and improve laws and regulations to further strengthen the prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons and forced labour in accordance with relevant international laws and standards.

1.1 Improving Efficacy of SOPs for Labour Trafficking and Section 6/1 Offences

During October 2022 - February 2023, labour inspectors across the country continued to use SOPs and conducted 1,108 initial victim screenings, covering 27,673 workers. They were able to identify 13 potential victims who were then referred to MDTs for further identification in accordance with NRM.⁵

In addition, MOL, in collaboration with the International Justice Mission (IJM) Thailand, continued to conduct a series of workshops and discussions with relevant agencies, NGOs and private sector, to evaluate and

⁴ U.S. Recommendation: (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims, (8) Increase awareness among relevant officials of less understood trafficking indicators, such as debt-based coercion, excessive overtime, confiscation of documents, and nonpayment of wages, (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement, and (13) 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 and contracts.

⁵ U.S. Recommendation: (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims, (8) Increase awareness among relevant officials of less understood trafficking indicators, such as debt-based coercion, excessive overtime, confiscation of documents, and nonpayment of wages, and (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement.

review the efficacy of SOPs in accordance with the SOPs improvement plan. Four workshops among central and local labour officials were held in Chiang Rai, Chonburi, Ranong, and Ayudhya during November 2022 - January 2023, and two consultations with NGOs and private sector on relevant laws regarding forced labour were conducted in February 2023. Relevant agencies had two meetings in February - March 2023 to discuss the information and recommendations received from the workshops and consultations to revise the interview form and SOPs.⁶



1.2 Approval of the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare Regulations with Revised Provisions on Penalties

To ensure that the severity of the penalties for violation of fishery workers' rights and forced labour in fisheries sector is in line with the Government's policies and international standards, the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW), through the Sub-Committee on Screening Laws Relating to Fisheries Sector and Workers, expedited the amendments of provisions on penalties under relevant fisheries laws and regulations, and, in March 2023, approved the "DLPW Regulations on Labour Inspection and Criminal Prosecution in Accordance to MOL's Ministerial Regulations on the Protection of Labour in the Marine Fisheries, B.E. 2565 (2022)". The revised regulations include, among others, an increased severity of the penalties for violation of fisheries laws, as well as an operating timeframe for relevant officials to initiate criminal cases against employers within 10 days of being found in violation of the laws.⁷

1.3 New Manual for Inspection and Operations

A new manual for the operation of PIPO was developed to include several measures to increase the efficacy of vessel inspection at PIPO. These include, among others, operating procedures in case of workers falling into the

⁶ U.S. Recommendation: (2) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of new guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti- trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims, and (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims.

⁷ U.S. Recommendation: (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement, and (13) 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 and contracts and.

sea, details for inspection of fisheries workers' seabooks, and installation of work safety signs across fishing vessels. A series of training will also be provided to 882 relevant officials throughout 2023.⁸

2. Prevention of Trafficking in Thai Labours Seeking Overseas Employment

2.1 Awareness-Raising Campaigns through various media outlets continued to be carried out to prevent those interested in seeking overseas employment from falling victims. The campaigns reached 113,292 people during January - February 2023.

2.2 Surveillance and Prevention of Those Deemed Suspicious to Illegally Travel to Work Overseas through 25 border checkpoints in 19 provinces were conducted between January - February 2023 by the Department of Employment (DOE), in collaboration with relevant agencies, such as airlines, Immigration Bureau, and Thai Offices of Labour Affairs in 12 countries. During January - March 2023, 96 workers out of 15,808 inspected were denied departure in order to minimise their risks of falling victims to human trafficking abroad. The top five destinations for illegal employment were Australia, South Korea, Malaysia, Türkiye, and Nigeria.

2.3 Investigation of Recruitment Agencies for Thai Overseas Job Seekers by DOE resulted in 28 individuals being charged in 28 cases of labour fraud and recruitment of workers without a license. All cases are being handled by inquiry officers.⁹

2.4 Protecting Thai Berry Pickers in Finland

In response to reports on incidents of Thai berry pickers in Finland falling victims to human trafficking, the Royal Thai Embassy (RTE) in Helsinki has proactively discussed with relevant Finnish authorities, particularly the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, on measures for Thai workers to be provided with appropriate workers' rights and welfare as well as decent working and living conditions equivalent to the rights of Finnish seasonal workers.

⁸ U.S. Recommendation: (7) Ensure the effective implementation of the NRM and extension of the new reflection period for victims, (8) Increase awareness among relevant officials of less understood trafficking indicators, such as debt-based coercion, excessive overtime, confiscation of documents, and nonpayment of wages, (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement, and (13) 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 and contracts.

⁹ U.S. Recommendation: (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement.

While the discussions between the Thai and Finnish authorities are still ongoing to ensure that Thai berry pickers will eventually be engaged in employment contracts as seasonal workers, DOE took further steps to prevent the risk of recurrence of human trafficking by issuing a new measure in January 2023. Under this new measure, from 2023 season onward, DOE will only grant permission to travel to Finland to Thai berry pickers who enter into employment contracts with the DOE-approved Thai coordinators for Finnish wild berry companies. This is to ensure that rights and welfare of Thai workers are protected, and the grievance mechanisms are put in place. Furthermore, DOE also placed certain Finnish wild berry companies on a Blacklist for not resolving complaints and problems concerning Thai berry pickers in 2022.

3. Prevention of Trafficking in Migrant Workers in Thailand

As the country reopens after the ease of COVID-19 restrictions, RTG continued to implement measures to facilitate the extensions of stay for migrant workers, as well as to protect and prevent them from becoming potential trafficking or forced labour victims. Efforts were carried out through the following measures.

3.1 Extension of Migrant Permit Renewal

In February 2023, the Cabinet approved MOL's proposal for 1,719,231 migrant workers of four nationalities (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam) who had been allowed to work in Thailand until 13 February 2023 and were in the process of renewing passports with their home countries' authorities, to (1) extend the period for submitting relevant documents for work permit renewals to DOE by 15 May 2023, and, upon approval, be able to stay and work in the Kingdom until 13 February 2024 or 13 February 2025; and (2) further extend a period of Certificate of Identity (CI)'s application for Myanmar migrant workers in four provinces (Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakan, Ranong and Chon Buri) until 13 May 2023.

3.2 Frequent Inspections of Employers and Business Establishments¹⁰

In January 2023, MOL conducted labour and welfare inspections at 4,391 workplaces at risk of committing potential trafficking in persons or forced labour offences, covering 38,887 migrant workers, to ensure that workplaces uphold workers' rights in compliance with laws and regulations to prevent migrant workers from becoming victims of human trafficking or forced labour.

¹⁰ U.S. Recommendation: (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement, and (13) 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 and contracts.

Of this number, 128 workplaces/employers were found in violation of labour laws, 18 employers were issued MOL rectification orders with fine penalty, and 110 employers' cases were sent to inquiry officers for further investigation. The employers were fined a total of THB 42,000 (USD 1,206.90) for employing migrants without work permits and for not reporting employment of migrant workers. No case of labour trafficking or forced labour was found.

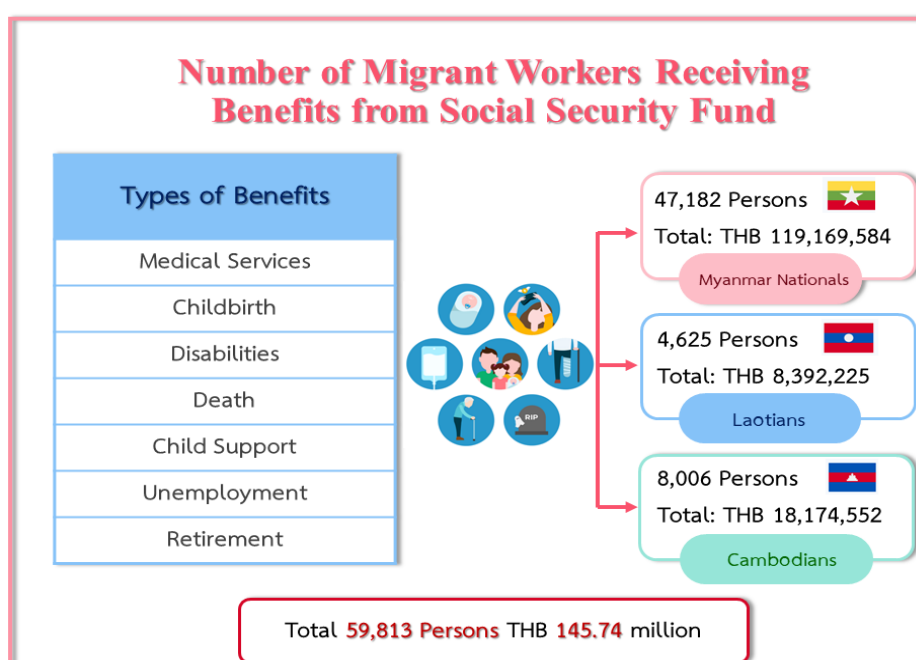
3.3 Migrant Workers' Rights and Improving Networks in Providing Assistance to Migrant Workers

The Government has worked to ensure that all 3,310,090 migrant workers in Thailand (statistics as of 31 January 2023) are provided with equal rights and protection, without discrimination against nationality, gender, or social status, in accordance with relevant international principles. Migrant workers are also provided with the same protection as Thai workers under the Social Protection Act, B.E. 2533 (1990) and relevant amendments, and the Financial Compensation Act, B.E. 2537 (1994) and relevant amendments. For those not eligible for protection under the aforementioned legislation, officials ensured that they are compensated by their employers in the event of injury or illness.

1) Social Security Fund

From January - February 2023, a total of THB 145,736,362.34 (USD 4,187,826.50) was distributed under the Social Protection Act to 59,813 workers for reasons such as illness, childbirth, deaths, and unemployment. Details appear in [Diagram 1](#).

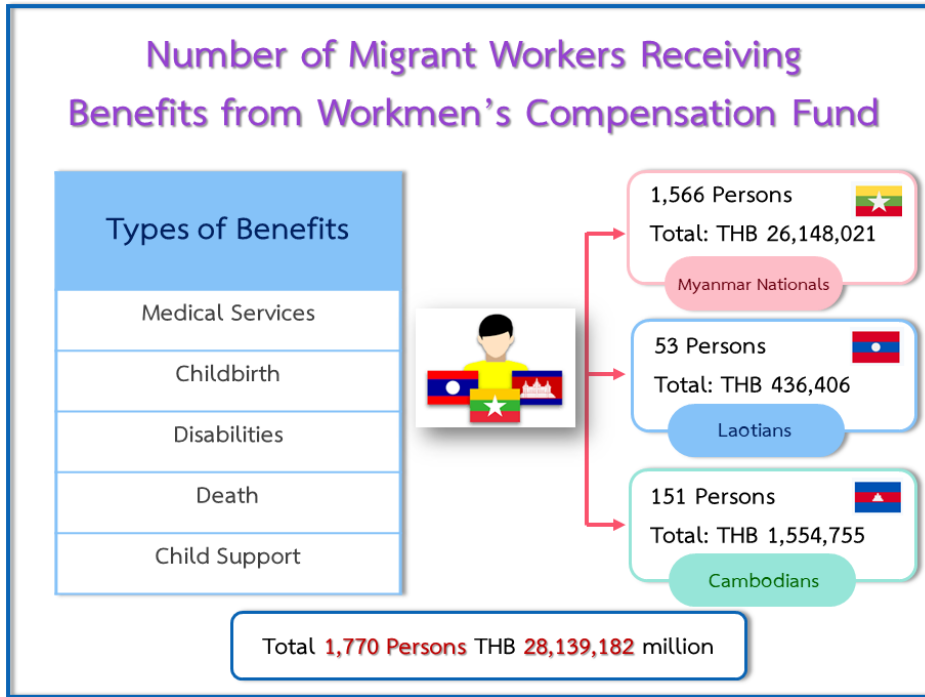
Diagram 1: Number of Migrant Workers Receiving Benefits from the Social Security Fund



2) Workmen's Compensation Fund

During the same period, a total of THB 28,139,182.00 (USD 808,597.18) from the Workmen's Compensation Fund under the Financial Compensation Act was distributed to 1,770 workers for reasons such as illness, childbirth, deaths, and leave. Details appear in Diagram 2.

Diagram 2: Number of Migrant Workers Receiving Benefits from the Workmen's Compensation Fund



3) Migrant Workers Assistance Centres

The Government's Migrant Workers Assistance Centres across 10 provinces, in collaboration with international organisations and NGOs, provided recommendations, considered complaints, and coordinated with relevant agencies in order to provide assistance to migrant workers in Thailand. In January 2023, the Centres and their partners offered services to a total of 3,326 migrant workers.¹¹

¹¹ U.S. Recommendation: (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement, and (13) 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 and contracts.

3.4 Protection of Labour Rights under the Labour Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (1998)

MOL continued to strictly implement the Labour Protection Act to ensure that all workers, both Thai and foreign nationals, receive fair benefits and welfare without discrimination. From January - February 2023, DLWP assisted 4,440 workers requesting for compensation under the Labour Protection Act. A total of THB 10,458,086.30 (USD 300,519.72) was compensated to those workers.

3.5 Awareness-Raising Campaigns for Migrant Workers



MOL organised campaigns to raise awareness and better understanding on the Government’s policies related to the management, protection and assistance provided to migrant workers based on the principle of “equal treatment among Thai and migrant workers”. The campaign reached 600 migrant workers and employers in six provinces during January - March 2023.

4. Labour Inspection and Protection

4.1 Labour Inspector¹²

Currently, Thailand has a total of 2,693 labour inspectors, which is equivalent to one inspector per 5,408.52 workers. The number of labour inspectors in 2022 represents a significant increase of 42.56% (804 inspectors) from 2021 as a result of increasing number of eligible officials applying to be labour inspectors following the nationwide implementation of NRM. The inspector-worker ratio exceeds the International Labour Organization (ILO)’s policy and technical advice of 1/15,000 in industrialising economies. (Table 1)

¹² U.S. Recommendation: (1) Increase trafficking prosecutions and convictions, particularly for labor trafficking, (8) Increase awareness among relevant officials of less understood trafficking indicators, such as debt-based coercion, excessive overtime, confiscation of documents, and nonpayment of wages, and : (13) 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 and contracts.

Table 1: Number of Labour Inspectors in Relation to Workers

Year	Workers under Section 33	Migrant Workers	Total Workers	Labour Inspectors	Labour Inspector / Workers
2020	11,124,209	2,512,328	13,636,537	1,889	7,218.92
2021	11,137,211	2,350,677	13,487,888	1,889	7,140.23
2022	11,570,678	2,994,453	14,565,131	2,693	5,408.52

4.2 Fishery Worker Inspections¹³

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

1) PIPO continued to regularly carry out vessel inspections. From January - February 2023, PIPO conducted inspections on 1,310 vessels, covering 19,830 workers. Nine vessels' owners and 147 workers were found to be in violation of the law and regulations, mostly related to the issues of rest time, wage payment documents, and work contracts. The labour inspectors issued six ratification orders and submitted three cases for prosecution.

2) During the same period, the Marine Fisheries Protection and Suppression Centre conducted labour inspections at sea on 70 vessels, covering 1,208 workers. No violation was found as a result of strict inspection and strong law enforcement at ports.

4.3 Frequent Inspections of Employers and Business Establishments¹⁴

During January - February 2023, MOL conducted labour and welfare inspections at 4,758 employers and business establishments, covering 154,730 workers to ensure workers' rights and compliance with laws and regulations, preventing migrant workers from becoming victims of human trafficking or forced labour. Details are as follows:

¹³ U.S. Recommendation: (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement, and (13) 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 and contracts.

¹⁴ U.S. Recommendation: (10) Ensure labor violations and migrant workers' complaints that include indicators of forced labor are investigated for trafficking crimes, including by enforcing procedures for labor officials to refer potential cases of labor trafficking to MDTs and law enforcement, and (13) 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 and contracts.

1) DLPW inspected 4,444 business establishments at risk of child labour and forced labour, covering 145,043 workers. 1,231 business establishments and 43,294 workers were found in violation of labour law. DLPW issued 1,201 MOL rectification orders and one business establishment was prosecuted.

2) DLPW conducted welfare inspections of 314 employers and business establishments situated in remote areas, covering 9,687 workers. 238 workplaces and 8,097 workers were found in violation of labour laws. DLPW issued 155 MOL rectification orders. Six business establishments and employers were prosecuted (Table 2).

Table 2: Labour Inspections Conducted across Sectors of Business Establishments

Places	Number of Establishments/ Workers Inspected		Labour Related Violation		Prosecution Process		Completed cases	
	Establishments	Workers	Establishments	Workers	Establishments	Cases	Rectification Order	Prosecution
							Cases	Cases
Risk Group	4,444	145,043	1,231	43,294	0	0	1,201	1
Remote Area	314	9,687	238	8,097	0	0	155	6
Fishing Vessels (PIPO)	1,310	19,830	9	147	0	0	6	3
Vessels at sea	70	1,208	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Remarks:</u> A business establishment may face both ratification order and prosecution.								

In addition, during the first two months of 2023, ATPD also conducted inspections at 208 business establishments at risk of human trafficking, and integrated inspected information into ATPD Data Centre (ADC) Application. (Table 3)

Table 3: Numbers of Inspections and Business Establishments at Risk of Human Trafficking

Business Establishments at Risk of Human Trafficking	Number of Inspections	Number of Business Establishments at Risk
Sexual Exploitation		
- Karaoke Lounges	36	169
- Massage Parlours	43	198
- Service and Entertainment Venues	32	156
- Hotels and Resorts	56	446
- Others	6	16

Forced Labour		
- Fishing Vessels, Fish Markets, and Port	1	5
- Others	33	157
Forced Begging	1	1
Total	208	1,148

5. Improving Capacity and Efficacy of Labour Inspections¹⁵

The Government continued to enhance the capacity of labour inspectors and law enforcement officers through capacity-building activities, projects, and seminars on the implementation of SOPs, NRM, and victim identification with MDTs.

1) A series of capacity-building workshops was conducted for 190 labour inspectors and high-level officials of DLPW in March 2023 to enhance their skills on the implementation of NRM victim identification of labour trafficking and forced labour.

2) Two workshops to advance skills and standards on victim identification in fisheries sector in line with NRM were held for 276 field officers.

3) A series of training course to enhance capacity and skills of 400 labour inspectors to be eligible for an appointment as a Competent Official under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, B.E. 2551 (2008) were planned in 2023.

4) A series of capacity-building workshops were planned in 2023 to train 560 MOL officials on relevant laws and regulations related to trafficking in persons and forced labour, as well as trafficking and forced labour indicators to enhance the victim identification efficacy and cooperation between agencies.

5) A series of capacity-building workshops were held for 138 labour inspectors and MDTs on the implementation of SOPs and NRM to enhance their understanding, efficacy and coordination on victim identification. The workshops will be further conducted throughout 2023 for another 1,150 officers, and will also include field trainings to provide officers with first-hand experience through 32 labour inspection, covering 1,532 business establishments and 15,320 workers.

¹⁵ U.S. Recommendation: (2) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of new guidelines for the implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti- trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims, (3) Ensure multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) are composed of officials who are trained and have sufficient experience working trafficking cases to improve the effectiveness of victim identifications, and (8) Increase awareness among relevant officials of less understood trafficking indicators, such as debt-based coercion, excessive overtime, confiscation of documents, and nonpayment of wages.

6) A series of capacity-building trainings were provided for 390 police officers and MDT members to increase their efficacy in protecting migrant workers' rights and preventing violations of labour laws, which are key factors leading to trafficking in persons. RTP plans to organise more trainings for additional 260 officials throughout 2023.

6. Prevention of Trafficking in Children

The Government continued to be proactive in improving preventive measures against trafficking in persons, forced labour, and the worst forms of child labour, especially in children who are more vulnerable to the risk of being trafficked. The Government worked with the private sector on prevention efforts, including on awareness-raising campaigns, capacity-building programmes, and labour inspections.

6.1 Child Safe Friendly Tourism Project

Following the signing of MOU between 21 government agencies, private sectors organisations, and NGOs in 2022 on the Child Safe Friendly Tourism Project, the Steering Sub-Committee further approved the plan to expedite implementation in strategic areas, including Phuket and Phang Nga. These included the development of anti-human trafficking in tourism courses for private sector employees, the development of a project logo to increase public awareness, and capacity-building training for 690 workers on child-safe friendly tourism.

6.2 D.A.R.E. 2 C.A.R.E.

RTP's Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (TICAC) continued to implement the Drug Abuse Resistance Education to Child Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E. 2 C.A.R.E.) to prevent and protect school and university students from falling victim to child prostitution. Since January 2023, such programmes were conducted 9,938 times in 6,638 schools and universities with more than 259,719 participants. In addition, the programme's target groups will also be extended to cover community leaders and parents of students in order to enhance their understanding and skills on prevention measures against human trafficking among women, children and youths at the community level. Police officers from each police station also plan to visit at least five local communities throughout 2023.

7. Raising Public Awareness

7.1 The Development of Prostitution Prevention Network 2023

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) organised “the Development of Prostitution Prevention Network 2023” activities to promote joint efforts among students, community leaders and officials in preventing furtive prostitution, domestic violence, and unintended adolescent pregnancy, which are among key factors leading to human trafficking. The activities are being organised in 12 MSDHS Women and Family Development Training Centres, and Protection and Occupational Centres across the country.

7.2 Trainings for Core Villages on the Understanding of Human Trafficking Problem¹⁶

The Internal Security Operation Command (ISOC) conducted trainings on the understanding of human trafficking for “Core Villages” situated in strategic areas along 30 border provinces of Thailand with a view to engaging communities to help prevent and address trafficking in persons. During January - February 2023, 2,490 people from Core Villages already attended the trainings.

7.3 Safe Love, Strong Heart

ATPD organised the “Safe Love, Strong Heart” project in February 2023 to enhance understanding, knowledge, and awareness among students on the danger of social media vis-à-vis the risk of being lured into sexual exploitation.

8. Advancing Partnership on Human Trafficking Prevention

The Government continued to pursue partnerships and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including international organisations, civil society, NGOs and businesses, to increase anti-trafficking efforts.

DLPW continued to promote and expand the implementation of Good Labour Practices (GLP) among businesses and private entities to adopt the guidelines on improving employment and working conditions. During the first two months of 2023, 1,332 additional business establishments adopted GLP, making a total of 43,348 GLP-implementing businesses with 2,507,753 workers.¹⁷

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¹⁶ U.S. Recommendation: (8) Increase awareness among relevant officials of less understood trafficking indicators, such as debt-based coercion, excessive overtime, confiscation of documents, and nonpayment of wages.

¹⁷ U.S. Recommendation: (13) 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 and contracts, and (14) Foster an environment conducive to victims and advocates reporting human trafficking crimes without fear of facing spurious retributive charges pursued by employers, including by utilizing recent legal amendments to dismiss cases filed with dishonest intent or to intimidate defendants.

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAT	Alliance Anti-Traffic
ADC	The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division's Data Centre
AMLO	The Anti-Money Laundering Office
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN-ACT	ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking
ATPD	The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division
CCIB	The Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau
CCTV	The Coordination Center for Trafficking Victims
CI	Certificate of Identity
CMM	Case Management Meeting
CWP	The Child Woman Protection and Anti-Human Trafficking Centre
D.A.R.E. 2 C.A.R.E	The Drug Abuse Resistance Education to Child Abuse Resistance Education
DATIP	The Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons
DBD	The Department of Business Development
DLPW	The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare
DOE	The Department of Employment
DOPA	The Department of Provincial Administration
DSI	The Department of Special Investigation
FANC	The Foreign Anti-Narcotic and Crime Community of Thailand
FOM	Freedom of Movement
GLP	Good Labour Practice

IJM	The International Justice Mission
ILO	The International Labour Organization
INL	The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
IOM	The International Organization for Migration
ISOC	The Internal Security Operation Command
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MDTs	Multidisciplinary Teams
MFA	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOJ	The Ministry of Justice
MOL	The Ministry of Labour
MOSVY	The Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSDHS	The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
NCMEC	The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NRM	The National Referral Mechanism
OAG	The Office of the Attorney General
O.U.R.	Operation Underground Railroad
PIPO	Port-In Port-Out Control Centres
RLPD	The Rights and Liberties Protection Department
RTE	The Royal Thai Embassy
RTG	The Royal Thai Government
RTP	The Royal Thai Police

SOPs	The Standard Operating Procedures
TATIP	Thailand Anti-Trafficking in Person Taskforce
THB	Thai Baht
TICA	Thailand International Cooperation Agency
TICAC	Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce
TRM	The Transnational Referral Mechanism
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNODC	The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USD	U.S. Dollar

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