

# Royal Thai Government's Country Report on Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts

1 January – 31 December 2024

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### **Executive Summary**

The Royal Thai Government remains committed to advancing efforts on prevention and suppression of all forms of human trafficking. Human trafficking in the form of child prostitution, including production and distribution of child pornography, remains a major issue, while social media scams, call center scams, romance scams, and hybrid scams based in neighboring countries are causes of forced labor with adverse impact on the economy, society, and national security.

Thailand has made significant progress in 2024 across all 3Ps: Prosecution, Protection, Prevention, by adopting the "whole-of-governmentwhole-of-society" approach in combating human trafficking. The Government and private sector, together with NGOs, collaborate on case reporting, protection of victims, capacity-building in electronic evidence collection to enhance victimcentered prosecution, and the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Some key developments in 2024 include the opening of Thailand Victim Identification and Referral Center in Bangkok to step up victim support capacity and the Electronic Database System For Anti-human Trafficking (E-AHT), a holistic victim screening and identification data system to synergize information updates across all relevant agencies for better coordination.

In addition, the relevant forced labor and human-trafficking victim screening forms under NRM were combined into a single form, and additional indicators were included, such as those for forced criminality-related human trafficking as outlined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and those for the worst forms of child labor.

Cooperation on anti-trafficking efforts with neighboring countries has advanced further, through tightening immigration process, blocking illegal border crossings that are used by criminal groups, information and intelligencesharing, and providing care to victims who have been deceived to work abroad. At the regional and sub-regional levels, Thailand is advocating the Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM) through actively advancing cooperation with other nations in the Mekong sub-region to synchronize victim protection across borders.

With the Government's top priority people-centered on development, combating human trafficking is high on the national agenda. In 2024, the Government has allocated a budget of THB 328,740,000 (USD 9,528,695.65) to combat human trafficking. From 2017 to 2024, the budget allocated totaled THB 5,528,720,000 (USD 160,252,753.62). In 2024, the Government focused on integrated partnership to solve all forms of human trafficking by promoting synergies among government agencies, NGOs, international organizations and civil society, both domestically and

internationally. Against the backdrop of emerging transnational crime of online scams, Thailand as a transit country is very committed to promoting bilateral, regional and international cooperation to address this form of human-trafficking.

### **Prosecution**

1. In 2024, law enforcement agencies prosecuted 379 cases of human trafficking, which is a 20.70% increase from the previous year, as a result of enhanced capacity in electronic evidence collection and proactive cooperation between the public and social sectors in case reporting. Expansion of investigations into buyers of sexual services from underage victims of human trafficking led to arrests and prosecution of 130 suspects in 2024. In addition, 72 false online job advertisement cases were prosecuted to prevent human trafficking.

2. In 2024, cases of complicit official were initiated against 10 individuals, comprising 3 individuals from a new case and 7 individuals from existing cases. Relevant agencies are also reviewing preventive measures and more severe penalties for complicit officials.

3. RTP have been allocated a funding of THB 19,444,600 (USD 563,611.59) to implement NRM. Additionally, the Ministry of Interior (MOI) have been allocated a funding of THB 27,293,800 (USD 791,124.63) for the renovation of shelters in 66 provinces.

4. The Royal Thai Police (RTP) has advanced the NRM implementation nationwide through enhancing capacity in victim screening with a victim-centered approach and trauma-informed care at the heart of their operation.

• The Director of the Child Woman Protection and Anti-Human Trafficking Center (CWP) has issued an order for police nationwide to perform screening of every illegal migrant. Out of 22,563 screened individuals, 644 individuals showed indications of human trafficking.

• RTP's Immigration Bureau has enacted rigorous immigration screening as preventive measure. In 2024, 40,361 individuals were denied entry into Thailand. Warnings at border crossings were posted in 6 languages for people at risk of being deceived into working illegally in neighboring countries. Random screenings of 14,241 individuals in key international airports resulted in the prevention of 18 individuals from becoming victims of human trafficking.

5. The Department of Human Trafficking in Persons Litigation, Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has been proactive in anti-trafficking efforts, particularly in cases related to transnational organized crime and enhancing capacity building to promote partnership, prevention, prosecution, and protection. • Emphasis has been given to public prosecutors' understanding of digital technology on human trafficking, such as the emerging danger of generative AI. Trainings have been provided to enhance utilization of technology in the prosecution process.

• Various publications to improve human trafficking prosecution have been developed as important references, namely the Guidelines for Enforcing Anti-Trafficking in Persons Laws and Addressing Labor and Service-related Issues, the Report on the Study, Analysis and Lessons Learned from Human Trafficking Cases, and the Guideline for Multidisciplinary Teams to Apply Child Forensic Interview Concepts During the Criminal Investigation Process Under the Criminal Procedure Code.

• OAG has allocated a budget of THB 35,568,800 (USD 1,030,979.71) for the fiscal year 2025 to improve equipment in interrogation rooms for children in criminal cases in 76 offices, both central and regional, to encourage children to cooperate in the judicial process, in line with the victim-centered approach and reducing revictimization.

6. In 2024, the Courts of Justice (COJ) convicted more human trafficking cases, increasing severity of penalties, and ordering higher compensation for victims. The Court of First Instance completed considerations of 318 cases, resulting in orders for compensation in 318 cases, totaling THB 43,606,453 (USD 1,263,955.15). 273 suspects were sentenced to imprisonment. The Courts delivered imprisonment of over 10 years to 47.99% of all cases in 2024.

7. The Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) has adopted the Ministerial Regulation B.E. 2567 (2024) regarding the return or restitution of assets related to criminal activities and compensation for damages to the victims. This initiative aims to enhance the efficiency of compensating and alleviating the suffering of victims of criminal activities, including human trafficking. The process is complete and the said Ministerial Regulation has been officially announced in the Royal Gazette in 27 March 2024. A total of 17 victims of human trafficking have sought protection, with assets valued at THB 9,417,108.08 (USD 272,959.65).

8. The Department of Rights and Liberties Protection, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), has provided remedy to victims of human trafficking suffered harm to their lives, bodies, or mental well-being, in 88 cases with an amount of THB 2,730,924 (USD 79,157.21), averaging THB 31,033.23 (USD 899.51) per victim, an increase from 2022 and 2023.

9. To enhance protection of victims and witnesses in human trafficking cases, the Department of Rights and Liberties Protection has established 3 Human Trafficking Rights Protection Operation Centers in Chiang Mai, Ubon Ratchathani, and Krabi Provinces.

10. International cooperation and partnership with international organizations as well as NGOs have enhanced collective effort, especially in response to emerging challenges such as online scams. Thailand has continued to advance cooperation at bilateral level, particularly with neighboring countries. At the regional level, Thailand is advancing advocacy for the Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM) with neighboring countries and in the ASEAN framework.

11. The Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (TICAC) investigated 779 potential offences and initiated a total of 346 cases, including 76 trafficking cases, 95 child pornography possession cases, 165 child sexual exploitation cases.

12. A major milestone in 2024 is RTP's opening of "Thailand Victim Identification and Referral Center" in Bangkok to support the screening process under NRM with 60 rooms to facilitating victims.

13. RTP organized a training seminar for 160 police officers capable of being interpreters, and registered 2,704 interpreters to support human trafficking cases. These trained interpreters are available upon request, in person, by phone or online, for ease of access for victims, including in remote areas.

14. COJ provided trainings for interpreters in the justice process for victims, suspects, defendants, or witnesses involved in criminal cases, who cannot understand or communicate in Thai. The trainings were provided for interpreters of Mandarin, Burmese, and sign languages, resulting to 124 additional registered interpreters.

15. MOJ established the Counter Trafficking in Persons Center of Excellence at the DSI Academy and organized training courses for governmental agencies and NGOs.

16. Law enforcement agencies organized a total of 21 capacitybuilding programs for 4,096 personnel to enhance legal knowledge of human trafficking cases, protection of foreign workers, prevention of violations of labor laws, implementation of NRM, electronic evidence collection, and treatment of victims under the trauma-informed care approach.

### **Protection**

1. The Government consistently advanced NRM and promoted the use of the Reflection Period nationwide. MSDHS was allocated a budget of THB 12.3 million to provide preliminary services to potential victims in all Victim Identification Centers across Thailand before starting the identification process.

2. The Government provided protection and assistance to 514 victims of trafficking in persons or forced labor or services. This includes 417 victims in 9 government shelters, 17 victims in 5 private shelters, and 80 victims who opted to reside with their families outside the shelters.

3. A total of 278 victims of trafficking in persons from 136 cases received support in the request of remedies totaling THB 117,430,230 (USD 3,403,774.78) as compensation from the offenders. In 2024, 22 victims received a total of THB 2,476,500 (USD 71,782.60) compensation from the offenders by court orders.

4. The Government also expanded its partnership with the civil society to protect and assist victims, including promoting civil society organizations' involvement in victim screening and identification under NRM. Two additional CSOs were also registered as private shelters, increasing the victims' options of private shelters to 5 shelters.

5. A training program was conducted for 30 Thai-Myanmar interpreters to enhance capacity in addressing human trafficking issues. The training increased the translation staff to 158 interpreters, proficient in Myanmar, Vietnamese, Chinese, Cambodian, English and Rohingya languages. To cater for victims with disabilities, the Government organized a training on sign language interpretation for 30 participants. The newly trained interpreters were deployed to provide additional interpretation support to the courts and RTP during legal proceedings.

6. All shelters for victims adhere to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) with tailored services to meet the diverse specific needs of victims. Such operations are guided by the trauma-informed approach, assessing the victims' readiness to participate in each victim identification process and respecting their freedom to enter and exit shelters, stay with families in preparation for sustainable reintegration, and for adults to freely use communication devices.

7. The relevant forced labor and human-trafficking victim screening forms under NRM were combined into a single form, and additional indicators were included, such as those for forced criminality-related human trafficking as outlined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and those for the worst forms of child labor. MSDHS circulated the form for the use of relevant NRM agencies nationwide and conducted trainings on the new form for frontline officers in 3 key border provinces, namely Chiang Rai, Tak, and Sa Kaeo.

8. Thailand's Electronic Database System For Anti-human Trafficking (E-AHT) - the Victim Screening and Identification Data System was developed to record victim screening and identification data of all relevant agencies. The information gathered through this system can be used for the development of policies and measures to combat human trafficking.

9. The Government partnered with 27 businesses, 12 of which recently joined the program, to provide job opportunities based on the interest and expertise of victims. At present, 16 victims have started working under this program.

10. Shelters and 10 local educational institutions – including formal, informal, and vocational schools – implemented a program to ensure that underage children have educational options based on their expertise. Partnership with international organizations and civil society organizations was enhanced to cover protection and assistance of victims of diversity. Furthermore, the Government organized the "Open Heart" meeting to gather feedback and recommendations on the establishment of private shelters to further improve the process.

11. To promote TRM, Thailand actively advanced cooperation with other nations in the Mekong sub-region. The Government also collaborated with embassies and consulates of origin countries to strengthen victim protection.

### **Prevention**

1. MOL conducted worker screenings under SOP and identified 157 cases of potential forced labor in 6 provinces: Chiang Rai (10 cases), Tak (118 cases), Bangkok (25 cases), Sa Kaeo (1 case), Satun (2 cases), and Nakhon Ratchasima (1 case). Potential victims have been referred to NRM for further assistance.

2. MOL conducted 1,757 labor inspections and screenings at highrisk establishments in accordance with SOP, screening and protecting legal rights of 86,753 workers, with potential victims referred to NRM for further assistance.

3. MOL conducted regular inspection at 56,300 establishments/employers with 778,158 migrant workers. Actions were taken against 1,944 establishments/employers for violations, including 560 employers who were fined, while 1,384 cases are under police investigation. The total fines collected amounted to THB 1,761,000 (USD 51,043.48).

4. The Government's Migrant Workers Assistance Centers in 10 provinces collaborated with ILO and NGOs to tackle labor trafficking, human rights violations, and enhance protection of migrant workers. In 2024, a total of 27,884 migrant workers received assistance from these centers.

5. MOL disbursed social security funds to 1,499,894 migrant workers from 3 nationalities, including Myanmar (1,113,310), Cambodia (175,793), Laos (78,721), Vietnam (1,613), and others (130,457). Benefit from the Social Security Fund and the Workmen's Compensation Fund were provided to 545,840 workers, amounting to THB 1,430,400,000 (41,460,869.56 USD).

6. Labor inspectors at national checkpoints screened 10,472 individuals suspected of attempting to work abroad illegally, and stopped 250 individuals from traveling. Educational efforts were provided to mitigate repeated offenses.

7. MOL investigated 152 authorized recruitment agencies for overseas employment and prosecuted 206 cases of unauthorized recruiters, involving 284 suspects. All cases are under police investigation, with charges including unauthorized recruitment and fraudulent promises of overseas employment.

8. Ministerial Regulation No. 15 (B.E. 2567 (2024)) was issued under the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998) to elevate domestic workers' protection to international standards, reducing social inequality and enhancing access to state services. New protections include regulated working hours, rest periods, and prohibitions against wage deductions and unpaid overtime.

9. MOL's safety inspectors investigated 219 cases of accidents involving fishing crew. The findings revealed 196 cases of work-related injuries. There were also 9 cases of crew members missing and 14 cases of natural disasters and other causes.

10. Women's Labor Advisory Centers were piloted in 10 provinces to provide consultation and support, promote equal employment opportunities, and improve the quality of life for female workers.

11. Assistance was provided to 753 migrant workers whose rights were violated by employers, with total compensation of THB 137,704,046.88 (USD 3,991,421.64) under the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998).

12. The Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) implemented the "Child Safe Friendly Tourism Project" to promote safe and child-friendly tourism, conducting 5 training sessions for 863 accommodation and hotel personnel.

13. The Department of the Trafficking In Person Litigation established the Coordination Center for Trafficking Victims, facilitating communication between prosecutors, victims, and related agencies to improve case management. In 2024, the center coordinated 20 cases, including 13 victim protection cases and 7 general inquiries.

### **Partnership**

Partnership continues to be a cornerstone of Thailand's antitrafficking strategy. Great importance has been given to partnership between governmental agencies, NGOs, international organizations and the civil society, including bilateral and multilateral international cooperation, to ensure effective suppression of transborder human trafficking and protection of victims of human trafficking.

On "*Prosecution*," Thailand has held bilateral meetings to enhance partnership in combating human trafficking with partners such as Indonesia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Cambodia, and ROK. Thai authorities also collaborate with NGOs and international organizations to improve operation and enhance capabilities of personnel, such as ASEAN-ACT, International Justice Mission (IJM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), A21 Foundation, O.U.R. Rescue Thailand, Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF), and Stella Maris Thailand.

On "*Protection,*" Thailand has strengthened its bilateral and multilateral cooperation in key areas, such as the rehabilitation and management of human trafficking victims. Additionally, Thailand jointly drafted the fifth Subregional Plan of Action (SPA-V) and the Common Indicators for Identifying Criminality Facilitated by Abuse of Technology during the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking's Regional Task Force Meeting (COMMIT RTF) and the Senior Official Meeting (SOM), along with 5 other member states.

On "*Prevention*," the Department of Labor Protection and Welfare (DLPW) collaborated with ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) to implement a project for exchanging best practices on labor inspections in establishments with vulnerable workers among ASEAN member states. Related agencies also partnered with other countries to discuss opportunities for enhanced efforts. This included an MOL meeting with representatives from the U.S. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) to discuss child trafficking, forced child labor, and the possibility of cooperation under the Child Protection Compact (CPC) agreement.

### **The Implementation of NRM**

The NRM is a collaborative mechanism for governmental officials to follow according to the obligations to protect and defend the human rights of victims of human trafficking, by coordination with the civil society sector.

Great importance has been placed on the implementation of the NRM to ensure that individuals with reasonable grounds to indicate that they have been victims of human trafficking receive prompt assistance from the Government in line with the international standards. Since its inception in March 2022, the Government has continuously been implementing NRM through trainings of relevant personnel, development of guidelines for operations, and raising awareness of the public. In 2024, the Government allocated a total budget of THB 31,777,933 (USD 921,099.50) for the implementation of NRM through related agencies in the prosecution, protection, and prevention efforts.

Relevant agencies have conducted initial screening of 9,935 individuals, 520 of which were found to be victims of human trafficking, and 126 received assistance at the integrated screening centers in 15 provinces. Officials provided care and initial services to prepare them during the Reflection Period, leading to the official screening of 98 victims.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Prosecution

The Royal Thai Government has continued to make tangible progress to suppress human trafficking through prosecution. Relevant prosecution agencies have advanced efforts in preventing individuals from falling victim to human trafficking. In view of Thailand as a transit country, the emphasis of prosecution is on individuals at risk of being deceived to work illegally in a neighboring country. In parallel, capacity-building trainings have been organized for relevant personnel to increase prosecution capabilities, with the focuses on legal knowledge, the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), victim-centered and trauma-informed care, and technological upskilling. Additionally, international partnership and cooperation with relevant agencies, regional and international organizations and NGOs have enhanced Thailand's capacity to address emerging challenges, especially online scams. A major milestone in 2024 includes the opening of the Thailand Victim Identification and Referral Center in Bangkok to support the screening process under NRM.

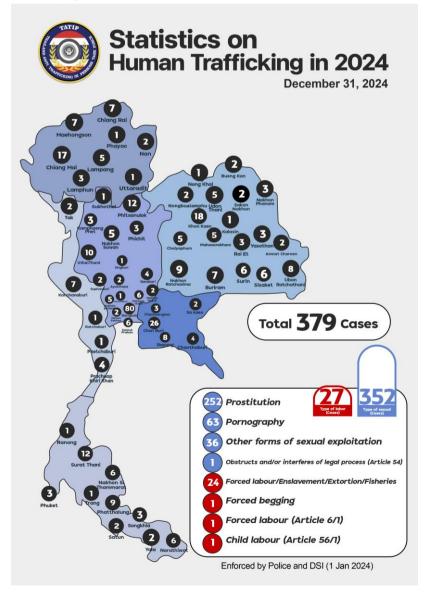


Diagram 1: Statistics on Human Trafficking Cases in 2024

Overall, among the total of 379 human trafficking cases in 2024, 352 cases (92.87%) were sexual exploitation cases with 252 cases related to prostitution, 63 cases related to pornography, and 36 cases related to other forms of sexual exploitation. A total of 27 (7.12%) cases were labor exploitation cases, with 24 cases of forced labor and 1 case each of forced begging, forced labor under Section 6/1, and the worst form of child labor under Section 56/1 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act. There was one case of obstructing legal proceedings related to human trafficking (Diagram 1 - 2).

Most of the human trafficking in Thailand involves online crimes. Out of a total of 379 cases, 224 cases (59.10%) were committed through online channels. There were 517 victims, 439 of which were female (84.91%) and 78 were male (15.09%). Most of the crimes committed were online advertisements for prostitution, as it was easier for perpetrators to commit even without being in the same vicinity or without knowing the victims. Expertise is essential for officers to collect evidence and identify the victims and the perpetrators, requiring them to undergo training in the use of technology and forensics to keep up with the advancement in technology. In addition, some crimes were related to online scams based in neighboring countries of Thailand, where both Thais and foreign victims were deceived into working there.

The Government has exerted efforts to tackle this challenge, with measures such as raising public awareness about various forms of scams, setting limits on the number of SIM cards used per person to no more than 6 numbers, imposing a requirement of facial scanning for bank transfers exceeding THB 50,000 (USD 1,149.27), and seeking international cooperation on victim protection, and forwarding information on scams to prevent and suppress human trafficking.

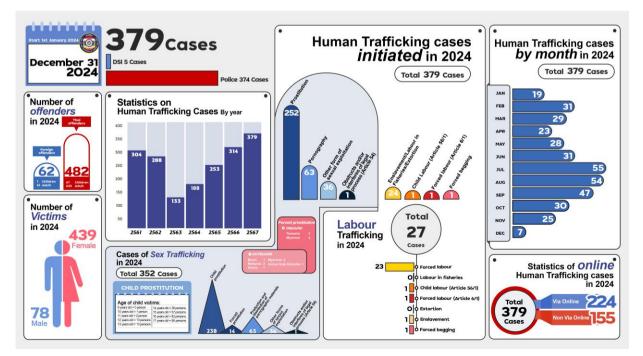


Diagram 2: Statistics on Human Trafficking Cases in 2024

Law enforcement agencies have enhanced proactive inquiry strategies by utilizing NRM, screening victims alongside organizations with specialized expertise, providing victim-centered and trauma-informed care to incentivize victims to enter the justice process. The Government has derived the whole-ofgovernment-whole-of-society approach to anti-human trafficking partnership. Collaborations with NGOs by increasing channels for incident reporting and communication channels between the Royal Thai Police (RTP) and NGOs have been levelled up to complement investigation efforts. Government officers received 47 human trafficking case reports from NGOs. This highlights constructive cooperation between the public and social sectors. RTP initiated 278 cases, as a result of officers' increased expertise in electronic evidence gathering through trainings. In addition, advancements of investigation were made into 130 buyers of child prostitution in prior cases (Table 1).

		Case Committed Via		Cases Received From		
Year	Cases	Online (%)	e (%) Non-Online (%) Enforcemen Officers		Victims	NGOs
2020	133	37 (27.82)	96 (72.18)			
2021	188	107 (56.91)	81 (43.09)			
2022	257	184 (71.59)	73 (28.40)	120	83	54
2023	314	195 (62.10)	119 (37.90)	178	93	43
2024	379	224 (59.10)	150 (40.90)	278	54	47

Table 1: Statistics on Cases Committed and Reported via Different Channels

In 2024, an emerging trend of criminals that increasingly utilized online channels for illicit activities posed a serious and complex challenge. Proactive investigation measures were intensified to keep up with the changing patterns of criminal activities. As a result, the statistics for human trafficking cases in 2024 indicate an uptick of 224 cases that were investigated through online channels, accounting for 59.10% of total cases (Table 1). RTP has accelerated efforts in severing online advertizing for fraudulent job recruitment and made arrests totaling 72 cases.

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

### **1.1 Number of Human Trafficking Cases**

In 2024, there was an increasing number of human trafficking cases, with a <u>total of 379 cases</u> compared to 314 cases in 2023. This can be attributed to collaborative efforts among relevant agencies in expanding their investigations and appraisal of human trafficking cases. Trainings in electronics evidence collection for officers increased expertise, resulting in a rise in case numbers, notably exploitation in the form of prostitution and pornography. Out of total cases, 252 cases (66.49%) related to prostitution, and 63 cases (16.62%) related

to pornography. Additionally, there was a significant rise in the number of cases involving other forms of sexual exploitation, with 36 cases reported in 2024, a surge of 176.92% from 13 cases in 2023. This is a result of post-pandemic resumption of services at entertainment establishments. Youths under 18 years of age were smuggled to work in such establishments. A jump in the number of arrests and legal proceedings is a result of collaborative efforts across all sectors working in a holistic manner in reporting leads, as well as rigorous law enforcement in bringing perpetrators to justice (Table 2).

			Type of Human Trafficking Activities						
Year	Total	Prostitution	Pornography	Sexual Exploitation	Enslavement	Forced Begging	General Forced Labor	Extortion/Other	
2020	133	96	17	6	0	2	$10 + (2)^*$	0	
2021	188	136	13	6	2	2	$16 + (2)^*$	11	
2022	257	164	35	8	1	3	$40 + (4)^*$	$1 + (1)^{**}$	
2023	314	219	49	13	0	15	$14 + (3)^*$	$0 + (1)^{**}$	
2024	379	252	62	36	1	1	$23 + (2)^*$	0 + (1)**	

Table 2: Number of Human Trafficking Cases Initiated

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

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

#### 1.2 Number of Human Trafficking Offenders and Victims

In 2024, the number of suspected human trafficking offenders were 544, a decrease from 546 in 2023. A total of 299 offenders were female, as they are more likely to get closer to female victims, while some of them are former victims-turned offenders (Table 3).

Veer			nder	der Nationality				
Year	Total	Male	Female	Thai	Myanmar	Cambodian	Laotian	Others
2020	188	87	101	160	2	7	0	18
2021	447	269	178	341	29	4	0	73
2022	557	293	264	481	4	6	4	62
2023	546	270	276	464	16	15	6	45
2024	554	245	299	482	13	1	8	40

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

In 2024, there were 517 victims, a 3.18% decrease from 534 in 2023. Among these, 439 are female and 78 are male. A sharp decline of male victims lured to work in neighboring countries (43.88%) from 139 in 2023 to 78 in 2024 (<u>Table 4</u>) is due to increased international cooperation, more stringent immigration process, and arrests of complicit officers.

Vera Tetel		Gender		Nationality				
Year	Total	Male	Female	Thai	Myanmar	Cambodian	Laotian	Others
2020	231	66	165	162	5	5	46	13
2021	424	154	270	322	94	0	2	6
2022	598	220	378	496	26	4	37	35
2023	534	139	395	470	25	18	6	15
2024	517	78	439	453	27	-	12	25

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

### 2. Prosecution of Human Trafficking Cases

#### 2.1 Screening Process under NRM

Taking into account prevailing challenges as Thailand is a transit country and facing digital disruption, RTP has implemented additional measures to prevent and combat online human trafficking cases in 2024. RTP has also ensured human trafficking victims are not held at Immigration Detention Centers by increasing the screening efforts to filter individuals with indications of human trafficking. Potential victims would receive an automatic protection through NRM. Through border control, entry is denied to individuals at risk of falling victim to online scam networks.

RTP's Immigration Bureau has enacted rigorous immigration screening measures. It has screened and denied entry to foreign nationals who were exploiting Thailand as a transit point, particularly those from high-risk groups with suspicious behavior, who may deceive victims to work in online scamming operations in neighboring countries. Through border control measures, immigration officers assessed tourists entering Thailand without sustainable livelihood factors and a well-defined travel plan, and considered them potential victims of human trafficking. From 1 January – 31 October 2024, a total of 40,361 individuals were denied entry, which is a significant increase of 711.39% compared to 4,974 individuals in the previous year (Table 5). The rationale for denying entry is based on the consideration that individuals may be at risk of falling victim to human trafficking and/or from countries with a history of seeking assistance from Thailand on human trafficking cases.

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

The Number of Denied Entry for Potential Foreign Victims in Thailand				
Year	Total			
2022	2,036			
2023	4,974			
2024	40,361			

The Government attaches high importance to advancing prosecution. A funding of THB 19,444,600 (USD 563,611.59) has been allocated to related process. The Director of the Child Woman Protection and Anti-Human Trafficking Center (CWP) issued an order to police officers nationwide to fully implement NRM and perform screening of all illegal migrants before an arrest. In 2024, RTP conducted a screening of 22,563 individuals. Among these, 644 individuals showed indications of human trafficking, 19,377 individuals had no signs, and 2,542 individuals were found to have violated other laws (<u>Table 6</u>). As an important milestone, RTP opened the Thailand Victim Identification and Referral Center as Thailand's official victims screening center on 24 September 2024.

	Screen			
Year	Showed indications of human trafficking	Did not show indications of human trafficking	Violation of other laws	Total
2023	575	2,994	1,507	5,076
2024	644	19,377	2,542	22,563

Table 6: Screening Statistics According to NRM

### 2.2 Human Trafficking Cases Handled by Inquiry Officers

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

In 2024, 379 inquiries were conducted. Among these, 299 cases (78.89%) were completed and submitted to public prosecutors. The acceleration of case inquiries from 2023 resulted in only 5 remaining cases (1.60% of total cases). Inquiry officers ordered the prosecution of all cases but one. This is a result of collaboration between inquiry officers and public prosecutors, and inquiry officers' expertise in gathering primary evidence, contributing to the quality of the inquiry process from its inception (Table 7).

Year	Total	Under Inquiry (%)	Filed to Public Prosecutors (%)	Not Filed to Public Prosecutors (%)
2020	133	0	130 (97.75)	3 (2.25)
2021	188	0	188 (100.00)	0
2022	257	11 (4.28)	246 (95.72)	0
2023	314	5 (1.60)	309 (98.40)	0
2024	379	79 (20.85)	299 (78.90)	1 (0.27)

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

Additionally, out of a total of 379 cases, 253 cases (66.75%) involved only one suspect (Table 8). This can be attributed to the increasing technological advancement among the defendants. They are now capable of operating independently online, gaining access to multiple victims without the need for intermediaries or other individuals. In some cases, the victims were lured and connected with the defendants through online channels, despite having had no acquaintance with them.

Year	Total	Cases Involving One Suspect (%)	Cases Involving Two or More Suspects (%)
2020	133	103 (77.44)	30 (22.56)
2021	188	100 (53.19)	88 (46.81)
2022	257	147 (57.20)	110 (42.80)
2023	313	203 (64.86)	110 (35.14)
2024	379	253 (66.75)	126 (33.25)

Table 8: Case Classification by Number of Suspects

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

In 2024, inquiry officers continued to maintain high standards in expediting human trafficking case inquiries and compiling case summaries. The average turnaround time for inquiries was 74 days, closely aligning with statistics from 2022 and 2023 (Diagram 3). This is due to advancement in expertise in handling human trafficking cases and enhanced capabilities of police officers in investigation and examination. This includes a seamless exchange of information among specialized investigation teams, particularly in collecting primary evidence. As a consequence, inquiry officers were able to gather evidence more efficiently, thereby expediting the prosecution process.

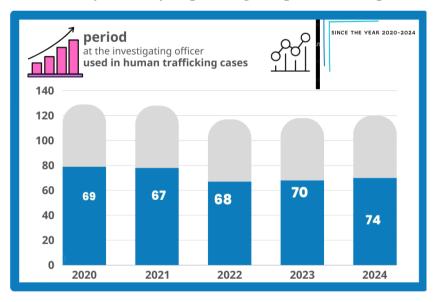


Diagram 3: Average Length of Time in Handling Human Trafficking Cases by Inquiry Officers during 2020 - 2024

### 2.3 Human Trafficking Cases Pursued by Public Prosecutors

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

In 2024, public prosecutors' opinion on cases were more in sync with inquiry officers, thereby expediting submission of cases to the Court. A total of 449 human trafficking cases were received by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) (<u>Table 9</u>).

		Type of Human Trafficking Cases Received					
Year	Total	Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation	Forced Begging	General Forced Labor and Services			
2020	241	191	3	47			
2021	197	163	3	31			
2022	358	269	3	86			
2023	377 + (2)*	335	13	29			
2024	449	312	3	30			

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

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

Out of 449 cases received by OAG in 2024, 432 were cases with arrested suspects. Public prosecutors completed consideration on 391 cases (90.50%) (Table 10 – 11). The 44 cases under the public prosecutors' consideration are a result of fleeing suspects and cases returned to inquiry officers included cases for further investigations.

Table 10: Progr	ess of Human	Trafficking	Cases with	Arrested S	Suspects	
						_

		Progress of Human Trafficking Cases							
Year	Total	CasesCases notSubmitted toSubmitted tothe Courtsthe Courts(%)(%)		Cases under Public Prosecutors' Consideration (%)	Cases Returned to Inquiry Officers (%)*				
2020	225	202 (89.78)	17 (7.55)	0	6 (2.67)				
2021	180	162 (90.00)	11 (6.11)	0	7 (3.89)				
2022	347	323 (93.08)	13 (3.75)	0	11 (3.17)				
2023	368	354 (96.20)	8 (2.17)	1 (0.27)	5 (1.36)				
2024	432	386 (89.35)	5 (1.16)	35 (8.10)	6 (1.39)				

Table 11: Progress of Human Trafficking Cases with Fleeing Suspects

		F	rogress of Human	n Trafficking Case	es	
Year	Total	Cases Submitted to the Courts (%)	CasesCases notubmitted toSubmitted tothe Courtsthe Courts		Cases Returned to Inquiry Officers (%)*	
2020	16	13 (81.25)	0	0	3 (18.75)	
2021	17	13 (76.47)	2 (11.76)	0	2 (11.77)	
2022	11	7 (63.64)	3 (27.27)	0	1 (9.09)	
2023	11	6 (54.55)	2 (18.18)	3 (27.27)	0	
2024	17	8 (47.06)	0	7 (41.18)	0	

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

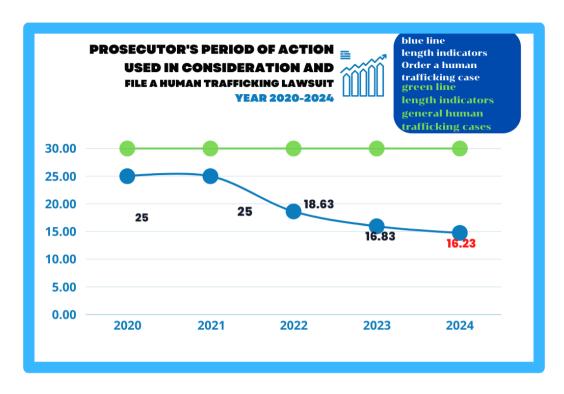


Diagram 4: Average Length of Time for Public Prosecutors' Consideration of Human Trafficking Cases

In 2024, OAG implemented a policy designating the Department of Human Trafficking in Persons Litigation as the focal point for considering and initiating human trafficking cases nationwide. This policy aims to maintain unity throughout the prosecution process. Consequently, the Department, upon receiving a case, reviews and forms an opinion before returning it to the originating prosecutor's office for further legal action. A standard lead time for initiating a general criminal case, as prescribed by indicators, is 30 days. However, the average number of days from when the Department receives a case, reviews it, and issues an order is 16.23 days (Diagram 4), indicating a quicker turnaround time than the established benchmark.

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

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

The Courts were able to expedite the trial of human trafficking cases, increase the severity of penalties, and order higher compensation for victims. In 2024, the Courts of Justice (COJ) completed 318 cases out of 506 cases (62.90%), with 297 cases (93.39%) resolved within one year, indicating a downward trend in the handling time of human trafficking cases from previous years. The Courts convicted a total of 263 human trafficking cases (82.70%) this year (Table 12).

Year	Cases Su	bmitted to th	e Courts		Decided	Cases		Pending
	Cases Initiated in Previous Years	Cases Initiated in Indicated Year	Total	Convicted (% of Decided Cases)	Acquitted (% of Decided Cases)	Disposal (% of Decided Cases)	Total (% of Total Cases)	Cases (as Standing at the End of Indicated Year)
2020	113	191	304	157 (78.89)	22 (11.06)	20 (10.05)	199 (65.46)	105
2021	105	127	232	66 (75.00)	8 (9.09)	14 (15.91)	88 (37.93)	144
2022	144	240	384	193 (81.78)	24 (10.17)	19 (8.05)	236 (61.46)	148
2023	148	311	459	218 (78.42)	40 (14.39)	20 (7.19)	278 (60.56)	181
2024	181	325	506	263 (82.70)	14 (4.40)	41 (12.89)	318 (62.85)	188

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

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

In 2024, 443 defendants in new human trafficking cases were brought before the Courts and 360 were convicted (81.26%) (<u>Table 13</u>). The Courts were able to increase the conviction rate due to the increased efficiency of inquiry officers and public prosecutors to collect evidence against defendants.

Year	Number of Defendants Subjected to the Courts' Consideration							
	Total	Convicted (%)	Acquitted (%)	Disposed (%)				
2020	302	233 (77.15)	41 (13.58)	28 (9.27)				
2021	125	82 (65.60)	25 (20.00)	18 (14.40)				
2022	308	249 (80.84)	35 (11.36)	24 (7.79)				
2023	466	355 (76.18)	83 (17.81)	28 (6.01)				
2024	443	360 (81.26)	36 (8.13)	47 (10.61)				

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

# 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. In 2024, there is an upward trend in the rate of defendants being sentenced to over 10 years of imprisonment, with a total of 131 defendants (47.99%) convicted (<u>Table 14</u>). 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).

Year	Total Number of Defendants Sentenced to Imprisonment	Shorter than 1 Year (%)		Between 2-5 Years (%)	Between 5-10 Years (%)	Over 10 Years (%)
2020	199	8 (4.02)	15 (7.54)	41 (20.60)	53 (26.63)	82 (41.21)
2021	75	1 (1.33)	1 (1.33)	11 (14.67)	26 (34.67)	36 (48)
2022	201	1 (0.50)	1 (0.50)	25 (12.44)	66 (32.84)	108 (53.73)
2023	301	5 (1.66)	9 (2.99)	69 (22.92)	106 (35.22)	112 (37.21)
2024	273	0	3 (1.10)	57 (20.88)	82 (30.04)	131 (47.99)

Table 14: Imprisonment Sentences of Defendants in Human Trafficking Cases

### 4) Compensations for Punitive Purposes

In 2024, the Courts granted a total compensation of THB 43,606,453 (USD 1,263,955.15) across 142 cases. This constitutes 44.65% of all 318 concluded cases, a significant increase from 2023 (<u>Table 15</u>). The Courts continued to actively focus on prosecuting human trafficking cases and assessing suitable compensation for the victims.

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

Year	Total Number of Concluded Cases	The Number of Cases in Which Compensation Has Been Awarded (%)	The Amount of Compensation (Baht)
2020	199	59 (29.65)	26,047,693
2021	77	25 (32.47)	10,774,250
2022	236	107 (45.34)	66,598,568
2023	278	103 (37.05)	77,107,764
2024	318	142 (44.65)	43,606,453

### **3. Prosecution of Complicit Officials in Human Trafficking Cases**

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

In 2024, complicit official cases were initiated against government officials, involving a total of 10 individuals. This comprised of 3 individuals from a new case, and 7 individuals from existing cases (<u>Table 16</u>). Details of the cases are as follows:

1) <u>Indonesian Nationals Forced Labor Case</u> (initiated in 2023) – A total of 3 police officers were arrested and prosecuted on the charge of conspiracy to human trafficking, exploitation of slavery and practices similar to slavery, forced labor or services, and other similar actions, by beating up, torturing and video recording for ransom, in Phatthalung Province. The case currently is under the Courts' consideration.

2) <u>Chom Dao Case</u> (initiated in 2015) – Following the arrest in 2015 of the owner of Chom Dao Karaoke place, Kanchanaburi Province, for prosecution of human trafficking, 14 more officials were prosecuted for seeking

benefits from the owner, and 1 police officer is under consideration by the public prosecutors. In 2024, further investigations found 2 more complicit police officers. The case is under investigation by the public prosecutor.

3) <u>The Best Karaoke Case</u> (initiated in 2016) – RTP ordered an inquiry committee to investigate 5 complicit police officers for fabrication of evidence to avoid the offender's prosecution.

### 3.2 Progress of Criminal Prosecution of Complicit Officials in 2024

1) <u>Benefit-Seeking and Dereliction of Duty Case</u> (initiated in 2023) – 15 officials, consisting of 9 police officers, 5 Department of Special Investigation (DSI) officials, and 1 military officer, were arrested and prosecuted on the charge of dereliction of duty for not arresting foreign nationals residing illegally and found during a raid of the house of a former Consul-General of the Republic of Nauru. In 2024, the subcommittee on preventing state officials from being involved in human trafficking has dismissed the case from human trafficking as it does not meet the criteria of state officials involved in human trafficking.

2) <u>Online Sexual Exploitation Case</u> (initiated in 2022) – In 2022, 4 police investigation officers were charged for not arresting offenders of online sex broadcasting through a Chinese mobile application at a resort in Chiang Rai Province. In 2024, these cases were dismissed by the public prosecutors, and the decision is finalized.

3) <u>Nakhon Si Thammarat Province Case</u> (initiated in 2020) – The case involved forced labor of a Myanmar national in Sichon District of Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. A deputy mayor has been prosecuted. While the Court of First Instance ruled to dismiss the case, it is currently under consideration by the Court of Appeal.

4) <u>Overseas Prostitution Case</u> (initiated in 2016) – In 2022, 1 police officer and 5 immigration officers were prosecuted for taking bribes and enabling victims to leave Thailand for United Arab Emirates (UAE) without conducting proper overseas workers' screening procedures. In 2023, all cases were submitted and are under public prosecutor's consideration. In 2024, after the cases had been ordered not to be prosecuted by public prosecutors, RTP filed an appeal against the decision. The case is currently under consideration by the Attorney General.

**5)** <u>Chiang Rai Illegal Border Crossing Case</u> – The case of 2 police officers from Mae Sai Police Station demand bribery, in exchange for the release of 6 Thai women while they were illegally crossing the border to Myanmar in Chiang Rai Province, is under consideration by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC). In 2024, NACC forwarded the case to the inquiry officers. It is currently under RTP's consideration.

6) <u>Chiang Rai Case</u> (initiated in 2023) – Expansion of investigation of an existing case of underage prostitution in an establishment named "Ozone Bar" in Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai Province, found 3 additional complicit administrative officers. In 2024, the Court of First Instance handed down suspended sentence of prison to the offenders. The case is currently under appeal.

Year	Number	Under	Under Public	Under	Completed Cases		Fleeing
	of Public	Investigation	Prosecutor's	<b>Courts'</b>	Imprisoned	Acquitted/Not	
	Officials		Consideration	Consideration		Pursued	
2020	3	0	0	1	1	0	1*
2021	17	6	9	1	0	1	0
2022	35	13	16	1	1	4	0
2023	7	6	1	0	0	0	0
2024	5	1	1	3	0	0	0

Note: \*deceased suspect

## 3.3 Progress of Disciplinary Actions Against Complicit Officials in 2024

In 2024, progress has been made regarding disciplinary actions against 10 additional complicit officials from 3 separate cases.

1) Indonesian Nationals Forced Labor Case (initiated in 2023) – In 2024, Trang District Provincial Police has set up a disciplinary inquiry committee of gross misconduct to investigate 1 additional police officer.

2) <u>Chom Dao Case</u> (initiated in 2015) – In 2024, the Intelligence Analysis and Special Tools Sub-Division of the Investigation Division Provincial Police Region 7 has set up an inquiry committee for 1 complicit officer, RTP has expelled 2 officers, and 3 officers are currently under investigation.

3) <u>The Best Karaoke Case</u> (initiated in 2016) – In 2022, 3 police officers were arrested for fabrication of evidence to conceal the owner's involvement in the case and evade charges. In 2024, 5 additional police officers were under investigation by an inquiry committee.

	Number	Disciplinary Actions and Other Measures										
Year	r Number of Public Officials	Under Disciplinary Inquiry	Expelled	Suspended	Under Probation	Incarcerated	Dismissed by the Admin. Court	Resigned	Retired	Disciplinary Inquiry Ended		
2020	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2021	15	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
2022	34	30	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2023	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2024	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		

Table 17: Complicit Public Officials Subjected to Disciplinary Actions

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

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

#### 4.1 Amount of Asset Restraints and Seizures

In 2024, the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) issued orders to freeze and seize assets in 24 cases related to human trafficking offences. The initial value of the assets subjected to these orders was THB 21,449,637.35 (USD 621,728.61). The value of the assets filed to the public prosecutor was THB 15,007,945.22 (USD 435,012.90) and the value of the assets from cases under consideration by the Courts was THB 56,090,572.13 (USD 1,625,813.68) (Table 18 - 19).

Year	Number of Cases	Total Value of Assets Subjected to Restraint/Seizure Orders (THB)
2020	20	51,201,949.60
2021	15	4,926,275.05
2022	84	40,882,661.75
2023	51	6,505,079.19
2024	24	21,449,637.35

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

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

Year	Value of Assets Filed to Public Prosecutor (THB)	Value of Assets Ordered by the Courts to be Forfeited for the Benefit of the State (THB)
2020	77,000,754.52	10,626,474.08
2021	4,926,275.05	304,335.12
2022	43,565,378.48	80,135,451.10
2023	64,057,974.50	31,844,831.45
2024	15,007,945.22	_ *

Note: \*the value of the assets from cases under consideration by the Courts was THB 56,090,572.13

#### 4.2 Amendment of Relevant Laws

AMLO has adopted the Ministerial Regulation B.E. 2567 (2024) regarding the return or restitution of assets related to criminal activities and compensation for damages to the victims. This initiative aims to enhance the efficiency of compensating and alleviating the suffering of victims of criminal activities, including human trafficking. The process is complete and the said Ministerial Regulation has been effective since the day after its official announcement in the Royal Gazette in 27 March 2024.

In 2024, 17 victims submitted received requests for protection of a total asset of THB 9,417,108.08 (USD 272,959.65). AMLO has provided protection of the victims' rights in a case, where the victims were deceived into working at a discotheque in Bahrain. Upon arrival, the victims were sold to another suspect for BHD 18,000 and forced into prostitution to repay the alleged debt.

Subsequently, Bahraini authorities conducted a raid, arrested the suspects, and assisted in repatriation of the victims to Thailand. One victim has sought protection, with assets valued at THB 232,930 (USD 6,751.59). The assets have subsequently been ordered to be under protection by the Court, and the case has been closed.

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

In 2024, the Department of Rights and Liberties Protection, Ministry of Labour (MOL) carried out witness protection in human trafficking cases for a total of 5 individuals. This development continues from the year 2023, where 13 individuals were protected, making a cumulative total of 18 individuals. The total budget utilized for these efforts was THB 2,467,811.12 (USD 71,530.75). All witnesses involved received full safety and security, resulting in trust and confidence in the safety protection provided by government agencies, enabling effective collaboration in providing information during the judicial process without coercion and interference, leading to successful prosecution (Table 20).

Year	The Number of Protected Witnesses	Total Budget Allocated (THB)		
2022	35	5,053,591.63		
2023	24	3,256,876.60		
2024	18	2,467,811.12		

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

In addition, the Department of Rights and Liberties Protection has implemented an "Expenses for the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking through the Rights, Liberties, and Human Rights Mechanism Project" to enhance protection and assistance for victims and witnesses in human trafficking cases under the rights, liberties, and human rights mechanisms. This project also contributes to establish a network for prevention and suppression of human trafficking as well as for coordination, dissemination of information, providing channels for warning and monitoring incidents of possible victims of human trafficking. This includes the creation of safe houses for witnesses, who are human trafficking victims, with an emphasis on victimcentered and trauma-informed approach. Under the Project, the Department of Rights and Liberties Protection has established 3 Human Trafficking Rights Protection Operation Centers in Chiang Mai, Ubon Ratchathani, and Krabi Provinces. In 2024, the details of the results are as follows:

Activities	Total Number of Victims Involved
Raising awareness of human trafficking among risk groups, including creating networks for the prevention and suppression of human trafficking	1,026
Providing legal assistance to victims of human trafficking	12
Collaborating with multidisciplinary teams to screen victims of human trafficking	2
Participating in working groups to examine indicators of human trafficking in labor and forced service labor	0
Meetings to consider claims of compensation for victims	13

 Table 21: Statistics of Trauma-informed Care for Victims

 by the Human Trafficking Rights Protection Operation Centers

The Department of Rights and Liberties Protection has undertaken efforts to assist and provide remedy to victims of human trafficking, who have suffered harm to their lives, bodies, or mental well-being, due to criminal acts committed by others. This is in accordance with the Damages for the Injured



Persons and Compensation and Expenses for the Accused in Criminal Cases Act B.E. 2544 (2001) and the Amendment (No. 2) B.E. 2559 (2016), totaling 88 cases with an amount of THB 2,730,924 (USD 79,157.21). The average compensation per case has been increasing since 2022. This year, the Department of Rights and Liberties Protection and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) have jointly linked the database system to integrate information on helping victims of human trafficking in providing remedies to victims and protecting witnesses in criminal cases, with a view to maximizing the efficiency in helping victims of human trafficking (<u>Table 22</u>).

Year	The Number of Victims Receiving Assistance and Remedy	e ingneigi Assistance	
2022	81	1,708,900	21,097.53
2023	103	2,766,902	26,863.13
2024	88	2,730,924	31,033.23

Table 22: Statistics on the Number of Victims Receiving Assistance and Remedy

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

In 2024, 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:

### 6.1 Cases Related to Sexual Exploitation

1) Prachuap Khiri Khan Case investigated After having karaoke a establishment in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, which secretly offered child prostitution, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division (ATPD), the Department of Provincial Administration Special (DOPA) Wisdom And Tactics (S.W.A.T), and the Operation Underground



Railroad (O.U.R), raided the establishment and rescued 2 underage female victims. A suspect was arrested and charged with human trafficking (Child Sexual Exploitation). The rescued victims were interviewed and entered screening process by a multidisciplinary team, in preparation for a transfer to a protection shelter and receive trauma-informed care. The case is currently under the Court's consideration.

2) Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Case – In October 2024, upon receiving a report from Immanuel Foundation Thailand, DOPA and Provincial Police Region 1 rescued an underage female victim and arrested 2 suspects from a karaoke establishment named "Rojchana Karaoke" in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province, which secretly offered child prostitution. The suspects were charged with the offense of opening an unlicensed establishment and child sexual exploitation. The victim promptly entered the NRM screening process. Further investigation revealed that the establishment owner had been arrested earlier in June 2024 with charges of opening an unlicensed establishment and selling alcohol without a license. Therefore, the arrest is regarded as a repeated offence and the establishment will be under consideration for a closure order of 5 years. The case is currently under investigation.

3) <u>Child Sexual Exploitation Case</u> – CWP received a total of 14 complaints on child sexual exploitation cases, 5 cases in 2023, and 9 cases in 2024. A total of 3 juvenile suspects from Mae Hong Son and Chiang Mai Provinces solicited 17 victims under the ages of 15 and 18 years to prostitution for Chinese clients in Bangkok. RTP was able to rescue 22 victims and arrested 9 offenders for child prostitution. The Courts have sentenced the suspects from the cases in 2023 to 44 years of imprisonment. The cases in 2024 are currently under the public prosecutors' consideration.

4) <u>Chonburi Child Sexual Exploitation Case</u> – Bo Win Police Station in Chonburi Province, was notified by Nong Khai Children's Shelter to rescue a 10-year-old victim who had been exploited for prostitution by her mother since the age of 8 years old. Police officers had arrested and charged the suspects with human trafficking by means of prostitution. The case is currently under investigation. 5) <u>Khon Kaen Child Prostitution Case</u> – ATPD was informed of a 12-year-old female victim, who had gone missing. RTP's investigation led to the arrest of a suspect on the charge of human trafficking by means of facilitating prostitution. Further investigation led to further arrests and more victims were found. In total, 4 suspects were arrested under the charge of human trafficking by means of facilitating prostitution, along with 9 buyers, and 6 victims have been rescued.

### 6.2 Cases Related to Exploitation from Production of Pornography

1) <u>Secret Group Case</u> – CWP and ATPD arrested 2 suspects aged 19 and 20 years after their thorough investigation found a secret group, which invited members to join and view contents of pornography of girls in school uniforms and other clips, which were believed to be of underage girls. After RTP had rescued one underage female victim, it was discovered that the victim had known the suspects from an online application. The suspect then asked to meet

with the victim to have sexual intercourse, and recorded the incident without the victim's consent initially. Thereafter, RTP gathered evidence to request the Courts for an arrest warrant of the suspects for uploading pornography online and inviting members to join the group, before sending the case to inquiry officers. The case is currently under the Court's consideration.



2) <u>"Ohmmy Acc-Lock" Sex Creator Case</u> – On 23 August 2024, CWP arrested a 25 year-old suspect in Bangkok for posting pornographic content with a 16 year-old victim online and charging viewers for the content. A charge of human trafficking from exploitation of child pornography was filed against the suspect. From RTP's investigation, it was found that the suspect had met

the victim through a dating application in late 2023, and had produced videos of their sexual encounter, then uploaded the contents on his X account to charge viewers for the content. The suspect had often deceived underage victims to produce sexual videos, and primarily created contents with young victims. The case is currently under the Court's consideration.



3) <u>Discord Case</u> – Police officers were informed of a Discord group broadcasting live pornographic videos of high school girls and charging viewers for the broadcast. RTP was able to identify the victims and received information

about the Discord group leader, who invited them to perform in the broadcasts, in exchange for a share of money received from the viewers. Later, RTP arrested 5 accomplices, who then made confession. Six more victims were found after further investigation. The case is under the Courts' consideration.

4) <u>Tanzanian National Prostitution Case</u> – RTP, in collaboration with public prosecutors, DSI, Immigration Bureau, and ATPD, rescued a female Tanzanian victim from being deceived into prostitution in Thailand, after being informed by an NGO. Public prosecutors worked, in conjunction with inquiry officers, in evidence collection, including the coordination with the Tanzanian authorities in extradition and examination of witnesses through online channels. Furthermore, coordination with several NGOs such as O.U.R. Rescue Thailand, NightLight, and A21 Foundation had facilitated the prosecution and care for the victim. This led to the successful arrests of 3 suspects. Currently, the authorities are waiting for the transfer of suspects and evidence from Tanzanian authorities before submitting the case to the Courts. The public prosecutors have submitted the case to the Court.

### 6.3 Cases Related to Forced Labor

1) <u>Finland Case</u> – During 2020 - 2022, approximately 2,000 Thai nationals were deceived into working as wild berry pickers in Finland, where they would then be confiscated of their passports, forced into debt bondage, and were coerced to work over 14 - 15 hours per day to pay off the exaggerated debt. The National Bureau of Investigation of Finland was able to arrest and prosecuted 5 suspects, including 2 companies in Finland, and had requested the Bureau of Human Trafficking, DSI and OAG, for investigation collaboration into one job agency in Bangkok, which was found to be an accomplice in the case. DSI had sent investigation findings of the related offence in Thailand to the Finnish authorities, and will bring the related perpetrators to the criminal justice process. Their investigation also discovered the involvement of high-level officials and DSI will file the case with NACC.

2) <u>Nakhon Ratchasima Case</u> – CWP and Non Thai Police Station in Nakhon Ratchasima Province rescued a 38-year-old male victim upon receiving a report from a civil society agency. The victim had worked for a sales representative for household electrical appliances since 2019 and were regularly assaulted by whipping and electric shocks by his employer for not meeting sale

targets, resulting in serious injuries on his body. RTP and multidisciplinary teams have identified the victim during the screening process to be a victim of trafficking for forced labor under Section 6/1. Police officers had filed a charge on the suspect for human trafficking, and the case is currently under the public prosecutors' consideration.



3) <u>Min Buri Case</u> – The suspect and the victim are related. Both entered Thailand illegally from Myanmar in January 2024. The victim, a 17-year-old, was forced to sell roti in Min Buri District while receiving 2 meals per day, and was severely assaulted when he could not meet his sales target, causing injuries on his body. Promptly upon being reported, police officers and a multidisciplinary team recued and put the victim through the screening process and the government's shelter. Charges of human smuggling and forced labor were filed against the suspect by RTP. Inquiry officers forwarded the case to public prosecutors for prosecution of the suspect. The victim was repatriated to Myanmar through coordination with MSDHS. The case is currently under the Court's consideration.

4) <u>Myanmar Children Case</u> – CWP, DOPA, and a multidisciplinary team from MSDHS rescued 6 foreign workers and sent them to shelters after receiving a report from the Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF). The victims, 3 under the age of 18, were forced to work in an online mala restaurant, and were beaten if they refused to do so. Two suspects have been arrested and charged with human trafficking, forced labor, hiring children below the legal limit, hiring foreigners to work without a permit, detaining and abducting minors. The case is currently under investigation. Later, the Courts granted the inquiry officers' request to examine the witnesses before the case is submitted to the Courts. This case presents a good example of coordination between the authorities and NGOs, which prioritizes the victim-centered approach, protects the victims' rights, and minimizes trauma to the victims from the justice process.

5) <u>Satun Fishing Boat Case</u> – A Myanmar victim was rescued by the Satun Provincial Police, in collaboration with Stella Maris Thailand, after reporting that he had been assaulted and forced to work on a fishing boat without receiving medical care for his broken arm. The Satun Province multidisciplinary team processed the victim through NRM and found him to be a victim of human trafficking from forced labor under Section 6/1. The case is currently under the public prosecutors' consideration.

6) <u>Laukkai Case</u> – In November 2023, the Division of Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and RTP rescued 266 victims from Laukkai, Myanmar. Out of 10 victims working for the K8 Group (Feiyang) who were rescued, 9 victims were repatriated to Thailand, and 1 victim was identified as a human trafficking victim and entered NRM process. After public prosecutors advanced their investigation, 7 more victims were identified. Furthermore, arrest warrants for 11 suspects from the K8 Group (Feiyang) were issued. The group was found to be forcing labor for romance scam. The case is under the Courts' consideration. 7) <u>Chonburi Case</u> – A multidisciplinary team consisting of officers from ATPD, Chonburi MSDHS, and Chonburi labor officers interviewed a young girl, rescued by a child shelter's officers, when she was found to be assaulted and had run away from home. She was found to be a human trafficking victim, who was sold from Myanmar and forced to work in a household.

The victim was forced to work several hours while not receiving 3 meals per day. She was severely punished, threatened, detained and not allowed to eat when she made a mistake. After an investigation, 3 suspects were found to be involved, and 2 more Myanmar victims, aged 17 and 18 were found, rescued, and sent to a shelter. All 3 suspects were arrested, and the case is currently under investigation.



8) <u>Cambodian Fishing Workers Case</u> – CWP, in collaboration with Stella Maris Thailand, MSDHS and labor officers, processed 72 Cambodian workers, who were found without immigration and work permits while transferring from a fishing boat to another in Chonburi Province. All workers were processed through NRM and no evidence of human trafficking was discovered. Koh Sichang Police Station, the case unit, then transferred the workers, in accordance with relevant regulations and prosecuted the employers for violation of ship permit.



9) <u>Lawyers Bribery Case</u> – In 2023, A group of 4 lawyers were arrested for offering bribe to a witness in a human trafficking case, for the witness to give false testimony to the Court. The case is currently under the Court's consideration. In 2024, advancements to the investigation led to the arrest of 1 additional lawyer. A charges of colluding to obstruct the investigation of human trafficking crimes was filed on the offender. The new case is currently under investigation.

1) <u>VK.com Case</u> – The Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (TICAC), in collaboration with ATPD and NGOs launched an investigation into a closed group on VK.com, called "Doo Hai Ta Chae", charging viewers for child pornographic content, 3 victims were identified. A total of 5 suspects were subsequently arrested for human trafficking and conspiracy to human trafficking, thereafter sentenced by the Courts. After the investigation, Swedish authorities were informed by the Thai authorities of a Swedish national (former Thai national) residing in Sweden, who was the owner of the "Doo Hai Ta Chae" account. The suspect was later arrested by the Swedish police and 7 more young Thai female victims were identified. Swedish authorities then requested ATPD and MSDHS to question the 7 victims in order to support the prosecution of the Swedish suspect, who was later sentenced by the Courts to imprisonment and ordered compensation to the victims. Subsequently, ATPD was able to bring the victims to receive the compensation from Swedish authorities in Thailand.

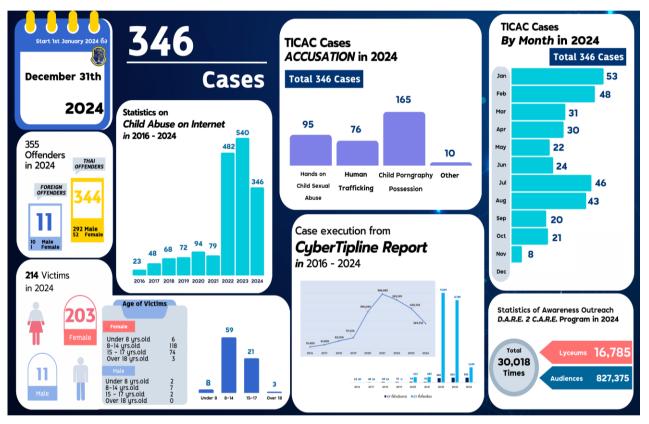
2) <u>A-SPA Case</u> – In 2020, inquiry officers were able to advance their investigation into a massage parlor that secretly offered prostitution. Two victims were rescued and sent to a shelter. Further investigation into the suspect's mobile phone found that the suspect had contacted clients via a LINE chat group named "A-SPA" in order to offer prostitution services. From this discovery, inquiry officers were able to identify 1 more victim and 3 more suspects, who were then charged with human trafficking and sentenced to imprisonment.

3) <u>Jelly Factory Case</u> – DSI received information from the labor section of the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok about potential forced labor in a jelly factory in Lad Prao District. On 27 January 2021, DSI, in collaboration with relevant agencies was able to rescue 18 Myanmar workers from the factory. After a screening process with a multidisciplinary team, 11 workers were identified to be human trafficking victims and received care from the International Justice Mission (IJM). In 2023, the Court of First Instance delivered judgments for the suspects. The case is currently under the Court of Appeal's consideration.

4) <u>Forced Labor in Cambodia Case</u> – The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) received complaints from 4 Thai victims, who were deceived into forced labor and work at a call center in Cambodia. After investigation by DSI, in collaboration with OAG, 2 suspects were filed charges of colluding to commit human trafficking offenses, jointly forcing labor or services, and arranging for work abroad without permission. In 2024, the Criminal Court sentenced the suspects to imprisonment and compensation for damage. This success story was the result of an integrated efforts of relevant agencies, namely MOJ, MSDHS, MOL, DSI, and OAG, delivering a holistic approach from investigation and care provided to the victims.

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

Prevention and suppression of online child sexual exploitation has been one of RTP's top priorities in addressing trafficking in persons. In 2024, RTP's TICAC investigated 779 potential offences and initiated a total of 346 cases, comprising 76 trafficking cases, 95 child pornography possession cases, 165 child sexual exploitation cases, and 10 other cases. TICAC also investigated 526 tips from the U.S. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) through Cyber Tipline cooperation. A total of 214 victims were rescued. Details are as indicated in <u>Diagram 5</u>.



**Diagram 5: Key Achievements of TICAC** 

Taking a proactive approach for long-term prevention, TICAC along with D.A.R.E. instructors from police stations nationwide, have conducted training sessions on preventing online child sexual exploitation and abuse across Thailand. The training sessions were delivered to students, pupils, parents, and community leaders totaling 30,018 times, reaching 827,375 individuals in schools, educational institutions, and communities, spanning 16,785 locations nationwide. The main objective of these sessions is to boost a whole-of-society awareness and resilience on the dangers of online social media, thus enabling a support system in protecting children from online threats. The training aims to equip individuals with knowledge and skills necessary to prevent and respond to potential dangers on the internet and to foster a safe online environment for children.

### 8. Results of the Suppression of Call Center Scams (Scam Centers)

RTP has ramped up efforts to address the rising challenges of online scam. Proactive approach has been taken in prevention and suppression of call center scams. In 2024, 356,844 cases of technology crime were reported on the Technology Crime Reporting System (https://thaipoliceonline.go.th/), totaling to damages of THB 36,209,449,962 (USD 1,049,549,274.26). Measures have been taken to prosecute fake accounts, under the Emergency Decree on Measures to Prevent and Suppress Technology Crime B.E. 2566 (2023), by seizing 303,941 fake accounts and requesting to freeze assets totaling THB 18,818,792,209 (USD 545,472,237.94), of which THB 7,538,245,223 (USD 218,499,861.53) was frozen. Realizing that call center scams are a transnational organized crime, which is more complex in nature and involves not only fraud but also human trafficking and forced labor, effective scam suppression requires tackling the root cause and all relevant dimensions. In addition to prosecuting perpetrators and those involved, RTP has carried out proactive suppression and prevention as follows:

### 8.1 Protection

In 2024, RTP has raised public awareness about online fraud among the public, with a total of 509,388 communication campaigns, of which 410,702 were done through online channels, and 98,686 through field visits.

### 8.2 Proactive Suppression

RTP and the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) have carried out proactive suppression, focusing on disabling the communication infrastructure of the call center gangs (signal towers, internet signal lines, and telephone numbers), to limit the service area to cover only telecommunications services within Thailand. This is to prevent criminals in neighboring countries from secretly using mobile phone signals or internet signals to deceive Thai people. The details are as follows:

1) Suppression of mobile base stations in border areas in 11 Districts of 7 Provinces, namely Chiang Rai, Tak, Sa Kaeo, Chanthaburi, Ranong, Surin, and Buriram, with the following results:

Area of Operation	The Total Number of Signal Towers	The Number of Signal Towers Suppressed	The Number of Mobile Antennae Switched Off	The Number of Mobile Antennae with their Transmission Diverted	The Number of Mobile Antennae with their Transmission Power Reduced	The Number of Mobile Antennae Dismantled
Chiang Rai Provine	Chiang Rai Province					
Mae Sai District	52	52	82	78	61	28
Chiang Khong District	25	25	5	31	15	6
Chiang Saen District	36	36	39	46	18	16

Table 23: Statistics on the Suppression of Mobile Base Stations

Area of Operation	The Total Number of Signal Towers	The Number of Signal Towers Suppressed	The Number of Mobile Antennae Switched Off	The Number of Mobile Antennae with their Transmission Diverted	The Number of Mobile Antennae with their Transmission Power Reduced	The Number of Mobile Antennae Dismantled
Tak Province				•		
Mae Sot District	137	137	227	201	46	128
Mae Ramad District	12	12	18	24	2	2
Pob Phra District	20	20	10	32	14	6
Sa Kaeo Province						
Aranya Prathet District	63	63	44	71	72	4
Chanthaburi Provi	nce	•	•	•		
Pong Nam Ron District	20	20	27	35	17	0
<b>Ranong Province</b>		•	•	•		
Mueang District	28	28	15	8	38	0
Surin Province		•	•	•		
Kaab Choeng District	4	4	8	2	8	8
<b>Buriram Province</b>						
Ban Kruad District	4	4	3	0	8	4
Total	401	401	478	528	293	202

2) Internet service providers are required to send data of users, who have leased more than one leased line circuit, or have unusually high traffic volume in the specified area and period. Details are as follows:

Area	Total Number of Circuits		
Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai Province	12		
Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai Province	20		
Chiang Saen District, Chiang Rai Province	3		
Mae Sot District, Tak Province	43		
Aranya Prathet District, Sa Kaeo Province	104		
Pong Nam Ron District, Chanthaburi Province	91		
Mueang District, Ranong Province	51		
Total	324		

The analysis of data from the table above led to the search, arrest and suspension of the use of large cables across the borders for transnational criminal organizations. In 2024, investigations found that there were illegal actions in Sa Kaeo, Tak, Nong Khai, Mukdahan, and Tak Provinces. 3) NBTC has been seeking to cancel or suspend the services of phone numbers related to the illegal actions of the call center gangs. Since 9 December 2023, the Anti-Online Crime Operations Center (AOC) has ordered mobile phone service providers to cancel or suspend the services of phone numbers of prepaid service users who make 100 or more calls per day. The results of the report from the service providers are as follows:

Total Number of Suspended	Total Number of Phone Numbers	Total Number of Phone Numbers
Phone Numbers	with Identified Users	with Unidentified Users
132,933	418	

 Table 25: Statistics on Suspended Mobile Phone Numbers

The service providers will investigate the numbers with unusual behavior and suspend the service until the users identify themselves. If the user does not comply, the number will be cancelled by the service providers.

4) NBTC has implemented a measure on identity verification and information regarding the use of mobile phone services (effective since 16 January 2024) for individuals who hold 6 or more phone numbers within specified time periods. Failure to comply with the measure will result in the suspension of services to those phone numbers. Out of the 9,059,534 numbers requiring identity verification by their users, 6,486,068 numbers have been verified, while 2,573,466 numbers are awaiting verification from their users.

5) The proactive suppression has focused on the elimination of fake accounts of the call center gangs. A total of 303,941 fake accounts were seized, and assets totaling THB 18,818,792,209 (USD 545,472,237.94) have been requested to be frozen, of which THB 7,538,245,223 (USD 218,499,861.53) was able to be frozen.

6) Perpetrators and accomplices, including owners of fake accounts and the private sectors, who intentionally or negligently allowed call center gangs to use their services to commit crimes, have been prosecuted.

## 8.3 Cooperation between the Public and Private Sectors and NGOs

1) A data-sharing system between RTP and banks has been developed to allow police officers to request documents from the banks electronically via a portal. This system allows police officers to send subpoenas for bank account information, account statements, including requests to freeze bank accounts suspected of being involved in illegal acts online. The information is submitted electronically to reduce the workload and expedite the work for police officers.

2) RTP immediately seized suspicious bank accounts upon receiving the initial report from victims in order to prevent the transfer of assets obtained from the crime. When the victim realizes that they have been deceived, they can immediately contact their bank to suspend the transactions of the suspected bank accounts before filing a complaint to prevent the transfer of assets by the perpetrators. The victim must file a complaint with the police within the specified timeframe to confirm illegal actions and damage caused (according to Section 6 of the Emergency Decree on Measures to Prevent and Suppress Technology Crimes).

3) RTP, in collaboration with AMLO, has taken action against individuals who have been placed on the list of high-risk of criminal acts (HR03). Police officers can submit information about individuals at high risk of being involved in money laundering. RTP and AMLO would jointly consider the information. Subsequently, the information would be forwarded to banks to suspend all electronic financial transactions of the individuals and prevent them from opening new bank accounts.

4) RTP has been in close cooperation with neighboring countries, namely Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, to jointly collaborate in prevention and suppression of the call center gangs, assist victims of human trafficking, and submit evidence for prosecution in countries that request it. The discussions were held at bilateral meetings, and during the 18<sup>th</sup> AMMTC and 42<sup>nd</sup> ASENAPOL Meetings.

5) RTP has been in discussion with social media platforms to screen and block online fraudulent content, especially scammers who create fake law enforcement pages and receive complaints.

6) In 2024, police officers discovered illegal fiber optic cables across the first Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge, transmitting high-speed internet signals across the border to support Chinese mafia groups and call center gangs in Myanmar. The 3-kilometer-long cables from Mae Sot District to Myawaddy Province in Myanmar have subsequently been severed by RTP.



9. Improving the Efficacy of Human Trafficking Prosecution<sup>1</sup>

RTP has placed capacity-building at the heart of their continued commitment to advance human trafficking prosecution. The emphasis is placed on training personnel to better deliver prosecution with knowledge of relevant anti-human trafficking laws and mechanisms, especially NRM, technological

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> U.S. Recommendation: (8) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of Section 6/1 of the antitrafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims.

advancement, as well as treating the victims based on victim centered and trauma-informed care approach.

## 9.1 Capacity-Building for Personnel in the Judicial Process

1) On 1 - 2 June 2024, the Office of the Judiciary held a seminar on procedures for human trafficking cases, in collaboration with the ASEAN-Australia Action Against Human Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT), attended by 15 judges from the Sa Kaeo Provincial Court. The seminar aimed to enhance the capacity of the judiciary personnel in adjudicating human trafficking cases and treatment of victims with consideration of their vulnerability and trauma. In 2022 – 2024, the Sa Kaeo Provincial Court had a large number of cases under

the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008), most of which involved call center gangs. Therefore, the Office of the Judiciary places great importance on capacity-building for judges in human trafficking cases, and confidencebuilding for the victims of human trafficking in assuring that they will receive a speedy and fair trial.



2) On 16 August 2024, the working group on the evaluation of laws, Office of Judicial and Legal Affairs of the Court of Justice, organized a workshop to receive feedback on the results of the Human Trafficking Procedure Act B.E. 2559 (2016). The objective of the workshop was to evaluate opinions and suggestions of relevant officers, experts and law practitioners, for the improvement of relevant laws, resulting in more efficient and expedited judicial process. The workshop involved 230 participants from the Court of

Justice, OAG, Ministry of Defense, MSDHS, Ministry of Interior, MOL, MOJ, DSI, Office of Justice Affairs, RTP, AMLO, Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Center, Lawyers Council of Thailand, ASEAN-



ACT, Immanuel Foundation (IMF) and Destiny Rescue Foundation, personnel from relevant agencies and interested members of the general public.

3) On 26 August 2024, the Judicial Training Institute, Office of the Judiciary, in collaboration with ASEAN-ACT, hosted a knowledge-sharing seminar on Australia's best-practices of people-centered justice systems on Facebook Live. University professors and various experts from relevant fields

from Australia and Thailand attended the seminar as speakers. The seminar received a total number of 2,839 registrations from attendees.

4) On 28 December 2023, the Office of the Judiciary commissioned a working group to develop a justice process curriculum on the laws on prevention and suppression of human trafficking. The working group's objectives are to study, develop, and create a training curriculum for judicial officers and guidelines for human



trafficking cases that involve vulnerable persons. The curriculum is expected to be completed in October 2025. Upon completion, regular training courses will be provided every year to personnel of the Court of First Instance and the Supreme Court.

5) The Rabi Badhanasakti Research and Development Institute, Office of the Judiciary, in collaboration with ASEAN-ACT, commissioned a "People-Centered Prototype Courtroom" research project, aiming to study and assess the problem of current courtrooms and to develop a design for victim-centered courtroom to ensure fair and equal trials while taking into consideration the vulnerable victims of human trafficking. The project involves experts in the field of laws, architecture, design, and other related fields, and is expected to be completed in October 2025.

6) Throughout 2024, the Office of International Affairs, Office of the Judiciary, provided trainings for interpreters in the justice process for victims, suspects, defendants, or witnesses involved in criminal cases, who cannot understand or communicate in Thai. The trainings were provided for interpreters of Mandarin, Burmese, and sign languages, totaling 154 participants.



7) On 8 August 2024, the Office of International Affairs, Office of the Judiciary, hosted a knowledge-sharing session, led by Ms. Charimjit Phanthawi, Chief Judge of the Civil Court, to share her experience from the Criminal Justice training in Japan, which focused on investigation, prosecution, adjudication and international cooperation. The session's objectives were to enhance knowledge and understanding for judicial officials, personnel in the central and regional

offices of the Office of the Judiciary, and the general public. The session received a total number of 2,576 registrations from attendees.

8) On 18 October 2024, the Office of the Judiciary, in collaboration with the IJM Foundation, hosted an academic seminar on trauma-informed care. The seminar aimed to develop knowledge on trauma-



informed procedures for treating victims of

human trafficking cases, and victim-centered techniques for the adjudication of human trafficking cases. The seminar was attended by 35 participants.

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นวันที่ 8 สิงหาคม 2567 เวลา 13.00 - 14.00 นาฬิกา ผ่าน Facebook Live เพจสื่อศาล

## 9.2 Capacity-Building for Public Prosecutors

1) On 2 - 3 May 2024, the Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation, OAG, organized a capacity-building workshop. Public prosecutors with expertise in human trafficking cases gave lectures and shared their experiences with public prosecutors, who were just transferred to work at

the Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation cycle of April in the 2024. The objectives of the workshop were to exchange experiences, provide advice and guidelines on human trafficking cases. In addition, the prosecutors received lectures on victim-centered the and trauma-informed approaches throughout the justice process. This workshop will be incorporated into the regular curriculum for every transfer cycle of public prosecutors in the future.



2) On 16 May 2024, the Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation, OAG, with financial support from O.U.R. Rescue Thailand, organized a capacity-building lecture on trauma-informed care to increase efficiency in the prosecution of human trafficking cases. The lecture was given by Dr. Jordan Greenbaum to enhance the skills of prosecutors and related officers in

communicating with young victims of human trafficking and child exploitation during the prosecution process. This lecture is part of the Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation's ongoing efforts to develop a trauma-informed approach.



3) On 16 - 17 July 2024, the Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation, OAG, with financial support from O.U.R. Rescue Thailand, organized a capacity-building workshop to increase public prosecutors' efficiency in the prosecution of human trafficking cases. Thai and foreign experts exchanged their expertise and experience on digital evidence collection and the effective use of digital evidence in court. This workshop is a part of cooperation between the Government and NGOs in the sustainable suppression of human trafficking.

4) The Child-friendly Justice System Among Public Prosecutors Working with Child Victims of Human Trafficking, Sexual Abuse, and Other Forms of Violence Against Children (CJIT), established in 12 May 2021, shared their knowledge in capacity-building training workshops for public prosecutors and multidisciplinary teams. The workshops aimed to better equip related personnel working with child victims of human trafficking cases. In 2024, trainings were provided to a total of 1,669 students, 305 public prosecutors, and 306 multidisciplinary team personnel. In addition, consultations were provided for 4 cases, with a total of 6 times, 10 public relations campaigns for the CJIT project were organized to promote access channels to legal assistance for victims.

## 9.3 <u>Capacity-Building for Public Prosecutors on the Use of</u> <u>Technology</u>

1) On 22 October 2024, OAG organized a training project on investigation of online child sexual abuse cases for 40 public prosecutors by experts from TICAC. The objectives were to equip public prosecutors with better understanding and knowledge of digital technology for combating human trafficking, such as



the collection and analysis of electronic evidence for investigation of human trafficking cases, in line with the increasing trend of technology being utilized to commit illegal acts.

2) On 9 October 2024, OAG organized a training project on the utilization of generative AI on data research and organization. Public prosecutors from the Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation were able to learn

about generative AI and how to they can use it in their law enforcement work.

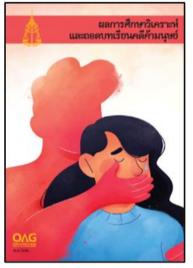
3) On 16 – 18 October 2024, the Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation, OAG, organized a capacity-building workshop on human trafficking cases and the use of technology in support of their prosecution work. The project



involved 80 participants. As a result, a working group on the improvement of electronic case database system for human trafficking cases was established. A training workshop on data recording in the electronic case data base system was set to be organized for prosecutors, legal officers, and case officers to develop electronic skills for increased efficiency. The Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation's operational plan for 2026 - 2027 was also discussed, with opinions and recommendations being exchanged to improve the plan in accordance with the increasing trend of technology-facilitated trafficking.

## 9.4 Publications on Improvement of Human Trafficking Prosecution

1) The Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation, OAG, organized 4 projects to assess and evidence analyze obstacles in the collection. interpretation of the laws, and law enforcement in human trafficking cases from 272 related personnel, who worked on cases of forced criminality associated with scam centers. This included representatives from provincial social development and welfare, provincial immigration and labor, police officers, DSI, Stella Maris, A21 Foundation, and IJM. As a result, "Guidelines for Enforcing Anti-Trafficking in Persons



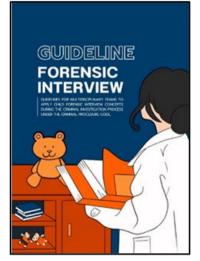
Laws and Addressing Labor and Service-related Issues"

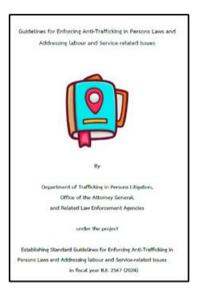
was published and disseminated to those involved in the suppression of human trafficking to ensure effective and coordinated work between anti-human trafficking agencies.

2) The Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation, OAG, published the "Report on the Study, Analysis and Lessons Learned from Human Trafficking Cases" to better equip law enforcement

personnel and agencies related to human trafficking

cases with greater understanding of the justice process related to such cases. This ranges from evidence protection process collection. of victims. and proceedings in the Courts. The objectives of this report are to improve the efficiency of agencies related to the suppression of human trafficking, and to ensure that human trafficking victims receive sufficient protection assistance for their rights according and to international human rights principles.





3) The Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation, OAG, in collaboration with CJIT, HUG Project, World Childhood Foundation, Law Enforcement and Anti-Drugs Division of the United States Embassy in Thailand, and relevant agencies, published the "Guideline for Multidisciplinary Teams to Apply Child Forensic Interview Concepts During the Criminal Investigation Process Under the Criminal Procedure Code" to minimize trauma to child victims during prosecution and fact-finding process by personnel in the criminal justice process. The guideline contains easy-to-follow recommendations for the complete justice process.

## 9.5 <u>Improving Efficiency During the Justice Process for Children's</u> <u>Rights</u>

CJIT has been working since 2021 to promote justice, taking into account the best interest of children and the suppression of human trafficking. Having realized the need to better equip child interrogation rooms in the public prosecutor's offices nationwide, CJIT has advocated the Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation, OAG, to allocate THB 35,568,800 (USD 1,030,979.71) of the annual budget for fiscal year 2025 to improve the equipment for interrogation rooms for children in criminal cases in 76 offices, both central and regional, nationwide. This is to ensure that children can feel safe, relaxed and ready to cooperate with personnel in the justice process, which is in line with the victim-centered approach and reduces the trauma from repeated abuse (revictimization) in the judicial process.

## 9.6 <u>Capacity-Building for Local Government Officials</u>

1) On 3 – 17 February 2024, the Investigation and Legal Affairs Bureau, DOPA, organized a capacity-building program for the DOPA S.W.A.T to develop tactics for the prevention and suppression of human trafficking. The program involved 40 district chiefs and administrative officers, and 5 trainees from NGOs (O.U.R. Rescue, IMF, and Destiny Rescue Foundation).

2) On 29 April – 1 May, the Investigation and Legal Affairs Bureau, DOPA organized a training program for personnel related to the prevention and suppression of human trafficking. This is in accordance with the Action Plan on NRM,



Case Management, and the Protection and of Victims of Human Trafficking and Forced Labor B.E. 2565 (2022). The program was attended by 38 district chiefs

and administrative officers from 10 pilot provinces in establishing integrated centers for screening victims of human trafficking. Participants involved in brain-storming workshops, experience sharing, and simulated situations to develop skills related to the screening and care providing to victims of human trafficking.

3) On 27 May – 1 June 2024, DOPA organized a capacity-building

program for the DOPA S.W.A.T to enhance their capacity in emerging forms of human trafficking and criminal acts, in collaboration with O.U.R. United States, and the S.W.A.T from Boise, Idaho. A total of 38 participants received training on international standard tactics and suppression of technology crimes.



## 9.7 Capacity-Building on the Implementation of NRM

Throughout 2024, RTP and CWP organized a series of seminars for 1,800 police officers, inquiry officers, and multidisciplinary teams nationwide on NRM, case management, and victim protection related to human trafficking and forced labor. The training highlighted deficiencies in real-life operations, focusing on the entire process from notification, identification to protection. The goal was to enhance officers' capabilities in handling these issues and providing effective assistance to victims.



## 9.8 <u>Capacity-Building Training on Investigation of Online</u> <u>Human Trafficking Cases</u>

CWP organized a series of practical computer forensic investigation training program for TICAC, to enhance their computing skills in utilizing electronic evidence gathering and online investigation. The training aimed to expedite and improve the efficiency of investigations and subsequent legal prosecution of offenders. A total of 528 individuals, including TICAC members and relevant personnel, completed the training to upskill their application of information technology to support digital evidence gathering and online investigations.



## 9.9 <u>Improving Efficiency of Disciplinary Actions Against</u> <u>Complicit Officials</u>

1) RTP organized a training session to improve the efficiency of police officers, who are disciplinary officers from 37 units. The session was attended by 394 participants. Moreover, Mr. Pranai Vanichanon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Administrative Court, gave a lecture about administrative orders related to disciplinary actions. A total of 300 police officers under the Disciplinary Division and disciplinary officers attended the lecture.



2) On 29 November 2024, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice chaired the second meeting of the Subcommittee on Monitoring Disciplinary Actions and Prosecution Against Government Officials to Prevent Involvement in Human Trafficking of the year 2024. Participants included representatives from government agencies, including the DSI, the Office of the



Judiciary, OAG, RTP, AMLO, NACC, the Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission, the Office of the Civil Service Commission, and other relevant agencies. The meeting followed up on the progress of 29 cases of prosecution of government officials involved in human trafficking under investigation, as well as 2 new cases and reviewing stringent measures for complicit officials.

## 9.10 Training for Interpreters in Human Trafficking Cases

On 17 – 19 September 2024, CWP organized a training seminar for police officers capable of being interpreters in human trafficking cases. The objective of the seminar was to enhance their interpreting skills to match international standards. The seminar was attended by 160 police officers from the Metropolitan Police Bureau and Provincial Police Regions 1-9. Additionally, the CWP has informed in writing all police officers nationwide of the availability of 2,704 persons (police officers and external personnel) who are capable of interpreting and can be immediately contacted by phone if needed during the NRM screening process. They are capable of interpreting English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Yawi, Burmese, Indian, Rohingya, Lao, Japanese, Russian, Pao, Shan, Karen, and others. They are available upon request throughout the judicial process, at municipal and provincial levels.



		1	Number of Inte	erpreters by La	nguage			
Area	English	Chinese	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Yawi	Burmese	Others	Total
Metropolitan Police Bureau	35	15	3	6	3	14	9	85
Provincial Police Region 1	82	17	1	32	2	43	23	200
Provincial Police Region 2	54	28	2	130	0	25	20	259
Provincial Police Region 3	84	11	0	64	0	7	8	174
Provincial Police Region 4	395	71	27	32	1	15	50	591
Provincial Police Region 5	190	75	0	2	0	28	115	410
Provincial Police Region 6	215	33	0	13	1	43	30	335
Provincial Police Region 7	72	13	1	6	0	90	28	210
Provincial Police Region 8	91	8	1	4	1	52	26	183
Provincial Police Region 9	39	9	2	2	108	48	49	257
							Total	2,704

Table 26: Number of RTP Interpreters by Languages and Areas

## **10. International Cooperation and Partnership with NGOs and Governmental Agencies**

## **10.1** Developments in International Cooperation

## 1) 18th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime

On 26 – 29 August 2024, CWP joined the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in Vientiane, Lao PDR, as Thailand's Senior ASEAN Officer on Transnational Crime in Thailand and Deputy Head of the Delegation, with Minister of Justice as Head of the Delegation. In addition, CWP





attended bilateral meetings with Indonesia, Myanmar, Laos, Malaysia, Cambodia, and South Korea, to seek international cooperation for proactive efforts to suppressing transnational crimes, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and online scams.

## 2) <u>Bilateral Meeting on Cooperation between Thailand and</u> <u>Cambodia</u>

On 21 – 23 August 2024, a delegation consisting of representatives from the CWP, MFA, MSDHS, and the Royal Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh, had a meeting with the Director-General of the Department of Consular Affairs, MFA and International Cooperation of Cambodia, in Phnom Penh, to discuss cooperation in the



assistance and repatriation of Thai nationals who have been deceived to work in Cambodia, including the screening process of Thai nationals, and the sharing of information for prosecution. The delegation also visited a shelter for Thai nationals while they undergo the screening process.

## 3) <u>Bilateral Meeting on Cooperation between Thailand and</u> <u>Myanmar</u>

On 11 – 12 June 2024, DSI co-chaired a bilateral meeting on international cooperation for investigation of human trafficking cases with the Police Department of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Chiang Mai. This is the 23<sup>rd</sup> bilateral meeting on cooperation between the two agencies, with the objective of promoting cooperation in combating human trafficking, focusing on exchanging information and enhancing the capabilities of the agencies. The meeting also provided an opportunity for discussions on protection of human trafficking victims and forced labor victims with NGOs that supported the meeting, including IJM, IOM, Immanuel Foundation, LIFT International, Rapha International, Destiny Rescue, and ZOE Foundation.



## 4) Cooperation to Arrest a Foreign Suspect of Human Trafficking

The Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) and ATPD, in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), arrested an American suspect in Bangkok after receiving a request from the United States Embassy in Thailand to arrest the suspect, according to an arrest warrant issued by a District Court in Oregon. The suspect had kidnapped, deceived, coerced, and trafficked victims for sexual exploitation. After the arrest, the suspect will proceed with the legal process to be extradited to the United States.



## 5) <u>Bilateral Meeting on Cooperation between Thailand and</u> <u>Cambodia</u>

On 25 July 2024, the Commissioner-General of RTP had an online bilateral meeting with the Cambodian National Police Chief to seek cooperation in suppressing call center scams, after the Prime Ministers of the two countries had sought for more collaborative efforts to combat call center scams. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau, the Immigration Bureau, provincial police bordering

Cambodia, the Bank of Thailand, AMLO, NBTC, and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (DE). As a result, a task force will be set up to suppress such illegal actions, and Cambodia has agreed to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking who have been forced to work in call center gangs.



## 6) <u>Bilateral Meeting on Cooperation between Thailand and</u> <u>Cambodia</u>

In 2024, CWP and the Indonesian Embassy in Thailand rescued 5 Indonesian nationals and 5 Moroccan nationals, who had been deceived into working illegally in Myanmar. The rescued victims were subsequently processed

through NRM and exempted from prosecution for illegal entry and departure. They decided not to enter the Thai judicial system and were repatriated to their home countries after completing NRM process. Information related to the cases have been shared between the Thai and Indonesian authorities.



## 7) Counter Trafficking in Persons Centre of Excellence

The Government, by the Persons Anti-Trafficking in Committee, has approved the establishment of the Counter Trafficking in Persons Center of Excellence, in accordance with the Understanding Memorandum of between the Thai and Australian governments of 2 November 2022.



The Center of Excellence was officially launched in May 2024 and is located at the DSI Academy. The first training session held at the Center, attended by government officials and civil society organizations, was aimed at educating participants the principles of prevention and suppression of human trafficking, as well as enhancing knowledge of better protection for victims. In 2025, the Government has allocated a budget for the Center, with a plan to expand the target group for training to include regional officers and frontline officers. A website and online training courses for the Center are also planned to be developed to reach greater audience.



## 10.2 Cooperation with International Organizations and NGOs

## 1) <u>Conference on Cooperation in Exchanging Information and</u> Sharing Experience in Combating Human Trafficking

On 17 – 19 January 2024, the DSI organized the Conference on Cooperation in Exchanging Information and Sharing Experience in Combating Human Trafficking, participated by over 100 representatives from over 40 agencies related to anti-human trafficking efforts, such as the RTP, MSDHS, MOI, MOL, international organizations, embassies and NGOs (ASEAN-ACT, IOM, Regional Support Office of the Bali Process on Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (RSO Bali Process), A21, LIFT International, O.U.R., SCIENTIA Project, IJM Thailand, ZOE Foundation, Rapha International). The conference focused on fostering cooperation between organizations to enhance anti-human trafficking efforts, leading to integrated efforts that benefit victims of human trafficking.



## 2) Thailand's First Modern Slavery Conference

On 1 March 2024, the OAG organized "Thailand's First Modern Slavery Conference," with support from ASEAN-ACT, IJM, and A21. Participants included relevant agencies such as COJ, DSI, RTP, MOJ, MOL, Australian Embassy in Thailand, Embassy of the United States in Thailand, Delegation of the European Union to Thailand, the Stock Exchange of Thailand,

Charoen Pokphand Group, Thai Union, Foods Thai Frozen Association. National Fisheries Association of Thailand, Kasikorn Bank, and META. The conference's objective was to raise awareness of modern slavery in various sectors, the legal scope and relevant international legal standards, the social and economic impacts, and guidelines protection, prevention for and compensation for victims.



## 3) <u>Cooperation on Prosecuting Trafficking in Persons for</u> <u>Forced Criminality Associated with Scam Centers</u>

In March 2024, the OAG, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), RSO Bali Process, and ASEAN-ACT, organized the Regional Workshop on Prosecuting Trafficking in Persons for Forced Criminality Associated with Scam Centers in Southeast Asia. The workshop aimed to exchange good practices, increase



awareness, establish guidelines, develop coordination and cooperation between law enforcement officers and prosecutors in the prosecution of human trafficking cases related to offences related to online scams.

## 4) <u>Cooperation on Prosecuting Trafficking in Persons for</u> <u>Forced Criminality Associated with Scam Centers</u>

On 23 April 2024, the OAG's Department of Human Trafficking in Persons Litigation, with support from IJM Thailand, organized a meeting between public prosecutors, victims, and related agencies of the Coordination Center for Trafficking Victims (CCTV). The meeting aimed to inform related parties on the problems and obstacles in prosecuting human trafficking, labor and forced labor, and online pornography cases, as well as set up guidelines for integration of the protection of welfare and compensation for victims of human trafficking.

## **10.3** Cooperation with Relevant Governmental Agencies

## 1) <u>Creating Awareness for People at Risk of Becoming Victims</u> of Human Trafficking

The CWP has emphasized the guidelines for screening human trafficking victims by adhering to the procedures in accordance with the NRM, with Immigration Police Offices. The Immigration Police Office has implemented the CWP's order to increase awareness of the public by installing warnings at border crossings in various languages for people at risk of being deceived to work in neighboring countries. In Tak Province, where warning signs have been installed in 6 languages (Thai, English, Filipino, Indonesian, and Vietnamese), there have been 23 cases of people not continuing their travel to Myanmar, preventing themselves from becoming victims of human trafficking.



## 2) Screening of People At Risk of Becoming Victims of Human

Trafficking

The Immigration Bureau enacted preventive measures by installing warning signs in international airports, and randomly screening people at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking. Out of 14,241 individuals who had been screened since September 2024, a total of 18 individuals were rescued from being deceived into working in neighboring countries by call center gangs, while using Thailand as a transit country.



## 3) Combating Human Trafficking in the Fishery

## Sector



On 21 August 2024, the CWP chaired a meeting with the ATPD to discuss measures to prevent human trafficking in the fisheries sector in Samut Sakhon Province, chaired by the Director of CWP. After the meeting, the commanding officers, led by the Director of CWP, inspected the labor on fishing boats that docked at the Fish Marketing Organization in Samut Sakhon Province.

## 4) Thailand Victim Identification and Referral Center

To ensure the effective implementation of NRM and extension of the reflection period for victims, NRM has been designed to facilitate operations of relevant agencies in coordinating, sharing information,

and referring assistance to protect individuals, who are assumed to be victims of human trafficking or forced labor, so that they can immediately access assistance. RTP implemented NRM by opening the Thailand Victim Identification and Referral Center in Bangkok, on 24 September 2024. The Center was established to support operations under NRM in protecting individuals who are believed to be victims of human trafficking, victims of forced labor or services, and subsequently refer them to justice processes.



## 5) Cooperation on the Prosecution of Laukkai Case

On 8 October 2024, 21 public prosecutors from OAG's Department of Human Trafficking in Persons Litigation had a meeting with inquiry officers from ATPD on the prosecution of the Laukkai Case. They discussed effective ways to present the evidence to the Courts, raised concerns regarding the collection of



evidence in prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, and proposed collaboration with public prosecutors on the investigation of cases outside Thailand.

## 6) <u>Training Course on the Prevention and Suppression of Human</u> <u>Trafficking</u>

On 26 – 29 November 2024, DSI organized the "Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking 101 (CTOC-TIP 101)" training course for 43 representatives from governmental agencies related to the prosecution, protection, and prevention of human trafficking, namely MSDHS, MOL, MOI, OAG, AMLO, RTP, DPLW, MOJ, and the Royal Thai Navy. The training course was aimed to enhance knowledge on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking, from the screening process to law enforcement, to enhance the efficiency of the anti-human trafficking efforts. This is a result of the cooperation with the ASEAN-ACT to establish the Counter Trafficking in Persons Centre of Excellence. Experts on anti-human trafficking from OAG, COJ, RTP, MSDHS and MOL participated in the training course as instructors.

## 7) Capacity-building Training for Justice Process of Juvenile

On 27 – 29 November 2024, OAG, in collaboration with MSDHS, HUG Project, World Childhood Foundation, and Kindernothilfe (KNH), organized a capacity-building training program for multidisciplinary teams in the justice process for juvenile. A total of 40 public prosecutors, police officers, and MSDHS personnel participated in the program.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Protection

Thailand has consistently attached importance to providing protection and assistance to victims of human trafficking. Since 2002, the National Referral Mechanisms (NRM) has served as a key element in combating trafficking in persons to ensure that potential victims receive protection and assistance to facilitate effective legal proceedings. NRM operates across all stages, from victim screening and identification to protection both inside and outside shelters, with respect for human dignity and non-discrimination regardless of gender, age, nationality, race, religion, tradition and culture. Moreover, the Government provides tailored services to meet the diverse needs of victims using a victim-centered approach, taking into account the best interest of victims, particularly children, and prioritizing trauma-informed care. Thailand also aims for the sustainable reintegration of victims into society and countries of origin to prevent revictimization in line with the established standards and specific needs of victims.

In addition to domestic operations, Thailand has engaged in consultations with 6 countries in the Mekong Sub-region to coordinate international assistance under the Transnational Referral Mechanisms (TRM), set to evolve into regional coordination, with Thailand prepared to lead alongside other sub-regional countries to establish bilateral and multilateral collaborative mechanisms. Thailand has also coordinated with embassies and consulates of relevant countries to develop practices in assisting human trafficking victims, including those related to forced criminality involving the misuse of technology. Thailand aims to ensure that such victims receive protection and assistance in line with human rights principles even when the crimes do not take place on Thai soil.

#### 1. Statistics on Victim Protection and Assistance

#### 1.1 Statistics on Victim Protection and Assistance in 2024

In 2024, the Government provided protection and assistance to 514 victims of trafficking in persons. The majority were Thai nationals, accounting for 267 individuals (51.95%), while the remaining 247 victims (48.05%) were foreign nationals. The victims were categorized into two groups: 496 victims of trafficking in persons as defined under Section 6 and 18 victims of forced labor or services under Section 6/1 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008) and its amendments (Table 27 - 28).

Year		Sex	/Age			Types of Exploitation from Human Trafficking									
	М	M < 18	F	F < 18	Prostitution	Pornography	Other Forms of Sexual Exploitations	Forced labor or services	Work Fishery	Forced begging	Slavery	Extortion			
2022	146	19	159	120	136	76	188	41	1	2	0	0	0	444	
2023	191	57	136	256	246	43	25	106	0	13	2	2	203	640	
2024	157	48	67	242	192         27         59         210         0         1         0					0	7	18	514		

#### Table 27 Statistics on the Total Number of Victims Who Received Protection and Support

#### Table 28 Statistics on the Number of Identified Victims by Nationality

Types		Sez	x/Age			Тур	es of Exploitation	from Human	Trafficking				
Identified Victims	М	M < 18	F	M < 18	Prostitution	Pornography	Other Forms of Sexual Exploitations	Forced labor or services	Forced begging	Slavery	Extortion	Forced Labor or Services Under Section 6/1	Total
Thai	9	28	12	218	171	27	52	9	-	-	-	8	267
Sri Lankan	36	-	13	-	-	-	-	49	-	-	-	-	49
Indonesian	27	-	6	-	-	-	-	32	-	-	-	1	33
Myanmar	1	10	1	13	3	-	3	13	1	-	-	5	25
Ethiopian	19	-	5	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	2	24
Ugandan	18	-	5	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	23
Chinese	13	7	2	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	7	-	22
Moroccan	12	-	1	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	13
Laotian	1	1	2	9	8	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	13
Tanzanian	-	-	8	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Indian	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
Nepali	4		1					5				-	5
Filipino	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Kenyan	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	4
Vietnamese	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Burundian	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Ukrainian	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Brazilian	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Yemeni	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Malaysian	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Taiwanese	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cameroon	1		-					1					1
South African	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bangladeshi	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Stateless	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Unidentified	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nationality													
Total	157	48	67	242	192	27	59	210	1	0	7	18	514

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

In 2024, 80 victims (15.57%) opted to stay outside shelters (<u>Table 29</u>), mostly staying with their families or having their own accommodations. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) appointed officers to coordinate and follow up to ensure that they received assistance to obtain remedies and pursue legal claims.

Types		S	ex/Age			Тур	es of Exploitation	on from Human	Trafficking			Forced	
Identified Victims	М	M < 18	F	F < 18	Prostitution	Pornography	Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation	Forced Labor or Services	Forced Begging	Slavery	Extortion	Labor or Services Under Section 6/1	Total
2022	117	-	125		24	33	185	-	-	-	-	-	242
2023	106	38	99	105	118	33	11	46	4	-	-	136	348
2024	23	8	8	41	39	12	2	20	0	0	2	5	80
Foreigners	15	-	1	2	2	-	-	14	-	-	2	-	18
Thai	8	8	7	39	37	12	2	6	-	-	-	5	62

#### Table 29 Statistics on Victims Opting to Stay Outside of Shelters

### **1.3 Victims in Governments and Private Shelters**

MSDHS has worked with civil society organizations registered as private shelters to provide victim protection. Victims in government and private shelters received equal treatment, taking into account their rights and are guaranteed safety and protection in accordance with the victim-centered approach.

1) A total of 417 victims stayed in government shelters (81.13%) (<u>Table</u> <u>30</u>).

Types		Sex	x/Age				Types of Exploi	tation from	Human Traffic	king			Forced	
Identified Victims	М	M < 18	F	F < 18	Prostitution	Pornography	Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation	Forced Labor or Services	Fishery Worker	Forced Begging	Slavery	Extortion	Labor or Services Under Section 6/1	Total
2022	29	19	26	96	92	33	3	39	1	2	0	0	0	170
2023	86	18	29	137	122	3	8	58	-	9	2	2	66	270
2024	134	40	46	197	141	15	56	190	0	1	0	5	9	417
Foreigners	133	18	41	19	7	-	6	186	-	1	-	5	6	211
Thai	1	20	5	177	132	15	50	3	-	-	-	-	3	203
Stateless	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3

#### Table 30 Number of Victims Staying in Government Shelters

2) A total of 17 victims stayed in private shelters (3.31%) (Table 31).

Table 31 Number of Victims Staying in Private Shelters

Types		Sex	/Age			Tyj	oes of Exploitation	on from Humai	n Trafficking			Forced	
Identified Victims	М	M < 18	F	F < 18	Prostitution	Pornography	Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation	Forced Labor or Services	Forced Begging	Slavery	Extortion	Labor or Services Under Section 6/1)	Total
2565	-	-	8	24	20	10	-	2	-	-	-	-	32
2566	-	-	8	14	6	7	6	2	-	-	-	1	22
2567	-	-	11	3	10	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	14
Foreigners	-	-	11	-	8	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	11
Thai	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Stateless	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

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

In 2024, MSDHS worked with relevant agencies to reintegrate 255 victims into society with assurance for their safety, support from local authorities and prevention of revictimization. 65 were Thai nationals repatriated to their domicile, and 190 were foreign nationals repatriated to countries of origin by the Royal Thai Government in collaboration with governments of origin countries and civil society organizations.

Types of Victims' Repatriation	Prostitution	Forced Labor	Other Forms of Exploitation
2022	67	48	21
2023	60	367	10
2024	47	163	45
Thai Victims Repatriated to their domicile	34	2	29
Foreign Victims Repatriated to Countries of Origin by the Royal Thai Government	8	21	13
Foreign Victims Repatriated by Governments of Countries of Origin	-	22	-
Victims Repatriated by NGOs/IOs	5	118	-
Foreign Victims Accepted for Resettlement	-	_	3

Table 32 Number of Victims Repatriated to Countries of Origin

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

In 2024, the Government provided assistance to 159 Thai nationals, who encountered problems related to human trafficking and forced labor in Cambodia, Myanmar, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and Benin.

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

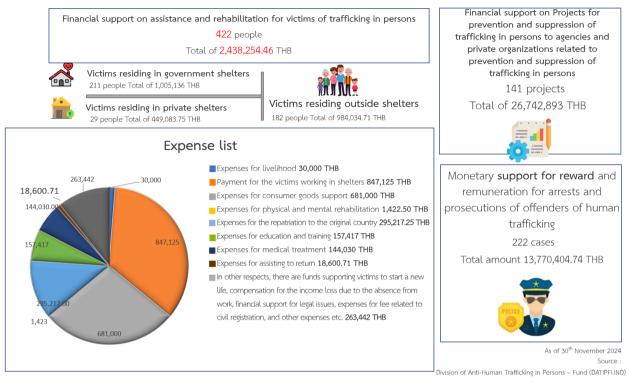
The Government has attached importance to providing assistance and remedies to victims. This consists of (1) initial remedies under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund from the government budget, and (2) compensation claims from offenders.

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

In 2024, 439 victims received remedies from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund, amounting to THB 2,717,648.46 (USD 78,772.41). Of these cases, 226 victims in government shelters received THB 1,134,605 (USD 32,887.10) (41.75%); 30 victims in private shelters received THB 526,333.75 (USD 15,256.05) (19.37%); and 233 victims who stayed outside shelters received THB 1,056,709.71 (USD 30,629.26) (38.88%).

## Anti - Trafficking in Persons Funds

## (1 January – 31 December 2024)



## 2.2 Assistance on Compensation Claims from Offenders

In 2024, the Government assisted 278 victims in claiming the compensation from offenders in 136 cases, amounting to THB 117,430,230 (USD 3,403,774.78) (Table 33)

Year	Number of cases	Number of victims	Total Compensation (THB)
2565	-	204	70,538,964
2566	134	218	101,017,052
2567	136	278	117,430,230
Victims Inside Shelters	63	80	29,293,030
Victims Outside Shelters	73	198	88,137,200

Table 33 Number of Victims Assisted on Compensation Claims from Offenders

## 2.3 Compensation Received by the Victims from the Offenders

In 2024, 22 victims received compensation from offenders by Court orders totaling to THB 2,476,500 (USD 71,782.60).

# 2.4 Restitution of Property Related to Offences and Compensation for Victims

In 2024, the Government facilitated and expedited the process for 16 victims eligible to receive compensation from assets seized from 5 cases of human trafficking offences, totaling to THB 19,914,364 (USD 577,227.94).

## 2.5 Statistics of Assistance for Victims in the Case Enforcement Process

During 2020 – 2024, MSDHS offered assistance for victims from 158 cases (Table 34).

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Number of Cases	31	23	53	26	23	2	158
Issuance of Order							
Awaiting Order	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
Order Issued	30	21	53	26	23	1	154
<b>Compensation Paid</b>	1	-	2	-	-	-	3
Awaiting Compensation	29	21	51	26	23	2	152
Case Enforcement Order							•
Awaiting Case Enforcement Order	1	1	6	3	21	1	33
Case Enforcement Order Issued	28	20	44	23	2	1	118
Case Dismissed	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Investigation of Asset							
Asset Under Investigation	4	5	5	4	2	1	21
Asset Investigated	24	15	39	19	-	-	97
Asset Not Found	21	12	5	-	-	-	38
No Asset Found	3	3	34	19	-	-	59

Table 34 Statistics of Assistance for Victims in the Case Enforcement Process

## **3.** Implementation of National Referral Mechanism and Reflection Period and Establishment of Victim Identification Centers<sup>2</sup>

Since its adoption in 2022, all relevant agencies have utilized NRM across all regions. This includes the development of tools to provide continuous assistance and protection for potential victims until formally identified as victims of human trafficking and forced labor or services. The Anti-Human Trafficking Committee has underscored the importance of the mechanism to all relevant agencies and issued policy directives based on recommendations from the NRM Subcommittee. In particular, the Committee has been actively monitoring the NRM implementation in response to the emerging issue of forced criminality in Thailand and other regional countries. The progress made in 2024 includes:

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  U.S. Recommendation: (3) Fully implement the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the reflection period for victims in all provinces and open remaining victim identification centers.

The Government has allocated budget to MSDHS to provide services for potential victims at victim identification centers nationwide. These services aim to support potential victims during the reflection period to prepare for sharing their trafficking experiences with officials, which is essential for victim identification. In 2024, MSDHS allocated a budget of THB 12,367,500 (USD 358,478.26), which would cover the expenses of such services until September 2025. Furthermore, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund approved 24 projects with a total budget of THB 6,658,766 (USD 193,007.71), covering 3 projects on potential victim assistance and 21 capacity-building programs to enhance officials' knowledge and understanding of the NRM guidelines.

## 3.2 Provision of Preliminary Assistance for Protection Under NRM

In 2024, relevant agencies screened 22,563 individuals. A total of 644 individuals were identified as potential victims, with 192 individuals receiving services at the victim identification centers across 16 provinces (Bangkok, Tak, Chiang Rai, Sa Kaeo, Narathiwat, Phatthalung, Songkhla, Saraburi, Kanchanaburi, Phuket, Lamphun, Satun, Prachinburi, Loei, Yala, Nakhon Ratchasima). At the centers, officials provided preliminary assistance and services during the reflection period to help potential victims prepare to share their human trafficking experiences. The information was gathered by multidisciplinary teams (MDTs), which included government officials and NGOs, for victims identification. The composition of each MDT was tailored to fit the nature of each case.

						G	ender				Identificat	ion Result
No.	Nationality	Total	M	ale	Fen	nale	LGB	TQ+	Unide	ntified	Victims	Not
			<18	>18	<18	>18	<18	>18	<18	>18	vicums	Victims
1	Sri Lankan	52	-	40	-	12	-	-	-	-	47	5
2	Thai	29	8	7	11	3	-	-	-	-	26	3
3	Ugandan	24	-	19	5	-	-	-	-	-	23	1
4	Moroccan	17	-	16	-	1	-	-	-	-	13	4
5	Ethiopian	15	1	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	4
6	Chinese	14	7	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	8	6
7	Indonesian	12	-	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	2
8	Indian	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
9	Nepali	5	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-
10	Myanmar	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
11	Filipino	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-

Table 35 Number of Potential Victims Who Received Services at the Victim Identification Centers

						G	ender				Identificat	tion Result
No.	Nationality	Total	Ma	ale	Fen	nale	LGB	TQ+	Unide	ntified	V <sup>1</sup> at ima	Not
			<18	>18	<18	>18	<18	>18	<18	>18	Victims	Victims
12	Kenyan	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
13	Ukrainian	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
14	Russian	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
15	Laotian	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
16	Yemeni	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
17	Malaysian	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
18	Burundian	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
19	Russian	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
20	20 Malaysian		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
21	Cameroonian	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Total		17	130	21	24	0	0	0	0	154	38

## 3.3 Key activities of the NRM Subcommittee

1) A roundtable meeting was organized for senior executives from 10 relevant agencies to discuss the advancement of NRM. The meeting was held in collaboration with MSDHS, Ministry of Labour (MOL), Ministry of Interior (MOI), Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), Royal Thai Police (RTP), and Bureau of the Budget, with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). A total of 50 participants attended. The meeting identified challenges and recommendations for advancing NRM and agreed that: (1) all relevant agencies will ensure budget to support the NRM implementation ; (2) the NRM framework will be reviewed, with a view to further improving its effectiveness and comprehensive implementation.

Figure 6 Roundtable Meeting to Discuss the Advancement of NRM



2) An inter-agency meeting to streamline victim screening forms under NRM was held and attended by government and non-government organizations, including those from the headquarters and 4 key border provinces, namely Chiang Rai, Tak, Ranong, and Sa Kaeo. Support was provided by the ASEAN-Australia Countering Human Trafficking Project (ASEAN-ACT), IOM, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID Thailand CTIP), and the IJM Foundation (IJM). The relevant screening forms were combined into a single form, and additional indicators were included, such as those for forced criminality-related human trafficking as outlined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and those for the worst forms of child labor. The NRM Subcommittee subsequently reviewed and approved the revised screening form, which MSDHS circulated to agencies nationwide in the implementation relevant to use of NRM. The Subcommittee will collaborate with partner organizations to conduct trainings on the new form for frontline officers in 3 key border provinces, namely Chiang Rai, Tak, and Sa Kaeo.

Figure 7 Meeting of Relevant Agencies to Streamline Victim Screening Forms Under the NRM



3) Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of NRM. The NRM Subcommittee provided advice and guidance to support provincial authorities for the NRM implementation. The provinces have made necessary preparations, including designating venues for victim identification centers, developing emergency response plans, and conducting joint operational preparations with relevant agencies. The Subcommittee also coordinated local resources to ensure consistent services under NRM across all provinces.

Figure 8 Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the NRM at the Provincial Level



## 3.4 Lessons Learned on the NRM Implementation

MSDHS organized a forum to reflect on the NRM implementation, focusing on assistance and protection of potential victims at the victim identification centers in 23 coastal border provinces. The forum shared experiences of challenges, best practices, and recommendations to guide the provincial authorities and partners in their NRM implementation. Lessons were also exchanged between multidisciplinary teams and relevant agencies in Bangkok, as one of key locations for the NRM operations. The discussions also explored strategies to support the continued implementation of NRM at RTP's victim identification center.

Figure 9 A forum to discuss lessons learned on the implementation of the NRM



Figure 10 A forum to discuss lessons learned on the NRM implementation in Bangkok

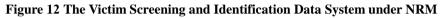


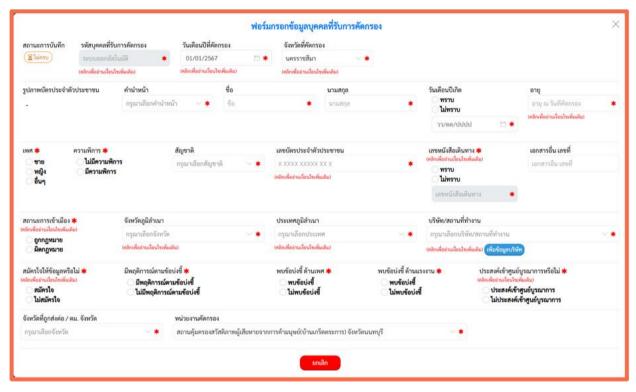
## **3.5** The Victim Screening and Identification Data System under NRM in Thailand's Electronic Database System For Anti-human Trafficking (E-AHT)

The Victim Screening and Identification Data System was developed to record the victim screening and identification data of all relevant agencies to ensure up-to-date data entry, timely data retrieval, verification, and the processing of data through a Dashboard. Information gathered can be used to develop policies and measures to combat human trafficking. Frontline agencies conducting screenings are responsible for recording the data, while MSDHS is responsible for inputting the data at the provincial level. In this regard, MSDHS, in collaboration with IJM, has conducted 3 training sessions for 722 officials from relevant agencies nationwide.



#### Figure 11 Capacity Building on Data Input for Officials of Competent Agencies across the Country





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

The Government continued to provide assistance to victims in accordance with domestic laws and international principles<sup>3</sup>. MSDHS operates through government and private shelters and the provincial offices to further improve victim protection in line with the victim-centered approach, taking into account the best interest of victims, particularly children, and trauma-informed care to prevent re-traumatization and ensure protection that responds to the specific needs of each victim.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> U.S. Recommendation: (9) Ensure government- and NGO-operated shelters provide victims with adequate traumainformed and individualized care, such as legal assistance and psychological care, and implement consistent policies on victim services across all shelters.

## 4.1 The Use of Trauma-Informed Care Approach

MSDHS provided protection and assistance to victims, both inside and outside shelters, with the trauma-informed care approach, to create a safe environment where victims feel respected, free from judgment, and supported including in reintegrating into society. Moreover, MSDHS raised awareness among personnel across relevant sectors to enhance understanding of the psychological recovery process of victims, reducing the re-traumatization risk caused by improper assistance. Key actions include:

1) Psychological assessments were conducted for all victims to determine the severity of trauma and identify specific psychological needs. Appropriate psychological tools were utilized to ensure accurate assessments, which were then used to develop individualized care plans.

#### Figure 13 A Psychologist Conducting a Psychological Assessment

2) Training workshops on trauma-informed care approach were organized for victim assistance practitioners at all levels to enhance their understanding of addressing victims' psychological trauma. Additionally, the victims were provided with information about their rights and available options for assistance.

3) A safe, pressure-free, and non-threatening environment was created to reduce stress and encourage victims to comfortably share their experiences and receive assistance. A supportive space for victims was established based on the 5S activity concept: Smile, Sabye (Comfort), Sanook (Fun), Sport, and Silpa (Art), integrating a trauma-informed care approach. A pilot program was introduced at the Welfare Protection Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Nonthaburi Province (Baan Kret Trakan shelter).

Sabye Sport 5-S Sanook Smile Silpa

Figure 14 5-S Activity in the Shelter

Moreover, the "Decorate by Myself" activity, an accommodation service for victims to decorate and personalize their rooms to their preferences, was implemented at the Welfare Protection Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Pathum Thani Province. This activity aimed to create a relaxing, safe, and comforting environment, fostering emotional stability and a sense of security for victims.

#### Figure 15 "Decorate by Myself" Activity



The Welfare Protection Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Pathum Thani Province provided services tailored to the specific needs of adolescent victims with diverse sexual orientation, focusing on gender sensitivity and psychological trauma. For instance, one victim faced significant distress and diminished self-esteem due to physical changes from a temporary discontinuation of hormone therapy, causing a reversal of the body's transition. The shelter partnered with relevant organizations to arrange consultations with specialized medical professionals and financial support for hormone therapy, which helped the victim regain confidence, self-respect, and embrace one's identity freely and openly.

In addition, recreational activities were organized in collaboration with local civil society organizations to support victims dealing with anxiety. These activities adopted a victim-centered approach and trauma-informed care, creating a space for victims to reflect on their experiences and feelings.

Figure 16 Victim Reflection Activity



4) Victims were encouraged to actively participate in the decisionmaking process for their own protection and assistance, fostering a sense of control over their circumstances and building confidence that their opinions and experiences are valued and integral to their protection.



Figure 17 Consultation Activity

5) Psychologists or psychiatrists were available to provide continuous psychological support and counseling for victims, utilizing appropriate therapeutic methods such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) or art therapy.

Figure 18 Victims Visiting Doctors and Psychologists at the Hospital and Medical Institute



6) A long-term rehabilitation plan was developed with a focus on ensuring the safe and dignified social reintegration of victims. Moreover, continuous monitoring of protection and assistance efforts was implemented to ensure that victims receive adequate and appropriate long-term assistance.

7) Coordination was established with relevant organizations and agencies, including medical institutions, legal institutions, and NGOs, to promote collaboration and partnerships in supporting and rehabilitating victims. This coordination ensures that victims receive assistance in various areas, including legal support, education, vocational training, and employment opportunities.

Figure 19 Coordination with Relevant Organizations and Agencies



8) Continuous evaluation of the operations was conducted to improve and develop efficient protection and assistance services for victims.

## 4.2 Accommodation Facilities catered for Victims of Diversity

MSDHS recognizes the importance of tailored services to meet the specific needs of victims of diversity and has established suitable accommodation facilities at the Welfare Protection Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Pathum Thani Province. These facilities include rooms for families, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and LGBTQ+. A prayer room for Muslim victims was also provided. Such arrangements are in line with the principles of human dignity and diversity in gender, age, race, religion, tradition, and culture.

Figure 20 Signing MOU with Private Sector and the Opening of Accommodation Facilities catered for Victims of Diversity



# 4.3 Increasing Opportunities to Provide Income for Victims in Shelters through Cooperation with Private Sector

In 2024, MSDHS, in collaboration with the Welfare Protection Centers for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Pathum Thani Province and Ranong Province, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation to promote employment of victims with 12 private sector partners. A total of 27 shelters signed MOUs and so far 16 victims have been employed through these partnerships.



Figure 21 The Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking's Signing of MOUs

## 4.4 The Shelter's Provision of Educational Services

The Welfare Protection Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Persons provided educational services tailored to the characteristics and needs of individual victim. These services included both formal and informal education, education outside shelters, shuttle services, enrolment in boarding schools, and educational services inside shelters. These services received continued support from the Department of Learning Encouragement (NFE), ensuring that victims, especially children, remain within the education system and serving as a protective measure for their future.



### **Figure 22 Educational Services Provision**

## 4.5 Monitoring Social Reintegration of Survivors Resettled in a Third Country

Through the online system, a shelter continues to follow up on the wellbeing of 2 Rohingya survivors who previously stayed in the Welfare Protection Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Persons and were accepted for resettlement in a third country. Currently, these survivors reside in communities with other Rohingya individuals and are pursuing education to enhance English proficiency and develop skills for future employment opportunities.

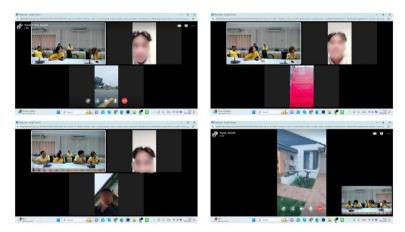


Figure 23 The Monitoring of Social Reintegration of Victims of Human Trafficking Resettled in a Third Country

# 4.6 Follow-Up on the Assistance, Protection and Provision of Remedies in Accordance with Domestic Laws

MSDHS has implemented a program to follow up on assistance and protection to victims opted not to stay in shelters to ensure the services and their rights in accordance with the law. Through this program, 397 victims have been followed up.

## 4.7 Workshop on the Review of the Guidebook on SOPs for Staff in Welfare Protection Centers

The workshop at the Welfare Protection Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Nonthaburi Province (Baan Kret Trakan shelter) aimed to improve the work of shelters in line with international principles and in response to new challenges and changing trends. The session was attended by 30 participants.

#### Figure 24 Workshop on the Review of the Guidebook



## 5. Capacity Building for Practitioners to Provide Assistance and Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking<sup>4</sup>

## 5.1 Training for Interpreters of Sign Language

MSDHS organized a training program for sign language interpreters to support anti-human trafficking efforts. A total of 30 sign language interpreters were trained to handle cases involving victims with disabilities. Additionally, a training program was conducted for 30 Thai-Myanmar interpreters to enhance capacity in addressing human trafficking issues. The training focused on improving understanding of human trafficking, relevant laws, technical knowledge, and work process of interdisciplinary teams. This initiative aimed to (1) ensure that victims can access and benefit from the assistance and (2) increase the number of trained professional interpreters (by 158 persons.)

Figure 25 Increasing the Number of Sign Language Interpreters to Work on Anti-Human Trafficking



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> U.S. Recommendation: (7) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti-trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims.

#### 5.2 Training Program for Competent Officials

MSDHS and MOL co-organized a training program for competent officials under the Anti-Human Trafficking Act. The program aimed to enhance knowledge and skills in preventing and combating human trafficking and forced labor or services, and provide fundamental knowledge on human trafficking, relevant laws, technical skills, and the NRM implementation. The program included knowledge transfer from expert speakers and practical training using real-life case studies, with 237 officers successfully completing the training sessions.

Figure 26 Training program for competent officials under the Anti-Human Trafficking Act



#### 5.3 Capacity-building Training for Provincial Officers

MSDHS organized capacity-building trainings for anti-human trafficking officers across 76 provinces to serve as case managers in providing assistance to victims. This training aimed to enhance skills in victim protection and assistance, victim identification, coordination, resource allocation, and systematic monitoring and evaluation. It also emphasized the trauma-informed care approach and ensured equality and inclusiveness in all processes, while making sure that victims outside shelters have access to social welfare and legal assistance.

Figure 27 A Capacity-building Training for Case Management Officers in 76 Provinces



#### 6. National and International Cooperation for Victim Protection

The Government, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, has been strengthening protection in the country and beyond. This includes partnerships among government agencies and with civil society organizations, international organizations, and foreign entities, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels, as follows:

#### 6.1 Cooperation at National Level

### 1) Cooperation with Educational Institutions

MSDHS, through shelters for victims in Songkhla Province, Surat Thani Province (Si Surat shelter), and Ranong Province, has collaborated with 20 local educational institutions in Songkhla, Surat Thani, and Ranong to organize activities to educate students and school personnel about human trafficking prevention. The initiative focused on raising awareness about self-protection against human trafficking and reporting channels, as well as monitoring suspicious cases of human trafficking in the area. Additionally, 5 shelters in Ranong and 5 shelters in Surat Thani signed MOUs on educational cooperation for victims and knowledge sharing for human trafficking prevention in educational institutions and higher education institutions. This is to foster learning, creating job opportunities and options for victims, while promoting preventive education and disseminating information about human trafficking to students, teachers, and school personnel.

#### Figure 28 MOU Signing with Educational Institutions



### 2) MSDHS-led meeting on the establishment of private shelters

The meeting aimed to gather suggestions for the revision and improvement of the regulation. Participants included representatives from NGOs, private shelters, and MSDHS provincial offices. In 2024, 2 additional NGOs registered as private shelters for victims of human trafficking. So there are now 5 NGO registered shelters, serving as alternatives to support and protect both Thai and foreign victims.

## **3)** Focus group meeting on the efficiency enhancement of service provision in accordance with SOPs for practitioners in shelters

The meeting reviewed key aspects of SOPs to ensure that the services in shelters effectively meet the standards. A total of 27 participants attended.

Figure 29 A Focus Group Meeting on the Efficiency Enhancement of Service Provision in accordance with the SOPs



## 4) A review of the Implementation of the "SOPs for practitioners providing services in shelters for victims of human trafficking"

The review aimed to enhance efficiency of practitioners and multidisciplinary teams working in government and private shelters. The review identified obstacles and challenges that hinder the shelters' operations. A total of 37 participants from 9 shelters participated.

#### 5) Training on Survivor Outcome Assessment Tool

The training aimed to equip case management practitioners with the knowledge and skills to assess the impact of violence on victims and also to facilitate the planning of appropriate rehabilitation programs to prevent revictimization. A total of 34 practitioners from 13 government and private shelters participated.





## 6) "Open Heart" Meeting on the Enhancement of Thailand's Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts

MSDHS organized the "Open Heart" meeting to gather feedback and recommendations on anti-human trafficking efforts. It brought together representatives from government and private sectors, civil society organizations, and international organizations. Valuable insights and suggestions were provided on prosecution, victim protection and assistance, prevention measures, and effective NRM implementation.

Figure 31 "Open Heart" Meeting on the Enhancement of Thailand's Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts



## 7) Consultation with the Catholic Commission on Social Affairs (Caritas Thailand) under the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand

MSDHS hosted a consultation to enhance cooperation in protection, assistance, and prevention of human trafficking. This collaboration covers the entire process, from receiving reports through the 1300 hotline and the Protect-U application to facilitating reintegration of victims into society. The discussion also focused on support from the Anti-Human Trafficking Fund, establishment of networks to provide training and education for children and youth, registration of anti-human trafficking organizations, and expansion of cooperation with the international Catholic organizations.

Figure 32 A Consultation between the MSDHS and the Catholic Commission on Social Affairs



8) Development of Guidelines for Foreign Embassies and Consulates to Assist and Refer Victims of Human Trafficking

IOM, in collaboration with government agencies and relevant embassies, developed the consular guidelines to support vulnerable migrants, especially victims of human trafficking in Thailand. The guideline aims to equip frontline consular officers with knowledge and understanding of human trafficking, existing SOPs, and signs of trafficking, ensuring timely assistance, efficient protection, and safe repatriation.

Figure 33 Meeting on Development of Guidelines for Foreign Embassies and Consulates



## 9) Training Workshop on the "ASEAN Guidebook for Monitoring a Gender-Sensitive and Victim-Centered Approaches to Trafficking in Persons"

MSDHS, in collaboration with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and ASEAN-ACT, conducted a training workshop on the "ASEAN Guidebook for Monitoring a Gender-Sensitive and Victim-Centered Approaches to Trafficking in Persons." The training emphasized the protection of rights in line with victim-centered approach, gender sensitivity, and non-discrimination to minimize retraumatization. Participants would use the guidebook as reference in their work. Evaluation will be conducted in the future.

Figure 34 Training Workshop to Assess on the "ASEAN Guidebook for Monitoring a Gender-Sensitive and Victim-Centered Approaches to Trafficking in Persons



### 6.2 Cooperation at International Level

1) The 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Bilateral Case Management Meeting between Thailand and Myanmar on Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in Persons

MSDHS, in collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar, hosted the 29<sup>th</sup> Myanmar-Thailand Case Management Meeting on Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in Yangon, Myanmar, followed by the 30<sup>th</sup> Bilateral Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. These meetings focused on monitoring and evaluating the protection and assistance of victims, legal assistance, and post- reintegration monitoring.

Figure 35 Bilateral Case Management Meeting between Thailand and Myanmar on Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in Persons



## 2) The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bilateral Meeting between Thailand and Laos in land.

## Thailand.

MSDHS, in collaboration with the National Anti-Human Trafficking Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bilateral Meeting in Chonburi province to discuss the management of protection and assistance of victims. During the meeting, practitioners from the Lao PDR exchanged experiences with Thai counterparts and had study visits to Thai facilities to observe and learn from Thailand's approaches in protection and assistance.



Figure 36 The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bilateral Meeting between Thailand and Laos

#### 3) The Bilateral Meeting between Thailand and Cambodia to Review the Draft Joint Plan of Action to Implement the SOP on Assistance of Victims of Trafficking in the Criminal Justice Process

Both countries jointly developed a draft Joint Plan of Action (2024-2026), which outlines standardized procedures for victim assistance within the criminal justice system. The meeting resulted in an agreement to develop a joint interview guideline. Furthermore, the discussion emphasized future cooperation in preventing and combating human trafficking, with a particular focus on addressing the emerging issue of online scams, which include trafficking in persons along the border.

Figure 37 The Bilateral Meeting between Thailand and Cambodia



## 4) The 12<sup>th</sup> Mekong Regional Workshop on Cyber Scam and Forced Criminality: Emerging Trends of Trafficking in Persons in Mekong Region

MSDHS, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Thailand, organized the 12<sup>th</sup> Mekong Regional Workshop. Representatives from the Mekong Subregion, including the Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam, participated in the meeting. The discussions focused on the emerging trends of human trafficking through online scams and forced criminality. Participants exchanged information on current situation and operational challenges, proposed solutions, and developed a regional activity plan.

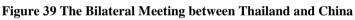


Figure 38 The 12th Greater Mekong Subregional Meeting

#### 5) The Bilateral Meeting between Thailand and China to Develop a Bilateral Cooperation Framework for Combating Human Trafficking.

During the meeting in Guilin, China, the two countries exchanged information on the current situation of human trafficking, best practices, and operational challenges, as well as drafted a bilateral cooperation framework for combating human trafficking and discuss the establishment of an action plan under MOU between the two governments on the collaboration on preventing and combating human trafficking (Phase 1) to address the evolving forms of human trafficking and guide collaborative efforts to prevent, combat, and address human trafficking issues.





## 6) The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Human Trafficking Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka

The meeting reviewed and finalized the draft action plan for combating human trafficking in the Bay of Bengal region, which will be presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime meeting as a guideline for all 7 member states for anti-human trafficking in the Bay of Bengal region.



Figure 40 The Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Human Trafficking

### 7) Discussion on Enhancing Anti-Human Trafficking Cooperation between Thailand and Vietnam in Dalat, Lam Dong Province, Vietnam

Thailand and Vietnam exchanged information on the current human trafficking situation and discussed cooperation and a joint action plan to adapt the prevention, prosecution, and protection efforts to emerging trends of human trafficking.



Figure 41 Discussion between Thailand and Vietnam

8) MSDHS and the Foundation of Child Understanding (FOCUS), organized a workshop in Chiang Rai to enhance cooperation between shelters for victims of human trafficking in Upper Northern Thailand and the Luang Namtha District and the Bokeo District of Lao PDR.

The workshop aimed to exchange knowledge and improve the processes for assisting victims of human trafficking and children facing social issues. It also focused on strengthening cross-border cooperation networks and enhancing capacity of practitioners to effectively provide services and rehabilitation. This activity is part of the action plan under MOU between the governments of Thailand and Lao PDR on cooperation in combating human trafficking.

Figure 42 Workshop to Enhance Cooperation between Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in Upper Northern Thailand and the Luang Namtha District and the Bokeo District of Lao PDR.





9) The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking's Regional Task Force Meeting (COMMIT RTF) and the Senior Official Meeting (SOM) held in Suzhou, People's Republic of China

Representatives from 6 member states, including Cambodia, China, the Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, jointly drafted the 5<sup>th</sup> Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPA-V) and the Common Indicators for Identifying Criminality Facilitated by Abuse of Technology.

#### Figure 43 COMMIT RTF Meeting



\* \* \* \* \*

#### Prevention

The Government has continued to advance measures and mechanisms to prevent Thai citizens and foreign nationals from falling victim to human trafficking and forced labor. This includes efforts to raise awareness on access to assistance, proper procedures for legal employment, inspection and protection, adhering to the Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Additionally, the Government has scaled up capacity-building for officials to enable a more effective and rigorous prevention system to support individuals who may fall victim to human trafficking or forced labor.

#### **1. Labor Inspection Statistics**

#### **1.1 Overall Labor Inspections**

The Ministry of Labour (MOL), through the Department of Labor Protection and Welfare (DLPW) and the Department of Employment (DOE), conducts labor inspections to prevent illegal labor practices and ensure compliance across various sectors. These inspections target both formal and informal workers, including migrant and child labor, in high-risk industries such as sugarcane, garments, fisheries, livestock, and construction throughout the supply chains, as well as the 3D jobs (Dirty, Dangerous, Difficult). Labor inspection in the fishery industry are conducted before, during, and after work, at sea as well as carry forward to welfare and occupational safety inspections in related processing establishments. These measures are to ensure equal protection for all workers, safe working conditions, fair compensation, and freedom from forced labor or trafficking.

In 2024, labor inspections conducted by the MOL agencies encompassed 172,029 establishments, covering 2,900,739 workers. Violations were found in 25,171 establishments, involving 639,153 workers. Labor inspectors took legal action in accordance with the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998) and its amendments, the Royal Decree on the Management of Foreign Workers B.E. 2560 (2017) and its amendments, as well as other relevant laws. These cases were also addressed through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

	Inspe	ctions	Violations Detected	
Labor Inspections	Establishment (Places)	Workers (People)	Establishment (Places)	Workers (People)
Labor inspections of formal workers	21,652	663,516	2,123	80,623
Labor inspections of informal workers to prevent and address human trafficking	-	309	-	-

Table 36: Labor Inspections of Thai and Migrant Workers in 2024

	Inspe	ctions	Violations	Detected
Labor Inspections	Establishment (Places)	Workers (People)	Establishment (Places)	Workers (People)
Labor inspections of informal workers	-	17,572	_	_
Inspections of establishments at risk of using child labor, forced labor, debt bondage, and human trafficking	1,409	44,190	1,278	40,000
Inspections of employers/establishments and migrant workers	68,583	954,448	2,337	3,947
Integrated activities to protect labor on fishing vessels in 22 coastal provinces	239	4,452	1	3
Labor inspections at Port In-Port Out (PIPO) control centers	9,348	138,676	15	266
Integrated inspections of animal processing establishments in 22 coastal provinces	120	20,155	4	123
Occupational safety inspections	14,346	1,050,021	5,532	514,191
Labor inspections of migrant workers based on complaints	55	7,400	38	-
Inspections to prevent the exploitation of labor and funds nationwide (no workers under social security)	56,277	-	13,842	-
Total	172,029	2,053,298	25,171	645,518

## 1.2 Statistics on Labor Inspections in High-Risk Establishments for Child Labor, Forced Labor, Debt Bondage, and Human Trafficking

Labor inspections were conducted in 1,409 establishments identified as high-risk of child labor, forced labor, debt bondage, and human trafficking, involving a total of 44,190 workers. Violations of the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998) were found in 1,278 establishments, of 40,000 workers. The most commonly identified violations included late wage payments, employment of children under 15 years of age, failure to provide weekly holidays, failure to grant annual leave, failure to pay wages on official holidays, and paying below the minimum wage.

Labor inspectors issued orders to 1,201 establishments to rectify these violations and initiated criminal proceedings against 5 establishments. Interviews and screening processes involving employees, employers, and witnesses, along with workplace inspections, found no case of forced labor or human trafficking.

## **1.3 Statistics on Inspections of Employers/Establishments and Migrant Workers**

In 2024, MOL inspected 68,583 employers/establishments and 954,448 migrant workers. Violations were found in 2,337 cases involving

employers/establishments. Key violations included hiring migrants without work permits (1,049 cases), failing to report employment or termination of migrant workers within 15 days (1,273 cases), violations of both (2 cases), and other legal breaches (13 cases). Among these, 648 cases were resolved through administrative fines, while 1,689 cases remained under investigation.

No cases of forced labor or human trafficking were found during inspections. When illegal labor practices were identified, MOL has promptly investigated and penalized the networks involved in illegal migrant recruitment. First-time offending employers were charged with administrative fines, while repeated offenders were charged with imprisonment, fines, or hiring bans for three years. Investigations on undocumented workers focused on the root cause, that is dismantling recruitment networks, with MOL providing facts, evidence and support for all cases.

## 1.4 Statistics on Labor Inspections at Port In-Port Out (PIPO) Centers

In 2024, labor inspections at the Port In-Port Out (PIPO) Centers were conducted through MOL's collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DOF), the Marine Department, and DOE. A total of 9,348 fishing vessels were inspected, providing protection to 138,676 workers. Violations of labor protection laws related to fisheries work were identified on 15 vessels, involving 266 workers. Legal action was initiated for cases such as failure to pay wages through bank accounts and failure to document wage payments.

## 1.5 Statistics on Inspections of Seafood Processing Establishments in 22 Coastal Provinces

MOL, in collaboration with multidisciplinary teams, conducted inspections of seafood processing establishments across 22 coastal provinces. A total of 120 establishments employing 20,155 workers were inspected. Violations of the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998) were found in 4 establishments, involving 123 workers, related to issues such as wage payments, leave entitlements, and employee registration.

## 1.6 Statistics on Screening for Forced Labor and Human Trafficking under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

MOL conducted 1,757 labor inspections and screenings according to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), covering 86,753 workers. From these screenings, 157 workers were identified as potential victims of forced labor in 6 provinces. These individuals were referred for further assessment and protection under the NRM.

## **1.7** Labor Trafficking Prevention and Protection Measures

MOL's policies to prevent exploitation of workers -- both Thai and migrant employees -- ensures comprehensive protection and benefits.

In 2024, MOL set the target to inspect 41,668 establishments nationwide, but managed to exceed the target by completing labor inspections for a total of 56,277 establishments (<u>Table 37</u>).

		Total				
Type of Inspection	Compliant	Non- compliant	Not yet registered	Exempt by law	No employment	(Place)
Inspection based on employee complaints	273	262	1	-	-	536
Inspection based on agency's requests	2,113	449	1	-	-	2,563
Registration inspections	248	-	-	-	182	430
Welfare/Payroll inspections	17,162	7,482	-	-	-	24,644
Benefit inspections	21,395	5,566	2	4	-	26,967
Employment condition inspections	999	77	12	10	-	1,098
Other inspections	32	6	1	-	-	39
Total	42,222	13,842	17	14	182	56,277

Table 37: Statistics on Inspections of Establishments by Type to Prevent Exploitation fromLabor and National Funds

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

The Government remains committed to implementing measures to prevent trafficking of Thai workers seeking overseas employment, aiming to address the issue of illegal migration for employment, which could make individuals vulnerable to human trafficking organized by international criminal networks.

### 2.1 Dispatch of Thai Workers Overseas

Employment overseas through legal processes must be conducted with proper evaluation by and permission of DOE. In 2024, 57,853 Thai workers were employed overseas through five key channels, namely: recruitment agencies; DOE; training and internship opportunities organized by Thai employers; opportunities from employers based in Thailand; and through finding overseas employment opportunities themselves (<u>Table 38</u>).

		Numbers		
Channels	2022	2023	2024	
Recruitment Agencies	28,045	28,196	31,905	
DOE	12,397	11,882	10,784	

 Table 38: The Number of Thai Workers Sent to Employment Oversea in 2024

		Numbers			
Channels	2022	2023	2024		
Found Overseas Employment Opportunities Themselves	10,945	6,752	6,801		
Opportunities From Employers Based in Thailand	11,018	12,607	6,739		
Training And Internship Opportunities Organized by Thai Employers	1,032	1,738	1,624		
Total	51,052	61,175	57,853		

### 2.2 Surveillance and Prevention of Those Deemed Suspicious of Traveling to Work Illegally Overseas

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

In 2024, a total of 250 workers out of 10,472 workers that were inspected, were denied departure from Thailand. The top five destinations workers sought to work illegally were Israel, Finland, Malaysia, Russia, and China. Those denied departure were also provided with information and knowledge to minimize their risk of repeatedly falling victim to human trafficking in the future. Those who were denied departure have been advised by MOL on the correct channel to seek employment overseas and 120 workers have successfully proceeded to work overseas legally.

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

1) In 2024, MOL inspected 152 recruitment agencies which were authorized to send Thai workers for overseas employment and took legal actions against illegal recruitment networks in 206 cases, involving 284 suspects. All 206 cases are under police investigation for their unauthorized recruitment services and frauds regarding obtaining money or assets through false promises of overseas jobs.

2) MOL investigated 33 cases of unauthorized job recruitment advertisements on Facebook and has taken legal actions in all cases for job advertising without legal permission. Additionally, MOL has deployed inspection teams to counter online fraud, conducting 5,511 interventions across social media platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram, among others.

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

In 2024, there were 3,350,969 registered migrant workers in Thailand (<u>Table 39</u>). The Government has continued to implement measures to facilitate the extensions of stay for migrant workers, as well as to protect and prevent them from becoming potential trafficking or forced labor victims.

Migrant Workers Categorized by Type of Work Permit	2023	2024
Lifetime Permit	5	5
Skilled Worker	174,986	190,285
Ethnic	89,148	93,839
Short-Term or Seasonal Worker	_	39,711
Employ via MOU	_	634,432
Permit to work under Cabinet Resolution	2,349,234	2,392,679
Total	2,613,373	3,350,969

Table 39 : Number of Migrant Workers in Thailand in 2023-2024

Anti Human-Trafficking efforts were carried out through the following measures:

### **3.1** Frequent Inspections of Recruitment Agencies

A total of 321 recruitment agencies were inspected in 2024. No agency was found in violation of laws and regulations, due to frequent and stringent inspections and strict law enforcement. As a result, most recruitment agencies have become more cautious and increased their efforts in strictly complying with all relevant regulations.

## 3.2 Improving Networks in Providing Assistance to Migrant Workers

(1) Joint Service Centers for Migrant Workers

The Government attaches high importance to protecting and assisting migrant workers. A total of 30 Joint Service Centers for Migrant Workers have been established nationwide as of 2024, focusing on 30 provinces with high number of migrant workers, such as Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakan, Chonburi, Ranong, Surat Thani, Songkhla, Tak, Chiang Mai, among others.

These centers provided consultation, complaint handling, and coordination with relevant agencies to assist workers facing employment issues. In 2024, 49,090 workers sought help. The top five types of assistance provided included corrections to registration status, on-site consultations and assistance, certification of work permit documents, awareness campaigns about the centers, and issuance of personal identification documents for migrant workers.

#### (2) Reception and Termination Centers for Employment

Following a 2016 Cabinet decision, MOL established five reception and termination centers in Tak, Sa Kaeo, Nong Khai, Mukdahan, and Ranong provinces to support migrant workers under the MOU system. These centers provide trainings on legal rights, cultural norms, and living standards in Thailand, coordinate between employers and workers, and assist with complaints. After training, workers receive a smart card work permit before starting employment.

(3) <u>Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Reduce Migrant</u> <u>Workers' Vulnerability to Human Trafficking</u>

MOL, the Department of Fisheries, and the USAID Thailand Counter Trafficking in Persons (USAID Thailand CTIP) program, operated by Winrock International Thailand, signed an MOU, effective from May 3, 2023, to March 31, 2027, aims to enhance communication and assistance for fishing vessel workers via a satellite-based application that functions independently of standard cellular networks. The initiative expands the pilot project "Connectivity at Sea (CAS)," initially launched in Phuket, to 22 coastal provinces to tackle vulnerable workers in fisheries.

Table 40: Implementation of the Recruitment and Employment of Cambodia, Laos,Myanmar Workers under MOU for 2022-2024

Year	2022	2023	2024
Migrant workers	129,520	281,507	220,959

### 3.3 Protection of Migrant Workers' Rights and Benefits

The Government has ensured that all migrant workers are provided with equal rights and protection, without discrimination against nationality in accordance with relevant international principles. Migrant workers are similarly protected, as Thai workers, under the Social Protection Act, B.E. 2533 (1990) and relevant amendments, and the Financial Compensation Act, B.E. 2537 (1994) and relevant amendments. In 2024, there were 1,499,894 migrant workers registered in the social security system, including 1,113,310 from Myanmar, 175,793 from Cambodia, 78,721 from Laos, 1,613 from Vietnam, and 130,457 from other countries.

(1) Social Security Fund

The Social Security Office ensures equal treatment for all workers, regardless of nationality, gender, or social status, in line with international standards. Migrant workers in the social security system receive the same benefits as Thai workers under the Social Security Act, B.E. 2533 (1990), and the Workmen's Compensation Act, B.E. 2537 (1994).

In 2024, benefits were paid to 533,461 insured migrant workers from three nationalities, amounting to THB 1,230,910,000 (USD 35,678,550.72). The Social Security Office has also enhanced awareness of these benefits through social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X, TikTok, Line Official, and its website) and improved access to services via the e-self-service system, enabling insured workers to claim benefits anytime and anywhere.

## (2) Workmen's Compensation Fund

The Workmen's Compensation Fund ensures compensation for work-related injuries, illnesses, or fatalities. In 2024, 12,379 migrant workers from 3 nationalities received compensation totaling THB 199,490,000 (USD 5,782,318.84). Similar to the social security benefits, these services are supported by social media outreach and the e-self-service system to improve ease of access for workers. For those not eligible for protection under the Social Security Act, officials will issue instructions to their employers to provide direct compensation in the event of injury or illness.

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

MOL oversees and protects migrant workers' rights under the Labor Protection Act, ensuring equal treatment, safe working conditions, and appropriate welfare.

(1) MOL has continued to strictly implement the Labor Protection Act to ensure that all workers receive fair benefits and welfare without discrimination. In 2024, DLWP assisted 753 workers who requested compensation under the Labor Protection Act. A total of THB 137,704,046.88 (3,991,421.64 USD) was compensated to those workers.

(2) A total of 7,400 employees across 55 establishments filed complaints for labor inspection in cases where employers violated or did not comply with the Labor Protection Act. All cases were thoroughly investigated by interviewing workers, employers, and witnesses, as well as inspecting

workplace environment. No instances of forced labor or human trafficking were identified.

## 4. Prevention of trafficking in the Fisheries Sector

DLPW continued to provide protection to fisheries 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 receive labor rights as stated in the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998). Efforts were carried out through the following measures:

## 4.1 Seabooks for Migrant Workers

DOF issued seabooks for migrant workers working on Thai vessels in accordance with the Royal Thai Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015). The seabook registration and issuance provided an important source of data for managing migrant workers, helping to prevent labor abuses and human trafficking in the fisheries sector. Currently, there are 49,041 migrant workers with active seabooks, including Myanmar nationals, Cambodians, Laotians, Vietnamese, and other nationals.

# 4.2 Measure on Accidents in Fishing Vessels and the Loss of Fishery Workers at Sea

The Government has established guidelines and operational measures to address incidents involving accidents on fishing vessels and the loss of fishery workers. Upon receiving a report of an accident or incident, PIPO officers are required to promptly coordinate with relevant agencies, such as DOF, the Royal Thai Navy (RTN), the Marine Police, or the boat owners through phone or radio communication to ensure immediate assistance and response.

MOL's safety inspectors investigated 219 cases of accidents involving fishing crew. The findings revealed 196 cases of work-related injuries. There were also 9 cases of crew members missing and 14 cases of natural disasters and other causes. Safety measures have been implemented to address these issues, including awareness campaigns and inspections of danger warning signs on fishing vessels, such as those for electrical hazards, heat risks, and confined spaces, to ensure the safety and protection of fishing workers.

## 4.3 Safety Promotion Programs for Work in Confined Spaces

DLPW conducted a meeting to brief on safety measures for working in confined spaces on fishing vessels. The session aimed to promote an understanding and awareness of the legal aspects of occupational safety in confined spaces and relevant practices to ensure safety while working in such environments. The meeting was attended by 466 participants, including fishing vessel owners, workers, and other stakeholders.

## 4.4 Capacity-Building Workshops for Fishing Workers

A capacity-building workshop on improving safety and self-protection for fishing workers to prevent forced labor was held in Trat Province. This workshop, organized in cooperation with DLPW, DOF, the Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Center, and Stella Maris, trained 40 participants, including boat captains, engine mechanics, cooks, and experienced crew. The program focused on legal rights, recognizing forced labor, accessing government assistance, workplace safety, first aid, rescue techniques for overboard incidents, fire emergencies, and working in confined spaces.



## 4.5 Development of Employment Contract in the Fishing Sector

DLPW, in collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO), has developed a Thai-Vietnamese bilingual employment contract for Vietnamese workers in the fishing sector. This initiative aims to ensure that workers are aware of their legal rights. The contract is pending publication in the Royal Gazette.

### 5. Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Children

The Government prioritizes preventing human trafficking, especially among women and children, through awareness campaigns, training officials, inspections, and addressing child labor. Systematic measures also target beggars to prevent exploitation within trafficking cycles. Efforts were carried out through the following measures:

## 5.1 Prevention of Trafficking in Children

### (1) Child Safe Friendly Tourism Project

The Department of Tourism, as the secretariat of the sub-committee for the Child Safe Friendly Tourism Project, expanded the project by revising the logo, involving travel-related entities, and setting a clear implementation timeline. A Handbook for Child Safe & Friendly Tourism was developed in Thai and English, covering governance and aviation measures. Five training sessions were held with 863 participants from the tourism and hotel service sectors.

(2) <u>Prevention of Illegal Child Labor in Hotels and</u> <u>Accommodation Services</u>

The project aims to ensure that hotels and accommodations are committed to preventing illegal child labor and commercial sexual exploitation of children by adopting Good Labor Management (GLM) on Child Safe Friendly Tourism practices. This includes improving employment conditions and work environments for child employees to meet legal standards. In 2024, the project was implemented in 15 provinces, with 285 establishments and 12,990 workers participating.

(3) Pre-Employment Readiness Program for Youth

This program aims to educate final-year students in schools and universities about their rights and duties under labor protection laws, potential workplace hazards for children, and the worst forms of child labor, including forced labor or services. A total of 9,047 students participated in this program.

(4) Establishment of Women Labor Consultation Centers

Pilot centers in 10 provinces offer consultation, advice, and assistance to female workers facing employment issues. They promote equal and fair treatment, support female participation, and aim to enhance their recognition in workplace, employment opportunities, and overall quality of life.

(5) Awareness Creation on Emerging Forms of Human Trafficking

MSDHS organized training programs for students and youths to raise awareness on emerging forms of human trafficking and the prevention of becoming victims of human trafficking. A total of 6,024 individuals participated in the programs from 76 provinces.

(6) Prevention of Human Trafficking for Youths

MSDHS developed media aimed for youths to raise awareness on the risk of human trafficking.

## 5.2 **Prevention of Forced Begging**

MSDHS has been actively addressing the systemic issues of beggars to prevent subsequent exploitation in human trafficking. Nationwide efforts have been exerted to regulate beggars, encountering a total of 564 beggars of various nationalities (391 Thais and 173 other nationalities), increasing by 23.41% from 457 beggars recorded in 2023. This surge is attributed to the resumption of tourist attractions in Thailand after COVID-19

has subsided. The increase in both Thai and foreign tourists induced more beggars in urban areas and tourist attractions.

MSDHS is committed to distinguishing beggars from street performers and has implemented measures to support performers by establishing dedicated spaces for their activities. Collaborating with public and private administrative organizations, MSDHS has created 2,162 performance spaces, including 61 locations in 29 provinces and additional spaces at universities, ensuring they can live with dignity while preventing vulnerable groups from resorting to begging.

Year/Activity	Music	Dance	Arts	Film	Choreography	Others	Total
2022	857	27	5	0	2	33	924
2023	881	34	21	4	5	63	1,008
2024	1,799	63	15	1	3	130	2,011

Table 41: Insurance of certificates for performer identification cards for 2022-2024

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

#### 6.1 Legal Amendments and Improvements

(1) Ministerial Regulation No. 15 (B.E. 2567) under the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 was issued to elevate protection standards for domestic workers in non-business households to align with international standards. This regulation reduces social inequality and enhances access to state services for domestic workers. It expands protection across 12 key areas: (1) regular working hours capped at 8 hours per day, (2) breaks of at least 1 hour, (3) remote work agreements, (4) emergency leave entitlement, (5) prohibition on pregnant women working overtime, night shifts (22:00-06:00), or holidays, (6) 98 days of maternity leave for female employees, (7) prohibition on dismissal due to pregnancy, (8) mandatory reporting of child labor use, (9) 30 days of paid training leave for young workers, (10) 45 days of paid maternity leave for female employees, (11) prohibition on wage deductions for overtime, holidays, and work on holidays, and (12) ensuring minimum wage payments.

(2) Notification was issued by DLPW on the criteria, methods, and conditions for requiring or receiving work guarantees for home-based workers under Section 14 of the Home-Based Workers Protection Act B.E. 2553. Effective from July 13, 2024, it ensures fairness between employers and home-based workers in high-value or high-volume work while preventing forced labor through debt bondage.

(3) Performance evaluations were conducted for the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 and the Labor Protection in Fishing Work Act B.E. 2562, including through surveys among relevant officers, stakeholders, and the public. This is in accordance with Section 5 of the Law Drafting and Evaluation Act B.E. 2562.

(4) MOL is revising two laws relating to protection of informal workers to ensure alignment with current circumstances, namely the Home-Based Workers Protection Act B.E. 2553 and the Ministerial Regulation on Agricultural Labor Protection B.E. 2557. This is being done in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

# 6.2 Guidelines for Labor Inspection in Establishments at Risk of Child Labor, Forced Labor, Debt-Bondage, and Human Trafficking

In 2024, MOL enhanced labor inspections of establishments at risk of child labor, forced labor, debt bondage, and human trafficking by including more categories of businesses subject to additional screening from 62 to 115 categories, based on past inspection data, 10-year forced labor case statistics, and research from ILO. Labor inspectors now use a standardized form to interview child laborers and migrant workers, ensuring they are not subjected to forced labor, excessive hours, confinement, or debt bondage, safeguarding workers' rights at the operational level.

## 6.3 Interview Guidelines for Labor Inspectors

MOL, in collaboration with the International Justice Mission (IJM) and Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Psychology, is developing interview guidelines to screen for forced labor and human trafficking while addressing psychological trauma, aligned with SOPs for preliminary screening. The guidelines was used in MOL's pilot project in November 2024 and will be further developed into practice.

## 6.4 Improving Capacity and Efficacy of Labor Inspection

In 2024, MOL and relevant agencies conducted training programs to enhance officials' capacity in identifying human trafficking and forced labor indicators under Section 6/1 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act B.E. 2551 (2008) and amendments. Key areas include debt bondage, excessive overtime, confiscation of worker documents, and unpaid work. This ensures efficient victim identification, screening, and referral to multidisciplinary teams under NRM.

(1) MOL and IJM organized integrated projects to improve screening and identification processes of MOL and MHDHS for forced labor victims. Four sessions were held involving 131 participants from relevant agencies. The sessions are helpful for developing the forms used in screening and identification processes by relevant government agencies in a coherent manner as per the recommendation of the TIP report in 2024. (2) A capacity-building program was held in collaboration with ILO to improve protection for informal workers, including agricultural workers, domestic workers, and home-based workers. The program involved 101 participants.

(3) The Office of the Permanent Secretary for Labor organized a project to train 8,120 labor graduates and volunteers on prevention of forced labor and human trafficking. This program expanded anti-trafficking networks and provided training on reporting mechanisms, both online and through formal complaint forms.

(4) In collaboration with IJM, MOL implemented a pilot project to strengthen frontline officers' capacity for screening and identifying forced labor and human trafficking cases. Training sessions were conducted in three locations: Ranong, Chiang Rai, and Chonburi, involving 90 participants.

(5) MOL conducted a two-day training program for 95 participants from the Ministry and related agencies. The program aimed to strengthen the capacity of the task force responsible for monitoring employment conditions, addressing forced labor, and preventing the exploitation of child labor among migrant workers.

## 6.5 Improvement of SOPs and Preliminary Screening Forms

MOL, in collaboration with IJM, has updated SOP and a screening form to improve efforts in combating human trafficking. The revised SOP was approved in two key stages: first, by the Sub-Committee on Forced Labor and Human Trafficking on 20 December 2023, and later by the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Committee on 27 March 2024. These updated SOP and forms are now being implemented in labor offices nationwide, both at central and regional levels, to strengthen anti-human trafficking operations.

## 6.6 The Coordination Center for Trafficking Victims

The Department of Human Trafficking in Persons Litigation, OAG, has established the Coordination Center for Trafficking Victims to serve as a coordinating channel between related personnel and agencies in the prosecution of human trafficking cases. In 2024, 20 individuals utilized the Center for the protection of victims and general information.

## 7. Prevention of Forced Labor, Human Trafficking, and Child Labor in Workplaces

## 7.1 Good Labor Practices (GLP)

MOL, in collaboration with relevant agencies, developed Good Labor Practices (GLP) guidelines for various industries, including general businesses, farms, and seafood sectors. These guidelines, supported by technical information from ILO, aim to eliminate forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking while promoting workplace safety, welfare, non-discrimination, and sustainable labor practices across supply chains, thereby raising consumer's confidence in Thai products.

In 2024, 1,843 establishments adopted GLP practices, benefiting 177,017 employees (cumulative total: 29,717 establishments and 2,245,447 employees). Additionally, 506 establishments utilized the GLP logo on products and promotional materials, covering 91,510 employees (cumulative total: 1,584 establishments and 419,483 employees).

## 7.2 Thai Labor Standard: TLS 8001 and 8003

MOL has been actively promoting the adoption of the Thai Labor Standard (TLS) 8001 to encourage businesses to develop labor management systems on par with international standards. This initiative aims to improve working conditions, enhance sustainable business practices, and raise the competitiveness of Thai businesses on the global stage. In 2024, 510 businesses have been recognized for their efforts in adopting TLS and promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), benefiting 281,763 workers. Additionally, 1,289 businesses have fully implemented and maintained TLS system, resulting in the improved quality of life for 536,041 employees.

MOL further expanded its efforts by introducing the Thai Labor Standard TLS 8003, specifically focusing on the transportation sector. This new standard is designed to help businesses integrate labor safety measures into their transportation operations, with the goals of reducing workplace accidents, preventing the loss of life and property, and improving the quality of life for workers in the sector.

## 7.3 Hotlines and Complaint-Receiving Mechanisms

MOL employed 134 interpreters and language coordinators in 2024 to facilitate communication with workers at municipal and provincial levels. Additionally, MSDHS operates the Social Assistance Center to handle reports of human trafficking. In 2024, a total of 167 cases were reported, including 109 cases via Hotline 1300, 30 cases through operational reports, and 28 cases via social media platforms such as Line, Facebook, and email. Among these, 70 cases involved human trafficking indicators, and 97 cases were confirmed as trafficking victims, affecting a total of 153 individuals.

### 8. Advancing Partnership on Human Trafficking Prevention

MOL, in collaboration with key agencies such as the Royal Thai Police (RTP), MSDHS, Office of the Attorney General, and DOF, established partnerships to prevent forced labor and human trafficking. Key activities include:

### (1) Roundtable Meetings on NRM

DLPW, in partnership with IJM, organized four roundtable meetings to exchange knowledge on identifying labor trafficking cases. The meetings covered indicators of trafficking, such as debt bondage, excessive overtime, withholding identification documents, and unpaid work, while reviewing challenges and practical screening solutions. Participants included 120 officials from ministries such as Labor, Justice, Interior, Agriculture, and the Royal Thai Police.

### (2) ALFA Project for Labor Protection in Fisheries

DLPW, together with the Addressing Labor Exploitation in Fishing in ASEAN (ALFA) project and ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), developed programs to enhance the capacity of fisheries workers, employers, and law enforcement officials. The project was approved by the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

(3) Exchange of Best Practices on Labor Inspections in High-Risk Sectors

DLPW, as part of ALICOM, collaborated with ASEC to implement a project for exchanging best practices on labor inspections in establishments with vulnerable workers among ASEAN member states.

(4) Discussion on Child Labor and Forced Labor Prevention Measures

On 29 March 2024, MOL reviewed strategies to prevent and resolve issues related to child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. Participants included officials from MOL and related agencies involved in anti-human trafficking efforts.

(5) <u>Consultation on Child Trafficking and Forced Child Labor (CPC Agreement)</u>

On 24 April 2024, MOL hosted a meeting with representatives from the U.S. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) to discuss child trafficking, forced child labor, and the possibility of cooperation under the Child Protection Compact (CPC) agreement.

#### 9. Raising Public Awareness Activities on Human Trafficking Prevention

The Government is committed to raising public awareness as part of the efforts to ensure protection and prevention of human trafficking and labor exploitations. Efforts were carried out through the following campaigns:

(1) <u>Project on Promoting Knowledge of Labor Laws for Migrant</u> Workers

MOL organized training sessions in 10 provinces for 1,000 migrant workers (100 per province). The sessions aimed to educate workers on their

legal rights and responsibilities, raise awareness among employers about ethical practices, and prevent labor exploitation.

(2) <u>Public Awareness Campaign to Prevent Illegal Migration for</u> <u>Overseas Work</u>

To combat labor exploitation through illegal overseas employment, MOL launched nationwide awareness campaigns using media, mobile outreach, and training for community leaders and job seekers. These efforts reached 381,179 people, providing knowledge on legal work processes abroad and the risks of illegal migration.

(3) Anti-Human Trafficking Day 2024

On 5 June 2024, MSDHS held Anti-Human Trafficking Day at the IMPACT Exhibition Center, streamed live via Facebook. The event emphasized Thailand's "Zero Tolerance" policy on human trafficking and raised awareness among the public, government agencies, NGOs, international organizations, and the media.

#### (4) World Day Against Child Labor 2024

On 12 June 2024, MOL organized a campaign to raise awareness about child labor and promote collaborative solutions to eliminate it. The event involved 620 participants from 239 organizations, including government officials, employers, workers, and labor networks.

(5) Occupational Safety for Migrant Agricultural Workers

In partnership with IOM, MOL implemented safety training for 250 migrant agricultural workers across5 sessions in Tak, Prachinburi, Sa Kaeo, Ranong, and Ratchaburi provinces. The project aimed to improve workplace safety, health, and working conditions, enabling workers to share the knowledge within their groups.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Future Action Plans**

### Prosecution

1. Intensify the screening of illegal immigrants to identify human trafficking victims and report significant cases to the Child and Women Protection Division.

2. Strengthen inspections at international airports under Immigration Bureau Division 2 to prevent human trafficking, focusing on victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches.

3. Recruit interpreters for screening processes to ensure effective communication for individuals with potential indicators of trafficking victimization. Promote more awareness on the availability and accessibility to the interpretation services across all the sectors and levels.

4. Conduct trainings on forensic interviewing and electronic evidence collection to improve police expertise in handling trafficking cases.

5. Enhance training programs for frontline units, particularly Immigration Bureau officers and border area personnel, to align their screening capabilities with central-level agencies based on the NRM.

6. Launch the Human Trafficking Prevention and Suppression Project for 2025 to support the 5-year action plan (2023–2027) through prevention, suppression, investigation, and prosecution of trafficking; protection of witnesses who are trafficking victims; and information exchange via TIPNET.

7. Implement a proactive investigation project targeting state officials involved in human trafficking to prevent and suppress offenses, prosecute corrupt officials, and enhance the efficiency of investigations, planned for 2024–2025.

8. OAG has started the improvement of equipment in interrogation rooms for children in criminal cases in 76 offices, both central and regional, to encourage children to cooperate in the judicial process, in line with the victimcentered approach and reducing revictimization.

9. The Department of the Trafficking In Person Litigation, OAG has been allocated a budget of THB 1,140,000 (USD 33,043.47) to organize 3 capacity-building training programs for public prosecutors and agencies related to anti-human trafficking.

10. The Department of the Trafficking In Person Litigation, OAG has developed the 2026-2027 action plan prioritizing in managing emerging challenges of trafficking in persons, developing cooperation mechanisms with related agencies, and enhancing the standards and efficiency of the agency.

### Protection

1. Revise the law on human trafficking prevention and suppression to address current trends and challenges.

2. Further improve regulations for establishing private shelters to enhance assistance and protection for trafficking victims, led by the MSDHS.

3. Conduct training sessions to improve the effective use of screening tools and NRM.

#### Prevention

## 1. MOL's plans of activities for 2025-2026 to prevent and address forced labor and human trafficking in labor sectors:

• Launch the Light Campaign Project to raise public awareness about human trafficking prevention among employers, employees, children, women, migrant workers, and fisheries laborers. This project integrates efforts from public and private sectors, civil society, and NGOs, utilizing media channels to promote sustainable prevention.

• Implement the screening and referral project to screen and identify potential victims of forced labor and exploitation, hiring more interpreters proficient in English, Myanmar, and Khmer to support NRM and improve accessibility for at-risk groups such as female and child migrant workers.

• Conduct research in 2024 to explore approaches to preventing forced labor, labor trafficking, and child labor in Thailand.

• Develop operational guidelines in 2025 to enhance protection and awareness for workers in shrimp, fish, sugarcane, and garment sectors, ensuring legal protection and preventing exploitation.

• Provide trainings for labor graduates in 2025 to improve their ability to screen and identify forced labor and human trafficking cases, while enhancing their understanding of SOPs and NRM.

• Collaborate with stakeholders to continue the Connectivity at Sea (CAS) Project, providing communication technology for fisheries workers, safety manuals, and training for vessel masters to ensure knowledge dissemination onboard.

#### 2. DLPW's plans for :

• Organize partnership projects with 450 businesses to promote awareness and self-certification against child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. These projects aim to educate employers about indicators of forced labor, encourage government collaboration, and conduct the Know-Your-Problem campaign to train community leaders, labor leaders, teachers, local administrators, and relevant agencies. The campaign has reached 250 participants.

• Facilitate capacity-building sessions for 120 fisheries workers and vessel masters in Rayong and Chonburi to enhance knowledge of safety regulations, labor rights, and emergency response skills. These sessions also incorporate training on first aid and rescue techniques in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and the Stella Maris Seafarers' Center. **3.** The Office of the Attorney General has implemented preventive and responsive measures, including:

• Conduct workshops to enhance prosecution efficiency in forced labor cases, particularly those overlapping with labor court cases.

• Organize seminars to improve the implementation of NRM for identifying victims of cyber-related trafficking scams.

• Continue to provide specialized training programs for prosecutors and related personnel to address transnational organized crime and emerging forms of trafficking.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Annex:

## Implementation of Recommendations from the 2024 United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report

### 1) Proactively investigate and prosecute officials allegedly complicit in facilitating trafficking, and seek adequate penalties for convicted traffickers, which should involve significant prison terms.

• In 2024, 5 complicit officials in human trafficking cases were prosecuted, and disciplinary actions were taken against 10 officials. (Details in Section 3 of the Prosecution Chapter)

2) Increase efforts to identify and protect trafficking victims when arriving in or transiting Thailand from being exploited in neighboring countries as forced labor or services in online scam operations; cease placing victims in immigration detention centers and ensure victims are not inappropriately penalized solely for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked.

• RTP made 785 arrests of suspects in 340 cases for smuggling of victims to a third country to be exploited by forced labor or services, to prevent victims from being deceived into working in online scams. Additionally, victims are no longer held in immigration detention centers. (Details in Section 2.1 of the Prosecution Chapter)

• RTP's Immigration Bureau has enacted rigorous immigration screening measures of tourists, particularly those from high-risk groups without sustainable livelihood factors and a well-defined travel plan. In 2024, a total of 40,361 individuals were denied entry into Thailand.

• MOL and related agencies provided assistance to victims deceived into working in online scams through the NRM screening process.

• MOL prevented individuals at risk of being deceived into working in online scams in neighboring countries. Labor inspectors at national checkpoints screened 10,472 individuals suspected of attempting to work abroad illegally and stopped 250 individuals from traveling. (Details in Chapter 2.2 of Prevention)

3) Fully implement the NRM and the reflection period for victims in all provinces and open remaining victim identification centers.

• RTP has been allocated a funding of THB 19,444,600 (USD 563,611.59) to implement NRM. Relevant agencies have conducted initial screening of 22,563 individuals, 644 of which were found to be victims of human trafficking, and 192 received assistance at the integrated screening centers in 16 provinces.

• MSDHS has been allocated a funding of THB 12,300,000 (USD 356,521.73) for initial screenings of victims before the screening process of the NRM at victim identification centers.

• The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund was allocated to 24 projects to implement NRM. This included 3 projects for individuals who are reasonably believed to be victims of human trafficking, and 21 projects to enhance the understanding of NRM for relevant personnel.

• MOL has directed both central and regional agencies to follow NRM and relevant SOPs, including the screening forms. If any indications are found, they will be forwarded for screening according to NRM.

• MOL has performed inspections of Thai and foreign workers for indications of labor rights violations, including forced labor and services. If any indications are found, they will be forwarded for screening according to NRM. (Details in Section 1 of the Prevention Chapter)

4) Use victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches, including during multidisciplinary team (MDT) interviews and labor inspections; include NGO representation in MDTs as a standard practice to support these efforts.

• COJ, in collaboration with IJM, hosted an academic seminar to develop knowledge on trauma-informed procedures for treating victims of human trafficking. (Details in Section 9.1 (8) of the Prosecution Chapter)

• OAG, with financial support from O.U.R. Rescue Thailand, organized a capacity-building lecture on trauma-informed care to increase efficiency in the prosecution of human trafficking cases. (Details in Section 9.2 (2) of the Prosecution Chapter)

• MSDHS, through its agencies nationwide, has enhanced its capabilities in the protection victims, while emphasizing the victim-centered, best interest determination, and trauma-informed care approaches. Care has been given to avoid re-traumatization while taking into account the needs of individuals. (Details in Section 4 of the Protection Chapter)

• MOL has revised relevant SOPs while taking into account the victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches. (Details in Section 6.4 of the Prevention Chapter)

• MOL has revised the guidelines for labor inspection, and developed interview guidelines for labor inspectors. (Details in Sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the Prevention Chapter)

5) Enforce worker protections in the fishing industry and other commercial sectors, including electronic pay options and bans on transfersat-sea.

• MOL and relevant agencies enhanced protection of workers in the fisheries through collecting foreign fishing workers' information to ensure effective management of workers, investigation of accidents in fishing vessels and loss of fishery worker at sea, and protection of fishery workers from human trafficking. (Details in Section 4 of the Prevention Chapter)

• MOL has tightened the inspection of fishery workers according to relevant laws. In 2024, labor inspections at PIPO Centers discovered violations of labor protection laws related to fisheries work on 15 vessels, involving 266 workers. Legal action was initiated for cases such as failure to pay wages through bank accounts and failure to document wage payments. (Details in Section 1.4 of the Prevention Chapter)

• RTG issued a Ministerial Regulation on protection of fishery workers in 2022, ordering employer of foreign fishery workers to pay wages through bank accounts. The Regulation is still in effect and the sections regarding transfers-at-sea have not been amended.

6) Deconflict Ministry of Labour (MOL) and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) forced labor and trafficking screening forms into one comprehensive set of guidance and train all frontline officials.

• The screening forms have been integrated by MSDHS and are undergoing trials.

7) Increase the use and availability of interpreters to assist victims, including in shelters and court proceedings.

• RTP organized a training seminar for 160 police officers capable of being interpreters, and registered a total of 2,704 interpreters to support the process of human trafficking cases. These trained interpreters are available upon request, in person, by phone or online, for ease of access for victims at municipal and provincial levels as well as remote areas.

• RTP organized a training seminar for police officers capable of being interpreters in human trafficking cases, in support of the prosecution (Details in Section 9.10 of the Prosecution Chapter)

• The Office of the Judiciary has developed a system to provide interpreters to the Courts, and organized trainings for interpreters of Mandarin, Myanmar, and sign languages. (Details in Section 9.1 of the Prosecution Chapter)

• MSDHS organized a training course for 30 interpreters of Myanmar and sign languages. (Details in Section 5.1 of the Protection Chapter)

• In 2024, MOL employed 142 interpreters to enhance the capabilities in the interviewing and screening of foreign workers to ensure the protection of their rights, and implementation of NRM.

8) Train officials on and ensure effective implementation of Section 6/1 of the anti-trafficking law and identification of labor trafficking victims.

• Law enforcement agencies provided trainings for personnel to enhance their capabilities and knowledge on human trafficking cases, protection of foreign workers, prevention of violations of labor laws, and implementation of NRM. (Details in Section 9 of the Prosecution Chapter)

• MSDHS and MOL organized trainings to enhance the capabilities of officers on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking, and forced labor or services.

• MOL and related agencies provided capacity-building trainings for officers to create awareness, enhance their capabilities in the anti-trafficking work, and increase the effectiveness in victim identification. (Details in Section 6.4 of the Prevention Chapter)

9) Increase the ability of victims, especially adults, to move freely in and out of shelters and access communication devices regularly.

• Implement SOPs in the operation of victim identification centers while taking into consideration the needs, decisions, and cooperation of individuals, including the victim's trauma and readiness to enter into the process. To ensure sustainable recovery, freedom is provided for the victims during their stay in the shelters to move freely in and out of the shelters, to use communication devices for adult victims, and to reintegrate into their families.

• Expand cooperation with 12 additional private shelters, totaling 27 shelters. This is to increase the choice of work according to the victims' needs and expertise, for those who wish to work during the justice process, and those who wish to remain in Thailand after the end of the process. In 2024, 16 victims commenced their work while staying in the shelters.

• Collaborate with 10 educational institutions in the vicinity of the shelters to allow young victims to receive education according to their expertise.

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

• MSDHS provided protection and assistance for victims both inside and outside of shelters, while taking into consideration of the trauma-informed care approach. (Details in Section 4.1 of the Protection Chapter)

11) 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 the MDTs and law enforcement.

• RTP organized seminars for inquiry officers and MDTs on operational plans to implement the NRM, case management, and the protection of trafficking victims. (Details in Section 9.7 of the Prosecution Chapter)

• MOL has directed both central and regional agencies to follow the NRM and relevant SOPs, including the screening forms. If any indications are found, they will be forwarded for screening according to the NRM.

• MOL has performed inspections of Thai and foreign workers for indications of labor rights violations, including forced labor and services. If any indications are found, they will be forwarded for screening according to NRM. (Details in Section 1 of the Prevention Chapter)

12) Increase awareness among relevant officials of trafficking indicators such as debt-based coercion, excessive overtime, confiscation of documents, and non-payment of wages.

• MOL and related agencies provided capacity-building trainings for officers to create awareness, enhance their capabilities in the anti-trafficking work, and increase the effectiveness in victim identification. (Details in Section 6.4 of the Prevention Chapter)

13) Review and reduce unnecessary barriers for NGOs to establish shelters for trafficking victims, especially in regions along border towns and outside of Bangkok.

• MSDHS organized a meeting to receive feedbacks and recommendations on the regulations regarding the establishment of private shelters for victims of human trafficking, attended by private organizations, private shelters, and provincial social develop security offices.

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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
ALFA	Addressing Labor Exploitation in Fishing in ASEAN Project
AMLO	The Anti-Money Laundering Office
ASEC	ASEAN Secretariat
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN-ACT	ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking
ATPD	Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division
AOC	The Anti-Online Crime Operations Center
BHD	Bahraini Dinar
BMA	Bangkok Metropolitan Administration
CA	Competent Authority
	Catholic Commission on Social Affairs
CAS	The Connectivity at Sea Project
CBT	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
CCIB	The Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau
CCTV	The Coordination Center for Trafficking Victims
CIB	The Central Investigation Bureau
COJ	The Courts of Justice
COMMIT	The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking
	Process
CPC	Child Protection Compact Agreement
CPR	ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTOC-TIP 101	Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking 101
CWP	The Child Woman Protection and Anti-Human Trafficking Centre
D.A.R.E.	The Drug Abuse Resistance Education to Child Abuse Resistance
	Education
DATIPFUND	The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund
DBD	The Department of Business Development
DE	The Ministry of Digital Economy and Society
DLPW	The Department of Labor Protection and Welfare
DOE	The Department of Employment
DOF	The Department of Fisheries
DOPA	The Department of Provincial Administration
DSDW	The Department of Social Development and Welfare
DSI	The Department of Special Investigation
E-AHT	The Electronic Database System For Anti-human Trafficking
EU	The European Union

EANC	The Ferning Anti Newstie and Coince Community of Theiland
FANC	The Foreign Anti-Narcotic and Crime Community of Thailand
FBI FOCUS	The Federal Bureau of Investigation
	Foundation of Child Understanding Freedom of Movement
FOM GLM	
GLP	Good Labor Management Good Labor Practice
HRDF	The Human Rights and Development Foundation
IJM	The International Justice Mission
ILO	The International Labour Organization
IMF	The Immanuel Foundation
IOM	The International Organization for Migration
ISOC	The Internal Security Operation Command
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KOWIN	The Korean Women's International Network
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MDTs	Multidisciplinary Teams
MFA	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOE	The Ministry of Education
MOF	The Ministry of Finance
MOI	The Ministry of Interior
MOJ	The Ministry of Justice
MOL	The Ministry of Labour
MOPH	The Ministry of Public Health
MOTS	The Ministry of Tourism and Sports
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSDHS	The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
MWG	The Migrant Working Group
MWRN	The Migrant Workers Rights Network
NACC	The National Anti-Corruption Commission
NBTC	The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission
NCMEC	The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRM	The National Referral Mechanism
OAG	The Office of the Attorney General
O.U.R.	Operation Underground Railroad
PIPO	Port-In Port-Out Control Centers
RLPD	The Rights and Liberties Protection Department
ROK	The Republic of Korea
RP	The Reflection Period
	s Regional Support Office of the Bali Process on Smuggling,
	Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime
RTE	The Royal Thai Embassy
	<b>y y</b>

RTG	The Royal Thai Government
RTN	The Royal Thai Navy
RTP	The Royal Thai Police
SOM	Senior Official Meeting
SOPs	The Standard Operating Procedures
SPA-V	The Fifth Sub-Regional Plan
SSO	The Social Security Office
THB	Thai Baht
TICA	Thailand International Cooperation Agency
TICAC	Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce
TIP Office	U.S. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
TLS	The Thai Labor Standard
TRM	The Transnational Referral Mechanism
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNDP	The United Nations Development Program
UNODC	The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USD	U.S. Dollar
VIS	Victim Impact Statement

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