



IOM • OIM

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

THE UN MIGRATION AGENCY



IOM in Counter Trafficking (CT)

IOM has been working to counter trafficking in persons since 1994. The primary aims are to prevent trafficking in persons, protect victims and provide safe reintegration and/or return options to their home countries. IOM's approach is based on three principles that govern all our counter-trafficking activities:

- Respect for human rights
- Physical, mental and social well-being of the individual and his or her community
- Sustainability through institutional capacity building of governments and civil society

In this time, IOM has assisted approximately 70,000 victims of trafficking.

IOM's CT Programming in Lao PDR

Since 2001, IOM has provided assistance to the Government of Lao PDR in addressing human trafficking and exploitation and in reducing the number of vulnerable migrants. IOM supports the identification, referral, and protection of trafficked victims, and assists in detecting, investigating and prosecuting cases of human trafficking. In doing so, IOM conducts victim identification screenings, performs translation services during interviews, helps victims to access support services and carries out comprehensive trainings to enhance capacity of government officials in various sectors. To date, IOM has **directly supported over 2,500 vulnerable migrants** in the country through emergency assistance.

CURRENT PROGRAMMES

Migrant Assistance and Protection Program (MAPP), 2010-2019 (currently in the 9th phase), Funded by US Department of State, PRM

The Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and Malaysia is a dynamic region, widening wealth gaps, better economic opportunities and political instability encourage significant cross-border migration. This rising phenomenon of migration often involves aspirant migrant workers who move irregularly, and are at significant risk of exploitation and abuse.

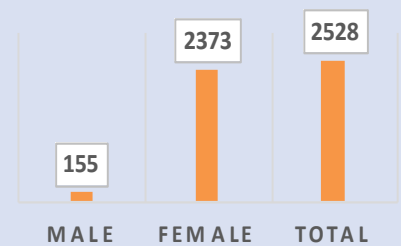
This regional programme is contributing to the protection and resilience of vulnerable migrants, including migrants in crisis situations. Activities in Lao PDR focus on improving the well-being of migrants through three main components: capacity building for government agencies, civil society and migrant communities; direct assistance for vulnerable migrants; and regional cooperation.

MAIN PARTNERS

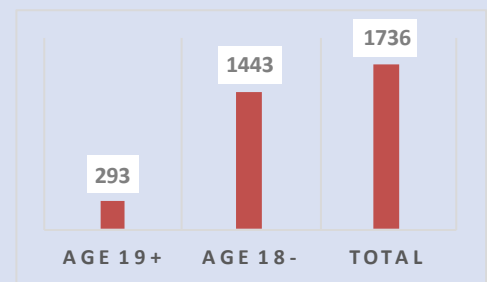
- Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW)
- Lao Women's Union (LWU)
- Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutors (OSPP)
- Ministry of Public Security (MOPS)
- Anti-Trafficking Department (ATD)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

KEY FIGURES

IOM Assisted Laotian Returnees from 2001– August 2018 by Gender



IOM Assisted Laotian Returnees from 2007– August 2018 by Age



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IOM's Counter Trafficking Programming in Lao PDR



Combating Human Trafficking through Reinforcing Judicial Capacity (CHARJ), 2017-2019, Funded by US Department of State, INL

IOM's CHARJ project is assisting the Government of Lao PDR to bolster law enforcement efforts to more aggressively deter, investigate, and prosecute trafficking.

The project is working to build the capacity of the Lao criminal justice sector (police, prosecutors, judges, and defense attorneys) to provide transparent and accountable justice and to combat transnational crime. While Lao PDR has demonstrated significant efforts on some measures to meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and has committed resources to a written plan of action, external support is needed to help them achieve their targets. This project provides an opportunity for enhanced cooperation with Lao PDR to implement the 2016-2020 National Action Plan on Human Trafficking through joint action between government and civil society. This project aims to strengthen efforts in implementing the 2016 anti-trafficking law through increased prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators and improved victim identification procedures to deter trafficking.

The CHARJ project is improving coordination among government, civil society, community, and other relevant stakeholders working on trafficking in persons (TIP) at national and local levels to enable Lao PDR to meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT), 2015-2019, Funded by EU

GLO.ACT aims to provide assistance to government authorities and civil society organizations across 13 strategically selected countries – Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa, Ukraine – by supporting the development of more effective response to trafficking and smuggling in persons, including providing assistance to victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants through the strengthening of identification, referral and direct support mechanisms.

In Lao PDR, activities focus on supporting the development of the national referral system for TIP cases as well as supporting civil society partners to provide protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants, including migrants that are deported through informal channels.



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