

# STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO MIGRANT SMUGGLING IN CAMBODIA

Implemented in partnership with the Cambodian Ministry of Interior, with financial support from the Government of Canada.

## Background & Objectives

In 2011, with support from the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program of the Government of Canada, IOM organized an introductory workshop for officers from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) on combating people smuggling. The workshop aimed to enhance the officers' knowledge on the differences between people smuggling and human trafficking, applicable domestic and international legislation and steps to take when informed of smuggling operations. Officers also participated in a table-top exercise designed to allow them to practice responding to smuggling operations in Cambodian territory.

The workshop not only revealed the need for further capacity building, but also for greater

inter-departmental collaboration within the MoI with respect to information-sharing and data collection.

The objective of the current Project is therefore to strengthen the capacity of frontline border control officers from the MoI to effectively combat people smuggling in their day-to-day responsibilities as the country's first line of defense against transnational organized crime.

In addition, by engaging officers from across four MoI departments, the project seeks to foster inter-departmental collaboration to facilitate information exchange among officers in order to prevent, investigate and suppress migrant smuggling and related crimes in Cambodia.



Participants work together to identify elements of people smuggling and/or human trafficking in case studies during the training in Banteay Meanchey.

### MINISTRY OF INTERIOR PARTNERS

Department of Maritime Police  
Department of Immigration  
Department of Border Patrol Police  
Department of Anti-Human Trafficking & Juvenile Protection

## TRAINING TOPICS

- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- Protection against Corruption
- Basics of Border Control
- Document Production (substrates, printing techniques, personalization)
- Forgeries and Counterfeits
- Fraudulent Documents
- Smuggling Methods
- Identifying Smuggled Persons
- Interviewing Techniques
- Information Sharing
- Health Protection
- Detention and Return

## Main Activities

- Training Courses on “Capacity Building for Frontline Border Control Offices to Combat People Smuggling” .
- The five-day training was designed by IOM’s Immigration and Border Management Unit, covering a range of border control topics and providing frontline officers with practical tools and skills to effectively manage border check-points, examine documents and interview travelers prior to allowing or refusing entry into the country.
- Training courses will be implemented in Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk and Banteay Meanchey, given high rates of migration and tourism in these provinces.
- 90 officers from the Department of Immigration, Maritime Police, Anti-Human Trafficking & Juvenile Protection and Border Patrol Police will participate, sharing expertise and knowledge to improve border security.
- A survey of Cambodia’s border checkpoints will be conducted to assess the institutional, technical and human resource capacity at the checkpoints, as well as to identify existing gaps in infrastructure to inform future actions.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Canada

# PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FRONTLINE BORDER CONTROL OFFICERS TO COMBAT PEOPLE SMUGGLING

### Key Results (July–October 2012)



#### Overall Rating



- 90 frontline border control officers (including immigration, maritime, anti-trafficking and border patrol police) in Preah Sihanouk, Banteay Meanchey & Koh Kong provinces trained to combat people smuggling.
- 96% of participants increased their knowledge on training topics by an average of 17.4%.
- 100% of participants found the training to be relevant to their daily work (more than 80% of rated the relevance of as 4 or 5 out of 5).
- Overall, the training received an average score of 4.5 out of 5 from participants.

### PARTICIPANTS' PERSPECTIVES

*"As a border police, I have never had the opportunity to participate in a training on people smuggling before, but all the topics are so relevant to my work that I wish more training was done in the past and will be conducted in the future."*

- Land Border Patrol Officer

*"The training was valuable because it gave me a chance to talk to my border patrol colleagues, rather than just my peers in immigration. We need to work on sharing information"*

- Immigration Officer

*"Since I am a maritime police officer, I have never been involved in a training on trafficking or people smuggling, but now I see that it is relevant, especially since the seaport in Sihanoukville is so large and many travelers pass through this area."*

-Maritime Police Officer

### Recommendations

- Conduct follow-up trainings and organize refresher courses on specific topics throughout the year to enhance knowledge retention. Evaluations revealed participants felt the course was too short and further training was requested.
- Build the capacity of local trainers and MoI officials to deliver similar trainings in all border provinces. This would enhance overall sustainability and facilitate improved comprehension.
- Provide ongoing technical support to strengthen inter-departmental communication. Participants noted the training provided the opportunity to learn from colleagues in other departments. Strengthening networks between departments should be fundamental to future programs.
- Develop a simulation exercise to be conducted at the border. A table-top exercise would further enhance officers' practical capabilities to respond to and prevent people smuggling and related crime in the field.
- Based on the outcomes of the border capacity assessment design a comprehensive immigration and border management program for Cambodia, including all international, bilateral and local checkpoints.



Officers in Koh Kong identify security features and elements of fraud in passport specimens.

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