

# IOM AND TRAINING FOR FRONTLINE BORDER OFFICIALS

Assisting the Lao People's Democratic Republic's Immigration Department to responsibly manage the movement of people across Lao's borders.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency



## Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Projects in Lao People's Democratic Republic

2012 – 2019

*Capacity Building through Improved Induction and Refresher Training for Immigration Officials – Government of Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP) (Phase 1, 2, 3)*

2014 – 2017

*Document Examination Support Centre (DESC) Government of Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP) (regional project with 15 ASEAN countries) (Phase 3)*

## Achievements of ACCBP Projects Conducted in Lao PDR

### Phase I:

- Conducted "Safe Migration Campaign" trainings and ToT workshops to government officials, local communities, NGOs and relevant stakeholders;
- Conducted safe migration awareness raising campaigns at village level in coordination with multiple organizations;
- Delivered Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on safe migration to local communities.

### Phase II:

- Developed "Addressing Migration Smuggling: A Guidebook for Police and Immigration Personnel" training manual;
- Facilitated a training workshop based on developed manual for government officials on addressing smuggling of migrants and related crimes;
- Delivered and installed three Verifier TD&B systems funded by the Government of Canada at three international checkpoints (Wattay International Airport, Luang Prabang International Airport, and Thailand-Laos Friendship Bridge).

### Phase III:

- Developed the Immigration and Border Management Foundation Training Course which includes 16 training modules, including technical aspects of document examination and verification, as well as international and national instruments in place to combat trafficking and smuggling in persons and techniques for interviewing and screening victims and vulnerable migrants.
- This was rolled out across international, local and traditional border checkpoints through a dedicated training unit who are receiving a rigorous training of trainers (ToT) course (ongoing).

## IOM in Immigration and Border Management

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is increasingly called upon by States to assist in addressing border management challenges, including technical support in the specific areas of training. Training in border management primarily refers to the technical support of immigration officers and border officials who have a direct role in movement processing and the management and operations of border crossing points. Border management training is a core component of IOM's capacity building work and is often integral to projects of the Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division.

## Background of Lao PDR

As a land-locked country sharing borders with five neighboring countries, Lao PDR is particularly susceptible to both people smuggling and trafficking as a source, receiving and transit country. Smuggling and trafficking continue to undermine human rights across Asia and in particular South East Asia. Recent major infrastructure projects including both rail and road coupled with new customs agreements to facilitate the movement of goods across Lao PDR into neighboring countries, has seen Lao PDR move from a "land locked" country to a "land-linked" country. Whilst these developments will bring significant economic benefits for Lao PDR, such an expansion will also bring new opportunities for smuggling and trafficking networks to expand their ability to move people and illicit goods irregularly across borders.



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THE UN MIGRATION AGENCY

# IOM's Objective in Immigration and Border Management



Reinforce the skills and competencies of border and immigration officials in order to support professional, ethical and efficient border management.



IOM Lao PDR does this through supporting the following areas:

## FOUNDATION TRAINING

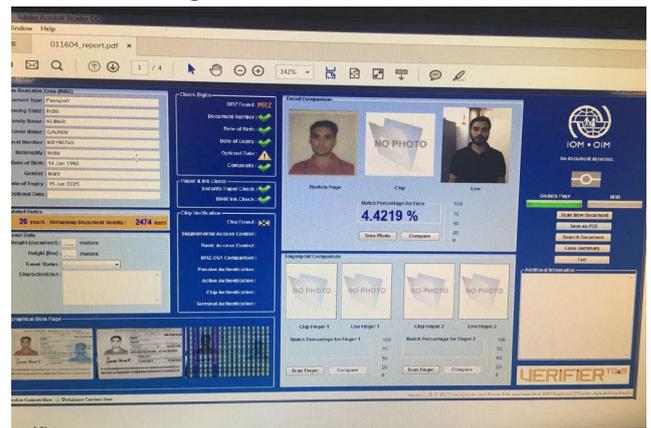
The Lao People's Democratic Republic has 101 border checkpoints with 27 of those being international border checkpoints and four international airports plus multiple bilateral crossings for movements of people across borders engaged in traditional and cultural crossings. In 2015, The Department of Immigration recruited an additional 560 new staff and is continuing to recruit additional officers, to assist the management of this movement. Identified training remains a critical concern for Lao PDR as training provided to immigration staff is basic and does not cover the complex nature of cross-border detection, prevention and prosecution, the current training is generally limited to on-the-job training from other staff.

Through the Anti-Crime Capacity-Building Program (ACCBP) funded by the Government of Canada, IOM Laos, together with the Department of Immigration have developed a Foundation Training Course which includes 16 training modules with modules including: technical aspects of document examination and verification, as well as international and national instruments in place to combat trafficking and smuggling in persons and techniques for interviewing and screening victims and vulnerable migrants. This Foundation Training Course will be introduced as the standard in Lao PDR and rolled out across selected international, local and traditional border checkpoints through a dedicated training unit who will receive rigorous training through a training of trainers (ToT) course.

## THEMATIC TRAINING

IOM delivers "thematic trainings" that focus on specific IBM topics which are designed to support immigration practitioners in carrying out their tasks and duties in a professional, efficient and ethical way. Comprehensive modules have been developed to provide in-depth training at border crossing points in communication, border procedures, passport examination procedures, countering document fraud and transnational organized crime (trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants), interviewing techniques and intelligence analysis for immigration and border officers.

Under IOM Laos' Migrant Assistance and Protection Project (MAPP) funded by the US State Department, thematic training was provided in April 2018 to key border agencies, including the Department of Immigration, Anti-Trafficking Department and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare on victim identification, interviewing skills, and indicators for early detection and referral of victims of trafficking.



An imposter detected by the Verifier machine at the Friendship Bridge, Vientiane Capital

## ENHANCED TRAVEL DOCUMENT EXAMINATION AND VERIFICATION PROCEDURES

Under the Document Examination Support Centre (DESC) Project, Lao PDR's Department of Immigration participated in a regional capacity building initiative, along with 9 other ASEAN countries. This project provided capacity building training on passport examination and verification procedures, together with the usage of verifier machines at Wattay International Airport, Luang Prabang International Airport and the Friendship Bridge in Vientiane. The Verifier supports secondary inspection of passports using the machines readable zone, these machines have helped to detect imposter and fraudulent passports in Lao PDR.



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