

Addressing Migrant Vulnerabilities to Prevent Human Trafficking and Protect Victims, Particularly Children, in Targeted Special Economic Zones & Economic Corridors in Cambodia, Viet Nam and Lao PDR

BACKGROUND

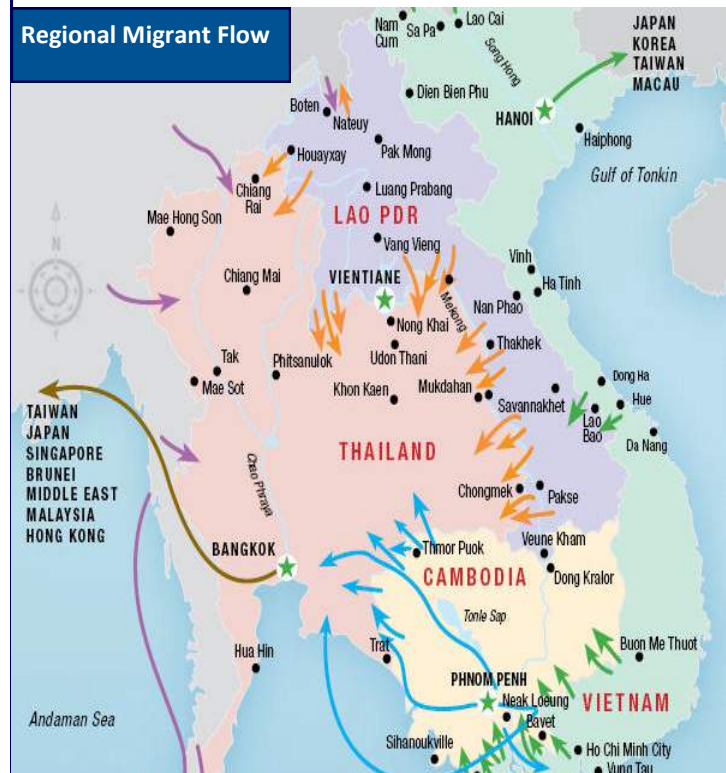
Since the early 1990s, a key economic development priority for countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) has been to reduce trade costs and improve connectivity, in an effort to boost the sub-region's economic growth and competitiveness. **Cambodia, Laos, and Viet Nam** in particular have been targeted by development programs, including the creation of **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** along economic corridors and within key strategic border areas between the respective countries, with the aim of attracting inward investments.

There are three main economic corridors that connect Viet Nam with Laos PDR and Cambodia. The first two begin in Viet Nam and go through Laos creating the East West Economic Corridors, while the third one connects Cambodia creating the South East Corridor. They end respectively in Thailand and Myanmar.

There are a number of factors which can increase the risk of human trafficking—especially for vulnerable children living around the zones and border areas. Firstly, the creation of SEZs along important transport routes and the development of economic corridors have led to increased internal labour migration flows and cross-border mobility along the borders, which also comprises a large number of vulnerable migrants. Secondly, the entertainment industry is one of the most lucrative

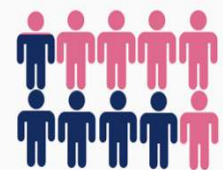
economic activities in the SEZs—notably, there has been a growing demand for sex workers. Third, SEZs are often located in remote and impoverished areas along the border where land is cheap and bigger plots can easily be bought. The privatization of land in SEZs has increased the pressure on poorer farming households to move off the land and look for employment opportunities elsewhere. On the other hand, SEZs also create pull factors for internal and cross-border migration as newly established industries attract increasing number of labour migrants from border areas and other parts of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

Regional Migrant Flow



On average 240 irregular Cambodian migrants return from Viet Nam every year (70% are child beggars).

3,190 trafficked women & children reportedly returned to Viet Nam between 2005-2010.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Funded by the Italian Development Cooperation, this 12-month project aims to reduce vulnerabilities to human trafficking and to protect victims, especially among vulnerable children, in the cross-border special economic zones (SEZs) between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Specific objectives include:

- (1) To prevent the trafficking of vulnerable migrants, especially minors, within the SEZs and economic corridors of Cambodia, Viet Nam and Laos through awareness raising in the source communities along the border.
- (2) To enhance the protection of vulnerable migrants, especially victims of trafficking, through capacity building of service providers as well as the provision of comprehensive direct assistance.

PREVENTION:

OUTCOME, OUTPUTS & ACTIVITIES

In order to prevent exploitation at the outset, IOM promotes awareness of **safe migration and risks associated with irregular migration** in the Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam (CLV) sub-region. Messaging on safe migration along with Awareness Raising Campaigns regarding new migration policies and regulations are regularly conducted in migrant communities and to **victims of trafficking in Cambodia**.

The CLV sub-regional project is designed to achieve two main outcomes. The first outcome anticipates that communities and migrants demonstrate greater willingness to prevent human trafficking among targeted vulnerable migrant groups, particularly children, in source communities.

The specific outputs and activities to achieve this outcome are to increase knowledge by conducting an **internal assessment of vulnerabilities and risk to trafficking** within and around SEZs in the three respective countries. The result of the assessment will be presented and shared at **bilateral consultations** between

Government officials from Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

The project will **develop training curricula and train community leaders** (including government officials, teachers, women's unions, former victims of trafficking, and youth peer groups) on prevention of Trafficking in Persons (TIP), identification of potential victims, behavioral change strategies and promotion of safe migration and life skills.

The project will also work with migrants and their families in source communities to reduced economic vulnerability to unsafe migration through **income generation activities to build economic resilience**, including **skill training and job placement** for vulnerable households.



FAST FACTS – PREVENTION

PROJECT OUTPUTS & ACTIVITIES

- ◆ **300 community leaders and government officials** in migrant sending areas trained with skills on TIP, HIV and safe migration awareness raising.
- ◆ **20,000 vulnerable migrants reached** by TIP & HIV awareness and behavioural change activities.
- ◆ Over **80 vulnerable migrant households** receive income generation support.



PROTECTION: OUTCOME, OUTPUTS & ACTIVITIES

This project also focuses on protection and responds to the need of individualised assistance for cases of severe exploitation involving victims of trafficking, particularly children.

The second outcome of the project is related to the protection of vulnerable migrants, especially women and children. It is anticipated that governments demonstrate consistency and commitment in working towards the effective protection of vulnerable migrants, particularly children.

The specific outputs and activities to achieve this outcome include to first enhance bilateral cooperation conducting a **comparative analysis and assessment** on relevant laws, policies, and bilateral agreements, MOUs in effect in Vietnam and Cambodia. Second, **bilateral joint seminars** between the respective countries, with the aim of developing improved implementation on the provision of victim assistance, case management, return and reintegration, will be organized.

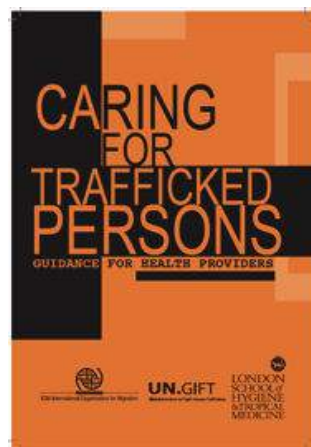
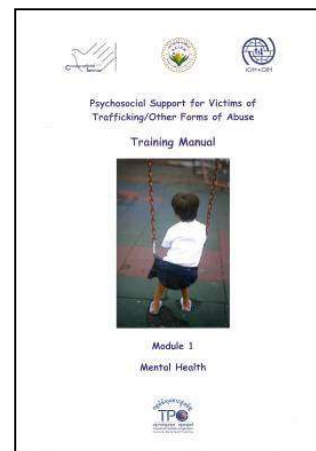
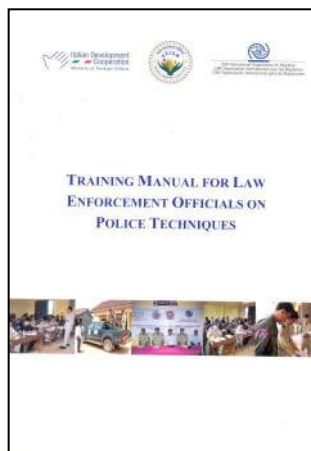
FAST FACTS – PROTECTION

PROJECT OUTPUTS & ACTIVITIES

- ◆ One legal assessment & service mapping conducted of relevant tools and procedures between Cambodia and Viet Nam.
- ◆ One bilateral workshop held to improve provision of protection assistance, case management, return and reintegration to victims of trafficking.
- ◆ **100 caregivers** working at shelters trained on IOM CARING guidelines.
- ◆ **140 child trafficking victims** receive direct assistance, including medical and psychosocial support.



The project will deliver several **training and capacity building activities** on IOM Caring Guidelines and the IOM's Direct Assistance Manual for Caregivers working at Government and NGO-managed shelters. **Provision of direct assistance packages and vocational training** to vulnerable migrants (focus on trafficked women and children) returned to Cambodia, and Viet Nam from third countries, will also be ensured.



The manuals are available at www.iom.int

IOM has developed two training manuals: “Caring for Trafficked Persons” & “Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking”.

For more information about IOM & the Italian Development Cooperation sub-regional project, please contact Mr, David Knight—dknight@iom.int

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GOVERNMENT & NGO PARTNERSHIPS

Cambodia: The project will primarily work with the National and provincial Committees for Counter Trafficking, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSAVY), Anti Trafficking Unit and local NGOs. Throughout the project, IOM will provide technical support to project stakeholders as they carry out awareness raising activities, including a coordinating role to ensure best practices are applied in providing direct assistance to victims, especially vulnerable children.

Viet Nam: The project will work with the Department of Social Vice Prevention, the Viet Nam Women's Union and members of the interagency steering committee on anti-trafficking headed by the Ministry of Public Security in Tay Ninh and Quang Tri Provinces.

Laos: The project will primarily partner with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. In particular, IOM will work with two departments: the Department of Social Welfare (Children's Assistance Division, which looks after victims of trafficking and protection issues), and the Department of Skills Development and Employment, which currently carries out the Training of Trainer Courses and safe migration campaigns.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration. IOM fights against exploitation of migrants in all forms, especially the severe human rights violations suffered by victims of trafficking. IOM seeks to provide protection and empower trafficked women, men, girls and boys; raise awareness and understanding of the issue; and bring justice to survivors of human trafficking.

IOM Missions in Cambodia, Viet Nam and Lao PDR operates solely on project basis and are dependent on project funding. This regional project is funded by the Italian Development Cooperation.

THE ITALIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

With its history dating back to the 1950s, the Italian Development Cooperation, managed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, contributes to international poverty reduction and aids developing nations strengthen their institutions. Focusing on ensuring respect of human rights and equitable economic growth, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation plays an increasingly crucial role in Italian foreign policy direction, particularly in response to new emergencies that require peace-keeping and migration management.



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