



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 vulnerable and trafficked women, men, girls and boys; raise awareness and understanding of the issue; and bring justice to survivors of human trafficking.

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Assessment of Returned Cambodian Migrants

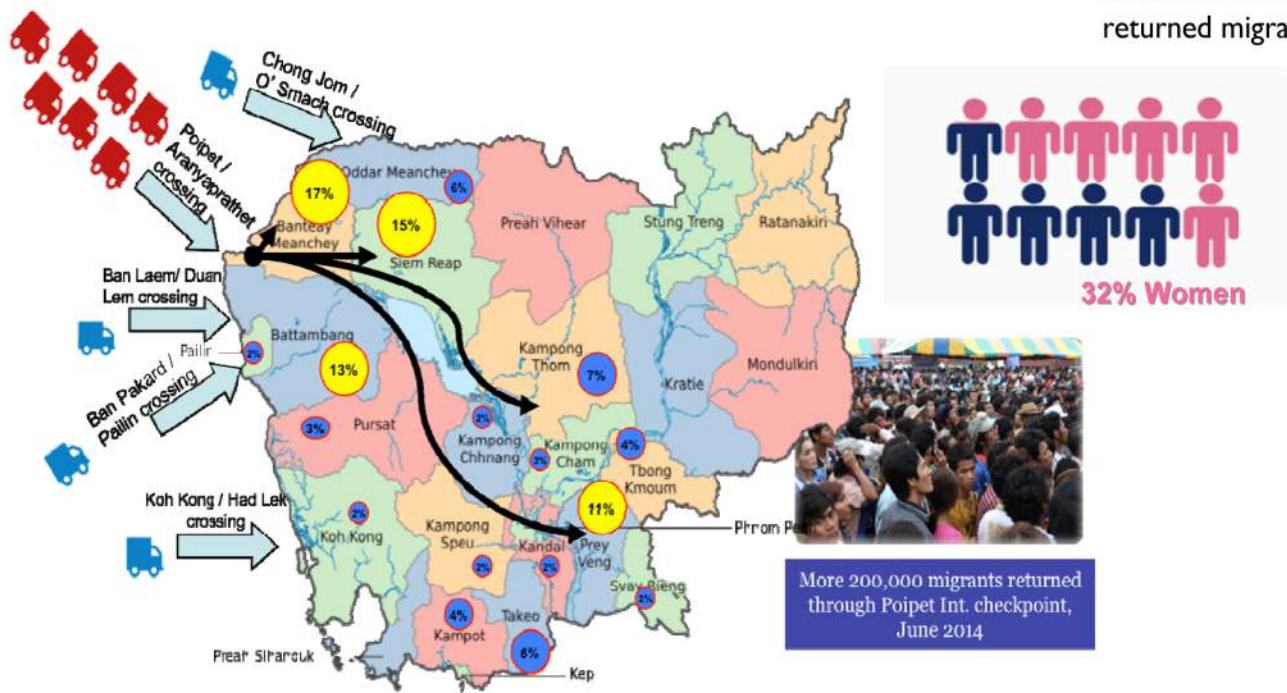
SITUATIONAL BACKGROUND

In the month of June, 2014, a reported 250,000 Cambodian migrant workers returned home from Thailand, prompted by fear of arrest by Thai authorities and a uncertain political situation. At the border IOM Cambodia coordinated with local authorities and NGOs to provide adequate food, water, health care and safe transportation to migrants to safely return to their home provinces, particularly for the most vulnerable migrants, such as women children.

During the post-emergency phase, IOM conducted a rapid needs assessment interviewing 667 returnees across 10 provinces, such as Battambang, Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Cham, Pursat, Prey Veng, Tbong Khmom, Kampong Thom, Takeo, and Kampot.

AIMS OF MIGRANT ASSESSMENT:

- 1) Asses migration characteristics, vulnerabilities, needs & aspirations of migrant returnees & their families;
- 2) Strengthen government information on formal migration procedures, local job opportunities, & services in the best interest of returned migrants & their families;
- 3) Improve knowledge of migration trends & characteristics of returned migrants



HIGHLIGHTS

250,000 Cambodian migrants returned from Thailand to Cambodia in June 2014:

- 200,000 thousand returned through Poi Pet International Checkpoint in North West border region.
 - 50,000 returned through Koh Kong, Palin, Ban Leam and O'smach Border Crossing Points.
 - Cambodian Army has dispatched more than 100 trucks to assist with transportation
- IOM provided transport assistance to over 6,000 vulnerable migrants to return to their families.



KEY FINDINGS OF CAMBODIAN MIGRANTS ASSESSMENT



Stage 3: Post –Return

- Voluntary Return-Concern on Political situation
- 21% didn't receive full wages before return
- 44% found temporary job in Cambodia
- 69% concerned mental health (depression, anxiety etc.)
- 55% took out loans to pay for basic needs
- 75% plan to return to Thailand
- Skills gained in construction (masonry, welding etc.)

Stage 2: Migration Experience –Thailand

- Main sectors- Construction, Factory work & agriculture
- Earn 4 times more (\$12 per day)
- 67% remit money informally – average of 423 USD
- Average stay -14 months

Pull Factors



- 19% experience one or more forms of abuse/exploitation (83% undocumented)



Migration

Migrants on average spend \$100 to migrate

Push Factors

Stage 1: Before Migration- Cambodia

- Average daily income just \$2.5
- Two-thirds migrate due to lack of job/income
- 40% migrate to pay of debt for basic needs & health care
- 78% without passport- never applied due to lengthy process and cost



57% recruited informally by unlicensed brokers- only 15% use private recruitment

Recommendations:

1. Support relevant ministries and departments to implement simple, affordable and efficient procedures for regular migration that protect migrants and reduce the vulnerabilities that lead to exploitation and trafficking;
2. Support dialogue with the MOLVT, Private Recruitment Agencies, and migrants to simplify labour migration processes that protect migrant workers;
3. Technically support Provincial Passport offices, including one window services to decentralized migration and national identification document services to prospective and returning migrants;
4. Promote economic development and investment in skill development and creating job opportunities in provinces where migrants are returning.

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