



Cambodian migrants who have returned from Thailand. Poipet, Cambodia © Joe Lowry/IOM 2014

SITUATION OVERVIEW

More than 225,000 Cambodian migrants have crossed back to their country from Thailand in an epic exodus which started a little over a week ago. Poipet border alone recorded 180,771 migrants returned (58,665 women and 12,011 children). An additional 45,775 migrants (15,680 women and 3,221 children) have crossed through other border check points in Phsar Prum, O'Smarch, Laem Duong, Malai, Phnomm Dei, O'Rumduol and O'anluk.

IOM continues to work alongside the Cambodian Government to provide transport to the returnees in order to prevent a protracted migration crisis at the border. While the majority of undocumented Cambodian migrants in Thailand are believed to have returned, IOM cautions that earlier estimates of the number of migrants in Thailand may not have been accurate. Reintegration assistance, identification of victims of trafficking, family tracing to reunite separated families, and infec-

HIGHLIGHTS

180,771 Number of Cambodian migrants who have returned through Poipet alone

45,775 Number of returnees who have arrived through other border check points (Phsar Prum, O'Smarch and Laem Duong, etc.)

5,792 number of vulnerable migrants assisted by IOM to return to their families

Andrew Bruce, IOM Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific visited Poi Pet

tious disease control appear to be critical responses needed for the coming weeks and months.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The number of migrants returning has declined in the past two days compared to the numbers over the weekend. At the peak of the return, military trucks transported the majority of young migrants without children to their home provinces at long distances, while IOM focused on assisting vulnerable migrants, such as pregnant women, women with young infant children and accompanied family members. IOM dispatched 35 buses at the height of the operation and has so far assisted more than 5,792 migrants (2,383 women and 1,039 children) to get home to Siem Reap, Battambang and Pursat provinces, as requested by the District Governor.

Andrew Bruce, IOM Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, visited Poi Pet on 18 June to assess IOM's humanitarian operation which is supporting the Cambodian Government's own efforts. Mr. Bruce noted that *"While IOM is leading the response to this migration crisis, we are extremely grateful to our partners in the UN Country Teams in Cambodia, as well as NGOs and local individuals who are providing various types of assistance to migrants on the border"*.

Samaritan Purse have to-date distributed more than 160,000 meals and 268,000 bottles of water. They have also distributed 4,300 hygiene kits and 4,500 "Safe Migration" booklets.

The Ministry of Social Affairs Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSAVY), Cambodian Red Cross,



Andrew Bruce, IOM Regional Director for Asia and Pacific discusses with IOM staff in Poipet ©Joe Lowry/ IOM 2014

Poipet Immigration, Provincial Governor and Mayor continue to be actively facilitating response and conducting coordination meetings.

World Vision and Caritas are also working with IOM in providing transportation for the most vulnerable migrants. IOM continues to work closely with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, WFP, UNICEF, Cambodian Red Cross as well as with Immigration authorities and local government authorities. Although the number of returnees has declined over the past few days the situation continues to be desperate for many migrants as they await separated family members who have not yet returned.

FUNDING

IOM has the funding it requires to provide vulnerable migrants with safe return transportation, humanitarian assistance, and pre-embarkation health checks over the next two days. Should there be an upsurge in movements it will need to seek additional funding.



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