



MAP FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





*No human being
is illegal.*



MIGRANTS' SITUATION IN 2019

In 2019, the Royal Thai Government adjusted its migration policy once again. This time, perhaps in response to having just adopted the Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration, the thrust of the policy change was to regularize migrants as much as possible. The Thai Government shifted the focus of its new policy on getting everyone into the MOU system; and only those migrants registered under the MOU system would be considered fully regularized.

According to migrants, the MOU status has its pros and cons. It is a desired status because it provides a greater guarantee of receiving proper wages and working conditions along with Social Security benefits, assuming the employer complies by registering the worker and submitting proper co-payments. The MOU registration, which requires a work passport, provides a two-year visa which may be extended again once. While workers are more likely to receive the proper minimum wage or better, they may have to pay more for the registration because of additional charges by the broker or dishonest employers. The actual cost of registration for a migrant worker who registers with Social Security is 5,880 Baht (contributions to Social Security are made on a monthly basis, matched by the employer), while for those who choose the Migrant Health Insurance coverage instead, the cost is 8,680 Baht, which is a one-time payment covering two years. However, in order to register under the MOU, with the addition of service fees charged by agents to help facilitate the process, some migrants have reported paying between 10,000 to 20,000 Baht— significantly more than the official rate.

Another disadvantage is that, according to the original policy, it is more difficult to change employers under the MOU. In fact, only the following conditions allow migrants to change employers and retain their MOU status: the employer needs to close the business, to have not



paid workers their wages, or to be proven to have abused their workers. Jobs included under the MOU are mostly in the formal sector, but most jobs migrants do are not considered as formal sector work. The Thai government defines formal sector work as year-long, regular employment with an established business. This does not include seasonal or periodic work. Seasonal agriculture work, sub-contracted construction, and domestic work, for example, are not included under the MOU. In Chiang Mai, as of December 2018, there were only 2,714 migrants registered with the MOU out of 140,000 with work permits.

In December 2019, registration under the One Stop Service opened for the 94,025 migrants whose work permits were about to expire in March 2020 and who needed to transfer their registration to the MOU system. The Thai government and national counterparts in Myanmar realized it would be difficult for migrants to travel back and forth to secure their MOU visa status, so service was opened in Thailand by the Myanmar government. Those who already had an MOU visa which was about to run out and had already been renewed, or else had already expired, had to return to Myanmar because they could only register for a new visa in Yangon. This added a series of additional expenses beyond immediate travel costs, including the daily costs of waiting on unexpected delays in processing while in Yangon.

In 2019, approximately 18,000 migrant workers entered Thailand legally each month under the MOU system through the Myawaddy-Mae Sot gateway. At the same time, hundreds of undocumented or improperly documented migrants were being deported the opposite direction. Contributing to this, the new migrant policy focused more on specific details of a migrant's employment, which is reflected on their work permits, listing the employer, job type, and location. Police and immigration used this as an excuse to raid work sites to check and make sure migrants were working in the correct job and place for the proper employer, resulting in increased arrests.

Tak Province was the only Province in Thailand not to raise the minimum wage for foreign migrant workers. In garment factories in Mae Sot, many of which are at the unseen end of the supply chain, women migrant laborers outnumber men two to one. At the same time, the number of men coming through formal migration systems under the MOU considerably outnumbered women. This gender disparity reflects the unequal value placed on men and



women's work – with men going into higher paying formal work, and women being relegated to lower supply chain production, such as in the garment industry in Mae Sot. This then manifests in the fact that women are generally paid wages well below the legal minimum wage and suffer other labor rights violations related to their sex such as dismissal for pregnancy.

In this period, the process for extending the ID cards of children of migrants came to a halt. This means that many children's documents have expired, and only children who have entered school have any sort of valid ID. Yet, even for those children who stop or finish school, they will have to wait until they turn eighteen, when they are able to register for a work permit, before they can legitimately update their ID again.





LABOUR RIGHTS FOR ALL

Promoting Labour Rights

In this past year, migrant workers in Mae Sot made clear advances in securing their labour rights. Using collective bargaining, workers in garment and electronics factories stood up for their rights and called for improved employment conditions, including payment of the proper minimum wage. When necessary, they successfully used legal redress mechanisms to demand compensation for unpaid back wages and proper severance pay when factories closed in retaliation.

Around 1,009 workers (of which 605 or 60% were women) from 7 different factories in Mae Sot filed claims for tens of millions of Baht from employers with the Labour Courts. However, of this amount, as of the end of 2019, only around 4.4 million had been paid out to 177 workers (106 or 60% were women) through direct negotiations or through court orders. Other settlements were still in the courts and would only receive a verdict in 2020. One such case relied on the confiscation of assets, and the proceeds from the sale on open auction, in order to secure a reimbursement payment – a truly uncertain process. Empowering groups of migrant workers to take action like this, through collective bargaining and by filing claims for better employment conditions, is the outcome of a set of capacity building activities which MAP has facilitated over the years.



As a result of our work with factories in the Mae Sot area, MAP has seen that attitudes towards women leaders have changed, and around half of the leaders in factories are now women.

Through a variety of interventions, MAP has increased awareness and knowledge on labour rights, occupational safety and health, social benefits, and migrant policies among migrants in the Mae Sot and Chiang Mai areas. MAP reached 1,219 migrants (596 or 49% women) through direct outreach in 2019. Additionally, MAP reached at least another 1,800 migrant workers through radio broadcasts on labor rights and migrant policy, as reflected by the number of call-ins. At least 955 workers (544 or 57% women) received counseling on labour rights, either in groups or individually, with 80% coming from factories, the rest from agriculture, construction and other occupations. From that, another 488 workers (321 or 66% are women) received more in-depth training on labour rights, 18% in Chiang Mai and the rest in Mae Sot. In Chiang Mai, most cases MAP assisted involved document confiscation or problems with transferring registration to a different employer, while in Mae Sot, most complaints were about employment and living conditions.

Part of MAP's strategy is to capacitate individuals and local CBOs (Community Based Organizations) so that they can disseminate information more broadly and reach more migrants, while organically expanding solidarity. MAP's partnership with the CBO Arakan Workers Organization (AWO) in Mae Sot, for example, helped expand their outreach significantly. This year, AWO reached 657 workers (356 women or 54%) with support from MAP. Many of these workers have then brought cases to MAP for guidance on negotiation and assistance submitting claims. MAP has also developed a set of paralegals in the community (13 M / 11 W) through a series of Training of Trainers (TOT). These paralegals act as a first line of advice and referral. At least 113 migrants (47 M / 66 W) have approached them for advice, and some paralegals have led workers in their factory to submit demands to their employer to improve employment conditions. This group of paralegals has also engaged in advocacy. They received capacity building from a non-profit media group, and then used their newly acquired skills to present a photo exhibition of their experience and give a live presentation for International Migrants Day.

As a result of our work with factories in the Mae Sot area, MAP has seen that attitudes towards women leaders have changed, and around half of the leaders in factories are now women. While concerted efforts were made to develop women leaders among factories, there is still a gender bias manifest in the fact that the number of women leaders is not proportionate to the number of women workers. This is in part because of ingrained gender roles of women being linked to

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domestic chores, leaving them less free time to engage in collective bargaining and negotiations. At least half of those receiving leadership training, including paralegals, are women migrants. They are active too: a couple of women who were trained as paralegals have led workers' actions in factories where they worked. Unfortunately, the factories eventually closed down as retaliation for successful negotiations by the workers, who simply demanded proper legal wages. Those cases were followed up with legal assistance by MAP and other partners.



Safe Migration

MAP has also developed an informal “safe migration network” on both sides of the border through capacity building of local CBOs. Partner CBOs in source communities and along the border have received training of trainers (TOT) from MAP on “safe migration,” in order for them to disseminate this information through outreach activities to potential migrants and those who are in transit. The main target groups include: families of migrants in source communities in Shan State with a focus on migrants who come to Chiang Mai; migrants coming through the MOU who are in transit in Myawaddy - the formal overland border entry point to Thailand; and refugees in the three camps in Tak Province, who have an uncertain future and may become migrant workers.

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Through our partner organization, Mawk Kon, in Keng Tung in Eastern Shan State, we provided training of trainers to members of a network of 32 local CBOs from a variety of townships in Shan State. In 2019, we provided two sets of trainings for 86 CBO staff (40 M / 46 W) from around 20 different CBOs. Of which, half went on to give activities in their communities with support from MAP. Monitoring of these groups was scheduled for early 2020. As a result of all the capacity development, Mawk Kon is now in charge of a Migrant Resource Center under the ILO near the border in Tachilek.

In Myawaddy, MAP has helped to establish a CBO called Migration Monitoring Group (MMG). They now have a small drop-in center and do outreach with migrants in transit. This past year, MAP gave three TOTs to this group (around 29 participants, roughly two-thirds women). The group then went on to give activities in the community, reaching 1,188 (803 M / 385 W) through outreach, and another 319 (85% male) through placement / recruitment agencies. In fact, MMG can now reach migrants going through the formal MOU placement mechanism via employment companies, with four agencies regularly contacting the MMG to give workers' rights trainings while migrants wait for their documents to be completed.

Lastly, MAP partnered with the IRC to provide a series of Safe Migration TOTs to 25 (14 M/ 11 W) Community Based Assistants (CBA), community volunteers already developed by the IRC. Participants were from the three refugee camps of Mae La, Noppo, and Umphiam. They then gave outreach to communities in the camps reaching 504 people (189 M / 315 W) with safe migration information, which was tailored to their needs. For example, the CBA mainly discussed "rights" broadly rather than "migrant rights," as using the term migrant upset some because of the potential loss of their protected status as a refugee. It is reported, though (by TBC), that some refugees are being repatriated to Myanmar first, and then moving into Thailand as migrant workers.

Advocacy

Migrant workers continue to come together to show their solidarity and to express their demands to government officials on internationally recognized days. Between Chiang Mai and Mae Sot, 686 migrants (66% women) joined seminars for May Day, Domestic Workers' Day, and International Migrants' Day. MAP also hosted a meeting in Chiang Mai with "employers and sub-

contractors,” to protest the excessive enforcement of policies regarding prohibition of migrants working in skilled labor in construction. At these seminars, migrant workers presented a set of demands to government officials for improving the working and living conditions of migrants. In Chiang Mai, MAP also had a meeting with the Myanmar Consulate and Labour Attache to clarify the new MOU registration process.

As a result of the pressure being mounted by migrant workers calling for proper labor rights at numerous factories in Mae Sot, a meeting to clarify the situation of migrant workers' conditions was held between the Labor Welfare and Protection Office of Tak Province, local NGOs/CBOs, and the Federation of Industries. As a result, the Federation of Industries offered to ensure that its members uphold proper labour standards for migrants - if workers stopped submitting cases demanding two years compensation of unpaid / improperly paid wages. Although not a decision for MAP to make, as it is migrants' legal right to demand back wages, this conciliation was a clear outcome of the pressure put on employers through MAP's multi-pronged advocacy strategy.

At the regional level, MAP significantly contributed to advocacy by participating in research that helped build the evidence-base and raise attention to migrants' real experience. As a lead member of the Mekong Migration Network, MAP participated in the launch of a variety of reports, including: “Conditions in Special Economic Zones,” “Social Protections for Migrants Provided by their Origin Country,” and on “Working Conditions of Migrant Agriculture Workers.”





RIGHTS FOR ALL

Women's Exchange

The Women's Exchange (WE) network had 1,305 migrant women participate in 14 groups across Thailand. A primary objective of activities was to combat Violence Against Women (VAW), including domestic violence and harassment in the workplace. The main mechanism to achieve this is through building awareness among migrant women and capacity building of women leaders. This, in turn, is supported by linkages to referral networks to services through

migrant women and local NGOs. The migrant women leaders assisted a number of domestic violence cases, mainly in the South and in Mae Sot. In Mae Sot, MAP provided direct assistance to domestic violence cases through the Mae Tao Clinic, ensuring migrant women had food and clothing when they fled their partners in self-defense.

To help reduce domestic violence, MAP started a pilot Men's Exchange (ME) in Mae Sot area to build awareness among men about their role in reducing violence against women. We used our TOT strategy with 20 men, who then went back to their communities in refugee camps and in the migrant community (including in Myawaddy), and gave activities to another 190 men. It is difficult to see immediate changes, but anecdotally, they were very receptive to having the chance to expose their vulnerabilities, and one man even stopped drinking, realizing that it led to domestic violence, which inspired others to join the ME group.



MAP also provides capacity building for migrant women leaders from the WE network to capacitate them on various skills. This time, the trainings included organizing, teambuilding and counselling, as well as referral for gender based violence. A handbook on organizing skills for migrant women was produced and distributed in the Burmese language. In Hat Yai, Songkla, a

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woman leader organized the workers in a seafood processing factory, and they collectively bargained and successfully negotiated for proper legal wages and improved working conditions. Another leader helped contact the Labour Attache at the Myanmar Embassy when migrant women were being unfairly dismissed for being pregnant at a factory near Bangkok. MAP has also networked with other women's groups to coordinate and maintain strong ties, including a Gender Based Violence Core Group in Mae Sot and a variety of ethnic women's groups. Domestic workers (56 in total) were given training on issues of violence against women (VAW) as part of efforts to discuss VAW in the workplace. All of these interventions contribute to a support network that can provide a safer environment for migrant women when they experience violence.



The women's empowerment activities also resulted in increased networking among migrant women living with HIV in Thailand and Myanmar. Migrant women living with HIV felt they needed their own meetings, so MAP supported three groups (in Chiang Mai, Mae Sot and Ranong) to organize "HI Exchange" meetings with a total of 112 HIV+ migrant women participants. These groups were able to openly discuss their specific problems related to living with HIV and being migrant women. MAP also connected with returned migrant women living with HIV in Myanmar, who formed their own HI Exchange. Once they organized their own group, they joined the

Myanmar Positive Women's Network (MPWN). MAP also helped support ethnic women's organizations to meet and maintain their connection through a special training on Participatory Decision Making. MAP also supported women's groups in Thailand and Myanmar, including the Myanmar Positive Women's Network (MPWN), with small sub-grants for activities to reduce violence against women.

On International Women's Day (IWD), the Human Security and Social Welfare office in Chiang Mai requested MAP to lead the annual women's march to join their activity in front of Maya Mall. Over 200 women including 150 migrants and members of other Chiang Mai women's groups (disabled, indigenous, HIV+, LGTBQ, sex workers...) marched down the tourist area of Nimmanehamen for IWD. The theme was "Safety for Migrant Women in the Workplace."



On International Women's Day, with the support of MAP Foundation and partners, over 200 women, including 150 migrants and members of other Chiang Mai women's groups (disabled, indigenous, HIV+, LGTBQ, sex workers) marched under the theme of "Safety for Migrant Women in the Workplace".

Adolescent SRHR

Community leaders and volunteers in the migrant community in Mae Sot, who received training by MAP, were active in disseminating information on adolescent health (AH) and SRHR (Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights) to youth and parents in the area. MAP has been expanding awareness on adolescent health and SRHR among migrant youth in and out of school. This intervention is important to reduce unplanned pregnancy and transmission of STIs, including HIV. Anecdotally, the number of unplanned teen pregnancies in the area has decreased considerably since our intervention, which includes family planning counseling and provision of contraception. Through capacity building, MAP has also helped establish and develop the CBO “Together Our Hands” (TOH) which is comprised of different leaders from the community. This group now provides training to adults and youth in the community on AH and SRHR and has reached 97 adolescents (a little more than half girls) with such activities. A group of youth leaders is also being developed which will give interventions to their peers. A couple of youth volunteers among this group have been broadcasting in Burmese language on MAP Radio in Mae Sot, and their program has been listened to at least 472 times via FM radio and online channels in the past year.

In coordination with other networks, MAP had around 411 adolescents participate in public advocacy activities, such as Stop VAW Day and World AIDS Day, to raise awareness in their community about these social issues and to show the youth’s commitment to social change. There was also participation in International Children’s Day with Migrant Learning Centers to raise these issues with students.

MAP is also part of a number of local networks on child protection and rights, as well as health. Through these linkages and as part of our project, MAP entered the Mae Sot prison to give interactive activities on SRHR. This resulted in MAP staff identifying and assisting nine migrants in detention who had HIV. We then coordinated across the border with the Myawaddy Hospital in order to provide them with Anti-Retro Viral medicines to treat HIV, because the Thai government refused to provide the treatment.

The number of unplanned teen pregnancies in the area has decreased considerably.



Education and Identity

Another 485 migrant students (equally divided between boys and girls), who received scholarships, completed the school year. Of this total, there were 61 students in secondary level. There were also another 15 (7 M / 8 W) in vocational school, of which, five students were recruited from Mae Sot area for jobs by Amazon Coffee and 7-11 and provided scholarships to continue their education linked to their employment. This is a positive indication of the benefit of education for migrant youth in obtaining decent work, and these youth act as inspiration for others. It also shows that Thai companies are looking to migrant youth to help fill gaps in the labor market with a shortage impending due to Thailand's changing demographics. Migrant youth now see the benefit of education, as demonstrated by the commitment they have to completing their degrees - with two young women in vocational school continuing on to higher level diplomas, and one other student who graduated with a degree in cooking. Two other female students were in University level with one expected to graduate soon.

The Safe School project, which ended in June, culminated with a giant fair on disaster preparedness with 400 people, including students of Migrant Learning Centers (MLC), teachers, local government officials and other NGOs in attendance. Awareness was significantly raised about disaster prevention / preparedness and school safety in MLCs in Mae Sot area, as indicated by materials produced by teachers and students.



The outcomes of this program are a positive indication of the benefit of education for migrant youth in obtaining decent work, and these youth can act as inspiration for others.



Crisis Support

With assistance by MAP's team, migrants who suffered a setback and members of their families were able to navigate government bureaucracy effectively in order to access their rights, including receiving proper treatment. Approximately 230 people benefited from assistance by the Crisis Support team this year. Our team intervened in cases that included people who: had illness related to HIV, have been disabled, have suffered a traffic accident, had an illness requiring hospitalization, were injured at work, or were affected by the breadwinner of the family suffering a health setback, including death. Three people who were disabled received wheelchairs. Not only were those who had health problems assisted, they also received encouragement through visitations. In Kawng Jaw, an informal camp for Shan refugees, MAP conducted three trainings on health, including the issue of TB and referral, reaching 96 people (66 M / 30 W) with interventions. This has provided important health information to a group that is marginalized and isolated and suffers under restricted mobility.



MAP MULTI-MEDIA

The ability to access information anywhere anytime has been made possible through the internet. MAP's research on the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) by migrants found that almost every migrant surveyed (n=200) had a smart phone, and in Chiang Mai, a smart phone was the singular way migrants accessed the internet, while in Mae Sot it constituted 90% of internet access. Additionally, most every respondent (95%) had a Facebook account. Considering this, MAP Radio expanded its reach through the addition of simultaneous broadcasting on Facebook live. This means migrants can listen to information at their convenience, and share it with friends and among their social network. It should be noted that the number of Facebook viewers shot up considerably in June after the DJs received training by MAP on how to use video to enhance their broadcasts.

Listenership

In 2019, MAP Radio FM 99 in Chiang Mai, which is primarily broadcast in Shan and Thai, had a significant increase in listeners via Facebook live. There was an average of 17,000 listeners per week and 70,476 per month. In months when migrant policy changed, the numbers of listeners doubled to approximately 37,000 listeners per week and 148,670 per month. An additional 53,295 listeners accessed MAP content via FM radio, as estimated from 10,659 call-ins; and the MAP Radio application yielded an additional 675 on-line listeners per month.

MAP also continued its weekly broadcasts in Shan language on Thai National Radio, AM 1476, which is also on Facebook live. The show has reached up to 13K views per broadcast, with viewers identifying their location as being in Myanmar, Singapore, and Malaysia.

In Mae Sot, migrants have less access to the internet. However, this year, MAP Radio FM102.5 saw an increase in listeners via the internet, with an average of 6,599 views per month on Facebook live and an average of 623 monthly on-line listeners via the MAP Radio application. In addition, via traditional radio, there were at least 18,280 listeners over the year as calculated from 3,656 call-ins.

Although there are still a considerable number of listeners through FM radio, it is difficult to estimate listenership. The advantage of the internet is the ability to count listeners. Facebook and the MAP Radio website provide data, which has improved our ability to estimate numbers of listeners. However, it is still an imperfect science as sex and other demographics of listeners are not listed. Through phone calls to our radio stations, it was estimated that in Chiang Mai, 65% of call-ins were women and that in Mae Sot, women made up 70% of call-ins. On the other hand, according to Facebook user data, only 34% of lifetime “likes” were by women. So, it is unclear if there is a distinct pattern of listenership via the radio among women and the internet among men, or if there is a reporting bias. What we see from the data and a survey we conducted, it looks like migrant men generally use the internet more than migrant women, and that they specifically use it to find information. Considering this data, it appears that migrant men, generally, have higher digital literacy than migrant women.

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There were 91 hours of live broadcast each week per station in Burmese, Shan and Thai languages. FM 102.5 in Mae Sot also broadcasts programs in Arakan and Karen.

Programming

Both MAP Radio stations - FM 99 and FM 102.5 - broadcast live, 13 hours daily at each station. There were 91 hours of live broadcast each week per station in Burmese, Shan and Thai languages. FM 102.5 in Mae Sot also broadcasts programs in Arakan and Karen. At FM 99, there were 34 programs on various issues broadcast by 23 DJs, and on FM 102.5 there were 45 programs on various issues by 35 DJs. MAP Radio's DJs include a combination of MAP staff and volunteer broadcasters from the migrant and Thai communities, including local NGOs and CBOs.

MAP starts each day's radio broadcasting with a link from Radio Free Asia (Burmese), and ends the evening with the broadcast of a live link from Voice of America (Burmese). By audience request, MAP played re-runs of "Yay Kyi Yar", a program about migration, produced by BBC Media Action based in Yangon. Another popular program in Mae Sot is the Labor Rights program, which covers topics such as registration policy, Occupational Safety and Health, accident prevention in agriculture, labour rights, redress mechanisms, and other relevant issues. MAP had guest speakers on special days like Mother's Day, Children's Day, Labor Day and International Migrant Day, and MAP Radio live broadcasts MAP seminars, like the annual "Women's Get-Together" and the "Domestic Workers seminar."

At the end of February 2019, the BBC Myanmar team visited and coached MAP Radio through an "Open Radio Day" event. This was a live broadcast on MAP Radio, where officers from the Thai Employment and Social Security Offices, along with a representative from the Myanmar Consulate and the Mekong Migration Network, talked with a live audience of migrant workers live on the air.



Training

MAP Radio FM 99, in Chiang Mai, organized a workshop about Facebook live with 17 broadcasters (12 M / 5 W), including a new DJ from Shan Youth Power. MAP Radio FM 102.5, in Mae Sot, organized the workshop for 37 broadcasters (13 M / 24 W) with 5 new DJs on script writing for radio broadcasting and how to do Facebook live. As mentioned previously, the workshops on how to make Facebook live broadcasts more interesting directly resulted in the numbers of viewers jumping significantly. Before the training in May, numbers of monthly views averaged only 2,200 - after the training, monthly views increased to between 25,000 and 33,000.



MAP Radio organized a follow-up workshop on Radio Skills with 24 participants from the broadcasters in Chiang Mai. The topics focused on how to make broadcasting more interesting, how to get the audience to participate in the program, how to present news and summarize information, how to use infographics, and how to insert video, pictures and sound bites for broadcasting on Facebook. There was also a skills refresher workshop for 21 DJs at the Mae Sot station on “how to do Facebook live” and how to use SAM broadcaster.

Promotion and Innovation

MAP organized booths at community events to promote the radio station and give out IEC materials. We set up booths for the “End of Buddhist Lent” at Burmese Temples, and we had a booth at the MAP-sponsored event for International Migrants Day, which was held in a local Thai community that has been held up as a model of integration.

This past year, MAP also launched an upgrade of our MAP Radio App, which makes it easier to listen to MAP Radio on a smartphone. The App also accesses the programming schedule and includes ways to contact MAP. Radio staff help migrants download the App on their phones at booth events.

Because the MAP Radio Facebook page was mainly carrying radio broadcasts, MAP created two new Facebook pages in Burmese and Shan languages, called the “Migrant Information Center” (MIC). These pages are solely devoted to updating information about migrant policy and other announcements using multimedia, such as infographics and video. This was partly a response to our research, which shows that most migrants use Facebook almost exclusively when they use the internet to get information.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND EMPOWERMENT

Expanding and maintaining awareness and vigilance of HIV and TB in the migrant community is essential to prevention, as is ensuring rapid detection and proper treatment. Awareness raising of HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) was continued in the migrant community in Chiang Mai, with focused screening, and referral to testing and treatment. This year, MAP focused outreach on migrant communities which were deemed most at risk of the two diseases. The focus on at risk communities has contributed to efficient screening and detection. For TB, MAP staff assisted with

cases referred from hospitals and pursued contact tracing, while for HIV, interventions primarily reached out to sex workers and related venues. The development of DOTs (Directly Observed Therapy) volunteers, Community Health Volunteers, and People Living with HIV (PLHIV) support groups has strengthened community response to these health threats.

HIV Prevention, Testing, and Support

HIV outreach primarily focused on sex workers, as per the design by the STAR Project under the Global Fund. A total of 115 migrants (17 M/ 98 W), mostly in sex work, were reached with HIV outreach activities. It was essential to gain their trust to allow access to their workplace. MAP used the approach that sex workers are workers, and we were there to provide an essential service that otherwise may not be accessible. Interventions were given before working hours started, but it was still difficult to find time for activities.

As part of prevention efforts, 35,000 condoms were distributed, again, mainly to sex worker venues, but also through our DIC, through outreach and mobile clinics. MAP team also transmitted relevant information about HIV and TB through regular radio broadcasts on MAP Radio, through multimedia posts on MAP Facebook pages, and via the distribution of IEC printed materials – primarily all in Shan language. Another one-hundred (100) migrants in the community were reached through an interactive booth at the International Migrants Day activity.

A total of 126 migrants, mostly sex workers, volunteered for HIV testing, with 68 referred to Government services, 4 coming through MAP's DIC, and 54 tested through a Mobile clinic, which included the use of oral fluids testing. MAP helped identify 7 new cases of HIV – 3 were women and 4 men. They worked in construction, factories, and in sex work, of which, 6 started treatment. Of those starting treatment, 3 migrants started HIV treatment because of encouragement by MAP staff and family; one person was co-infected with TB and was on treatment, and another had epilepsy. There were also 9 people found with an STI and referred for treatment. Two others were found to have breast cancer.



Tuberculosis (TB) screening and treatment

TB screening remained a focus of activities. In total, 10,664 migrant workers and their family members were screened for TB in their communities, accompanied with information sessions. The focus of TB screening was mainly on hard-to-reach migrants and those with little available time. Out of those screened, there were 123 who had TB symptoms and were referred for testing at the TB Center. There were 13 active TB cases found, with all of them starting treatment. They were mostly men in construction, one in a factory, a female domestic worker, and a family member.

Capacity building training was given to 32 DOTS volunteers (11M / 21W), who then helped ensure that 15 TB patients completed their course of treatment. Unfortunately, 3 TB patients died this year, mainly because they presented too late for treatment. Two trainings were also provided to 31 Migrant Health Volunteers (17M / 14W), so that they could provide information on HIV prevention and treatment in their communities, and help to reduce stigma and discrimination towards migrant PLHIV.



PLHIV group support and advocacy

The PLHIV (People Living with HIV) support group continued to encourage migrants living with HIV to take care of their health and to remain documented so that they could receive health benefits. Home visits were conducted to support three new PLHIV migrant cases.

A training on Social Security benefits was given to 15 members (5M / 10W) of the PLHIV support group, while another 16 members (7M / 9W) attended a training on SRHR, family planning, and the new MOU system. In another workshop, 30 members (8M / 22W) discussed the next registration and discussed what they needed to do to stay documented, considering their varied and different registration types and status. In that meeting, members also shared their experiences of stigma and discrimination for being HIV+, and the side effects of new treatment combinations. Lastly, the group identified that decreasing stigma and discrimination in the migrant community is important and made suggestions on how to do so.

Stakeholder meetings with Provincial Public Health, facilitated by Raks Thai Foundation, the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund, discussed undocumented migrants' access to ART. Through a couple of meetings, an agreement was made that undocumented migrants would not be

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discriminated against, and health officials would try to facilitate treatment by allowing them to purchase affordable treatment, or by finding ways to provide them with free treatment (usually from unused, state-quota medicines).



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MAP continues to strengthen its functioning and governance. This year, using a participatory process in two languages (Thai and Burmese), we developed an up-to-date Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, and a Code of Conduct. The child protection policy has been finalized, and now staff need an orientation workshop to implement it. The interactive process used has built ownership of the policies and understanding of the intention of the policies.

MAP also had an organizational development workshop about what it means to be an intercultural organization, and how to improve communication. The workshop was very innovative and highly interactive, using play-acting as a main mechanism. Additionally, we held an end of the year organizational development workshop, which aimed to build pride in our work by assessing the past year's accomplishments and identifying next year's advocacy targets.





OUR DONORS

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UN WOMEN

THANK YOU!



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Foundation for Education and Development (FED)

Human Rights Development Foundation (HRDF)

Mae Tao Clinic

Mawk Kon

Mekong Migration Network

Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)

Migrant Working Group

PHPT and Chiang Mai Faculty of Medicine

Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers

Thai Community Radio Network

Thai National Radio AM 1476KHz

Raks Thai Foundation

Shan Women Action Network (SWAN)

Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU)

SR Law

Suwannamit Foundation

Yaung Chi Oo Workers Association

Workers' Rights Consortium (WRC)