



MAP Foundation

For the Health and Knowledge
of Ethnic Labour

MIGRATION TO THAILAND FROM BURMA

For the past three decades people from Burma have migrated to Thailand in an effort to escape the brutal repression and dire economic circumstances within their home country. The military regime in Burma has ignored the existence of these migrants and consequently they have had to migrate without any documentation, entering Thailand without the required immigration stamps and working without permission. Unable, or maybe unwilling, to influence the Burmese regime, Thailand set up a system of temporary registration of migrants without documents. Each year since for over a decade, migrants from Burma have paid to register to work in Thailand. The largest number of migrants from Burma to register for a temporary residence card was 1.28 million in 2004, which probably only represents a third to a quarter of the total number of the migrants from Burma in Thailand.

In 2003, Thailand and Burma signed an MOU to regularise the migration from Burma to Thailand. For five years, the MOU lay dormant as the regime refused to set up systems to verify the nationality of migrants. In 2009, centres were set up in three locations along the border, apparently to verify the nationality of migrants and to issue temporary passports to those migrants deemed to be Burmese. With these temporary passports, valid only for Thailand, migrants should then be able to seek work with permission. The success or possible dangers of the scheme are yet to be known.

Migrants from Burma face enormous hardships within Thailand; they live in constant fear of arrest, detention and deportation, work in the most dangerous and hazardous occupations with employers regularly flouting the labour laws and paying below minimum wage. While the national health care system extends its services to registered migrants, unregistered workers and their families are excluded.

Life and work in Thailand is hard, but as all migrants will tell you, it is much harder in Burma. While in Burma, people have no opportunities to participate in making changes, in Thailand, migrants can exercise some rights and try to improve their situation. Since MAP started in 1996, we have worked together with migrant communities as they increasingly stand up for their rights and strive for social justice.



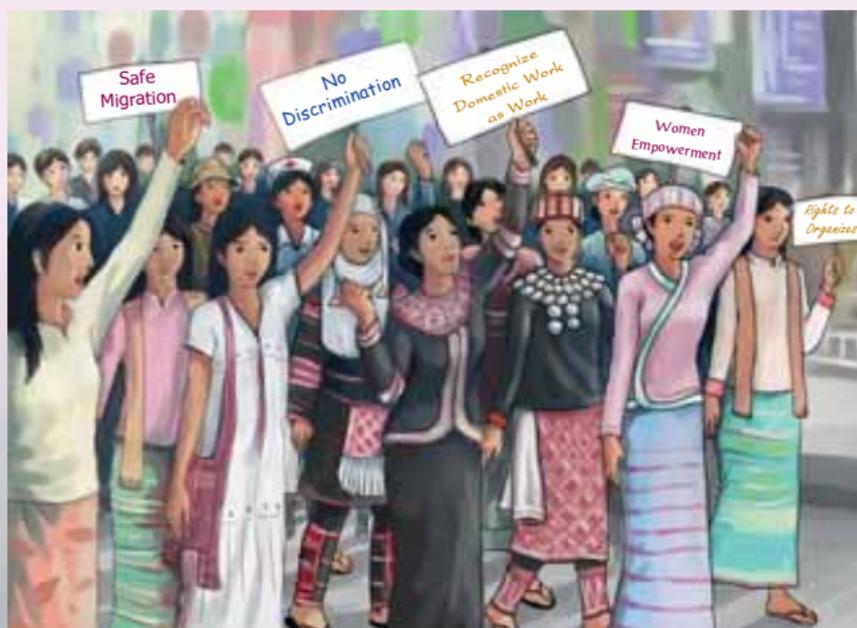


MAP FOUNDATION

MAP Foundation is a grassroots Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that seeks to empower migrant communities from Burma living and working in Thailand.

VISION

MAP works towards a vision of the future where people from Burma have the right to stay securely within their home country as well as the right to migrate safely and where the human rights and freedoms of all migrants are fully respected and observed.



OVERALL OBJECTIVES

- For policies on migrant workers to be formulated and implemented from a human rights perspective.
- For local migrant worker communities to be able to collectively improve their working and living conditions.
- To increase understanding of the situation of migrant workers in the host country and reduce discrimination.

MISSION

MAP strives to:

- ensure that migrant communities can create and access information and services.
- eliminate exploitation of workers, in all sectors

- improve the mental, physical and social well-being of migrant communities
- increase spaces for migrant participation in advocacy and policy making.
- create space for migrant women to exercise their rights and fulfill their potential.
- promote the right of migrant workers to form their own associations/unions.
- eliminate all forms of discrimination.

MAP Foundation, previously known as Migrant Assistance Programme, is a registered Foundation under Thai law; known in Thai as "Foundation for the Health and Knowledge of Ethnic Labour."

MAP Foundation works closely with migrant communities in Chiang Mai, Mae Sot and Phang Nga, and maintains a network of migrant CBOs along the Thai-Burma border and stays connected with emerging migrant communities wherever they may be.



COMMUNITY HEALTH & EMPOWERMENT (CHE)

The Community Health and Empowerment Program enables migrants to empower themselves, so that migrant communities have the capacity to change their lives, living and working conditions and thereby their health and well-being.

PHAMIT 2 - CHAMPION: Comprehensive Prevention of HIV/AIDS Among Migrants and most-at risk populations in Thailand through outreach and networking

PHAMIT RCC CARE (ACHIEVED): Aligning Care and Prevention of HIV/AIDS with Government Decentralization to Achieve Coverage and Impact through facilitating access to services and care for People living with HIV/AIDS and prevention of new HIV transmission.

HI-Exchange and HAPPY Group: Support and strengthen migrant HIV positive groups to advocate for access to treatment

Adolescent Reproductive Health: Promoting sexual and reproductive health among young people from Burma with the partners of ARHZ, Chiangmai.

RIGHTS FOR ALL (RFA)

The Rights For All Programme seeks to empower sectors of the Burmese migrant population in Thailand who are particularly isolated and stigmatized, namely youth, women, migrant families and migrants in times of physical or mental crisis.

Care and Shelter: Working with both migrant communities and the local health authorities to facilitate access to services for migrants and providing temporary shelter and care.

Education & Identity: Facilitating migrant children, youth and adults' access to educational opportunities and advocating for the right to identity.

Women's Exchange: A network of migrant and refugee women along the Thai-Burmese border sharing experiences and challenging discrimination and violence against women through community activities and legal actions.



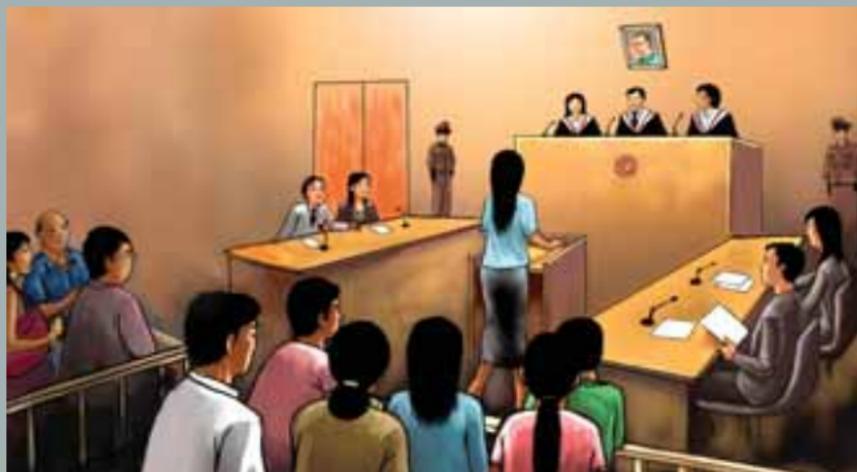
LABOUR RIGHTS FOR ALL (LRA)

The Labour Rights for All Programme assists migrants to redress labour exploitation through rights education, informal collective bargaining, accessing the legal system and campaigning for policies for greater protection of their rights.

Workplace Justice: Supports migrant workers communities to organize workers to fight for their labour rights and provides paralegal counselling, translation services, legal representation and security for migrants seeking justice for violation of their labour rights

POSH: Promoting Occupational Safety & Health: Raises awareness of dangers and risks in the workplace and works with migrant communities to improve the safety in the workplace

Domestic Worker Campaign: Reaches out to migrant domestic workers to participate in campaigning for recognition and protection of domestic work as work under the labour laws.



MAP MULTIMEDIA (MMM)

MAP Multimedia Programme produces materials to educate and entertain in Burmese, Shan and Karen, with occasional publications in Lahu and Pa-O.

MAP has a selection of written magazines, audio magazines, brochures, leaflets, animated cartoons, booklets on a wide variety of topics including:

- Life Skills
- The Environment
- Drugs
- Forced Migration and Forced Labour

Please visit the website to see the whole range. Coming soon are doco-dramas DVDs for migrants.



COMMUNITY RADIO (CR)

MAP Radio strives to build and empower migrant communities by using radio as means for outreach, cultural entertainment, dissemination of information as well as providing migrants their own forum to express themselves.

- MAP Radio FM 99.0 MHz (Chiang Mai)
- MAP Radio FM 102.5 MHz (Mae Sot)

Listen on the internet:

www.mapfoundationcm.org/mapradio



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No Migrant Worker Is Illegal



No Human Being Is Illegal