



No Human Being is illegal

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



053 328 134

Website:

www.mapfoundationcm.org

MAP Foundation



VISION

Migrant worker community and ethnic groups from Myanmar (Burma) access rights and services equally without discrimination and have a decent quality of life.

MISSION

- 1** Ensure that migrant communities can create and access information and services.
- 2** Eliminate exploitation of workers, in all sectors.
- 3** Improve the mental, physical and social well-being of migrant communities.
- 4** Increase spaces for migrant participation in advocacy and policy making to facilitate migrant communities to have confidence and competence.
- 5** Create space for migrant women to exercise their rights and fulfill their potential.
- 6** Promote the right of migrant workers to form their own associations/unions.
- 7** Eliminate all forms of discrimination.

Summary of Migrant Policy and Situation

It was another year of stop-and-start migrant policy in Thailand, compounded by Myanmar's military government, where its bureaucracy was distracted with its own survival rather than serving its population. There were direct repercussions felt in Thailand from the on-going and increasing conflict in Myanmar, sometimes with battles raging right next door, and a marked increase in the number of people fleeing the country, including those fleeing conscription. Some effects were indirect, such as inoperative consulate services. From all directions, migrant workers from Myanmar were put under increasing pressure.

There was a “Union Taxation Law” passed in April 2024 by the Myanmar Junta that was followed up in August 2024 by the requirement of all migrants and all overseas workers to remit at least 25% of their earnings through official banking/remittance channels to their families back in Myanmar. If migrants failed to comply with contributing to these two income-generating schemes for the government, the ability to obtain passports, overseas employment cards, renewal or other related services could be affected. Effectively, the Myanmar military government was holding its own people for ransom. In protest, many migrants tried to avoid this payment as long as possible, and complications in renewing documents were felt. Concomitantly, it seemed that the Myanmar embassy and consulates had stopped working for the second half of 2024.

The Myanmar government also enforced a conscription law starting in February 2024 to fill the ranks of its failing army, and then put a ban on men and women of conscription age from leaving the country. This resulted in a marked increase in the number of desperate migrants trying to cross the border anyway they could, which was mainly through informal channels, making them “illegal” in the eyes of the Thai government. Foiled smuggling attempts resulted in many car chases with numerous migrants injured or killed in the ensuing crashes. Migrants were reportedly paying up to 25,000 Baht per person to unregulated and illegal brokers in order to cross and be placed in work in Thailand. In the end, those migrants who made it to their destination have found that there are many others like them, with too many migrants and too few jobs. Also, there are many who have skills, but cannot use them in Thailand either because of language differences, or due to policies restricting what jobs migrants are allowed to do.





Cabinet Resolutions by the Royal Thai Government included opening a new registration for all migrants in the country who were either undocumented or holding expired documents, allowing them to work for one year – which was a tacit recognition of the large number of people who had crossed illegally from Myanmar. The Cabinet Resolution also extended the time for changing employers under the MOU from 30 days to 60 days to reduce the number of people potentially falling out of the MOU system. Lastly, there was an extension granted for those whose work permits were going to expire in February 2025, allowing two extensions of two years each (a total of four years). However, “the directives to operationalize the September 2024 Cabinet Resolution concerning renewal of visas and work permits was published at the end of November 2024. The two-month delay meant that the estimated 2.4 million eligible migrant workers had less than 50 working days to comply with the prescribed process by the deadline...” (ILO - Triangle in ASEAN, Quarterly Briefing Note, Oct-Dec 2024, p.1.) There was also a requirement of being on a name list approved by the Myanmar government as part of the registration process. This caused complications as many migrants did not want the government to be able to track them or their families, and because the embassy and consulates under the military government demonstrated an inability to fulfill their job. These name lists may have also referred back to the payment of taxes and remittances too, providing opportunities for corruption.

The Thai Cabinet Resolutions seemed to address complications migrants from Myanmar were having in accessing consulate services and being able to renew certain documents including the Certificate of Identity (CI). During the first six months in early 2024, eight Certificate of Identity (CI) centers opened in Thailand, but just six months later were suspended. At the same time, it was difficult to get a visa queue and appointment with the Myanmar passport issuing office and embassy, forcing migrants to pay extra for the service of an agent. Having incomplete information also left migrants vulnerable to unscrupulous agents who are always ready to take advantage of migrants. Those migrants whose names were on lists awaiting approval from the Myanmar government side and were unable to complete the registration process for pink cards by the end of the year, were allowed to register with work permits as a temporary fix, with a deadline of February 2026 for getting either a passport or CI. Also, those under the MOU whose documents or visa were going to expire in September 2024 were given until February 2025 to submit name lists in order to extend their visas and work permits until February 2027. At the same time, there was a 120 day campaign by the Ministry of Labour to clampdown on undocumented migrants. A total of 20,152

enterprises and 277,770 migrant workers were inspected during the period 5 June – 2 October 2024 with 2,063 workers arrested of which 1,289 were from Myanmar.

In 2024, the total number of registered migrants was 3,064,021, with 2,270,382 from Myanmar or 74% of the migrant population. The rest were from Cambodia (16%), Lao PDR (9%), and Vietnam (<1%). Of that total, only 635,113 or 21% were registered under the MOU, which is the formal and fully regularized channel of migration under the bi-lateral government agreements, and of that, 41% (or 254,000) were from Myanmar, showing how the MOU does not adequately serve recruitment. It is estimated that there may also be at least another 1 million undocumented migrants present in the country.

There were promises of increasing the minimum wage to 400 Baht, but lawmakers caved to pressure by employers and only increased the wage on a scale based on the cost of living per province, with only Phuket, Chachoengsao, Chonburi, Rayong, and Samui District in Surat Thani receiving 400 Baht. The Thai government also simultaneously removed its reservation on Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child – now providing protection to refugee children. Simultaneously, a clip of children singing the Myanmar national anthem in a Migrant Learning Center (MLC) went viral, stoking nationalist sentiments, resulting in a crackdown on unregistered Migrant Learning Centers (MLC) - seemingly in contravention of Thailand's own "Education for All" policy.

Chiang Mai experienced serious flooding in September through October 2024, resulting in many houses and places of work flooded around the river area and in Chang Klan including the night bazaar. Numerous migrants suffered from displacement, loss of work, and other hardships associated with loss of income. Mae Sot saw a couple of occasions where there was heavy fighting in Myawaddy, the sister border town, which pushed tens of thousands of people across the border to the Thai side temporarily. These incidents only lasted a number of days, but still, people needed shelter and food and water.



Labour Rights for All (LRA)

The Labour Rights for All program (LRA) continued its work on empowering migrant workers to claim their rights through knowledge, collective bargaining, legal remedy, and advocacy.

Outreach and Capacity Building

Throughout the year, 714 workers (67% women) in Chiang Mai were reached with information on labor rights through outreach activities by visiting worker dormitories and communities 44 times (33 locations) and in agricultural areas another 8 times. Activities provided necessary basic information, introduced MAP and our services, and helped us become aware of the problems and needs of the workers. Additionally, 64 workers (23 men, 41 women) received consultations on labour rights and other issues via the migrant support line. Topics ranged from unpaid wages, accidents at the workplace, accidents on the road, registration questions, birth certificates, as well as a wide variety of very specific questions.

MAP started working with agriculture workers in Chiang Mai. The intention is to build groups from this informal sector so that they can advocate for their rights. As the project started up, capacity building was a primary activity. The first two in-depth trainings were provided to 41 workers (65% women) on organizing, negotiation, labor rights, and occupational safety in agriculture, with 14 of the participants attending both sessions. The groups just started formulating their issues and identifying potential avenues of advocacy.

The Domestic Worker Group which MAP has been supporting the development of, currently has over 100 members, including 30 core members, as well as operating capital generated through member savings and income from producing and selling detergent and dishwashing liquid. A core team of 5-6 members leads coordination, outreach, and engagement with external networks, and supports members of the domestic workers group through training and advocacy.

Capacity building also continued for this group and migrants in other jobs through five, one-day capacity-building trainings on labor rights and leadership. These trainings were conducted with 147 participants total (68% women), mostly domestic workers as well as other occupations, in Chiang Mai over the course of the year. Domestic workers gained skills in communicating and said they feel more confident in leadership roles. These participants will then be able to help act as “first liners” by providing basic labour rights information in the field to other migrants, and by referring labour rights violations complaints they encounter to MAP.

During this reporting period in Mae Sot, MAP conducted seventeen outreach sessions to eleven different large factories, reaching a total number of 310 participants (62% women); while another 10 field visits were conducted to small factories and home factories in Mae Sot, reaching 189 workers (74% women). Information included introduction to MAP, information on Thai labour rights and laws, including the Labour Relations Act, which allows migrant workers to use collective bargaining with their employers to improve their working conditions, Social Security, safety in the workplace, migrant registration policy, and how to contact MAP or other partners if they suffer labour rights violations. While some factories reported making minimum wage, we found that some factories were only providing workers with 7-day border passes, making migrants especially temporary and vulnerable. These same factories were also exploitative – paying below the standard minimum wage and overtime, and not providing rest days or holidays. Volunteers helping organize activities were being threatened by management, and a lack of days off made it difficult to meet up with the workers.

In Mae Sot, case counselling on collective bargaining was provided over the course of the year to over 1,060 workers (70% women) in four different factories,

In Mae Sot, as part of our peer networking strategy to build the capacity of peers to act as first liners, 20 worker leaders (3m, 17w) held a meeting on labor rights and social security and conducted factory mapping activities to identify safety concerns. Another 32 new peer educators (66% women) were also trained in basic labor rights to further support workers.

In Mae Sot, case counselling on collective bargaining was provided over the course of the year to over 1,060 workers (70% women) in four different factories, namely: DAHSHI Electronics, TK Garment Factory, North Star Manufacturing, and A Bag Factory (the latter three being garment factories). Only workers at TK Garment were undocumented, all other workers had proper documentation and were considered legal. Counselling was provided on: making a legal action-plan and identifying a flow chart of the collective bargaining process; labour rights violation issues such as wages, holidays benefits, maternity leaves, legal documents, work pay rate, OSH issues that need to be addressed in each factory; and bargaining techniques such as simplifying demands, preparing supportive data, and speaking clearly and loudly. As there are no Thai workers, it is essential the migrant workers are able to stand up for themselves. A Thai lawyer helped them navigate negotiations, but let the workers do the negotiating. The lawyer and MAP staff simply provided counseling, instruction and encouragement. Yet, there was also resistance from some workers against collective bargaining as they were concerned over the crisis at home in Myanmar and being able to survive in Thailand. They felt they needed a job and were afraid of losing it and being forced to return home, making them not want to adopt collective bargaining actions.





In the end, workers from the four factories submitted collective bargaining petitions to change working conditions. North Star Factory was the only success during this year, but it was a standout case. Workers were able to secure maternity leave, annual leave, and other proper leave as well as basic workers' rights. Employers were also allowed to register an Employee Committee under the Labour Relations Act 2518 (B.E.) and elect their own representatives. One of the members of the negotiating committee of the North Star Factory was requested to share his experience with workers of the TK Factory - one of the largest factories in Mae Sot - who were interested in engaging in collective bargaining under the Labour Relations Act. This factory was divided into two units with one being the legitimate façade which provided proper wages and conditions, and a second unit where workers were undocumented and received considerably less than the minimum wages or legal overtime.

In Mae Sot there were a number of capacity building trainings to support migrant workers in formal factories to collectively bargain if they desired to in order to change unfair or problematic working conditions.

Six capacity building trainings were conducted with workers from the Migrant Labour Network (MLN), who were employed at the following factories: North Star, TK Garment, DAHSHI (electronics), A1 garment, D2 (a sub-factory for TK), NFP garment, and Royal Knitting. There were 234 workers (68% women) who attended in all. There was another training conducted for 20 workers (3 m/ 17 w) from four other garment factories. In these trainings, the workers discussed problems they were facing in order to find solutions and identify working conditions they wanted to change.

Additionally, five capacity building trainings were conducted with workers from three different factories - North Star, D2 and DAHSHI, about labour rights, the Labour Relations Act, social security and basic human rights. There were 144 participants (62 m/ 82 w). Of these capacity building trainings, two were with DAHSHI and D2 workers, and focused on the legal process of submitting demands through collective bargaining, how to organize workers, as well as how to explain to other workers in the factory that they were protected according to the Labour Relations Act after they signed the petition for collective bargaining. On 7th April, MAP taught the workers about the flow chart on the collective bargaining process they can follow if they want to change their working conditions at the factory. Workers also asked about the consequences if they followed the instructions that we provided to them. On 21st April 2024, MAP provided another capacity building training related to the legal process of the Labour Relations Act, which migrant workers have the right to use to make demands if they want to change their working conditions.

MAP also supported monthly meetings by workers from various factories, such as North Star, TK, DAHSHI electronics, as well as the Migrant Labour Network (MLN). These meetings were where workers could reflect on and exchange about the issues and difficulties they faced in their factories. At the North Star Factory, the Workers Committee was having monthly meetings with the employer, and the representatives then reported back to the rest of the workers. In the MLN meetings they shared the updated number of members and the member fee contributions accumulated to date. They also shared about cases referred to MAP Foundation. There were more than 170 members and the total contribution by the group was 20,000 Baht as of December 2024. Other trainings provided included making dish washing liquid and fund raising for the group. MLN also received training by our MAP staff about facilitation of meetings, making meeting agendas and taking notes, labour rights, the social security fund, and migrant documentation. In December 2024, the MLN led a women's football competition event with workers from ten different factories for International Migrants' Day, which allowed them to bring migrant workers together from different factories and promote their group and persuade them to join as members.



Breakthrough in Migrant Labor Rights: The ABag Factory Case



Mae Sot – Labor Rights Cases & Collective Bargaining

Three cases were pursued against Shungler (shoe) factory through the Labor Protection Office (LPO) claims and court negotiations for unjust termination, leading to 1.04 million Baht in compensation for 22 worker leaders (half m/w) who had led collective bargaining activities.

At the ABag factory, two worker leaders (a married couple) were unjustly terminated. The complaint to the LPO led to a court ruling for employer compensation of 83,904 Baht (plus interest) for one of the complainants; the other case remains under appeal. At ABag factory, 116 workers also signed the 3rd round of demands, leading to a new employment agreement and Mae Sot's first employee committee election comprised of migrant worker representatives, of which all were peer educators trained by MAP.

At the North Star Manufacturing Factory, where peer leaders had participated in various MAP trainings, 192 workers signed a collective bargaining petition for improved working conditions, which was approved by the employer. This resulted in workers being granted proper maternity leave protections and benefits, chair access for pregnant workers, and employers paying 50% of migrant registration fees.

Other factories also successfully submitted worker petitions including: 118 workers at Dahshi Electronics Factory, leading to an employee relations committee with peer educators, and 510 workers (94% women) at the TK Garment Factory who submitted a petition advocating for better conditions.

Mae Sot – Social Security Advocacy

In Chiang Mai, MAP assisted a number of cases related to Social Security benefits which migrants are legally entitled. MAP assisted a child under 18 in claiming 69,000 Baht from the Social Security Fund after the death of the father. The case was successfully processed with support from the Chiang Mai Provincial Prosecutor's Office and Juvenile Court.

Six long-standing cases have been closed due to workers not wanting to proceed, and others being unable to be tracked.

Advocacy Activities

International Labor Day (May 1, 2024) - Chiang Mai, event at Thapae Gate, co-organized with the Northern Labor Network, drew ~300 participants. Mae Sot, event with Mae Sot MWRPG network had 600 participants, all migrant workers. Workers' demands presented at both events.

International Domestic Workers Day (June 16, 2024) – Chiang Mai event, organized by MAP and the Domestic Workers Group with 117 participants (110 women). Social welfare and labor protection officers shared insights on the 15th Ministerial Regulation on Domestic Workers' Protection. Petition submitted to Chiang Mai Governor advocating for the government to ratify ILO Conventions 87, 98, and 189 and amend laws to enhance domestic worker protections. A delegation from the Chiang Mai group also traveled to Bangkok to meet with the Minister of Labor for further advocacy regarding the 15th Ministerial Regulation.

Decent Work Day activities were organized in October in Chiang Mai, at CMU Social Sciences Department along with the Northern Labour Network, attended by ~70 participants, though attendance was affected by flooding concerns. In Mae Sot, the activities were led by our sub-grant organization Arakan Workers Organization (AWO), with ~60 participants, including government officials. Discussions at both locations included broader labor issues such as the future of work and opportunities for migrants to organize.

There was also the annual International Migrants Day (IMD) event at Chiang Mai, with 250 participants, co-organized with Northern Labour Network and Mekong Migration Network; and at Mae Sot, organized and conducted by the Migrants Rights Promotion Working Group (MRPWG) and 22 local organizations had 350 participants. This year activities focused on humanizing migrants and raising awareness about Mixed Migration.

Rights for All (RFA)

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The Rights for All Program (RFA) maintained and expanded participation in its empowerment projects for migrant women, children, and youth by providing knowledge and skills to enable them to make decisions and take actions to fulfill their needs and rights.

Women Exchange

This year the program supported 25 migrant women groups in 17 provinces throughout Thailand. Groups fulfilled their collective need to be better informed of rights and policies and develop skills to organize in order to address discrimination, violence and exploitation. Groups touched on domestic violence, self-care, social security, family planning, reproductive health, safe migration, financial literacy, positive discipline, micro finance, and labor rights.

Emerging leadership and capacity building of women migrant leaders is developed through Training of Trainers (TOTs). Over this year, 17 new women leaders emerged and received training. In total, WE leaders organized activities 52 times, with a total of 1,711 migrant women participating (at least approximately 500 individuals in at least three sessions a year).

The Annual WE Get Together & International Women’s Day (IWD) March celebrated its 23rd consecutive year under the banner of “Inspire Inclusion” with 145 migrant women from various locations joining. Under the inclusivity theme, there were representatives from a regional project on Domestic Workers who were supported by the ILO to attend, including four representatives from Three Good Spoons from Myanmar, four representatives from the Thai organization Home Net in Bangkok, two representatives from Phnom Srey Organization Development, Cambodia, and two representatives from the Gender and Development for Cambodia organization. **This was the first time WE Get Together has included participants from migrant groups in Cambodia.**





In the WE Get program there was learning about ILO C190 on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work, and also a training on how to use social media to communicate their own story safely, as well as the use of “positive discipline.” At the WE Get a member of the House of Representatives from the Move Forward Party (Progressive) presented her party’s policy on migration, and interacted with the migrant women to hear more about their situation. The participants presented a statement they had jointly written to the government representative. In the evening of March 8th, Women Exchange together with Thai NGOs representing women, women with disability and people with diverse genders organized a public event for International Women’s Day in Chiang Mai city. After the conference was done, eight (8) migrant women leaders shared the knowledge they gained from the WE Get program with 259 women in their communities.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and awareness activities included Stop VAW (Violence Against Women) activities around the end of November, conducted in 10 locations by women groups and leaders, engaging approximately 1,049 participants in their relevant communities. MAP also organized a TOT (Training of Trainers) on Case Referral for handling GBV cases with the migrant women leaders. In Chiang Mai, the STOPVAW Day event was organized by a network of 22 organizations and focused on addressing violence against women and children. The event, which aimed to exchange cultures bi-laterally and to strengthen the solidarity to fight discrimination, included a public march to Tha Phae Gate.

The Chiang Mai Provincial Governor issued an official order to establish a provincial working group on children and youth of migrant workers, which brings together both government agencies and civil society organizations.

As a reflection of increased capacity by women leaders, intensive assistance was provided to up to 38 individual cases with around half directly related to gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence by women leaders and MAP. **The Chiang Mai Provincial Governor issued an official order to establish a provincial working group on children and youth of migrant workers, which brings together both government agencies and civil society organizations.** MAP Foundation has

been appointed as a member of this working group and strengthens collaboration under the framework of the Standard Operating Procedures and the larger provincial coordination mechanism, where MAP already contributes on issues of children, youth, and women. Similarly, along with a network of 10 organizations consisting of local CSOs and health offices, a meeting to strengthen networking in order to respond to gender-based and domestic violence among migrant women was co-organized by MAP Foundation and FED in PhangNga Province. A joint MOU was signed by NGOs and government offices to improve GBV case referrals, and develop joint campaigns to end violence against migrant women.

A TOT was also organized by MAP on Advocacy Planning, entitled "WE Will Make Things Better," which trained 30 migrant women leaders on how to make an advocacy plan. They identified problems they face as migrants living and working in Thailand; discussed who can solve the problems and did a stakeholder analysis, identifying who is affected, who has the power to solve the problem, and who are allies. They identified three issues: (1) documentation (2) Education for Migrant Children (3) Labor rights, and decided on three steps to achieve the desired change. Leaders then passed on their training to four groups in the community, reaching 132 women, who developed their own advocacy plans.

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The first “Young Women’s Exchange Get Together” was held this year, bringing together 60 participants from 11 locations to foster the next generation of migrant women activists. The training touched on the traditional TOT curriculum but also added sections on Sexual and Reproductive Health, and on the issue of gender and gender equality. The emphasis on young women has proven to be essential to ensure that the movement remains vibrant, continues to develop new leaders, and gains strength from the enthusiasm and energy of young women.

There was an opportunity to attend and participate in the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) global forum which was held in Bangkok in early December. Since migrant women do not usually have the opportunity to attend international forums due to the restrictions on overseas travel of migrant workers, this forum was the ideal opportunity for migrant women to be part of a global community with the over 2,000 women participants. With the support of FJS, twelve migrant women plus four MAP staff registered to attend. A highlight was a group session on “How Migrant Women Workers Organize to Realize Their Rights,” which was interactive with nine of the women presenting in a flash mob style. After the flash mob, all the migrant women came to the front of the room and chanted a “thangyat”, which is a traditional Burmese form of a rap usually performed during the Water Festival.

Child Education & Protection Initiatives

The Migrant Youth Empowerment project ended this year, in part due to political shifts abroad that resulted in reduced funding. Sustainability is always a complicated issue, especially with highly mobile populations like migrants and youth. In the last phase, nine youth leaders (4 boys / 5 girls), together with Plan partners, provided training on SRHR (Sexual and reproductive health and rights) to 150 students in Phop Phra District (half boys and half girls).

A final evaluation of the Migrant Youth Empowerment project saw that 81% of children and youth are confident in making the right decisions about their reproductive health (up from the baseline of 34%); similarly, 81% of children and youth dare to talk openly with their parents about sexual and reproductive health, and can provide accurate information to friends in the community (Baseline 38%).



Under another project which is ongoing, MAP is supporting migrant children to attend Thai public school as per their right according to the “Education for All” policy. By attending Thai schools, migrant children are able to integrate better and improve their opportunities in the future. This year, 204 migrant children were able to continue their education in the Thai system through sponsorship coordinated by the donor – although this number was down from the original 350 at the beginning of the year due to changes in eligibility criteria and mobility of their parents. In fact, 79 children left due to mobility, advancing to higher education, or turning 18. Of those, 62 students aged out of the scholarship program (moved beyond the age limit to receive support), with 30 continuing to vocational school, while others who have aged out continue their secondary education using their own means. At the same time, 30 migrant student peer leaders (equal gender distribution) participated in a youth camp, where they developed academic and career plans, of which 28 of the students communicated the plans to their parents. This is an element of MAP’s empowerment strategy - allowing the children to determine their path forward through greater awareness, knowledge and skills and advocating with their parents to support their path.



Besides empowering the children, MAP is working with the parents too. This year, six self-help groups (SHGs) (68 members – all women) were functioning. A primary function has been to teach the use of “positive discipline” to encourage their children to express themselves and have the parents accept them. Of that, four of the women's groups with 51 members, had a total savings of 80,650 Baht which they collected from among themselves with the goal of saving money to be used for the future education and raising of their children. Most of the parents had to borrow money from the fund to pay for basic expenses such as transportation to school, medical expenses for family members, & daily expenses such as water, electricity, food, and rent. One of the parents established her own business selling frogs, resulting in income to pay for medical expenses for family members, and buying nutritious food for the family. Two of the groups learned how to make dishwashing liquid from MAP in order to save money.

There were also non-monetary advantages of the parents' groups, for example, 15 fathers participated as the pilot group of "role-model fathers" in a "positive discipline" training. This group showed improved parenting behaviors, such as communicating more openly, showing affection and being supportive of their children's efforts as reported by their children and wives. Almost eighty percent of the SHG members also expressed improved communication with their children and acceptance of their opinions, leading to more joint-decision making.



Child Rights & Protection Advocacy

MAP also advocated for migrant children rights by hosting the Child Rights Multi-Task Force Committee in Chiang Mai, which brought together CSOs and government officials to strengthen child protection mechanisms, including information exchange, updating of relevant data and discussing mechanisms for case referral.

As a member of the Lanna Child Rights Network, MAP also participated in the Stop Violence Against Women (VAW) and Children's Day activity at Tha Phae gate (mentioned above in Women's Exchange), and advocated for migrant children's access to identification to reduce statelessness. Alongside the LCRC (Lanna Child Rights Coalition), MAP Foundation co-submitted a letter of recommendations to the Chiang Mai provincial government, urging improved service access for migrant children and government compliance with international child rights commitments.

Community Health and Empowerment (CHE)

Community Health and Empowerment

MAP completed its 20th continuous year under the support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to provide health interventions for the migrant population in Chiang Mai Province. This was the beginning of a new round of funding, and thus a change in the strategy on HIV. Specifically, MAP's interventions aimed to increase access to HIV & STI testing and treatment for migrant key populations (MSM, transgender individuals, and sex workers) working in sex establishments, both direct and indirect venues, in Chiang Mai Province to reduce the transmission of HIV.

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MAP had to employ various strategies to access key populations, especially those working in sex establishments, and gain their trust. It took time and active outreach, including making social networks through volunteers and using alternative techniques of testing such as oral testing. In total, 242 key population migrants received HIV testing, with 3 positive cases identified; however, only 1 person actually started treatment. Individuals who tested had to inform MAP of their status voluntarily, which was part of the challenge, as it is a serious leap in faith to trust a relative stranger with such important and personal information. Many of the beneficiaries were not open about their sexuality or their type of work, leaving them more vulnerable. For this reason, MAP staff upheld strict confidentiality standards.

As part of the prevention strategy, the MAP team also interviewed this group, enquiring about certain symptoms related to Sexually transmitted infections. In total, 20 migrants were identified as at risk of STIs and were referred for testing. Of those tested for STIs, 8 tested positive with 7 receiving treatment. Treating STIs is a crucial component of preventing HIV transmission.



Tuberculosis (TB) screening and treatment is the other aspect of the project. The strategy for preventing and treating TB during this round of funding has changed a bit from last round, moving from general screening to more focused screening through stronger collaboration with health officials. Most of those who have been screened were in some way exposed directly or indirectly to individuals referred to the hospital for treatment, and then referred from hospitals to MAP for support. MAP used this referral mechanism to identify communities or households exposed to infected individuals without exposing their status to the community, for TB is even more stigmatized than HIV because it can be contagious.

MAP also used mobile x-ray screening jointly with health officials to enhance early detection and treatment access to those in hard to reach communities. This year, 245 migrants underwent TB testing, with 42 cases identified (either active TB or latent TB). All 42 individuals started or completed TB treatment within the year, including provision of prophylactics to those with latent TB or vulnerable family members such as young children. As part of the intervention strategy, MAP has focused on Fang area near the border because there are more undocumented migrants present due to the deteriorating situation in Myanmar, and the highest concentration of those with communicable diseases was in this group.



MAP MultiMedia (MMM)

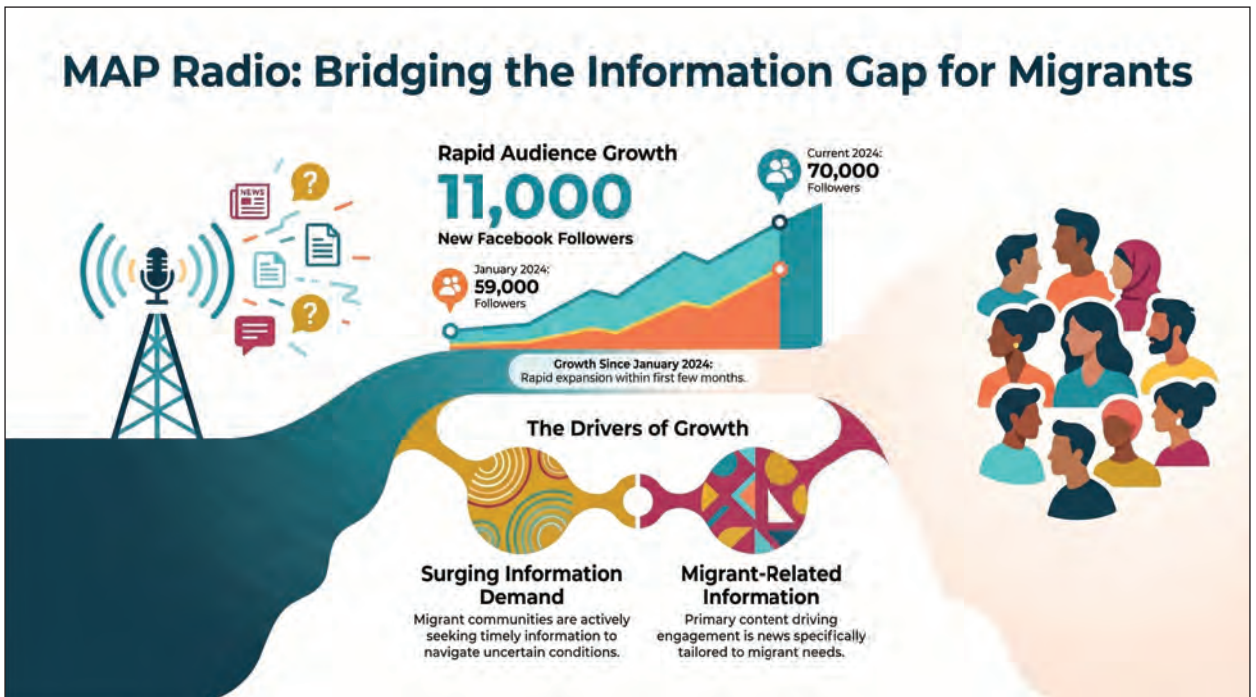
MAP MultiMedia

MAP's Multi-Media program continues to support all of MAP's projects by producing communication materials in migrant languages to disseminate information to migrant communities on issues of policies, laws, rights, and health, centered around our two community radio stations at Chiang Mai and Mae Sot, as well as through printed materials, audio and video, websites and social media.

MAP Radio Listenership & Growth

Over the past year, our monthly average listenership through our two FM radio stations and Facebook live has reached a range of 78.6K to 83K with at least 62% women, based on call-in records. MAP Radio Facebook followers increased from 59K to 70K since January 2024, reflecting growing demand for timely migrant-related information amid uncertain conditions. Many Myanmar nationals, including many ethnic people from Shan State, have fled from conflict areas to Thailand seeking safety. They then find they are stuck in the country as migrants in need of documents. This has made information about immigration policies, such as passports and visa and the work permit process, more crucial, drawing significantly more listeners to our broadcasts.

FM 99 MHz Chiang Mai - we currently broadcast 29 programs in total, including three new programs: Hot news, Knowledge and Youth in the 21st century, and Youth and Diversity. FM 102.5 MHz Mae Sot - there are 25 programs broadcast by CBOs and volunteers from youth and migrant communities with a new program about a Psycho-Social and Mental health support program, broadcast by our partner RISE Center (by BEAM).



Overall, the main topics of focus in our radio broadcasts include:

Safe Migration: Workers' rights, women's rights, labor laws, and domestic workers' rights.

Policy Updates: Immigration policies, passport renewal processes, work permit requirements, 90-day reporting, social security information and other announcements. Regular updates on changes to Thai government policies affecting migrant workers are provided to ensure timely and accurate information for listeners.

Health and Safety: Health awareness (TB, HIV), risks associated with chemical use (agriculture) and other OSH, IT and online safety, traffic rules and safety.

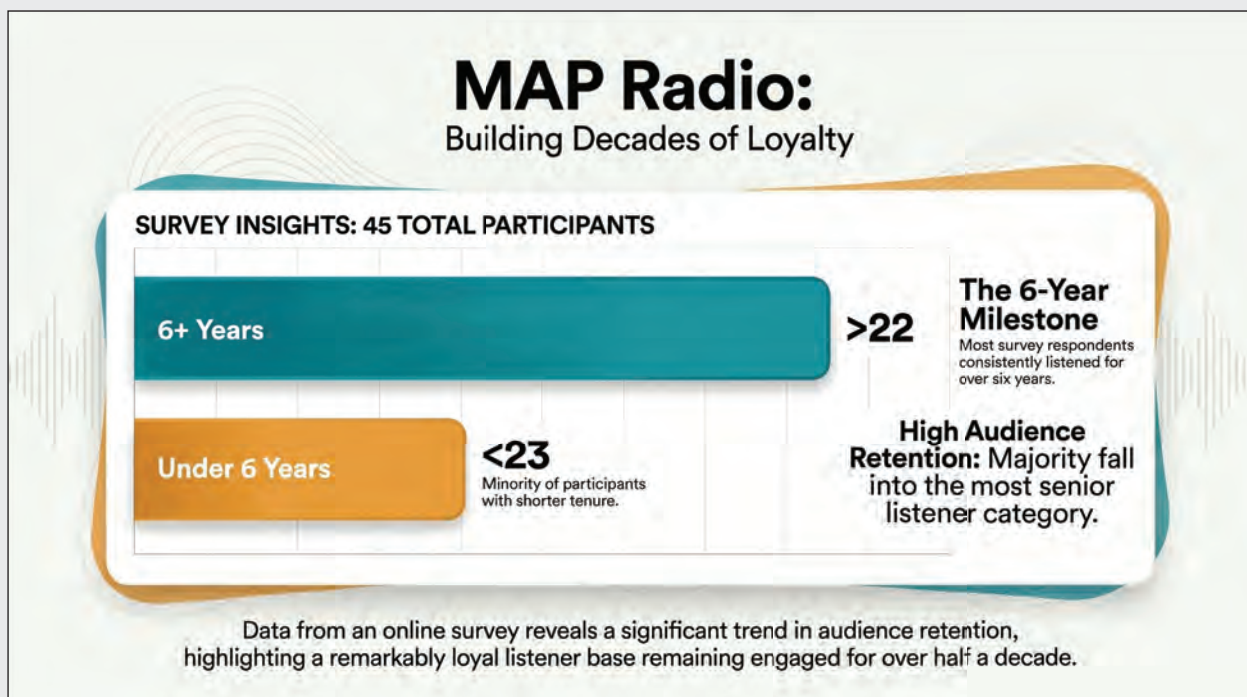
General Knowledge: Personal development, news, cultural awareness, music, sports, and fostering happy families.



Some highlights (not exhaustive): Two radio programs in Shan language were broadcast each week with a total of 2K views average, touching on a wide range of issues, including: social security, Myanmar consulate and passport renewal, child birth certificates and insurance, newly revised Ministerial Regulation on the Protection of Domestic Workers, Highland Card policy and potential fraud, the new registration process, CI card process and pink card update, tax collection by the Burmese government, workplace accident prevention, wage increase for workers in each province in Thailand, issues of disability, and the benefits of worker groups when a work accident occurs.

Mental health is an issue that has always been in the background. Now especially, with the situation worsening in Myanmar, there are many migrants in Thailand who are anxious about the present and the future. To provide partial relief, a new program on the Mae Sot station talks about Psycho-Social and Mental health support, which is broadcast by our partner RISE Center (a program by BEAM). The program provides private, individual counseling to call-ins, and referrals to Mae Tao Clinic.

MAP Radio also broadcast linked news channels, such as RFA and VOA, in both Chiang Mai and Mae Sot to provide updates about the situation in Myanmar and Thailand that migrants need to know in Burmese language. MAP has its own news program in Shan language, “Short News,” with topics about the new taxation law imposed by the Myanmar government, practical information on border-crossing, things to be aware of when traveling to and within Myanmar especially regarding the conscription policy, new regulations in applying for passport and Visa, Certificate of Identification Centre updates, and Thai migration policy changes. MAP also produced public spot announcements on similar topics in Burmese.



MAP regularly reaches out and communicates with migrant listeners through listener panels, outreach, call-ins and personal messaging to our Facebook pages. Outreach meets with remote communities and sets up booths in public areas during festivals and international campaign advocacy days, such as International Women’s Day, May Day, and International Migrants’ Day. MAP collected an online survey with 45 participants and found that most respondents had been listening to MAP Radio for longer than six years.



MIC (Migrant Information Center) Facebook

To make some of the information more directly accessible, MAP utilizes its MIC Facebook pages to provide print and video updates on policies. This way, listeners / viewers do not have to try and find information embedded in radio broadcasts. They are able to find information more directly sometimes in downloadable form. With increased need, the numbers viewing / following have also increased: Shan-language page: 12K followers; Burmese-language page: 4.9K followers; with the overall gender ratio: 54% men, 46% women.

Some highlights include, in the Shan language: Migrant Extension Work Permit 2024 -- 45K views; Certification of Identity centre opening for applying for New ID Card – 8.4K view; Right to Social Security – 5.3K views; 120-day operation to inspect migrant workers (sweep of undocumented migrants) – 2.7K; interview a migrant worker about how his employer forgot to extend his work permit. – 7.3K views; Migrant workers who do not have a pink card must apply on time and information for Certificate of Identity Center – 2.8K views; Migrant worker whose work permit will expire on February 13, 2025 – 6.6K views; Cabinet Resolutions have allowed undocumented migrant workers to access registration windows – 8K views.

We have also introduced a new quick resource page on our website which provides information on immigration regulations, labor laws, and migrant policies all in one place in Burmese and Shan languages. This platform serves as a valuable resource, enabling migrant workers to easily access the latest immigration procedures and gain a better understanding of their rights.

Considering that Tik Tok has become quite a phenomenon in the migrant community, MAP decided to explore the potential of this social media's platform. Now, we are using this highly viral social media channel to share important information about changes in migrant policy and to promote MAP Radio. We also had a training on developing content on Tik Tok, given by a partner organization (Baan Dek, which works with migrant children in construction sites). There were immediate results - already, MAP Radio TikTok has 3.2K following, 1,794 Followers and 4,800 likes.



The image shows a Facebook page banner for the Migrant Information Center (MIC). The banner features a photograph of people at a table, a QR code, and the text "သုခင်ဓေးမုခ်းဂိုဏ်းဂာခ်ယာခ်မိုဏ်း" and "MIGRANT INFORMATION CENTER". Below the banner, the profile name is "MIC - သုခင်ဓေးမုခ်း ဂိုဏ်းဂာခ်ယာခ်မိုဏ်း" with 13K followers and 19 following. The page includes contact information: phone number 053 328134, website www.mapfoundationcm.org, and address 9/34 Moo 1 Ing Doi Village, Chang Phueak, Mueang, Chiang Mai 50300. Navigation buttons for Message, Following, and Search are visible at the bottom.



Broadcasting Licenses & Technical Adjustments

Some advancements in our sustainability include MAP Radio securing 5-year licenses for both locations. As part of the licensing deal, the Chiang Mai station must change frequency from FM 99 to FM 97, requiring transmitter and antennae adjustments. A positive is that our broadcasting radius is also supposed to increase with less interference.

Support for Ethnic Media & Radio Training

At the same time, MAP also continues to help support ethnic media to develop and expand their reach. A key strategy is development of the Association of Shan Press (ASP) network; and a major milestone is the successful registration of the network as a Thai Foundation. The network is also working to develop a “code of ethics” for members of the network.

Capacity building to the community was also provided, including trainings to develop Citizen journalists given two times – once in Chiang Mai for previous DJs, members of a local Shan Youth group, and 5 ASP interns from Myanmar; the other was given in Loi Kaw Wan (Shan State). Contents included training on basic broadcast skills, interview, and audio editing technics - fundamental skills for transmitting information on the radio.



The ASP network and MAP Radio also serve as model training centers. They have also provided technical support to help to establish new ethnic community radio stations in Wan Hai, Karene, Loi Kaw Wan - in Shan State, Kayin State, and Kayin State respectively. Trainings included basic radio broadcasting & media ethics. Three capacity-building trainings were also conducted by ASP for community-based organizations in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, and Mae Hong Son, focusing on basic radio broadcasting and media ethics. In addition, follow-up technical assistance and consultations were provided in Wan Hai (Shan State), Kayah State, and Kayin State to support the ongoing development of local radio initiatives. Lastly, the ASP network also organized a fundraising campaign to support refugees affected by conflict in Northern Shan State by donating 50,000 THB to local organizations already present and providing assistance.



Another capacity building for local media included a citizen journalism training conducted in Mae Sot. The training included using TikTok, voice recording and editing, CapCut editing, and Canva design to create their own jingles, manage TikTok accounts, and edit content using for TikTok. These sessions aimed to enhance broadcasting capabilities and inspire more creative and engaging programs. Network partners have integrated these skills into their organizational work.

MAP printed 6,000 copies of the 2025 Migrant Diary - 3,000 in Shan and 3,000 in Burmese. The annual Migrant Diary provides a calendar, contact info for authorities and CSOs, and information on rights and policies on a range of topics. Copies were all distributed in December 2024 and January 2025 to partner organizations, and to participants during outreach activities and campaigns. Additionally, we visited construction camps and factories in Chiang Mai and Mae Sot to distribute more copies.

Administrative Support Unit (ASU)

Support for Development of Grassroots Groups and Networking

For the past two years MAP has been supporting the development of eight grassroots migrant groups. It is an experiment in community empowerment. Through our regular interaction with the migrant community, we identified groups that were self-organizing and could benefit from capacity building and financial support. The idea is to support local migrant groups to organize in order to address problems they face locally. So, under this project supported by a generous donor, MAP has provided a series of training of trainers (TOT) and provided subgrants to eight different groups in different geographic areas once they have fulfilled some basic requirements. The following are some highlights from the second year:

Six of the groups work on labor rights issues in: Chonburi, Bangkok, Mae Sot, Samut Prakan, and two in Chiang Mai - agriculture and domestic workers groups. Another group is focused on migrant women's health and well-being, specifically, support for women living with HIV in Phang Nga. Lastly, there is a Gender-based violence (GBV) network in Mae Sot.

Training was provided by MAP a couple of times on Participatory Action Research (PAR). This round included how to collect data and develop tools for data collection as part of the ability to identify and assess the problems facing the community. Accordingly, each group identified their own research topic to pursue, and then was supposed to collect data in their respective areas. Due to timing, only a couple of the groups started collecting data though - either for the PAR or for group membership. Training was given on group building with guidelines and tools like how to do learning exchange. Groups were also taught how to have elections with guidelines, followed by monthly committee meetings, with rules and regulations for groups. There were also M&E workshops to follow-up on workplans and budgets.



These groups have then, in turn, worked with their communities to provide assistance and awareness-raising of their rights and how to access services. The groups provided information and case management support to approximately 984 migrants (63% women) over the year, including assistance with Labour Rights violation claims. They also engaged approximately 1,500 participants in educational and advocacy activities, such as public campaign events, aimed at promoting awareness of labor rights, health, and rights protection services. As community-based groups, they help migrants better understand and navigate existing legal frameworks and available services, as they are able.



Groups are being equipped with skills to improve coordination with local authorities and be more appealing to possible funders in the future. By strengthening their role as community support organizations through working alongside local government and service providers, the groups are able to improve migrants' well-being and social inclusion. By organizing the migrant community and presenting themselves to local authorities, they gain representation and are able to negotiate for their needs. Some actions the groups organized include: a clean-up of pesticide related trash and containers and separation of toxic trash, a women's football competition among factories as a campaign to build membership of a workers' organization, groups of workers protested and filed complaints to the Labour Protection Office about working conditions until corrective action was taken by the employer, as well as campaign activities where groups presented migrants' demands to local officials regarding everything from unfair charging for updating documents, to migrant children's education and access to HIV treatment, to proper trash collection.





Disability Migration Network

MAP was also contacted by a newly formed network in the Philippines, called the “Disability Migration Network (DMN)” to coordinate participants for some related research on disability and migration. This was facilitated by the ILO and was a great opportunity for MAP to finally get some information on this topic which has been lingering for many years. MAP helped identify and arrange interviews with three disabled migrants – all from either work or traffic accidents. Shan language translation was provided. In the interviews, besides some of the more obvious issues, such as the inability to find work and lack of social protections, the lack of permanent residence, such as a shelter, was raised, with one individual in a wheelchair having to move regularly from temple to temple. Notably, migrants with disabilities are not repatriated, but they do not receive systemic support either. We also supported the news agency Prachathai to interview these people. Here is the link - [Injured and Forgotten: Migrant Workers with Disabilities Left Without Support](#).



