Language: English
Countries Covered: 16 sending and destination countries in Asia, including Thailand and Vietnam

General Description
This report documents a second round of research of mandatory testing for HIV/AIDS in the GMS conducted by CARAM Asia’s “Taskforce on the State of Health of Migrants”. The taskforce used participatory research methods to conduct its research, which allowed it to analyse prospective migrants at their countries of origin, migrants working in destination countries and returnee migrants, including those living with HIV and those who were deported following mandatory testing. On the basis of research findings, CARAM partner organisations concluded that mandatory testing for HIV and other health conditions as a screening tool for the entry of migrant workers into destination countries is discriminatory. It was found that migrants were treated differently from the general population, which was protected from discriminatory testing requirements, and that migrants were not recipient to standard testing practices. Migrants were rarely asked for their consent in being tested or guaranteed confidentiality. CARAM and its partner organisations suggest that mandatory testing and related deportation cease immediately, and that, at the very least, all countries adopt a “Migrant Friendly” Testing Framework to better protect the human rights of migrants living with and being tested for HIV/AIDS.

82. State of Terror: The ongoing rape, murder, torture and forced labour suffered by women living under the Burmese Military Regime in Karen State
http://www.karenwomen.org/Reports/state%20of%20terror%20report.pdf

Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description
This report by The Karen Women’s Organisation (KWO) documents human rights violations taking place across Karen State, Burma. The
report focuses on abuse of women and girls including practices of forced labour and portering. It catalogues the multiplicity of human rights violations to which women are subjected in Karen State, including rape, beating, mutilation, torture, and murder, denial of rights to food, water and shelter, and absence of the right to legal redress. The report maintains that these human rights abuses occur as part of a strategy designed to terrorise and suppress the Karen people, in order to destroy their culture and communities. The book highlights that attacks on civilians in Karen State are increasing, resulting in rising tides of internally displaced people and refugees crossing the border to seek asylum.

Key Topics/Issues
- Human rights violations
- Internally Displaced People (IDPs)
- Attacks on civilians

Key Responses
- Protection of refugees in line with international law
- Gender sensitive policy implementation and assistance to women and girls who are survivors of rape and sexual violence
- Emergency relief and humanitarian assistance for IDPs in ethnic areas in Burma
- Ensure the safety and security of members of groups providing services to women and girls
- Encourage the Thai Government to maintain and enhance recent openness to expand livelihood opportunities for refugees
- Pressure the Burmese military regime to begin a tripartite dialogue

Key Actors
Women and girls in Karen State, Burmese military regime, community based organisations and the international community

83. Thailand Policies towards Migrant Workers from Myanmar
Language: English  
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description
This paper reviews Thai policies towards migrant workers from Burma, focusing on the impacts of changing policies governing mobility and living and working conditions of migrants, comparing the experiences of documented and undocumented workers. The study also looks into problems associated with migration flows. The paper goes on to analyse factors influencing the formulation of policies and the impacts of these policies over time on destination communities.

Key Responses
- Improve knowledge on labour migration issues in the GMS with a focus on the socio-economic impacts of migration on both sending and receiving countries
- Raise awareness of decision makers about these issues and their significance for poverty reduction
- Strengthen the capacity of governments and development agencies to refine and implement a regional system to regulate labour migration

Key Actors
Thai Government and NGOs


Language: English  
Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)
General Description
This report presents the proceedings of the “Follow up Dialogue on Transborder Migration Policy Implementation and Monitoring: Its Effectiveness and Current Policy Gaps in the GMS,” part of a regional policy formulation programme in the Greater Mekong Subregion, coordinated by the Mekong Institute and supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. This second dialogue provided updates and follow-up on changes and actions taken since the Mekong Institute’s first policy formulation meeting on “Transborder Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion” in 2006. The 2007 dialogue looked at migration policies at the subregional and national level and included a series of in-depth thematic presentations and workshops concerning the various impacts of contemporary migration management on the lives of migrants.

Key Topics/Issues
- Regularising migration
- Links between migration and development
- Migrants’ health
- Migrants and their families: registration, education, rights
- Role of different actors in migration management: government, INGOs, NGOs, civil society
- Lack of implementation and monitoring and evaluation of regulations supporting migrants’ welfare

Key Responses
- Regional framework of cooperation on labour migration
- Enhanced policy coordination at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels
- Development of an information management system
- Improvement of interagency communication and information sharing
- Greater attention to the needs of ethnic minorities

85. Travel Smart - Work Smart Guides for Foreign Migrants Seeking Work in Thailand
ILO Mekong Project and Partners Roll Out.
Section 3  Annotated Bibliography

Languages: Burmese/Myanmar, English, Khmer, Laotian and Thai
Countries Covered: Burmese/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

General Description
This guide by the ILO targets migrant workers in Thailand. It gives advice on working and travelling safely in Thailand, avoiding exploitative agents and employers and provides contacts for assistance for those in need of help.

2006

86. Abuse Without End: Burmese Refugee Women and Children at Risk of Trafficking

Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description
The study looks into the situation of women and children in Thailand from Burma and particularly those who face situations such as severe exploitation, forced labour and trafficking. It outlines international laws and obligations and looks at the way Thailand and Burma are responding to these issues. The authors review the global discourse on trafficking taking into account the underlying both economic and political reasons that motivate people to migrate. This study offers a holistic, rights-based approach addressing the root causes of migration, and need for assistance for trafficked people who cannot return to their home is well emphasised.

Key Topics/Issues
- Trafficking
- Women
- Children
- Refugees
87. Assessing the Situation of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Samutsakhon Province, Thailand
http://www.arcm.ias.chula.ac.th/Downloads/Abstract/B31-AE.pdf

Language: English
Country Covered: Thailand

General Description
This paper presents findings of a study of the worst forms of child labour in two districts of Sumutsakhon Province, Thailand. It is estimated that there are at least 20,000 Thai and foreign child workers in the province. The research collected data from 600 Thai and migrant child workers in the fishing, agricultural and domestic work sectors. The paper focuses on the use of migrant children in the worst forms of child labour and proposes policies and solutions to protect child rights.

Key Topics/Issues
- Local and migrant child workers in fishing, agricultural and domestic work
- Reasons for children needing to enter the workforce
- Advocacy role for foreign workers in Samutsakhon

Key Response
- More research and data on child workers in Thailand

Key Actors
NGOs, government and academic institutions

88. At What Price, Honour?: Research into Domestic Trafficking of Vietnamese (girl) Children for Sexual Exploitation, from Slums in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
http://www.humantrafficking.org/publications/398
Section 3 Annotated Bibliography

Language: English
Country Covered: Cambodia

General Description
This book surveys the trafficking of ethnic Vietnamese minors/girls in Cambodia and identifies the major risk factors that contribute to the likelihood of a child being sold for sexual exploitation. These include crisis/extra-ordinary expenses, debt, the phenomenon of “normalisation,” materialism, family honour, and cultural perceptions of the value/place of women. The research also considers the extent to which the social conditions may bear some responsibility for the “epidemic” in the sale of children for sexual exploitation. Amongst the communities surveyed, the research suggests that nearly half of the families sell a child for sex work and that more families consider this as an option. It appears that under-age girls are more likely to be sold for virginity (then return home), than sold into longer-term prostitution/brothel work.

The research reports a high level of awareness among children and adults about the presence of trafficking and prostitution. Many children expressed that they experienced the danger of being sold or were forced into involvement in the sex trade.

89. Cambodian Women Migrant Workers: Findings from a Migration Mapping Study
http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/pdf/pages%20from%20migration%20mapping%20study.unifem%20-%20short.pdf

Language: English
Country Covered: Cambodia

General Description
This paper by UNIFEM is intended as a “mapping study” of issues and problems relating to internal and external labour migration of Cambodian workers, with particular focus on women. The paper provides an overview of the existing legal framework and policy
structure governing migration in Cambodia and the work of migration related NGOs in Cambodia. It goes on to examine the patterns, causes, processes and outcomes of regular, irregular and migration of unskilled Cambodian women migrant workers and concludes with a series of recommendations aimed at relevant stakeholders.

Key Topics/Issues
- Gender sensitive rights-based approach to migration

Key Actors
- Governmental ministries: Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT), Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA), Provincial Office of Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSAVY) in Prey Veng
- NGOs including: Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM Cambodia), Cambodian Women’s Crisis Centre (CWCC), Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (CWPD) and Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Private recruitment agencies
- Commune leaders, community representatives and families of the migrant workers

90. Female Labour Migration in Cambodia

Language: English
Countries Covered: Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand

General Description
This research studies the links between labour migration and gender issues in Cambodia. It is divided into sections describing the push and pull factors for female Cambodian migrant workers (both internal and cross-border), highlighting gender based norms and traditions in Cambodia and vulnerabilities of Cambodian women migrant workers and reviewing regional and national level laws and policies regarding labour migration, with special attention to policies impacting on female migrant workers.
Section 3 Annotated Bibliography

Key Topic/Issues
- Gender dimensions of Cambodian migration
- Push and pull factors of female labour migration in Cambodia
- Economic role of women
- Challenges faced by Cambodian female migrant workers

Key Actors
- Female migrant workers
- Cambodian government and governments of destination countries
- NGOs, IGOs, UN agencies
- Local communities

Key Responses
- Cohesive policy response to female migration
- Increase dialogue and inter-sectoral coordination among social partners to implement normative policy responses for female migrants.
- Gender sensitive education and awareness-raising on safe migration and women’s role in the economy

91. Female Migration in Thailand: A Study of Migrant Domestic Work

Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

General Description
This paper investigates the experience of female migrant domestic workers in Thailand. It reviews the evolution of labour migration into Thailand and changes in migration policies. The main causes of irregular migration into Thailand are examined and are argued to include restrictive immigration policies and the high costs of regular migration, uneven economic development across the GMS and
political conflict. The paper goes on to examine the working and living conditions of domestic workers, remittances, and their decision making role within the family. The author focuses on gendered roles of female migrants in the context of international labour migration and looks at the lack of legal protection afforded to them.

Key Responses
- Recognise domestic work as work.
- Standardise employment contracts for migrant domestic workers.
- Right to travel freely in Thailand for migrant workers

92. Good Practices to Protect Women Migrant Workers: High-Level Government Meeting of Countries of Employment

Language: English
Countries Covered: Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore and Jordan

General Description
This is a general study of the situation of women migrants in some countries in Asia including Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Jordan and Thailand. While its scope is a general one, it provides some insight into the various types of practices that can be undertaken by governments to provide protection for women migrant workers. It also provides some migration-related statistics on these countries.

93. HIV Risk and Vulnerability along the East – West Economic Corridor in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam

Languages: English and Vietnamese
Country Covered: Vietnam
General Description

This book looks at the impact of the development of the East-West Economic Corridor on HIV/AIDS vulnerability in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. The study selected three primary research sites: 1) Lao Bao Township in Huong Hoa, which is the starting point of the East-West Corridor in Vietnam; 2) Dakrong Commune, which lies at the crossroads of the East-West Corridor; and 3) A Ngo Commune which has a 12km border with Laos and is the only commune of the three survey sites not lying on the East-West Corridor. The authors describe vulnerability to STDs in Lao Bao and the impact of changing patterns of mobility and economic activities of population groups; population mobility in the history and development of Lao Bao, and the current dependency of ethnic minority groups on the cash economy. An overview is also provided of population mobility and socio-economic life in A Ngo and Dakrong communes including discussion of practices of unsafe sex among ethnic minority youth, with particular focus on the impacts of increased mobility on local people’s social life and health.

Key Topics/Issues

- Population mobility and STD risks
- Impacts of East-West Corridor
- Ethnic minorities
- Safe sex

Key Response

- Raising awareness of unsafe sex among ethnic young people

94. Human Rights Abuses and Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS: The Experiences of Burmese Women in Thailand

http://www.jstor.org/stable/4065403

Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand
General Description
This article investigates human rights concerns related to migration, living and working conditions, and access to HIV/AIDS services and reproductive health services for Burmese women in Thailand. It also describes the vulnerability to HIV/AIDS for Burmese women, which results from different forms of abuses they experience.

Key Issues/Topics
- Weak implementation of international human rights laws in Thailand
- Lack of health service provision for Burmese women and insufficient efforts to address their risks of contracting HIV/AIDS.
- Need to incorporate human rights concerns into Thai national response to HIV/AIDS to guarantee the epidemic will not worsen in the future

95. Labour Migration in the Mekong Sub-Region: A Synthesis Report

Language: English
Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

General Description
This is a synthesis report of the first phase of a World Bank project on labour migration in the Mekong region. It is based on five separate papers commissioned by the Bank from the research institutes in Thailand and Cambodia. The project aims to manage migration in the Mekong region so that there is adequate information and data on migration patterns and so new research can support policy.

The report describes labour migration program in GMS, including objectives and expected outputs. Its emphasis lies more on facilitating rather than restricting labour migration. It also provides the main research findings of the programme. The reports also review patterns and characteristics of the migration in GMS – especially in Thailand – roles of migrants in both sending and receiving countries, and impacts of migration on households in sending countries. The report presents the evolution of migration management policies in
the GMS: its limitations and prospects for improvements then future research and development agenda.

**Key Topics/Issues**
- Current information on migration patterns and characteristics of migration, employment including profiles of migrants
- Roles played by migrants and their remittances in sending economies
- Estimation of remittances
- Policies of the GMS countries relating to the sending and receiving of migrants

**Key Responses**
- Collect accurate data on migration and remittances
- Facilitate rather than restrict migration
- Enable policies that will make the migration process safe and remunerative

**Key Actors/Players**
- Research agencies, government departments and INGOs

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**96. The Mekong Challenge - Human Trafficking: Redefining Demand - Destination factors in the Trafficking of Children and Young Women in the Mekong Sub-Region (Abridged)**


**Language:** English  
**Country Covered:** Thailand

**General Description**

The report approaches the question of trafficking from the perspective of the demand for labour. It strongly suggests that if workers’ rights for migrants and local workers were equally enforced and there was a channel for safe migration, trafficking would not be possible. The report provides an analysis on the current research on migrant labourers and their condition in Thailand, especially in the sectors of...
agriculture, manufacturing, fisheries and domestic work. It outlines the ways in which migrant workers are being exploited – through underpayment, overwork, physical abuse, denial of basic benefits like education, health, family life and so on. It also sets out the conditions in which migrants in Thailand become vulnerable when interacting with the law enforcement agencies and accessing the legal system.

**Key Responses**

**For the Thai Government to:**
- Reform the legal and enforcement regimes regarding workers’ rights, with specific suggestions relating to applicable Thai law and international conventions;
- Educate and inform employers and recruiters on migrant workers’ rights; and
- Provide assistance to civil society organisations working for migrants’ rights.

**For the ILO and civil society organisations protecting migrant workers to:**
- Research and document the extent of trafficking;
- Advocate on corporate social responsibility (CSR) regarding maintaining labour standards; and
- Raise awareness to facilitate the forming of organisations of migrant workers and workers in informal sectors form informal unions and migrant support organisations.

**Key Actors/Players**

Thai Government, ILO, NGOs, trade unions and migrant networks

**97. The Mekong Challenge - The Underpaid, Overworked and Overlooked: The Realities of Young Migrant Workers in Thailand**


Language: English and Thai
Country Covered: Thailand

General Description
This is a report on the conditions of migrant workers in four major industries in Thailand – manufacturing, agriculture, fisheries (fishing and fish processing) and domestic work. The study suggests that workers in fisheries and domestic work are more likely to be underpaid, overworked and be younger than those in the other two sectors. The report found that the demand for migrant workers exists mainly because of the wage differential between local and migrant workers: local Thai labour is not prepared to work for such low wages and in such difficult working conditions that Burmese, Cambodian or Laotian workers put up with. The researchers suggest that removing this differential, with better monitoring, enforcement and education of employers, should help reduce the incidence of trafficking. The first volume is a summary of the research findings and recommendations. The second volume contains a closer examination of the results from the research conducted within each of the four sectors.

Key Topics/Issues
- Working conditions in manufacturing, fisheries, agriculture and domestic work
- Payment violations (under and delayed payments), restricted freedom of movement, employers holding identity documents, physical and verbal abuse, extended working hours and absence of working contracts
- Trends in employment by age, gender, social, cultural and economic factors

Key Responses
- Reform the Thai Labour Protection Act so that it applies to currently unprotected sectors like fisheries (working at sea), domestic work, agriculture and the informal sector
- Educate, inform and provide assistance to employers to follow and enforce current labour law
- Empower migrants and migrant organisations
- Encourage safe and legal migration
Key Actors/Players
Thai Government, employers and recruiters, NGOs and migrant organisations

98. The Mekong Challenge - Working Day and Night: The Plight of Migrant Child Workers in Mae Sot, Thailand

Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description
This report provides an extensive analysis and discussion of the situation of child migrant workers in Thailand, largely focusing on the factories of Mae Sot. It provides the domestic and international legal and policy background within which to consider the situation of child migrant workers. This is followed by an extensive overview of the situation of migrant workers in Mae Sot and other parts of Thailand based on FTUB (Federation of Trade Unions – Burma)’s prior investigations and research in the field. The profile of the exploitative conditions faced by the child workers is based on the responses to questionnaires administered to 313 child migrant workers, presenting the data in a tabular format with accompanying explanations. The appendices provide detailed case studies of workers as well as profiles of other industries and statistics.

Key Topics/Issues
• Push and pull factors for migrant workers in Mae Sot
• Exploitative conditions faced by child workers
• Lack of education
• Underpayment and extended working hours
• Abysmal conditions of work and housing
• Bonded labour (seized identity papers)
Key Responses

- Effective enforcement of existing Thai law on labour – preventing child labour, provision of minimum wage and working conditions
- Education and involvement of the employers in Mae Sot in eradicating child labour
- Monitoring by ILO on the implementation of and compliance with the law
- Reform Thai laws to enable migrant workers to form unions and strengthen participation of migrant workers in the labour movement
- Establish a NGO-run hotline to deal with issues affecting migrant workers
- Capacity-building activities for the government and NGO personnel by ILO
- Generating a social dialogue in Mae Sot to enable a transformation of the work culture

Key Actors/Players

Ministry of Labour and other relevant ministries in the Thai government, ILO, trade unions and migrant organisations


Language: English
Countries Covered: Lao PDR and Thailand

General Description

This is a report of a survey aimed to establish an awareness concerning trafficking issues and media habits of young people in two areas of Lao PDR. The survey is based on a small sample of around 340 people. It suggests that Thai television was the most important source of information, news and entertainment in the border regions. Women were more likely to rely on Lao language television for information.
people would like to know more about work opportunities in Thailand, as they remain unaware of the legal implications of working there.

**Key Topics/Issues**
- Labour migration from Lao PDR to Thailand
- Comparison between different areas in Lao PDR of the information available prior to departure
- Baseline information to help evaluate the impact of a media campaign on migration and trafficking issues

**Key Responses**
- Provide orientation and pre-departure information
- Identify target population
- Study the impact and use of media
- Identify type of information to be provided and manner of doing so
- Promote employment offices

**Key Actors/Players**
Governments and NGOs

**100. PHAMIT, National Conference for International Migrants’ Day “Stop AIDS. Migrants’ Participation,” December 20th, 2006, Bangkok**

**Language:** English

**Country Covered:** Thailand

**General Description**

**Key Topics/Issues**
- AIDS prevention
- Voluntary counselling and testing
- Cross border process for treatment and referral
Key Responses
- Cohesive policy on HIV/AIDS prevention
- International and intersectoral cooperation
- Influencing attitudes and behaviour on HIV/AIDS

101. Restless Souls: Rebels, Refugees, Medics and Misfits on the Thai Burma Border

Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description
This is a journalist’s account of Karen life resisting the Burmese SPDC from the Thai Burmese border and the town of Mae Sot. It gives an account of life there touching on questions of work and migration.

102. The Return and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking from Cambodia to Thailand from 31st of December 2004 to 31st December 2005 and Repatriation from Cambodia to Vietnam of Vietnamese Victims of Trafficking from 31st December 2004 to 31st December 2005

Language: English
Countries Covered: Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam

General Description
This is the report of the IOM-assisted Cambodian government project to assist the reintegration of trafficked persons. In the one year reporting period, 183 trafficked persons, all under 18 were assisted in returning to Cambodia from Thailand. The report provides a profile of the trafficked children and their families – before being trafficked, in Thailand and what they did after returning from Thailand. While 40% were reintegrated with their families, the others were put in a long term placement, where a majority of them were kept for over a year.
In the same year, 12 girls were repatriated from Cambodia to Vietnam under the same project, and further 22 women and girls were assisted and documented. The report provides information about their situation.

Key Topics/Issues
- Profiles of trafficked children
- Reintegration with families or long term placement

Key Responses
- Assisting migrants at the stage of making decisions about return and reintegration
- Facilitating migrants’ reintegration within their own family

Key Actors
NGOs and government welfare departments

103. Review of a Decade of Research on Trafficking in Persons, Cambodia
http://www.vitalvoices.org/files/docs/printfinal_5-31-06.pdf

Language: English
Country Covered: Cambodia

General Description
Systematically and exhaustively reviews studies on trafficking in persons from and within Cambodia. The book is clearly aimed at researchers in the field undertaking studies of trafficking. The study concludes that there is a large variety of microstudies of trafficking from and within Cambodia with various approaches, foci, primarily from the point of view of those actively working against trafficking. These studies are reviewed to generate an overview of trafficking – its extent, nature, causes and mechanisms. They are also evaluated to understand how knowledge about trafficking is produced from the various groups working against trafficking and the research and funding bodies.
Key Topics/Issues
- Trafficking of children, women and men for sex work
- Labour exploitation
- Adoption
- Other reasons

Key Responses
- Better-organised and planned research
- Coordination between fieldwork, research and funding

Key Actors
NGOs, researchers, government planners and policy makers

104. Review of Labor Migration Dynamics in Cambodia

Language: English
Countries Covered: Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea

General Description
This research aims to promote the improved management of Cambodian labour migration. It presents the roles and responsibilities relevant stakeholders in dealing with labour migration issues and indicates some challenges faced by Cambodian migrant workers in destination countries such as Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea. The report outlines the legal and policy framework currently governing migration in Cambodia and concludes with recommendations to enhance the contemporary migration management system.

Key Topics/Issues
- Labour migration management
- Vulnerabilities and challenges faced by Cambodian migrants in destination countries
- Reintegration difficulties of returning migrants
Key Actors
- Cambodian government and governments of destination countries
- NGO, IGOs, CBOs and grassroots people

Key responses
- Further research
- Cohesive policies
- Gender, health and the remittance system
- Capacity building

105. Survey of Cross-Border Migration through and from Koh Kong Province to Trat, Thailand
http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/pdf/lscw%20survey%20migration%20from%20and%20though%20kk.pdf

Language: English
Countries Covered: Cambodia and Thailand

General Description
This study tries to understand patterns of migration in the Koh Kong Province of Cambodia. It estimates the numbers and explores the process of migration, as well as its impact on the source provinces. The study suggests that those who are from Koh Kong have a better understanding of the situation in Thailand and achieve more positive changes to their family situation after migrating. Those who come from more distant provinces with less information do not do as well. Many migrants who return have to migrate again after a few years as they do not get any lasting benefits from the migration process.

Key Topics/Issues
- Information on migrants leaving Koh Kong for Thailand
- Methods of crossing the border
- Routes of internal migration to Koh Kong
- Numbers of people involved
- Destinations of migrants
- Impacts of migration
106. Thailand’s Cross-Border Trade in the Greater Mekong Subregion: Selected Social Issues
http://ccas.doshisha.ac.jp/eng/Econference/e20061027CoreSeminar/eSrawooth.pdf

**Language:** English  
**Countries Covered:** Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

**General Description**
This is a brief article which effectively summarises the current state of research on the presence of migrants – both regular and irregular in Thailand. It provides official numbers and mentions the major research projects dealing with the trafficking of migrants and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

**Key Topics/Issues**
- Migrant labour profiles and statistics
- Trafficking
- HIV/AIDS – changes in profiles of people living with HIV/AIDS

107. The Transnational Floating Population in the Sino-Burmese Border Areas

**Language:** Chinese  
**Country Covered:** China

**General Description**
This article analyses the transnational floating population in Sino-Burmese border areas. The author examines four main categories of population movement, looking firstly at business and trading, (including traditional frontier exchange marketing and trading with legal documents called the “entry/exit permit”); secondly at tourism; thirdly at regular and irregular labour migration and fourthly at relatives and friends visiting.
108. We Want to Work: Providing Livelihood Opportunities for Refugees in Thailand

Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description
This is a report produced by the Women’s Commission to aid their project on providing livelihoods to refugees. The Thai government had made statements which made it possible for NGOs to provide livelihood training within camps for Burmese refugees. It is recommended that the government should allow refugees to work outside the camps as it would provide in different ways durable solutions for refugees to integrate into mainstream society.

Key Topics/Issues
• Livelihood strategies and training in refugee camps

Key Responses
• Innovative suggestions to the Thai authorities to enable integration of refugees in society along with the repatriation of others
• NGO initiatives to provide training in camps, over and beyond the suggestions and experiences of the refugees

Key Actors
Thai authorities, IGOs, NGOs and INGOs
2005


Language: English
Country Covered: Thailand

General Description
In 2004, almost 15,000 children under the age of 15 were registered under the Thai Government’s amnesty to workers from the Mekong region in Thailand. Many of the children live in families, either as migrants with the parents or as were born in Thailand. Also it is likely that there are many children who have migrated unaccompanied by family members. The article scans and summarises available information about this special category of migrants in Thailand. It provides detailed statistics and estimates about the numbers involved, including statistics about migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers, school enrolment and so on.

Key Responses
- More research and data on migrant children in Thailand
- Education opportunities for migrant children
- Regularisation of employment of children not in school
- Cheaper health insurance for migrant families
- Provision of nationality papers to migrant children in consultation with their countries of origin
- Rights to employment for Burmese refugees living in camps on a long-term basis

110. Claim and Celebrate Women Migrants’ Human Rights through CEDAW: The Case of Women Migrant Workers
Language: English
Countries Covered: Generally applicable

General Description
This is a general study of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) framework and its applicability for advocacy regarding women migrants and their rights. This publication takes women’s migration for work as an illustration to demonstrate how CEDAW’s framework can be used effectively to address the long-term and immediate concerns of women migrants, at all stages of the migration process, even in the absence of a specific article on migration. It further shows how CEDAW’s existing potential to address migration can be significantly strengthened through the adoption of a General Recommendation on migration.

111. Die Lebensqualität von Migrant/innen in Thailand

Language: German
Country Covered: Thailand

General Description
Focus Asien is a German research magazine and this issue lays its focus on social security issues in Burma. This article on migration to Thailand is an abridged version of the chapter on Quality of Life, in Resource Book: Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion published by MMN and AMC in 2005, translated into German.

112. First Hand Knowledge - Voices Across the Mekong: Community Action Against Trafficking of Children and Women
Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam

General Description
The book is the first in a new series of publications from the ILO-TICW project documenting best practices in dealing with trafficking. It documents the views of children and young women in five Mekong countries who have participated directly in the project’s trafficking prevention initiatives. The publication also highlights the value of direct participation of vulnerable groups in region-wide, sustainable counter-trafficking responses.

113. International Migration in Thailand

Language: English
Country Covered: Thailand

General Description
This report mainly looks into the situation of non-Thai nationals living or working in Thailand while touching upon the situation of Thai nationals working abroad. The policies and practices of Thailand towards refugees, asylum seekers, documented and undocumented migrant workers and their dependents are examined and analysed.

Key Responses
- The Thai Government of should develop international migration policies which are consistent with economic and social development policies.
- The Thai Government should develop a national, comprehensive migration management system for all types of migration (including asylum seekers, regular and irregular migrants) with appropriate coordination mechanisms.
- Thailand should assist Thai overseas workers to be able to target more technical occupations.
- The Thai Government should develop a more accessible registration system that is fairer, simpler and less expensive.
The Ministry of Labour should play roles in providing protection against abuse and exploitation and in securing labour standards by conducting proactive random inspections of workplaces.

HIV/AIDS information and prevention programmes should target such mobile and difficult-to-reach populations.

**Key Actors/Players**
Thai Government, IGOs and NGOs

**114. Making History: People, Process and Participation**
- **Mekong Children’s Forum on Human Trafficking**
  Bangkok: International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Save the Children, UK, 2005. pp.70.

  **Language:** English
  **Countries Covered:** Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Thailand

**General Description**
Children advocates representing their vulnerable peers met in national and provincial forums over several months in 2004. This lead to a subregional Mekong Children’s Forum (MCF) where representatives from the five countries’ met along with other children who had been trafficked. Their opinions and suggestions to combat child trafficking were discussed. Each country’s delegation presented their recommendations to the representatives of their governments at a special session of the Children’s forum.

The report presents 1) The ethical and practical background to coordinate children’s advocacy and the processes that led to the MCF; 2) The proceedings of the MCF; and 3) An evaluation report providing conclusions and recommendations. The learning that occurred throughout the process, the unexpected events and the concerns that were expressed are all recorded at the relevant places throughout the report. The appendices also provide all relevant documentation, including policies, guidelines and information for children that were produced to support the forum.
Key Topics/Issues
- Trafficking of children
- Children as advocates for children

Key Responses
- National and regional proceedings for children to present their thoughts cohesively and coherently
- Children presenting their recommendations to the officials of their governments

Key Actors/Players
National governments, children’s NGOs and advocacy groups

115. The Mekong Challenge - Destination Thailand: A Cross-border Labour Migration Survey in Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia


Language: English
Countries Covered: Cambodia and Thailand

General Description
This book presents a report on the situation of migrants and potential migrants from Cambodia to Thailand in a northwestern Cambodian border province. It is based on random sampling of households, returning labourers, children and young adults.

Findings
- There was an increase in the number of migrant school children’s dropouts.
- Around 24% of migrant workers studied were child labourers.
- Some of the families in the country of origin have lost contact with family members who have migrated and received no remittances.
Migrants are highly dependent on agents/brokers to find cross-border work.
Lack of public information for potential migrants in the province increases their vulnerability to trafficking.

Key Topics/Issues
- Risks of migration from Cambodia to Thailand
- Incidence of child migrants

Key Responses
- To set up migrant support centres in border areas with Thailand in order to provide information and necessary assistance such as remittances transfer
- For Cambodian and Thai organizations, to enhance networking in order to share information, collectively monitor implementation of labour law and help migrants follow up on complaints
- For the Cambodian Government to establish an effective labour migration policy and mechanisms, and for the Thai Government to strengthen its policies on inward migration

Key Actors/Players
Thai and Cambodian Governments and concerned NGOs


**Languages:** English and Thai

**Country Covered:** Thailand

**General Description**
The report examines the employment and protection of migrant workers in Thailand from a legal perspective through an analysis of Thai policies on registration and employment of migrant workers. The paper
examines different Thai laws, including the Constitution, Immigration and Labour Laws, and relevant international labour standards.

**Key Topics/Issues**
- Migrant workers in Thailand
- Thai law an international labour standards

**Key Responses**
- Thailand to implement a more “open door” policy concerning migration based on integrated and human rights-oriented approach
- Thailand to cooperate with the source/destination countries in order to provide open channels and safeguards for migration
- Thailand to reform and develop all national laws and policies in a gender and child sensitive manner while being consistent with relevant international standards
- The capacity and understanding in law enforcement and employers (in the business sector) to be built in order to ensure the quality enforcement of laws and policies
- Various agencies such as local NGOs, the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand and representatives of the migrant workers to be involved in the process of monitoring and addressing abuse and exploitation
- Preventive actions to be promoted while effective and accessible remedies provided
- Thailand to properly implement their current international obligations under the treaties to which Thailand is a party (There is still a need to advocate for Thailand’s membership of all key international human rights treaties and international labour Conventions)
- A negative attitude towards foreign migrant workers to be changed through educating the Thai public

**Key Actors/Players**
- Thai Government, Thai civil society, National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, NGOs and migrant workers representatives

**117. Migration and Development: Pro-Poor Policy Choices**
Language: English
Countries Covered: Bangladesh, China, Vietnam, India and Pakistan

General Description
Based on internal and international migration experiences of five countries of Asia – China, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Vietnam – this book dispels the notion that migration indicates failure of development. On the contrary, it views migration as an integral part of global development.

The book makes a comprehensive analysis of labour recruitment processes for internal and international markets, working conditions, entitlements and available protection mechanisms, and extent of involvement of civil society institutions and policy environments in the countries concerned. It demonstrates that migration generally has a significantly positive impact on the livelihoods and well-being of those who migrate and also on sending and receiving areas. However, operational reasons at both the sending and receiving ends have made migration an extremely complex phenomenon and the risks of migration are borne disproportionately by the migrants, particularly the poor.

The volume emphasises that, through effective governance and appropriate policies and actions at national, regional and international levels, the negative consequences of migration can be reduced and its developmental impact enhanced.

Key Topics/Issues
- Internal, international migration
- Labour recruitment

118. A Needs Assessment and Analysis of the Situation of Cambodian Migrant Workers in Klong Yai District, Trat, Thailand

Language: English
Countries Covered: Cambodia and Thailand
General Description
This is the first of three reports from LSCW’s migrant support project at the international border and shoreline between Cambodia and Thailand. This report contains qualitative and quantitative information obtained from the Cambodian workers in Thailand including information on migration from source provinces such as: reasons and socio-economic factors; the process of migration; and the situation in Thailand – documentation, remittances, problems and vulnerabilities relating to their needs. It also presents a mapping of the situation of migrants – patterns of hiring, residential areas, resources available to the workers and those who have contacts with the migrant workers. The interviews focus mainly on the fishing, domestic work and the sex work industries, while the sawmills and ice factory workers could not be interviewed as they live on the premises.

Key Topics/Issues
- Push and pull factors of migration from Cambodia to Thailand along the coast
- Conditions of the migrants in Trat Province, Thailand - registration, salaries etc.
- Vulnerabilities and problems of migrants
- Profiles of migrant communities in Trat

Key Responses
- Information and guidance in source provinces in Cambodia
- Information and support in Thailand regarding domestic labour laws and registration
- Protection strategies with NGOs and community leaders to get redress

119. Passport to Health

Language: English (published in 2004) and Thai (published in 2005)
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

General Description
A passport-size report that is easy and quick to read but packed with information. It describes the situation of migrant workers from
Burma, Cambodia and Lao PDR in 8 different employment sectors in Thailand (agricultural workers, construction workers, domestic workers and carers, factory workers, fishermen, sex workers and remote communities).

The migrants put forward their requirements in order to improve their health and show what they and their support groups are already doing to respond to the situation. The names and contact details of the support NGOs and CBOs (community-based organisations) are also given. Passport to Health also briefly outlines the situation for workers on quarries and tin mines, street beggars, internally displaced persons, refugees, the deportees, the disappeared and migrant workers’ rights defenders.

Key Responses

- Right to register to work legally as NGO workers as health counselors, paralegal workers and occupational health and safety monitor volunteers
- Labour laws to be enforced and for informal sector work to be included (domestic work, sex work)
- Effective and user friendly mechanisms to use the existing labour laws

180. Preliminary Survey Results about Burmese Migrant Workers in Thailand: State/Division of Origin, Year of entry, Minimum Wages and Work Permits


Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

The article presents a preliminary statistical analysis of some of the data collected from a sample of over 1,400 Burmese workers in 12 provinces in Thailand. The study analyses the statistics collected about Burmese workers in Thailand and the significance of these figures.
121. The Present Situation and Counter Measures of the Campaign against the Cross-border Abduction and Sales of Women and Children
Sun, Xiaoying and Bihua Li. *Around Southeast Asia*: 2005.7.

Language: English
Countries Covered: China and Vietnam

General Description
Like many other countries in the world, China and Vietnam are now faced with criminals who abduct and sell women and children. Such crime has become a concern for all and occurs for many different reasons based on different social situations and changes. This report divides them into the following categories: sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, marriage of the poor, male offspring and caring for the elders.

Key Topics/Issues
- Cross-border crime
- Trafficking of women and children


Language: English
Country Covered: Thailand

General Description
These are the results of the baseline survey conducted in April to June of 2004 in which 3,426 migrants from various ethnic groups from 17 provinces where the PHAMIT project was expected to be implemented participated. Results were separated into the following categories by chapter: general characteristics of migrants; knowledge opinion and attitudes to HIV/AIDS, condoms and STI (sexually transmitted
infections); sexual behaviour of migrant workers and condom usage; access to health services, contraceptive use and reproductive health status of migrant workers; and migrants’ exposure to mass media and information and education campaign interventions.

The survey found that the sexual behaviour of migrants is very complex and varied according to occupation, ethnicity and location. Gender roles and belief systems strongly influence men’s sexual behaviours and the use of condoms. Having multiple partners, including sex workers, paired with inconsistent condom use, which is partially influenced by intoxication and belief systems, increases exposure to HIV/AIDS and STIs.

**Key Topics/Focus**
- Sexual behaviours, beliefs and other factors that contribute to HIV/AIDS vulnerability
- Demographics of surveyed migrants

**Key Responses**
- The Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Migrant Workers in Thailand (PHAMIT) Project, a project of eight NGOs and the Ministry of Public Health, needs to pursue a comprehensive and dynamic approach.
- PHAMIT’s strategies need to be multidimensional and sometimes group specific, balancing cost-effectiveness with considerations of cultural differences and political barriers.

**Key Actors/Players**
Specific to NGO partners in the PHAMIT project

**183. Reintegration Assistance for Trafficked Women and Children in Cambodia: A Review**


**Language:** English

**Countries Covered:** Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam
General Description
This is a report on the reintegration work being done with victims of trafficking in Cambodia. Cambodia is a source, destination as well as transit country in the trafficking networks in the GMS. The aim of the present research was to identify the strengths and potentials of the current reintegration services offered in Cambodia and to inform the development of national standards in reintegration practices. The report contains an overview of the available literature on global reintegration standards as well as the work done in Cambodia.

Key Topics/Issues
- Definition of reintegration
- Services provided for reintegration
- Monitoring/assessing the results of reintegration

Key Responses/Policies
- Coordination between the various agencies involved
- Promoting a common understanding of reintegration

Key Actors/Players
NGOs and governments


Language: English
Countries Covered: Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam

General Description
In the reporting period, 137 victims of trafficking were sent to Cambodia from Thailand and assisted by the government’s programme on reintegration. From 1999 to 2005, 47 victims of trafficking have been repatriated from Cambodia to Vietnam. The report provides statistics on the trafficked children before, during and after being trafficked.
Key Topics/Issues
- Profiles of trafficking victims and their families - including education and income levels
- Statistics on reintegration process in Cambodia

See #102 for a more recent report of the same project.

125. Step by Step
UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP). 2005-2007

Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam

General Description
This is a periodical published by UNIAP from 2005-2007 and edited by its China Project Office. It was founded in June 2005 and is published quarterly. The main contents include latest activities of UNIAP and relevant national and international news. The goal of the newsletter is to facilitate exchange of anti-trafficking information among national and international anti-trafficking organisations in the hope that nations, regions and even the whole world can take unified action in the fight against human trafficking and face this challenge together.

126. Thailand: The Plight of Burmese Migrant Workers

Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description
The report describes the conditions in which Burmese migrants come to Thailand and become illegal workers. Even while these workers in Thailand are vulnerable to regular and institutionalised exploitation, their condition is better than in Burma where the daily persecution
is intolerable. The Burmese migrants are illegal because of the laws in Burma and the difficulty of obtaining Burmese passports as well as because of the confusing and complex registration procedures for migrant workers in Thailand.

**Key Topics/Issues**
- Lack of overall basic labour rights for migrant workers, including legal minimum wages, working hours, safety and health of workers and their right to organise and bargain collectively
- Protection from the Thai police especially from routine harassment and extortion during document checks, in which they risk arbitrary arrest and detention
- Protection from the immigration police, especially during the deportation process
- Protection of labour activists and human rights defenders working with Burmese migrant workers

**Key Responses**
- Compliance with international conventions to which Thailand has ratified such as the ICESCR (International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), and CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- Ratify important international conventions such as the eight core ILO conventions and the UN Convention on Protection of Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families.
- Take measures to ensure migrant workers and activists are treated with due respect to their human rights and are subject to the rule of law during arrest, detention and deportation.
- Most importantly ensure that a fair Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedure is in place for those migrants who fear persecution if returned to Burma.

**Key Actors/Players**
- Governments
127. Trafficking in Women and Children from Vietnam to China: Legal Framework and Government Responses

Language: English
Countries Covered: China and Vietnam

General Description
The report provides a definition of trafficking, differences between trafficking and migration, as well as prostitution and an explanation of basic reasons for the existence of trafficking. The author describes the profile of cross-border human trafficking from Vietnam to China, including types and the main reasons behind trafficking, statistics of victims and the serious impacts on the socio-economic development and health in China and Vietnam. The legal framework is analysed within both the sending and receiving countries’ laws relating to trafficking. The author also reviews the two governments’ responses and the challenges they face.

Key Topics/Issues
- Human trafficking vs. migration and prostitution
- HIV/AIDS
- Legal framework of trafficking and anti-trafficking
- Government response

2004


Languages: English and Vietnamese
Country Covered: Vietnam
General Description
This is a legalistic study of the law and social security provisions of Vietnam pertaining to the problem of trafficking. The study of the laws, circulars and memos is quite detailed with effective sub-headings to aid the reader. It concludes that while Vietnamese law conforms in general with the international protocols that Vietnam has signed, there are gaps in the legislative framework. Overall, these gaps concern the national capacity to prevent and combat human rights violations such as trafficking.

The authors suggest that Vietnam should enter into more multilateral agreements with the countries in the Mekong region, as it has with Australia to ensure the proper prosecution of traffickers and that aid is provided to the victims of trafficking.

129. Between Worlds: Twenty Years on the Border
Barron, Sandy and Gotu Masuru (Photographer). Burmese Border Consortium, 2004. pp.120.

Language: English
Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description
The book presents and illustrates the 20-year history of the refugees who have been fleeing Burma since 1984 and the establishment of “temporary” camps along the Burma-Thai border. The photos and the accompanying narratives tell the stories of the refugees. The book pays respect to the resilience of the refugees and their coping mechanisms and outlines the way that humanitarian organisations have come to adapt to the situation over the years.

130. Broken Promises Shattered Dreams: Child Trafficking and the Lao PDR - Selected Case Studies

Language: English
Countries Covered: Lao PDR and Thailand
General Description
The Mekong River is more of a highway than a boundary and there is a flourishing informal trade relationship between Lao PDR and Thailand. Since the border between the two countries is approximately 1,100 km long, in many places informal crossings are so common that they no longer attract the attention of authorities.

This study identifies the recruitment process of trafficking in Lao PDR, by presenting eight case studies. Often quasi-legitimate employment agencies are involved, and they can simply deny coercion, and place the blame on other employers further down the chain. Recruitment in either internal or cross-border trafficking is carried out largely by those who are already familiar with the victims. Traffickers use their familiarity with the victims to build trust, making ultimately empty promises of work and money to lure victims into agreeing to leave their village.

131. A Case Study on the Migration of People in Border Areas in China
Zhang, Jie. *International Conference of Dai-Tai Nationality and Culture*, Yunnan Academy of Social Science, 2004, pp.21

Language: English
Country Covered: China (Yunnan Province)

General Description
This case study describes factors involved in voluntary labour migration and trafficking in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province. It presents rich case studies of Bai and Blang minority youth and children and their migration across the border, mostly into Thailand. The findings provide anecdotes from interviews which describe pre-departure conditions including: push and pull factors; vulnerability and lack of awareness of the dangers of traffickers and work abroad; living conditions; education levels; awareness of health issues including reproductive health and STDs/HIV/AIDS; and gender perspectives.