

CAMBODIA



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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SAFE MIGRATION, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCED JOB PLACEMENT IN CAMBODIA, LAO PDR, MYANMAR, AND THAILAND (PROMISE) - PHASE II



PROMISE supported construction training in Thailand

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BACKGROUND

Labour migration to Thailand (T) is a pathway to socio-economic empowerment and resilience for an estimated three million regular migrant workers and their families from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar (CLM). Yet only a small fraction of migrant workers receives any form of skills development training, or recognition of their qualifications. This presents a key barrier preventing the realization of the full development impact of migration. While the importance of skills development and employment for migrant workers is high on the agenda of CLM and ASEAN policies, investing in skills development for migrant workers along the migration cycle can be improved. Safe migration remains a challenge. Migrant workers - regular and irregular - commonly experience various types of abuse and discrimination during their migration journeys.

PROMISE phase I has established a solid partnership with the private sector in CLMT, and phase II continues to work with and support private recruitment agencies as well as companies/employers as they are key actors in delivering inclusive and safe migration services, skills training, and decent employment to migrant workers. The focus of phase II is on sustainably anchoring improved mechanisms and practices, such as pre- and post-arrival orientation for migrants, in-company skills development trainings, and strengthening exchange and coordination between public and private stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES

Women and men migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar in Thailand, as well as returning migrants, have enhanced decent employment and improved livelihood contributing to economic resilience and poverty reduction.

The following three outcomes shall contribute to achieving this overall objective:

Outcome 1: National and regional policies and institutional capacities related to skills development, labour migration, and ethical recruitment are more migrant-inclusive and gender-responsive, and better serve the needs of migrant workers and their employers.

Outcome 2: Women and men migrant workers have improved employability across the labour migration cycle.

Outcome 3: Women and men migrant workers are more informed and protected at all stages of migration.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Duration

Phase I: Sep 2017 - Aug 2021
Phase II: Sep 2021 - Aug 2025

Budget

Total budget/Swiss contribution:
CHF 7,650,000

Implementing Agency

International Organization for
Migration (IOM)

Other partners

- Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
- Ministry of Education
- Skills development providers
- Migrant resource centres
- Civil society organizations
- Private sector (employers and employers' associations, private recruitment agencies) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand

Imprint

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EXPECTED RESULTS

In total, approx. 450,000 migrant workers (50% women) across four countries (CLMT) will benefit from the project: 150,000 migrant workers will have access to skills development, skills recognition, and job referrals leading to better employability and livelihoods; and 300,000 migrant workers will have access to information, and increased networking and protection, enabling them to better take advantage of existing opportunities. 5,000 employers will receive information and guidance on laws, policies, good practices, and international standards related to skills development, decent employment, and safe migration. 300 employers will establish in-service training for migrants whilst receiving training on skills development and migration. 400 government officials, staff from recruiting agencies, and representatives of civil society organizations will be trained in delivering improved services to migrant workers.

APPROACH

The project is working with various stakeholders, including government, private recruiting agencies, employers, and NGOs at regional and national levels. At the regional level, it provides technical support to ASEAN in developing inclusive policy frameworks for migrant workers, in particular addressing skills development and decent employment. At the national level in CLMT, it contributes to the elaboration of evidence-based, migrant-centred and gender-responsive policies and strengthens the respective implementation related to safe labour migration, skills development, and employment for migrant workers.

PROMISE also strengthens coordination and learning in the region. Investing in the capacity development of government officials is key in promoting understanding of policies, and in providing effective services to migrant workers. The project enhances the capacity and good practices of the private sector related to safe migration, including pre-departure orientation, provision of skills development, and decent employment. The focus is also on strengthening the capacity of migrant resource centres in offering quality services, including referral services, on skills development and employment. The project provides business skills and digital and financial literacy to migrant workers in CLMT to improve livelihood options and employment.

KEY RESULTS AND INSIGHTS FROM PREVIOUS PHASES

250,000 migrant workers received support, such as safe migration training, pre-departure and post-arrival orientation, protection and assistance, also related to the COVID-19 crisis. 34,000 migrant workers across CLMT accessed skills development and employment through technical and soft skills training, job referral services, skills certifications, and recognition of prior learning. 2,200 private sector stakeholders engaged in skills development, decent work, and ethical recruitment of migrant workers in CLMT. 70 trainers received trainings on safe migration, and 73 private recruitment agencies across CLMT have enhanced their capacity in implementing ethical recruitment practices. 11 policies address safe migration and skills development for migrant workers.

Exchange between various stakeholders at national and regional levels is crucial to enhancing the coordination and learning in such a regional project. Institutional capacity development of key stakeholders requires follow-up and coaching to enhance sustainability. The private sector (employers) in Thailand plays a central role in establishing in-house training for migrant workers. It is important to improve the referral service of job centres/migrant resource centres on skills training and employment to migrant workers.

TARGET GROUPS AND PROJECT LOCATION

Women and men from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar along the migration cycle: before migration, during migration in Thailand, and when returning to CLM. Private recruitment agencies, employers, migrant resource centres, and governments in CLMT will also benefit from the project through capacity building to improve policies, practices, and management of safe migration, to strengthen the service delivery for migrants, and to provide skills development and decent employment. This regional project covers Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand.