



**IJM**  
มูลนิธิ ใจเจเอ็ม

# BANGKOK, THAILAND



## THE PROBLEM LABOUR TRAFFICKING

Located in the heart of Southeast Asia, Thailand is a source, transit and destination country for traffickers seeking higher profits by using slave labour. Labour trafficking in Thailand's fishing industry and reports of slavery in supply chains are making international headlines. Vulnerable migrant workers, primarily from Cambodia and Myanmar are trafficked into the Thai fishing and seafood industries through deception, threats and violence. Human trafficking is a lucrative business – profits top \$150 billion a year globally – and a sustainable anti-trafficking solution must involve criminal prosecution. Like other forms of slavery, labour trafficking thrives when criminal are free to prey on victims without fearing the law.



## THE FACTS

Thailand is one of the world's top exporters of seafood, with over **\$7 billion exported annually.**

Thailand's fishing industry employs more than **300,000 people.**

According to an IJM prevalence study of trafficking in the Thai fishing industry, 37.9% of fishermen working on Thai fishing boats between 2011 and 2016 had been trafficked.



IJM works to support the capacity building of Thailand public justice system to end violence against the vulnerables.



“ I have 20,000 Baht debt bondage with my own brother-in-law. He’s a net supervisor. I fear for my life as he has killed in front of me before – I don’t dare to run; he would kill my children ”

- Burmese fisherman

## How IJM Bangkok Combats Labour Trafficking

**We rescue victims who have been trafficked** and are being exploited on fishing vessels and within the seafood industry. IJM collaborates with Thai law enforcement and other governments in the region to investigate labor trafficking crimes and assist with operations to set these men free.

**We bring criminals to justice** by assisting police as they gather evidence and by supporting prosecutors as they bring charges and build cases against traffickers, recruiters and boat crews or owners involved in the exploitation.

**We restore survivors** to a place of physical and emotional safety. IJM social workers provide support during the rescue operation and create individualized care plans for each survivor so they receive medical attention, psychological counseling and long-term support in their home community--often in a neighboring country like Cambodia or Myanmar.

**We strengthen justice systems** by advocating for systemic changes that will end the impunity traffickers currently enjoy in Thailand and neighboring countries. IJM also partners with global seafood retailers to use data in assisting the government with their efforts to end slavery in the seafood industry.

### IJM BANGKOK MILESTONES

2017

**IJM BANGKOK OPENS**

2018

**IJM BEGINS CASEWORK**

IJM is partnering with the Royal Thai Government and local law enforcement to combat labour trafficking in Thailand.

2019

**FIRST ARREST**

Thailand’s Department of Special Investigation arrested an accused Cambodian trafficker and broker based in Thailand who was a key player in a network responsible for the trafficking hundreds, if not thousands, of Cambodian men into the Thai fishing industry.

**FIRST CONVICTION**

A Thai judge found a Cambodian national guilty of trafficking five Cambodian victims into forced labour in Thailand’s fishing industry. This landmark conviction represents the first IJM-supported case to be prosecuted and to result in convictions of trafficking criminals *operating on both sides* of the Thailand-Cambodia border, a major trafficking corridor into the Thai fishing industry.



**FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR**  
ANDREW WASUWONGSE

As Field Office Director of IJM Bangkok, Andrew leads a team of Thai lawyers, social workers, field staff, and other professionals to rescue victims and support the Thai government in ending forced labor slavery in the Thai fishing industry.