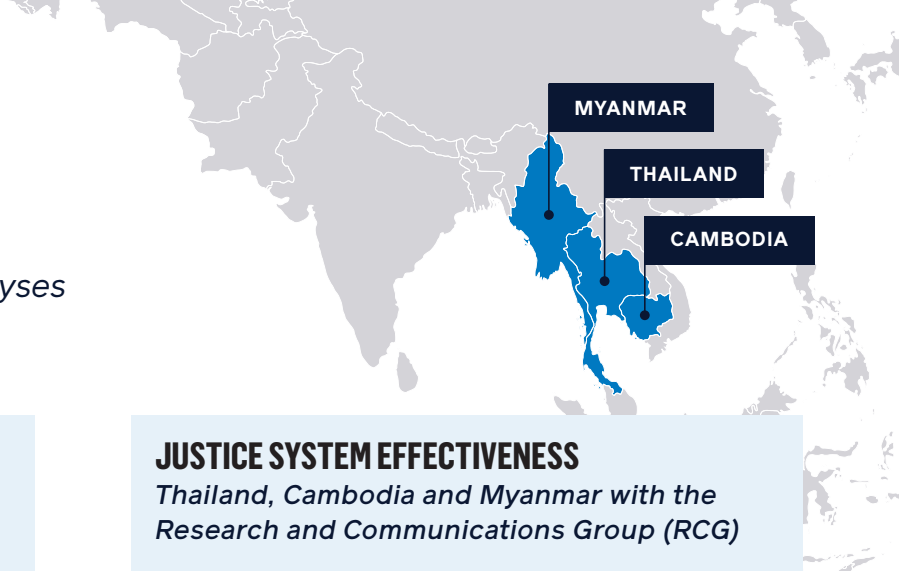


PARTNERING TO END FORCED LABOR

International Justice Mission research analyses funded by the Walmart Foundation



MIGRANT WORKER EXPERIENCES

Thailand and Cambodia with the National Opinion Research Center (NORC)

RESEARCH PURPOSE

Understand source- and destination-country trafficking risks and patterns of exploitation among migrant workers.

METHODOLOGY

- Interviewed **1,204 migrant workers returned to home in Cambodia**. *Random Sampling Approach with multi steps to select respondents.*
- Interviewed **1,284 migrant workers from Cambodia and Myanmar working in Thailand**. *Respondent-driven sampling was applied.*

KEY FINDINGS

- Of migrant workers from Cambodia, **40% experienced forced labor at least once** during their work in destination countries.
- During employment in Thailand, **17% of Cambodian and 18% of Burmese workers experienced forced labor**.
- Dominant recruitment channels are social and family networks.
- Migrant workers expected to pay travel costs and employment fees, often becoming indebted as employers loan money in advance.
- In Cambodia, loans for migrant workers more than double the typical employment fees paid by non-migrants (\$890 compared to \$400).
- Recruiters and employers often lend money to workers which could further complicate workers' vulnerability.

JUSTICE SYSTEM EFFECTIVENESS

Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar with the Research and Communications Group (RCG)

RESEARCH PURPOSE

Assess response and coordination of justice systems in Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar on cross-border forced labor and human trafficking.

METHODOLOGY

- **107 interviews with key stakeholders** from government and nongovernmental organizations.
- **Focus group discussions** with Cambodian and Burmese migrant workers in Thailand and returnees to Cambodia.

KEY FINDINGS

Regional

- Legal migration pathways are not designed to protect migrant workers from abuse.
- Cross-border criminal justice cooperation is occurring among senior officials but not at an operational level.

Cambodia

- Data collection and information sharing lacking across the system.
- Police capacity to investigate can be inadequate for producing case evidence and establishing case facts at trial.
- The court system remains unattractive for remediation, so victims continue to settle cases for informal payments.

Thailand

- Migrant workers often do not understand their rights, face language barriers and discrimination, and are not able to leave work due to debts.
- Victims are often held in shelters with movement restrictions or no ability to leave.
- Victims choose to withdraw their complaints due to lengthy prosecution process.



Walmart  org

RECOMMENDED STAKEHOLDER ACTIONS

International Justice Mission partnered with two acclaimed research entities to conduct five in-depth evaluations of forced labor in the following industries across Southeast Asia: construction, manufacturing, agriculture, fishing, factory labor, service roles and others.

IJM recommends the following next steps for the governments of Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar and corporations doing business with and within these countries. IJM supports partnership between stakeholders to effect systemic change, resulting in sustainability and risk mitigation.



GOVERNMENTS

- Remove barriers to participation in Thai and Cambodian legal processes.
- Place legal obligations on recruiters and employers to assure workers' safety and wellbeing.
- Improve the bilateral agreements between Thailand and neighboring countries to make migrant workers safer.
- Intensify efforts to officially identify more forced labor and labor trafficking cases



BUSINESSES

- Hold recruitment systems accountable.
- Provide remedies throughout the worker's journey from recruitment, employment, and post-employment.
- Influence governments to strengthen and enforce relevant laws and regulations.
- Include worker's voice and experience in designing programs to protect workers.

View the full research studies report, analysis and presentation.
The findings, conclusions, and recommendations in the report are those of IJM alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Walmart Foundation.



IJM AND PARTNERS

IJM has been a trusted partner in the Asia Pacific region since 2000, where increasing the capacity of justice systems' responses to human trafficking and forced labor has led to dramatic reductions in prevalence. Applying our systems approach to address these crimes in global supply chains and migration corridors, IJM and local partners work closely with governments through coordinated Program Offices in Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia to increase protection for workers in poverty from forced labor and labor trafficking across the region.

CONTACT

ANDREY SAWCHENKO
Regional Vice President
APAC Forced Labor Programs
asawchenko@ijm.org

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION is a global organization that protects people in poverty from violence. IJM works to rescue and restore victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and help strengthen public justice systems.

All text and images © 2023 International Justice Mission.

