

Project Information

- **Country:** Myanmar
- **Project Name:** Project on Capacity Improvement of Recovery and Reintegration Assistance for Trafficked Persons (Technical Cooperation)
- **Cooperation Period:** 2012 - 2015
- **Implementing Organization:** Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons

- **Country:** Thailand
- **Project Name:** Project on Strengthening of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) for Protection of Trafficked Persons in Thailand (Technical Cooperation)
- **Cooperation Period:** 2009 - 2014
- **Implementing Organization:** Ministry of Social Development and Human Security



- **Country:** Viet Nam
- **Project Name:** Project for the Establishment of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Hotline in Viet Nam (Technical Cooperation)
- **Cooperation Period:** 2012 - 2015
- **Implementing Organization:** Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs

1. Background

The number of trafficked persons has been on the increase amidst regional economic integration and globalization processes. The issues concerned with trafficking in persons (TIP) are thus getting increasingly serious in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, for which speedy and appropriate measures are vitally important.

Victims of trafficking are women, men, girls and boys. However, women and girls are more vulnerable to trafficking and strong stigma is attached for those who are sexually exploited. Many trafficked women not only suffer while they are trafficked but can be re-victimized even while receiving assistance or while trying to reintegrate to the society because of the stigma.

What is trafficking in persons?

Trafficking in persons is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, sexual exploitation, forced labor, servitude and the removal of organs. Thus, men, women, boys and girls can be trafficked for various purposes. It is difficult to assess the real scope of human trafficking because the crimes take place underground, however, the ILO estimates that 20.9 million people are victims of forced labor (including victims of trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation) globally at any given time over the 2002 - 2012 period, and the Asia-Pacific region accounts for 56% of the global total¹.

¹ ILO (2012) "ILO Global Estimate of Forced Labour"

JICA has been working on TIP issues since 2005 through conferences and workshops, and has been implementing Technical Cooperation Projects in Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Thailand is a source, destination and transit country of TIP. Thai people are trafficked to Japan, the Middle East, Europe and others. As a destination country, people from the neighboring countries such as Laos and Myanmar are being trafficked to Thailand. As a transit country, people pass through Thailand on the way to their destination country. On the other hand, Myanmar and Viet Nam are primarily source countries of TIP.

Towards the integration of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, cross-border movement of people will be accelerated and therefore it is necessary to develop network and cooperation mechanism on anti-TIP within the region and beyond.

2. International Framework for Combating Trafficking in Persons

Anti-TIP measures require comprehensive approach. The approach consists of 4 Ps: (1) Prevention of trafficking, (2) Protection, recovery and reintegration of trafficked persons, (3) Prosecution of traffickers, and (4) Policy and cooperation (development and implementation of national, bilateral, and regional plans, policies, and guidelines). JICA's projects in Thailand, Myanmar and Viet Nam focus mainly on "protection, recovery and reintegration of trafficked persons" and "prevention of trafficking."

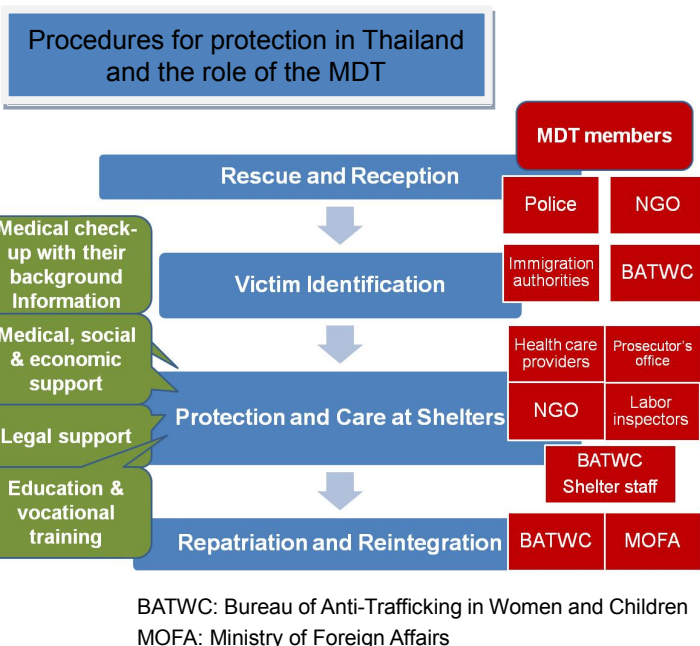
3. JICA's Projects and Activities on Anti-Trafficking in Persons

Thailand	P roject on Strengthening of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) for Protection of Trafficked Persons in Thailand
<p>In order to protect trafficked persons effectively and efficiently, the Thai government introduced Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach in which various agencies and experts from multiple disciplines such as the police, prosecutors, lawyers and social workers come together to tackle the issue. The project aims to strengthen the function of MDTs and provide effective protection to trafficked persons.</p> <p>Thailand is a destination country and a source country of trafficking in persons. It means that both foreign nationals trafficked to Thailand and Thai victims who returned to Thailand need protection and further assistance for effective social reintegration.</p> <p>To enable MDT members to provide legal, medical, mental and economical support in order for the victims to establish new lives, the project has conducted training sessions on case management, counseling skills and gender mainstreaming. As a result, MDT members learned to provide services taking victim-centered approach, which contributes in establishing trust with trafficked persons and providing services based on their needs.</p>	

Myanmar	P roject on Capacity Improvement of Recovery and Reintegration Assistance for Trafficked Persons
<p>In Myanmar, which shares national borders with five countries, the number of identified trafficked persons has significantly increased. The predominant destination countries are China and Thailand. People are trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, forced marriage and forced labor. Although assistance is provided from the government agencies to repatriate trafficking victims, the capacity of the relevant agencies to protect those victims is not adequate and there is a lack of coordination among the agencies as well. In such a situation, the project aims to strengthen the capacity of the relevant organizations and improve protection support and services for trafficked persons.</p>	



Participants in a training program in Myanmar



Viet Nam	P roject for the Establishment of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Hotline in Viet Nam
<p>In Viet Nam, due to the economic disparity among countries in the Asian region, cross-border migration for work and marriage has accelerated. At the same time, the number of trafficked persons who were deceived by brokers or acquaintances for job opportunities abroad has increased. In order to prevent becoming trafficked victims, awareness raising on TIP and information regarding safe migration are especially essential. The project is implemented to establish an "anti-trafficking in persons" hotline on preventing TIP and supporting returned and/ or high risk trafficked persons, utilizing the present "Child-help Line" set up by the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs in 2004.</p>	

It is important to understand that women and children, both girls and boys, are especially vulnerable to trafficking in persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. Trafficked women may require different support as they may be trafficked for brokered marriage and sexual exploitation.