

PROJECT OUTLINE

Project title	Project on Strengthening MDT for Protection of Trafficked Persons in Thailand
Project sites	Bangkok and the vicinity, Chiang Rai, Phayao (Thailand)
Project duration	From 17 March, 2009 to 16 March, 2014 (Five years)
Implementing agency	Bureau of Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children (BATWC), Department of Social Development and Welfare (DSDW), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, The Kingdom of Thailand
Background	<p>Due to the rapid economic growth and advancement in the information flow and network, human trafficking has been on increase since 1980s. Thailand is an origin, destination and transit country of human trafficking. As an origin country, Thai people are trafficked to Japan, Middle-East, USA, Europe and others. As a destination country, people from the neighboring countries such as Laos and Cambodia are being trafficked to Thailand. As a transit country, people pass through Thailand on the way to their destination country. This makes the human trafficking situation extremely complicated and complexed. Thai Government thus recognizes human trafficking as a serious issue to be tackled with as well as one of the main national agendas.</p> <p>In order to tackle on the issue of human trafficking comprehensively, Thai Government has introduced The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2008 in which the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) has been designated as the main agency responsible for implementing anti-trafficking activities. In addition, the Ministry acts as the secretariat for the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Committee and coordinates among various government and non-government agencies for activities against human trafficking and providing support to trafficked persons.</p> <p>In order to protect trafficked persons effectively and efficiently, Thai Government has introduced Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach in which various experts from multi disciplines come together to solve a complexed issue. MSDHS act as the coordinator for MDTs. However, there are some challenges to the implementation of MDTs which affect effective protection of trafficked persons. Under such circumstances, Thai government proposed a technical cooperation to Japanese Government. After a series of discussion, a technical cooperation project had begun to strengthen the functions of MDTs.</p>
Project content	<p><u>Overall Goal:</u></p> <p>Thai Government applies the successful MDT approaches¹ to other provinces within Thailand.</p> <p><u>Project Purpose:</u></p>

¹ “MDT approaches” means a collaborative method taken by the group of professionals from diverse disciplines, including those in governments and NGOs, who come together to provide comprehensive assessments and consultations in trafficking cases. The group is formed to achieve the same objectives through particularly planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, for combating trafficked persons in Thailand at the Central and Provincial levels.

	<p>Thai Government provides effective protection to trafficked persons through the operations of Central² and Provincial MDTs.</p> <p><u>Outputs:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functions (Coordination, Management, Operation, as well as capacity development) of central MDT are strengthened for protection of trafficked persons. 2. Functions (Coordination, Management, Operation, as well as capacity development) of provincial MDTs in selected provinces are strengthened for protection of trafficked persons 3. Lessons learned on the MDT approaches for protection of trafficked persons are shared among selected countries. <p><u>Input:</u></p> <p>(Japanese side)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two long-term experts (Chief Advisor, Anti-trafficking in person/Project Coordinator) • Short-term experts • Local expenses <p>(Thai side)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counterpart personnel • Office space • Local expenses
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² “Central” refers to central government authority. The Central MDT undertakes the “protection” of trafficked persons primarily in Bangkok Metropolitan area and collaborates with provincial MDTs.