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Ensuring Decent Work and Reducing Vulnerabilities for Women and Children in the Context of Labour Migration in Southeast Asia (PROTECT)

Project Launch and Consultation Workshop Thailand | 25 March 2024 Concept Note

1. Background and introduction

Ensuring Decent Work and Reducing Vulnerabilities for Women and Children in the Context of Labour Migration in Southeast Asia (PROTECT, Protection of the Rights of Women and Children in Labour Migration) is a three-year project (2024-2026) implemented by the ILO, UN Women, UNICEF and UNODC.

The PROTECT project will promote decent work, while reducing the vulnerabilities of women and children in the context of labour migration, in particular through preventing and responding to violence against women and children, human trafficking and migrant smuggling. It will do this through addressing legal, policy and institutional gaps and barriers faced by women migrant workers and children in the context of labour migration, including in the protection of fundamental principles and rights at work, as well as enhance their access to safe, orderly, and regular migration by addressing violence, exploitation, forced labour and trafficking. To ensure that laws and policies can be effectively implemented, the project will enhance national and regional capacities and mechanisms for policy implementation, service provision and prevention efforts, while empowering concerned women migrant workers and children to mitigate the risks of abuse and exploitation and access services.

Project Objectives

The Overall objective of the PROTECT project is **to protect the rights of women migrant workers and migrant children in Southeast Asia.**

Specific objective 1: To strengthen national legislation, policies and regional frameworks for the protection of women migrant workers, children and other vulnerable groups in line with international standards;

Specific objective 2: To improve national and regional prevention and protection mechanisms to reduce rights' violations against migrant women, children, and other vulnerable groups, including victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants; and

Specific objective 3: To increase the access of at-risk groups, women migrant workers and children to information, social and legal services, counselling, and association to prevent abuse, exploitation, harassment, violence, and trafficking in human beings.



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The priority countries covered by the project are Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand and activities will take place in these four countries, at varying levels (depending on the detailed workplan and allocation of funds), including the participating agencies priorities. The project is designed to address the needs of women migrants, children and at-risk groups in the context of labour migration, especially in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. Among them are women migrant workers, particularly those in low wage occupations who are at greater risk of abuse, forced labour and other forms of exploitation, violence and harassment, and trafficking in human beings; children of migrant workers in destination countries, and children in child labour, children at risk of immigration detention, stateless children, unaccompanied and separated children; and at-risk populations to smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

A one-day Consultative Dialogue Workshop will be held in Bangkok as an opportunity to introduce the project to key stakeholders, and to identify the specific areas of focus for the project at the country level to ensure that the project aligns with country priorities and national frameworks.

2. Objectives

The Consultative Dialogue aims to share information, identify priority interventions, validate plans, and explore future cooperation among key stakeholders and social partners in Thailand (see Agenda). More specifically, the meeting will provide an opportunity to:

- a. identify or confirm the priority areas for legislative and policy focus under Objectives 1, 2 and 3 at country level;
- b. discuss approaches to building capacity of partners to implement policies and services for both women and children;
- c. discuss approaches to delivering of support services, including through Migrant Resource Centres (including logistics), and the linkages to women migrants, children, violence and human trafficking;
- d. identify approaches to increasing access to coordinated services for women migrants and persons who experience violence, human trafficking and migrant smuggling in countries of destination and return, considering health, social welfare, policing, and justice providers;
- e. identify approaches to support women migrant workers and other at risk groups to be safer and less vulnerable to violence and trafficking through networking, community-based and women led organizations, and labour unions;
- f. agree country specific priority interventions and identify key next steps.

3. Logistics

Dates: 25 March 2024

Venue: Ballroom, 12th floor, VIE Hotel Bangkok

Working language: English with Thai translation

4. Participants

- a) Governments agencies;
- b) Employers organisations;
- c) Workers organisations;
- d) Civil Society organisations focusing on women migrants, children's rights, trafficking and violence against women migrant workers



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e) Resource persons: ILO, UNW, UNICEF, UNODC;

f) EU



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TENTATIVE AGENDA

Ensuring Decent Work and Reducing Vulnerabilities for Women and Children in the Context of Labour Migration in Southeast Asia (PROTECT)

Project Launch and Consultation Workshop

25 March 2024

Ballroom, 12th floor, VIE Hotel Bangkok, MGallery Hotel Collection

Time	Agenda	Remarks
08.30-09.00	Registration	
09.00-09.15	Introduction - Agenda - Objectives of the consultative sessions	MC: Ms Karnmanee Thanesvorakul, ILO
09.15-09.45	Presentation (30 min): Introduction of the project 'Ensuring Decent Work and Reducing Vulnerabilities for Women and Children in the Context of Labour Migration in Southeast Asia (PROTECT)'	Presenters: ILO, UN Women, UNODC, UNICEF
09.45-10.45	Group discussion (60 min) <u>Session 1:</u> Strengthening national legislation, policies, and regional frameworks for the protection of women migrant workers, children and other vulnerable groups	Moderator: Ms Nansiri Iamsuk, Ms Naruedee J., UN Women
10.45-11.00	Coffee break	
11.00-12.00	Group discussions (60 min) <u>Session 2:</u> Improving national and regional prevention and protection mechanisms to reduce rights' violations against migrant women, children, and other vulnerable groups, including victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants	Moderator: Ms Suthida Sungkhapunthu, UNODC
12.00-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-14.30	Group discussion (60 min) <u>Session 3:</u> Increasing the access of at-risk groups, women migrant workers and children to information, social and legal services, counselling, and association to prevent abuse, exploitation, harassment, violence, and trafficking in human beings	Moderator: Ms Parinya Boonridrerthaikul, UNICEF
14.30-15.00	Coffee break	
15.00-15.15	Launch of the project	H.E. Mr David Daly Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand Mr Phairoj Chotikasatien



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Time	Agenda	Remarks
		Permanent Secretary Ministry of Labour Ms Gita Sabharwal UN Resident Coordinator
15.15-15.30	Photo session	VIP: - H.E. Mr David Daly, Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand - Mr Phairoj Chotikasatien, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour - Ms Gita Sabharwal, UN Resident Coordinator - Ms Xiaoyan Qian, Director, ILO Country office for Thailand, Cambodia, and Lao People's Democratic Republic - Ms Sarah Knibbs, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific - Ms Kyungsun Kim, UNICEF Representative to Thailand - Mr Benedikt Hoffman, Deputy Regional Representative, UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
15.30-16.00	Wrap up (30 min): Summary of key suggestions from consultative discussion Q&A	Moderators
16.00-16.30	Closing	- Ms Xiaoyan Qian, Director, ILO Country office for Thailand, Cambodia, and Lao People's Democratic Republic - Ms Sarah Knibbs, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific - Ms Kyungsun Kim, UNICEF Representative to Thailand - Mr Benedikt Hoffman, Deputy Regional Representative, UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific