

Addressing Child Labour and Promoting Better Working Conditions in Thai Shrimp and Seafood Industry



AT A GLANCE

→ Partners

Ministry of Labour (Department of Labour Protection and Welfare), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (Department of Fisheries), Thai Frozen Foods Association, Employers' Confederation of Thailand, Trade Unions, Farmers' Associations and civil society

→ Donors

The United States Department of Labor

→ Duration

2010-2014

→ Target beneficiaries

Shrimp and seafood industry, Thai and migrant communities living in agriculture, shrimp and seafood production areas

→ Geographical focus

Thailand: Priority provinces - Samut Sakhon, Surat Thani and Songkhla



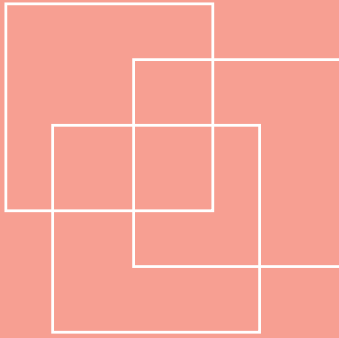
PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Addressing labour welfare generally and key labour issues such as child labour, forced labour and migrant welfare in shrimp and seafood processing industry has been identified by the Royal Government of Thailand and the ILO as an area requiring attention. The industry plays an important role in the country's economic development, being among the three largest sources of national export revenue. It also creates a significant number of jobs for Thai citizens and migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar.

The Project aims to create a shrimp and seafood processing industry that is free of child labour and offers decent working conditions and opportunities to all workers, including migrant workers who contribute to the economic development of the industry and the country. Special attention is given to the situation of children and adolescents who are at risk of entering or are involved in hazardous child labour. In particular the project aims to:

- Strengthen national policy and implementation frameworks to protect the rights of Thai, migrant and stateless children in relation to labour, education, employment and social protection.
- Ensure enterprises throughout the shrimp and seafood processing industry supply chain comply with national labour laws and international labour standards, in particular those relating to child labour and forced labour, through the establishment of the Good Labour Practices (GLP) programme.
- Provide access to education, social protection and livelihood services to migrant and Thai children and their families in the targeted shrimp and seafood industry areas.





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MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Support the implementation of the National Policy and Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2009-2014), with particular focus on the work areas that can be considered hazardous for children in the shrimp and seafood sector supply chains.
- Support the government in enforcing and implementing labour protection policies through improved labour inspection programmes and child labour monitoring systems.
- Assist with developing and managing knowledge about the prevalence of child labour particularly in the shrimp and seafood processing industry.
- Develop a Good Labour Practice (GLP) programme to promote decent work and better industry performance throughout the entire industry supply chain.
- Help to formalize small-scale and household level shrimp processing units.
- Engage in advocacy and campaigning on the prevention of child labour and forced labour and the promotion of decent working conditions, including occupational health and safety, through the involvement of trade unions, migrant workers' associations and young workers.
- Promote access to quality education, social protection, community support and legal services for Thai and migrant children and their families, in line with Education for All and social protection floor policies.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

Prevention and elimination of child labour

- National policies and implementation frameworks on child labour strengthened in line with ILO Conventions on Minimum Age, 1973 (No. 138) and Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182), with particular attention to hazardous child labour.
- Knowledge on child labour and working conditions in the shrimp and seafood processing industry supply chains developed through baseline surveys and industry mapping.
- Child labour monitoring system designed, piloted and institutionalized in target provinces.
- Measures for the protection and well-being of young workers (aged 15-17) enhanced.
- 10,500 vulnerable migrant and Thai children and their families in targeted areas will have improved access to quality education, livelihood and social protection services.

A safer and more productive industry

- Existing labour protection systems to address child labour, forced labour and worker welfare strengthened.
- National labour inspection capacities enhanced to promote compliance with labour laws.
- A Good Labour Practices (GLP) programme developed to improve working conditions and competitiveness.
- A model enterprise concept developed and formal registration of enterprises increased.
- Principles of International Labour Standards promoted.

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