Empowering Civil Society Organizations for the Protection of Migrant Children (ECPMC) Project

An Initiative Supporting Registration of Migrant Children in Thailand

25 March 2019
Enabling Laws and Support to CRVS Regional Action Framework

Thailand is a state party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC)
“...every child shall be registered immediately after birth and have the right...to acquire a nationality”

Amendment No. 2, B.E. 2551 (Civil Registration Act of 2008)
“Every child born in Thailand must be registered at birth and get birth certificate”

Directly Supports the CRVS Regional Action Framework

Goal 1: Universal civil registration of births, deaths and other vital events;

Goal 2: All individuals are provided with legal documentation of civil registration of Births...to claim identity, civil status and ensuing rights;
ECPMC Overall Objective

Thai CSOs ensure that migrant children’s rights to legal identity, and access to equitable development are realised.

Specific Objectives

- Objective 1: Thai CSOs equipped as effective advocates
- Objective 2: CBOs capacity strengthened through CSOs
- Objective 3: CBOs become the voice of the community for migrants rights
CITIZEN’S VOICE IN ACTION

**AIM:** Increase dialogue between ordinary citizens and organisations that provide services to the public.
Achievement

- 13 CSOs from MWG
- 10 CBOs
- 5 birth registration offices
- 504 Birth Registration Certificate Cases
- 96 communities; 51,000 population
- 43 Local Authorities
- Context specific BCC / IEC materials

ECPMC Project

This project is funded by the European Union
Key Activities
Trainers from WVUK teach participants the different steps and phases of the CVE Methodology. In attendance are representatives from IOM, Suwanimit, ADRA, CPPCR, Mae Tao Clinic, MAP, FED, and DISAC-SCF.
Intensified community awareness raising on BR and other migrant rights during the International Migrants Day last December 17, 2018. The activity was attended by representatives of the Tak Immigration Office, partner CSOs (FED, IOM, Mae Tao Clinic, Light Of Generation, and Suwanimit Foundation), and CBOs.
30 June 2017

Urgent Statement

Government urged to review root causes of the management of migrant workers to restore confidence in the management of migrant workers and sustainable economic development.

The cabinet has endorsed the Royal Decree on the Management of Migrant Employment as proposed by the Ministry of Labour. It is aimed to serve the MoL’s goals, in particular to stem the violations of basic labour rights or the act of human trafficking against migrants. The law shall come into force on 23 June 2017.

After it has been effective, Migrant Working Group (MWG) has been informed of issues by both employees and employers regarding the enforcement of the law. The Royal Decree has led to additional measures on top of the previous laws including the Foreign Workers Act BE 2551 (2008) and the Royal Decree on the Placement of Foreign Workers with Employers in Thailand BE 2559 (2016). The new law imposes hefty penalties on both the employers and the employees who are found to have employed migrant workers and violated the law. It has brought about massive confusion among employees, employers and local officials involved with the employment.

MWG has found some employers have started to lay off their existing migrant employees, an act that may result in deportations of a large number of

Position Paper from MWG. The documents urges the review of the implementation of the Foreign Worker Management Royal Decree B.E. 2560 (2017) which has allegedly affected the status of thousands of migrant workers in Thailand.
Mr Surapong Kongchantuk, Director, Thai PBS Policy on the Promotion of Democracy and Local Community Development, conducts birth registration seminar-orientation to 20 CSO-members of the MWG. It is one among many planned initiatives by the group to strengthen private-public partnership in advocating BR.
On Birth Registration Network in Maesot. WVFT-ECPMC Project, Legal Clinic of IOM, ADRA, Mae Tao Clinic, and other member CSOs, meet monthly to identify birth registration-related issues affecting migrant children and discuss this with local authorities for possible solutions.
Issuance of Memorandum by the Provincial Governors of Ranong and Chumphon for the creation of BR Committees of each province.
Monthly Migrant Rights Promotion Working Group Meeting in Maesot provides a platform for discussion of critical issues affecting migrant communities and planning venue for participation in key national level advocacy events such as the Migrant Worker’s Day.
Development of Various BR-related IEC Materials. These are advocacy materials developed in collaboration with MWG-member CSOs. This includes 29,500 pcs. BR Guide booklet / brochure, 200 pcs. BR Process billboard-size vinyl, and 1,000 pcs. BR Guide posters. Major project activities are captured in press releases distributed to different media outlets (print, broadcast, and social media). An audio-visual production (AVP) is also developed to showcase promising gains of the project and advocate for stronger support from national level stakeholders.
Local CSOs through the support of WVFT and FRY, initiated 8 meetings with local authorities and project partners to discuss and implement 18 collaborative actions drawn to address issues affecting migrant children and the migrant population across project sites.
Supported local authorities in expanding their reach to migrant population through the development of context-specific behavioral change communication (BCC) materials / IEC materials and use of tri-media e.g. radio broadcast to reach migrants in remote areas (School-on-the-Air Session).
Intensified community awareness raising by CBOs in communities as part of the CVE Approach resulted to migrant parents registering children at the District Birth Registration Offices across project sites.
CBOs raise awareness in migrant communities about BR and legal identity rights in relation to social services such as health and education. In Ranong, CBOs distribute BR posters and streamer-type BR Guideline vinyl to educational institutions and communities. BR posters and brochures both in Thai and Myanmar versions have been distributed to community members in Chumphon and Maesot (Tak Province).
Challenges

Migrant Family are not aware of:
- Children’s Legal Documents, Delivery Certificate, BR Certificate, ANC Book of Record and others documents
- Children’s Education able to increase their better of living in future
- Thailand’s law that every child need to have a basic of education (Gov’t provided 12-15 Years for free)
- Basic Rights beyond BR

Local Authorities:
- Some BR Registrar requires significant number of supporting documents
- Negative perception about Migrant Workers
Challenges

Others

- Volunteers are unpaid and the project needs to wait for their free time
- Language Barriers – on the BR Certificate
- Irregular Migrant are still hesitant to contact LAs
“Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness; our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.”

WORLD VISION