

# CHAPTER 18 : HUMAN TRAFFICKING

PART V : THAI ISSUES



# INTRODUCTION

Thailand is a **source**, **transit** and **destination** country for human trafficking.

Human trafficking means the trade of humans, most commonly for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others



# SOURCE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- People who are at risk of being trafficked.

Thai  
Nationals

Migrants

Ethnic groups  
and stateless  
people



# SOURCE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Many Thais are lured by human trafficking agencies.
- Many of them are trafficked to many countries around the world for both sexual and labor exploitation.



## VICTIMS

1. For young women
2. For most young men
3. For children



## ENSLAVED PURPOSES

A) low-skilled workers in garment industry, seafood industry, construction sites.

B) Forced child labors, domestic servitude, beggars, and other illegal works

C) Sex industry prostitutes



# THAILAND AS TRANSIT AND DESTINATION

- Thailand is a transit country for victims from China, North Korea, Burma, Pakistan to the third countries around the world.
- Most trafficking victims are migrants from neighboring countries and also from Fiji and Uzbekistan.
- They are often fleeing from the condition of poverty or military repression such as Myanmar migrants.
- They are employed in maritime fishing, seafood processing, low-end garment production and domestic work.
- Some children are beggars and flower sellers and services in urban areas. Also, child prostitution is a remaining a problem.



# HOW THEY BECOME THE VICTIMS

- Organizing networks for trafficking with collaboration with employers, or law enforcement officials
- Being lured by labor recruiting agencies and forced to work involuntarily, or engaging in sexual exploitation because of high debt owed to the agencies
- Being forced, coerced, defrauded into the labor and commercial sexual exploitation, they are often fleeing from the condition of poverty.



# INTERNAL TRAFFICKING

- Minorities from the Northern Hill Tribes have no legal status and They came for commercial sexual exploitation, and labor trafficking.
- **Sex tourism** remains a problems, no law in specific but the criminal code, law on prostitution and laws combatting human trafficking in person. They are children from poor family which some parents forced their own children to be prostitutions. Thai law imposes heavy penalties for those who use children under 18 for the purpose of prostitution.
- **Child labor** is still present in agricultural, garment industry, seafood processing, fishing industry, and other informal industry.



# CAUSES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Statelessness
- Poverty
- Lack of education
- Awareness and employment
- Dysfunctional families



# The cost of human trafficking

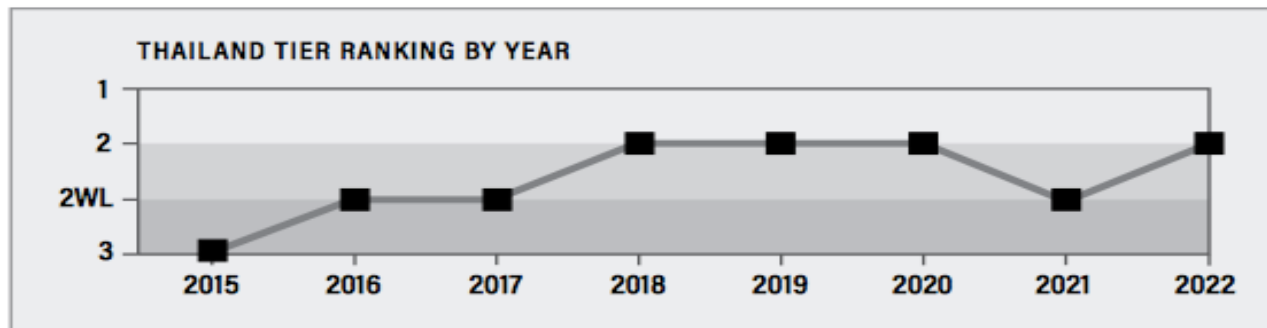
Every year, human traffickers make  
profit from the trade

**\$150bn**



Source: UN Office on Drugs and Crime, International Labour Organization  
Icons: Kid A - The Noun Project






On July 2022, US trafficking in person report placed Thailand in TIER 2, upgrading from TIER 2 watch list in 2021.

# TIP REPORT 2022 – TIER 2 MEANING

The Government does not fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to meet those standards and:

- The number of trafficking victims is very significantly increasing;
  - There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons such as investigation or assistance to victims.
  - The determination and commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year is low.
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# PROBLEMS HINDERING THAI GOV.'S EFFORTS

## Local police corruption

- Biases
- Lack of monitoring systems
- Lack of incentives
- Court's lack of human rights-based approach



## National Anti-Human Trafficking Day 5 June 2021

“ Team Thailand is committed to advance and overcome crisis and to work in an integrated manner in order to completely eradicate trafficking in persons ”



# THAILAND'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN KEY AREAS



The Royal Thai Government remains resolute to advancing their efforts in prevention and suppression of human trafficking to safeguard **human dignity** in line with the **human rights** and **humanitarian principles** which Thailand has long cherished and upheld.

Despite the widespread of COVID-19 pandemic, The achievements areas are:

- Prosecution
- Prevention
- Protection



# PROSECUTION (COURSE OF ACTION)

Efficacy has increased, with a decreasing trend in the length of time spent for the completion of prosecution process. More than 90 percent of the submitted cases were adjudicated by the Court within one year while more than 67 percent of offenders were handed down severe sentences, i.e. **imprisonment of 5 years or more**. Complicit officials were also punished and online human trafficking, a rising form of trafficking during the pandemic, was cracked down;

**Thailand's Anti-  
Human trafficking actions**



# PROTECTION

- Increasing effort to **identify and protect victims through screening checkpoints** at the airport and border crossing.
- Supporting victims with regional **shelters and services** where they can get counselling, legal assistance, and medical care.
- Anti-trafficking projects to encourage them to participate in investigation and prosecution of their traffickers. But they do not do so because of
  - High legal cost
  - Language barrier
  - Fear of retribution by traffickers
  - Financial needs
  - Distrust Thai officials




# PREVENTION

Registering them in order to receive **protection and welfares in accordance with relevant laws** and regulations; thus minimizing their risks of falling prey to human traffickers.

Collaborating with international ORG. and NGO collaboration with Thai Gov. to raise awareness on this problems and **educate them on labor rights and human trafficking**

Holding training programs regularly through various channels to enhance the **efficiency of law enforcement officers** and promote awareness among the vulnerable groups about risks of human trafficking and possible exploitation in different forms.



# PREVENTION

Working with Myanmar government **to open more Government office** in Thailand to help reduce some undocumented workers to return home and making them less risks for trafficking

Having the government's **national verification** and granting an amnesty in Thailand and collecting funds from migrant workers undergoing nationality verification

Working with NGO and international agencies and foreign governments to combat human trafficking **and having MOU signed among Asian countries**



# YOUR OPINION

- What are the moral issues in relation to this?
- Explain with one scenario, how should we deal with this kind of problem?

