IOM THAILAND

MULTI-SECTORAL ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS 2023

SAMUT SAKHON FACTSHEET

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2023

IOM UN MIGRATION | GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

From the People of Japan

Funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid

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Publisher: IOM Thailand

18th Floor, Rajanakarn Building, 3 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120 Thailand

Tel: (+66) 2-343-9300

Email: DTMThailand@iom.int

Website: https://dtm.iom.int/thailand

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INTRODUCTION

Overview of the Multi-Sectoral Assessment of Needs

This factsheet aims to provide a snapshot of multi-sectoral conditions, needs, and challenges among Myanmar migrants in Samut Sakhon province as captured between September and October 2023 by IOM Thailand's multi-sectoral assessment of needs. The purpose of this assessment is to provide insights regarding the severity of needs among migrant populations, identify vulnerable population groups and geographic areas with the most acute needs, inform assistance planning and relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets, and provide sectoral and inter-sectoral baselines for future assessments.

Methodology

The tool was developed by IOM's Migration Data and Research Unit (MDRU) in collaboration with various sectoral IOM units specialized in labour, health, protection topics, among others. The survey is conducted at household level, but also includes questions for which the respondent had to answer on behalf of every member of their household (for example, the ages of all members of the household). IOM surveyed a representative sample randomly selected within the population of interest, which included Myanmar migrants in Samut Sakhon. IOM sought an equal balance between female and male respondents. Answers from 634 respondents were analysed. Counting all respondents and their household members, 1,583 individuals are represented by this assessment. Surveys were also conducted previously in Bangkok, Nonthaburi, and Pathum Thani provinces.

Due to the high number of indicators of interest, the survey was split into two tools: the first focusing on questions about multi-sectoral conditions and the second on access to services. Respondents were interviewed using either one of these tools, never both. Some questions, however, particularly those regarding demographics and migration history, were covered in both tools to understand the basic profiles of all participating respondents and their households. As a result, the sample size for data analysis varies between indicators. Questions which appeared only in one of the tools are representative at a 90 per cent confidence interval with a 5 per cent margin of error. Questions which were covered in both tools have a 95 per cent confidence interval with a 5 per cent margin of error.

Primary data collection period

Data was collected from 30 September to 23 October 2023.

Limitations

Certain indicators may be under-reported or over-reported, due to the subjectivity and perceptions of respondents (especially "social desirability bias"— the documented tendency of people to provide what they perceive to be the "right" answers to certain questions). These biases should be taken into consideration when interpreting findings. In addition, the findings are representative for the assessed provinces, but cannot be extrapolated to other regions of Thailand. Some questions were only asked to a subset of respondents who answered affirmatively to preceding questions. The analysis on subsets of respondents should only be considered as indicative, as the sample size of the subsets does not meet the threshold required to be statistically significant. Also, graph titles with an asterisk denote questions where respondents could provide multiple answers. As a result, the totals for these graphs may exceed 100 per cent. Finally, where the percentage reported is zero, this does not necessarily imply that zero cases were recorded for a particular answer. It can instead indicate that the case number was so low that the results were rounded down to zero.

Provinces where the survey was implemented

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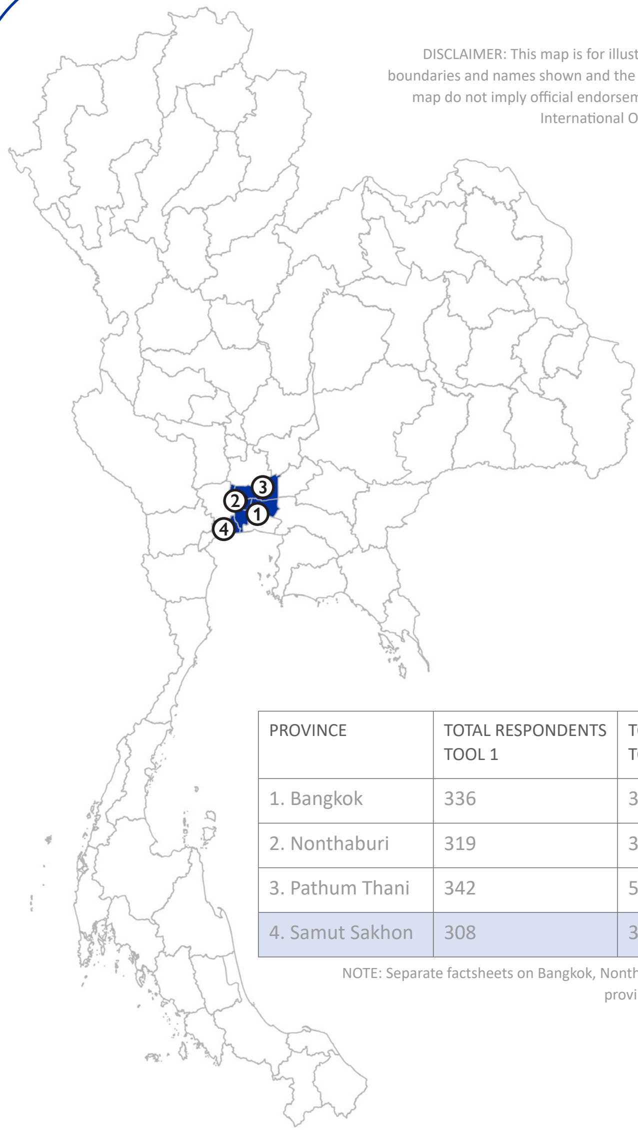


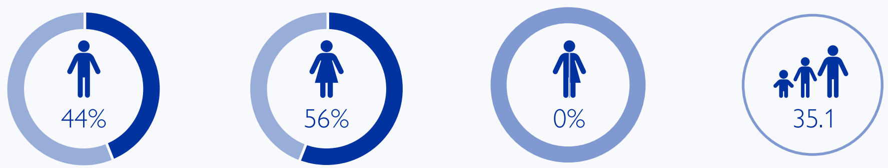
PROVINCE	TOTAL RESPONDENTS TOOL 1	TOTAL RESPONDENTS TOOL 2
1. Bangkok	336	398
2. Nonthaburi	319	357
3. Pathum Thani	342	508
4. Samut Sakhon	308	326

NOTE: Separate factsheets on Bangkok, Nonthaburi, and Pathum Thani provinces are available online.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The gender makeup of respondents was 56 per cent women and 44 per cent men. No respondents identified as other gender. The average age among respondents was 35.1 years and the average number of people living in surveyed households was 2.5. Regarding vulnerabilities, no households reported having a member with a disability.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



HOUSEHOLD STATISTICS

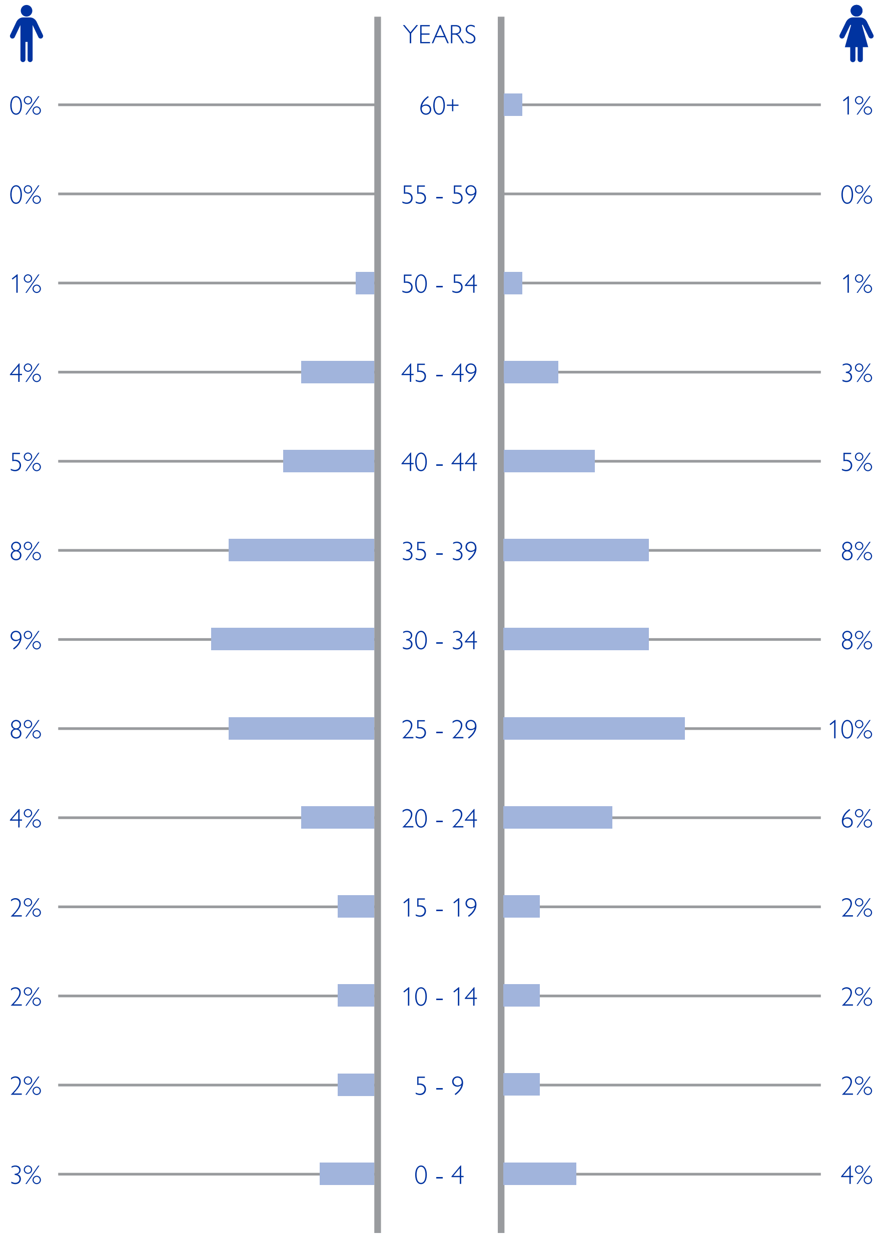
2.5

Average number of people living in surveyed households

32%

Percentage of households with at least one child

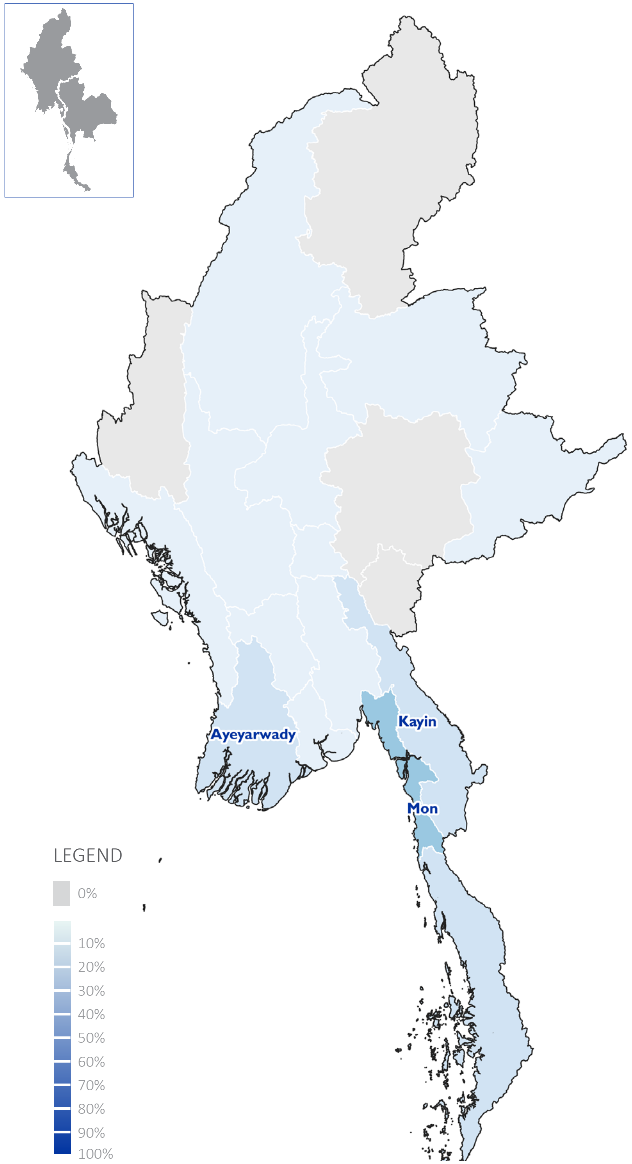
Age pyramid of all individuals in respondent households



MIGRATION HISTORY

September - October 2023

Origin regions/states in Myanmar (top 3 labeled)



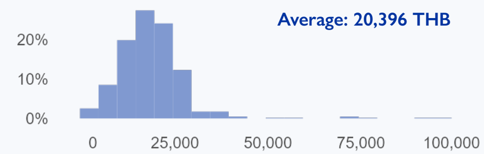
18% Percentage of respondents who arrived after the military takeover (2021)

50% Percentage of respondents who arrived after the military takeover for whom this is their first experience migrating to Thailand

7.7 Average number of years respondents have lived in Thailand (including during previous migrations)

0.9 Average number of times respondents have visited Myanmar since their most recent migration to Thailand

Cost of migration (THB) among respondents



19% Percentage of respondents who intend to visit Myanmar in the future

76% Percentage of respondents who intend to move back to Myanmar permanently in the future

Among surveyed migrants in Samut Sakhon, the top three states or regions of origin were Mon (31%), Kayin (16%), and Ayeyarwady (13%). Some respondents (18%) reported that their most recent migration to Thailand occurred sometime after the military takeover in Myanmar in February 2021. Of these more recent arrivals, 61 per cent indicated that they had lived in Thailand for a total of three years or longer, 27 per cent had lived in Thailand for around two years total, and 12 per cent around one year total (this includes living in Thailand during prior migrations). Among all respondents, 55 per cent reported having engaged in repeat migration to Thailand. The average cost of migration was 20,396 THB (around 560 USD). Respondents indicated paying for services and components such as brokers (91%), travel (40%), documentation (10%), and recruitment agencies (10%).

Since their most recent migration to Thailand, 27 per cent of respondents have visited Myanmar, including 11 per cent of respondents whose most recent migration took place sometime after the military takeover in Myanmar. Among all respondents, 11 per cent intended to visit Myanmar within the following year. At the same time, 61 per cent responded that they did not know whether they would visit Myanmar in the future and 20 per cent had no intentions of doing so. Meanwhile, 76 per cent intend to return permanently to Myanmar sometime in the future.

Most migrants reported having the valid documentation required to stay in country, although 8 per cent of respondents are considered to be irregular due to holding incorrect or expired documentation, or no documentation at all. Among those who do possess documentation, the most common types included having an international passport (49%), certificate of identity or temporary passport (27%), and labour card (18%). However, 4 per cent were not aware of how long their documents permitted them to stay in Thailand.

A share of respondents (36%) indicated having arrived in Thailand under its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Myanmar during their most recent migration. Of these, 1 per cent are not aware of the expiration date of their documentation and 1 per cent indicate that their MoU agreement is already expired.

Based on respondents' information on the documentation status of each individual in assessed households, 86 per cent of households are completely documented, meaning every member has some form of documentation allowing them to stay in Thailand. In 9 per cent of households, over half of all members are documented. However, in 4 per cent of households, less than half of all members are documented, and in an additional 1 per cent of households, no one is documented. Regarding regularization windows that permit undocumented migrants to become documented, respondents were most likely be aware of the opportunity but have not yet pursued it (36%).

8% Percentage of respondents who were found to be irregular migrants

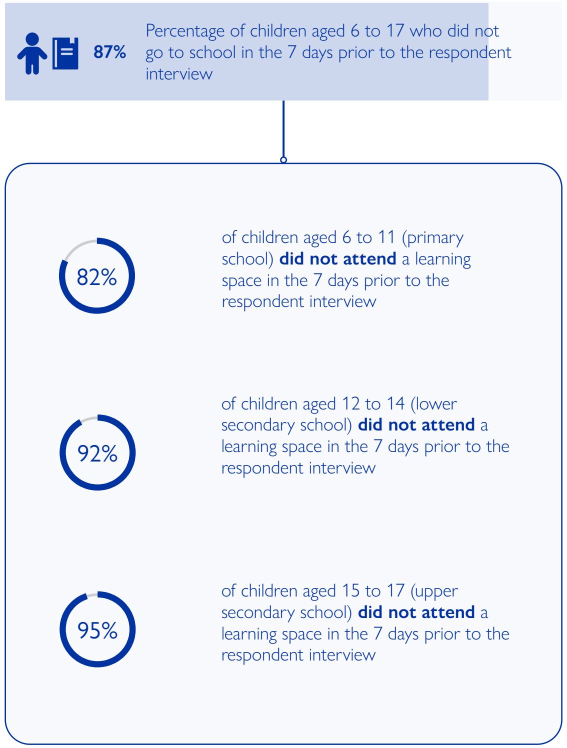
4% Percentage of respondents who are not aware of how long their documentation allows them to stay in Thailand

36% Percentage of respondents who arrived under MoU during their most recent migration

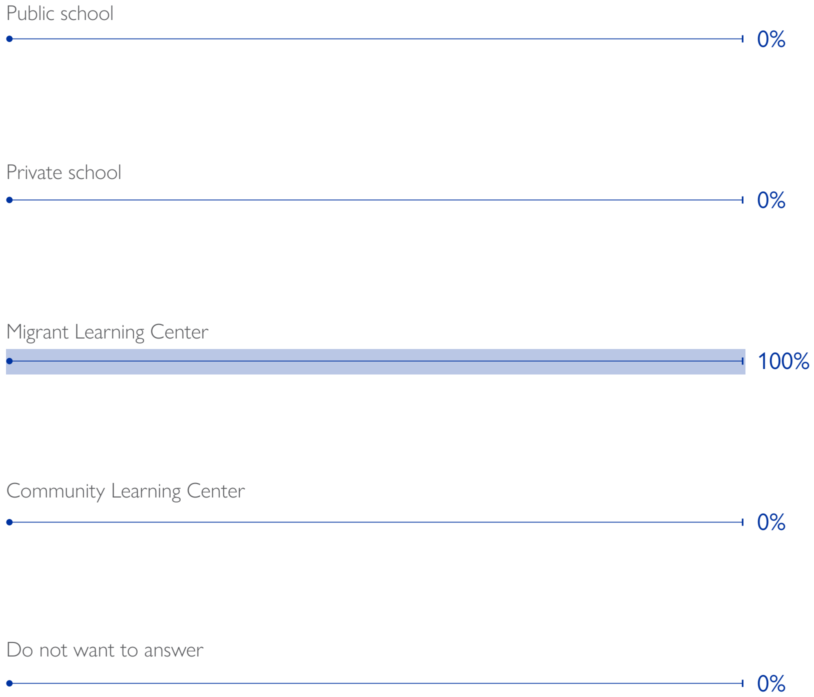
Awareness of regularization windows for migrants in Thailand and how to use them

Among adults in assessed households, 29 per cent had less than a primary school education, 51 per cent completed primary school, 14 per cent completed lower secondary school, and 6 per cent had completed upper secondary school or higher. Among all individuals in assessed households, 7 per cent had reached the expected level of education for their age (for example, those between 11 and 15 years old are expected to have completed primary school).

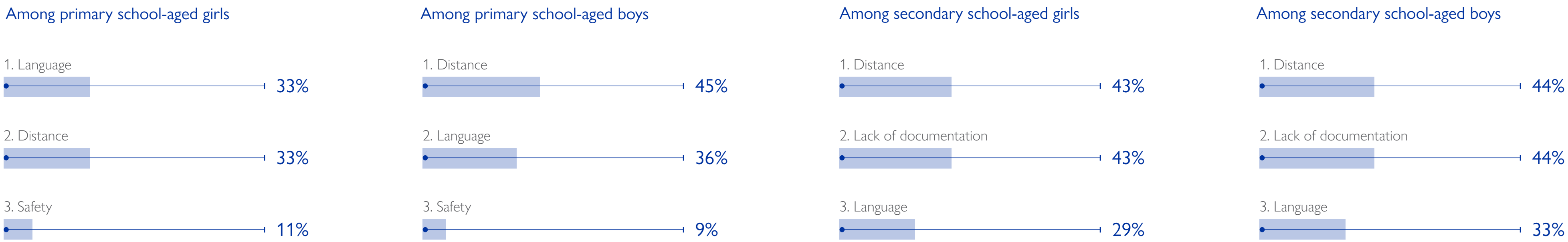
Among children in assessed households, 87 per cent were not attending school or other learning facilities[1]. Overall, 95 per cent of households with primary school-aged children reported experiencing barriers sending children to school. The same was true for all households with secondary school-aged children.



Type of learning spaces attended by children in assessed households



Main barriers to sending children to school*[2]



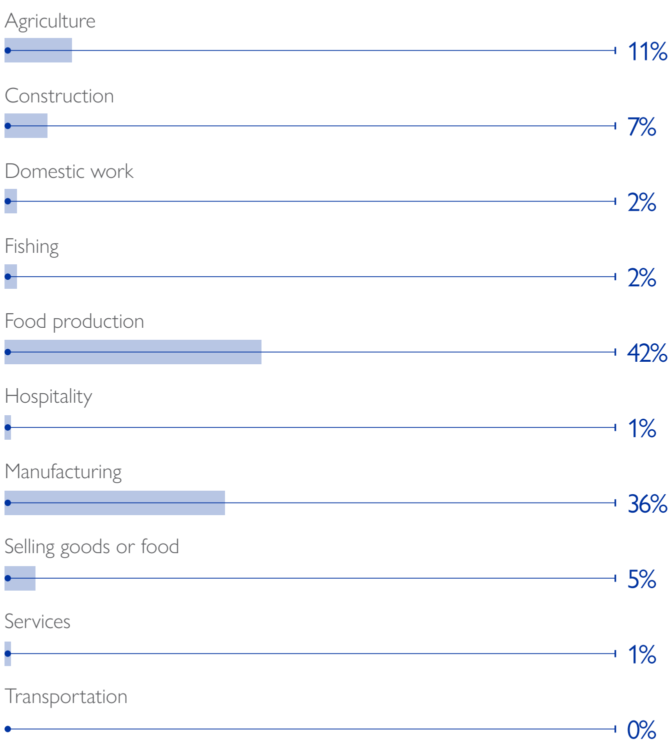
1 Thirty-two per cent of households had school-aged children (n=206).

2 Among respondents who cited experiencing barriers sending children to school (8 primary school-aged girls, 10 primary school-aged boys, 7 secondary school-aged girls, 9 secondary school-aged boys).

10.8 Average number of months respondents were employed in the last year

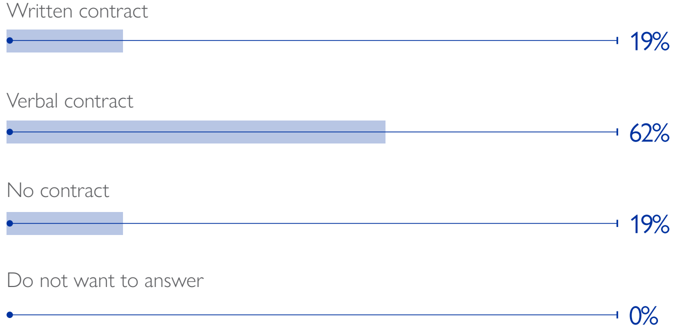
2.7 Average number of employers respondents had in the 12 months prior to being interviewed

Respondent work sectors*



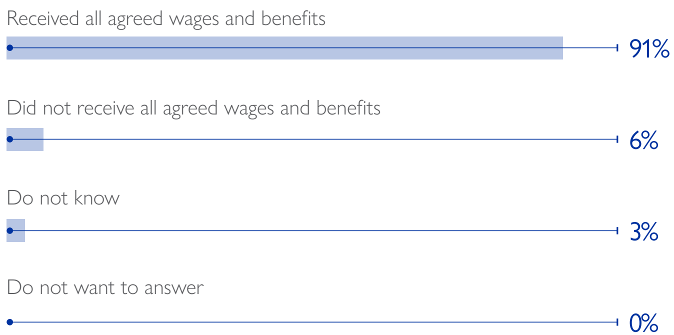
In addition, 1% of respondents reported working in an unlisted sector.

Possession of contracts among respondents who worked in the past year



400 THB Median daily wage[3] among respondents (around 11 USD). Approximately 36% reported earning below minimum wage (353 THB).

Reception of wages and benefits during employment



Regarding employment, most respondents had been employed for all 12 months in the last year (86%), while 4 per cent were employed for five or fewer months and 7 per cent did not work at all in the last year. Among those who worked within the year prior, the most common work sectors included food production (42%), manufacturing (36%), and agriculture (11%). Additionally, 1 per cent reported being self-employed and 13 per cent reported doing sub-contracting work, meaning they would participate in a variety of work sectors and have multiple employers.

Regarding agreements with employers, 81 per cent of respondents who worked reported having made a contract, with 19 per cent having a written contract and 62 per cent having only a verbal one.

On average, respondents reported working 24.8 days in the month prior to assessment. The median daily wage reported in Samut Sakhon was 400 THB per day (11 USD). Furthermore, 36 per cent of respondents were earning below minimum wage (353 THB per day). In addition, 6 per cent reported not receiving all agreed upon wages and benefits during their employment.

3 The median daily wage represents the cut off where 50 per cent of respondents earn less than the median and 50 per cent earn more.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD

Food-related indicators

1% Percentage of households that indicated a borderline or poor Food Consumption Score, which measures dietary diversity and food frequency

0% Percentage of households that indicated severe hunger on the Household Hunger Scale

13% Percentage of households using high level coping strategies per the reduced Coping Strategies Index, which measures hardships due to food shortages

0% Percentage of households spending a high or very high proportion of their household income on food per the Household Expenditure Scale

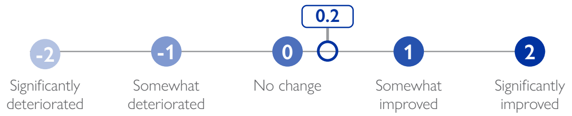
3,889 Average amount of money (THB) spent on food in the last month per household (around 107 USD)

Top 3 sources of food*

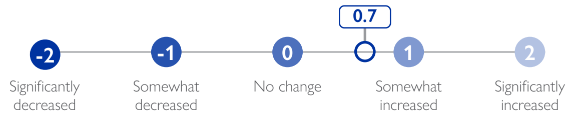
1. Local market — 99%
2. Convenience store — 27%
3. Street food — 17%

Livelihood-related indicators

Average change in household economic status in the past year



Average change in household cost of living in the past year



Top 3 sources of income*

1. Employment — 99%
2. Savings — 5%
3. Help from family and friends — 4%

21% Average percentage of household income spent on remittances in the last month per household

26% Percentage of households in debt

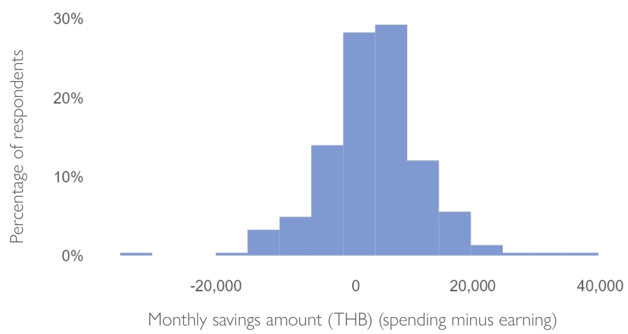
Top 3 reasons for debt*

1. Food — 55%
2. Housing — 50%
3. Migration costs — 50%

Overall, findings regarding food security showed a positive result for most respondents. The Food Consumption Score was acceptable for 99 per cent of households, and 95 per cent indicated no or little hunger, as measured by the Household Hunger Scale. However, 13 per cent of households scored high on the reduced Coping Strategy Index, which captures how many days a household had to adopt coping strategies to deal with lack of food or money to buy it.

Respondents indicated that, on average, their economic status improved somewhat in the past year while their household cost of living increased a little. Household debt was not uncommon (26%), with households owing 22,458 THB (around 618 USD) on average. Reasons for debt included food (55%), housing (50%), and migration costs (50%). Additionally, the average percentage of household expenditure on debt was 2.4 per cent. Over half (59%) of households reported sending remittances in the last month. Regarding savings, 22 per cent of respondents reported spending more than they earned in the last month.

Savings distribution



PROTECTION

When respondents were asked about their perceptions of safety and the most common risks to adults, they indicated domestic violence (56%), community violence (43%), and substance abuse (33%).

Overall, 66 per cent of respondents were not aware of any services available to them. Among those who were aware, they were most likely to know about medical services (28%).

Respondents were also asked whether they agree or disagree with statements related to gender roles and perceptions about responsibilities in the household. In general, respondents had positive views about gender equality, with the majority agreeing that women should participate in making important decisions in the household and be able to express their own opinions. On the other hand, 84 per cent agreed that men should be the providers of their families. In addition, a fifth (19%) agreed that a person should tolerate being beaten by their partner in order to keep the family together.

Based on several proxy indicators, 6% of respondents were classified as living in locations with possible trafficking risks.

Top 3 risks faced by adults*

1. Domestic violence 56%
2. Community violence 43%
3. Substance abuse 33%

6% Percentage of respondents who were classified as living in locations with possible trafficking risks

28% Percentage of respondents aware of medical services

Top 3 barriers to medical services

1. Infrequent services 62%
2. Distance 32%
3. Insufficient staff 23%

88% of respondents aware of medical services report experiencing barriers to this service.

1% Percentage of respondents aware of legal services (documentation/ immigration)

Top 3 barriers to legal services regarding documentation and immigration

1. Infrequent services 67%
2. No documentation 33%
3. Distance 33%

75% of respondents aware of legal services related to documentation report experiencing barriers to this service.

2% Percentage of respondents aware of legal services (rights violations)

Top 3 barriers to legal services regarding rights violations

1. Infrequent services 50%
2. Distance 50%
3. Overcrowded 33%

86% of respondents aware of legal services related to right violations report experiencing barriers to this service.

Awareness of other services

Legal (other)	Psychosocial	Return	Shelter	Translation
1%	0%	0%	7%	3%

66 per cent of respondents were not aware of any services.

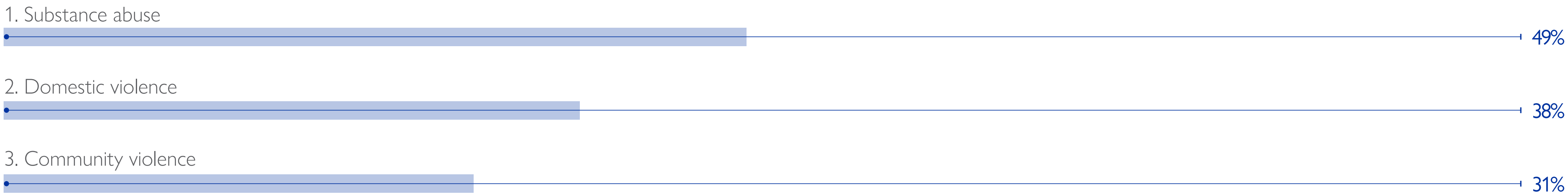
CHILD PROTECTION

Child marriage was found to be present in 9 per cent of households with children as well as cited most frequently as a common risk faced by girls in respondents' locations. Domestic violence was also reported as one of the most common risks faced by both girls and boys. Child labour was found in none of the assessed households.

9%	Percentage of households with child marriage
0%	Percentage of households where children are working over the legal allowances
0%	Percentage of households with a child who is not a relative of the respondent

Main risks faced by girls in respondents' locations*

Main risks faced by boys in respondents' locations*



Regarding access to health, 16 per cent of respondents reported having household members who were in need of healthcare services in the last three months. Among these, 91 per cent went to formal healthcare providers and 8 per cent went to informal. Barriers to healthcare were experienced by 3 per cent of respondents, who cited expense and language (45% each) as the most common barriers. Regarding children's vaccinations, all children were reported to be up-to-date on their vaccinations and 90 per cent possessed an immunisation card.

Regarding health insurance, 17 per cent of households lacked any insurance. However, in 47 per cent of households, every member had some form of insurance. Among those who reported their health insurance as being difficult or very difficult to use, the main reasons included misunderstandings about how to make a claim and the inconvenient process.

Health Access Class*

Formal 91%

Informal 8%

Did not access healthcare despite need 0%

Do not know 1%

Health access class is based on where household members have sought healthcare in the last three months. Formal health locations include government, private, or NGO hospitals or clinics. Informal include traditional healers, pharmacies, and others.

Health insurance indicators

Proportion of household members with insurance

None 17%

Less than half of all household members 19%

More than half of all household members 17%

All 47%

Types of insurance among respondents

No insurance 19%

Government 71%

Private 0%

Insurance from employer 16%

Social Security Scheme 27%

Migrant fund (M-fund) 3%

Insurance from partner or spouse 0%

Other 0%

Average rating of usability of health insurance

0.3

-2 Very easy

-1 Easy

0 Neither easy nor difficult

1 Difficult

2 Very difficult

Top 3 reasons why using health insurance is difficult or very difficult*

1. Inconvenient process 92%
2. Does not understand how to make a claim 12%
3. Does not understand which services are covered 8%

3% Percentage of households experiencing barriers to accessing health services

Top 3 barriers to accessing health services*

1. Expense 45%
2. Language 45%
3. Distance 36%

0% Percentage of children in surveyed households who are not up-to-date on their vaccinations or have an unknown vaccine status

36% Percentage of households who do not have enough bednets for all household members

Diseases among households in the past 6 months*

Cholera 0%

COVID-19 1%

Dengue 2%

Diarrhoea 2%

Malaria 3%

Measles 0%

Tuberculosis 1%

No diseases 84%

Do not know 7%

Do not want to answer 0%

WASH AND SHELTER

September - October 2023

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)-related indicators

0% Percentage of households that do not have access to a safe source of drinking water

20% Percentage of households where there is visible waste or trash in the vicinity

2% Percentage of households where there is visible human faeces in the vicinity

10% Percentage of households where there is visible waste water or stagnant water in the vicinity

Waste disposal methods*

Public collection	92%
Segregated	4%
Buried	1%
Burned	3%
Other	0%

Shelter-related indicators

Shelter-type Class

Very poor structural integrity	10%
Poor structural integrity	12%
Good structural integrity	70%
Very good structural integrity	8%

8% Percentage of respondents living in the same accommodation as their employer

Payment of accommodation

Pay rent	92%
Employer provides accommodation and payment is deducted from wages	2%
Employer provides accommodation for free	6%
Accommodation is hosted for free	0%
Owns own accommodation	0%
Other	0%
Do not want to answer	0%

99% Percentage of households connected to the electricity grid

1% Percentage of households that own a generator

16% Percentage of households that use renewable energy

With regards to WASH indicators, all respondents lived in areas with safe sources of drinking water. At the same time, 20 per cent lived in the vicinity of visible waste or trash and 10 per cent lived in the vicinity of waste or stagnant water.

Regarding shelter indicators, respondents were asked about the building materials of their accommodation in order to calculate shelter type on a scale of very low to high structural integrity, with 22 per cent found to have poor to very poor structural integrity. Among respondent accommodations, 8 per cent were shared with the respondent's employer. Additionally, 10 per cent were owned by the respondent's employer. Most respondents paid rent for their accommodations.

Among surveyed migrants in Samut Sakhon, 99 per cent had access to the electricty grid and 16 per cent used renewable energy.

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