

MEETING REPORT

Rights of Migrants in Action

National Roundtable for Implementing Partners



Bangkok, Thailand

12 July 2016

Background and Introduction

The Rights of Migrants in Action (ROMIA) is a global project co-funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Development and Cooperation (DG DEVCO) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), with the objective to promote and protect the human rights of migrants in targeted countries, migration corridors and regions through a globally coordinated civil society action.

The project is hosted by the IFRC and is implemented in partnership with 43 civil society organizations (CSOs) in 15 countries. In Thailand the project has been running since March 2016 in cooperation with four civil society organizations: Chiang Mai based MAP Foundation and the Life Skills Development Foundation; Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion from Bangkok; and Foundation for Education and Development from Phang Nga, Phuket.

On 12 July 2016 IFRC country cluster support team (CCST) - Bangkok office convened the first roundtable for partner implementing CSOs. The overall objective of this one-day event was to provide a platform for promoting a dialogue and building stronger cooperation amongst partner implementing civil society organizations in Thailand with a view to ensure cross-fertilization of projects' results across the country and their longer-term sustainability. *All meeting documents, including the concept note and presentations can be accessed at [online library](#) of IFRC CCST Bangkok office.*

A total of 31 participants attended the meeting, including 23 females and eight males. Organizations present included IFRC, Thai Red Cross Society, Viet Nam Red Cross Society, European Union Delegation to Thailand, UN Women, International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Labour Organization (ILO), and Migrant Forum Asia (MFA). *Detailed list of participants is presented in Annex II.*

The morning session focused on presentations from the CSOs who shared their progress, implementation challenges and plans ahead. To encourage exchange and linking of experiences, each presentation followed by in-depth discussions facilitated by a representatives from participating CSOs.

The afternoon was opened by the key note speaker from Migrant Forum Asia who delivered a presentation on the preparations to the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2016 (GFMD). This proceeded by a presentation of key outcomes emanating from the regional ROMIA consultation for Europe and Central Asia held in Moscow in June. The last session of the day was a breakout session to review the findings of the capacity assessment exercise and develop a training plan for CSOs. *For detailed meeting Agenda please refer to Annex I.*

Proceedings

The meeting was opened by Mr. Marwan Jilani, Head of IFRC CCST who welcomed the participants and delivered his opening remarks highlighting the importance of collaborating together in order to promote and protect the human rights of migrants.

Mr. Jilani's speech was followed by remarks delivered by Ms. Ana Maria Pena Segura, Attaché (Cooperation), Delegation of the European Union to Thailand. Ms. Segura underscored the value of the project for the region and echoed Mr. Jilani in emphasizing the importance of a fluid dialogue, deep level of coordination, as well as knowledge and experience sharing among CSOs and key stakeholders.



Ms. Segura, European Union, welcomes the participants of the roundtable.

After the opening remarks from IFRC and the European Union the meeting proceeded with the **Session 2** titled **“Working effectively together, implementation updates by partner CSOs, identifying synergies and opportunities for greater collaboration.”**

The session was kicked off by Ms. Ei Ei Chaw, Project Coordinator of the Foundation for Education and Development (FED). The main points of the presentation included: background and structure of FED, project achievements and challenges encountered during the first four months of the implementation. *To view the full presentation please click [here](#).*



Representatives of the Foundation for Education and Development.

At the end of the presentation several questions were addressed to FED. With regard to mobilization of domestic workers for project activities, Ms. Ei Ei Chaw explained that the project is run by former domestic workers who disseminate information through their social networks and with support of community leaders. In addition FED has its own database of domestic workers and provides legal assistance in collaboration with Thai lawyers. Among the most common challenges faced by domestic workers abuse, restriction on the change of employer and mobility were identified as the most pertinent. Due to the long working hours, FED can only organize trainings on Sundays. In response to the question from the ILO representative whether FED works with employers, Ms. Ei Ei Chaw explained that currently there are no activities targeting employers however in the future they would like to include them in project activities. She also outlined the fact that cooperation with other CSOs has been

limited to date due to the time limitations, heavy activity schedule and workload of other organizations.



Presenter from the Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion.

The second presenter was Ms. Boonsom Namsomboon, Project Manager of the Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion (FLEP). She started her presentation by giving an overview of FLEP and its background. Ms. Boonsom highlighted several difficulties faced by both Thai and migrant domestic workers that came up during the training sessions, such as long and not fixed working hours, risk of abuse and harassment, absence of social security and lack of information related to legal aspects.

The second part of her presentation analyzed objectives, targets, problems faced by the organization in terms of relationship with domestic workers, volunteers, and partnership with other organizations such as Foundation for Women, Layer Council of Thailand, and Arom Propagan Foundation. *To access the presentation please click [here](#).*

After the presentation participants discussed specificities of the Facebook page and mobile application for domestic workers. With regard to the former, Ms. Boonsom explained that currently the Facebook page [My Fair and Happy Home](#) is available in Thai language only. However, the mobile application that is to be developed by end of this year will be in both language – Thai and Burmese. Its key purpose will be to reach with lifesaving and useful information domestic workers who are not able to join the trainings due to long working hours and isolated nature of their workplace. IFRC representative also remarked that prior to the development of a new application, a thorough analysis of existing tools will be undertaken in order to avoid duplication of efforts and, more importantly, to identify the right content that would fill existing information gaps. Further, it was explained that the application will serve as a comprehensive databank of knowledge including information related to legal regulations in Thailand, disaster preparedness, First Aid skills, information about hotlines and complaint mechanisms.

Other discussions points touched upon potential support to Lao domestic workers who currently are not particularly interested in working with Thai-based CSOs as well as FLEP efforts to establish cooperation with employers of domestic workers to reach a win-win solution for both parties.

After the coffee break, it was the turn of Ms. Oranong Chanasit and Ms. Maria Rose from The Life Skills Development Foundation (TLSDF) to present their project. Ms. Oranong Chanasit highlighted the project's goals, which were primarily to build the capacity of Shan migrant workers

and their networks as well as analyze and improve the current service provision available to Shan migrant populations. TLSDF's project is structured to take part in four main phases, and has emphasized the importance of their baseline study in informing the direction of the project. They held a test baseline survey that covered six people, but the ultimate target is to reach 200-250 respondents. *To view the presentation please click [here](#).*

In response to some questions from the audience, TLSDF representatives explained the architecture of the satellite offices. A joint career advancement and case response center will be located in each of the five districts around Chiang Mai. Though the locations have not been set yet, the centers may be located at schools, temples, or



TLSDF team answers the questions from the audience.

houses to ensure easy access for migrant workers. Each center will have a core volunteer - representative from the Migrant Worker's Federation of Chiang Mai (MWF), an organization TLSDF has partnered with, who will be trained to provide support and answer inquiries of the migrant workers.

The challenges faced by TLSDF correlate with those voiced by other participating CSOs mainly relate to the fact that workers are only able to join the training sessions in the evenings or during the weekend, and are too busy to dedicate much time and commitment to the projects. At this point in the conversation, Ms. Boonsom Namsomboon from FLEP suggested exploring more proactive methods of reaching the migrants, i.e. through home visits. However, as explained by TLSDF team, this option is hardly feasible as the majority of workers in Chiang Mai with in construction sector and frequently change their living situations, which would make it difficult for TLSDF staff to reach them at home.

The last presentation of the morning was delivered by Mr. Suchart Trakoonhutip, Project Coordinator of MAP Foundation. *To access the presentation please click [here](#).*



Representative of MAP Foundation delivers his presentation.

After giving an overview of the project, Mr. Trakoonhutip underscored the fact that there are 15 organizations working on migrants' rights in Chiang Mai, but so far they were not able to work together to find a common solution. Similarly to TLSDF, MAP Foundation is developing surveys to interview around 100 migrant workers during the third quarter of this year.

The greatest obstacle faced by MAP Foundation in relation to migrant workers' law refers to the complexity and frequent changes introduced in Thai labor policy and registration rules.

Mr. Brahm Press, Executive Director of MAP Foundation also added that his organization created a cellphone application (with around 2,000 downloads to date) that can be used by workers to listen to the MAP radio programs while working. Besides, MAP Foundation established an information center in Myanmar that aims to provide pre-departure information about immigration and labor policies Thailand.

Subsequent discussions points evolved around the labor unions. MAP Foundation that acts as a mediator between workers and the unions explained that due to legal barriers migrant workers are not allowed to form their own trade union organizations and only those employed in industrial sector are able to join the unions. Further, high mobility of migrant workers poses an additional challenge to working with and mobilizing migrants.

Session 3 “From local to national, regional and global: looking ahead to the regional meeting and supporting global processed”



Ms. Macabuag from Migrant Forum Asia and Mr. Press from MAP Foundation.

opened the afternoon. In her [presentation](#) Ms. Tatcee Macabuag from Migrant Forum Asia asserted that for decades, migrants' rights advocates have been calling on the United Nations to take up the issues of the rights of migrant workers through global inter-governmental processes. However migration and human rights sometimes seem too political for governments to address. In 2003 the Global Commission on Migration was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General – the first ever global panel

addressing international migration. This led to the first UN High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Migration and Development in 2006 that recommended an establishment of a global forum that will take up the issue of migration and development.

The major issue highlighted by Ms. Tatcee was the absence of CSOs in international meetings with governments. Nowadays the situation has changed: during GFMD CSOs have two days for discussions and one full day in a government common space. Ms. Tatcee explained that while all interested CSOs are encouraged to register for participation, only 200 will get selected for participation in GFMD 2016.

At the end of the presentation all participating CSOs were encouraged to visit [GFMD website](#) for more information as well as to contribute to the current [online discussions](#) run by the People's Global Action (PGA) group.



Representatives of Thai and Viet Nam Red Cross Societies.

Ms. Ruchika Bahl from the UN Women offered to take forward jointly with the civil society the agenda of women workers' rights especially focusing on standard terms of employment and the role of bilateral and MOUs and proposed having a joint side event on the margins of GFMD 2016 should the CSOs and migrant networks be interested.

The last presentation of the afternoon was given (via Skype) by Mr. Zlatko Kovac, Global Coordinator of ROMIA, IFRC. Mr. Kovac spoke about recently concluded 2-day regional consultation for Europe and

Central Asia. The key discussion points of the first day of the consultation included the following:

- analysis of current collaboration between implementing partners and the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies;
- establishment of formal and informal cooperation;
- engaging diaspora – pros and cons;
- role of the mass media; and
- dynamics and changes in population movement.

The objective of the second day was to agree on the regional inputs to the project's global policy paper. To that end, the second day of the consultation focused on three main areas: human rights, human trafficking, and domestic migration and produced a series of key recommendations including:

Migrants' rights

- guidelines on how to find "pro bono" legal advice when people do not have money to hire a lawyer;
- effective use of bilateral agreements;
- enhancing access to education for migrants' children; and
- formation of cross border coordination mechanisms to assist migrants in fulfilling their rights.

Human trafficking

- enhancing coordination between stakeholders;
- analysis and review of national legislation and its adaption to regional and international standards (i.e. data collection, definitions, monitoring and evaluation); and
- design of National Action Plans and their better alignment with regional policies.

Domestic labor migrants

- synchronization of international treaties and laws;
- agreement on organized employment and certification system (professional knowledge and skills);
- bilateral agreements; and
- improved awareness on rights and obligations.

The last **Session 4 “Building civil society: agreeing on key capacity building needs and training plan”** started with a trigger [presentation](#) from Ms. Nyanenkova-Lowry, Senior Migration Officer, IFRC CCST Bangkok who shared the findings of the capacity assessment exercise and presented various training opportunities available to CSOs.

This followed by a breakout session aimed at distilling key priority training needs and developing a supporting training plan. The results of the working group discussions are presented in a table below. In addition to those, participants expressed a need for exchange visits as a tool for peer learning and networking.

Working group 1: MAP Foundation and the Life Skills Development Foundation	Working group 2: Foundation for Education and Development and Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion
<p>MAP Foundation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data management in Excel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to easily sort/find information in a database. • How to use data for advocacy. 2. Communicating with donor and handling media inquiries. 3. Reporting, monitoring and evaluation. <p>The Life Skills Development Foundation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workers’ rights. 2. Communication management. 3. Budget and financial management. 	<p>Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion & Foundation for Education and Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring and Evaluation. 2. Reports and proposal writing. 3. Budget and Financial management. 4. Logistics (procurement rules and regulations).

Evaluation forms were distributed after this session to assess the overall value of the meeting and improve the quality of the meetings in the future. However, since the forms were available in English some participants struggled with the questions – for future meetings, IFRC will ensure that evaluation forms are available in both Thai and English languages.

Before concluding, Ms. Nyanenkova from IFRC reiterated profound appreciation to all partners for their efficient and dedicated efforts under the Rights of Migrants in Action initiative. She also gave an overview of the key events planned under project for late 2016 - early 2017 and concluded by highlighting the importance of a stronger cooperation between the implementing partners in Thailand.

Annex I: Agenda

Time	Session Details
08:30 - 09:00	Registration of Participants
Session 1: Background and premise of the national round table	
09:00 -09:30	Opening Welcome Remarks and Introductions Mr Marwan Jilani, Head, Country Cluster Support Team, Bangkok, IFRC Ms Ana Maria Pena Segura, Attaché (Cooperation), Delegation of the European Union to Thailand
Session 2: Working effectively together: implementation updates by partner CSOs, identifying synergies and opportunities for greater cooperation	
<i>Facilitator: Ms Oranong Chanasit, Life Skills Development Foundation</i>	
09:30 -10:10	Foundation for Education and Development : presentation and Q&A Presenter : Ms Ei Ei Chaw, Project Coordinator
10:10 -10:50	Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion: presentation and Q&A Presenter : Ms Boonsom Namsomboon, Project Manager
10:50 - 11:20	Group Photograph & Coffee Break
Session 2: Working effectively together: implementation updates by partner CSOs, identifying synergies and opportunities for greater cooperation cont.	
<i>Facilitator: Ms Boonsom Namsomboon, Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion</i>	
11:20 -12:00	Life Skills Development Foundation: presentation and Q&A Presenter : Ms Oranong Chanasit, Executive Director Assistant and Head Project Manager
12:00 -12:40	Map Foundation: presentation and Q&A Presenter: Mr Suchart Trakoonhutip, Project Coordinator
12:40 - 13:40	Lunch
Session 3: From local to national, regional and global: looking ahead to the regional meeting and supporting global processes	
<i>Facilitator: Mr Brahm Press, Map Foundation</i>	
13:40 - 14:40	Engaging in civil society consultations in the preparations for the Global Forum on Migration and Development Presenter: Ms Tatcee Macabuag, Migrant Forum Asia
14:40 - 15:20	Looking ahead to the Rights of Migrants in Action regional consultation (planned for quarter 4, 2016) Mr Zlatko Kovac, Rights of Migrants in Action global coordinator, IFRC (via skype)
Session 4: Building stronger civil society: agreeing on key capacity building needs and a training plan	
<i>Facilitator: Ms Elena Nyanenkova-Lowry, IFRC</i>	
15:20 - 15:50	Breakout session Findings of the capacity assessment exercise and development of the training plan
15:50 - 16:10	Coffee break
16:10 - 16:45	Presentations from the working groups and design of the training plan
16:45 - 17:00	Closing remarks

Annex II: List of Participants

Name		Organisation
Civil Society Organizations		
1	Mr. Brahm Press	Executive Director, MAP Foundation, MAP Foundation
2	Mr. Suchart Trakoonhutip	Project Coordinator, MAP Foundation
3	Ms. Nan Shwe Muu	Case Manager / Domestic Worker coordinator, MAP Foundation
4	Mr. Htoo Chit	Founder and Executive Director, Foundation for Education and Development
5	Ms. Mya Lay Ngon	Finance Officer, Foundation for Education and Development
6	Ms. Khin San Moe	Project Staff, Foundation for Education and Development
7	Ms. Ei Ei Chaw	Project Staff, Foundation for Education and Development
8	Ms. Oranong Chanasit	Executive Director Assistant and Head Project Manager, The Life Skills Development Foundation
9	Ms. Maria Rose	Project Facilitator, The Life Skills Development Foundation
10	Mr. Tee Nayod	Core Team Members, The Life Skills Development Foundation
11	Mr. Somchai Chakaw	Core Team Members, The Life Skills Development Foundation
12	Ms. Boonsom Namsomboon	Project Manager, Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion
13	Ms. Pannee Towakulpanich	Communication Officer, Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion
14	Ms. Jantana Ekeurmanee	Field worker, Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion
15	Ms. Puttinee Khopatta	Field worker, Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion
National Red Cross Societies		
16	Ms. Pavinee Yuprasert	Assistance Director of Relief and Community Health Bureau, Thai Red Cross
17	Mrs. Tran Thi Thanh Huyen	Deputy Director of the Social Work Department, Vietnamese Red Cross
International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies		
18	Mr. Marwan Jilani	Head, CCST
19	Mr. Zlatko Kovac	Programme Coordinator, IFRC HQ (via Skype)
20	Ms. Elena Nyanenkova - Lowry	Senior Migrant Officer, CCST
21	Ms. Nutchapang Khowinji	CRSU Assistant, CCST
22	Ms. Stefania Battaglia	CRSU Intern, CCST
European Union Delegation to Thailand		
23	Ms. Ana Maria Pena Segura	Attaché (Cooperation), Delegation to Thailand
24	Ms. Arunsiri Phothong	Programme Officer (Cooperation), Delegation to Thailand
International Organizations and UN Agencies		
25	Ms. Pukchanok Pattanatabud	Coordination Assistant, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office for Thailand
26	Ms. Ni Ni Aung	Project Assistant, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office for Thailand
27	Ms. Ruchika Bahl	Project Manager, UN Women

28	Ms. Anna Olsen	Project Coordinator, International Labour Organization
29	Ms. Meri Aahlberg	Consultant, International Labour Organization
30	Mr. Oliver Fisher	Intern, International Labour Organization
Resource Persons		
31	Ms. Tatcee Macabuang	Programme Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia

How we work

Strategy 2020 voices the collective determination of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to move forward in tackling the major challenges that confront humanity in the next decade. Informed by the needs and vulnerabilities of the diverse communities with whom we work, as well as the basic rights and freedoms to which all are entitled, this strategy seeks to benefit all who look to Red Cross Red Crescent to help to build a more humane, dignified, and peaceful world.

Over the next ten years, the collective focus of the IFRC will be on achieving the following strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.