

annual
review
2016

Rights of Migrants in Action

Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion: Extending access to justice and health services for migrant domestic workers in Thailand

Project timeframe: February 2016 – July 2017

Key features

The project of the Bangkok-based Foundation for Labor and Employment Promotion (FLEP) works with female migrant domestic workers (MDW) to equip them with knowledge on reproductive and occupational health, safety, immigration and labor policy as well as to enhance their access to public healthcare services, legal protection and redress mechanisms.

A team of peer educators or “Hello volunteers” has been set up and trained to provide counselling, First Aid as well as to facilitate referrals of serious cases to the Crisis Response Team run by FLEP in cooperation with other civil society organizations. During 2016 FLEP organized six training sessions for hello volunteers – a team of Thai and Burmese migrant domestic workers – on immigration policy, legal protection, health insurance system, first aid and psychosocial

support skills. With regard to networking and advocacy, in 2016 in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, MAP Foundation organized the Northern Labour Network, with a membership of 16 local organizations including both Thai and migrant labour organizations. In the network, domestic workers’ issues have been raised and put squarely as part of the regular agenda, giving weight to their demands. Three advocacy seminars were organized with the Northern Labour Network: May Day (International Labour Day) on May 1st, on International Domestic Workers Day on June 16th, and International Migrants Day on December 18th. Besides bringing around 100 migrants together to attend each of these events, advocacy letters were handed to the Provincial Governor’s office by this large group in front of the Provincial Office.





For Thai domestic workers, who participate in activities alongside with the Burmese migrants, project co-sponsored by IFRC helped to promote a positive attitude towards migrants and contributed to building a culture of non-violence and non-discrimination.

Bilingual mobile application is now under development and once launched will serve as a tool for information dissemination and direct response mechanism to MDW's grievances and complaints. Its content was designed in close consultation with migrant domestic workers to include information that is most relevant and needed by the migrants, such as up-to-date information related to immigration policy, providers of health and social services as well as interactive videos about disaster preparedness and first aid skills.



Number of people reached in 2016

Activity			Indirect recipients
Hello Volunteers training on immigration policy, legal protection, health insurance service system	0	47	0
Small group training	8	266	0
First Aid training	0	83	12
Project Advisory Committee Meeting	0	8	38
Crisis Response Team Meeting	0	0	6
Policy dialogue	0	173	70
Total	8	577	126

Looking ahead to 2017

Launch of the
mobile application
for migrant domestic
workers

Training sessions
for Hello volunteers
on reproductive health
and use of mobile
application for migrant
domestic workers

Emergency
support to migrant
workers through
the Hot line, Line
and Facebook
groups

Small group
training for
domestic workers
and Hello
volunteers



International Domestic Workers Day throws a spotlight on an invisible force behind closed doors

Each year, 16 June marks International Domestic Workers Day. It was established in recognition of the challenges that domestic workers face, and in order to raise awareness on the international legal conventions ratified by states around the world in order to protect them.

This year in Bangkok the Foundation for Labor and Employment Promotion brought together Thai and Burmese domestic workers to mark the day in a gesture of kindness – around a hundred of domestic workers dedicated their day off to clean the state-run Rajvithi Home for Girls from disadvantaged families, a commendable act, considering that domestic workers typically perform 14 to 16 hour shifts, six days a week.

In the afternoon, domestic workers were joined by the representatives of local media, the Chamber of Commerce, Ministries of Labour, Social Welfare and Protection and international organizations to attend a public conference aimed at highlighting stories of migrant domestic workers.



Thai Red Cross and Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion attend to migrant's main asset - health

In 2016, Thai Red Cross extended its support to the Rights of Migrants in Action project by running the First Aid education for migrant and Thai domestic workers for about 70 Burmese and 30 Thai workers. To meet the specific needs of this target group, the Red Cross developed a tailored migrant-friendly one-day crash course. It begins with the techniques to perform a primary survey of the scene and the victim and the information about emergency numbers in Thailand.

Ten learning modules are delivered through role plays, videos and exercises to explore various first aid emergencies and put acquired skills into practice. Participants learn techniques for handling minor medical emergencies, such as treatment of a foreign objects in the eye and ear, choking, fainting, dog and snake bites, management of

bleeding, wounds and fractures. In addition, they learn how to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for children and adults.

In addition to the obvious benefits the First Aid training brings to the Burmese migrants while in Thailand, these skills and knowledge will travel with them back home to rural remote areas that have limited access to emergency health services and where today's migrants might be the only community members trained to provide first aid. "Teaching Burmese migrants first aid skills brings many benefits not only for them and their employers in Thailand but also for their communities in Myanmar," says Poonsap Tulaphan, director of the FLEP, a Bangkok-based network of Thai and Burmese domestic workers. "Most of the Burmese migrants come from isolated rural communities that have limited access to emergency health services. The skills they learn in Thailand will stay with them when they go back home."



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