

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

POPULATION MOBILITY MONITORING

PROVINCE REPORT: TAK

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

To better understand health and screening capacities in Thailand, IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), with support from the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), is implementing Population Mobility Monitoring (PMM) along the Myanmar-Thai border. Border provinces selected for data collection include Ranong and Tak. The following report focuses on Tak.

Points of Entry (POEs) include the following classifications:

- **Formal POEs:** Recognized by the Royal Thai Government as legitimate entry points to enter Thailand. Government officials including police are present to check and validate documents and monitor crossings.
- **Semi-formal POEs:** Presence of a few government officials to check and monitor the entry and exit of incoming migrants, but with less extensive infrastructure than in formal POEs.
- **Informal POEs:** Not recognized by the Royal Thai Government and crossings are irregular.

Congregation points are defined as sites where migrants congregate shortly after crossing the border into Thailand to access various services. These sites include markets, hotels, hospitals and taxi/bus stations, among others.

The PMM methodology, developed by IOM to help inform preparedness and response efforts during the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, generates information about cross-border movements among mobile populations and supports the development of forecasting capacities in target locations. It consists of three phases: Phase I is a participatory mapping exercise with key informants to identify POEs and congregation points; Phase II is a site observation activity involving visits to POEs and congregation points identified in Phase I to generate more granular information on the presence of health screening mechanisms, WASH facilities, government and NGO personnel etc.; Phase III comprises Flow Monitoring surveys to better understand the volume, drivers and intention of people on the move at identified POEs. PMM has been adapted to suit the context in Thailand and help inform a better understanding about mobility dynamics along the borders of Thailand and its neighbouring countries.

The participatory mapping exercise (Phase I) in Tak took place in May 2022. IOM’s DTM team began by identifying GPS coordinates of various POEs and congregation points in the province and plotting these locations on a map. Two focus group discussions with key informants were then organized to identify which of the mapped POEs and congregation points are the most significant. Key informants included representatives from the government, local and migrant communities and NGOs. Discussions were recorded with participants’ permission. IOM DTM staff guided the focus group discussions using a set of questions targeted at two areas of interest:

firstly, POEs and secondly, congregation points. For both, points were ranked by volume of human mobility. Participants discussed their best estimates of number of entries per day, main destinations of the migrants moving through these points, primary modes of transportation, among other indicators. As a result of these discussions, DTM identified seven POEs and 22 congregation points for further assessment in Tak.

Site observation (Phase II) was conducted in October 2022. A mixed method approach using both direct observation and key informant interviews was used to implement site observation. The following report is an overview of the site observation data from October 2022 with insights from key informant input.

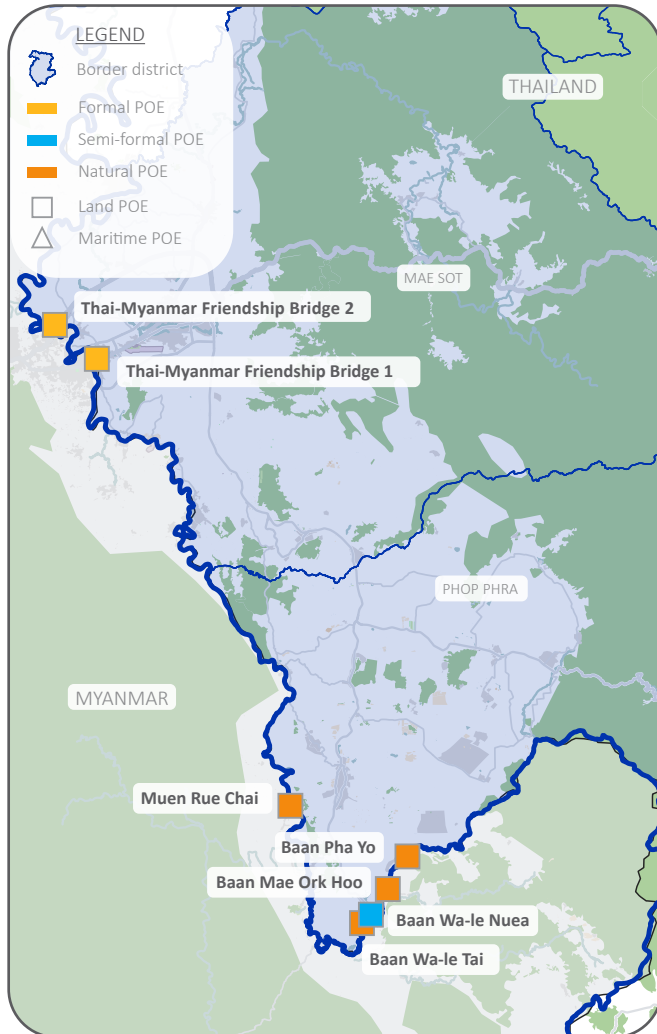


DISCLAIMER: These maps are for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

POE PROFILES

7 IDENTIFIED POES

MAP 1: POE LOCATIONS AND TYPE



The seven POEs identified in Tak line the Moei river, which divides Thailand and Myanmar along Thailand’s north-western region. They are all classified as ground border points. The Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridges 1 and 2 are Tak’s formal border crossing points. Located in Mae Sot district, they provide passage not only to those bound for various districts in Tak, but also to Bangkok, Nong Khai, Udon Thani, and Mukdahan. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Friendship Bridge 1 was Tak’s largest POE and experienced the highest volume of flows. However, it has been closed since 2019 due to the pandemic and the political situation in Myanmar. Despite the closure of both Friendship bridges, IOM chose to include them in the assessment due to their large pre-COVID-19 flow volume and in anticipation of these POEs reopening sometime in the future.

The five other POEs are located in Phop Phra district. IOM chose these points for further assessment due to their flows being the highest compared to other existing border points as of October 2022. Four of the POEs in Phop Phra do not have any government official presence or monitoring infrastructure, however, the government is aware of their existence and their status as long-established crossing points. Crossings at the points in Phop Phra are primarily local, with people coming from Kayin state and working or visiting family in Phop Phra district.

All POEs were close to villages and paved roads, but were lacking in most WASH services. Only Baan Wa-le Nuea, which is semi-formal and was open as of October, had a functional water source and gender-segregated latrines.

DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

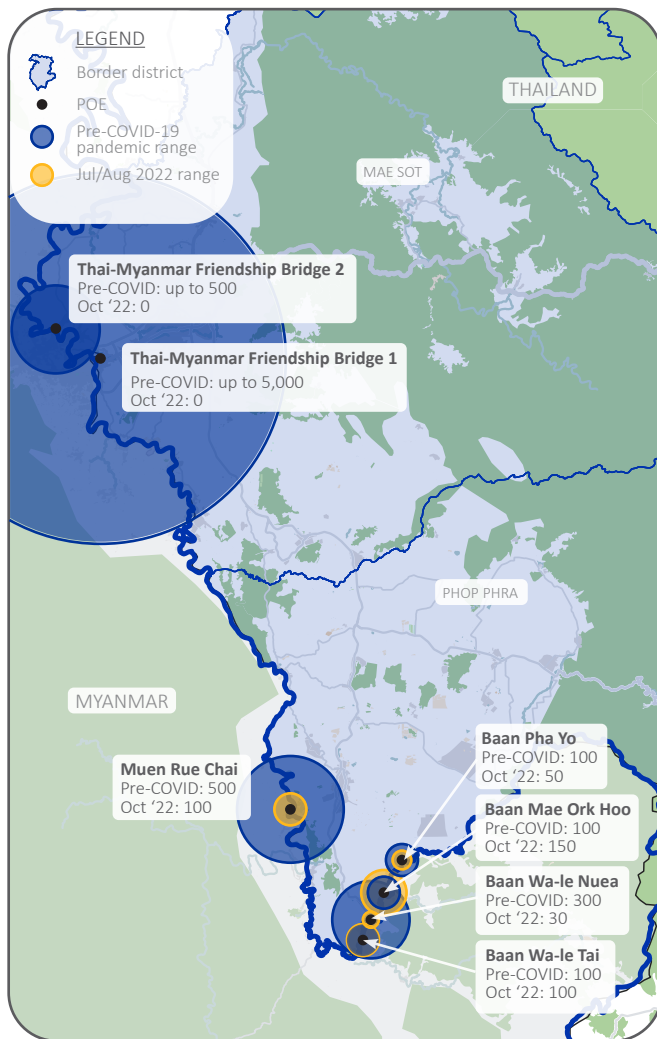
TABLE 1: ACCESSIBILITY AND MAIN PROVINCES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION (OCT 2022)

POE	ACCESSIBLE?	DISTANCE TO NEAREST VILLAGE	ORIGIN STATE/REGION IN MYANMAR	DESTINATION PROVINCES IN THAILAND
Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridges	No	<1 km	Kayin, Mon, Yangon, Mandalay	Bangkok, Nong Khai, Udon Thani, Mukdahan, Tak (various districts)
Muen Rue Chai	Yes	<1 km	Kayin	Tak (Phop Phra district)
Baan Pha Yo	Yes	<1 km	Kayin	Tak (Phop Phra district)
Baan Mae Ork Hoo	Yes	<1 km	Kayin	Tak (Phop Phra district)
Baan Wa-le Nuea	Yes	<1 km	Kayin	Tak (Phop Phra district)
Baan Wa-le Tai	Yes	<1 km	Kayin	Tak (Phop Phra district)

TABLE 2: WASH SERVICES (OCT 2022)

POE	FUNCTIONAL WATER SOURCE PRESENT?	DISTANCE TO WATER SOURCE BY FOOT	LATRINE PRESENT?	DISTANCE TO LATRINE BY FOOT	NUMBER OF LATRINES	LATRINES GENDER SEPARATED?
Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridges	No	NA	No	NA	NA	No
Muen Rue Chai	No	NA	No	NA	NA	No
Baan Pha Yo	No	NA	No	NA	NA	No
Baan Mae Ork Hoo	No	NA	No	NA	NA	No
Baan Wa-le Nuea	Yes	5 min	Yes	5 min	2-5	Yes
Baan Wa-le Tai	No	NA	No	NA	NA	No

MAP 2: POE DAILY FLOW VOLUME ESTIMATES
(PRE-COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND OCT 2022)



Map 2 illustrates fluctuations in the volume of crossings as recorded pre-COVID-19 pandemic and in October 2022. Numbers of crossings are based on key informant estimates. As previously mentioned, while the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge 1 was Tak's most prolific POE prior to COVID-19, the flows at this official crossing were zero as of October.

Meanwhile, at the semi-formal and natural crossings in Phop Phra, some flows had reduced while others had stayed the same or increased compared to pre-COVID-19 estimates. For example, Baan Mae Ork Hoo increased its flows by 50 people per day from pre-COVID-19 to October, while Baan Wa-le Tai's flows were estimated to be 100 people per day for both time periods. On the other hand, flows at Muean Rue Chai, Baan Pha Yo, and Baan Wa-le Nuea decreased. Key Informants noted that Baan Wa-le Nuea became semi-formal at the beginning of 2022, the transition of which meant that flows started to become regulated to around 200 people per week. These shifts in volume between nearby POEs may indicate small changes in migration pathways between pre-COVID-19 and the time of data collection.

None of the POEs included any health screening mechanisms, hand-washing capacities, or COVID-19 risk information. However, all were relatively close to health facilities.

Health workers and NGO/UN partners were not present at any of the POEs, but law enforcement personnel were still present at the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge 1, despite its closure, and Muen Rue Chai and Baan Wa-le Nuea.

DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

TABLE 3: HEALTH SERVICES (OCT 2022)

POE	SCREENING PRESENT?	WHAT TYPE OF SCREENING IS PRESENT?	HAND-WASHING AVAILABLE?	COVID-RISK INFO AVAILABLE?	DISTANCE TO NEAREST HEALTH FACILITY
Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridges	No	NA	No	No	1-5 km
Muen Rue Chai	No	NA	No	No	1-5 km
Baan Pha Yo	No	NA	No	No	<1 km
Baan Mae Ork Hoo	No	NA	No	No	1-5 km
Baan Wa-le Nuea	No	NA	No	No	<1 km
Baan Wa-le Tai	No	NA	No	No	1-5 km

TABLE 4: PRESENCE OF VARIOUS PERSONNEL (OCT 2022)

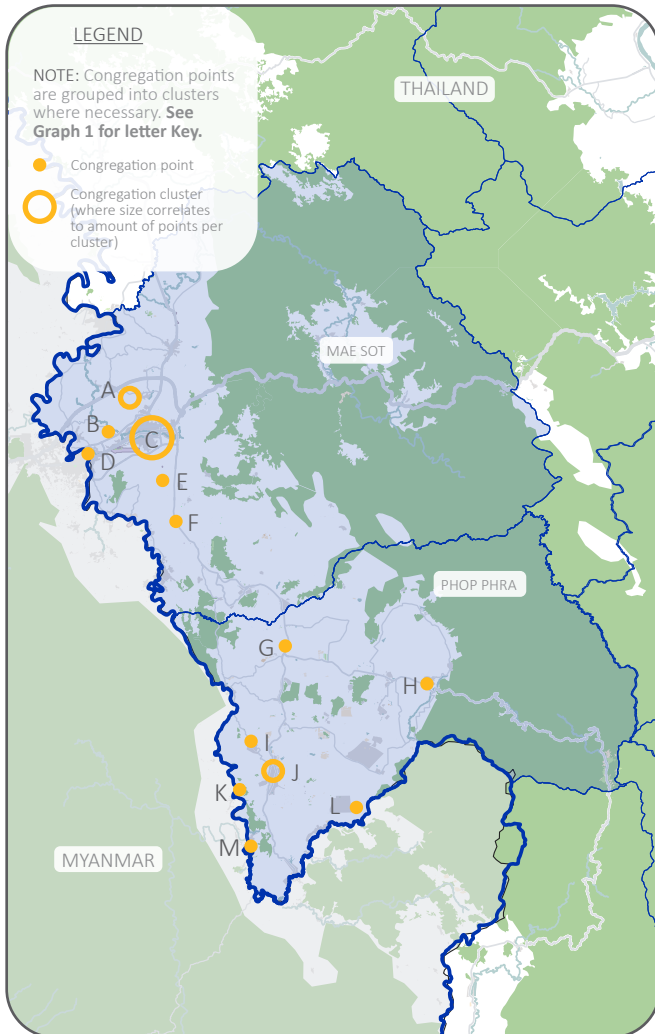
POE	PRESENCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT?	NUMBER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT	PRESENCE OF HEALTH WORKERS?	NUMBER OF HEALTH WORKERS	PRESENCE OF NGO/UN AGENCIES?	NGO/UN ACTIVITY TYPE
Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridges	Yes	1-5	No	NA	No	NA
Muen Rue Chai	Yes	1-5	No	NA	No	NA
Baan Pha Yo	No	NA	No	NA	No	NA
Baan Mae Ork Hoo	No	NA	No	NA	No	NA
Baan Wa-le Nuea	Yes	1-5	No	NA	No	NA
Baan Wa-le Tai	No	NA	No	NA	No	NA

CONGREGATION POINT PROFILES



22 IDENTIFIED CONGREGATION POINTS

MAP 3: CONGREGATION POINT LOCATIONS

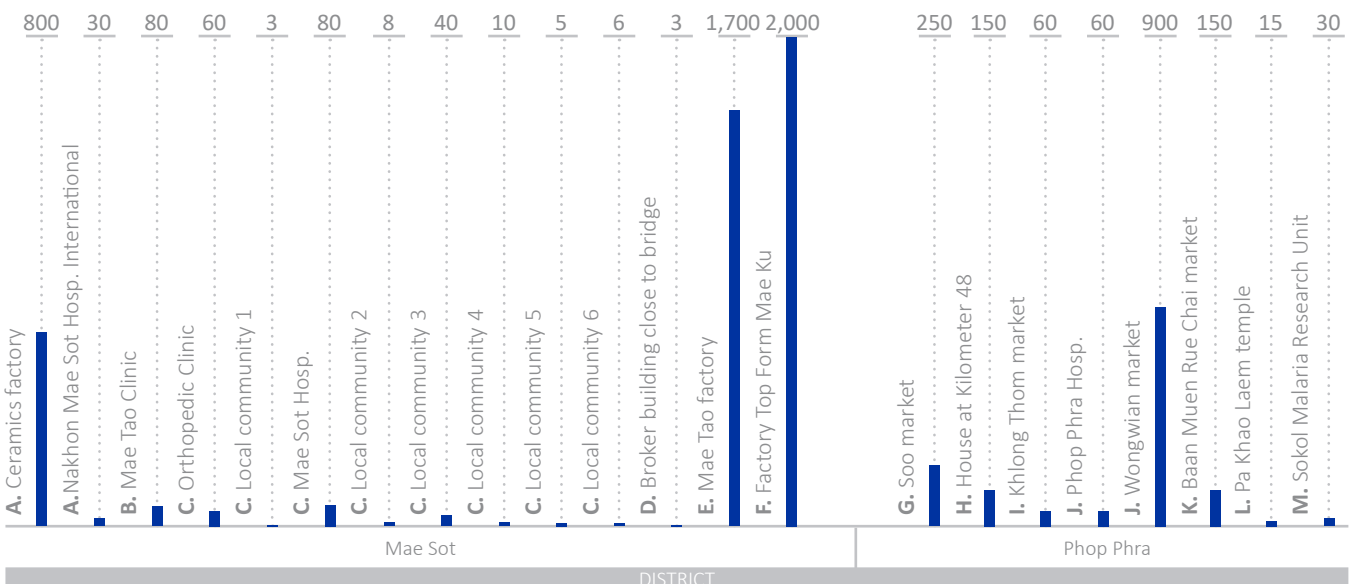


The 22 congregation points identified are located in two districts along Tak's western border. Mae Sot district included the highest number of congregation points identified, with two factories in that district receiving the largest volume of daily flows as of October 2022. Meanwhile, in Phop Phra district, the busiest congregation point was Wongwian market. It should be noted that key informant estimates for flow volumes at congregation points may be higher than estimates at POEs because key informants may not be able to differentiate recent arrivals from long-term residents who also frequent congregation points.

All congregation points were accessible as of October 2022 and are located less than one kilometer away from a village or a paved road. Primary modes of transportation to all congregation points included car, bus, motorcycle, bicycle, and foot. Congregation points mainly consisted of markets, health facilities, local communities, factories, and temples. Intended destinations included Mae Sot and Phop Phra district. Key informants specified that people often crossed the border into Tak for health treatment, work, and visiting friends and family. Factories, markets, and health facilities were more likely to have latrines, hand washing facilities, and health screening, while local community points often did not have these capacities. COVID-19 risk communication information was only available at four congregation points, three of which were health facilities and one of which was a market. Health workers were present at all health facilities and some factories and markets. NGO/UN partners were present at two local communities, providing health screening and support with domestic issues and food education.

DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

GRAPH 1: CONGREGATION POINTS DAILY FLOW VOLUME ESTIMATES (OCT 2022)¹



¹ It should be noted that, unlike for the POEs, key informants did not have concrete estimates of the flow volume at congregation points before the pandemic. Thus, no comparison between the two timelines is made in Graph 1. Also, among congregation points with flows that fluctuate throughout the week (i.e. weekday versus weekend volumes), the maximum estimated flow is reported in Graph 1.

SUMMARY KEY FINDINGS

- 1 A total of seven POEs and 22 congregation points were identified in Tak. Most POEs and all congregation points were accessible during site observation in October 2022.
- 2 The net flows at POEs in Tak as of October 2022 are still lower than those prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but flows at Baan Mae Ork Hoo and Baan Wa-le Tai have stayed the same or increased between the two time periods.
- 3 All POEs had low health screening and WASH capacities as of October 2022.
- 4 Factories in Mae Sot experienced the highest flow volume out of all congregation points identified in Tak.
- 5 Factories, markets, and health facilities in Tak were relatively well-equipped with latrines, health screening measures, and hand washing facilities.

The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM or its Member States. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

Publisher: IOM Thailand
18th Floor, Rajanakarn Building
3 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120 Thailand
Tel.: (+66) 2-343-9300
Fax: (+66) 2-343-9399
Website: thailand.iom.int

© 2022 International Organization for Migration (IOM)
All rights reserved.
Permission is required to reproduce any part of this publication. Permission to be freely granted to educational or non-profit organizations.
For further information:
DTM Thailand
Email: DTMThailand@iom.int