FLOW MONITORING FINDINGS: PROFILES OF CAMBODIAN AND LAO NATIONALS CROSSING INTO THAILAND

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
MAY – OCTOBER 2023

IOM
UN MIGRATION

Co-funded by the
European Union

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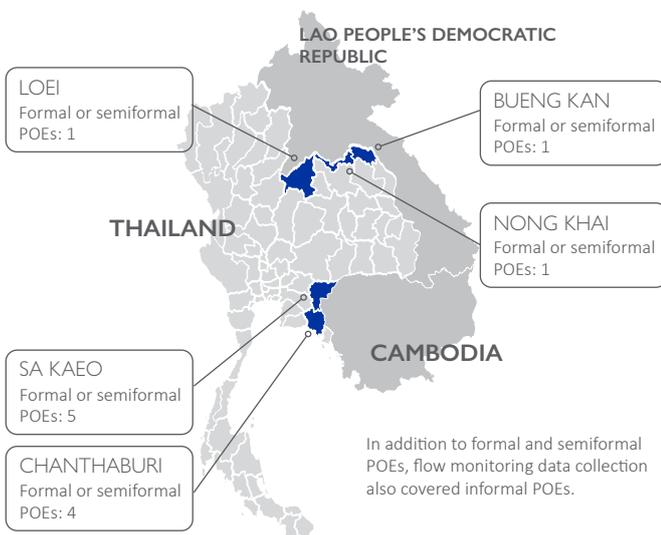# LIST OF FIGURES, MAPS, AND TABLES

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

To gain a better understanding of the mobility dynamics and vulnerabilities of Cambodian and Lao nationals entering Thailand, IOM Thailand initiated flow monitoring activities at key points of entry (POEs) in Bueng Kan, Chanthaburi, Loei, Nong Khai, and Sa Kaeo provinces between May and October 2023 using IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tools. Flow monitoring is designed to track the scale and characteristics of human mobility along the border, including the volume, intended destinations, reasons for movement, intended lengths of stay, and expectations about work sectors and conditions. The activity provides critical insights into current mobility dynamics on the Eastern borders with Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

METHODOLOGY

Flow monitoring activities consist of two interlinked exercises: Flow Monitoring Counting (FMC) and Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS). FMC requires field staff to count all individuals entering Thailand at selected border points during active hours every day for a week to approximate the influx volume of each point. The FMS tool is used to interview incoming individuals, determining the proportion of Thai and non-Thai individuals among the target population and capturing details regarding the latter's migration profiles and expectations. Field staff aim to interview one person out of every few individuals who enter Thailand via their assigned border point. FMC and FMS are conducted simultaneously at each point for one week every month. Chanthaburi, Loei, Nong Khai, and Sa Kaeo were chosen due to pre-existing information indicating that the four provinces experience a substantial volume of entries.

From May to October 2023, IOM's Migration Data and Research Unit interviewed a total of 3,582 incoming Cambodian and Lao nationals to Thailand. Of those, 76 per cent (2,708) were Cambodian nationals and 24 per cent (874) were Lao nationals.

LIMITATIONS

The information in this report relates only to Cambodian and Lao nationals who have crossed at assessed border points in Bueng Kan, Chanthaburi, Loei, Nong Khai, and Sa Kaeo provinces at the time of assessment. The analysis should only be considered as indicative. Additionally, biases due to self-reporting may exist, with certain indicators possibly being under-reported or over-reported due to the subjectivity and perceptions of respondents. These biases should be taken into consideration when interpreting findings. It should be noted that some questions were only asked to a subset of respondents who answered affirmatively to the preceding questions. 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.

Keeping these limitations in mind, the findings can shed light on current migration trends and patterns of movement along the Thailand-Cambodia and Thailand-Lao People's Democratic Republic borders. This information can be used to inform evidence-based programs to address the needs of new arrivals and migrant communities.

MAP 1: GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

LOEI
Formal or semiformal
POEs: 1

BUENG KAN
Formal or semiformal
POEs: 1

NONG KHAI
Formal or semiformal
POEs: 1

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

THAILAND

CAMBODIA

SA KAEO
Formal or semiformal
POEs: 5

CHANTHABURI
Formal or semiformal
POEs: 4

In addition to formal and semiformal POEs, flow monitoring data collection also covered informal POEs.

DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

TABLE 1: SURVEY POPULATION

PROVINCE	CAMBODIAN	LAO	TOTAL
BUENG KAN	-	107	107
NONG KHAI	-	280	280
LOEI	-	115	115
SA KAEO	949	197	1,146
CHANTHABURI	1,759	175	1,934
TOTAL	2,708	874	3,582

MOBILITY DYNAMICS

Of the five Thai provinces assessed in this report, Chanthaburi and Sa Kaeo are at the border with Cambodia. The migratory patterns across the Cambodia-Thai border in Chanthaburi and Sa Kaeo are primarily characterized by local movements, with some exceptions. Chanthaburi's five identified POEs are land border points connecting Thailand to Cambodia's Battambang and Pailin provinces, with two, Baan Laem and Baan Pakkard as formal POEs. In Sa Kaeo, all four identified POEs are land border points and fully accessible with two of them (Baan Ta Phraya and Baan Nong Prue) considered formal POEs and two others (Baan Khlong Luek and Baan Khao Din) semi-formal. The other three Thai provinces assessed, Bueng Kan, Loei, and Nong Khai, share a border with the Lao People's Democratic Republic. In Nong Khai, the six identified POEs, including five maritime border points along the Mekong river, facilitate regular crossings. Bueng Kan province is in the northeastern most part of Thailand and shares its northern and eastern borders with Bolikhamsai province of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Loei province in upper northeastern Thailand borders Xaignabouli and Vientiane provinces of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The following analysis categorises incoming Cambodian and Lao nationals into two groups: short-term arrivals are those who intend to stay in Thailand for one week or less while longer-term arrivals are those who intend to stay in Thailand for more than one week, also including those who do not yet know how long they will stay in the country. The rationale behind defining these two groups is based on the difference in their migration profiles. Short-term arrivals only spend a limited time in Thailand, suggesting their center of life continues to be based in bordering Cambodia and/or the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Meanwhile, longer-term arrivals may be shifting their center of life to Thailand and their presence ought to be considered when planning the provision of services and assistance. The majority of Cambodian respondents (58%) and Lao respondents (57%) are longer-term arrivals, while the remaining 42 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively, reported engaging in short-term movements across borders. The following report initially focuses on the findings on short-term arrivals, then on longer-term arrivals, with a specific distinction made between Cambodian and Lao nationals.

FIGURE 1: PROPORTIONS OF SHORT- AND LONGER -TERM RESPONDENTS

CAMBODIAN NATIONALS

Short-term respondents

24%

Those intending to stay in Thailand less than 1 week

Longer-term respondents

76%

Those intending to stay in Thailand more than 1 week

LAO NATIONALS

Short-term respondents

49%

Those intending to stay in Thailand less than 1 week

Longer-term respondents

51%

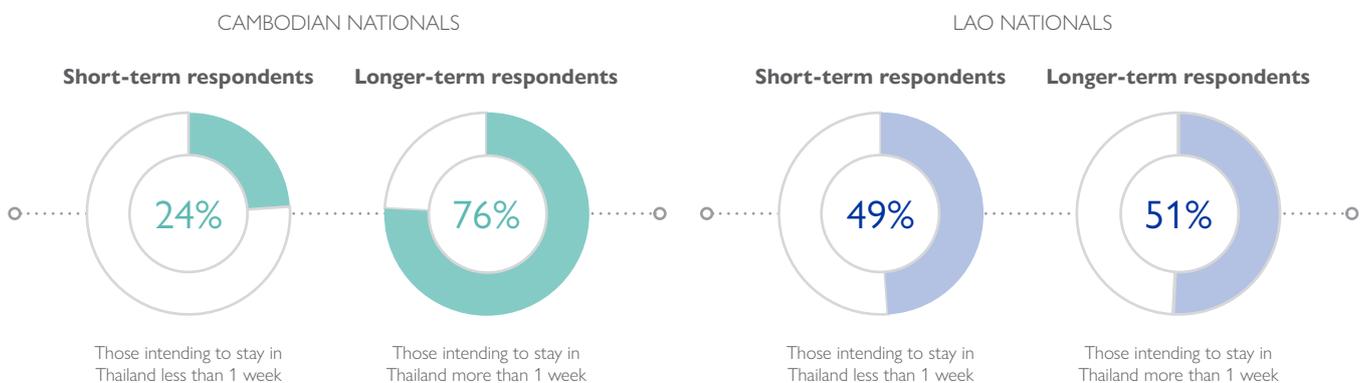Those intending to stay in Thailand more than 1 week

PHOTO Baan Laem market on the border with Cambodia in Chanthaburi. © IOM 2022/Sonia BLUE

SHORT-TERM ARRIVALS

MIGRATION PROFILES AND DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

Those entering Thailand for less than one week (short-term arrivals) make up less than half (42% and 43%) of Cambodian and Lao national respondents' arrivals. Short-term arrivals tend to stay in the province where they crossed into Thailand and do not intend to travel further into Thailand. Interviewed Cambodian respondents mostly enter Thailand through Chanthaburi (82%), while the remaining 18 per cent enter via Sa Kaeo. Almost all (97%) of these respondents indicated their intention to stay in the entry province. Hence, the top destination province is Chanthaburi (80%), followed by Sa Kaeo (16%).

Similar trends were observed among Lao respondents, with 76 per cent intending to stay in the province of entry. For Lao respondents, the top entry provinces among interviewed respondents are Nong Khai (59%), Bueng Khan (24%), and Loei (16%). Those who entered via Nong Khai were less likely to stay in the province (73%) and more likely to identify Udon Thani as their destination province (27%). Thus, Lao respondents showed more diverse destination provinces, with Nong Khai being the most common (38%), followed by Bueng Kan (25%), Udon Thani (16%), and Loei (15%).

Main origin provinces among Cambodian respondents include Battambang (72%), followed by Banteay Meanchey (12%) and Pailin (7%). Among Lao respondents, the main origin provinces are concentrated in Vientiane Capital (57%) and Bolikhamxai (28%), followed by Vientiane (8%).

FIGURE 2: MAIN REASONS FOR MIGRATION AMONG SHORT-TERM RESPONDENTS*
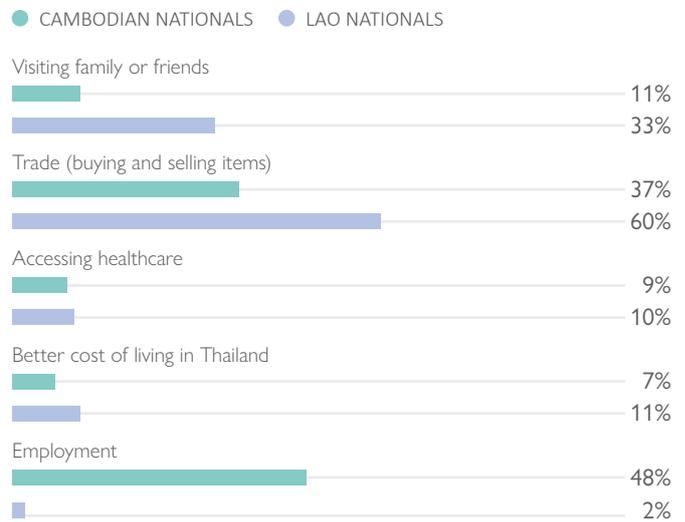
● CAMBODIAN NATIONALS ● LAO NATIONALS

Visiting family or friends	11%
	33%
Trade (buying and selling items)	37%
	60%
Accessing healthcare	9%
	10%
Better cost of living in Thailand	7%
	11%
Employment	48%
	2%

Documentation allowing short-term stays in Thailand include border passes for travel purposes. Documentation allowing long-term stays in Thailand include non-Thai identification cards, labour cards, and border passes for seasonal work.

Reasons for movement varied between Cambodian and Lao respondents. Among Cambodians, economic factors such as seeking or taking up employment (48%) and trade (37%) were primary motivators. In comparison, most Lao respondents (60%) cited trade as their reason for entering Thailand, followed by visits to family or friends (33%). Only two per cent of Lao respondents cited employment as a main reason for migration.

Among all respondents engaging in trade, 89 per cent of Lao nationals entered the country to buy items, while only three per cent reported selling only and 13 per cent engaging in both. Of Cambodian respondents who came for trade, 59 per cent entered Thailand to buy only, 20 per cent to sell only, and 21 per cent to both buy and sell. Among Cambodian respondents, women were mostly entering for trade reasons (50%), followed by employment (32%), while their male counterparts entered predominantly for employment (69%) and less often for trade (19%). Among Lao nationals, both women and men entered mainly for trade reasons (61% and 55%, respectively), followed by visits to family or friends (36% and 25%, respectively).

	TOP 3 ORIGIN PROVINCES	TOP 3 DESTINATION PROVINCES
CAMBODIAN	Battambang, 72% Banteay Meanchey, 12% Pailin, 7%	Chanthaburi, 80% Sa Kaeo, 16% Bangkok, 2%

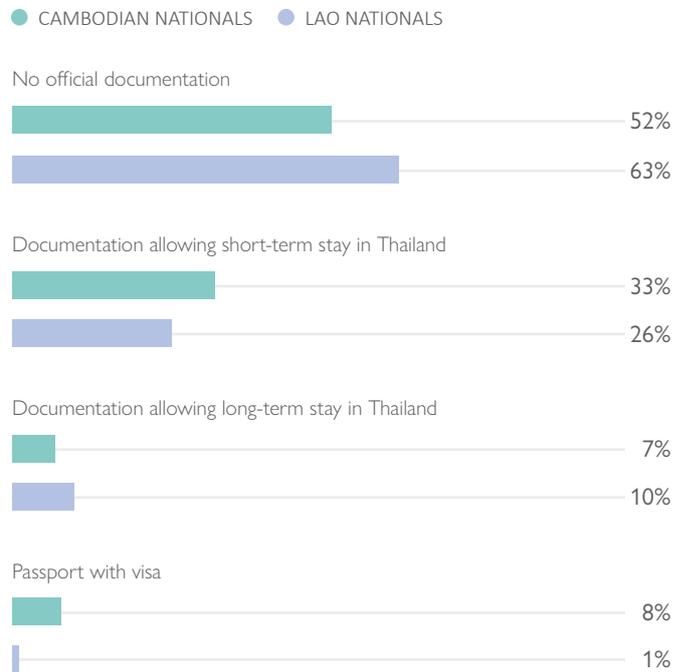|	TOP 3 ORIGIN PROVINCES	TOP 3 DESTINATION PROVINCES
LAO	Vientiane Capital, 57% Bolikhamxai, 28% Vientiane, 8%	Nong Khai, 38% Bueng Kan, 25% Udon Thani, 16%

1,532 SHORT-TERM RESPONDENTS TOTAL

SHORT-TERM ARRIVALS

Respondents were also asked about repeat movements across the Cambodia-Thai and Lao-Thai borders. Among Cambodian respondents who indicated having previously entered Thailand in the past 12 months, twenty-eight per cent mentioned coming for employment at least 52 times in the past year – on average once a week or more. About 16 per cent reported regular movements for trade purposes. In contrast, Lao nationals' responses showed different patterns. Of those who entered Thailand in the past 12 months, 26 per cent did so for trade at least once a month, while eight per cent visited family and friends. Less than four per cent reported weekly visits for trade.

Documentation patterns were comparable between Cambodian and Lao respondents, with over half (52%) of Cambodian respondents and 63 per cent of Lao respondents indicating a lack of documentation. One third (33%) of Cambodian respondents possessed short-term stay documentation, such as a border pass, compared to about one fourth (26%) of Lao respondents. Additionally, seven per cent of Cambodian respondents and nine per cent of Lao respondents indicated holding documentation allowing longer-term stays, such as passports with visas, non-Thai identification cards, or labour cards. The remaining eight per cent and 1.4 per cent, respectively, indicated holding a passport.

FIGURE 3: DOCUMENTATION STATUS AMONG SHORT-TERM RESPONDENTS

● CAMBODIAN NATIONALS ● LAO NATIONALS

No official documentation
52%
63%

Documentation allowing short-term stay in Thailand
33%
26%

Documentation allowing long-term stay in Thailand
7%
10%

Passport with visa
8%
1%

Documentation allowing short-term stays in Thailand include border passes for travel purposes. Documentation allowing long-term stays in Thailand include non-Thai identification cards, labour cards, and border passes for seasonal work.
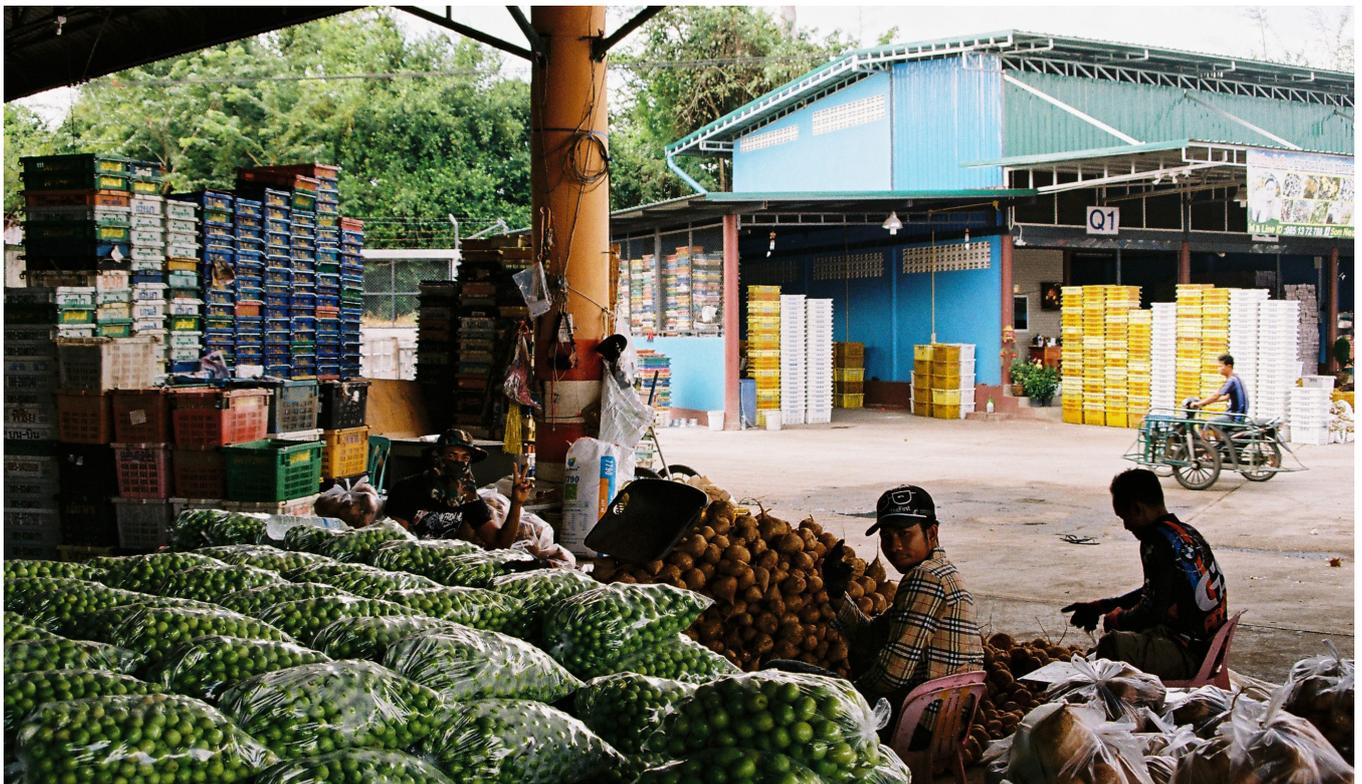

PHOTO Baan Laem market on the border with Cambodia in Chanthaburi. © IOM 2023/Somruedee KARNPHAKDEE

LONGER-TERM ARRIVALS

MIGRATION PROFILES AND DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

Three groups of longer-term arrivals are distinguished in the analysis: those planning to stay in Thailand for less than one year, those planning to stay for more than one year, and those who did not know how long they would stay at the time of the interview. The distributions of these categories varied between Cambodian and Lao respondents. Among Cambodian nationals, a higher percentage (49%) indicated planning to stay in Thailand for over a year, while 31 per cent of Lao nationals reported the same. By comparison, over half (56%) of Lao respondents expressed plans to stay for less than one year compared to 44 per cent of Cambodian respondents. The proportions of respondents uncertain about their length of stay were small, with 13 per cent of Lao respondents and seven per cent of Cambodian respondents falling into this category.

Reasons for migration among longer-term arrivals were comparable between Cambodian and Lao respondents. The top two reasons were employment (82% for Cambodian and 88% for Lao respondents, respectively) and Thailand's better cost of living (31% and 55%, respectively). Accessing health services and trade were also mentioned by 15 per cent and 10 per cent of Cambodian respondents, respectively compared to a very small proportion among their Lao counterparts (less than 1% and 1%, respectively). Lao respondents were more likely to mention visits to family or friends (11%) compared to Cambodian respondents (8%).

Cambodian women were more inclined to cite trade than men (13% compared to 5%), while men mentioned employment more than women (87% compared to 78%). Lao women were more likely to cite Thailand's better cost of living than men (57% compared to 52%) and visits to family and friends (13% compared to 7%). On the contrary, they were less likely to cite employment than men (83% compared to 94%). Further, reasons varied slightly by age. Cambodian respondents above 60 years of age were more likely to cite health access (33%), trade (22%), and visits to family and friends (22%) than younger generations (under 25 years), who were more likely to report employment (85%) and other reasons (21%). Thailand's cost of living and employment were more likely to be mentioned by under-25 Lao respondents than by older generations. Additionally, both Cambodian and Lao respondents who were uncertain about their length of stay in Thailand were more likely to cite Thailand's cost of living when asked about the reasons for entering the country.

Among Cambodian and Lao respondents who reported entering Thailand in the past, common reasons for repeat movements across the border included employment and Thailand's better cost of living. Visits to family and friends were also an important motivator among Lao respondents, while accessing health services was among Cambodian respondents.

> **2,050 LONGER-TERM RESPONDENTS TOTAL**

FIGURE 4: MAIN REASONS FOR MIGRATION AMONG LONGER-TERM RESPONDENTS*
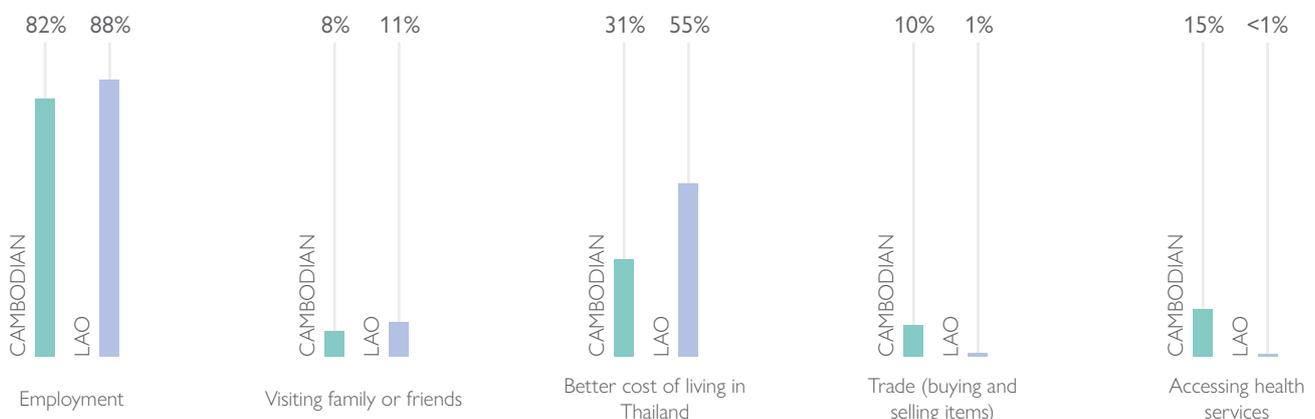
In terms of social connections, about 80 per cent of Cambodian respondents reported having family or friends in their destination location, whereas this was the case for only 56 per cent of Lao respondents. Relatively low proportions of Cambodian (36%) and Lao (29%) respondents stated that they were entering Thailand accompanied by their children. Notably, among Cambodian respondents, women were more likely to be travelling with children than men (41% compared to 30% overall), while the opposite was observed among Lao respondents (28% compared to 31% overall).

Twenty-seven per cent of Cambodian and 12 per cent of Lao respondents reported having at least one child left behind. This finding can be attributed to the significant proportion of Lao respondents who reported being single (48%), while the majority Cambodian respondents were either engaged or married (62%). Most respondents reported being accompanied by their spouse (51% of Cambodian and 57% of their Lao counterparts). If not accompanying the respondents, 31 per cent of Cambodian spouses and 18 per cent of Lao spouses were reported to be in the origin country, while 15 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively, were in the destination location.

> A quarter (25%) of respondents indicated having a child who was left behind in their origin country. Children were considered as left behind when located in a country other than Thailand and when the respondent's partner / spouse was not located in the same country as the children.

FIGURE 5: DOCUMENTATION STATUS AMONG LONGER-TERM RESPONDENTS

● CAMBODIAN NATIONALS   ● LAO NATIONALS

No official documentation
- 22%
- 44%

Passport with visa
- 39%
- 21%

Documentation allowing short-term stay in Thailand
- 4%
- 29%

Documentation allowing long-term stay in Thailand
- 35%
- 6%

> Migrants residing in Thailand under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) accounted for 32 and 15 per cent of Cambodian and Lao respondents interviewed at POEs, respectively. As of October 2023, 7,828 Cambodia and 9,876 Lao nationals are officially registered under the MoU according to Thailand's Department of Employment.

For both Cambodian and Lao respondents, longer-term arrivals were less likely than short-term arrivals to be undocumented. Still, 44 per cent of Lao and 22 per cent of Cambodian longer-term respondents were found to lack documentation permitting longer-term stay. Both Lao and Cambodian women were more likely to be undocumented compared to their male counterparts. At the same time, 74 per cent of Cambodian respondents and 32 per cent of Lao respondents held passports, non-Thai identification cards, or labour cards – documents that allow long-term stay in Thailand. Both Cambodian and Lao men were more likely to have documents permitting long-term stays and passports than their women counterparts. Among Cambodian respondents, those who did not know how long they would be staying in Thailand were more likely to have short-term documentation, like a border pass, or no documentation. On the contrary, Lao respondents uncertain about their length of stay in Thailand were more likely to hold short-term documentation.

Almost three quarters (72%) of Cambodian respondents and over half (51%) of Lao respondents reported having someone who helped them prepare for their journey. For both nationalities, those who helped were mainly recruitment agencies mentioned by 52 per cent of Cambodian respondents and 47 per cent of Lao respondents. Friends or family were the second most cited facilitators (44% and 42% of Cambodian and Lao respondents, respectively).
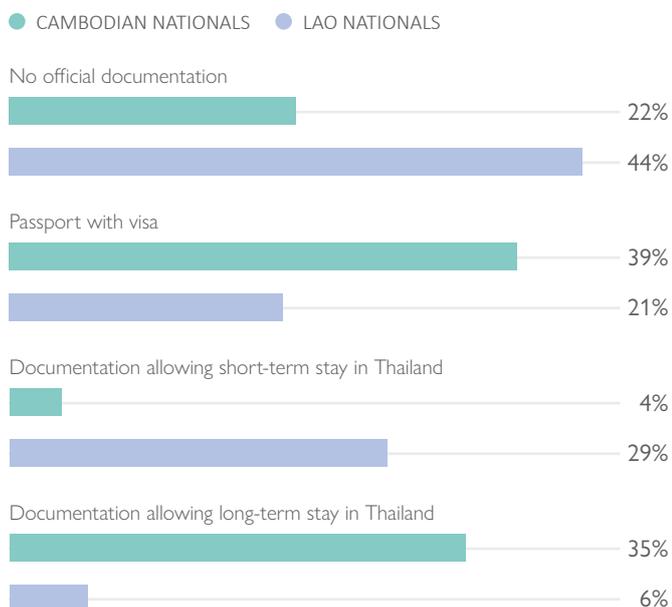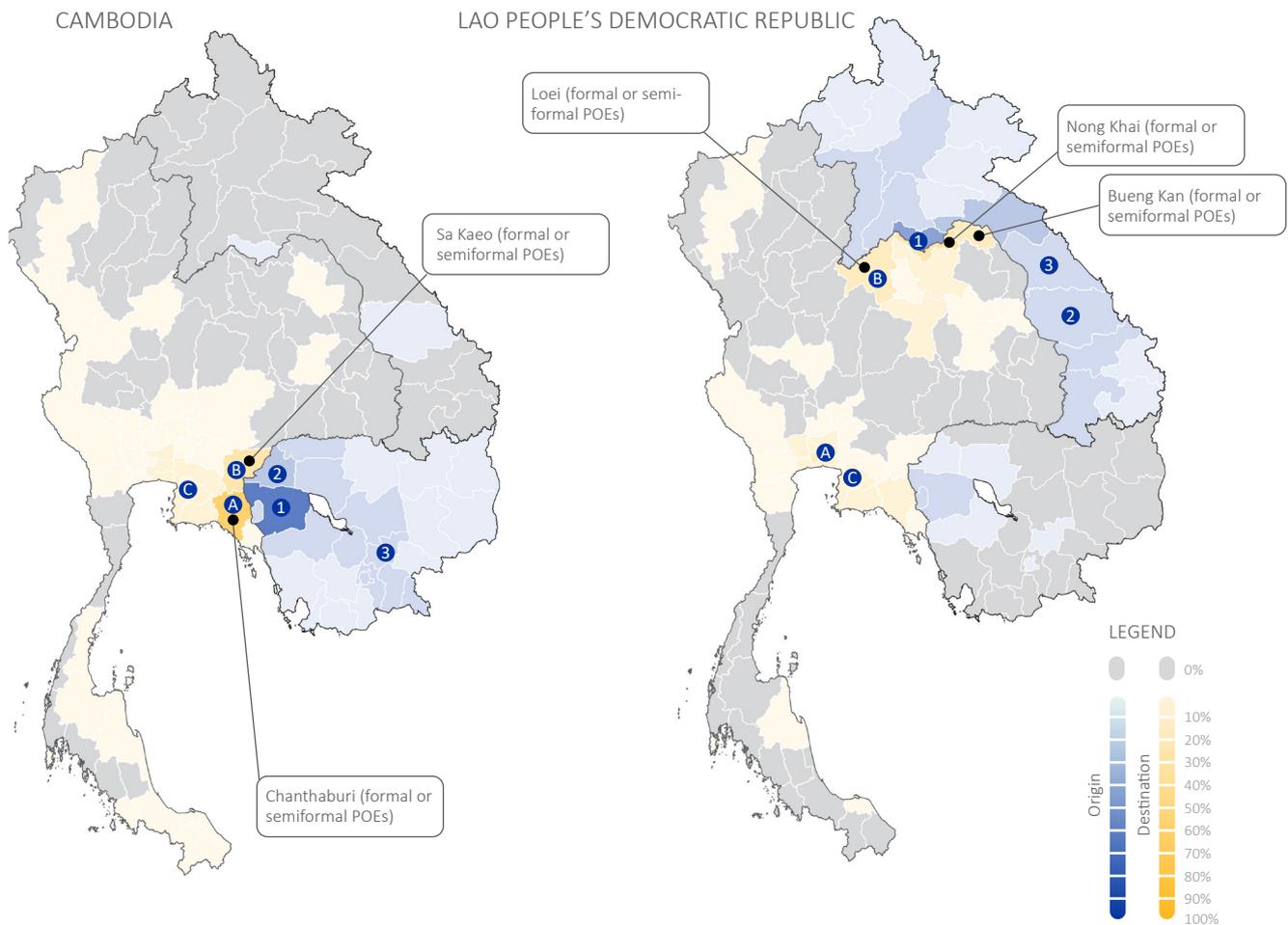
PHOTO: Baan Laem official border crossing point in Chanthaburi province.
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MAP 2: ORIGIN AND DESTINATION LOCATIONS AMONG LONGER-TERM RESPONDENTS

CAMBODIA

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Loei (formal or semi-formal POEs)

Nong Khai (formal or semiformal POEs)

Bueng Kan (formal or semiformal POEs)

Sa Kaeo (formal or semiformal POEs)

Chanthaburi (formal or semiformal POEs)

LEGEND

Origin / Destination

0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%

In addition to formal and semiformal POEs, flow monitoring data collection also covered informal POEs.

DISCLAIMER: These maps are for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

CAMBODIAN

TOP 3 ORIGIN PROVINCES		TOP 3 DESTINATION PROVINCES	
1. Battambang	33%	A. Chanthaburi	35%
2. Banteay Meanchey	8%	B. Sa Kaeo	27%
3. Kampong Cham	6%	C. Chonburi	8%

LAO

TOP 3 ORIGIN PROVINCES		TOP 3 DESTINATION PROVINCES	
1. Vientiane Capital	15%	A. Bangkok	31%
2. Savannakhet	13%	B. Loei	12%
3. Khammouan	7%	C. Chonburi	10%

The following maps provide insight into the origin and destination locations of longer-term arrivals of Cambodian and Lao nationals. Cambodian longer-term respondents reported originating mainly from Cambodia (80%). One-fifth (20%) reported other origin countries. Of those coming from Cambodia, one-third (33%) reported originating from Battambang and eight per cent from Banteay Meanchey.

The countries of departure of Lao longer-term respondents were mostly the Lao People's Democratic Republic (63%), followed by Cambodia (7%) and Viet Nam (less than 1%). Thirty per cent reported originating from other countries. The top origin provinces of those coming from the Lao People's Democratic Republic were Vientiane Capital (15%) and Savannakhet (13%). Most Lao nationals who reported coming

from Cambodia arrived from Battambang province (4%).

Longer-term respondents intended to stay in the province of entry less often (61% of Cambodian respondents and 29% of Lao respondents). Among Cambodian respondents, the top destination provinces mirrored the top entry provinces, namely Chanthaburi (35%) and Sa Kaeo (27%). For Lao longer-term arrivals, entry provinces varied, with Sa Kaeo (40%) and Chanthaburi (35%) among the most common. Notably, when the entry province was located at the Lao-Thai border, 80 per cent reported an intention to stay in that province. However, when the entry province was situated at the Cambodia-Thai border, only 12 per cent expressed an intention to stay, with 41 per cent citing Bangkok and 12 per cent citing Chon Buri as their destination provinces.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES AND EXPECTATIONS

By education, the structure was comparable between Cambodian and Lao respondents. Four per cent of Cambodian and one per cent of Lao nationals reported not having any education at all. Among respondents who had attended some school, more than one-third (37% and 36%, respectively) did not complete primary school. Additionally, 88 per cent of Cambodian respondents and 87 per cent of Lao respondents had not completed secondary school. Only three per cent of Cambodian and six per cent of Lao respondents had education levels above secondary school.

When asked what their usual profession was, over one-third (34%) of Cambodian and nearly one-fourth (24%) of Lao longer-term arrival respondents reported usually working in agriculture (including fishing). Construction was another commonly cited usual profession, mentioned by 17 per cent of Cambodian respondents and 10 per cent of their Lao counterparts. Both

Lao and Cambodian men were more likely to report usually working in agriculture (including fishing) and in construction than women. By contrast, Lao women were more likely than Lao men to report usually working as street vendors.

Respondents who indicated that they were entering Thailand for employment reasons were also asked about their intended work sector. About one-third (32%) of Cambodian respondents and 15 per cent of their Lao counterparts expressed their intention to work in agriculture, as well as in manufacturing (17% and 12%, respectively) and construction (14% and 10%, respectively). In terms of gender, the intention to engage in domestic work, street vending, and food production was more prevalent among Cambodian women than men. Similarly, Lao women respondents were more inclined to plan employment in domestic work and street vending compared to their male counterparts.

FIGURE 6: EDUCATION LEVELS AMONG LONGER-TERM RESPONDENTS[1]
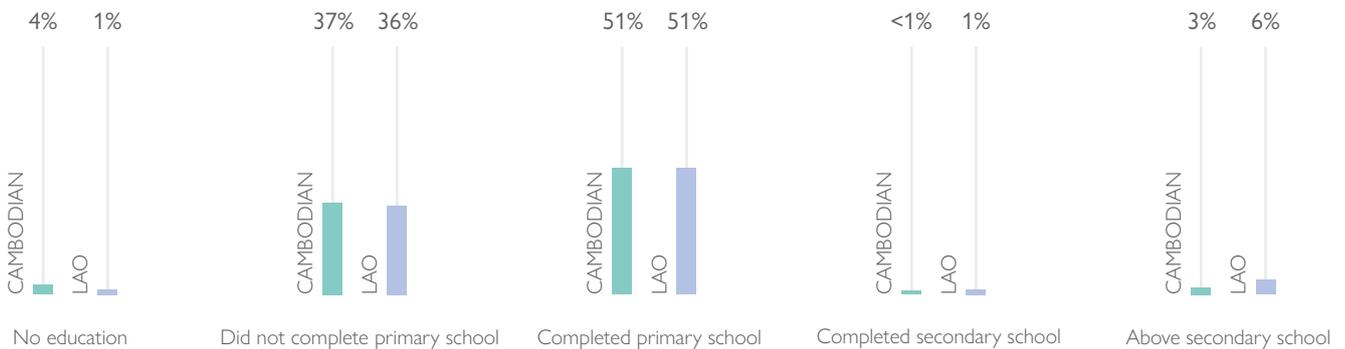
TABLE 2: MAIN WORK SECTORS OF LONGER-TERM RESPONDENTS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN THAILAND

	CAMBODIAN	LAO
Agriculture	34%	24%
Construction	17%	10%
Domestic work	2%	7%
Manufacturing	10%	7%
None (unemployed)	3%	9%
Street vendor	7%	5%

TABLE 3: MAIN ASPIRATIONAL WORK SECTORS AMONG LONGER-TERM RESPONDENTS

	CAMBODIAN	LAO
Agriculture	32%	15%
Construction	14%	10%
Domestic work	3%	10%
Food production	3%	7%
Manufacturing	17%	12%
Street vendor	5%	7%

[1] Five per cent of both Cambodia and Lao respondents did not want to answer.

Regarding their expected daily earnings, Cambodian respondents who indicated employment as a reason for movement in Thailand estimated they would earn around 474 THB per day. The expected daily earning was slightly lower among Lao respondents (459 THB per day).

Cambodian women reported expecting slightly more than their male counterparts (480 THB compared to 468 THB). This was not the case for Lao women who reported a lower expected daily earning (445 THB) compared to 473 THB for Lao men. Both Cambodian and Lao pursuing domestic work estimated the lowest earning, at 382 THB per day. By contrast, the top three sectors whose expected daily earnings were the highest were street vending (606 THB), fishing (583 THB), and hospitality (564 THB) among Cambodian respondents and food production (646 THB), banking and finance (550 THB), and street vending (517 THB) among Lao respondents. Complementary data from IOM's 2022 Multisectoral Assessment of Needs (MSA) conducted among Cambodian workers in Thailand indicated that 82 per cent of respondents earned more than 315 THB per day.

Upon their arrival, most Cambodian and Lao respondents (94% and 83%, respectively) confirmed they already had a job lined up. Further, for both nationalities, respondents with connections at the destination were more likely to have a job lined up compared to those without.

FIGURE 7: AVERAGE EXPECTED DAILY EARNING AMONG LONGER-TERM RESPONDENTS BY MAIN ASPIRATIONAL WORK SECTORS[2]

PHOTO: Ban Klong Luk border point in Sa Kaeo province. © IOM 2023/Sonia BLUE

[2] As none of the Cambodian respondents cited banking and finance as an aspirational work sector, banking and finance is not included in the following comparison figure.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Regarding Thai language skills, about 86 per cent of Cambodian respondents and 93 per cent of Lao respondents reported being able to speak Thai, however, only 22 per cent of Cambodian respondents and 55 per cent of their Lao counterparts reported reading Thai. Writing Thai was even less common, with 13 per cent of Cambodian respondents and 39 per cent of Lao respondents able to write Thai. Thai language skills were high among Cambodian respondents intending to work in the construction (87%). Lao respondents intending to work in the agriculture (100%) and manufacturing (93%) sectors reported higher Thai language skills. The proportion of respondents who can read Thai was lower across all aspirational work sectors. A minority of Cambodian and Lao respondents (7% and 8%, respectively) reported being able to speak English.

TABLE 4: PROPORTION OF RESPONDENTS WHO CAN SPEAK THAI AMONG LONGER-TERM RESPONDENTS BY MAIN ASPIRATIONAL WORK SECTORS[3]

	CAMBODIAN NATIONALS	LAO NATIONALS
Agriculture	83%	100%
Construction	87%	85%
Domestic work	73%	82%
Food production	N/A	N/A
Manufacturing	77%	93%
Street vendor	N/A	N/A

TABLE 5: PROPORTION OF RESPONDENTS WHO CAN READ THAI AMONG LONGER-TERM RESPONDENTS BY MAIN ASPIRATIONAL WORK SECTORS

	CAMBODIAN NATIONALS	LAO NATIONALS
Agriculture	17%	56%
Construction	12%	25%
Domestic work	15%	50%
Food production	N/A	N/A
Manufacturing	16%	44%
Street vendor	N/A	N/A

TABLE 6: PROPORTION OF RESPONDENTS WHO CAN SPEAK ENGLISH AMONG LONGER-TERM RESPONDENTS BY MAIN ASPIRATIONAL WORK SECTORS

	CAMBODIAN NATIONALS	LAO NATIONALS
Agriculture	2%	0%
Construction	1%	8%
Domestic work	0%	0%
Food production	N/A	N/A
Manufacturing	2%	4%
Street vendor	N/A	N/A

[3] N/A indicates no respondents.

KEY FINDINGS

○ Entries by Cambodian and Lao nationals to Thailand comprise two distinct types of flows: those for short-term stays of up to one week (42% of Cambodian arrivals and 43% of Lao arrivals), and longer-term entries (58% and 57%, respectively).

○ Key destination provinces among Cambodian arrivals included Chanthaburi (80%) and Sa Kaeo (16%). Destination provinces were more varied among Lao arrivals, including Nong Khai (38%), Bueng Kan (25%), Udon Thani (16%), and Loei (15%).

○ Reasons for migration among Cambodian short-term arrival respondents were mainly employment (48%) and trade (37%). Among Lao short-term arrivals, the main drivers of migration were trade (60%) and visits to family and friends (33%).

○ Main reasons for migration were comparable among Cambodian and Lao longer-term arrivals. They included employment (82% of Cambodian and 88% of Lao respondents) and Thailand's better cost of living (31% and 55%, respectively).

○ Most longer-term arrival Cambodian and Lao respondents who entered Thailand for employment reasons already had a job lined up upon arrival (94% and 83%, respectively).

○ Common professions of longer-term arrival respondents were mainly agriculture, including fishing (34% of Cambodian and 24% of Lao respondents), followed by construction (18% and 10%, respectively).

○ Cambodian respondents who entered Thailand for employment reasons expected a daily earning of 474 THB, while Lao respondents estimated a slightly lower daily earning of 459 THB.

○ Responses provided evidence of varied intra-regional movements among Cambodian and Lao longer-term arrivals. Eighty per cent of Cambodian arrivals came from Cambodia, while 20 per cent came from other countries. Among Lao arrivals, 63 per cent originated from their home country, 30 per cent from other countries, and seven per cent from Cambodia.

○ Thai language skills were slightly lower (86%) among Cambodian longer-term arrivals than their Lao counterparts (93%).

○ About one-third of Cambodian (36%) and Lao (29%) respondents reported that they entered Thailand accompanied by their children. Further, 27 per cent of Cambodian and 12 per cent of Lao respondents reported having at least one child left behind.

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