

IOM THAILAND

MULTI-SECTORAL ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS 2023



KANCHANABURI FACTSHEET

DECEMBER 2023 - MARCH 2024



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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 Kanchanaburi province as captured between December 2023 and March 2024 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 labor, 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 Kanchanaburi. IOM sought an equal balance between female and male respondents. Answers from 595 respondents were analysed. Counting all respondents and their household members, 2,583 individuals are represented by this assessment.

Due to the high number of indicators of interest, the survey was split into two tools: tool 1 focusing on questions about multi-sectoral conditions (MSA) and tool 2 on access to services (ASI). 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 but were answered by all respondents remain 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.

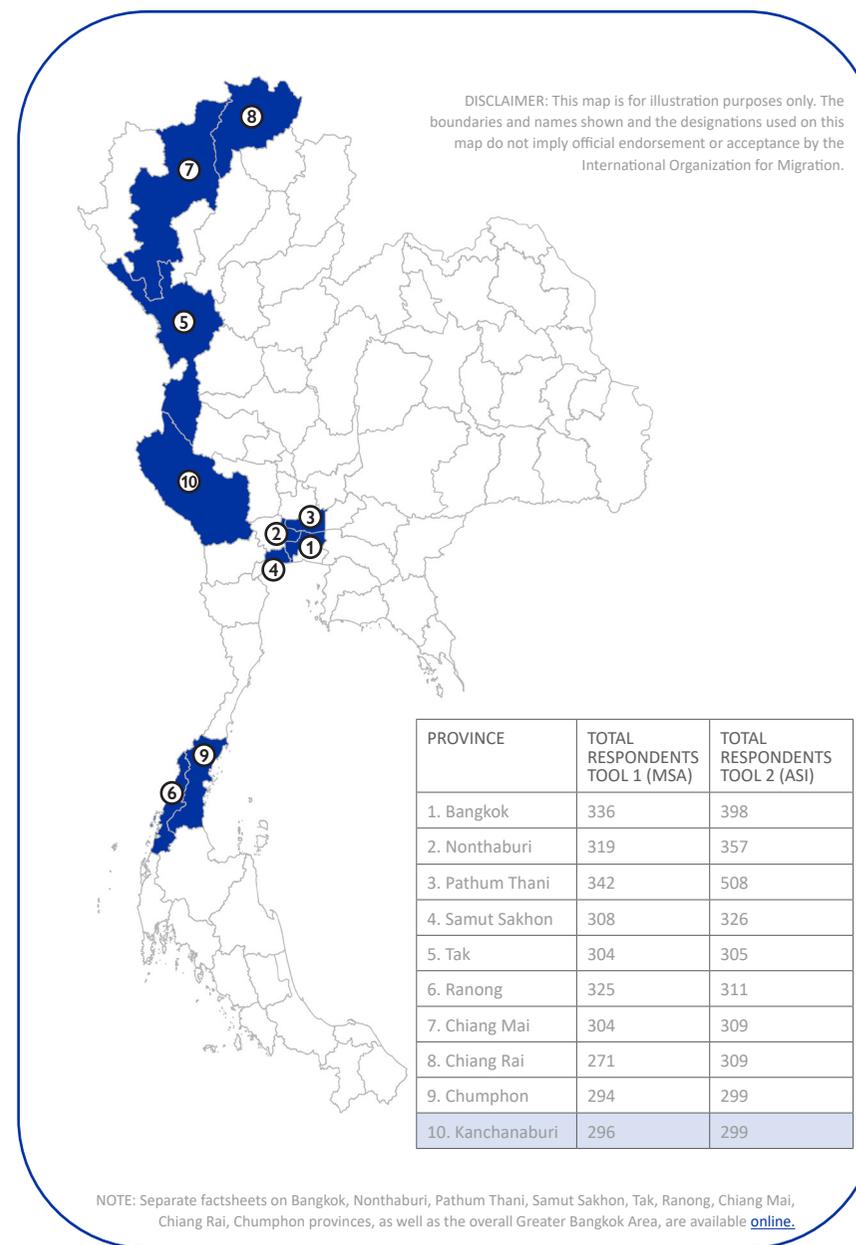
Primary data collection period

Data was collected from 29 December 2023 to 15 March 2024.

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



The gender makeup of respondents was 66 per cent women and 34 per cent men. No respondents identified as other gender. The average age among respondents was 45.3 years and the average number of people living in surveyed households was 4.3. Regarding vulnerabilities, no households reported having a member with a disability.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



Men



Women



Other gender



Average age

HOUSEHOLD STATISTICS

4.3



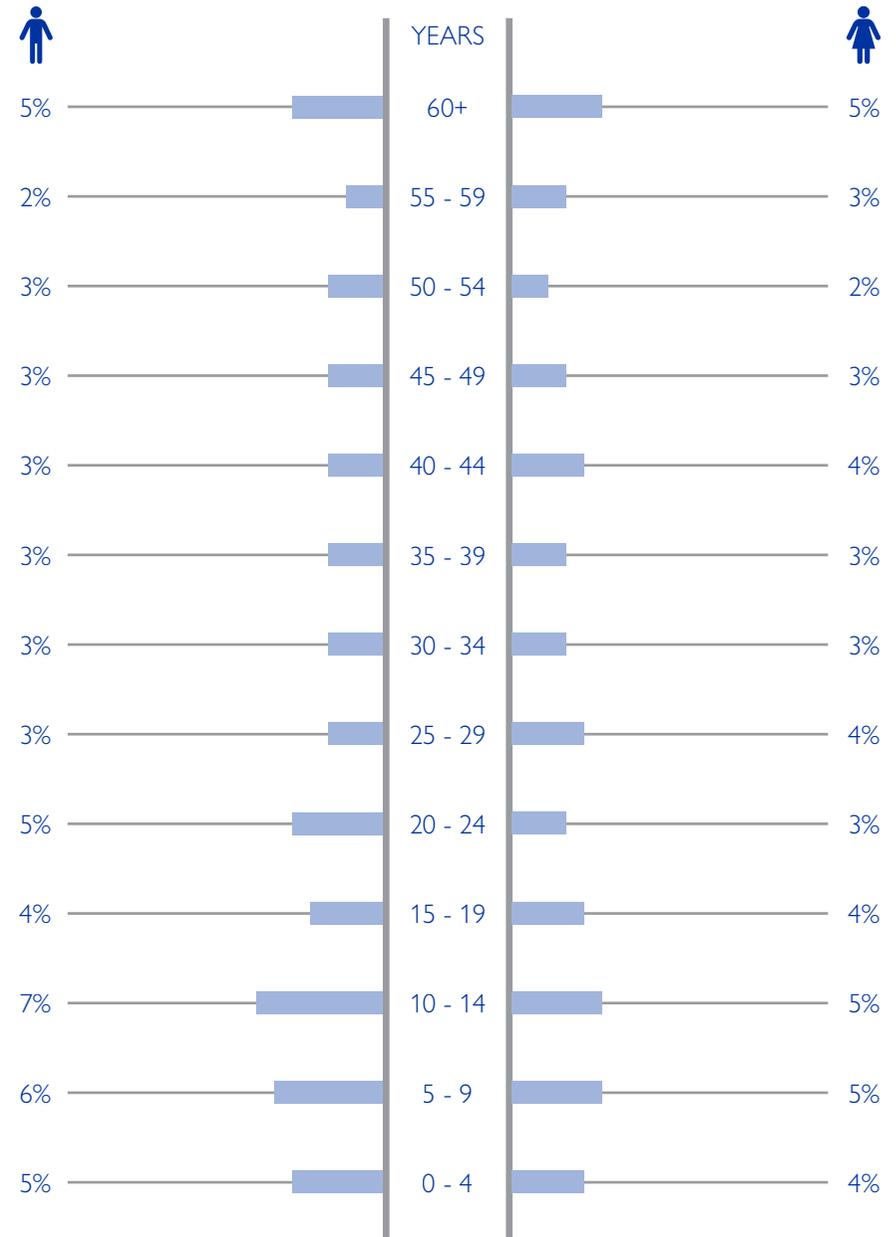
Average number of people living in surveyed households

76%

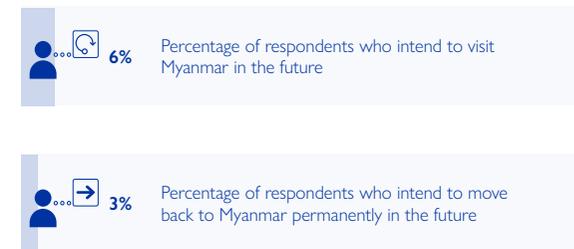
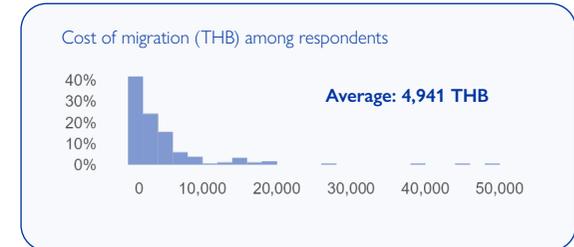
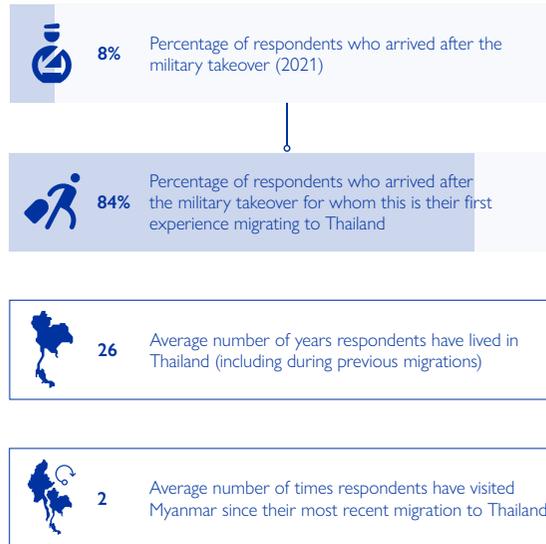
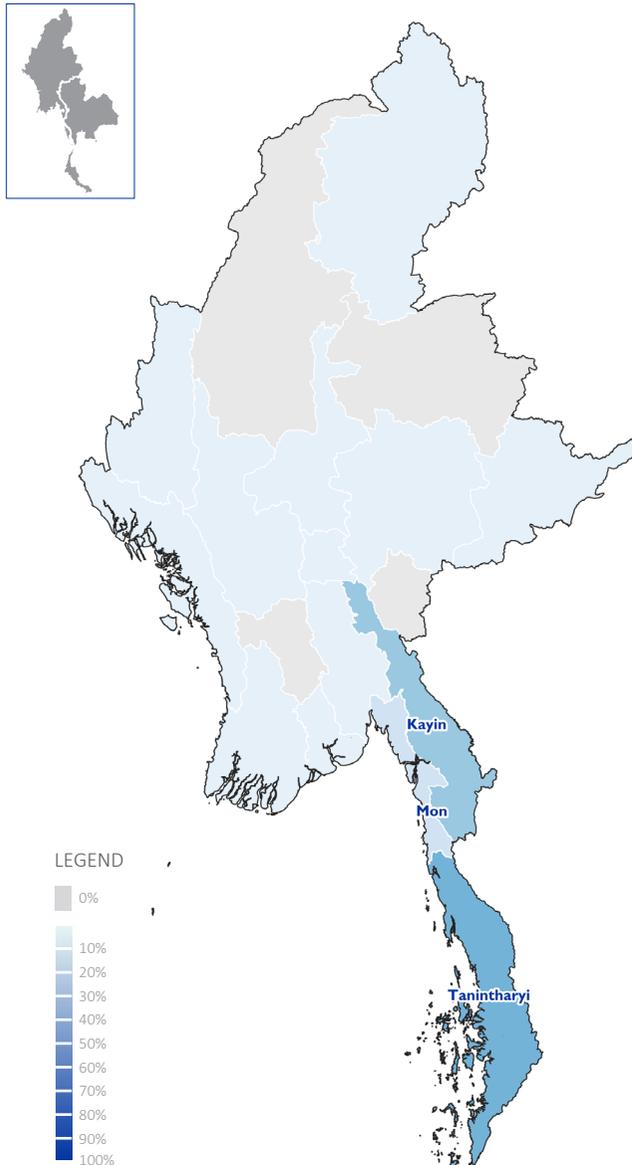


Percentage of households with at least one child

Age pyramid of all individuals in respondent households



Origin regions/states in Myanmar (top 3 labeled)



Among surveyed migrants in Kanchanaburi, the top three states or regions of origin were Tanintharyi (42%), Kayin (35%), and Mon (17%). Some respondents (8%) reported that their most recent migration to Thailand occurred sometime after the military takeover in Myanmar in February 2021. Of these more recent arrivals, all respondents indicated that they had lived in Thailand for a total of three years or longer. Among all respondents, 20 per cent reported having engaged in repeat migration to Thailand. The average cost of migration was 4,941 THB (around 140 USD). Respondents indicated paying for services and components such as travel (29%), brokers (7%), documentation (2%), medical (1%), food (1%), and bribes (1%).

Since their most recent migration to Thailand, 40 per cent of respondents have visited Myanmar, including 20 per cent of respondents whose most recent migration took place sometime after the military takeover in Myanmar. Among all respondents, 4 per cent intended to visit Myanmar within the following year. At the same time, 51 per cent responded that they did not know whether they would visit Myanmar in the future and 43 per cent had no intentions of doing so. Meanwhile, 3 per cent intend to return permanently to Myanmar sometime in the future.

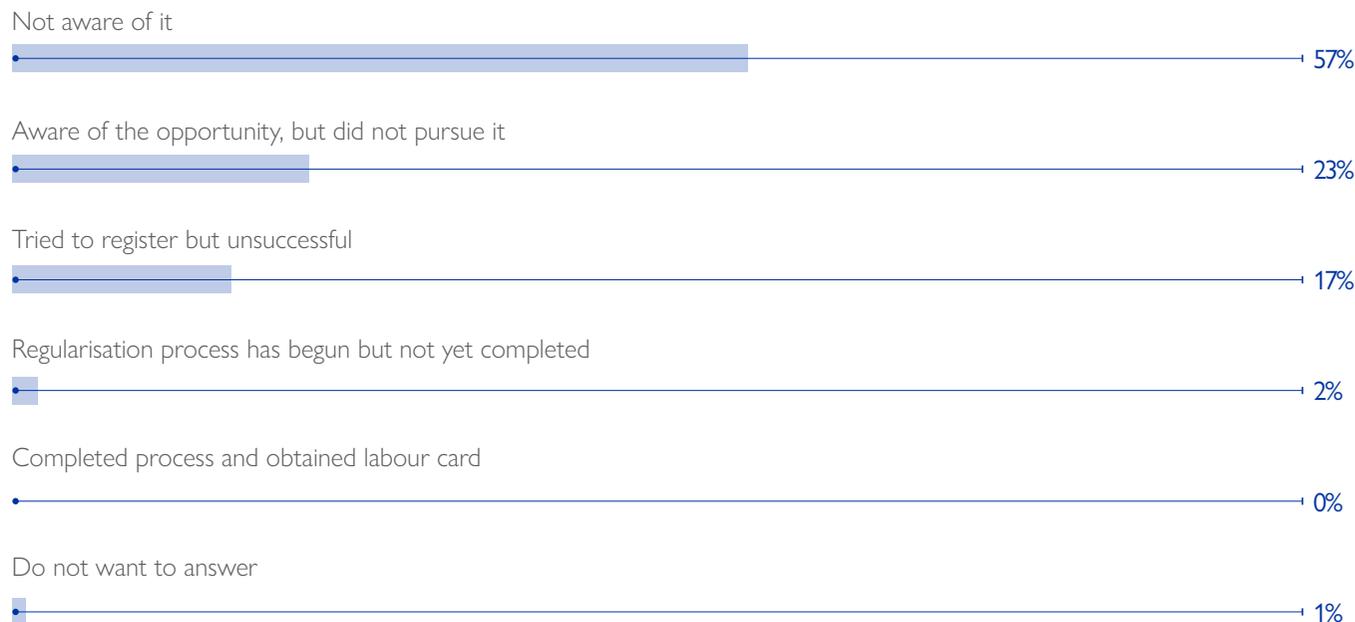
Most migrants (64%) reported having the valid documentation required to stay in country, although 36 per cent of respondents are considered to be irregular due to holding incorrect or expired documentation, or no documentation at all. Among those who do possess documentation, the most common types included having a pink card (34%) and white card (20%). However, 5 per cent were not aware of how long their documents permitted them to stay in Thailand.

A share of respondents (12%) indicated having arrived in Thailand under its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Myanmar during their most recent migration. Of these, 17 per cent indicated that they are not aware about the expiration of their work permit and 5 per cent indicated that their work permit is already expired.

Based on respondents' information on the documentation status of each individual in assessed households, 48 per cent of households are completely documented, meaning every member has some form of documentation allowing them to stay in Thailand. In 23 per cent of households, over half of all members are documented. However, in 17 per cent of households, less than half of all members are documented, and in an additional 12 per cent of households, no one is documented. Regarding regularization windows that permit undocumented migrants to become documented, respondents were most likely not aware of the regularization process (57%) or aware of the process but have not pursued it (23%).

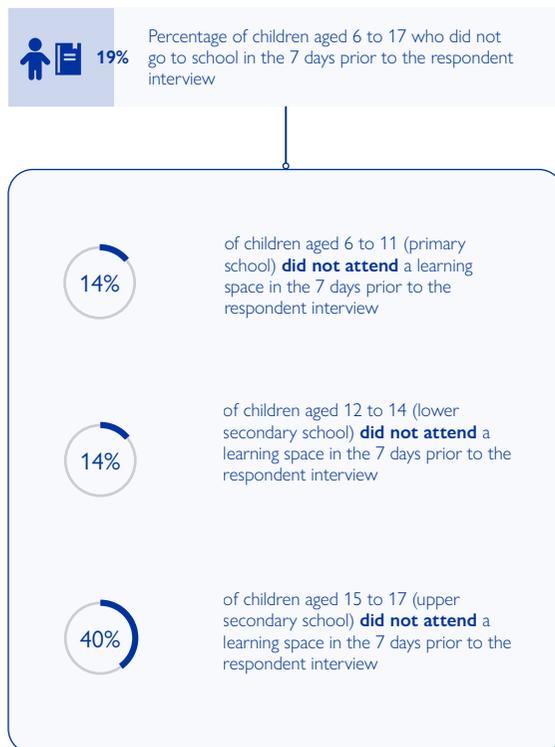


Awareness of regularization windows for migrants in Thailand and how to use them

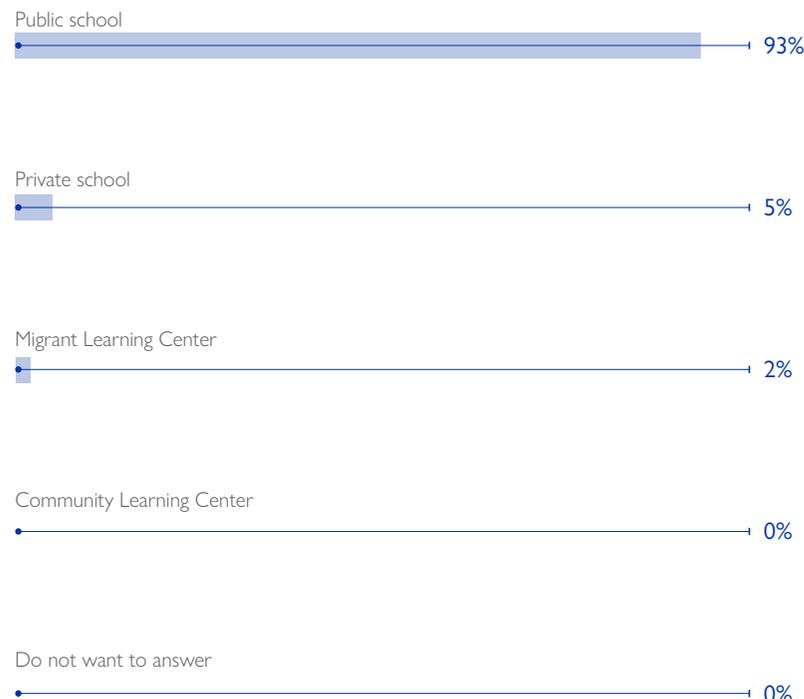


Among adults in assessed households, 41 per cent had less than a primary school education, 39 per cent completed primary school, 4 per cent completed lower secondary school, and 16 per cent had completed upper secondary school or higher. Among all individuals in assessed households, 18 per cent had reached 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, 19 per cent were not attending school or other learning facilities.¹ Overall, 84 per cent of households with primary school-aged children reported experiencing barriers sending children to school. The same was true for 90 per cent of households with secondary school-aged children.

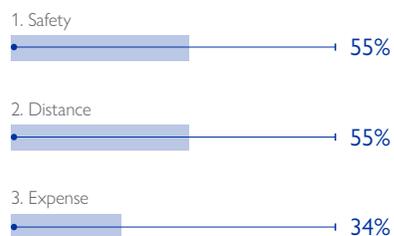


Type of learning spaces attended by children in assessed households

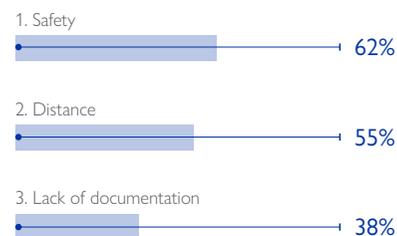


Main barriers to sending children to school^{1*2}

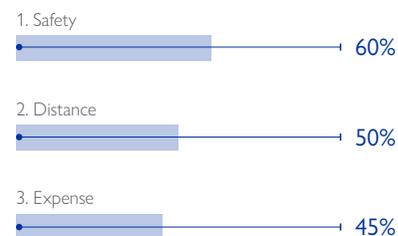
Among primary school-aged girls



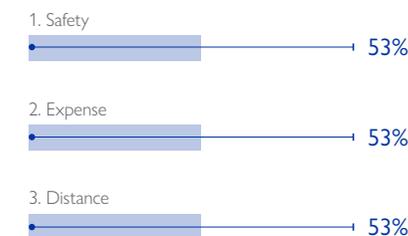
Among primary school-aged boys



Among secondary school-aged girls



Among secondary school-aged boys



¹ 76 per cent of households had children (n=454).

² Among respondents who cited experiencing barriers sending children to school (38 primary school-aged girls, 42 primary school-aged boys, 40 secondary school-aged girls, 45 secondary school-aged boys).



7.4

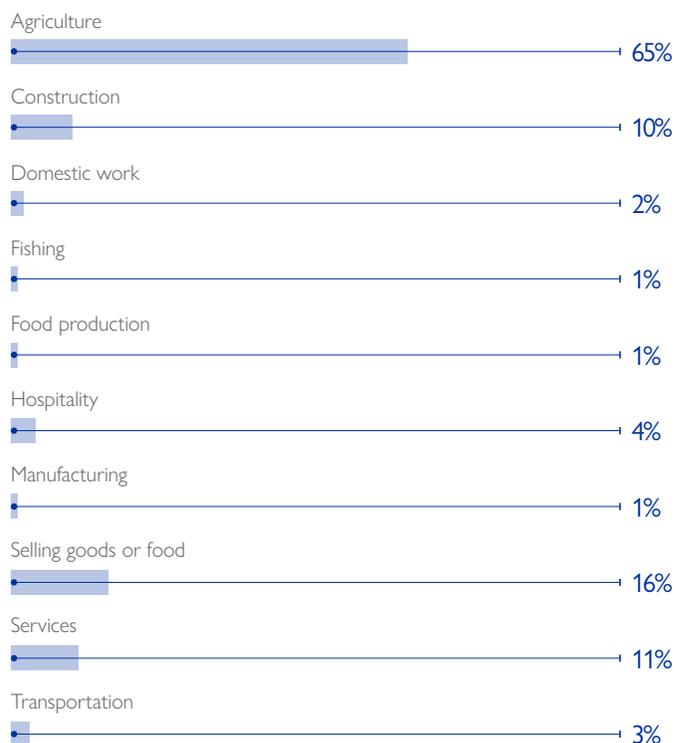
Average number of months respondents were employed in the last year



5.1

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

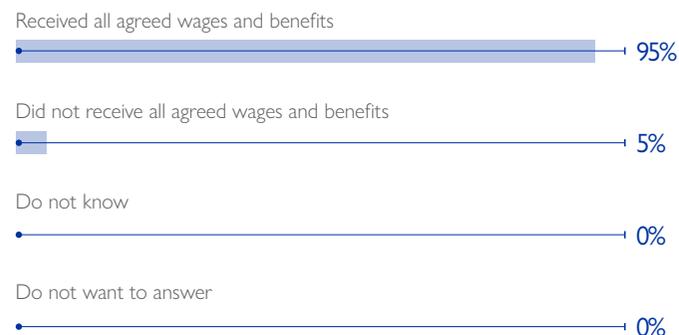




429 THB

Median daily wage³ among respondents (around 12 USD). Approximately 45% reported earning below minimum wage (335 THB).

Reception of wages and benefits during employment



Regarding employment, half (49%) of respondents had been employed for all 12 months in the last year, while 13 per cent were employed for five or fewer months and 24 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 agriculture (65%), selling goods or food (16%), services (11%), and construction (10%). Additionally, 14 per cent reported being self-employed and 24 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, 12 per cent of respondents who worked reported having made a contract, with 3 per cent having a written contract and 9 per cent having only a verbal one.

On average, respondents reported working 18.2 days in the month prior to assessment. The median daily wage reported in Kanchanaburi province was 429 THB per day (12 USD). Furthermore, 45 per cent of respondents were earning below minimum wage (335 THB per day). In addition, 5 per cent reported not receiving all agreed upon wages and benefits during their employment.

Food-related indicators



Top 3 sources of food*



Livelihood-related indicators

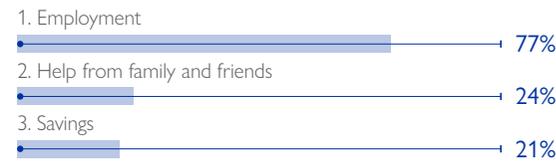
Average change in household economic status in the past year



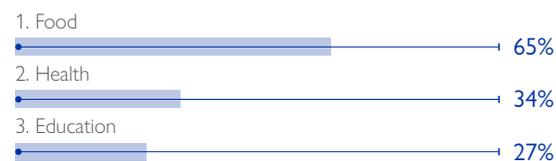
Average change in household cost of living in the past year



Top 3 sources of income*



Top 3 reasons for debt*

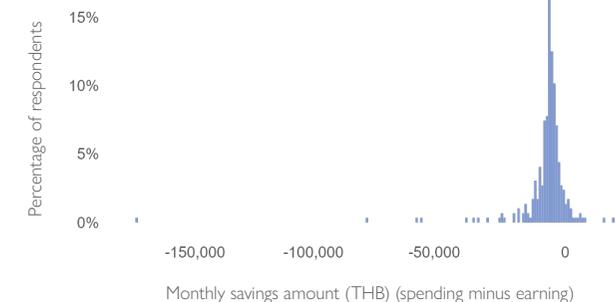


Overall, findings regarding food security showed a positive result for most respondents. The Food Consumption Score was acceptable for 91 per cent of households, and 85 per cent indicated no or little hunger, as measured by the Household Hunger Scale. Regarding expenditures, 3 per cent of households spend a high or very high percentage of their household budget on food. Furthermore, 22 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 deteriorated somewhat in the past year while their household cost of living somewhat increased. Household debt was not uncommon (47%), with households owing 44,513 THB (around 1,259 USD) on average. Reasons for debt included food (65%), health (34%), and education (27%). Additionally, the average percentage of household expenditure on debt was 4.1 per cent.

Roughly half (8%) of households reported sending remittances in the last month. Regarding savings, 53 per cent of respondents reported spending more than they earned in the last month.

Savings distribution



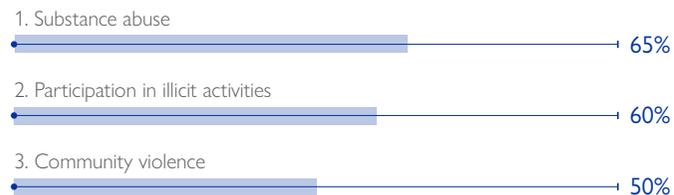
Regarding perceptions of safety, the most common risks to adults cited by respondents include substance abuse (65%), participation in illicit activities (60%), and community violence (50%).

Overall, 45 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 (44%).

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 (88%) and be able to express their own opinions in the household (87%). On the other hand, 73 per cent agreed that men should be the providers of their families. In addition, 3 per cent agreed that a person should tolerate being beaten by their partner in order to keep the family together.

Based on several proxy indicators, 9 per cent of respondents were classified as living in locations with possible trafficking risks.

Top 3 risks faced by adults*

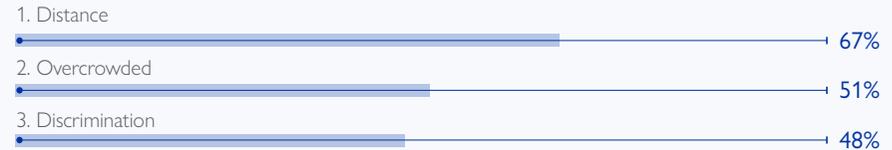


9% Percentage of respondents who were classified as living in locations with possible trafficking risks



44%
Percentage of respondents aware of medical services

Top 3 barriers to medical services

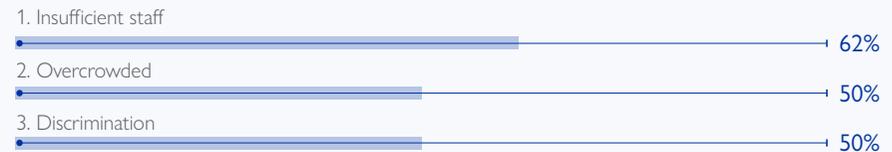


62% of respondents aware of medical services report experiencing barriers to this service.



4%
Percentage of respondents aware of legal services (documentation/immigration)

Top 3 barriers to legal services regarding documentation and immigration



73% of respondents aware of legal services related to documentation report experiencing barriers to this service.



4%
Percentage of respondents aware of legal services (rights violations)

Top 3 barriers to legal services regarding rights violations



54% of respondents aware of legal services related to right violations report experiencing barriers to this service.

Awareness of other services



6%
Legal (other)



6%
Psychosocial



2%
Return



15%
Shelter



3%
Translation

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

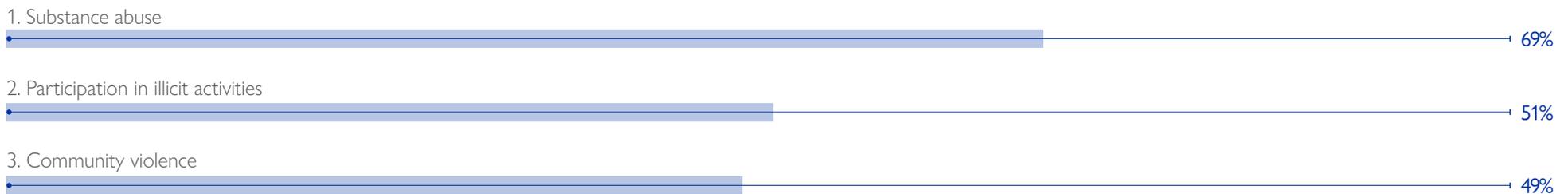
Child marriage was found to be present in 9 per cent of households with children. Child labour was found in 2 per cent of the assessed households. In addition, respondents cited sexual abuse and child marriage as primary risks to girls. Substance abuse was also cited as a main risk to both boys and girls. Among respondent households, 17 per cent were hosting a child who was a non-relative of the respondent.



Main risks faced by girls in respondents' locations*



Main risks faced by boys in respondents' locations*



Regarding access to health, 58 per cent of respondents reported having household members who were in need of healthcare services in the last three months. Among these, 92 per cent went to formal healthcare providers, 5 per cent went to informal, and 3 per cent chose not to access healthcare despite their need. Barriers to healthcare were experienced by 44 per cent of respondents, who cited distance (78%) as the most common barrier. Regarding children's vaccinations, 91 per cent of children were reported to be up-to-date on their vaccinations and 90 per cent possessed an immunisation card.

Regarding health insurance, 27 per cent of households lacked any insurance. However, in 36 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 which services are covered and other difficulties.

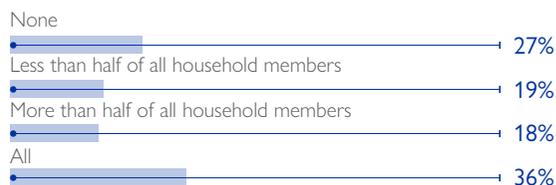
Health Access Class*



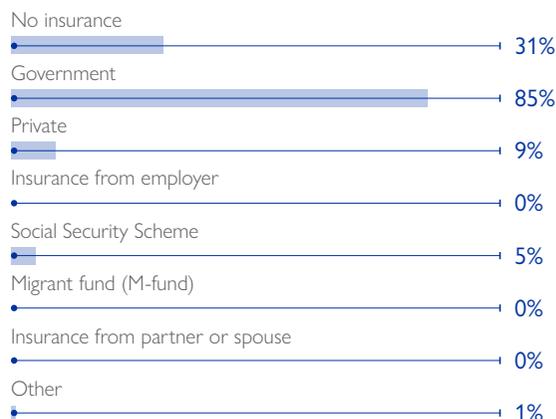
Health access class is based on where household members have sought healthcare in the last three months. Formal health locations include government, private, or NGO hospitals or clinics. Informal include traditional healers, pharmacies, and others.

Health insurance indicators

Proportion of household members with insurance



Types of insurance among respondents



Average rating of usability of health insurance

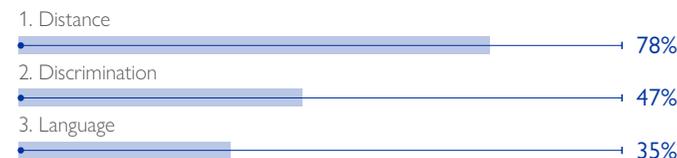


Top 3 reasons why using health insurance is difficult or very difficult*



44% Percentage of households experiencing barriers to accessing health services

Top 3 barriers to accessing health services*

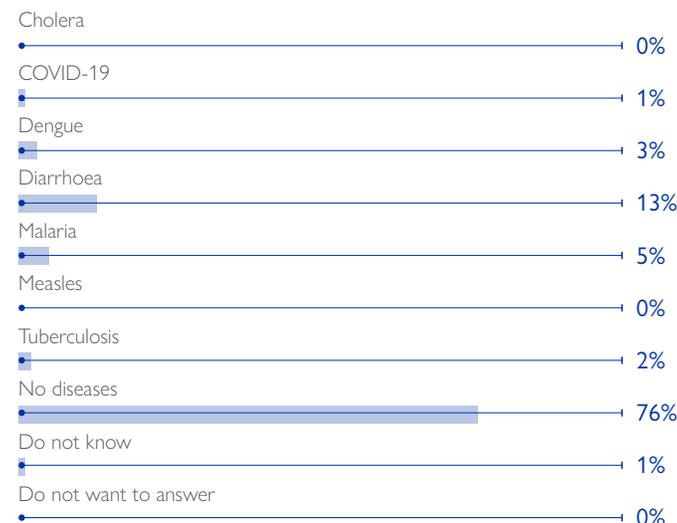


9% Percentage of children in surveyed households who are not up-to-date on their vaccinations or have an unknown vaccine status

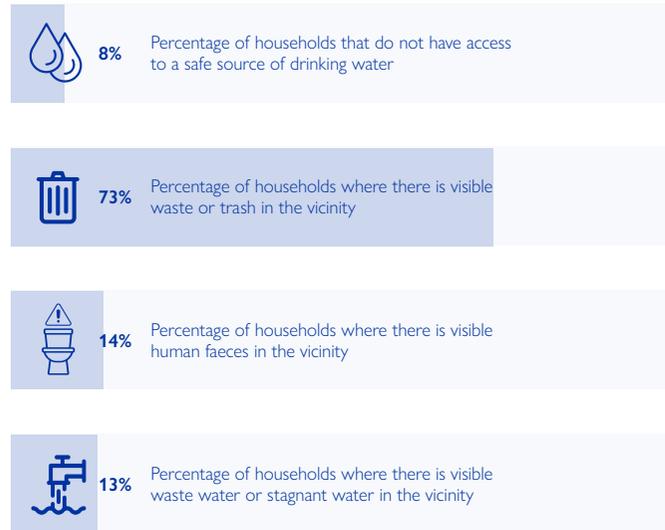


22% Percentage of households who do not have enough bednets for all household members

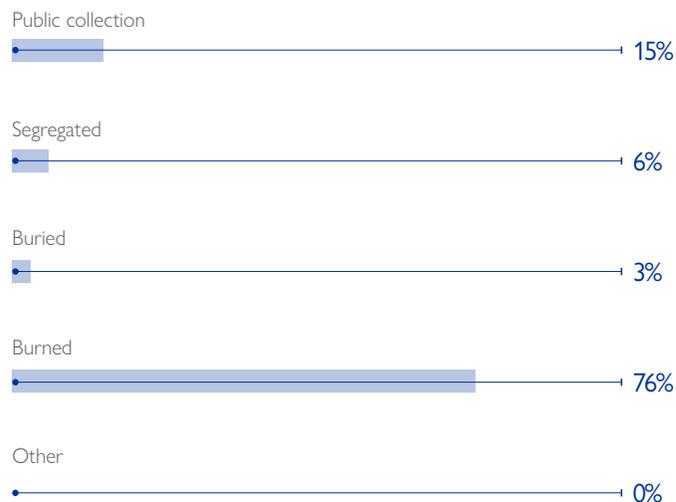
Diseases among households in the past 6 months*



Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)-related indicators

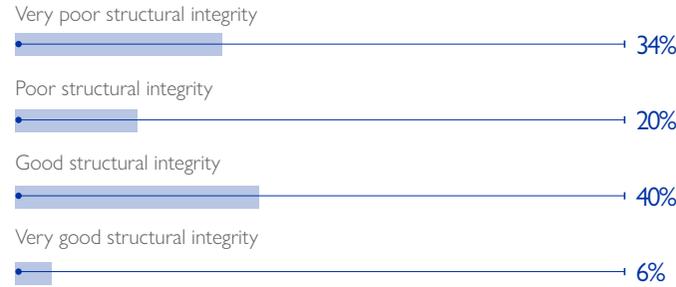


Waste disposal methods*

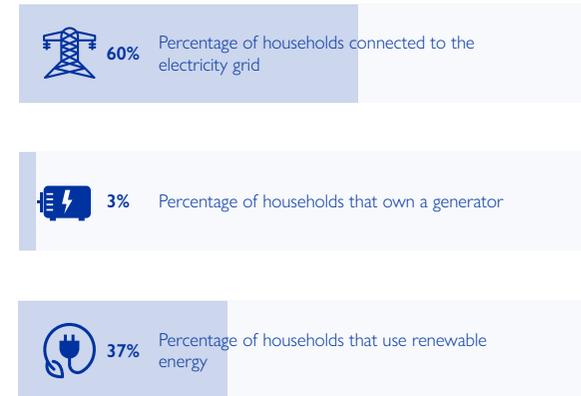


Shelter-related indicators

Shelter-type Class



Payment of accommodation



With regards to WASH indicators, the majority (92%) of respondents lived in areas with safe sources of drinking water. At the same time, 73 per cent lived in the vicinity of visible waste or trash and 13 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 54 per cent found to have poor to very poor structural integrity. Among respondent accommodations, 3 per cent were shared with the respondent's employer. Additionally, 11 per cent were owned by the respondent's employer. The majority (65%) of respondents owned their own accommodation.

Among surveyed migrants in Kanchanaburi, 60 per cent had access to the electricity grid and 37 per cent used renewable energy.



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