



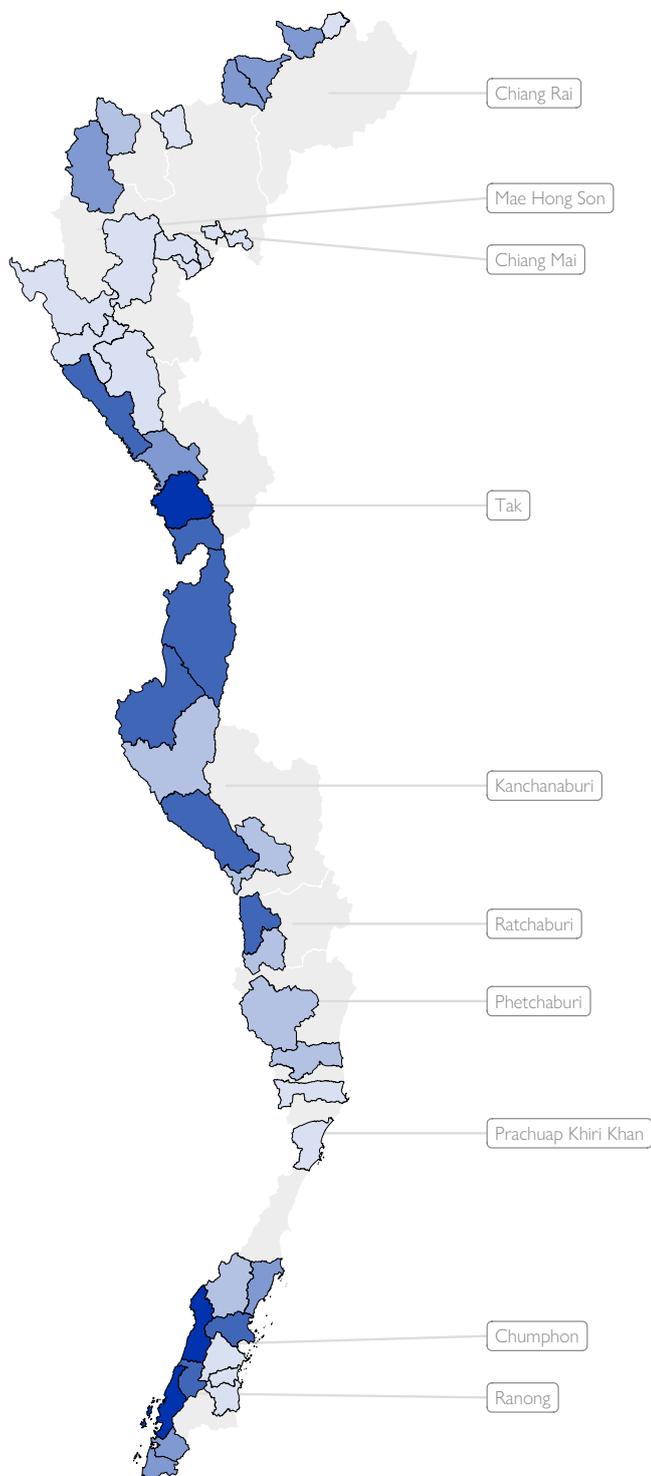
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Mobility Tracking Myanmar Migrants August 2023

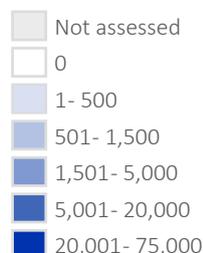


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MYANMAR MIGRANTS BY DISTRICT IN THAI PROVINCES BORDERING MYANMAR



NUMBER OF MIGRANTS PER DISTRICT



To gain a better understanding of the presence of migrants, IOM initiated mobility tracking activities in provinces along Thailand’s border with Myanmar. Mobility tracking is designed to estimate the number of people living in communities in border provinces, including the number of non-Thai individuals, predominantly Myanmar nationals, who arrived post-military takeover. The activity provides critical baseline information regarding the locations and volume of Myanmar nationals in Thailand, allowing for better targeted programming and response. Mobility tracking is conducted by interviewing key informants over the phone or in-person. Key informants are usually officially recognized village leaders or similar authority figures who provide information on the demographics of their respective communities. IOM conducts this activity on a regular basis, aiming for bi-monthly updates, to maintain up-to-date data on migrant presence in assessed communities. This report provides a snapshot as of August 2023. Highlighted districts in the map to the left represent areas in which IOM has collected data. Sometimes coverage is only partial. Across 641 assessed locations in 115 sub-districts and 44 districts, there are an estimated 263,000 non-Thai individuals. For reference, the overall estimated population in the assessed locations is 920,000 individuals. A quarter of the non-Thai population (60,000 individuals) are reported to have arrived since the military takeover in Myanmar. The three districts with the highest presence of non-Thai individuals identified are Mae Sot (74,000 ind.) in Tak province as well as Mueang Ranong (57,000 ind.) and Kra Buri (20,000 ind.), both in Ranong province.

IOM also monitors news and information from field staff, partner agencies and official sources regarding temporary influx events from Myanmar to Thailand. Influxes often occur during episodes of armed actions between the national military and ethnic forces around villages near the border with Thailand. Local people seek safety in Thailand, sometimes staying in Temporary Safety Areas (TSAs) under the jurisdiction of the Royal Thai Government, until the security situation becomes more stable, at which point they return to Myanmar. From January to August 2023, five temporary influx events were recorded along the border, two each in Tak and Ranong and one in Mae Hong Son. As of August 2023, all Myanmar nationals who had been staying in TSAs in Ranong and Tak had returned to Myanmar. Myanmar nationals remained in TSAs in Mae Hong Son. The numbers reported above do not include the temporary influx populations.

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.

In addition to tracking migrant presence in seven border provinces, IOM conducted short surveys among key informants to gain insight into the needs and conditions of Myanmar nationals who arrived post-military takeover and are residing in Thailand (henceforth referred to as “new arrivals”), including their access to services and employment as well as the main risks they face. This information is so far only available for Tak (on page 2) and Ranong (page 3).



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CONDITIONS OF NEW ARRIVALS IN TAK PROVINCE

The following graphs speak towards access to employment, education, and risks among new arrivals. The percentages indicate the proportion of key informants, each representing one community, who provided a given answer (some questions were multiple choice). For example, 57 per cent indicated that almost all new arrivals were employed in their community.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment levels among new arrivals (n=67)



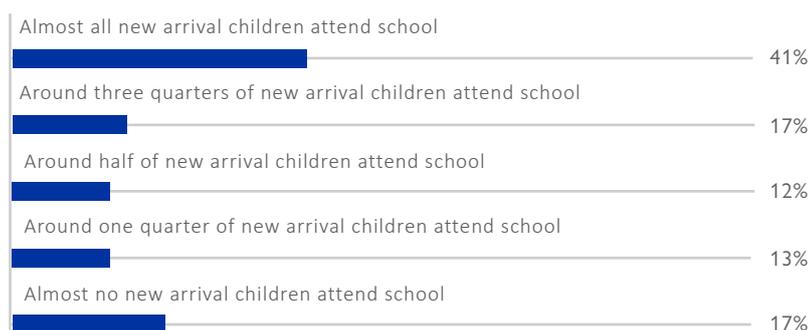
Employment levels among new arrivals are high, with 90 per cent of key informants reporting that around three-quarters or more of new arrivals in their communities had a job. The most common sectors of work included agriculture (90%), construction (51%), and manufacturing (9%). In order to gauge migration patterns, key informants were also asked when their communities experience seasonal migration, to which the majority indicated that it was more common in the second half of the year, and least common in March and April.



The average daily wage among new arrivals in Tak is around 200 THB (ranging from 150 THB to 300 THB) according to key informants. The official minimum wage in Tak province is 332 THB.

EDUCATION

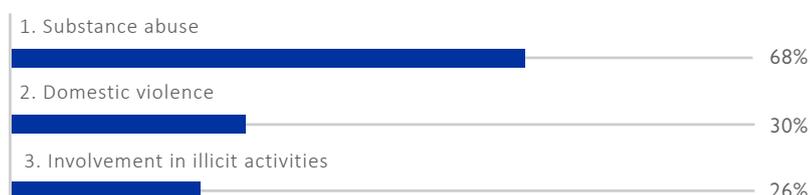
Levels of school attendance in communities (n=64)



By comparison, access to education is lacking or insufficient in many of the assessed locations. Nearly a fifth of key informants reported that almost none of the new arrival children had access to education. A little over half (58%) indicated that around or above three quarters of new arrival children could attend school. These findings are consistent with [IOM's Multisectoral Assessment of Needs \(MSA\)](#) among Myanmar nationals residing in Tak, which found that 26 per cent of children were not attending learning facilities.

RISKS

Top 3 risks in host communities that new arrivals face (n=66)



When asked about risks facing new arrivals in their communities, key informants indicated that substance abuse was most common (68%), followed by domestic violence (30%), and involvement in illicit activities (26%). Risk of deportation, arrest, or detention was also mentioned by 20 per cent of key informants.



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CONDITIONS OF NEW ARRIVALS IN RANONG PROVINCE

The following graphs speak towards access to employment, education, and risks among new arrivals. The percentages indicate the proportion of key informants, each representing one community, who provided a given answer (some questions were multiple choice). For example, 45 per cent indicated that almost all new arrivals were employed in their community.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment levels among new arrivals (n=120)



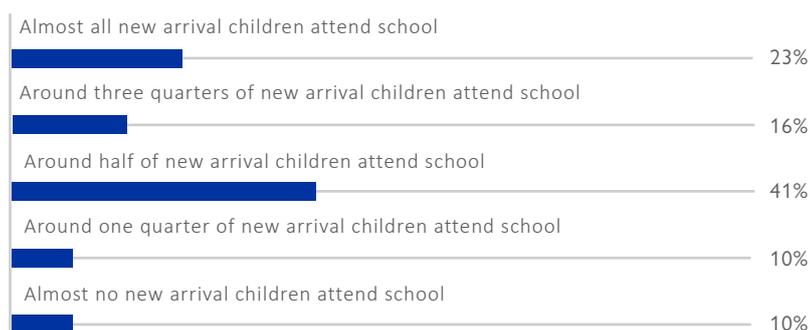
Employment levels among new arrivals are high, with 69 per cent of key informants reporting that around three-quarters or more of new arrivals in their communities had a job. The most common sectors of work included agriculture (79%), construction (57%), and manufacturing (29%). In order to gauge migration patterns, key informants were also asked when their communities experience seasonal migration, to which the majority indicated that it was more common from November to February and less common from August to October.



The average daily wage among new arrivals in Ranong is around 350 THB (ranging from 200 THB to 550 THB) according to key informants. The official minimum wage in Ranong province is 332 THB.

EDUCATION

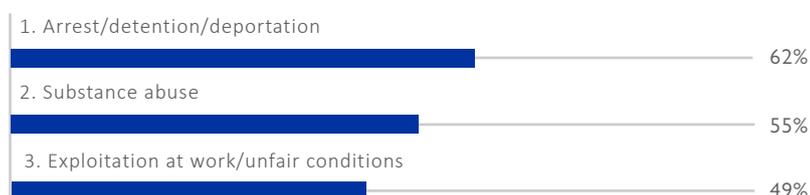
Levels of school attendance in communities (n=115)



By comparison, access to education is lacking or insufficient in many of the assessed locations. A tenth of key informants reported that almost none of the new arrival children had access to education. A little over a third (39%) indicated that around or above three quarters of new arrival children could attend school. These findings are consistent with [IOM's Multisectoral Assessment of Needs \(MSA\)](#) among Myanmar nationals residing in Tak, which found that 26 per cent of children were not attending learning facilities.

RISKS

Top 3 risks in host communities that new arrivals face (n=118)



When asked about risks facing new arrivals in their communities, key informants indicated that the risk of arrest or deportation was most common (62%), followed by substance abuse (55%), and exploitation at work (49%). Risk of involvement in illicit activities was also mentioned by 14 per cent of key informants.