



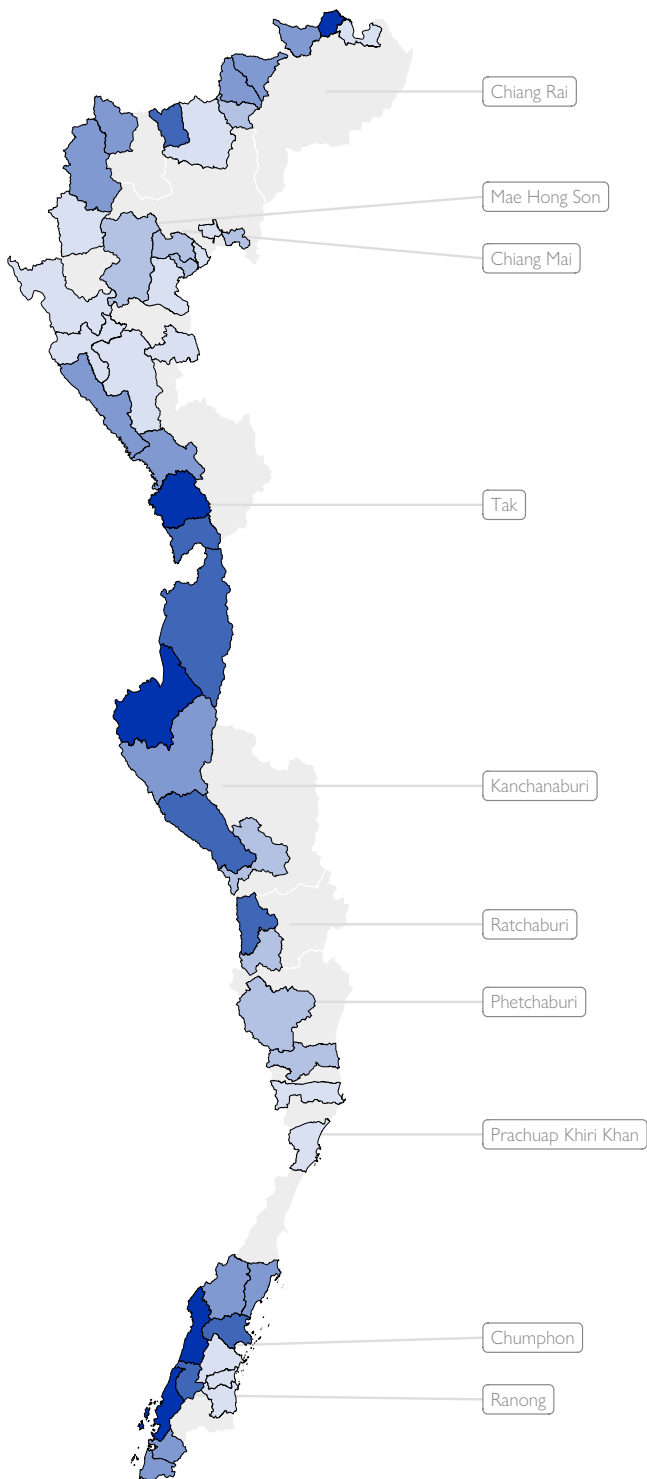
Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid

Mobility Tracking Myanmar Migrants October 2023



GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

MYANMAR MIGRANTS BY DISTRICT IN THAI PROVINCES BORDERING MYANMAR



NUMBER OF MIGRANTS PER DISTRICT

- Not assessed
- 0
- 1- 500
- 501- 1,500
- 1,501- 5,000
- 5,001- 20,000
- 20,001- 85,000



Target provinces

This report provides a snapshot as of October 2023. Across 1,312 assessed locations in 116 sub-districts and 44 districts, there are an estimated 334,000 non-Thai individuals. Highlighted districts in the map to the left represent areas in which IOM has collected data. Sometimes coverage is only partial. For reference, the overall estimated population in the assessed locations is 1,470,000 individuals. Around a fifth of the non-Thai population (63,000 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 (81,000 ind.) in Tak province, Mueang Ranong (55,000 ind.) in Ranong province, and Mae Sai (32,000 ind.) in Chiang Rai 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. In September and October 2023, one temporary influx event was recorded along the border in Mae Hong Son. As of October 2023, thousands of Myanmar nationals remain in TSAs in Mae Hong Son, although returns of several hundred individuals to Myanmar have also been recorded. The numbers reported above do not include the temporary influx populations.

Notes on Methodology: 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.

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.

Whilst tracking migrant presence in ten border provinces, IOM also 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 Chiang Rai (page 4), Chiang Mai (page 5), Tak, (page 6), and Ranong (page 7).



NUMBER OF MIGRANTS OVER TIME BY PROVINCE

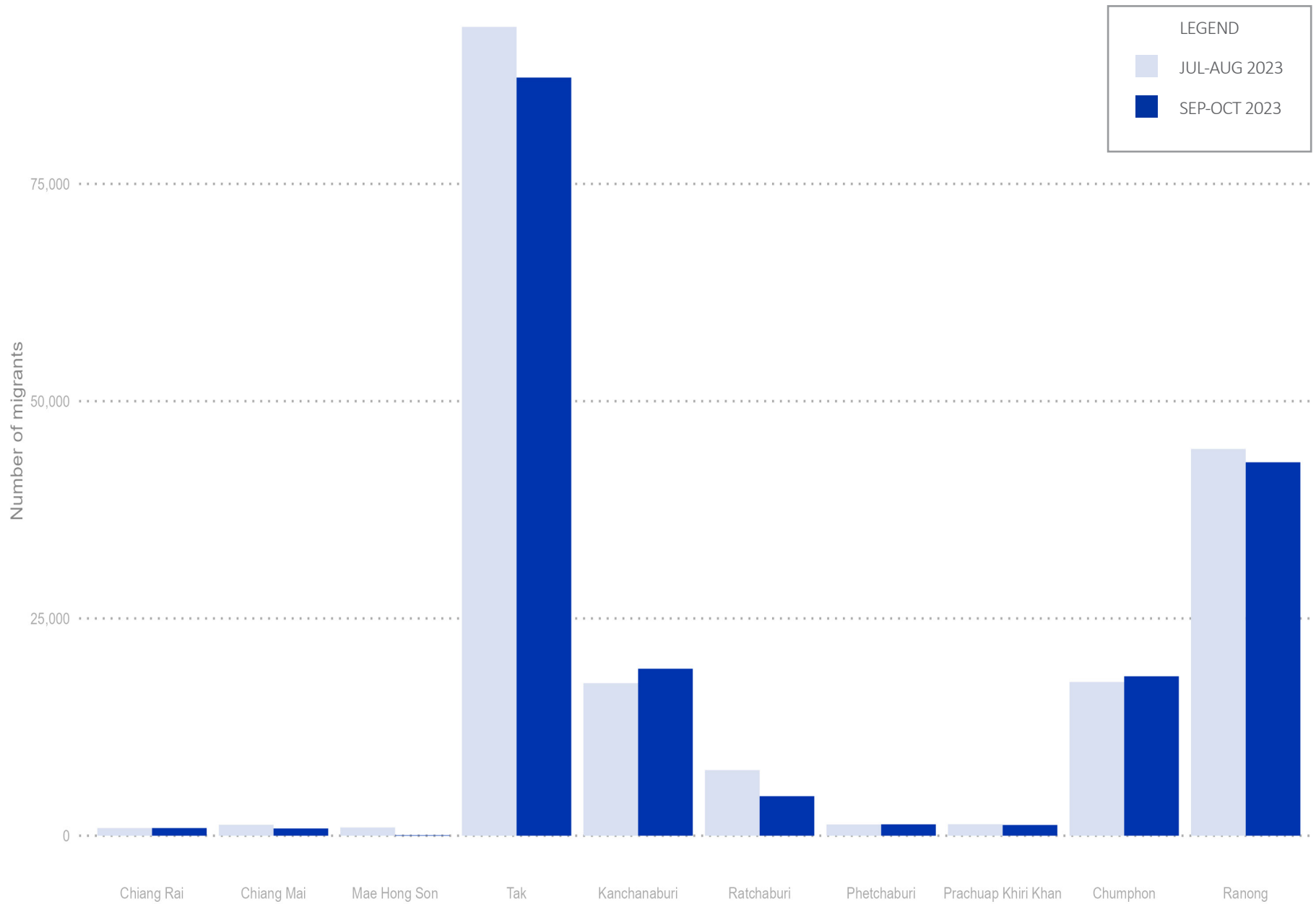
The following table compares locations that were covered in both of the last two reporting rounds (July-August and September-October)* to determine if these locations saw increases or decreases in the total number of migrants since the last reporting period. The last two columns show how many additional locations were covered in the latest round of data collection and the number of migrants in those new locations.

PROVINCE	NUMBER OF IDENTICAL LOCATIONS COVERED IN JUL-AUG AND SEP-OCT	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS IN JUL-AUG	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS IN SEP-OCT	TREND	NUMBER OF NEW LOCATIONS COVERED IN OCT	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS IN NEW LOCATIONS
CHIANG RAI	2	881	881	—	78	32,615
CHIANG MAI	46	1,261	834	↓	444	9,994
MAE HONG SON	1	950	60	↓	67	4,795
TAK	113	93,070	87,236	↓	17	12,890
KANCHANABURI	11	17,555	19,215	↑	14	19,426
RATCHABURI	5	7,550	4,550	↓	8	2,591
PHETCHABURI	2	1,300	1,310	↑	0	NA
PHRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN	3	1,320	1,236	↓	0	NA
CHUMPHON	28	17,690	18,345	↑	32	1,552
RANONG	181	44,502	42,969	↓	5	239

* The total number of assessed locations in the table is 1,057, which refers to the total number of assessed locations from July to October 2023. In the previous page, the total number of locations is reported as 1,312, as it includes the 255 locations which were assessed earlier in the year but were unable to be reached from July to October 2023.

NUMBER OF MIGRANTS OVER TIME BY PROVINCE

The following graph only compares locations covered during both the July-August and September-October rounds of data collection.





Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid

Mobility Tracking Myanmar Migrants October 2023



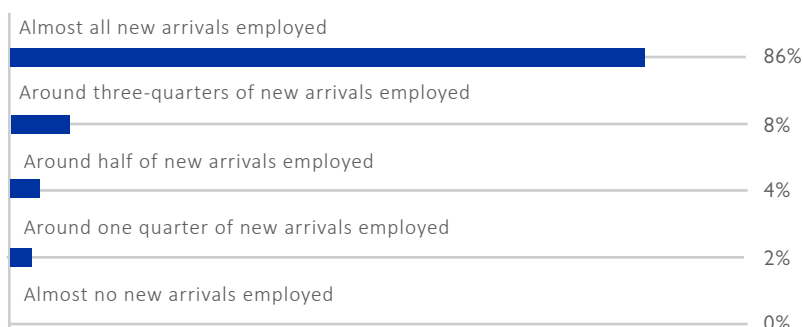
GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

CONDITIONS OF NEW ARRIVALS IN CHIANG RAI 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, 86 per cent indicated that almost all new arrivals were employed in their community.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment levels among new arrivals (n=48)



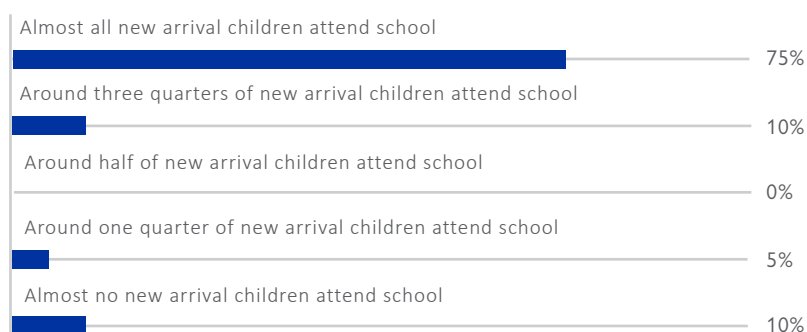
The average daily wage among new arrivals in Chiang Rai is around 310 THB (ranging from 250 THB to 500 THB) according to key informants. The official minimum wage in Chiang Rai province is 332 THB.

Employment levels among new arrivals are high, with 94 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 (63%), construction (42%), and services (33%). 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 June to August (peaking in July) and least common in September and October.

One in ten key informants reported that almost none of the new arrival children had access to education. In other communities, access to education was relatively high, with 85 per cent indicating that around or above three quarters of new arrival children could attend school.

EDUCATION

Levels of school attendance in communities (n=41)

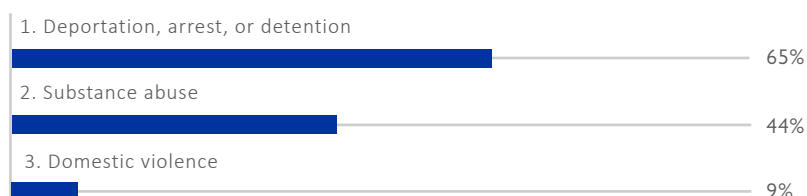


When asked about risks facing new arrivals in their communities, over half (52%) of key informants indicated that the risk of deportation, arrest, or detention was most common (65%), followed by substance abuse (44%), and domestic violence (9%).

These findings are consistent with field observation and consultations conducted by IOM Thailand in Chiang Rai province. Sources noted that migrants often came to Chiang Rai for employment purposes or to visit family, with agricultural activities such as garlic and tea harvesting being common among migrant workers. Additionally, while access to education was generally high in the communities visited by IOM Thailand, barriers such as language differences, curriculum differences, gaps in education due to having to wait for a new term to apply for school, fees for books and uniforms, and discrimination still restricted access for especially new arrival children. Additionally, lack of documentation can pose challenges to progress to secondary education. Finally, many key informants emphasized the risks of drug abuse and drug trafficking in their communities, especially among the youth.

RISKS

Top 3 risks in host communities that new arrivals face (n=23)





Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid

Mobility Tracking Myanmar Migrants October 2023



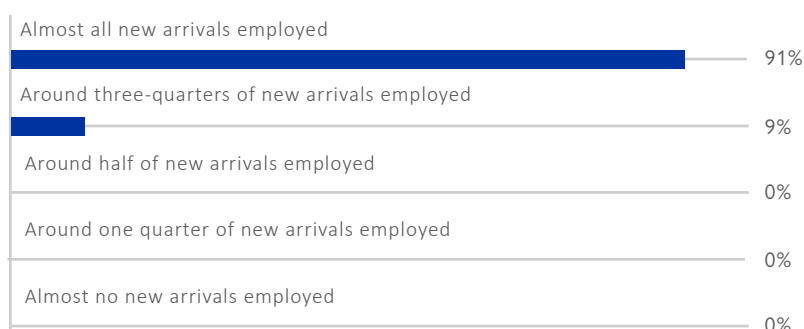
GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

CONDITIONS OF NEW ARRIVALS IN CHIANG MAI 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, 91 per cent indicated that almost all new arrivals were employed in their community.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment levels among new arrivals (n=45)



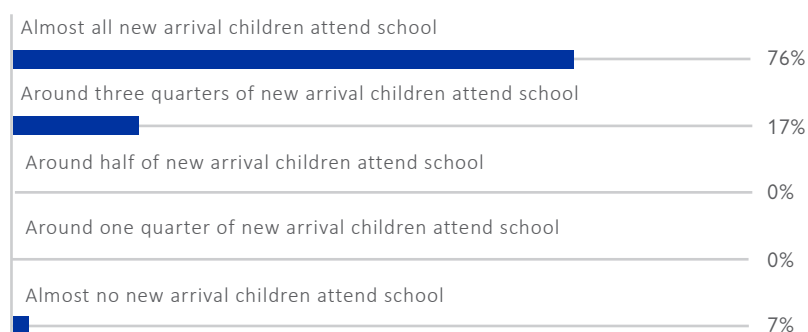
The average daily wage among new arrivals in Chiang Mai is around 300 THB (ranging from 166 THB to 350 THB) according to key informants. The official minimum wage in Chiang Mai province is 340 THB.

Employment levels among new arrivals are very high, with all 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 (93%), construction (34%), and services (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 July and August and least common in May and June.

Seven per cent of key informants reported that almost none of the new arrival children had access to education. In other communities, access to education was relatively high, with 93 per cent indicating that around or above three quarters of new arrival children could attend school.

EDUCATION

Levels of school attendance in communities (n=29)

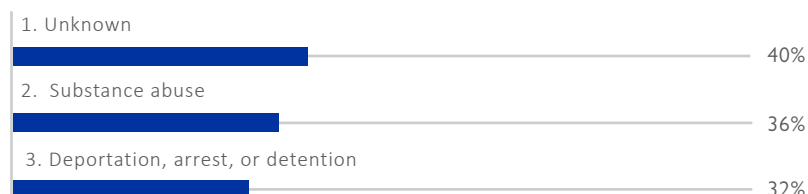


When asked about risks facing new arrivals in their communities, 43 per cent reported no risks. However, those who did report risks indicated that unknown risks were most common (40%), followed by substance abuse (35%), and deportation, arrest, or detention (32%).

These findings are consistent with field observation and consultations conducted by IOM Thailand in Chiang Mai province. Sources noted that migrants often came to Chiang Mai for employment purposes, with agricultural activities such as orange cultivation being common among migrant workers. Additionally, while access to education was generally high in the communities visited by IOM Thailand, barriers such as language differences, curriculum differences, gaps in education due to having to wait for a new term to apply for school, fees for books and uniforms, and discrimination still restricted access for especially new arrival children. Additionally, lack of documentation can pose challenges to progress to secondary education. Finally, many key informants emphasized the risks of drug abuse and drug trafficking in their communities, especially among the youth.

RISKS

Top 3 risks in host communities that new arrivals face (n=25)





Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid

Mobility Tracking Myanmar Migrants October 2023



GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

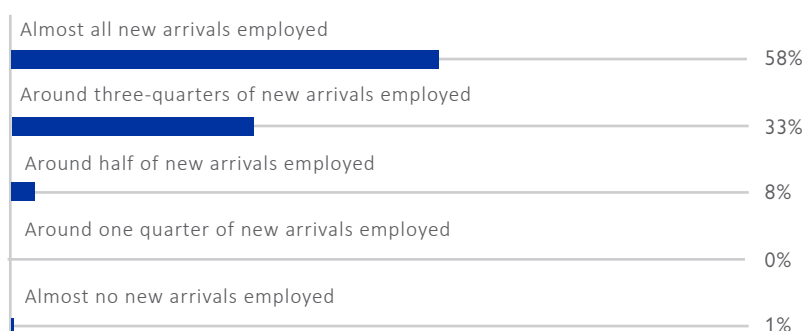
CONDITIONS OF NEW ARRIVALS IN TAK PROVINCE

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, 58 per cent indicated that almost all new arrivals were employed in their community.



EMPLOYMENT

Employment levels among new arrivals (n=75)



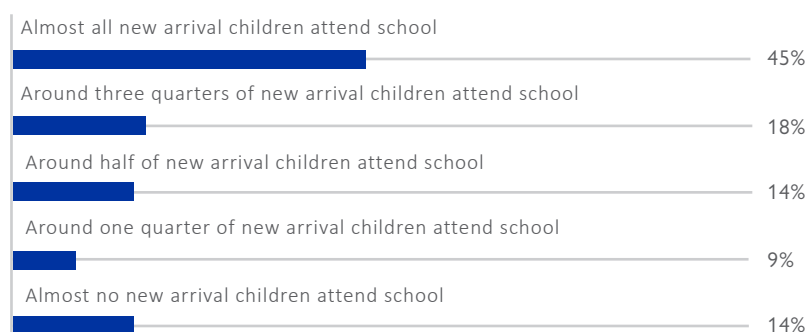
The average daily wage among new arrivals in Tak is around 200 THB (ranging from 150 THB to 300 THB) according to key informants. The official minimum wage in Tak province is 332 THB.

The majority of key informants (91%) reported that around three-quarters or more of new arrivals in their communities had a job. [IOM Thailand's 2023 Flow Monitoring report](#) shows that 40 per cent of longer-term arrivals to Thailand reported employment as their main reason for migration. However, the percentage indicating that almost all new arrivals were employed (58%) is significantly lower than in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. In addition to the relatively lower employment rates among new arrivals in Tak, the gap between the reported daily wage and the province's minimum wage is larger than in other provinces. Low daily wage in comparison to minimum wage in Tak can also be found in [IOM Thailand's 2022 MSA report](#) in which 75 per cent of respondents in Tak earned less than 315 THB per day. The most common sectors of work included agriculture (89%), construction (49%), and manufacturing (8%). 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 latter half of the year and less common in the beginning of the year.



EDUCATION

Levels of school attendance in communities (n=73)

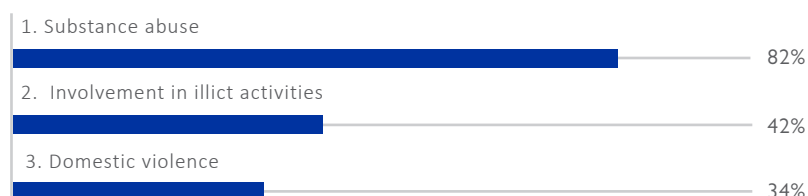


Access to education is significantly worse than in most of the other assessed provinces (excluding Ranong). In over a third of the assessed locations, only half or fewer of the new arrival children were attending school, with more than one out of ten key informants reporting that no new arrival children were attending school. Informal discussions with sources in the field revealed that childrens' school attendance can also be affected by substance abuse among adults, which is prevalent in some communities. However, 63 per cent indicated that around or above three quarters of new arrival children could attend school.



RISKS

Top 3 risks in host communities that new arrivals face (n=64)



When asked about risks facing new arrivals, 14 per cent reported no risks. However, those who did report risks indicated that the risk of substance abuse was most common (82%), followed by involvement in illicit activities (42%), and domestic violence (34%).



Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid

Mobility Tracking Myanmar Migrants October 2023



GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

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=109)



The average daily wage among new arrivals in Ranong is around 340 THB (ranging from 300 THB to 500 THB) according to key informants. The official minimum wage in Ranong province is 332 THB.

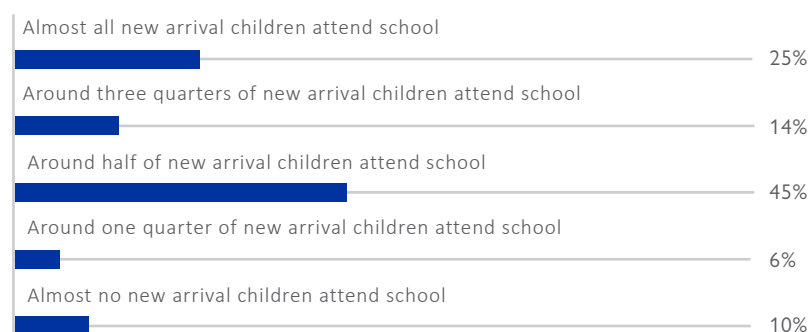
Similar to Tak, while most key informants (68%) in Ranong reported that around three-quarters or more of new arrivals in their communities had a job, the percentage indicating that almost all new arrivals were employed (45%) is significantly lower than in all the other assessed provinces. Reported daily wages in Ranong were slightly higher than the minimum wage on average, contrasting with Tak's significantly lower daily wage. These findings are consistent with [IOM Thailand's 2022 MSA report](#) which found fewer migrants in Ranong than Tak earning less than 315 THB per day. While key informants report that the average daily wage among new arrivals in Ranong is just over minimum wage, the 2022 MSA reveals that 90 per cent of respondents from Ranong did not have an agreement with their employer about working conditions. The most common sectors of work included agriculture (72%), construction (64%), and manufacturing (32%). 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 through February as well as in June and less common from March through October.

By comparison, access to education is lacking or insufficient in many of the assessed locations in Ranong. A tenth of key informants reported that almost none of the new arrival children had access to education. Almost two-thirds (61%) indicated that around half or fewer of new arrival children attended school.



EDUCATION

Levels of school attendance in communities (n=105)



When asked about risks facing new arrivals in their communities, 34 per cent reported no risks. However, those who did report risks indicated that the risk of arrest or deportation was most common (94%), followed by substance abuse (93%), and exploitation at work (72%). Risk of involvement in illicit activities was also mentioned by nine per cent of key informants.



RISKS

Top 3 risks in host communities that new arrivals face (n=71)

