

Country Name	<b>&lt;Phase 1&gt; Project on Strengthening of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) for Protection of Trafficked Persons in Thailand</b> <b>&lt;Phase 2&gt; Project on Capacity Development on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries</b>
Kingdom of Thailand	

**I. Project Outline**

Background	<p>In the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Southern China), rapid economic development and active information distribution resulted in the increase of trafficking in persons (TIP) since the 1980s. Thailand became a destination country of the victims of trafficking (VOTs) from other countries in the region for its economic development and huge demand for cheap labor. People were getting trafficked from other countries to Thailand due to poverty, ethnic problems, political and governance issues, natural disasters, and other factors. Furthermore, Thai nationals were also getting trafficked from Thailand to the Middle East and Japan, while Thailand also served as a transit country of VOTs from other countries in the region.</p> <p>In 2004, the six countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region formed the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) as a regional cooperative framework to address cross-border issues related to TIP. It promoted the definition of TIP under the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), the enactment and enforcement of appropriate legislation, and the strengthening of cross-border cooperation.</p> <p>With the aim of strengthening the organization and capacity of VOTs protection in Thailand and sharing knowledge and experience with the countries in the region through the Mekong Regional Workshops (MRWs), JICA implemented “The Project on Strengthening of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) for Protection of Trafficked Persons in Thailand” (2009-2014) (hereinafter, “Phase 1”). “The Project on Capacity Development on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries” (2015-2019) (hereinafter, “Phase 2”) followed to address issues identified in Phase 1 as requiring further actions, such as reintegration support for VOTs and capacity development in other countries in the region.</p>
Objectives of the Project	<p>&lt;Phase 1&gt;</p> <p>The project aims to enable Thai Government to provide effective protection to trafficked persons through the operations of Central and Provincial MDTs of the target provinces through training, development of MDT Operational Guidelines, and organizing workshops, thereby contributing to the application of the successful MDT approaches to other provinces in Thailand.</p> <p>&lt;Phase 2&gt;</p> <p>The project aims to improve assistance for Thai VOTs, Non-Thai VOTs and Foreign VOTs rescued/protected in Thailand by training of MDTs to rebuild their new lives, development of handbooks on repatriation of VOTs, organizing workshops to enhance collaboration between Thailand and Japan and among the countries in the region, thereby contributing to the effective provision of support measures for VOTs in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional countries.</p> <p>&lt;Phase 1&gt;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overall Goal: Thai Government applies the successful MDT approaches to other provinces within Thailand.</li> <li>2. Project Purpose: Thai Government provides effective protection to trafficked persons through the operations of Central and Provincial MDTs.</li> </ol> <p>&lt;Phase 2&gt;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overall Goal: Support measures for Victims of Trafficking (VOTs) are provided effectively in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional (GMS) countries.</li> <li>2. Project Purpose: Assistance for rebuilding new lives of Thai VOTs, Non-Thai VOTs and Foreign VOTs rescued/protected in Thailand is improved.</li> </ol>
Activities of the Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project site: &lt;Phase 1&gt; Bangkok, Chiang Rai, Phayao &lt;Phase 2&gt; (Thailand) Bangkok and its vicinity, Chiang Rai, Phayao, Ubon Ratchathani. (Lao PDR) Bakeo, Champasak. (Myanmar) Tachilek</li> <li>2. Main activities: &lt;Phase 1&gt; Train MDTs, develop MDT Operational Guidelines, organize workshops &lt;Phase 2&gt; Train MDTs, develop handbooks on repatriation of VOTs, organize workshops to enhance collaboration between Thailand and Japan, and among the Greater-Mekong Sub-Regional countries</li> <li>3. Inputs (to carry out activities) Japanese Side &lt;Phase 1&gt;  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Experts: 22 persons in total</li> <li>2) Trainees received: 71 persons in total</li> <li>3) Equipment: computers, printers, etc.</li> <li>4) Operation cost</li> </ol> Thai Side &lt;Phase 1&gt;  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Staff allocated: 3 persons</li> <li>2) Space for the project office</li> <li>3) Operation cost</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<Phase 2> 1) Experts: 15 persons in total 2) Trainees received: 57 persons in total 3) Training in the third country: 344 participants in total in the four regional workshops 4) Equipment: computers, printers, etc. 5) Operation cost	<Phase 2> 1) Staff allocated: 16 persons 2) Space for the project office 3) Operation cost	
Project Period	<Phase 1> (ex-ante) March 2009-March 2014 [60 months] (actual) March 2009-March 2014 [60 months] <Phase 2> (ex-ante) January 2015-January 2019 [48 months] (actual) April 2015-April 2019 [48 months]	Project Cost (Japanese side only)	<Phase 1> (ex-ante) 392 million yen (actual) 253 million yen <Phase 2> (ex-ante) 273 million yen (actual) 291 million yen
Implementing Agency	<Phase 1> Bureau of Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children (BATWC), Department of Social Development and Welfare (DSDW), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) <Phase 2> (until March 2016) Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DATIP), DSDW, MSDHS (Since March 2016) DATIP, The Office of Permanent Secretary (OPS), MSDHS By the organizational restructuring of MSDHS, BATWC changed its name to DATIP and moved from DSDW to OPS.		
Cooperation Agency in Japan	<Phase 1> <Phase 2> No cooperation agencies in Japan according to the ex-ante evaluation sheets Following institutions are mentioned as the cooperation agencies in the mid-term review report and the terminal evaluation summary of Phase 1: Cabinet Secretariat; Ministry of Health, Welfare and Labor; National Women's Education Center, Japan		

## II. Result of the Evaluation

### <Constraints on Evaluation>

Some of the Project's activities especially of Phase 2 covered not only Thailand, but also other countries in the Mekong Sub-Region. However, during the evaluation, there was a limitation in data collection from other countries, except Cambodia which has an ongoing anti-TIP project. Thus, there are some constraints in the Evaluation, especially of the Phase 2.

### <Special Perspectives Considered in the Ex-Post Evaluation>

Most of Project Purpose indicators of Phase 2 were to capture the perceptions of the participants in the workshops, etc. at the end of these activities, and are not suitable to measure the status at the time of ex-post evaluation as they are. Questionnaire were prepared using these indicators modified to examine the current status.

## 1 Relevance/Coherence

### [Relevance]

#### <Consistency with the Development Policy of Thailand at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation >

The projects were consistent with the development policy of Thailand at the time of ex-ante evaluation.

Thailand ratified the Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1985, which included the articles on TIP. As the first law on TIP in Thailand, the Measures in Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Women and Children Act was enacted in 1997 and Thailand signed the Palermo Protocol. The national policy, strategies and measures to prevent and suppress trafficking in women and children (2003-2011) were formulated. In 2004, the six countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region formed the COMMIT as a regional cooperative framework to address cross-border issues related to TIP. It promoted the definition of TIP under the Palermo Protocol, the enactment and enforcement of appropriate legislation, and the strengthening of cross-border cooperation. Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act was enacted in 2008 in Thailand, which included adult men as TIP victims and reinforced punishment of perpetrators. The National Strategies and Measures to Prevent and Suppress Trafficking in Persons (2011-2016) were formulated and adopted to ensure the effectiveness of anti-trafficking measures and protect VOTs.

#### <Consistency with the Development Needs of Thailand at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation >

The projects were consistent with the development needs of Thailand at the time of ex-ante evaluation.

Anti-TIP measures should comprehensively address prevention, rescue, and protection of VOTs, and control and law enforcement. The Cabinet Resolution on 14 June 2005 resolved establishment of National and Provincial Operation Centers on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (NOCHT and POCHT). Their roles are to coordinate with governmental and non-governmental organizations in incident report, rescue, protection, legal assistance, rehabilitation, reintegration, etc., working as MDT. In particular, rescue and protection of VOTs were considered to be useful for the prevention of TIP by recognizing VOTs as "victims" rather than "criminals." However, coordination among relevant organizations for the comprehensive approach was not sufficient as they had different perceptions towards VOTs, and there were gaps in the content of support, capacity of staff, and the reception system for returnees in the countries of origin.

#### <Appropriateness of Project Design/Approach>

The project design/approach of the two projects was appropriate. No problem attributed to the project design/approach was confirmed.

Many small projects to protect VOTs were implemented by various organizations, but not in a concerted manner. JICA projects took a comprehensive approach, formulating a network among relevant organizations. MDT is a team of practitioners with multidisciplinary expertise such as government officials, police, legal professionals and NGOs to assist VOTs in Thailand, both at the central and local levels.

To work with neighboring countries without official agreements in place, the projects utilized existing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) of national level as well as local/sub-national levels to implement multiple cross-border activities, and added one Japanese expert in regional cooperation to boost the effort to deliver activities.

The projects took victim-centered approach, regardless of gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, religion, or traditions. As it was found during Phase 1 that most VOTs were ethnic minorities or those without nationalities, Phase 2 added "training to Highland Coordinator" in September 2016, to be a watchdog to prevent TIP to their ethnic groups.

Capacity development was conducted in a timely manner and responded to needs as forms of trafficking were changing over time. Training of MDTs in Phase 1 was highly appropriate as the Anti-TIP Act was enacted one year prior to the project implementation, and they had no specific processes of operations and did not function in a systematic manner. Phase 2 helped improve efficiency and created standards for the roles, duties and operations of MDTs in repatriation and reintegration. The recent form of trafficking needed involvement of cyber police and/or digital-related professionals as new MDT members. Casework exercise included in the workshops was also effective for better understanding of steps of operation.

The Projects developed guiding documents such as handbooks, manuals, and guidelines for MDT members to use in a daily manner. DATIP referred to the documents as a base reference when developing new materials including the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in 2022. Major manuals/materials developed by the projects are as follows:

Operational Guideline of Multi-Disciplinary Team for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking

Victim-Centered Approach Training Manual

Repatriation Handbooks for Foreign Victims of Trafficking (for VOTs from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam)

Welcome Home Package

Return and Social Reintegration Handbook for Thai VOT

Social Reintegration Handbook for Thai VOT: Handbook Utilization Workshop Trainer's Manual

The Projects organized Mekong Regional Workshops (MRWs) as a platform of regional cooperation to share information, experiences, and best practices in combating TIP and protecting VOTs at practical level of both in origin and destination countries.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the relevance of the projects is ③<sup>1</sup>.

[Coherence]

<Consistency with Japan's ODA Policy at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation>

The projects were consistent with Japan's ODA policy to Thailand at the time of ex-ante evaluation.

One of the Basic Policies of Japan's Official Development Assistant Charter (August 2003) was the Perspective of "Human Security." Japan ratified the Palermo Protocol in 2000, established the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee in the Cabinet in 2004, and adopted the National Action Plan of Measures to Combat TIP, which included implementation of international measures. Japan-Thailand Joint Task Force on Counter Trafficking in Persons (JT-CTP) was created in 2006 to cooperate in prevention, prosecution and protection. Japan's Economic Cooperation Program for Thailand (2006) emphasized the perspective of human security<sup>2</sup>. Japan's Country Assistance Policy for the Kingdom of Thailand (2012) prioritized coping with common issues in ASEAN countries including TIP.

<Collaboration/Coordination with JICA's other interventions>

The collaboration/coordination between the projects and other JICA projects was planned during the project period and was implemented, and the positive effects were confirmed at the time of ex-post evaluation.

Japanese experts in the project communicated with JICA Project on Capacity Improvement of Recovery and Reintegration of Trafficked Persons (2012-2016), and the Project on Capacity Development and Promotion of Networking on Assistance of Victims of Trafficking (2018-2021) in Myanmar and with the Project for the Establishment of Trafficking in Persons Hotline was conducted in Vietnam (2012-2016). DATIP collaborated efficiently with staff of these countries to invite participants in the workshops to strengthen regional network.

<Cooperation with other institutions/ Coordination with international framework>

The cooperation/coordination with organizations working in TIP was planned during the project period and was implemented as planned, and the positive effects were confirmed at the time of ex-post evaluation.

Many international organizations were addressing TIP from the perspective of fundamental human rights and international organized crime. In 2000, United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (UNIAP) was established to promote and coordinate efforts to combat TIP in the region. Each organization utilized its own strengths to develop and implement the 4Ps (Policy, Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution) and provided support. JICA projects focused on protection, but identified opportunities to work with other organizations and concluded strategic partnership agreements to maximize the return and impact from the investments. For example, it sought assistance from the United Nations' Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT) to review the repatriation handbooks for foreign VOTs (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam). In return, the project assisted UN-ACT to advance activities specified under Sub-Regional Plan of Action IV of COMMIT initiative. In Chiang Rai, Phayao and Bokeo, MDTs had worked with NGOs in prevention and protection activities and the relationship contributed to the smooth implementation of the project. As the project foresaw a duplication of activities with IOM for the Repatriation Handbook for Myanmar VOTs and the Return and Social Integration Handbook for Thai VOTs, it consulted with IOM and decided to drop the production of the Repatriation Handbook for Myanmar VOTs while both sides decided to jointly prepare the Return and Social Integration Handbook for Thai VOTs in Phase 2. Still, IOM also published similar guidelines titled, "Reintegration Handbook: Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance", in cooperation with UK aid in 2019.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the coherence of the projects is ③.

[Evaluation Result of Relevance/Coherence]

In the light above, the relevance/coherence of the projects is ③.

2 Effectiveness/Impact

(Phase 1)

<Status of Achievement of the Project Purpose at the Time of Project Completion>

At the time of project completion, the Project Purpose of Phase 1 was mostly achieved as planned.

Out of two indicators, one was achieved beyond the plan and one was mostly achieved as planned. The surveyed VOTs had a high satisfaction rate with the services of MDTs (Indicator 1). Implementation of steps specified in the guidelines varied by the types of VOTs and the services provided: for foreign VOTs, majority of workshop participants of Central and Provincial MDTs were taking 64-73% of

<sup>1</sup> ④ : very high, ③ : high, ② : moderately low, ① : low

<sup>2</sup> ODA Country Data Collection (2008)

the steps, and for Thai returnees: majority of them from Provincial MDTs were taking 83% of the steps, but those from central MDTs were taking only 17% because not many returnees were taken in short-term shelters in Bangkok.

<Continuation Status of Project Effects at the Time of Ex-Post Evaluation>

By the time of the ex-post evaluation, the project effects have been mostly continued.

Out of two indicators, one has been continued and the other has been partially continued. According to the survey of VOTs' satisfaction about shelter services in 2022, the VOTs in the shelter in Chiang Rai expressed very high satisfaction with services (Indicator 1). While there is no data about the current usage of the MDT operational guideline, all MDTs implement MDT approach in the NRM that was developed based on the materials including the guideline. MSDHS had no authority to order other ministries to follow steps instructed in the guidelines/handbooks.

<Status of Achievement of the Overall Goal at the Time of Ex-Post Evaluation>

At the time of ex-post evaluation, the Overall Goal of Phase 1 has been achieved as planned.

While there is no data of how many provinces use the MDT operational guideline, it can be concluded that the Overall Goal has been achieved as “the government applies the successful MDT approach to other provinces in Thailand,” as all provinces in Thailand are duly implementing MDT approach.

(Phase 2)

<Status of Achievement of the Project Purpose at the Time of Project Completion>

At the time of project completion, the Project Purpose of Phase 2 was partially achieved.

Out of four indicators, one was achieved beyond the plan, one was achieved as planned, and two were not verifiable. Dissemination plan for the Return and Social Reintegration Handbook for Thai VOTs was prepared by DATIP (Indicator 1), and 95% of the participants in the 9th Mekong Regional Workshop (MRW) answered that that they understood the flow and process of repatriation from Thailand to their respective countries (Indicator 4). Indicator 2 and 3 were not verifiable because the project did not ask the workshop participants whether their services had improved or not.

<Continuation Status of Project Effects at the Time of Ex-Post Evaluation>

By the time of the ex-post evaluation, the project effects have been mostly continued.

Out of four indicators, two have been continued and two have been mostly continued. The Return and Social Integration Handbook for Thai VOTs is available on the website (Indicator 1). All of surveyed MDTs answered that they had improved their services for social reintegration (Indicator 2). The level of coordination for repatriation has been improved at the national level as the officials have clear guidelines and received training on using the materials, but it decreased at the provincial level due to political situation and financial issues (Indicator 3). DATIP thinks that MDTs in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) have understood the flow and process of repatriation, but there was no supporting information (Indicator 4).

<Status of Achievement of the Overall Goal at the Time of Ex-Post Evaluation>

At the time of ex-post evaluation, the Overall Goal of Phase 2 has been mostly achieved as planned.

Usage of the Repatriation Handbooks for foreign victims (Lao PDR and Vietnam) and Welcome Home Package was confirmed (Indicator 1). DATIP distributed the materials at MRWs, but there was no information on the current access to the materials by the MDTs except for the Cambodia Central MDT.

<Other Impacts at the Time of Ex-Post Evaluation>

The Guidelines and the Return and Social Reintegration Handbook for Thai VOTs developed in Phase 1 served as important information resources in developing the NRM by the Government of Thailand. The NRM specifies clear steps of practices and agencies to be involved at each step. Instructions from the Committee on Prevention and Suppression of TIP were made through the Ministry of Interior (Provincial Governor), resulting in expanding of MDT approach and effective operation nationwide.

· Revision of the Anti-Money Laundering Act (July 2022) included the changes in entitling VOTs to compensation for damages from the traffickers' assets. This partly owes to the voice of VOTs raised at a workshop on finding justices, with participation of high-ranking personnel from the Attorney Office, Department of Special Investigation, etc. who were in the policy-making positions.

· Rules in applying for Anti-TIP Fund changed from “needing a case number of prosecution” to “any identified VOTs can apply for the fund regardless of taking or not taking charges against traffickers.” This partially resulted from voices raised by peer-support group in JICA workshops.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the effectiveness/impact of the projects is ③.

Achievement of Project Purpose and Overall Goal (Phase 1)

Aim	Indicators	Results	Source
(Project Purpose) Thai Government provides effective protection to trafficked persons through the operations of Central and Provincial MDTs.	Indicator 1 More than 60% of trafficked persons [including returnees, foreign trafficked persons] reveal their satisfaction to MDT services at the end of the project.	Status of the Achievement (Status of the Continuation): achieved beyond the plan (partially continued) (Project Completion) According to the endline survey (Dec.2012-Feb.2013), the average satisfaction rate of returnees (Thai VOTs) was 67.1% and that of foreign VOTs was 82.4%. MDTs considered that their services became efficient because their capacity was strengthened and coordination was enhanced. They better understood the whole process of VOTs protection, and were able to provide more appropriate assistance with better counselling skills and understanding of gender	Terminal evaluation report Questionnaire survey to DATIP and Chiang Rai MDT, Interview Survey to Phayao MDT

		<p>issues and social and cultural background of VOTs. (Ex-Post Evaluation)</p> <p>Survey of satisfaction with MDT services has not been implemented, except for the survey of VOTs' satisfaction about shelter services (not about the quality of services provided by MDTs). In 2022, DATIP conducted such satisfaction survey of VOTs residing in government's long-term shelters in 8 provinces. Due to a system error, only the result from Chiang Rai shelter during April-September 2022 were provided. The VOTs revealed very high satisfaction with service providers (94.49%), process/services (92%), facilities (91.72%), service result (92.24%), and service quality (91.26%). Most VOTs revealed satisfaction as they could get compensation from the anti-TIP fund. Phayao also did not conduct any satisfaction survey, but assumed that foreign VOTs (Lao) were satisfied as the MDT coordinated with the labour office until they received a sufficient amount of compensation.</p>	
	<p>Indicator 2</p> <p>More than 50% of necessary steps specified in the MDT Operational Guideline are followed by each MDT member agency.</p>	<p>Status of the Achievement (Status of the Continuation): Mostly achieved as planned (continued)</p> <p>(Project Completion)</p> <p>The questionnaire survey revealed that, for foreign VOTs, majority of workshop participants of Central and Provincial MDTs were taking seven or eight steps out of 11 (64-73%). For Thai returnees: majority of workshop participants of Provincial MDTs were taking five out of six steps (83%). Majority of those of central MDTs were taking only one out of six steps (17%) because not many returnees were taken in short-term shelters in Bangkok.</p> <p>(Ex-Post Evaluation)</p> <p>There is no data on the use of the MDT operational guideline This is because the MSDHS had no authority to order other ministries to follow steps instructed in the guidelines/handbooks. However, all provinces in Thailand are duly implementing MDT approach in the NRM as mentioned in the Overall Goal Indicator 1 below.</p>	<p>Terminal evaluation report</p> <p>Questionnaire survey to DATIP / Interview Survey to Chiang Rai, Ubon Ratchathani, and Phayao.</p>
<p>(Overall Goal)</p> <p>Thai Government applies the successful MDT approaches to other provinces within Thailand.</p>	<p>Indicator 1</p> <p>Increased number of provincial MDTs that utilize the MDT Operational Guideline.</p>	<p>Status of the Achievement: achieved as planned (Ex-Post Evaluation)</p> <p>There is no data on how many provinces use the MDT operational guideline. However, as the overall goal states, "The government applies the successful MDT approach to other provinces in Thailand." All provinces in Thailand are duly implementing MDT approach, by having the NRM developed by the Thai Government in 2022. The NRM was developed based on the existing manual and guidelines including the products of JICA project.</p>	<p>Questionnaire survey to DATIP / Interview Survey to Chiang Rai, Ubon Ratchathani, and Phayao.</p>

Achievement of Project Purpose and Overall Goal (Phase 2)

Aim	Indicators	Results	Source
<p>(Project Purpose)</p> <p>Assistance for rebuilding new lives of Thai VOTs, Non-Thai VOTs and Foreign VOTs rescued/protected in Thailand is improved.</p>	<p>Indicator 1</p> <p>Dissemination plan for Handbook for VOT Social Reintegration is prepared by DATIP.</p>	<p>Status of the Achievement (Status of the Continuation): achieved as planned (continued)</p> <p>(Project Completion)</p> <p>DATIP prepared the dissemination plan for the Return and Social Reintegration Handbook. DATIP sent staff to the Return and Social Reintegration Handbook Utilization Workshops in</p>	<p>Project completion report</p> <p>Questionnaire survey and interview to DATIP / MSDHS's electronic database system</p> <p>MSDHS's website</p> <p><a href="http://tinyurl.com/drr8kbp">http://tinyurl.com/drr8kbp</a></p>

	<p>Ubun Ratchathani, Chiang Rai/Phayao and Bangkok. DATIP allocated budget for two additional workshops for the utilization of the handbook, along with the dissemination plan of the Return and Social Reintegration Handbook for Thai VOTs.</p> <p>(Ex-Post Evaluation)</p> <p>Its copies were distributed to agencies in the MSDHS (76 Provincial Social Development and Human Security Office (PSDHS), 8 Welfare Protection Center of VOTs or long-term shelters, Pak Kred Reception Home for Boys (Baan Phumvet), and 77 Homes for Children and Families or short-term shelters) as well as other agencies involved in repatriation and reintegration (Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Consular Affairs, Royal Thai Police, and Immigration Bureau). On 1 June 2019, the Handbook was published on the MSDHS's website, to which anyone can freely access.</p>	y
<p>Indicator 2</p> <p>80 % of MDT members of the target group answer that they improved their services for social reintegration especially for Thai returnees.</p>	<p>Status of the Achievement (Status of the Continuation): not verifiable (achieved and continued)</p> <p>(Project Completion)</p> <p>At the end of each handbook utilization workshop, the project conducted questionnaire surveys to evaluate the level of expectation in improving assistance. In Ubun Ratchathani, 96% of the workshop participants answered "High" or "Very High." They were not asked whether their services improved or not.</p> <p>(Ex-Post Evaluation)</p> <p>All surveyed MDTs (Central, Chaing Rai, Phayao, Ubun Ratchathani) considered that their services had improved to a certain extent. Central MDT considers improvement of services, basically through having NRM developed by the Thai Government in 2022 and based on information in guidelines, manuals and handbooks in Thailand, including those of JICA. The NRM is being implemented nationwide by 76 Provincial Operation Centers on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (POCHT) to facilitate and recovery of VOTs. Provincial MDTs' services improved through the regional workshops and support from other development partners.</p>	<p>Project completion report</p> <p>Questionnaire survey to DATIP and Chiang Rai MDT / interviews on self-assessment to Chiang Rai MDT, Phayao MDT, and Ubun Ratchathani MDT</p>
<p>Indicator 3</p> <p>80% of participants of the consultative meetings on Handbook for VOTs Repatriation answer that they improved their coordination for repatriation.</p>	<p>Status of the Achievement (Status of the Continuation): not verifiable (mostly achieved and continued)</p> <p>(Project Completion)</p> <p>The project conducted a questionnaire survey to measure the level of expectation of the improved coordination among MDTs for repatriation in the future, but did not ask whether MDT's coordination for repatriation had improved or not.</p> <p>(Ex-Post Evaluation)</p> <p>The level of coordination for repatriation has been improved at the national level as the officials have clear guidelines in the handbooks and receive training on using the manual. Coordination at the provincial level decreased due to political situation and financial issues.</p>	<p>Project completion report</p> <p>Questionnaire survey to DATIP and Chiang Rai MDT / interviews on self-assessment to Chiang Rai MDT, Phayao MDT, and Ubun Ratchathani MDT</p>
<p>Indicator 4</p> <p>80% of the target group answer that they understood the flow and process of repatriation from Thailand to their</p>	<p>Status of the Achievement (Status of the Continuation): achieved beyond the plan (mostly continued)</p> <p>(Project Completion)</p>	<p>Project Completion Report</p> <p>Questionnaire survey to DATIP and Ministry of</p>

	respective countries, summarized in the repatriation handbook prepared by the project.	95% of the target group (CLMV participants in the 9th MRW) answered that they understood the flow and process of repatriation from Thailand to their respective countries, summarized in the repatriation handbooks prepared by the project. (Ex-Post Evaluation) DATIP thinks CLMV MDTs understand flow and process of repatriation, as they were co-developed by CLMV and Thailand in the MRWs and they continue to implement steps of practices described in the handbooks, while there was no answer in the survey of ex-post evaluation from Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam. Cambodia MDT currently uses the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the management, repatriation and reintegration of victims of human trafficking developed with the Thai Government in 2023. The SOP is developed utilizing the base information in the Repatriation Handbooks for Foreign VOTs developed in Phase 2.	Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) Cambodia / Interviews to DATIP
(Overall Goal) Support measures for Victims of Trafficking (VOTs) are provided effectively in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional (GMS) Countries.	Indicator 1 [Thailand] Handbook(s) for VOTs Social Reintegration and Repatriation are utilized by MDT members in the project sites as well as non-project sites.	Status of the Achievement: mostly achieved as planned (Ex-Post Evaluation) Usage of Repatriation Handbooks for foreign victims (Laos and Vietnam) and Welcome Home Package by the central MDT was confirmed. The Reintegration Handbook for Thai VOTs was more or less utilized as a source of reference information. Repatriation Handbooks for foreign victims (Lao PDR and Vietnam) are utilized. The Handbook of Cambodia was substituted by the SOP mentioned above. Welcome Home Package is available on MSDHS's website. 76 provinces and MSDHS, as well as other agencies involved in repatriation and reintegration utilize the Reintegration Handbook for Thai VOTs. Provincial MDTs use the NRM which is developed based on the Reintegration Handbook. They have no mandates on repatriation of VOTs, hence no chances in utilizing the repatriation handbooks.	Questionnaire survey to DATIP
	Indicator 2 Anti-TIP officers/ workers in CLMV are able to access the information necessary to support social reintegration and repatriation (including Repatriation Handbook prepared by the Project and other materials) in respective countries.	Status of the Achievement: Partially achieved (Ex-Post Evaluation) DATIP distributed the Repatriation Handbooks / Posters of each country to respective target groups at the 9th MRW. Ubon Ratchathani MDT distributed the Repatriation Handbook (Laos) to Champasak MDT. Cambodia Central MDT use their own SOP, which was developed utilizing the base information in the Repatriation Handbook for Foreign VOTs developed in Phase 2, for the management, repatriation, and reintegration of victims of human trafficking. No answers from Lao, Myanmar, and Vietnam Central MDTs to the questionnaire survey of ex-post evaluation.	Questionnaire survey to DATIP and MDTs of the CLMV countries

### 3 Efficiency

For Phase 1, the project cost was within the plan (the ratio against the plan: 65%) and the project period was as planned (the ratio against the plan:100%). The reason for the reduction of the cost could not be identified.

For Phase 2, the project cost slightly exceeded the plan (the ratio against the plan: 107%) and the project period was as planned (the ratio against the plan:100%). The cost increased due to recruitment of an additional Regional Cooperation Expert.

		Project Cost (Japanese side only, yen)	Project Period (months)
Phase 1	Plan (ex-ante)	392 million yen	60 months

	Actual	253 million yen	60 months
	Ratio (%)	65%	100%
Phase 2	Plan (ex-ante)	273 million yen	48 months
	Actual	291 million yen	48 months
	Ratio (%)	107%	100%

Outputs for Phase 1 and Phase 2 were produced as planned.

In the light above, the efficiency of the projects is ③.

#### 4 Sustainability

##### <Policy Aspect>

Anti-TIP has been the national agenda of Thailand until date. Under the Ministry's five-year action plan (2023-2027), anti-TIP is placed under the first plan on "developing target policies to improve quality of life of people of all ages" with sub-action plan 1.2 "driving the policy, strategy, and action plans on prevention and suppression of TIP 2018-2037." The Project on Prevention and Suppression of TIP and the Project on the Anti-TIP Fund are included.

NRM was approved in March 2022. This mechanism helps mainstream and expand MDT operations nationwide with specific agencies assigned at each step of operations.

Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation places importance in employing multi-disciplinary structures to protect rights of VOTs. Its policy framework focuses on protecting rights of VOTs, increasing assistance that VOTs can receive necessary services, and formalizing programs and services to promote the well-beings of VOTs.

##### <Institutional/Organizational Aspect>

Institutional/Organizational sustainability is very high, with rigid structure of two national committees and NOCHT and POCHT as functional bodies operating based on MDT approach at national and provincial level. DATIP has no change in its organizational structure. Transfer of personnel in charge of MDT is occasionally seen in Central MDT, Chiang Rai MDT and Ubon Ratchathani MDT, but no negative, organizational effect has been seen on the operations because the MDTs are supported by the predecessor and/or other team members such as NGOs continuously working in the area.

##### <Technical Aspect>

Technical sustainability is very high as the main agency had skills and knowledge to develop tools for MDT operations. DATIP has developed and updated their own guiding documents as follows using the documents developed in the JICA projects for reference: which are MSDHS's guideline on suppression of TIP and protection of VOTs published in 2017, Practical guideline to protect welfare of VOTs in the long-term shelter, and National Referral Mechanism (NRM) developed from the MDT guidelines. Practitioners at the provincial level and peer group have skills and knowledge to replicate JICA training to other MDT members and target groups.

##### <Financial Aspect>

Financial sustainability is high as MSDHS allocates budget in a stable manner for implementing projects under the sub-action plan 1.2 "driving the policy, strategy, and action plans on prevention and suppression of TIP 2018-2037" as shown in the table below. Besides, Anti-TIP fund can be used at any time to protect both Thai and foreign VOTs. Provincial MDTs have issues in implementing border cooperation, having no budget support. Planning for operational budgets of other MDT members than MSDHS is being made and could be expected by the year 2025.

Unit: Million Baht

Year	Budget for Prevention and Suppression of TIP	Anti-TIP Fund Budget
2023	187.56	20.00
2024	196.94	25.00
2025	206.78	30.00
2026	217.12	35.00
2027	217.12	35.00

##### <Environmental and Social Aspect>

No issue on environmental aspect has been observed, and it has not been necessary to take any countermeasures.

Major changes in social aspects have occurred since the end of Phase 2: There are increasing numbers of human trafficking cases in new and complex forms using social media, such as child prostitution where victims are deceived to work in Thailand and overseas, or call center scams where Thai nationals are deceived to work in Lao PDR, Myanmar, or Cambodia. The situations of neighboring countries are also changing from being the origin countries to the destination countries. MDTs are expected to respond to these new forms of TIP.

##### <Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, slight problems have been observed in terms of the financial aspects of the implementing agency. Therefore, the sustainability of the project effects is ③.

#### 5 Summary of the Evaluation

Phase 1 mostly achieved the Project Purpose, and achieved the Overall Goal as planned. The surveyed VOTs in the project had a high satisfaction rate with the services of MDTs, but such survey data was available only with VOTs in the shelter in Chiang Rai after project completion. While there is no data about the current usage of the MDT operational guideline, all MDTs implement MDT approach in the NRM that was developed based on the materials including the guideline.

Phase 2 mostly achieved the Project Purpose and Overall Goal. The Return and Social Integration Handbook for Thai VOT is available on the website, and all surveyed MDTs answered that they had improved services for social reintegration. The level of coordination for repatriation has been improved at the national level as the officials have clear guidelines and receive training, but it decreased at the provincial level due to political situation and financial issues. DATIP thinks that MDTs in CLMV have understood the flow and process of repatriation, but there was no supporting information. Regarding the support measures for VOTs in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries, materials are available but the usage was partially confirmed. The policy, institutional, and technical aspects of sustainability



are positive.

Considering all of the above points, these projects are evaluated to be highly satisfactory.

### III. Recommendations & Lessons Learned

#### Recommendations for Implementing Agency:

As TIP situation changed with more Thai nationals being exploited in neighboring countries, it is necessary for the Thai Government to help develop an effective system/mechanism for anti-trafficking in neighboring countries like that of Thailand by supporting and capacitating CLMV members. In this context, MRWs in Phase 3 might be a good platform to conduct such capacity building activities as analyzing real cases of call center scammers and test some measures in respective countries. This would also strengthen regional cooperation to cope with new types of VOTs.

Extracting lessons learned from real cases, like after-action-review (AAR), proves to be very effective to foster learning for participants of training and MRWs meeting because such lessons help fill the gap between the guiding documents and practices, and provide effective protection or services of MDTs. Therefore, we recommend that a session for mutual learning and real case study should be included in DATIP's training courses and MRWs meeting.

Backgrounds of VOTs in the past were mostly poor and/or people with little education. Yet, now many VOTs are more educated, and they prefer to find a new job in a new place rather than wait for assistance from the respective government. Accordingly, their needs for social reintegration are not the same as earlier days. For example, VOTs may not want integration into their domiciles. Therefore, we recommend that the present assistance for building new lives of VOTs should be reviewed, reflecting views from VOTs, particularly on support for economic betterment of VOTs.

#### Lessons Learned for JICA:

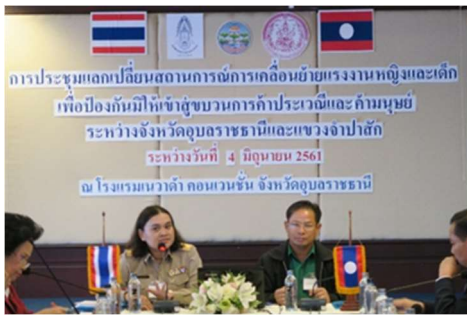
The Project's main component was the development of guiding documents (guidelines and handbooks) and the Project expected such documents to be widely used. Yet, the guiding documents developed by the Project have not been recognized as official documents but treated as reference documents. This is because the Project's counterpart organization, MSDHS has no authority to order other ministries to follow steps instructed in the guidelines/handbooks. It is up to the agency whether the guidelines/handbooks should be used. In the case of this project, it would have been more legally binding if the National Committee for Prevention and Suppression of TIP had endorsed such documents during project implementation. The committee can instruct relevant agencies to follow the guiding documents developed by the Project. When developing guiding documents, it is imperative to set clear strategies on how to institutionalize such documents at the planning stage of the project.

Project's indicators for overall goals must be relevant after three to six years after the end of project implementation. In the case of this project, only wide use of and access to the guidelines/handbooks was set as the indicators. Yet, the important objective of the Project was to improve protective measures of VOTs through inter-agency coordination and regional cooperation; therefore, indicators should also include such expected outcomes as improved quality/quantity of services and coverage of services. Use of guidelines depends on government policy and roles and responsibilities of agencies involved in anti-trafficking as well as changing circumstances about VOTs; therefore, it is not realistic to assume the same guidelines/handbooks would be extensively used for a long period of time. If data collection requires beneficiary surveys for qualitative data to measure the level of satisfaction with the services provided, for example, JICA project should establish such monitoring mechanism in the project.

The salient feature of Phase 2 was to facilitate regional cooperation with neighbouring countries to effectively cope with cross-boundary human trafficking. However, the Project was implemented in the form of bilateral cooperation between Japan and Thailand where agencies from other countries participated in the Project as the recipients of training and/or participants of workshops and meetings not as the Project's implementing agencies. To effectively implement regional cooperation, partner organizations from participating countries should be involved as a counterpart organization.



8<sup>th</sup> Mekong Regional Workshop in 2018



Cross border meeting between Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand and Champasak, Lao PDR



Consultative meetings with stakeholders for development of the Return and Social Reintegration Handbook for Thai VOTs