

Migration and Data in Thailand

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Narratives on Migration: Toward Evidence-based Communication

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Outline

- Overview of Thailand Migration
- Migration Data from Government Agencies
- Migration-related policies and projects
- Issues and Data gaps

Overview of Thailand Migration



THAILAND

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- Largest migrant receiving country in Southeast Asia:
 - Strategically located at the center of Greater Mekong Sub region,
 - Lowest fertility rate in Southeast Asia (1.4 children/woman),
 - Low unemployment rate (1.1%),
 - Rapidly ageing society (the first developing country to become a hyper ageing society) → currently 65+ = 17% and will reach 25% by 2040,
 - Relatively high economic growth (4%/yr >> GDP doubling time in 18 years).
- Migration pattern is heterogeneous and complex mainly from Myanmar, Lao, Cambodia and Vietnam
 - 4.9 million migrant workers in 2018 ~ 10+% of labor force,
 - 350,000-400,00 migrant children. Only half of which has full access to services.
- Internationally, Thailand is one of the world's top 20 countries to host cross-border migrants age under 18.
 - The current government has set a target of zero stateless children by 2024

Overview of Thailand Migration

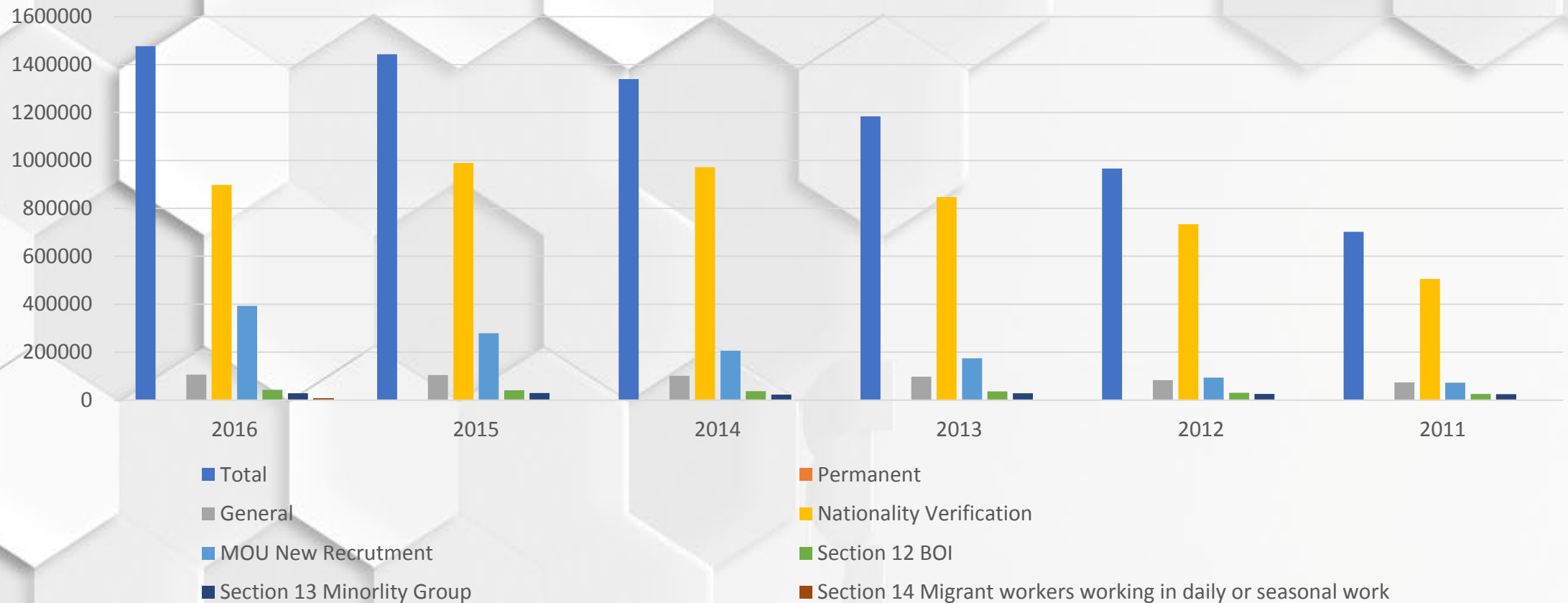
- Foreign Worker Types
 - **General Foreign Workers** - foreign workers who reside in the Kingdom, or are permitted to enter the Kingdom temporarily under the Immigration law; excluding the entrances of tourists or transferees, etc. as stated in the Ministerial Regulations.
 - **Nationality Verification** - Myanmar, Laotian, Cambodian Migrant workers who are temporarily permitted to stay in the Kingdom according to the Cabinet Resolution and have completed their nationality verification.
 - **MOU Process** - Myanmar, Laotian, Cambodian and other nationality migrant workers that enter to work in the Kingdom under the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Thailand and the parties.
 - **Under the Board of Investment Promotion** - migrant workers who work in the Kingdom and receive privileges under the Board of Investment law, the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand Act B.E. 2522 (1979) and the Petroleum Act B.E. 2514 (1971).

Overview of Thailand Migration

- Foreign Worker Types
 - **Minority Groups** - migrant workers who enter or reside in the Kingdom but are not entitled to receive Thai nationality under section 13 (3) (4) (5) comprise of the followings: (4) Born in the Kingdom but not entitling to Thai nationality by the Announcement of the Revolutionary Council.
 - **Migrant Workers under Section 13 (2)** - migrant workers who enter the Kingdom without permission according to the Immigration law, but are granted temporally stay permit while waiting for deportation according to the Immigration law.
 - **Migrant Workers under Section 14** - Myanmar, Laotian, Cambodian Migrant workers who work in the border area as daily or seasonal workers under the Agreement on Border Crossing between the Kingdom of Thailand and the neighboring countries.

Overview of Thailand Migration

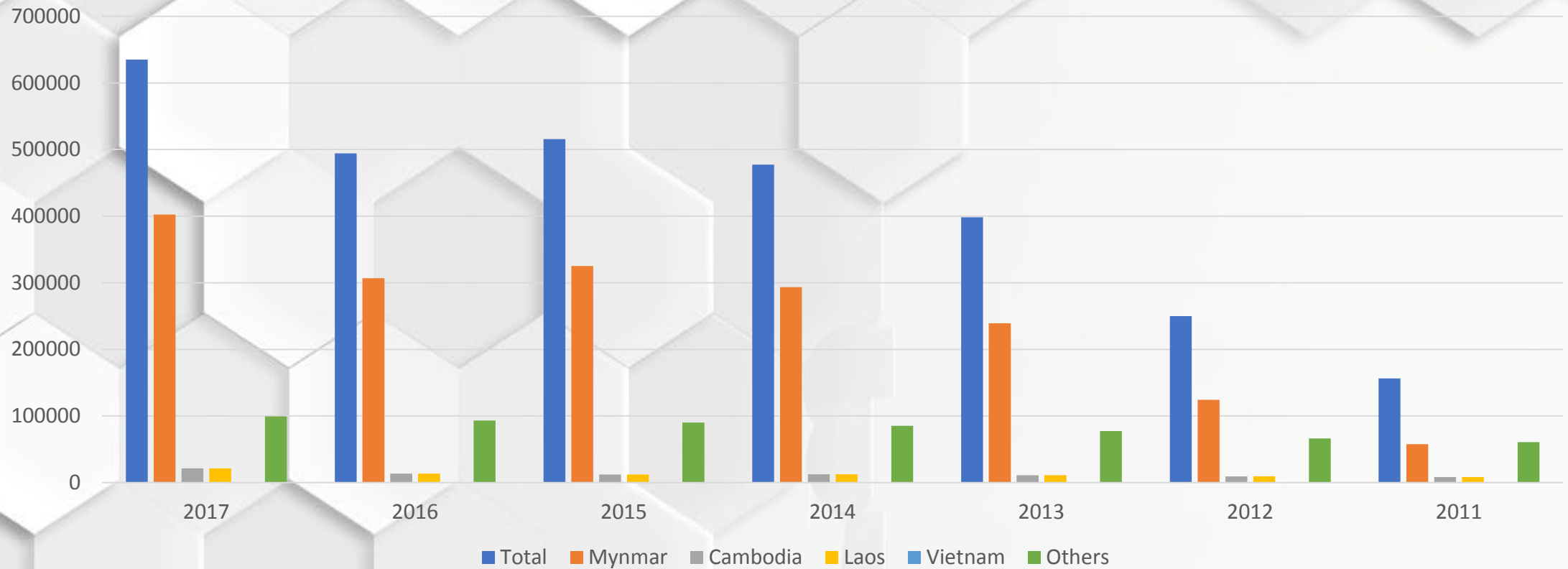
NUMBER OF MIGRANT WORKERS GRANTED WORK PERMITS IN THAILAND, BY TYPE, 2011 - 2017



Source: Ministry of Labour. (2017). Labour Statistics Yearbook 2017.

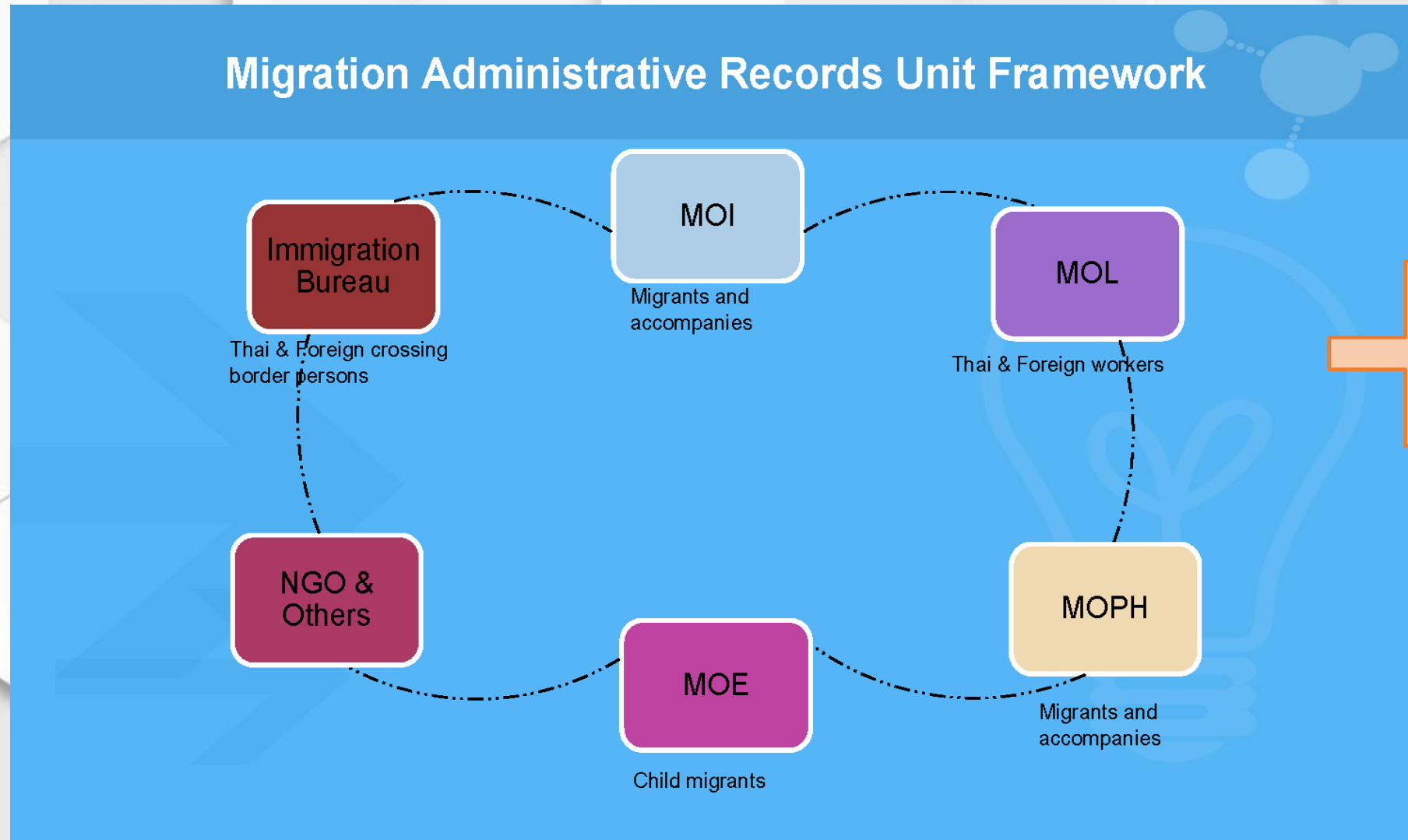
Overview of Thailand Migration

NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS BY NATIONALITIES, 2011 - 2017



Source: Ministry of Labour. (2017). Labour Statistics Yearbook 2017.

Migration Data from Government Agencies



Migration Survey/
Household Survey (2020):
TNSO

Migration Data from Government Agencies

- Foreigners' working management emergency decree.
- Establishing tripartite committee for migration-related policies management.
- Establishing sub committees including Subcommittee to consider the conditions for allowing foreign workers to work with new employers, Subcommittee on the Problem Solving of Followers of Foreign Workers and Children of Foreign Workers Born in Thailand, and Subcommittee on the Consideration of the International Labor Organization Convention And the Legal Drafting Subcommittee.
- Fund to help migrant workers during their work in Thailand
- Migrant Worker Assistance Centres: MWACs
- Post-Arrival and Reintegration Center for Migrant Workers
- **Children on the Move, the co-project with UNICEF**
- Etc.,

What are children on the move?

- Those children moving voluntarily or involuntarily,
- for any reason,
- within or between countries,
- with or without their parents or other primary caregivers,
- and their movement might place them at **an increased risk** of:
 - economic exploitation,
 - sexual exploitation,
 - abuse,
 - neglect,
 - and violence.



Operational Definition of Children on the Move

- Migrant children (e.g., to pursue better life opportunities, look for work or education or to escape exploitative or abusive situations at home),
- Stateless children,
- Trafficked children,
- Internally displaced children, and
- Refugees and asylum seekers



Why is it important to protect migrant and forcibly displaced children?

- *Human Rights.* Thailand is committed to protect child rights following the Convention on the Rights of the Child regardless of countries of origin of the child,
- *Home Land Security.* Protecting migrant and forcibly displaced children from exploitation and abuse is to protect home land security,
- *Integration Tool.* In a regional economic integration context, investing in regional human resources = investing in own country's human resources, and
- *Attract Talented Migrants.* Policies favorable for child rearing can help to attract talented migrants.

Migration and Thailand's International Commitments to Regional and Global Initiatives

- A partner country to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including migration targets,
- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM),
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for any child living in Thailand regardless of his/her country of origin,
- Regional Economic Integration: ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)



IDEAS organized a National Consultative Meeting on 4-5 April 2019 at the Shangri-La Hotel Bangkok



More than 50 government officials from various relevant line ministries attended the consultative meeting.

An Assessment is planned for the third quarter, and the project is to be completed by the end of the year.

Integrated Data Ecosystem Assessment and Strengthening (IDEAS)

- IDEAS is a project jointly developed by NSO and UNICEF along with other UN partners with an aim to strategically improve migration data and, hence, to better protect migrant and displaced children,
- A toolkit will be developed to maps and assess gaps in data collection, data compilation, data analysis, data sharing and dissemination.
- Following the mapping and assessment, capacity development trainings will be organized to strengthen data capacity.
- The IDEAS project is in line with Thailand's national strategy and priority to strengthen the national statistical system.

Issues and Data gaps

- With greater dependence on international migrant labor, Thailand has an increasing need to have better migration data for evidence-based policy formulation in order to achieve long-term sustainable development of the country.
- International agreement especially the SDG's motto of "leaving no one behind" has placed an unprecedented demand for quality data to assess impacts of migration and to monitor progress toward fulfilling the agreements.
- Data on migrant and displaced children are particularly lacking.
- NSO collaborates with various UN Agencies including UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR and UNSD to address these data gaps.



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GFMD Ecuador 2019

Thank you for your attention!

