

COMBATTING UNACCEPTABLE FORMS OF WORK IN THE THAI FISHING AND SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

AT A GLANCE

→ Partners

- Royal Thai Government units including the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare and the Department of Employment in the Ministry of Labour, the Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and the Command Centre to Combat Illegal Fishing (CCCIF),
- Trade unions, workers associations and civil society organizations,
- Employers' organizations, industry associations and buyers and retailers groups.

→ Target beneficiaries

Women, men and children working in the fishing and seafood sectors (estimated number of direct beneficiaries: 15,000)
Government institutions at the national and provincial level, migrants' family members in countries of origin (through increased remittances and wage protection) and consumer

→ Geographical focus

Thailand / Sites to be determined

→ Duration

1 February 2016 - 31 July 2019

→ Donor

European Union

In recent years, a number of graphic reports have triggered an increased awareness of the serious human and labour rights abuses committed in the Thai commercial fishing and seafood processing industries, particularly against men, women and children migrant workers. The Thai Government, industry, workers' organizations and civil society organizations have all stepped up efforts to respond to these abuses. The Combatting Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry project works closely with these partners to further contribute to the prevention and reduction of unacceptable forms of work in the Thai fishing and seafood processing sectors.

Objectives

The overall objective is to prevent and reduce forced labour, child labour and other unacceptable forms of work, and progressively eliminate the exploitation of workers, particularly migrant workers, in the Thai fishing and seafood processing sectors.

The four specific project objectives are:

1. Strengthen the **legal, policy and regulatory framework** in the fishing and seafood sectors by raising labour standards and facilitating more legal migration into the seafood and fishing sectors.
2. **Enhance the capacity of Government** officers, including the labour inspectorate, to more effectively identify and take action against human trafficking and other labour rights abuses in the fishing and seafood processing sectors.
3. **Improve compliance with the fundamental principles and rights at work** (core labour standards) in the seafood and fishing industries through the implementation of the Good Labour Practices (GLP) Programme, an effective complaints mechanism with increased awareness, and ownership across the supply chain.
4. Enhance access to support services to workers and victims of labour abuses, including children, through engagement and **empowerment of civil society organizations and trade unions**.

The issues of **gender equality, good governance, private sector engagement** and **environment** will cut across the four objectives of the project.



Expected Results

- Strengthened national legal and policy framework and improved social dialogue in the industry
- Improved knowledge base on conditions in the industry and on the effectiveness of different types of responses
- Increased number of labour inspections of vessels and compliance with government orders observed by employers
- Workers associations in the industry strengthened, and links strengthened with trade unions
- Enhanced access of workers to an effective conciliation and complaints mechanism, and timely and fair responses to those grievances
- Effective voluntary compliance tools and processes developed by industry associations in collaboration with workers' organizations
- Increased number of workers withdrawn from forced labour and the worst forms of child labour
- Workers and children in the sector have greater access to a range of quality support services provided by NGOs, trade unions and government.
- Increased awareness about the conditions in the sector from buyers, retailers, and consumers



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