



Attaining Lasting Change for Better Enforcement of Labor and Criminal Law to Address Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (ATLAS) Project

THAILAND

OVERVIEW

Winrock and partners implement the five-year, U.S. Department of Labor-funded [ATLAS](#) project in Argentina, Liberia, Paraguay and Thailand. The project works to strengthen government capacity in the four countries to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. In Thailand, the project works to:

- Improve enforcement of Thailand's labor and criminal legal frameworks, specifically related to child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking; and
- Increase coordination among government, law enforcement, and social protection entities to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.

To support the Thai government, ATLAS helped to identify gaps in enforcement and coordination efforts to combat child labor (CL), forced labor (FL), and human trafficking (HT). To address gaps, ATLAS developed an adaptive, evidence-based



strategy called the Differentiated Model of Practice. This enables delivery of technical assistance tailored to address country-specific priorities. The practice developed intervention models that were piloted, evaluated, refined, implemented, and finally, institutionalized. This phased approach facilitates key government stakeholders to strengthen and increase coordination between law enforcement and social protection entities.

ACTIVITIES

ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

To improve enforcement of current laws, ATLAS developed an Enforcement Training Program (ETP) for frontline workers, such as labor inspectors, police, prosecutors, and judges. The program comprises five modules and 31 presentations on identification, investigation, referral, prosecution, and sentencing in CL, FL, and HT cases.

ATLAS adapted the program to Thailand's context and then piloted, refined, and readministered the ETP, reaching 378 participants including representatives of the Labor, Justice, Interior, and Social Development and Human Security ministries.

ATLAS helped these entities to incorporate training materials and modules into their institutional learning resources and/or academies.

PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE ON INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF FORCED LABOR AND CHILD LABOR CASES

ATLAS developed the Practitioner's Guide as a tool to assist labor inspectors, immigration officers, and other officials and law enforcement officers in differentiating between FL and HT, and to better enforce Thai laws prohibiting FL and CL. To develop the guide, ATLAS supported the Office of the Attorney General's Research Institute for Investigation Development and Prosecution. The guide will be incorporated into Thailand's National Referral Mechanism Plan of Action, becoming the official government guidance on FL and CL cases. ATLAS provided the Thai government with more than 1,000 copies of the guide to facilitate training and implementation.



PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE ON COORDINATION

ATLAS developed a Practitioners' Guide on Coordination to strengthen coordination among law enforcement and social protection entities in addressing CL, FL, and HT by outlining coordination procedures. It focuses on labor inspectors and their connections with other agencies and actors. A team of experts drafted and validated the guide through meetings with stakeholders from Thailand's Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Ministry of Labor. ATLAS trained 32 officials on the guide and delivered it to government representatives in May 2022 for integration and use.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS TRAINING

In Thailand, Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) are local-level bodies that often respond first to cases of trafficking, providing assistance to survivors. Depending on the case, teams may include officers from the Social Development and Human Security ministry, labor inspectors, social workers, psychologists, representatives from nongovernmental organizations, and other actors. To improve communication and coordination between government agencies and civil society actors and to ensure a uniform understanding and approach to handling cases of CL, FL, and HT, ATLAS developed a training program for MDTs. Training content included

key Thai legislation covering investigations, risk mapping, interview techniques, survivors' needs and services, trauma-informed care, and self-care for frontline case workers and practitioners. These trainings reached 135 officials, helping to improve coordination through development of a common understanding of definitions and proper mechanisms for addressing CL, FL, HT, and related issues, as well as expanding existing collaboration across agencies represented on the teams.

COMMUNITY REFERRALS

ATLAS's community-focused communication actions and strategies help increase the public's ability to identify and refer suspected cases of FL, CL, and HT to appropriate authorities. ATLAS worked with the Department of Provincial Administration to conduct events outside Bangkok to raise awareness on identification of potential cases of CL, FL, and how to report them. The project produced a presentation and video called "Breaking a Vicious Cycle." This video tells the story of a girl survivor, helping to educate communities about CL, FL, and HT. The video draws on the girl's story to illustrate key concepts and communicate how individuals can report suspected crimes. In all, ATLAS reached 1,632 people through outreach events, and coordinated with the Thai government to disseminate USB drives containing the outreach materials to all 878 districts across Thailand outside of Bangkok.

KEY RESULTS



Developed a Practitioner's Guide on Investigation and Prosecution of Child Labor and Forced Labor Cases as part of Thailand's National Referral Mechanism.



Developed a Practitioner's Guide on Coordination, and presented it to the Ministry of Labor for implementation.



Trained and provided technical assistance through 25 activities



Reached 2,476 law enforcement, government officials, and community members through meetings, trainings and workshops on identification, investigation, referral, prosecution and sentencing of CL, FL, and HT cases.



Facilitated 34 master trainers across Thai government entities to integrate the Enforcement Training Program into their institutions' training programs.



RESOURCES

The Enforcement Training Program training materials can be accessed at: freedomcollaborative.org/thailand-toolkit-library-th/.

The video, "Breaking a Vicious Cycle" and its discussion guide can be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxT8NVCLUdA>.

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