

# Contributing to Thailand's National Referral Mechanism

## ATLAS SNAPSHOT

Winrock International's Attaining Lasting Change for Better Enforcement of Labor and Criminal Law to Address Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (ATLAS) project worked with governments in Thailand, Liberia, Paraguay, and Argentina to improve their ability to address child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking through strengthened laws, regulations, and policies; improved enforcement of existing laws; and increased coordination between actors.

In Thailand, the National Referral Mechanism provides guidelines and mechanisms for the provision of protection and assistance to human trafficking victims and potential victims to agencies across the Thai government. Its completion was a significant advance in combatting human trafficking in the country and contributed to the removal of Thailand from the U.S. State Department's Tier 2 Watch List in 2022.

ATLAS is proud to have contributed to the establishment of the Mechanism through the project's Practitioner's Guide on Investigation of Forced Labor and Child Labor.

Developed with the assistance of the ATLAS project, this Guide assists authorities such as labor inspectors, immigration officers, and other law enforcement officers in differentiating forced labor from human trafficking and improving enforcement of Thai laws on forced labor and child labor. Over the life of the project, ATLAS supported Thai government agencies to work together and develop the Guide. Together, these agencies synthesized their various work protocols around forced labor and child forced



National Symposium on the Practitioner's Guide.

labor in the non-maritime sector and consolidated these policies into the Practitioner's Guide.

On April 8, 2022, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan effectively institutionalized the Practitioner's Guide for continued long-term use by approving inclusion of the Guide into the National Referral Mechanism as key guidelines for use by enforcement officers for investigating and prosecuting cases of child labor and forced labor.

Following this action, Winrock saw increased demand from local agencies seeking copies of the Guide as well as training referenced in its content. In response, the project hosted a National Symposium to broadly introduce the Guide to key institutions and provided government agencies a total of 1,100 hard copies and 1,631 digital copies for continued use. Winrock is confident that, through the National Referral Mechanism, this resource will improve the handling of cases for years to come.