Situation Assessment of Labor Migrants in Asia: Needs and Knowledge During COVID-19
Research Brief 1: CAMBODIA
June 2020

Respondents
63 Returned migrants participated in interviews between May 14 – 22

Respondents, by Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siem Reap</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banteay Meanchey</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prey Veng</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oddar Meanchey</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kampong Thom</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Svay Rieng</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takeo</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

78% Of respondents are under the age of 40
96% Of respondents returned from Thailand
86% Had legal documents to work and live in destination country
Of respondents do not have enough food to eat every day: 35%
Of respondents do not have enough income to support themselves: 58%
Have not received any support since returning to Cambodia: 60%

78% of respondents had not been sick since returning to Cambodia.

Risks and Vulnerabilities

- 8 out of 9: Respondents who had been sick were able to access medical care.
  - Said returned migrants are being treated worse or much worse since returning.
  - Female respondents said they did not face an increased risk of violence.

Confidence in accessing medical care if respondents became sick (n=49)

- Low: 17%
- Moderate: 50%
- Very: 6%

Types of support received since returning to Cambodia (multi-response)

- None
- Medical care
- Food Assistance
- Cash assistance
- Loan Deferment

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70%
Of respondents are currently employed in Cambodia.

**Number of respondents currently employed, by gender (n=27)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

49% of respondents are planning to re-migrate for work; half of which plan to return to Thailand.

### Those planning to re-migrate, by gender (n=31)

- **Women** planning to re-migrate: 23
- **Men** planning to re-migrate: 8

### Primary ways respondents will decide when it's safe and possible to re-migrate (n=31, multi-response)

- 17 Ask family or friends
- 13 Ask village chief/community leader
- 6 I don’t know
- 2 Receive info from recruitment agency

### How respondents plan to find a job in destination country (n=31)

- Return to previous job
- Friends or family
- Recruitment agency
- I don’t know
- Broker
- Online job website

### Of those planning to return to their previous job, what sector did they work in? (n=15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing (other factory work)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
81% Of respondents received prevention information on Covid-19

Where did respondents receive prevention information on COVID-19? (n=51)

- News/website: 49%
- Government: 63%
- Family/friends: 20%
- Social media: 6%
- NGO/INGO: 1%
- Employer: 1%

*Multiple responses could be given. Government includes village and district chiefs, and health centers.

Number of ways respondents knew how to protect themselves against Covid-19

- 1-2 ways: 40.3
- 3-4 ways: 41.9
- 5-6 ways: 5.1

Ways respondents listed to protect against Covid-19 (multi-response)

- Wash hands
- Wear face mask or cover
- Social distancing
- Don’t join large groups
- Stay away from sick people
- I don’t know

67% Need more information on Covid-19. This is where they would go for trusted information

Source (multi-response) | Responses
--- | ---
Government/health center | 28
Village chief/community leader | 25
Facebook | 15
News/online website | 4
NGO/International organization | 4
Friends or family | 3
WhatsApp | 2
No response | 14
A five-year (2016-2021) program, the USAID Asia Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) project, is a regional activity that focuses on transnational and regional challenges to combat human trafficking. The program aims to reduce the trafficking of persons in Asia through a coordinated and consolidated action by governments, civil society and business that will foster cross-border cooperation, develop opportunities for private-sector leadership and improve the quality of data associated with human trafficking. Read the full report here with detailed methodology.

Returned female migrants are finding employment at a much lower rate than men, which may be reflective of the sample including a high number of men with prior construction industry jobs - skills that are in high demand in Cambodia. Therefore, ensuring returned migrant women are included in job placement and skill building activities is highly recommended.

The number of women planning to re-migrate is nearly three times more than men. The high rates of unemployment among female returned migrants is likely a factor in higher rates of women reporting plans to re-migrate. Messages and information on re-migration should closely consider the needs and risks of women female migrants as this group may be the first – and largest – to migrate for work, when migration is again possible.

The majority of respondents said they were planning to re-migrate to Thailand, and half said they would return to their previous job in the destination country. As long as migrants remain in their home countries, it will be valuable to provide information on employer responsibilities in destination countries. This information could include: fees employers are legally responsible to pay when they make the journey back, hygienic/health protections that employers must be putting in place, and other worker protection information.

Two-thirds of respondents said they had not received any support since returning despite public government announcements to the contrary. The Royal Government of Cambodia should continue assisting this vulnerable population through emergency cash and food assistance. International organizations, NGOs and provincial governments should continue providing protection information in clear, easy to understand graphics or audio messaging. Providing updated information on travel restrictions (particularly between Cambodia and Thailand) will be extremely valuable as migrants prepare to navigate a return journey.

Most respondents knew several ways to protect themselves against COVID-19 and have received prevention information, yet a large percentage (over half) said they need additional information. International organizations, NGOs and provincial governments should consider providing the same type of support with available resources.

Providing information to migrants who remain in Thailand is an urgent need. Specifically, domestic workers are facing increased vulnerabilities as qualitative interviews found several are working excessive overtime without compensation, while others are worried about being laid off and unable to return home. Migrants interviewed in Thailand said they often access information through Facebook and YouTube. Particularly, The Cambodia Embassy in Thailand Facebook page is followed by migrants interviewed. These channels should be used by both the Royal Government of Cambodia and Royal Thai Government, as well as migrant assistance organizations, to provide targeted information to this vulnerable group.