

[LPN]
report

A CROSS T H E T H R E E O C E A N S

a thousand-mile journey to save enslaved fishermen

Seek out enslaved and stranded fishers

A C R O S S
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T H R E E
O C E A N S

Labour Protection Network- LPN- is an organisation working to tackle modern slavery in the fishing and seafood industries, both in Thailand and across the globe. Thai, Burmese, Cambodian, and Lao fishermen have suffered gross abuses of their human rights, especially across the islands of the Indonesian archipelago. For this reason, we established the Seafarer Action Centre, with the goal of bringing assistance and solidarity to those enslaved onboard Thai fishing vessels. The operation began with reports of crews of forced labourers working on Thai boats fishing in Indonesian waters. While we had been already working for over ten years (from 2004 to 2013) to amplify the voices of the forced and bonded labourers and raises awareness about labour exploitation, our calls for help to the general public received few responses. We made the choice to begin our own operation by traveling to Indonesia to seek out enslaved and stranded fishers.

We hardened our resolve after we received reports from 128 survivors of forced labour aboard fishing boats in Indonesia.

As a small grassroots foundation, LPN, has faced challenges funding overseas rescue missions. We collected every baht available from the foundation and from our personal budgets. Our hope was to eliminate slavery in Indonesian waters, beginning with Ambon Island, Tuan Island, and Papua New Guinea.

We recorded all of our work and collected as much data as possible throughout our journey from Indonesia to Papua New Guinea.

We have been able to tell the story of the changing dynamics regarding labour protection over the past 30 years through the eyes of workers and volunteers who have conducted research at the foundation and helped broadens the understanding of this complex issue.

We want to offer our thanks to everyone — beginning with the villagers in Indonesia and the survivors of slave labour who helped and supported each other while waiting for the chance to return home. Our thanks also goes out to local organisations in Indonesia, especially the Indonesian Immigration Checkpoint — thank you for your hep in opening your doors for victims 24 hours a day and for coordinating the return of survivors to their home countries.

Thank you, brothers and sisters from Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos for your encouragement and for sharing the information that helped us track down lost victims.

Thank you to our foreign friends, especially Mrs. Katina Nakamura, for your financial support for the rescue operation, the valuable information you provided to the public on the situation, and the encouragement you gave to our official responses.

Thank you to the journalists from Channel 3, especially Mrs. Thanpanee Eadsrichai and her camera team and translator, for their dedication in reporting the plight of forced labourers. We appreciate your courage and the impact you have made for human rights and social justice.

Thanks Mrs. Mason Margie and Mrs. Mc Dowell Robin the journalists from Associated Press News who worked together for six months to raise global awareness.

Thank you, everyone, for reading this and taking part in the movement to amplify the voices of forced labourers. You are a part of our struggle to eliminate modern slavery in the fishing industry and to ensure the seafood you eat is not produced by slave labour.

Patima Tungpuchayakul
Co-founder LPN

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COVER PHOTO: Visarut Sankham
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OPERATIONS SAVING WORKERS IN FISHING BOATS FROM INDONESIA

Thai fishing vessels have been operating outside Thailand waters, especially off the Indonesian waters, for more than five decades. Before 2006, about 1,000-1,500 legal and illegal Thai vessels operated in Indonesian waters. During this time, the disregard for human rights was not as open to the public as it is now. These vessels often saw acts of violence against their workers, forced labour, and inhumane working conditions

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Across the three oceans: a Thousand-mile journey to save Enslaved fishermen

book registration number
ISBN : 978-616-92437-2-4
second print
31 october 2020

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SHELTER, CAREER, NETWORK, THREE ACTIVITIES AT THE SHELTER FOR FISHING CREW, MIGRANT WORKERS AND THOSE WHO ARE SOCIALLY VULNERABLE

Training and Rehab Center for Thai and Migrant Labour is the project that was initiated 3 years ago in 2017 after LPN has been playing important part of rescuing a large number of migrant fishing crew who mostly been deceived to work in Indonesia through human trafficking network result in more than 5000 workers both Thai and foreign were rescued and returned to their country of origin

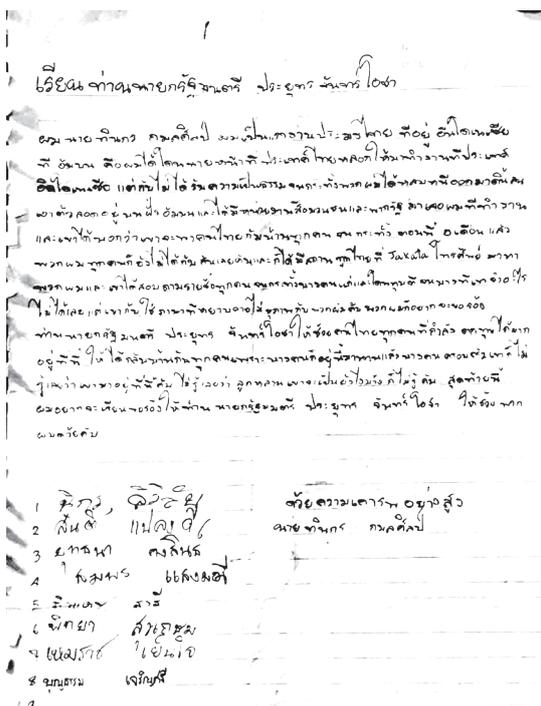
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“being a fisherman in this vessel is easy but quitting is not

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the four letters from former enslaved fishers who were rescued by LPN writing to those in power to tell their demand and hopefully change the law

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Before the operation

30 Years to Achieve Equal Protection of Workers in Sea Fishing Sectors

By **Pornpan Kanjanatiwat**

Legal change is coming to Thailand, gradually. The Labor Protection in Sea Fishing Work Act B.E. 2019, recently passed and published in the Government Gazette, is a part of a legal reform process which hopes to put pressure on the international community to address all aspects of human trafficking resulting from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. This problem has a long history in the region. The effort to push through the Labour Protection Law can be traced back to over 30 years ago when Thailand's Chumphon and Prachuap Khiri Khan were hit by Typhoon Gay. The storm led to vast devastation, claiming many lives including those of fishing crews around Thailand. The deadly aftermath left the affected population with inadequate assistance due to complications trying to track down families of the crew members who sadly perished in the tragic storm. The majority of fishermen struck by this storm were migrant workers from the Northeast. This has led to a steady decrease of migrant workers from this region.

The maritime disaster prompted the Thai Government to recognize the importance of protecting workers in the fishing industry. An effort was then made to survey and register fishing crews by collecting their personal information. This paved the way to the enactment of laws which provided welfare and assistance to workers who have been instrumental in the generation of substantial income for the country. In response to guidance from the National Labor Development Advisory Council (the then Ministry

of Labour), under the Ministry of Interior, started to examine the situation and other related issues in Thailand's fishing industry, including the working conditions and nature of work aboard fishing boats along with the exploration of relevant international standards and conventions. This has led to the enactment of laws which provide exclusive labour protection to workers employed in the fishing industry. The laws essentially cover the protection of employees, including their employment status under an employer, contracts terms, clear working condition expectations, termination of employment, work related injury or illness protection, and other measures to protect fishing crews onboard fishing vessels. If these laws are violated, operators can be subject to arrest. The regulations were then made applicable to any employer with at least one employee. The Ministry of Interior's Ministerial Regulation concerning Labour Protection in Sea Fishery Work was passed on 26 August, 1992 with approval from the Legal Reform Committee composed of various authorities. It became effective in December of the same year. (Nath,1997)

Although the Ministerial Regulation specifically provided protection for fishing crews with at least one employee or more, it was not effective in granting protection for all workers. Even after the Ministerial Regulation had been revised and codified as the Notification of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare on Labour Protection in Sea Fishing Industry on 29 December, 1993, its enforcement was repeatedly delayed due to opposition from private operators in the fishing industry who demanded the suspension or revocation of the law. They also demanded the revision of other laws concerning the employment of aliens in the fishing industry including the Royal Ordinance on Prohibition of Aliens from Taking Certain Occupations



and Professions (No.2) B.E. 2536 (1993) and the Act Governing the Right to Fish in Thai Fishery Waters (No.2) B.E. 2536 (1996) (Nath,1997). Eventually the Ministerial Regulation (No.10) B.E.2541 (1998) was issued, invoking the Labour Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998) to offer protection to workers in the sea fishing industry, including their employment and working conditions which is different from other occupations. This Ministerial Regulation contained many flaws and was not compatible with international labour protection standards (Threerawat, 2004). Nevertheless, the Ministerial Regulation



was in force for several years until the introduction of the Draft Ministerial Regulation on Labour Protection in Sea Fishing Industry B.E. 2555, the implementation of which was eventually suspended (iLaw, 2019). Legal reforms concerning sea fishing have continued since then.

Further legal reforms have been undertaken in the fishing industry, particularly on labour protection, including the Ministerial Regulation on Labour Protection in the Sea Fishing Industry B.E. 2557 and the Ministerial Regulation on Labour Protection in the Sea Fishing

Industry (No.2) B.E. 2561.

Both Ministerial Regulations offer revisions on certain issues including criteria regarding wage payment. Most importantly, they offer a waiver for fishing boats operating outside of The Kingdom longer than one year and with fewer than 20 employees. This helps to alleviate the criteria that obstructed an attempt to help and support employees in sea fishing boats. The most recent law is the Labour Protection in Sea Fishing Work Act B.E. 2562 (2019), which was enacted to ensure compliance with the International Labour Organization Convention (No.188) on Work in Fishing (2007).

THE EVOLUTION OF LABOR PROTECTION IN THE SEA FISHING SECTOR AND THE SITUATION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE SEA FISHING INDUSTRY

The 1990s witnessed a major tragedy involving fishing workers in Thailand which is relevant to the direction legislative efforts to advocate for labor protection in sea fishing sector have taken over the last 30 years. The Praphatnavee boat, after the cessation of its concessionary fishing license in Indonesia waters, was left stranded and adrift for several months. Confined in an adrift vessel, a number of boat crew fell ill and died of starvation. Some decided to end their lives



by plunging into the sea. The total number of deaths was 39. Once the boat ran ashore in the province of Samut Sakhon, most of the survivors sought medical attention.

The Praphatnavee crew members took their employer and boat owner to court (Surapong, 2007). What is notable about this case is that many of the fishing crew from this incident were migrant workers. Migrant workers gradually and increasingly began to substitute the Thai workforce in the 1980s and onwards. The tragic incident of the Praphatnavee boat demonstrated how brutal working conditions and life onboard are and how fishers were forced to fish in international waters for several months or years at a time. This incident also shined light on the importance of advocates who demand better protection of labour rights by exercising their judicial rights, despite the legal constraints.

The case of the Praphatnavee boat crew exposed to the public the harsh reality of life onboard fishing boats. The Thai fishing industry is one of the most lucrative businesses in Thailand and the fishing industry has brought significant benefits to the economy, but it has also led to a host of social and legal issues such as forced labor and the use of lethal violence. Such problems can be attributed to many factors including the inefficiency of law enforcement, public officials, and of the relevant stakeholders. These violations of the law have led to the accumulation of injustices regarding labor protection in the sea fishing industry.

One of the most pressing issues that has caught the attention of the international community in the field of the fishing

industry is human trafficking. In the 1990s, trafficking in persons in Thailand emerged as a priority on the national agenda, given the gravity of the situation of trafficking of women and children, as well as the use of child forced labor that had been growing worse since the 1970s and 1980s. The growing rates of human trafficking in Southeast Asia can be attributed to the rise of immigration, as immigrants are attempting to seek security and income for themselves and for their families and becoming vulnerable to traffickers in the process.

The emergence of migrant labour has coincided with the development of Thailand's infrastructure and economy. With economic growth, demand for labour has increased, which has opened a window of opportunity for migrants seeking work. Unfortunately, some workers fall into the hands of employers who seek to exploit them for their labour without respecting their rights. This crime is now known as human trafficking.

The rapid increase in migration from neighbouring countries to Thailand has coincided with the emergence of a shortage of labour in the Thai sea fishing industry. Demand for labour matched supply throughout the 1990s; however, the disparity has grown, particularly following the devastating storm of 1999, which deterred many migrant fishers from northeastern Thailand from returning to sea. Thai workers have become increasingly less attracted to working aboard fishing boats due to the dangerous, dirty and difficult working conditions and a lack of protection

standards. In order for their business to survive, the fishing operators were left with no choice but to recruit migrant workers from abroad, even those lacking documentation (Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, 2003). The drastic need for a steady labour supply among sea fishing operators has compelled the government to come up with flexible policies to accommodate the influx of undocumented workers (Warangkanang, 2006). The cabinet passed a resolution on 22 June 1993 to allow migrant workers, regardless of nationality, to work in the sea fishing industry in 22 coastal provinces. It was expanded to other industrial sectors and to 43 provinces under a second cabinet resolution on 26 June 1996. The government's policy has been to regulate migrant workers by adapting the registration system to reflect shifting realities (Chanida, 2006). Since then, the employment of undocumented and newly registered migrant workers in the seafood industry has been disproportionately high (Supat, 2002).

The replacement of declining numbers of internal migrant fishing workers with foreign migrants has been made possible by the emergence and rapid growth of informal recruitment processes. It should be noted that brokers in the recruitment industry have not just helped to recruit migrant workers but also Thai workers into the sea fishing industry; many of these workers are then put to work on board fishing vessels operating in international waters, or become victims of human trafficking.

Broker syndicates recruiting workers for sea fishing vessels operate in an organized manner, co-ordinating both with people based at fishing piers and recruiters lurking around popular migrant transit points such as Bangkok's Hua Lampong, Mo Chit and Sanam Luang, spotting potential new recruits. Some also travel to villages to draw in local people of working age. Capitalising on kinship networks and contacts within the community, they appear trustworthy. Brokers in both cases will approach their targets and try to convince them to accompany them to a private place. Confined, the target is then forced or persuaded to accept a job offer. All these men will be passed on to boat owners to meet their demand for laborers. Various tricks are employed by brokers to compel the worker's consent: confinement, deception, intimidation, physical or psychological

coercion. They may also be burdened by factors such as debt which obliges them to comply with the brokers. For example, they may be compelled to work without an employment contract, or to sign a contract without understanding or consenting to the terms. They are then issued with fake seamen books, or forced to impersonate other fishers. Some become bonded labour due to the exceedingly high debt they are told they have accrued, and must work to pay off. Once aboard the vessel, they are effectively trapped.

The first warning sign of the sheer number of workers who had been lured by syndicates to work aboard fishing vessels was a notable pattern emerging in missing person cases. The Mirror Foundation's Anti-trafficking Centre of Missing Persons, founded in 2002, handled an increasing number of these cases, including one of a Bangkok man who had vanished after taking a job aboard a fishing boat. The rising number of missing fishers raised the alarm to the issue of rampant human trafficking and sparked a search for Thai nationals who had disappeared. The Centre received further reports of Thai fishers who had fled a fishing boat at sea and come ashore in Malaysia in 2008; the next year, a number of migrant workers were found imprisoned at a fishing pier, and at the home of a broker (Mirror Foundation, 2011).

Reports about trafficking of fishing crews continued to be received by a number of NGOs throughout the late 2000s and early 2010s, during which time Thailand was preparing to promulgate the Anti-

trafficking in Persons Act B.E. 2551. The issue of trafficking was becoming widely known among the public, and awareness was increasing of the many different forms human trafficking could take, including trafficking of men as well as women and girls. Nevertheless, the government's efforts to prevent and suppress trafficking did not see much progress. The development of procedures and mechanisms to tackle the problem was painfully slow. The Subcommittee to Explore Solutions and Measures for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons Among Fishing Workers was set up in 2009 to combat the trafficking of men lured onto fishing vessel. It comprised various authorities in the regulation and labour and fishing vessels, as well as NGO representatives. Their aim was to suggest possible policies for the apprehension and prosecution of traffickers and for protection and remedy for survivors.

Despite recommendations from the Subcommittee, there was still a lack of coordination among authorities, even though tackling the complex issue of trafficking in the fishing industry warranted cooperation by a broad range of actors (Anusorn, 2010). As a result, abuses affecting fishing crews were left unaddressed, leading to the exploitation of fishing crews being highlighted in the US Department of State's TIP (Trafficking in Persons) Report, an annual evaluation of the global trafficking situation and anti-trafficking measures enacted by governments around the world. Meanwhile, the European Union, which had been attempting to combat Illegal,

Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, had issued a warning to Thailand to comply with their regulations (Centre for European

Public awareness about human trafficking and forced labour at sea grew increasingly widespread in 2014

Studies, Chulalongkorn University, 2015).

Public awareness about human trafficking and forced labour at sea grew increasingly widespread in 2014 as a news story from Indonesia began to be reported throughout the Thai media. Many reports followed the work of the Labour Protection Network (LPN) in its rescue operations reaching out to fishing crews, both Thai and migrant, who were stranded on fishing vessels and islands in Indonesian waters. Many of the rescued fishers reported gross human rights violations, including the use of forced labour, violence, and disregard of basic safety procedures or medical needs. They were just a fraction of the fishing crews facing such harsh predicaments in foreign waters. The same year saw Thailand downgraded to Tier 3 on the US TIP report, placing it among the worst offenders for refusal to comply with minimum anti-trafficking standards or to effectively protect survivors. In 2015 Thailand also received a yellow card from the EU due to its lack of concrete legal, policy and practical reform to address IUU fishing. The extensive coverage of this issue, and of forced labour on Thai fishing vessels, by the international media shone a spotlight on Thailand among the international community.

LABOUR PROTECTION IN THAILAND'S FISHING INDUSTRY IN THE NEW DECADE

Many problems are deeply entrenched in Thailand's seafood industry, particularly the labour issues which have provoked enormous controversy over the past 4-5 years.

Vested with special powers, the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) has issued orders, pushed for legal reform and set up mechanisms and task forces from

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The first warning sign of the sheer number of workers who had been lured by syndicates to work aboard fishing vessels was a notable pattern emerging in missing person cases.

THE MIRROR FOUNDATION
Anti-trafficking Centre of Missing Persons

among concerned agencies to ensure prompt compliance with international standards and recommendations from international organisations. This was part of an attempt to remove the country from international blacklists which had the potential to hamper trade and diplomacy and take a hefty toll on the Thai economy.

Legal protections for workers in the fishing industry have improved, but actual access to these rights is severely limited. It takes money, time, legal knowledge and enormous psychological effort to claim some of the most basic legal dues.

Jamnong Homnan shows the damage from a kick to the face he received aboard a fishing vessel - the loss of many of his teeth. Following this attack he chose to jump overboard and was stranded on an island.

Working in foreign waters, many fishing crew members have been subjected to physical and mental violence and labour rights violations. They are compelled to work in harsh conditions and find it almost impossible to escape and seek help. Many fishers experiencing exploitation aboard their vessels struggle to muster the courage and hope necessary to survive their circumstances. Those who do manage to escape are perpetually at risk of being re-enslaved as long as no serious effort is made to challenge the treatment of workers aboard boats in far-flung waters. Fishing crews continue to face the same predicament which is exacerbated by a lack of access to protection, assistance and judicial remedy. As migrant workers forced to work in remote areas they live hand to mouth and lack money and social networks. Owing to certain conditions of their employment, and to ambiguities and restrictions in migration regulation, as well as illegal recruitment, they may lack legal recognition, protection or compensation as undocumented migrants.

There is a stark contrast between worker's circumstances before and after boarding the fishing vessels. However, risks to their rights and welfare can occur before, during or after their periods of employment at sea. Some fishermen are trapped into forced or bonded labour during the recruitment process, for example, while others may face detrimental circumstances during

the voyage such as arrest for fishing in international waters. These issues need to be taken into account when exploring possible approaches to offering protection, including through survivor screening and legal actions. By focusing on identifying evidence of violations and verifying workers' consent to work, it is possible that the whole picture of how a worker became entrapped can be obscured. A more holistic understanding can help to reform social services and legal mechanisms to protect labour at sea.

In parallel to efforts by the state to develop policies, laws and other measures to address the problem, NGOs have been instrumental in advocating reviews of lessons learned on various dimensions of labour in the fishing

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Legal protections for workers in the fishing industry have improved, but actual access to these rights is severely limited. It takes money, time, legal knowledge and enormous psychological effort to claim some of the most basic legal dues

sector, particularly on rights protection and trafficking survivor screening. NGOs are also active in efforts to engage with international discourses that link the wider seafood industry with the plight of fishing workers. This has helped expand thinking around the fishing sector, focusing away from operators' to cheaply fulfil their labour needs and towards the role of consumers and buyers at the opposite end of the supply chain. It helps to raise awareness that consumers play an important role in the fishery market and can help to challenge the abuse of fishing workers.

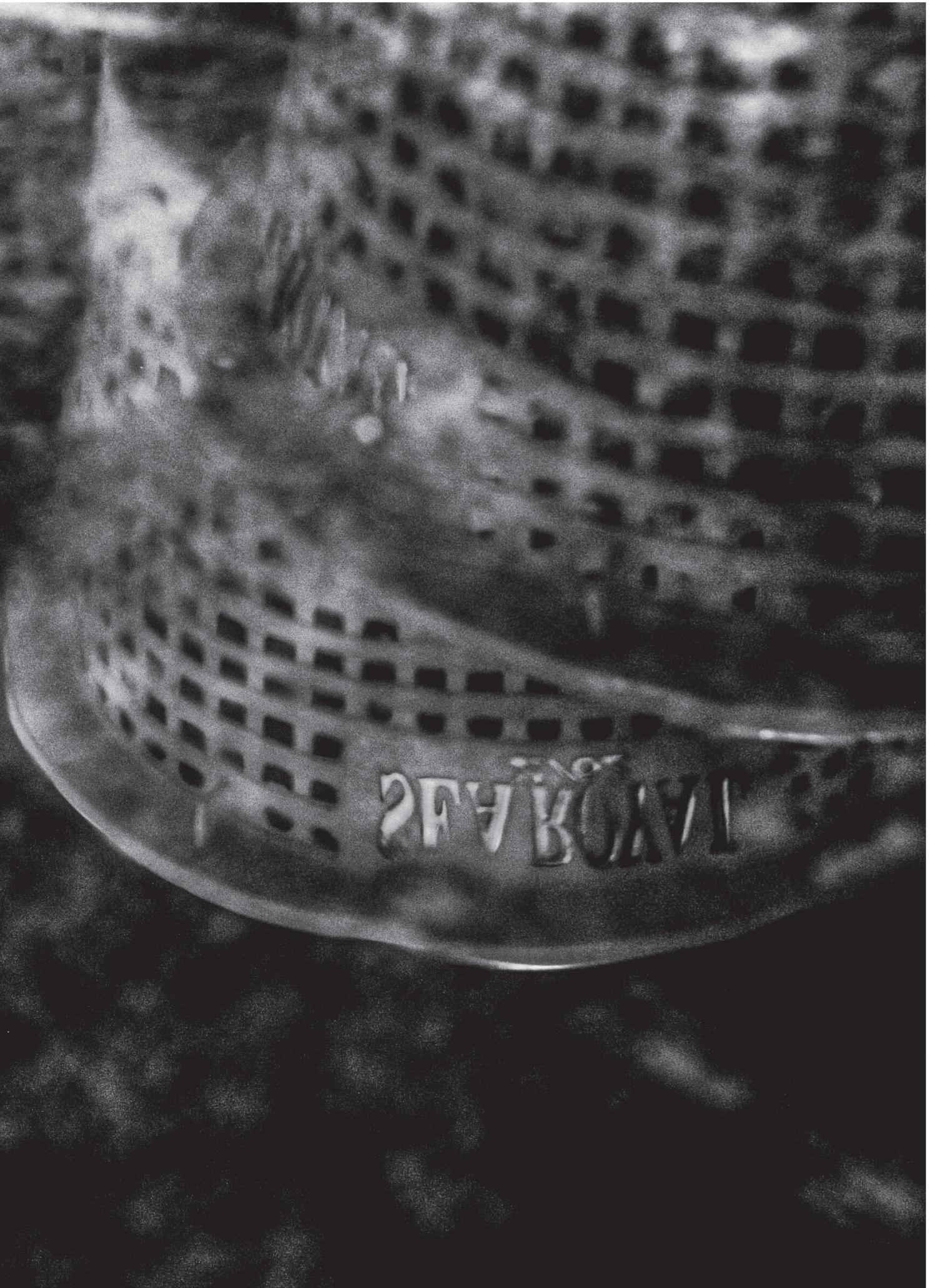
Therefore, labour protection mechanisms in the sea fishing sector must draw on cooperation from across the industry and efforts must be made to raise awareness of the sources of fishery products. Cooperation

and competition must be leveraged to develop labour standards beyond routine inspections by authorities. Despite the laws and legal enforcement mechanisms, a lack of awareness of the wider consequences of actions and a lack of consistency in enforcement has seriously undermined authorities' efforts to protect workers at sea. Meanwhile, efforts should be made to raise awareness among boat owners, boat captains and other stakeholders in the fishing industry, helping them to understand their responsibilities towards the environment, society at large and their fellow human beings. Labour should be viewed not simply as a resource to be exploited, but as a human resource worthy of respect. The relationships between employees and employers, the costs both have to bear and the reciprocal nature of their relationships need to be reviewed. An effort to evolve positive employment relations, based on ethics and recognition of labour voice, can enable a creative change in the fishing cycle. It is a crucial step in paving the way towards a sustainable fishery which protects both marine and human resources. Labour rights should accompany environmental protection in underpinning any future steps towards regulating the sea fishing industry.

The effort to suppress trafficking in persons and other persistent issues in Thailand's fishery industry has been made possible by legal reform, by adaptation of businesses to the global situation and by cooperation with civil society, which has played a crucial role in connecting with the voices of workers at sea. Such efforts also require awareness raising with a wider public. It is crucial to ensure that such efforts are streamlined and supportive of each other. They should be steered towards the same goals, including labour protection in the sea fishing industry. Regardless of nationality, Thai or migrant, workers warrant equal treatment and exploitation must be prevented. Ultimately, strong labour protection mechanisms will help Thai industry to succeed in the international forum and help Thailand to ascend as a proud champion of sustainable sea fishing.









OPERATIONS SAVING WORKERS IN FISHING BOATS FROM INDONESIA

By **Patima Tungpuchayakul**

Thai fishing vessels have been operating outside Thailand waters, especially off the Indonesian waters, for more than five decades. Before 2006, about 1,000-1,500 legal and illegal Thai vessels operated in Indonesian waters. During this time, the disregard for human rights was not as open to the public as it is now. These vessels often saw acts of violence against their workers,

forced labour, and inhumane working conditions.

Despite some changes in fishing policies, fishing workers are still often tricked into terrible working conditions. These fishermen are often unable to set foot on land for years at a time, working long hours under the guise of fraudulent documents. This makes it difficult to identify the nationality and identity of these workers.

Labor Protection Network (LPN) was founded in 2004. Their mission was to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of



During the operation

From 2006-2014 LPN received 128 reports from survivors of human trafficking and forced labour from Thai fishing vessels operating in Indonesian waters.

and the employer charged this sum to the victims as an advance, trapping them in debt bondage. Some were also forced at gunpoint to accept loans. Victims were then drugged, locked up and passed on to boat owners.

SITUATION OF WORKERS ON THAI FISHING VESSELS IN INDONESIAN WATERS: FINDINGS FROM FIELD VISITS

LPN teams travelled to Indonesia from 2014 onwards, especially to small islands such as Ambon, Maluku, Benjina, and Tual in response to calls for assistance from workers from Thai fishing vessels who were held captive or stranded in Indonesia. The following provides a summary of findings and of the experiences of fishing workers in Indonesian waters, highlighting the main reasons for which they ended up stranded.

In the course of its operation, the LPN team discovered over 2,000 Myanmar workers who had been sold to Thai boats, over 500 Thai workers who were drugged and forced to work as sea fishermen, and many boys of an average age of 12, from Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Laos who were trafficked onto Thai fishing vessels and vanished. In some cases, we were told that brokers had posed as government officials; on being "arrested", migrant workers were kept captive at such places as the blue house, shrimp farms, coconut and fruit orchards in Samut Sakhorn, Samut Prakan and Samut Songkram, to be traded to employers or passed on to other agents.

The LPN team witnessed places where Thai and migrant men were tricked or recruited into fishing work, including Mo Chit bus terminal, Hua Lamphong train station, the Wongwian Yai area, bus terminals, temples including War Phukhao Thong, Sanam Luang, and karaoke bars. Brokers demanded 30,000 baht per "recruit",

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I was told that you come with the boat so you must go back with the boat, if not you will not be able to receive any payments was a general rule on fishing vessels.

stranded fisher rescued by LPN

WHAT IS LIFE LIKE AT SEA?

The LPN discovered conditions aboard boats which were severely hazardous to workers' health and safety. Over 100 workers had lost limbs or suffered loss of sight, and others experienced spasms or memory loss caused by severe malnourishment.

Furthermore, most workers did not know exactly how much they were meant to be paid; it depended, they said, on the boat captain's arrangement. However, they were aware of wage deductions, and what they would lose if they made certain mistakes.

Tortures, abuses and even murder were reported aboard boats, including being slapped

in the face or hit with fish, being scalded with hot water, beatings with iron pipes, being forced to swim until drowning, or even being forced to kill colleagues who defied orders from boat captains. In addition, weapons were often used to threaten, injure or execute workers.

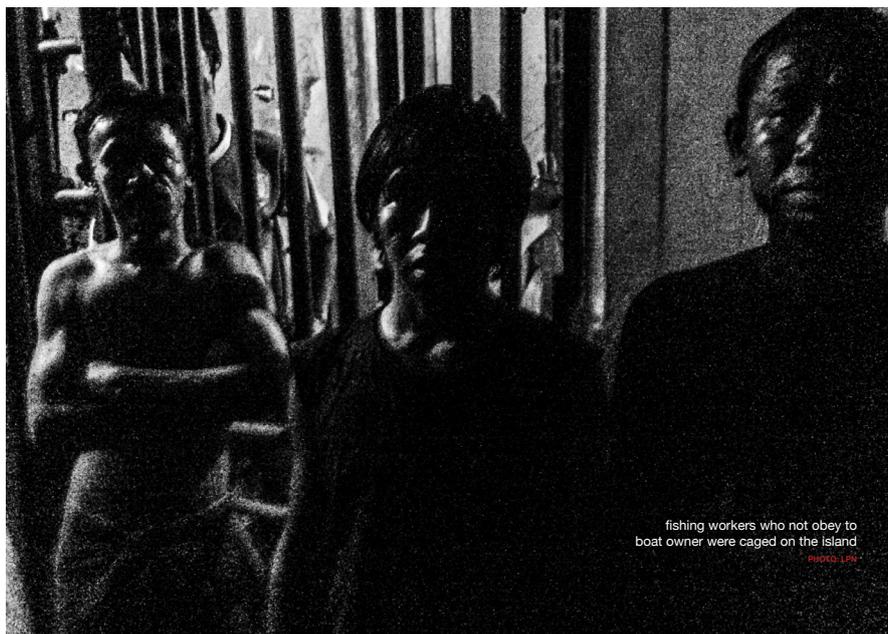
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The captain's dog living aboard the boats were treated and fed better than us.

stranded fisher rescued by LPN

labourers from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar and fight against child labour, and human trafficking in all industries.

In 2006, LPN took their first steps to help fishermen. Aboard the Praphatnavee boat, 66 fishermen went out into the Indonesian waters. Of those 66, only 27 returned to their homes while 39 Thai and Myanmar natives passed away. Those who did survive were seriously ill and needed intensive treatment and care. These fishermen received no compensation from their employers as a result of this tragic incident.



Those who were unable to work because of sickness or injury, tried to escape by jumping overboard or were considered likely to misbehave were kept imprisoned on land. Even when boats were in port, workers were not allowed to leave the pier unless they paid 50,000 Indonesian Rupiah (80 baht). Such strict controls on freedom of movement and social isolation made it very difficult for workers to seek help or escape.

Although employment agreements were made for only one year and employees were promised they would be returned to Thailand at the end of this period, LPN encountered a number of workers who had been forced to stay at sea for over six years. Half of these workers were traded from boat to boat, remaining at sea for ten or even twenty-five years. In order for any fishing workers to return home, they require permission from employers or boat captains to return to land by motherships. Motherships are generally used to carry catches back to Thailand, a round trip of around 40 days from Thailand to Indonesia; however, they have also been used to transfer trafficked persons or illicit goods. Even if repatriation was approved, LPN were told that workers were not immediately allowed to board the mothership but had to work on land for a period before being transferred back to Thailand. During the 20 day journey workers remained on the sun deck without

cover. They were also at risk of being traded to other boats en route.

BECOMING STRANDED IN INDONESIA

How did fishing workers on Thai vessels end up stranded on Indonesian islands? During a series of visits to Ambon, Benjina, and Tual islands, the LPN team met stranded fishers from Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos who had been recruited, drugged, trapped into debt or trafficked onto Thai vessels. Although they had entered fishing work by various routes, their reasons for escaping were similar, including unpaid work or unfair payment, termination of employment, having been lured into

work without consent, physical abuse, and inability to stand the harsh working conditions. Employers and boat captains, however, claimed that the main causes of workers fleeing their boats were lack of discipline, criminal behaviour, laziness, debt, drug addiction or addiction to women.

In addition, illegal fishing by Thai vessels in Indonesian waters has placed workers in a very difficult situation, particularly after Indonesia launched a harsh crackdown on illegal fishing in 2014. The LPN team recorded that a number of Thai vessels had been captured and were docked while their licenses were being investigated. This investigation found 50 incorrectly or falsely registered vessels on Benjina island, 70 on Ambon, and 2 on Tual. Following the ban on foreign fishing vessels, the number of workers abandoned by their employers on Indonesian islands dramatically increased.

Importantly, the LPN team found that most fishing workers did not obtain personal documents, or had fraudulent documents. Their original identification documents were kept by boat captains or employers, who then committed identity fraud with the collusion of Thai and Indonesian companies, changing workers' recorded nationalities in order to

deny employment relationships. In some cases, workers aboard these boats who possessed false documents, especially those from Myanmar, were charged with forgery, pleaded guilty and were punished in Indonesia, even though the document had been forged by their employers without their knowledge. As a result they were unable to return

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Ambon graveyard is one of the places where fishing boat workers would end up when they couldn't return home. Many of the graves are marked with the wrong name because their identification was never found.”

PATIMA TUNGPUCHAYAKU
Co-founder LPN

home via regular channels and became undocumented migrants in Indonesia.

UNDOCUMENTED OR DYING UNIDENTIFIED

The LPN team was told that workers who could no longer stand the exhausting working conditions jumped off boats with the intention of killing themselves, or to attempt escape. Of these about 1000 workers were eventually able to escape their conditions, along with those stranded on Benjina, Tual and Ambon islands.

Despite having escaped from the boats, stranded fishermen remained under threat because many were being hunted by employers or boat captains to bring them back to work; others were suffering from severe trauma after years working on the boats. Because of this they remained hidden in the jungle or in remote areas, or moved continually from one island to another. Since many had had their identification documents stolen by employers, they were counted as undocumented migrants and lived at risk of arrest by the Indonesian authorities.

Tragically, not all workers survived their voyages, with many dying at sea or from the difficult living conditions on the islands. Towards the end of 2014, the LPN team discovered a mass grave of workers from Thai vessels on Benjina Island; further graves were discovered on other islands. The team found 23 graves and the recent burial sites of two executed workers on Ambon, 97 graves on Benjina, six graves on Dobo islands and a grave with over a hundred unidentified bodies on Tuan. The leading causes of death for fishers in Indonesia were varied but included illnesses linked to harsh working conditions, work-related accidents, execution or torture. Besides many deaths remain unexplained, the LPN team also discovered that many of the deceased were unidentified, or known only by their nationality and by fraudulent documents, preventing the repatriation of their remains to their families.

RETURNING HOME TO REBUILD LIVES: LPN OPERATIONS TO ASSIST STRANDED FISHING WORKERS ON INDONESIAN ISLANDS



Throughout my Indonesian rescue missions, I have learned that we have to reach the fishers as quickly as possible; otherwise there is a risk they will not survive

LPN Team

LPN has made many trips to Indonesia in search of stranded fishing workers with the help of local organizations, authorities and returned fishing workers throughout Indonesia. LPN understood

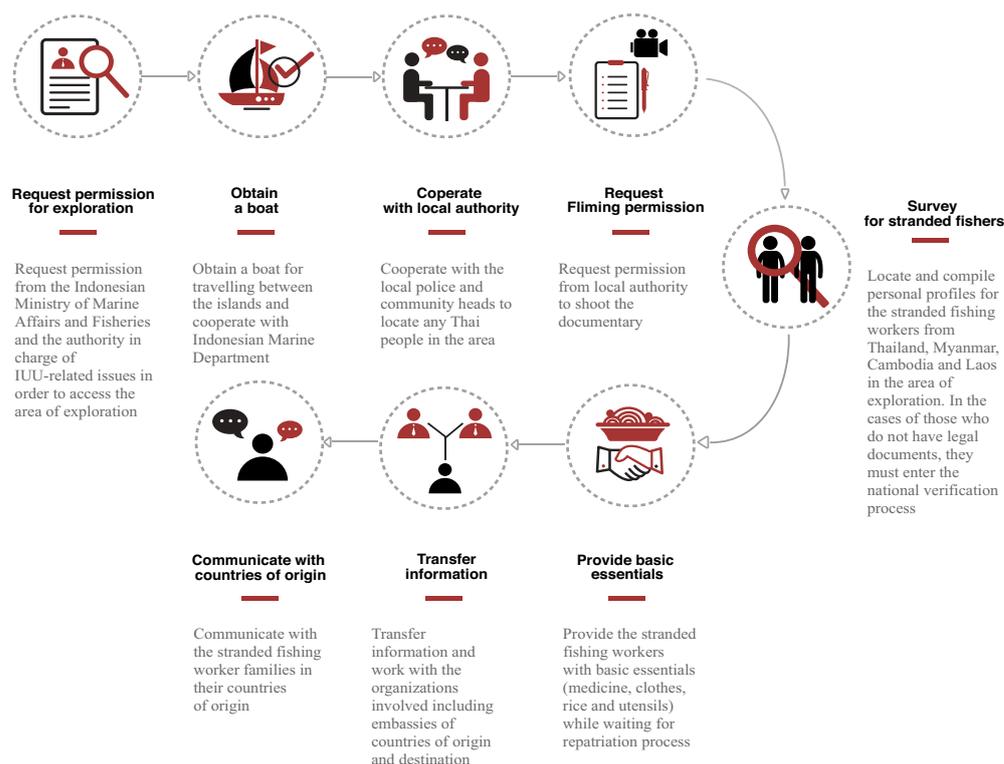
the importance of these rescue missions and acted as efficiently as possible, since when a stranded fishermen was left alone for too long, their chances of survival significantly decreased. LPN would help stranded fishermen regardless of their nationality.

LPN's Indonesian Rescue Operations aimed to gather as much personal information as they could on stranded fishermen working on Thai vessels in Benjina, Ambon, and Tual and other nearby Indonesian Islands. LPN coordinated with organizations in the area for help with referrals and other reparations. Once LPN arrived in the Benjina Islands, they found an overwhelming number of deceased fishermen. The team carried out an operation to identify as many fishermen as they could by conducting DNA tests. After this, LPN would then contact the families of the passed and coordinate to return their remains.

Additionally, LPN recently released a documentary, Ghost Fleet, to portray the reality of these rescue missions and to enhance their relationship with the Indonesian Government.

Although LPN has been the leader of these operations, they would not have been successful without the collaboration of local communities, civil society organizations, and government agencies throughout Indonesia and Thailand.

Operating process



Summary of actions

in assisting fishing workers from Indonesia
between August 2014 – October 2016



1 The first survey, found 6 Thai fishing workers

asking for help, built temporary shelter and provided foods for the stranded fishing workers, coordinated with the government counterparts (DSI, Mins of HDSS, Consulate) and the INGO counterparts (IOM, UNACT).

As a result, the first group of Thai stranded fishing workers were repatriated back to Thailand on 1st October 2014.



3 LPN did another survey from Ambon to Benjina island, found vast graves of Thai fishing workers and some fishing workers were left stranded on the island more than 18 years. Following this, 10 fishing workers were rescued.

24 – 19
August 2014

15 November –
3 December 2014

11 – 23
September 2014

11 – 20 January 2015



2 Received assistant request from 19 Thai and Myanmar fishing workers who report to the Immigration officers on Ambon island, rescued 10 Myanmar fishing workers who were held captive, coordinate with Immigration officers on Ambon island, Thai embassy in Jakarta, NGOs, and local communities in Indo- nesia.

As a result, 15 fishing workers
were rescued.



4 LPN coordinated with Ambon Immigra- tion to rescue the child victims and to help repatriation of mentally-illness victims.

As a result, 6 children and 12
Thai fishing workers were
rescued



- 5**
- Found over 60 stranded fishing workers on Ambon island, but were able to rescued only 10 fishing workers at a time.
 - Media coverage on the mass graves, victims, and detained victims, resulting in the return of fishermen on C 130 flight.
 - Surveillance in Ambon and Benjina islands.
 - Indonesian government ordered the Navy boats to rescue and repatriate 500 fishing workers (Laotian, Burmese and Cambodian) from Benjina island.
 - Consequently, 21 fishing workers were rescued from Ambon island, 68 Thai fishing workers were rescued and repatriated by C130 flight, and 5 detained fishing workers were returned home.



- 7**
- Body exhumation and DNA testing.
 - 500 Myanmar fishing workers still waiting to repatriate on Ambon Island, of which, 3 have lost eyesight and hands from work but did not receive compensation. All workers did not receive their wages, ranging from 1-7 years.
 - 500 fishing workers left stranded on the Ambon, Benjina and Tual island. Some fell sick and had expressed the needs to return home to get treatment but did not receive assistance from their employers.

**12 March –
6 April 2015**

20 – 31 August 2015

**12 March –
6 April 2015**

14 – 21 March 2016

**26 September –
12 October 2016**



- 6**
- LPN went back to Indonesia to provide assistance to the fishing workers in Indonesia. Over 700 Thai fishing workers returned home from Benjina island.
 - Fishermen gradually arrived Thailand but did not receive proper labor rights protection from the government.



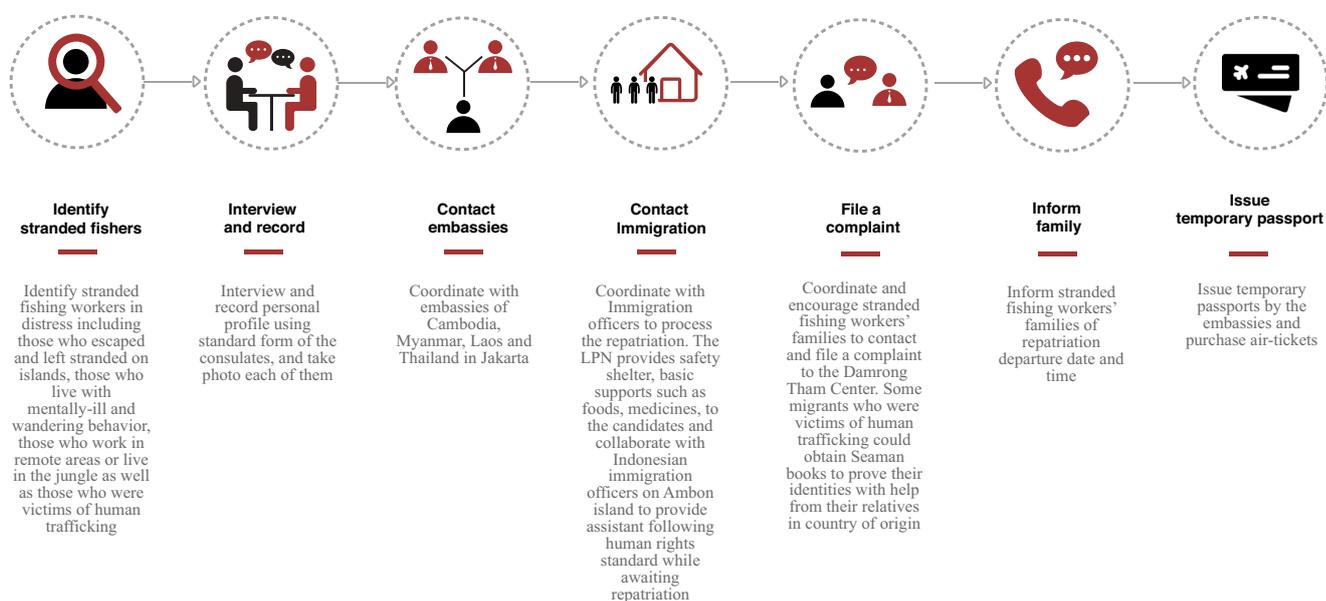
- 8**
- Found stranded fishing workers from Myanmar, Thai and Cambodia. Most of them settled through having family in Indonesia, but wanted to contact family in countries of origin. Collect personal profile of those who just shown up during the LPN survey.
 - coordinate with immigration officer to rescue Thai and Laos fishing workers
 - coordinate with local communities to look after the graves of unidentified deceased to wait for DNA test.
 - Most of stranded fishing workers did not receive wages.



- 9**
- Found over 20 Myanmar and Thai stranded fishing workers, coordinated with immigration officer and follow up on repatriation process, collect personal profile of stranded fishing workers who just shown up.
 - Provided basic supports for stranded fishing workers such as foods and medicines.

Repatriation

The following are standard practices that the LPN team made efforts to assist the fishing workers



Repatriation assistance for Laotian and Cambodia fishing workers

The LPN team assisted the migrant fishing workers to return to their countries of origin include the following



Repatriation assistance for Thai fishing workers

The LPN team provided assistance to Thai fishing workers by the following actions

- 1 Identify stranded fishers** | Coordinate with families of those stranded fishing workers who have suffered from mental illness or became victim of human trafficking since young age, and families that made request to the LPN to search and rescue the fishing workers, asking them to meet the returning stranded fishing workers at the airport 
- 2 Inform family** | Explain about situations faced by the returning stranded fishing workers to their families, to notify them of behaviors may result from years of working on the boats, and to encourage the returning stranded fishing workers' families to them get adapted such as finding it hard to sleep, hallucination, being constantly terrified, and being highly alcoholic. In addition, coordination has been made for the returning stranded fishing workers to receive medical and psychological treatment. If the families happened to be so destitute and unable to take care of the returning stranded fishing workers, then LPN would intervene and provide temporary shelter 
- 3 evaluate reintegration** | Outreach to returning stranded fishing workers' families to evaluate the effectiveness of family reintegration and to follow up on assistant needed for legal action. The SR Law Firm has been helping to represent three fishing workers who were illegally held captive on Benjina island and had been neglected for 5-10 years, to pursue both criminal and civil suits 
- 4 legal action** | Coordinate to demand for unpaid wages, welfare and labour protection as well as to initiate legal action in collaboration with the Department of Special Investigation (DSI and the National Operation Center on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (NOCHT) to provide legal aid and protection to the affected workers 
- 5 establish network** | Establish a network of fishing workers to elicit information regarding working conditions in the fishing vessels and to fundraise to help their fellow fishing workers who are still unable to return to their countries of origin. The fishing workers has made a contribution of 30,000 baht to the fund for legal aid, medical treatment for their fellow workers who suffer mental illness 
- 6 apply for ID** | Safe reintegration into their community, coordinate with local agencies at the district and village levels, particularly Damrong Tham Center to help the fishing workers apply for ID cards 
- 7 raise awareness** | Organize three public forums to raise social awareness in collaboration with the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, Chulalongkorn University regarding the situation of fishing workers in Indonesia 
- 8 submit petition** | Submit three letters of petition to the government asking them to accelerate effort to provide help to the fishing workers stranded in various islands 
- 9 contact country of origin** | Coordinate with the countries of origin and provide information on the date for repatriation and arranging with the families of the victims. 

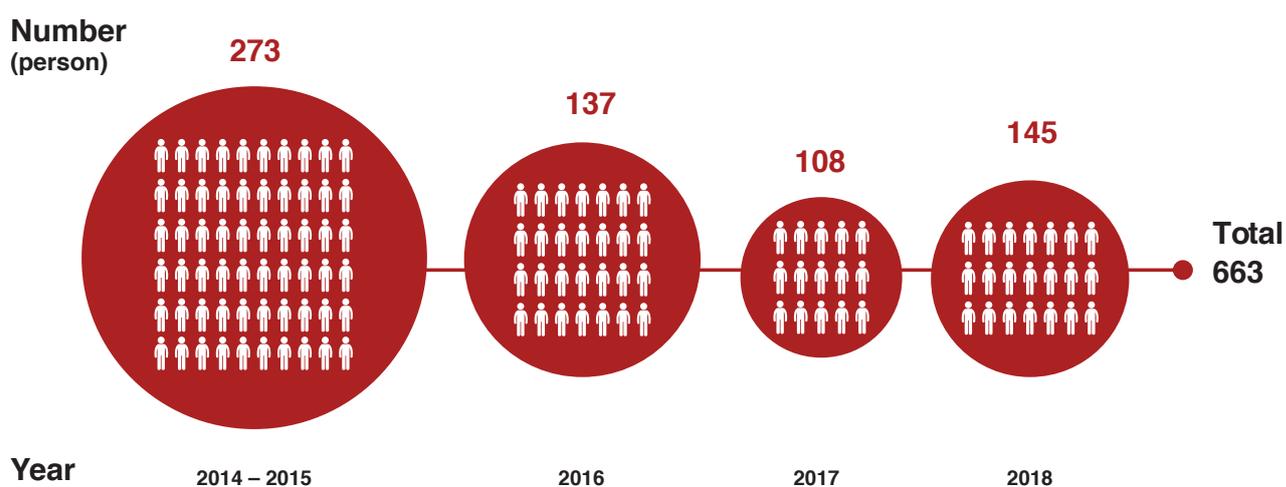
Numbers of the workers rescued and repatriated back by the LPN coordination

from August 2014 – March 2016

| Nationality | Lao | Cambodia | Myanmar | Thailand |
|------------------|-------|----------|---------|--------------------------|
| Island/Indonesia | Ambon | Ambon | Ambon | Ambon Benjina Tual |
| Number (person) | 4 | 6 | 36 | 255 |
| Total | | | | 301 |

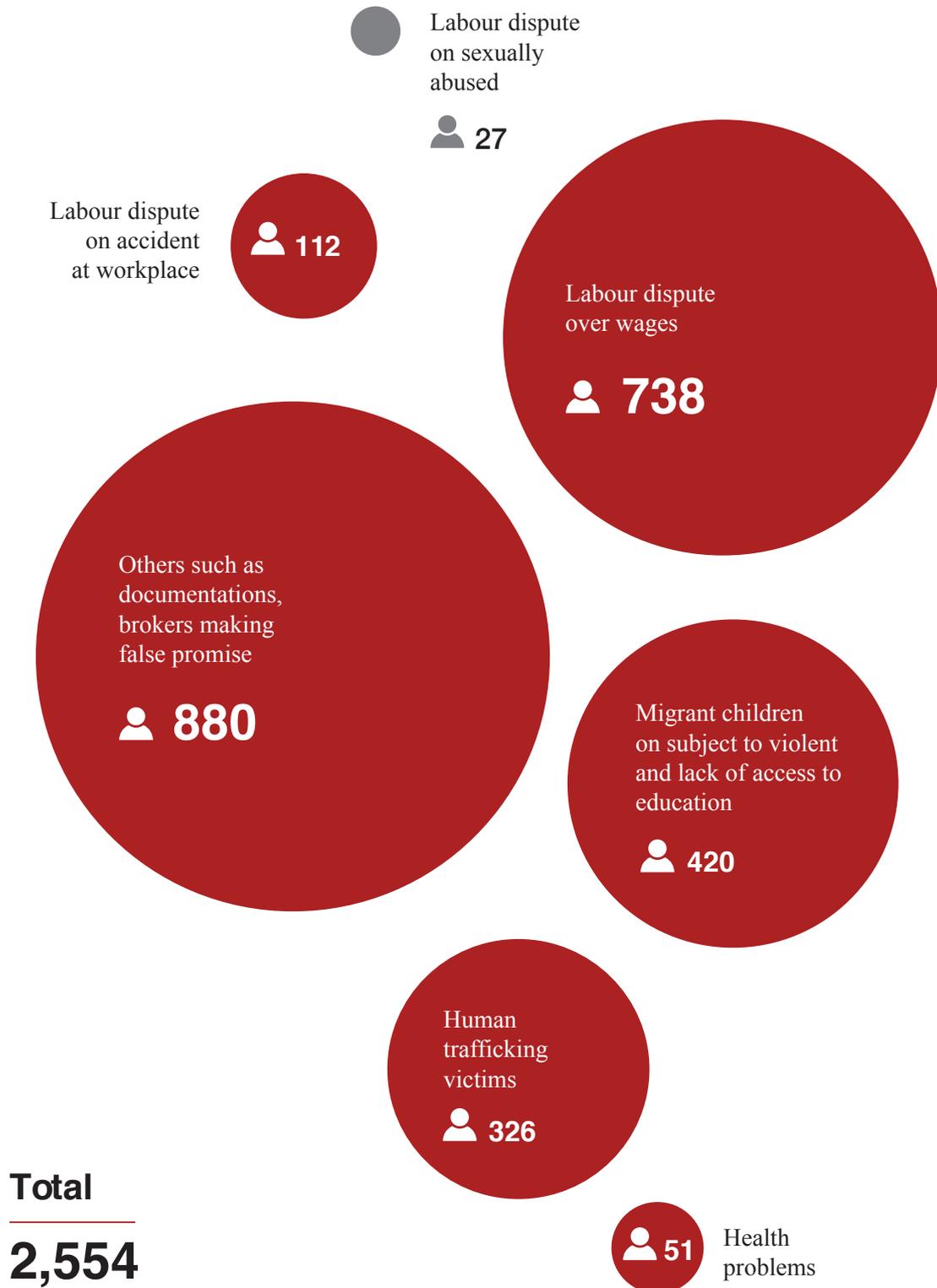
Numbers of the fishing workers received legal assistant services

by the LPN (2014 –2018)



Numbers of the workers received legal assistant services

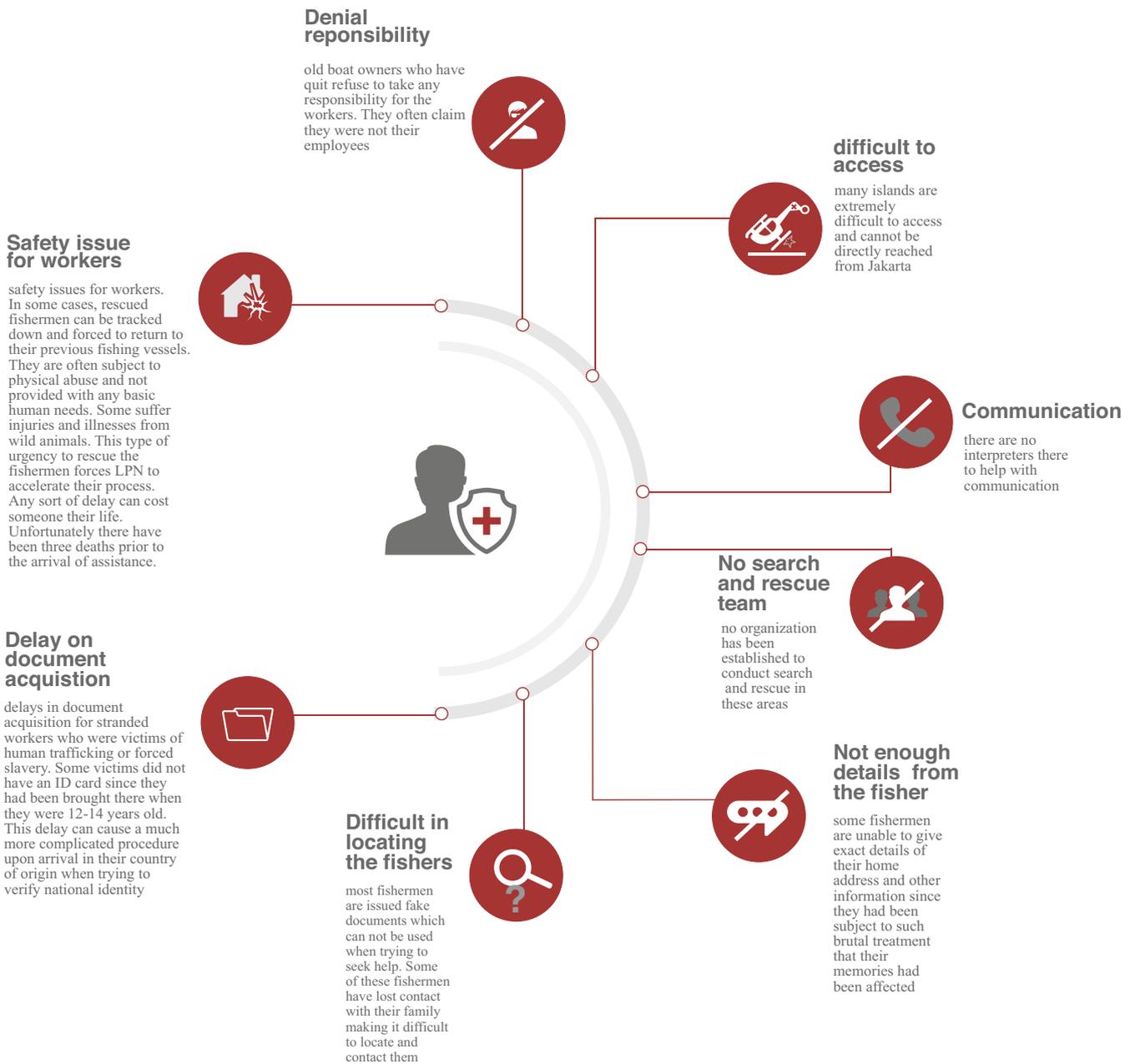
by the LPN (2015 –2018)



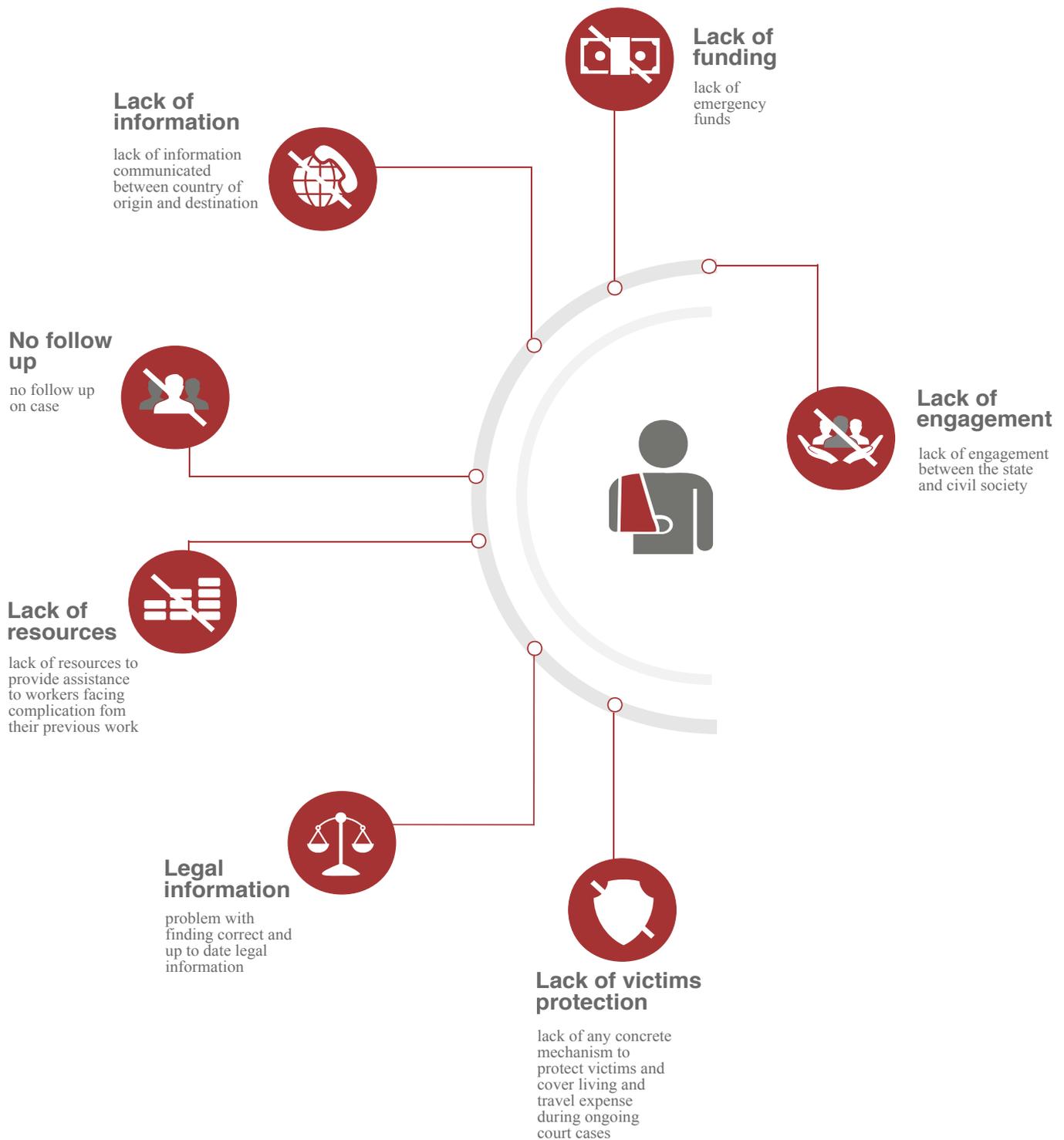
CHALLENGES

Assistance to the repatriation of stranded fishing workers

although LPN was able to provide assistance to a significant amount of workers, there have been some obstacles and challenges



Victim rescue operation by LPN







LPN team meet and discuss with stranded fishing workers in indonesia island

PHOTO: LPN

APPENDIX

Summary report of the Indonesian rescue operation

26 September – 12 October 2016

Objectives

- To explore the previously unvisited area where Thai fishing fleets have been operating
- To profile the stranded fisher victims for referral to the relevant organization for help
- To make a documentary related to LPN's rescue operation and coordinate with the Indonesian Government

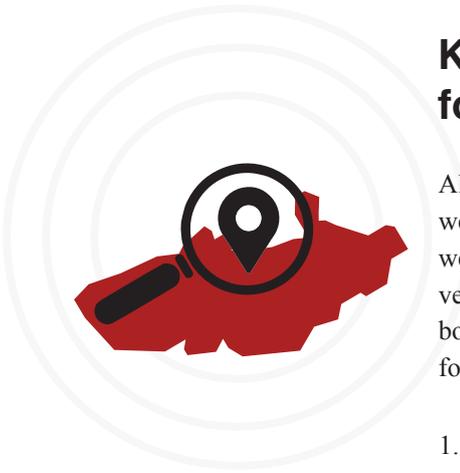
Area of exploration

- Papua Island, Sorong Island, Fak Fak Island, Kaimana Island, Arphona Island (Focusing on specific villages)
- Aru Archipelago (Dobo Island and Benjina Island)
- Tual Island

Outcomes and findings

The Indonesian rescue team travelled with the documentary makers to all the planned islands. The result from each area is as follows





Fak Fak Island: found 3 fishers

1. Mao Win Khai, 43 years old.
2. Mong Tui, 30 years old.
3. Anonymous fisher

All three are Burmese who were deceived by brokers to work in the fishing vessels (Mao Win Khai was locked up for 7 days before being sent to Mahachai). They couldn't bear the working conditions on the fishing boats, and did not return after escaping for fear of being killed. They fled from Tual Island to Fak Fak Island where they have lived and worked with locals for 10-15 years. Note that they cannot specify the exact period of time they have lived on the island, this was estimated for us by the Indonesian. They need to contact their families in Myanmar.

Kaimana Island: found 3 fishers

All of three are Burmese who were deceived by the brokers and were forced to work in the fishing vessels. They were battered by the boat captains. The details are as follows:

1. Khai O Ou, 38 years old. He was working on 3 boats of the same owner (Rathaporn 9,3,5). His arm is broken due to the battery. LPN team brought him to the hospital on Kaimana Island
2. Anonymous fisher. He did not come to meet LPN team because he did not want to meet Thai people even for the rescue purpose. We received his information from a local.
3. San Khai, 45 years old—Gaseem for the Indonesian name. He was deceived to work on a fishing vessel in Mahachai. He couldn't bear the working conditions on the fishing boat and so escaped. He was working on Kaimana Island. He has been in Indonesia for 25 years and has never contacted his family back in Morn State, Myanmar. He asked us to contact his family and he says he forgives the Thai boat captains and ship owner.

Arphona Island: Unsafe to explore

Rescue Team tried to explore this area but didn't receive collaboration. Moreover, this area has been bought by a company owner (as in Benjina), because the area is private it is risky and difficult to access. But it can be assumed that there are fishing vessels transferring their fish there and there might be some stranded former fishers nearby. We know the company owner who owns vessels in Benjina transfers his fish here.

Dobo Island (Aru Archipelago) Couldn't locate fishers

Initially the LPN, team along with the documentary team, met the local police to ask for the approval to access the area. According to the information that we received from Mr Chaiyaporn (rescued in a previous operation) there is another stranded fisher called Mr Nathi, and we were given his address. In addition, the family of Mr. Nathi asked LPN to help their son and we got information that there might be other stranded fishers currently living in Aluslatan Archipelago. But when we went to the house he was staying at he was reported missing, it's possible that he avoided the rescue team out of fear and mistrust.

Benjina Island (Aru Archipelago): found 5 fishers

The team met 3 Thais and accompanied them to Dobo Island to report to immigration in Tual. Those 3 Thais are:

1. Mr. Sarayut Pounsantea the victim of Trafficking
2. Mr. Jakkrapong Phuthee the victim of trafficking. He seeks for the help in documentation especially passport because he has to register his child to attain school.
3. Mr. Yod Khumrob the victim of Trafficking

The team also heard of 17 former Burmese fishers, none of which knew the process related to repatriation. The LPN found 2 of them and both wanted to contact their families in Myanmar and to return home. We provided them with basic support including rice and clothes while we work to secure their repatriation.

1. Mr. Aung Su lin (kala), 36 years old. He used to work on the boats “Rathaporn 4” and “Sor Seub 29”. Has Indonesian wife and child now so wants to return to Myanmar to get documentation so he can return and be a legal citizen and care for his new family.
2. Mr. Go To Wiew. 31 years old. He used to work on the boat “Apichok 5”

After visiting 3 more homes, the rescue team could not find the other burmese who were working for an local Indonesian fishermen on a small boat. But they were reportedly being paid a fair wage.

Tual Island: found 11 fishers

LPN previously found many former fishers who are stranded on this island. Three of the list below were found by Thai authorities in August 2016 and are already under the national verification process. The LPN team found and profiled 8 more Thai fishers.

All of these fishers were abandoned when the Indonesian government abolished the concession, 10 years ago. The owner brought his boat back but left his crew behind. These fishers are as follows:

1. Mr. Prasong Turnsaked, 44 years old, from Burirum province, stranded for 9 years
2. Mr. Kampol Sodarad, 49 years old, from Roi ed, stranded for 9 years
3. Mr. Buntheng Doung Prom, 53 years old, from Nong Bualumphu, stranded for 9 years
4. Mr. Pongphet Thicha, 46 years old, from Roi ed, stranded for 11 years
5. Mr. BuaKham SriKhamseang, 49 years old, from Ya So Thorn, stranded for 12 years
6. Mr. Aumnad kulprom , 46 years old, from Udonthanee, stranded for 17 years
7. Mr. Chana Yaphuttha, 53 years old, from Udonthanee. He joined a fishing boat in 1984 and says he has been stranded for 28 years. But the records of the Thai embassy in Jakarta, shows that he applied for his national identity card in 2006. Thus, it seems likely that he returned to Thailand and then accepted another fishing job in 2006. Brokers would have secured his identity card for him before leaving him stranded. When we met him he was recovering from a motorcycle injury.
8. Mr. Wilai Chanthed, 50 years old, from Roi Ed, stranded for 12 years

9. Mr. Chainarong Bungate, 29 years old, from Udonthanee, stranded for 13 years
10. Mr. Pin Punyasai, 37 years old, from Nong Bualumphu, stranded for 9 years
11. Mr. Someyon from Nakorn Srithamarat. He studied from Ban Nong Preu School. He got a mental illness from being battered on a fishing boat. The Indonesian who looked after him informed the LPN team that he has been living there since he was 11-12 years old. The Indonesian wants the team to return him home.



Tual Island: found 11 fishers

After exploration of these islands no stranded fishers were found.

Barriers

1. The Thai stranded fishers are worried about incurring debt during repatriation because the embassy informed them that they have to pay back the cost of the trip home if they cannot find a job when arriving home. Thus, they are hesitant to participate in the profiling process.
2. The fishers cannot contact the relevant authority to inquire about the progress of their case.
3. Some fishers need to work and some of them are always traveling to find new work. This causes difficulty when trying to contact them.
4. Tual Immigration does not have sufficient space for the fishers to stay during the repatriation process.
5. The fishers are struggling to make a living and often lack food and medicine. Some of them are sick and elder.
6. Many Thai fishers are uncertain whether their families are still alive because they have not contacted their family for a long time



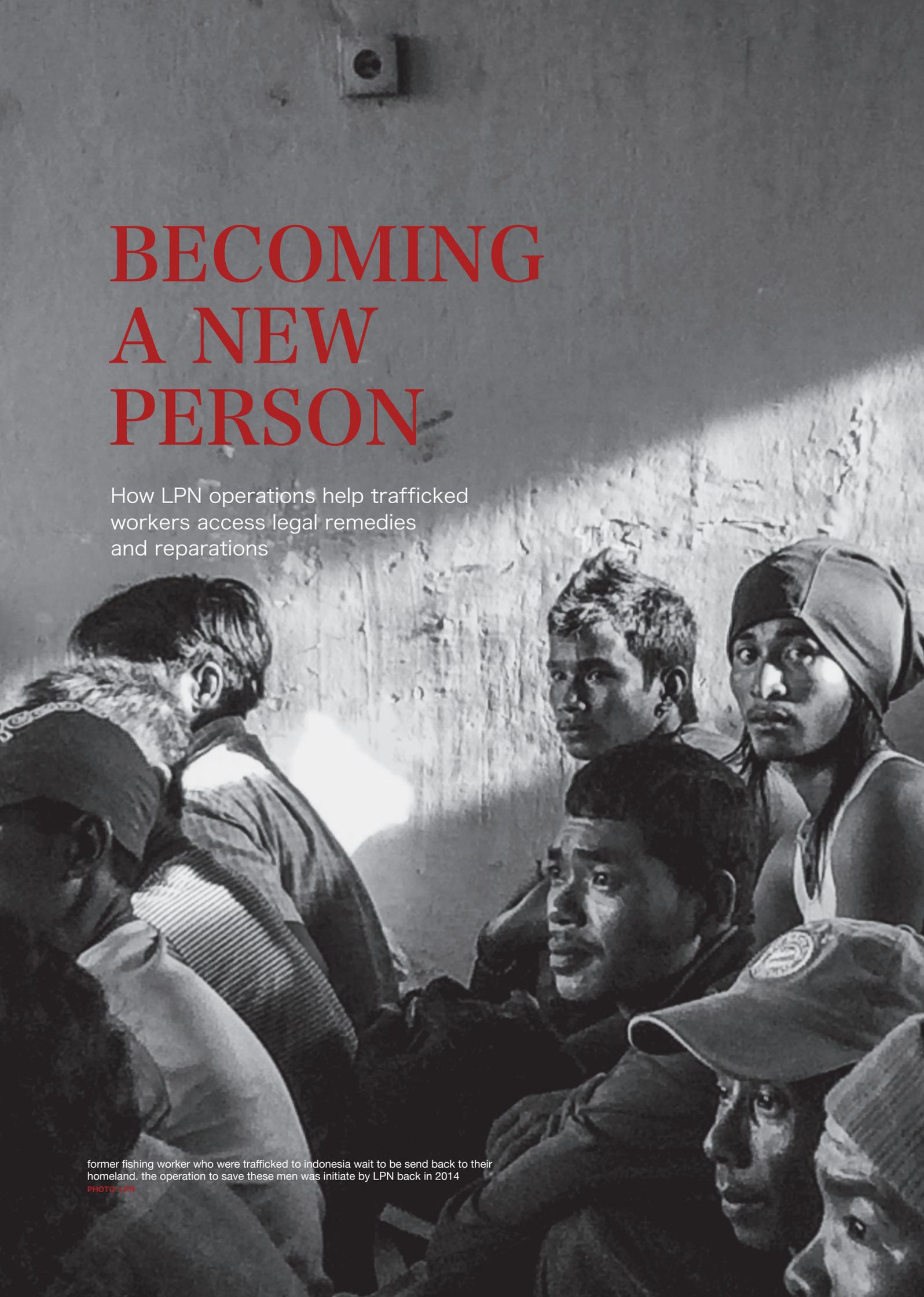
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PEKERJAAN : A
MENINGGAL : T

BECOMING A NEW PERSON

How LPN operations help trafficked workers access legal remedies and reparations

former fishing worker who were trafficked to indonesia wait to be send back to their homeland. the operation to save these men was initiate by LPN back in 2014

PHOTO: LPN



After the operation



Luang Por Prasert is the name of a monk; today, he is the abbot of a temple in Yasothon province. His life philosophy is that "happiness is linked to merit of the mind. It brings about cheerfulness and dignity." In the past, he was known as "Lung Super", Uncle Super, the man who was always drunk. He had worked on a fishing boat since 2000, sailing far from Myanmar; later, a friend persuaded him to take a job on a boat fishing in Indonesian waters, promising higher wages. He worked on this boat for six years. In 2014, when the Indonesian authorities seized foreign fishing vessels, he was trapped in Indonesia.

It was not until March 2015 that he was able to return home. LPN provided him with temporary shelter while he appealed for compensation for a serious permanent injury sustained in a work accident. After completing this process through the Social Security fund, he returned to his hometown and decided to become a monk.

A man whose family had formerly collapsed because of his addictions has today found a positive way of life through Buddhism, and is today an abbot. He spent his life savings, 5,000 baht, to buy soil to protect the temple grounds from flooding. Seeing him devote his money to the project, other locals came forward and donations flowed in for construction of a sanctuary on temple grounds. Today, when the abbot

returns to LPN, it's not because of his old problems, but to ask for advice about preventing fraud in the village temple fund. Once the village drunk, Luang Por Prasert is now respected by the whole community. He plays a pivotal role in making sure people in his community do not send their children abroad to work in the fishing industry.

CHALLENGES IN MOVING ON FOR RETURNED FISHING WORKERS

The harsh working conditions aboard fishing vessels have caused both physical and mental health problems for fishing workers, including permanent disabilities from injuries at sea. In some cases, life can become very difficult, especially when living with disability or trauma without compensation or back pay.

During the operation, the LPN team were told by stranded Thai fishing workers that they were afraid of incurring debt during repatriation, because the embassy had told them that they would have to pay back the cost of their return trip if they could not find work on arriving home. Thus, they were hesitant to take part in the profiling and return process. This reflected the lack of suitable rehabilitation processes in their country of origin.

The number of the rescued victims being sent back

Aug 2014 – March 2016

| Nationalities of fishermen | Number of people | Coordinating Agencies | Coordinating Agencies |
|----------------------------|------------------|---|--|
| Thai | 1,900 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Thailand)+Business Owners LPN Foundation as coordinator Paveena Foundation | Benjina Island Ambon Island Tual Island Potianak/ Kalimantan |
| Burmese | 800* | Indonesian government + IOM Benjina 326persons Ambon 300* persons | 300 fishermen waiting for nationality verification at the Ambon island. LPN coordinates with the stakeholders on their unpaid wages |
| Cambodian | 200 | Indonesian government + IOM Benjina 58 persons Ambon 7 persons | LPN coordinates with the stakeholders on their unpaid wages |
| Laotian | 50 | Indonesian government + IOM Benjina 8 persons Ambon 6 persons | LPN coordinates with the stakeholders on their unpaid wages LPN contacts the victims' families |
| Total | 2,950 | | |

* Number of Estimates



State support

encourage the state to support businesses free from forced labour, trafficking and child labour.



More responsible

work together with the business sector to ensure more responsible monitoring and more sustainable practises



Cooperation with NGOs

encourage cooperation with NGOs in legal proceedings, rehabilitation and follow-up when reintegrating forced labour survivors into the community.

Recommendation to help returned victims

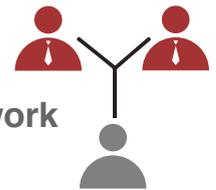
Respect Human rights

ensure collaboration between all related stakeholder across sectors to maintain respect for human right in supply chains



legal aid

create an access system for legal aid and distress alert for workers in both countries of origin and destination



Working network

create a working network between state and civil society, as well as labour network, in order to collaborate to assist workers in trouble



Prevent victimisation

create safe and effective referral mechanisms for migrant workers. Return them to society and prevent repeat victimisation by maintaining contact and continuous care. Keep an online database of both survivors and brokers and recruiting agencies who are not meeting their responsibilities under MOU.

Recommendation



Labour participation

encourage labour participation in supply chains free of forced labour and support the establishment of labour organisation such as TMFG

SHELTER CAREER AND NETWORK

three activities at the shelter for fishing crew, migrant workers and those who are socially vulnerable

By **Visarut Sankham**

“These people they have arms and one day their arms are missing, what can we do for them to have them return and live their lives with their missing arms?” Patima Tangpuchakul of LPN stated about the mission of the newly built Training and Rehab Center for Thai and Migrant Labour that just completed in 2020.

Training and Rehab Center for Thai and Migrant Labour is the project that was initiated 3 years ago in 2017 after LPN has been playing important part of rescuing a large number of migrant fishing crew who mostly been deceived to work in Indonesia

Many of them can not return to their families, some of them couldn't find their families or couldn't readjust to the life where they had left behind for so long

through human trafficking network result in more than 5000 workers both Thai and foreign were rescued and returned to their country of origin.

For thousands of migrant workers that returned home after being away for many years, for some it's been more than 2 decades of being away caused many problems. Many of them can not return to their families, some of them couldn't find their families or

be alive again through the rehabilitation for both mental and body. This is the reason for the project of “ Training and Rehab Center for Thai and Migrant Labour”

This project is sponsored by the government of Japan under the Grant



couldn't readjust to the life where they had left behind for so long. Many of them had to live with LPN causing some concern to the staff of the foundation. At that time, in LPN apart from being a school for the migrant children it was also a temporary shelter for women and children who has been abused in Samut Sakorn province area. The need for bigger and new area to receive fishing crew who are mostly men is the origin of “Sala Khon Sao” which aims to change the sadness of migrant workers who lose the human dignity and reduced the self-worth to

Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) and the design is done by Faculty of Architecture and Planning, Thammasart University using LPN's land in Ladloomkaew district, Pathumthani province with overall budget of 5 million baht.

In order to make a person live their lives with a missing arm or to rehabilitate both their mental and physical state, it has to be done in three main activities which are to be a shelter for both domestic and migrant workers, to be a place to provide skills and



Training and Rehab Center for Thai and Migrant Labour, the project that aims to help former enslaved fishers to intergraed to their society

PHOTO: LPN

to be a learning center for the situation of migrant workers in Thailand.

In making the space a shelter for victims affected from human trafficking in fishing and continuous fishing industry as well as for male migrant workers who are in the middle of court case against their employers or company, the rehabilitation process design to assist in both emotional and physical. In term of physical rehabilitation, the center provides food and place of refuge, and in term of mental rehabilitation, the center works to gather with professional therapist who specialises in rehabilitation with the hope to bring back human dignity to those who are victims to human trafficking. This is done through main activities such as building a safe space that allow them to communicate freely and tell stories they want to tell with emphasis on listening to their stories so that the victims can share their stories as much as they need. Arts therapy is also another way to help them feel safe.

Another activity apart from giving victims safe space to heal is to provide occupational training. Many victims have been trafficked for a long time so when they return home, there a lots of problems for them to

assimilated back in and most importantly they are lacked of skills. So the occupational training is vital. There are two main areas for occupational training which are, agriculture and handicraft so that they will be able to “feed themselves”. The training is supported by various networks such as the occupational training center, banks, international and domestic volunteers and private networks where the there are various trainings such as mobile phone fixing, builders, carpentry, bakery, drawing and actings.

Last activity for human trafficking victim’s rehabilitation process is to make the project site the a learning center to learn about migrant workers’ current situation by bringing people involved who are related to labour issues such as Ministry of Labour, Department of Employment, Various Embassies and representative for government operations such as Department of Special Investigation (DSI) to meet together .

In 2020, it has already been held three times, on the average of once every 3 month for this place to be a place for a diverse group of labor networks to meet and have discussion. The main goal of the center is

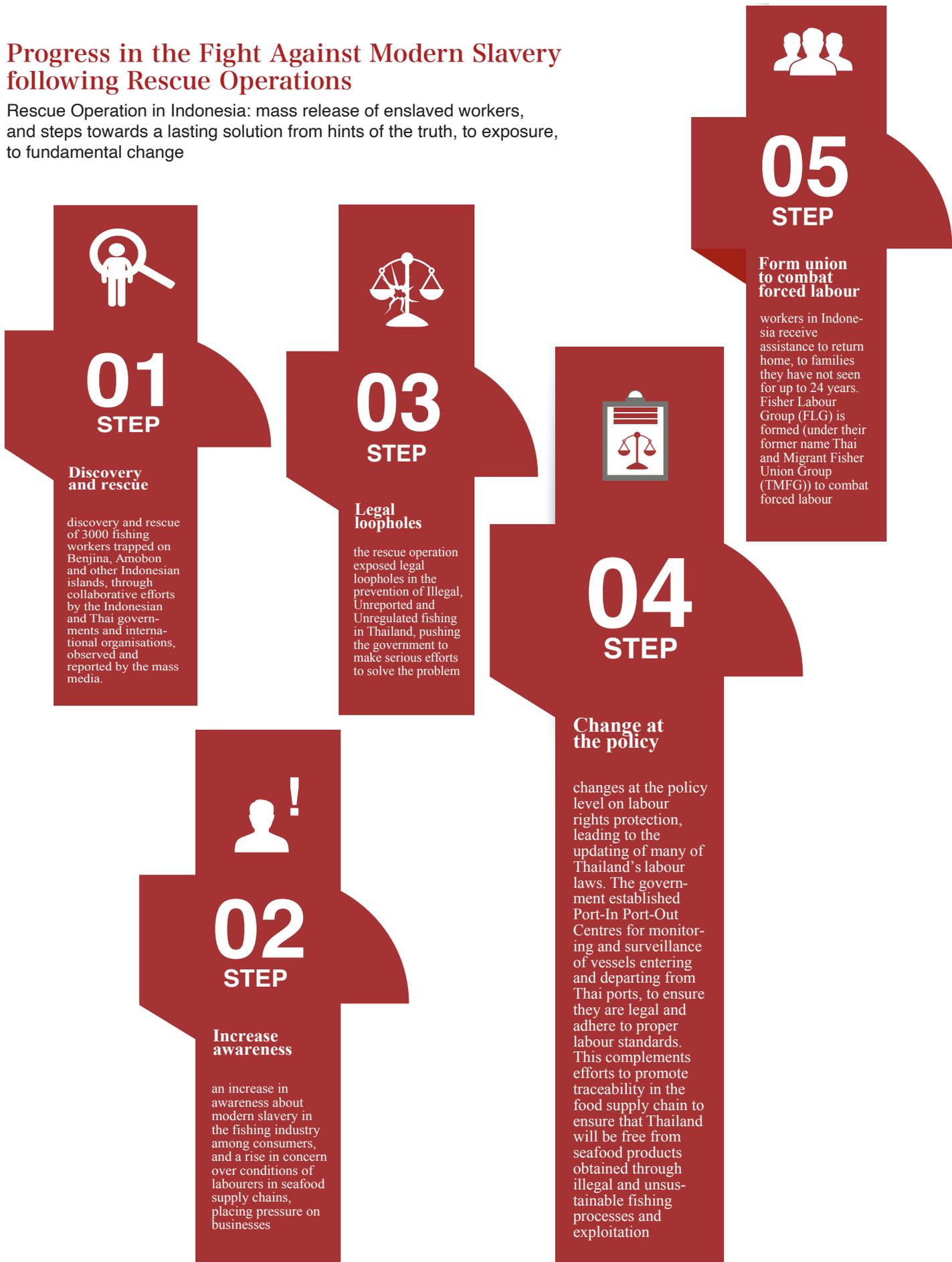
to make worker "speak with a voice in the state arena" by creating their own stage. As a result, it is visible that more and more labor networks are gathered together.

Apart from the three main activities mentioned above, LPN also has a “dream” or future plan for the Training and Rehab Center for Thai and Migrant Labour project. It can be divided into 3 main areas which are ; to be a migrant labour’s museum in the hope to provide knowledge about the diversity of migrant workers through framework of state and ethnicity as well as various types of work. Secondly, is to be a skill sharing space between urban middle class and migrant workers. Thirdly is to be a gathering space for various organisations of migrant workers where currently they are brought together through the racial basis but in the future, LPN hopes that they would come together through the issue they want to be driven instead, for example, the vulnerability of children and youth or female

Both project and activities mentioned above are all derived from LPN foundation that wants to see the coexistence of people in the region both in the societies of migrant workers and Thai workers.

Progress in the Fight Against Modern Slavery following Rescue Operations

Rescue Operation in Indonesia: mass release of enslaved workers, and steps towards a lasting solution from hints of the truth, to exposure, to fundamental change





07 STEP

Global conversation

integration of labour issues into the global conversation on marine conservation and illegal fishing, bringing together questions of forced labour and sustainability during World Oceans Day 2019



06 STEP

Expose the issue of slave labour

production of the documentary film "Ghost Fleet" to expose the issue of slave labour to audiences of seafood consumers around the world. Through footage and personal stories from the rescue operation, "Ghost Fleet" demonstrates the continuing prevalence of slavery in the modern world. In 2019, the movie has been screened at film festivals in multiple countries including the USA, Canada, the UK, the Netherlands, Egypt, Japan, Colombia, New Zealand and elsewhere



08 STEP

Encourage regional and global collaboration

raising the issues of human trafficking in the fishing industry, and belated assessment of the seafood supply chain, at the ASEAN level, to encourage collaboration at a regional and global scale



09 STEP

Amplifying worker voice

amplifying the voices of seafood industry workers and forced labour survivors, allowing them space to share their ideas and needs. Working through networks of survivors from Indonesia such as the Fisher Labour Group founded by Chairat Ratchapaksi and Tun Lin in 2014, who have rescued around 400 people from forced labour and have spoken as workers' representatives at the UN General Assembly on World Oceans Day 2019 and the SeaWeb Seafood Summit 2019.



10 STEP

Fight against abuse and discrimination

voices of fishers and of forced labour survivors are raised globally, to spread the lesson that these attacks on human dignity should never be allowed to happen again. When survivors' voices are clearly heard, the world will respond. They deserve our solidarity in their fight against abuse and discrimination, and we will never allow the needs of our fellow humans, or of our planet, to be overlooked

เขียนกำหนดหายกฐินสามัคคี ประยูกร จันทรโสภา

ผม นาย กิ่งกร กมลดีศิลป์ ผมเป็นท้าวบ้านประยูกรไทย ที่อยู่
 ที่ อัมพณ คือผมได้ไล้หายหน้ากั ประยูกรไทยตลอดที่นั่นทำ
 อธิปไตยแล้ว แต่กับไม่ได้รับทราบเป็นกรรมจนกระทั่งพบผมได้หลาย
 ชาติแล้วตลอดอยู่ ณ ฝั่ง อัมพณ และได้มีหนังสือมาสั่งมาจนและพากันรู้
 และเขาได้บอกว่าจะพาคนไทยกับบ้านทุกคน จนกระทั่ง ๓๐๐
 พวกผม ทุกคนก็ยังไม่ได้กับ สันเขยต้นและก็ได้มีสถานทุกไทยที่ Takata
 พวกผมและเขาได้สอบถามรายชื่อทุกคน จนกระทั่งมาจนแก่และไล้ทุกตัว
 ไม่ได้เลย แต่เขาก็ใช้ภาษาที่ขยาบดาไม่สุภาพกับพวกฝั่งต้น พวกผมก็
 ทำนนายกฐินสามัคคี ประยูกร จันทรโสภาให้ชื่อคนไทยทุกคนที่
 อยู่ที่นี่ ให้ได้กลิ่นน้ำกันทุกคนเพราะเขาจะนำเอาอันนี้มาทานแล้วเขา
 รู้เลยว่าเขาอยู่ที่นี่แล้วไม่รู้เลยว่า ลูกหลานเขาจะเป็นอย่างไรบ้าง ก็ไม่รู้
 ผมอยากจะได้เห็นจริงจึงให้ท่าน นายกฐินสามัคคี ประยูกร จันทรโสภา
 ผมด้วยครับ

1. ชื่อ, ชื่อ
2. ชื่อ, แปล
3. ยศ, ชื่อ
4. ชื่อ, ชื่อ
5. ชื่อ, ชื่อ

ด้วยความเคารพ
 นาย กิ่งกร กมลดีศิลป์

4 LETTERS FROM THE SEAMAN

อินโองหนงชัย
งานที่ปร:เขต
ทนี่๐๐๓มาอินคิน
๕๐๐พมที่จำวาง
ที่๐เดือนแล้ว
ไทรตีพ่ฆาธา
นนาวิทเกอ๑๐:๑/๕
ก๑:๗๐๕๐๐
ก้ำลัว๑๑๑๑๑
กน๑๑๑๑๑๑๑
อิน๑๑๑๑๑๑
๑๑๑๑๑๑๑๑

I am Tinnakorn Kamolsin. I'm a fishery worker in Ambon Island, Indonesia. I was tricked by brokers into working in Indonesia but did not receive fair treatment. So, we retreated and fled from the vessel, and tried to survive on the land by working on loading fish; however, some of us have been abused or assaulted, especially those who are old. Eventually, government officers and the mass media found us and promised to send us back home. 5 months have passed, and we are still on the island. Then the officer from Royal Thai Embassy in Jakarta called us and asked everyone our names in vulgar language. I want you, president Prayut Chan-o-cha, to help us, Thai people who are suffering from this difficult time, to come back home. Some of us have been stuck here for a very long time. Some of our family do not know where we are and what happened to us. I beg you for the last time, president Prayut Chan-o-cha: please help us. Get us out of here.

๑) ใจมาคงหรือมากสมัยนั้นกับ
 ตอน นร. กับ เบ๊ก แเค้มาพัก
 บ้านทุ่งอ่าว. พักอยู่ ๔ วัน
 มาที่ปากน้ำ มาสวนอนันต์ ๑๐๐๐
 คน น้อยกว่า ๑๐๐๐ คน ๑๐๐๐ คน
 มาเป็นช่างทำไม้

มาจากปากน้ำไทย ๗ สิงหาคม
 ๕๒ ตอนที่มี ๑๐๐๐ คน ได้ไป
 ๑๐๐ คน แล้ง เก้ง ๑๑๐ ได้ ๑๐๐
 คน กบขาก มนุษย์ ๑๐๐ คน ใจใจ
 ถึงกำหนดแต่ไม่ได้กลับ
 กลับมาด้วย ๑๐๐ แล้ง เก้ง ๑๑๐
 ๑๐๐ คน ๑๐๐ คน แล้ง เก้ง ๑๑๐
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1. I am worried about my salary. I got only 4,500 to 6,500 baht, when it should be more than 10,000.

2. I wonder if my employer will pay me the salary or not.

3. If he does pay me the salary, will he follow me home? I have worked with him for a long time. I'm afraid that he will.

4. If my employer accepts and pays me the salary, will he send someone to hurt me? I am truly terrified of that.

Please answer all of my questions. It would help me get out of here and be a huge relief.

There's one more thing I wanted to know. If I quit without giving notice to my employer, will it be all right?

I appreciate you very much P' Koko.

1. เงินค่าจ้าง (น้อย)

2. ค่าจ้าง

3. หนี มาที่บ้าน

4. หนี มาที่บ้าน

กลัว

กลัว

กลัว

50 = 100 -> 100 -> 100
วิธีนี้ มีประโยชน์มาก

วิธีนี้ มีประโยชน์มาก. วิธีนี้ มีประโยชน์มาก. วิธีนี้ มีประโยชน์มาก.
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เดือน ๓ ๒๕๖๑
มาจ่าย เงินให้
กม ๒๒๓ ๒๒๓ ๒๒๓
รับ ๒๒๓ ๒๒๓
ให้ กักข การ ๑๑
๒๐,๐๐๐ บาท
ดู ดย ๑๑
ไม่ คัด ดย ๒๒๓
๒๒๓

1. I'm worried about money. I do not know how much I'll be paid or the amount of the payment.
2. I smoke and drank at Tik's restaurant, but I had no money to pay. So, she let her employee bring me to a room in Soi Nok Kaew and locked me in. They took my photos and sent them to a fishing vessel manager at a company called Srinopparat to process my fishery documents.
3. Tik received money from Srinopparat - about 20,000 baht. She bought me some clothes and personal belongings.
4. Work time on the fishing vessel depends on the time when they release the nets. I get only a little time to sleep.





LPN officers bring the children from Krok Krak community to school. Since the transport cost are one of the main barrier to education for migrants children, LPN provides a crucial service to bring children from the worksite to the classroom.

PHOTO: LPN

ABOUT LPN



THE HISTORY OF LPN

The Labour Protection Network (LPN) was established in 2004 by a small group of individuals aiming to work in the field of social work, emphasizing migrant labour issues in Samut Sakhon province. LPN observed that a large number of migrant children lacked education due to neglect from guardians as well as being involved in forced child labor. LPN first operated in 2004 as a private development group aiming to eliminate the unfair treatment of migrant laborers.

Initially, adequate funding was a challenge, however this changed when LPN was registered as a legitimate NGO. The legal approval of LPN and the increasing number of migrant laborers and their issues resulted in an increase of support for the LPN from various organizations. The increase in support for the foundation significantly enhanced the effectiveness of our operations.

Vision

The Labour Protection Network (LPN) is committed to protecting and improving the lives of migrant workers in Thailand. We strive to advocate for equality, both in the workplace and the community, and aim to assist migrants and their families integrate peacefully into Thai society.

Goals

- To develop an understanding of the issues faced by migrant workers
- To support the protection of individual migrant workers and their rights, as well as the integration of migrants and their families into Thai society
- To assist migrant workers in becoming more self-reliant with the support of public and private sectors
- To create awareness about the responsibilities towards, and the wellbeing of, migrants
- To continue operating on a not-for-profit basis with financial assistance from the public

Awards

- 2014 Human Rights Award (National Human Rights Commission of Thailand)
- 2008 Certificate in Recognition of Valued Participation - Workshop on Awareness Raising Regarding Child Protection (Save the Children, UNICEF and ECPAT International)
- 2007 Winner of the UNIAP Trafficking Estimates Contest (United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking)
- 2006 Certificate in Recognition of Valued Participation - Workshop on Awareness Raising Regarding Child Protection (Save the Children, UNICEF and ECPAT International)

LPN MODEL : 2012 - PRESENT

Labor Center

- Counseling, Legal aid, Watchdog, Research

Sunday Learning Center

- Thai language, Music, Training on child rights and labor rights
- For children and youth (age 12-17)
- For adult (age 18-35)

EDUCATION FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN

Multi Language and Culture Center (monthly activities at the community level)

- Promote understanding and cultural exchange between Thai and migrant

Migrant Children Center in School (4 SCHOOLS)

- Transitional classroom for migrant

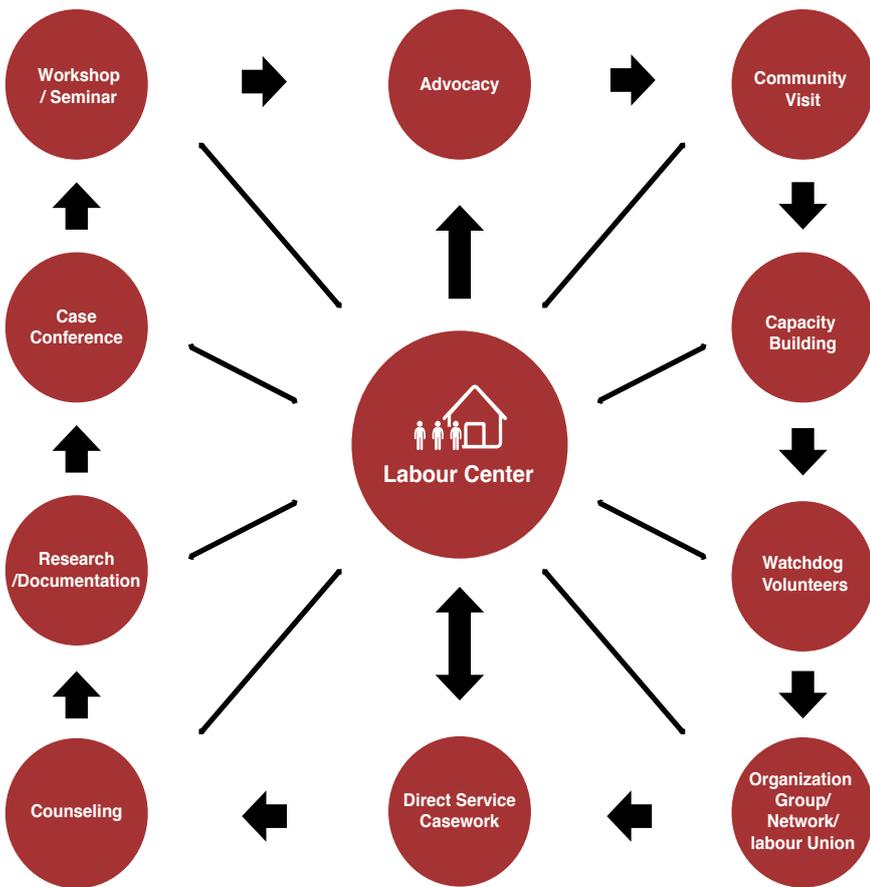
children (before integrate into Thai formal school)

Thai Formal Education

- Assist migrant children into formal education i.e. school documentation for Wmigrant children, transportation, scholarship, school equipment and uniforms

Seafarers Action Center

- Receive complaints and rescue fishery workers



LPN Labour Center Model 2007

WORK UNDER OUR VISION

Local level

We closely work with the local authorities to address urgent cases of human rights abuses in the workplace. This includes providing assistance and protection to the victims of human trafficking and vulnerable groups subject to risks for their health and life. We promote labor rights and protect victims and survivors of human trafficking, both in Thailand and in the neighboring countries.

National level

We cooperate with the Thai government in delivering law enforcement measures. Also, we closely work with the country's industries, including the fishing industry, for the development of better labor conditions. We are the concept leader as we provide policy guidelines for national networks, both public and private, and give recommendation on how to prevent and resolve labor rights abuses in Thailand. Moreover, with our work we contribute as a regional leader to the promotion of a regional morality network of ethics.

International level

We are developing partnerships with local and international organizations as well as governments and embassies, especially with the neighbouring governments of Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia. We also have relations with international media which make sure that the voice of the exploited fishers is heard worldwide. Our international network relies on us as seafood market specialists who successfully promote slavery-free supply chains.

PROMOTE SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE LABOR CONDITIONS WITH US, LABOUR PROTECTION NETWORK: LPN

“LPN is a non-governmental organization that aims to promote labor conditions, rights protection, equality and self-resilience. We are constantly working to end all forms of human abuses and exploitations stemming from the unsustainable supply chain in seafood industry”.

Over 16 years, we have been working with the government and the private sector, both domestically and internationally, to solve the problems faced by vulnerable minority groups which cannot get access to social protection. In particular, we help migrant and Thai workers who are suffering

from every form of injustice and exploitation in their workplace and who are victims of human trafficking. The overall objective of LPN is to address workers in need of help and reduce cases of human trafficking, forced labor and child labor.

Currently, Thailand’s government acknowledges the importance of the role played by LPN in promoting labor protection. In fact, LPN actively cooperates with various relevant governmental departments as well as with non-profit organizations from neighboring countries such as Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia in helping victims of human trafficking, exploitation and human rights violation.

A C R O S S
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