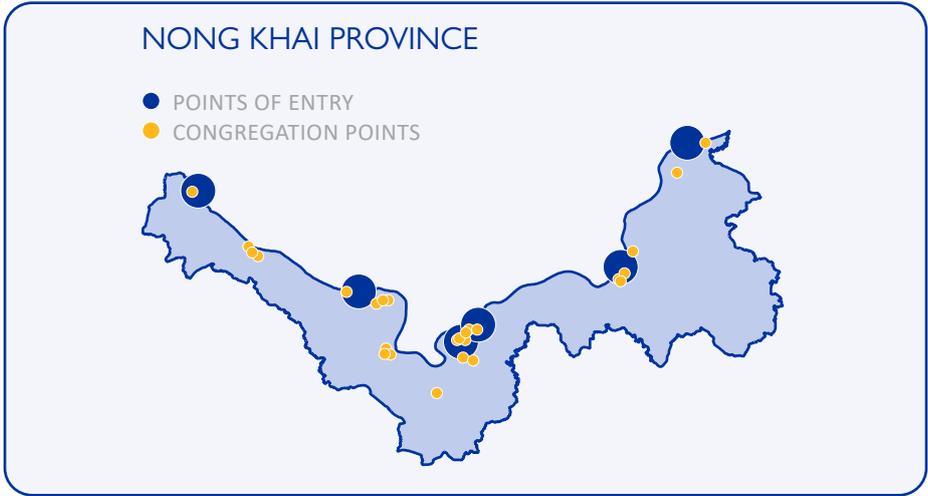


DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

POPULATION MOBILITY MONITORING

PROVINCE REPORT: NONG KHAI

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY



DISCLAIMER: These maps are for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

To better understand health and screening capacities in Thailand, IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), with support from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is implementing Population Mobility Monitoring (PMM) along the Lao-Thai and Cambodia-Thai borders. Border provinces selected for data collection include Nong Khai (Lao-Thai) and Sakeo and Chanthaburi (Cambodia-Thai). The following report focuses on Nong Khai.

Points of Entry (POEs) include the following classifications:

- **Formal POEs:** Recognized by the Royal Thai Government as legitimate entry points to enter Thailand. Government officials including police are present to check and validate documents and monitor crossings.
- **Semi-formal POEs:** Presence of a few government officials to check and monitor the entry and exit of incoming migrants, but with less extensive infrastructure than in formal POEs. Usually located at informal or natural piers along the Mekong river, including piers in villages.
- **Informal POEs:** Not recognized by the Royal Thai Government and crossings are irregular.

Congregation points are defined as sites where migrants congregate shortly after crossing the border into Thailand to access various services. These sites include markets, hotels, hospitals and taxi/bus stations, among others.

The PMM methodology, developed by IOM to help inform preparedness and response efforts during the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, generates information about cross-border movements among mobile populations and supports the development of forecasting capacities in target locations. It consists of three phases: Phase I is a participatory mapping exercise with key informants to identify POEs and congregation points; Phase II is a site observation activity involving visits to POEs and congregation points identified in Phase I to generate more granular information on the presence of health screening mechanisms, WASH facilities,

government and NGO personnel etc.; Phase III comprises Flow Monitoring surveys to better understand the volume, drivers and intention of people on the move at identified POEs. PMM has been adapted to suit the context in Thailand and help inform a better understanding about mobility dynamics along the borders of Thailand and its neighbouring countries.

The participatory mapping exercise (Phase I) in Nong Khai took place in December 2021. IOM’s DTM team began by identifying 72 GPS coordinates of various POEs and congregation points in the province and plotting these locations on a map. Three focus group discussions with key informants were then organized to identify which of the mapped POEs and congregation points are the most significant. Key informants included representatives from the government, local and migrant communities and NGOs. Discussions were recorded with participants’ permission. IOM DTM staff guided the focus group discussions using a set of questions targeted at two areas of interest: firstly, POEs and secondly, congregation points. For both, points were ranked by volume of human mobility. Participants discussed their best estimates of number of entries per day, main destinations of the migrants moving through these points, primary modes of transportation, among other indicators. As a result of these discussions, DTM identified 6 POEs and 28 congregation points for further assessment in Nong Khai.

Site observation (Phase II) was conducted in two rounds, the first in February 2022 and the second in June 2022. The purpose of the two rounds was to allow comparison between the situation at POEs and congregation points before and after borders between Thailand and Lao PDR reopened when COVID-19 mobility restrictions were lifted. A mixed method approach using both direct observation and key informant interviews was used to implement site observation. The following report is an overview of the site observation data from June 2022 with insights from key informant input. The report also includes some comparisons with February 2022 data and pre-COVID-19 pandemic conditions.

POE PROFILES

6 IDENTIFIED POES

Of the six POEs identified as the most prominent along the Thai-Lao border in Nong Khai, five are classified as maritime border points. This is due to the Mekong river, which defines the border between the two countries along Thailand’s north-eastern Isan region and most of Lao PDR’s western boundary. The Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge POE, on the other hand, is accessible by foot and wheeled vehicle and lies less than 30 minutes’ drive east of Lao PDR’s capital city, Vientiane. The Friendship Bridge is the Thai-Lao border’s busiest crossing point, with it being reported that around 5,000 people entered Thailand via the bridge per day on average before the COVID-19 pandemic.

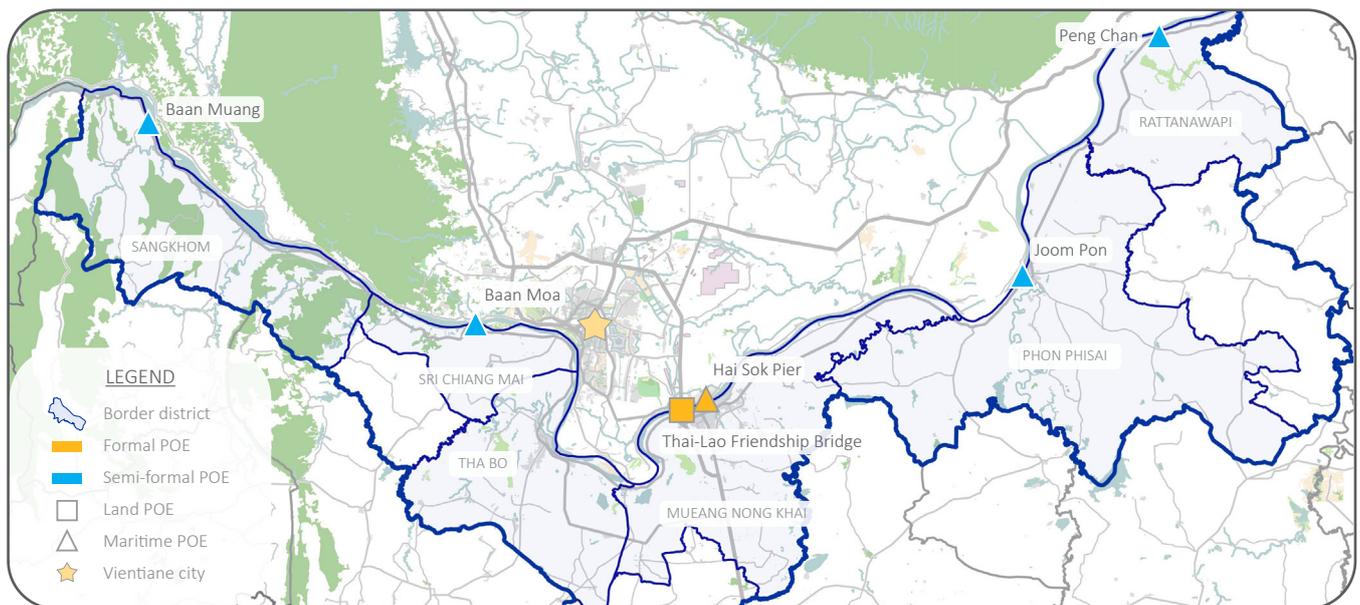
The Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge and its maritime neighbor, Hai Sok Pier, are the only formal POEs identified in Nong Khai. Baan Muang, Baan Moea, Joom Pon and Peng Chan are considered semi-formal (see Map 1). As of the second round of site observation in June 2022, Baan Muang, Baan Moea, the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge and Peng Chan were accessible for crossing, while Hai Sok Pier and Joom Pon were still considered

temporarily inaccessible, having been closed in 2020 due to the pandemic. During the first round of site observation in Nong Khai in February 2022, only Baan Muang and Baan Moea were accessible.

All six POEs are reachable by a paved road and are located less than five kilometers away from the nearest village (less than one kilometer for all POEs except Baan Moea). Their high level of accessibility, except during the COVID-19 pandemic, characterizes the regularity and convenience of crossings from Lao PDR into Thailand for reasons ranging from running errands to visiting family to seeking employment.

Nong Khai province and neighboring Udon Thani province are popular intended destinations for persons crossing these POEs. Due to their proximity at the border, these provinces experience entries for different purposes, including for short-term stays. Bangkok was also reported as an intended destination.

MAP 1: POE LOCATIONS AND TYPE



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TABLE 1: ACCESSIBILITY AND MAIN PROVINCES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION (JUNE 2022)

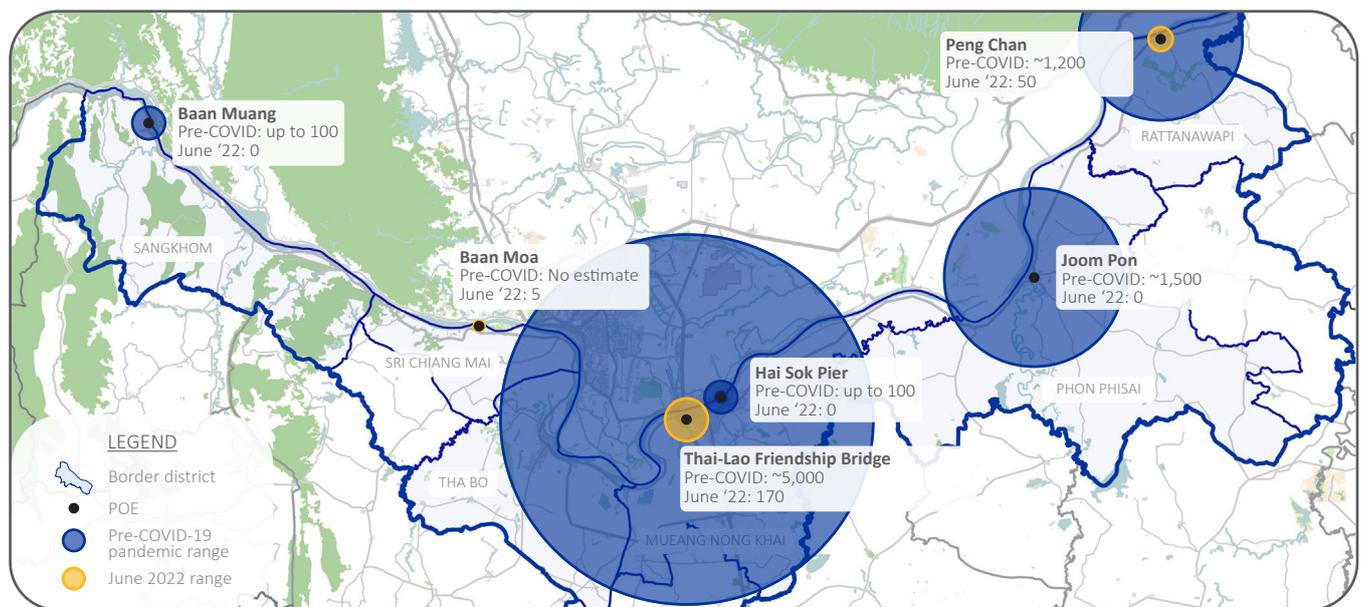
POE	ACCESSIBLE?	DISTANCE TO NEAREST VILLAGE	ORIGIN PROVINCES IN LAO PDR	DESTINATION PROVINCES IN THAILAND
Baan Muang	Yes	<1 km	Vientiane	Nong Khai, Udon Thani
Baan Moea	Yes	1-5 km	Vientiane	Nong Khai, Udon Thani, Bangkok
Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge	Yes	<1 km	Vientiane, Khammouane	Nong Khai, Udon Thani
Hai Sok Pier	Temporarily inaccessible	<1 km	Vientiane	Nong Khai
Joom Pon	Temporarily inaccessible	<1 km	Vientiane	Nong Khai
Peng Chan	Yes	<1 km	Bolikhamxai	Nong Khai

Map 2 illustrates fluctuations in the volume of crossings as recorded pre-COVID-19 pandemic and in June 2022. Numbers of crossings are based on key informant estimates. It should be noted that, while DTM conducted a first round of site observation among these POEs in February 2022, due to lasting COVID-19 travel restrictions, key informants reported migration flow volume to be zero at all POEs at that time. Lao PDR only opened all international borders in May of 2022, and Thailand suspended its Thailand Pass system, requiring proof of COVID-19 insurance and vaccinations, in June 2022. As a result, the number of daily crossings is still low compared to pre-COVID volumes. The Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge remains the dominant corridor of human mobility in this region, followed by Peng Chan in Nong Khai's northeast Rattanawapi district. Peng Chan and Joom Pon POEs experienced similar volumes of flow prior to the pandemic, with key informant estimates ranging between 1,000 and 2,000 crossings per day at each site.

Compared to these points, Baan Muang and Hai Sok Pier saw crossings in the tens and hundreds pre-COVID. This may be attributed to Hai Sok Pier mainly being used to transport merchandise and goods, while Baan Muang is the POE located furthest from major cities and roadways on the Lao PDR side of the border. This may also contribute to Baan Muang's flow volume as of June 2022 remaining zero. No flows were also recorded at Hai Sok Pier and Joom Pon due to their continued temporary closures.

At all POEs except Joom Pon, there was a functional water source available within a 10-minute walk. All POEs included latrines, also within 10 minutes' walk, with the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge having the most latrines followed by Peng Chan. Baan Muang and Joom Pon were the only POEs that did not have latrines separated between men and women.

MAP 2: POE DAILY FLOW VOLUME ESTIMATES (PRE-COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND JUNE 2022)



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TABLE 2: WASH SERVICES (JUNE 2022)

POE	FUNCTIONAL WATER SOURCE PRESENT?	DISTANCE TO WATER SOURCE BY FOOT	LATRINE PRESENT?	DISTANCE TO LATRINE BY FOOT	NUMBER OF LATRINES	LATRINES GENDER SEPARATED?
Baan Muang	Yes	5 min	Yes	5 min	2-5	No
Baan Moa	Yes	5 min	Yes	5 min	2-5	Yes
Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge	Yes	10 min	Yes	10 min	>15	Yes
Hai Sok Pier	Yes	5 min	Yes	5 min	6-10	Yes
Joom Pon	No	NA	Yes	5 min	1	No
Peng Chan	Yes	5 min	Yes	5 min	11-15	Yes

As of June 2022, health screening was available at the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge and at Peng Chan, the two highest-volume POEs. Screening included temperature checks, sanitizer, vaccine certificates, and at the Thai-Lao Bridge only, antigen tests. By comparison, Baan Muang and Baan Moa were already open in February 2022 and neither had health screening presence at that time or as of June.

Hand washing was only available at the POEs that included health screening, while COVID-19 risk information was also provided at Joom Pon. Most information was distributed in the form of posters, pamphlets, or in the case of the Thai-Lao Friendship bridge, information booths.

Health facilities were relatively convenient to reach, with each POE located less than five kilometers away from the nearest one. Means of transportation to the nearest health facilities included all variety of motor vehicles, including buses, cars and motorcycles, but also bicycle. Nearby health facilities by

Baan Muang, the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge, Hai Sok Pier and Peng Chan could also be reached by foot. Law enforcement and official security personnel were present at the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge and Peng Chan. During DTM's first round of site observation in February 2022, they were also present at Hai Sok Pier and Joom Pon.

Health workers were present at the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge, Hai Sok Pier and Peng Chan, though in fewer numbers than law enforcement and official security personnel. This contrasts with the ratio of health and law personnel in February 2022, which was reported by key informants to be approximately even. In addition, while Joom Pon had no special personnel in attendance as of June 2022, it did have law, health and NGO/UN partner presence in February 2022. By June, only the Thai-Lao Friendship border was reported to have NGO/UN agencies present. Agency activities revolved mainly around COVID-19, including information dissemination, health screening and registration.

TABLE 3: HEALTH SERVICES (JUNE 2022)

POE	SCREENING PRESENT?	WHAT TYPE OF SCREENING IS PRESENT?	HAND-WASHING AVAILABLE?	COVID-RISK INFO AVAILABLE?	DISTANCE TO NEAREST HEALTH FACILITY
Baan Muang	No	NA	No	No	<1 km
Baan Moa	No	NA	No	No	1-5 km
Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge	Yes	thermometer; sanitizer; antigen test; vaccine certificate	Yes	Yes	<1 km
Hai Sok Pier	No	NA	No	No	1-5 km
Joom Pon	No	NA	No	Yes	1-5 km
Peng Chan	Yes	thermometer; sanitizer; vaccine certificate	Yes	Yes	<1 km

TABLE 4: PRESENCE OF VARIOUS PERSONNEL (JUNE 2022)

POE	PRESENCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT?	NUMBER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT	PRESENCE OF HEALTH WORKERS?	NUMBER OF HEALTH WORKERS	PRESENCE OF NGO/UN AGENCIES?	NGO/UN ACTIVITY TYPE
Baan Muang	No	NA	No	NA	No	NA
Baan Moa	No	NA	No	NA	No	NA
Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge	Yes	>20	Yes	5-10	Yes	COVID info; screening; registration
Hai Sok Pier	No	NA	Yes	1-5	No	NA
Joom Pon	No	NA	No	NA	No	NA
Peng Chan	Yes	5-10	Yes	1-5	No	NA

CONGREGATION POINT PROFILES



28 IDENTIFIED CONGREGATION POINTS

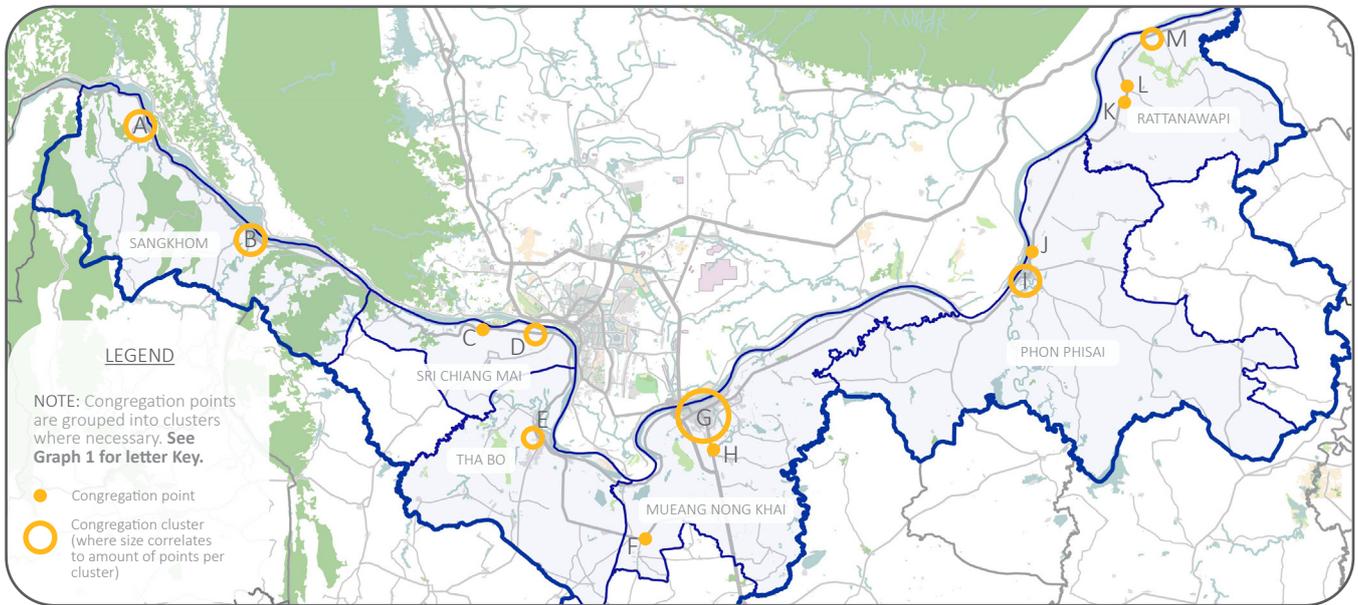
The 28 congregation points identified are located in six districts along Nong Khai's northern border. Mueang Nong Khai district included the highest number of congregation points identified, with a Makro wholesale store in that district receiving the largest volume of daily flows as of June 2022. Congregation points in Sangkhom district, on the other hand, experienced the smallest volume of daily flows. This is consistent with the POEs located in those districts: the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge, Nong Khai's busiest POE, is located in Mueang Nong Khai and Baan Muang, a low volume POE, is located in Sangkhom.

portation to each included cars, buses and motorcycles, while reaching many by bicycle or foot was also possible. All districts included at least one market and one health facility identified as a significant congregation point. Most congregation points had access to latrines, hand washing facilities, health screening and law enforcement and health personnel. However, congregation points in Sangkhom district were the least equipped in terms of latrines, health screening, law enforcement personnel and health workers.

All congregation points were accessible as of June 2022 and are located near villages and paved roads. Modes of trans-

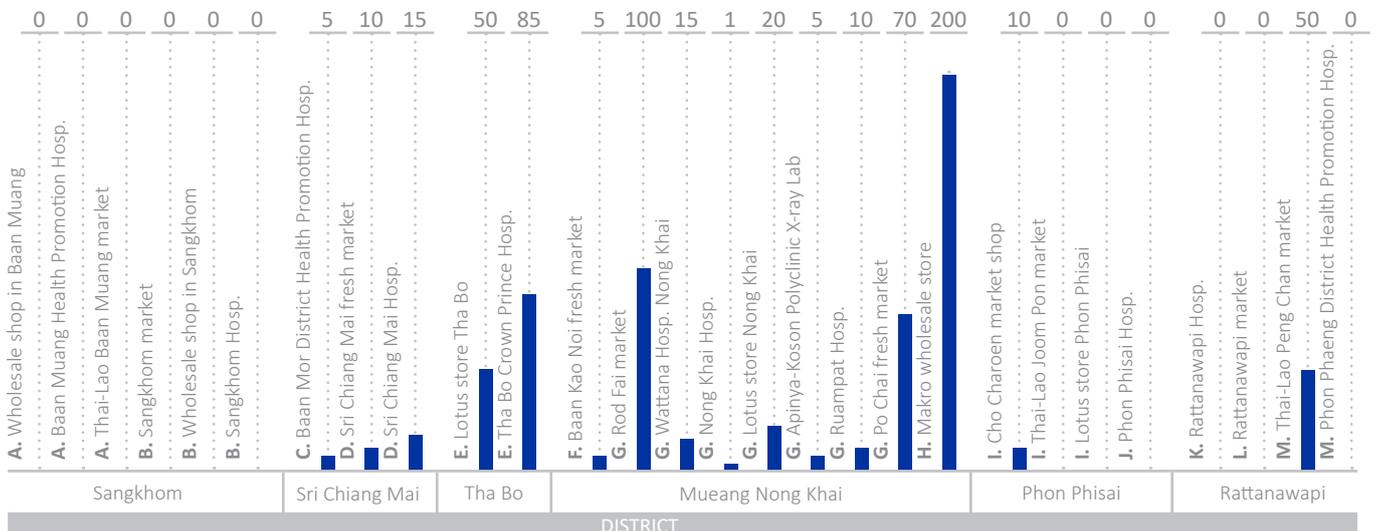
Two sites included presence of NGO or UN agencies: one hospital in Sri Chiang Mai district and one in Tha Bo district. At both, activities were COVID-19-focused, including COVID-19 information, screening and registration.

MAP 3: CONGREGATION POINT LOCATIONS



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GRAPH 1: CONGREGATION POINTS DAILY FLOW VOLUME ESTIMATES (JUNE 2022)¹



¹ It should be noted that, unlike for the POEs, key informants did not have concrete estimates of the flow volume at congregation points before the pandemic. Thus, no comparison between the two timelines is made in Graph 1.

SUMMARY KEY FINDINGS

- 1 A total of 6 POEs and 28 congregation points were identified in Nong Khai. Four POEs and all congregation points were accessible during site observation in June 2022.
- 2 POEs in Nong Khai are still experiencing decreased volumes of flows as of June 2022 compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic, most likely due to COVID-19 mobility restrictions for both Thailand and Lao PDR having just lifted in May and June 2022.
- 3 The Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge and Peng Chan were two of the highest volume POEs prior to the pandemic and as of June 2022. They both include WASH facilities, health screening, and law enforcement and health personnel. Screening services were not available at the other POEs.
- 4 Congregation points in Nong Khai's eastern Sangkhom district are the least equipped in terms of latrines, health screening, and law enforcement and health personnel.
- 5 The most frequented congregation points included a Makro wholesale store, Tha Bo Crown Hospital and the following markets: Rod Fai, Po Chai and Thai-Lao Peng Chan.

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