DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

POPULATION MOBILITY MONITORING

PROVINCE REPORT: RANONG



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With funding from the CDC

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

To better understand health and screening capacities in Thailand, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), with support from the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), is implementing Population Mobility Monitoring (PMM) along the Myanmar-Thai border. Border provinces selected for data collection include Ranong and Tak. The following report focuses on Ranong.

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 Kra Buri river, including piers in villages.
- Informal POEs: Not recognized by the Royal Thai Government and crossings are irregular.

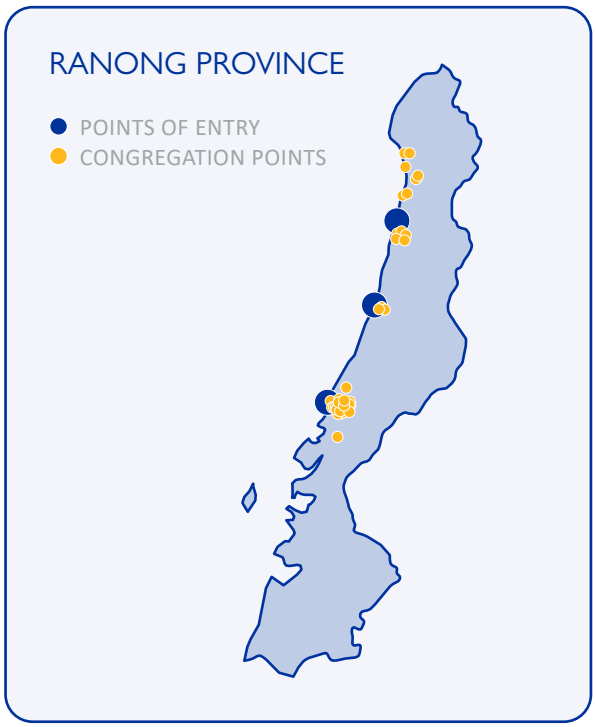
Congregation points are defined as sites where migrants congregate shortly after crossing the border into Thailand to access various services. These sites include markets, hotels, hospitals and taxi/bus stations, among others.

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 Ranong took place in May 2022. IOM's DTM team began by identifying 157 GPS coordinates of various POEs and congregation points in the province and plotting these locations on a map. Two 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 three POEs and 37 congregation points for further assessment in Ranong.

Site observation (Phase II) was conducted in July and August 2022. 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 July and August 2022 with insights from key informant input.



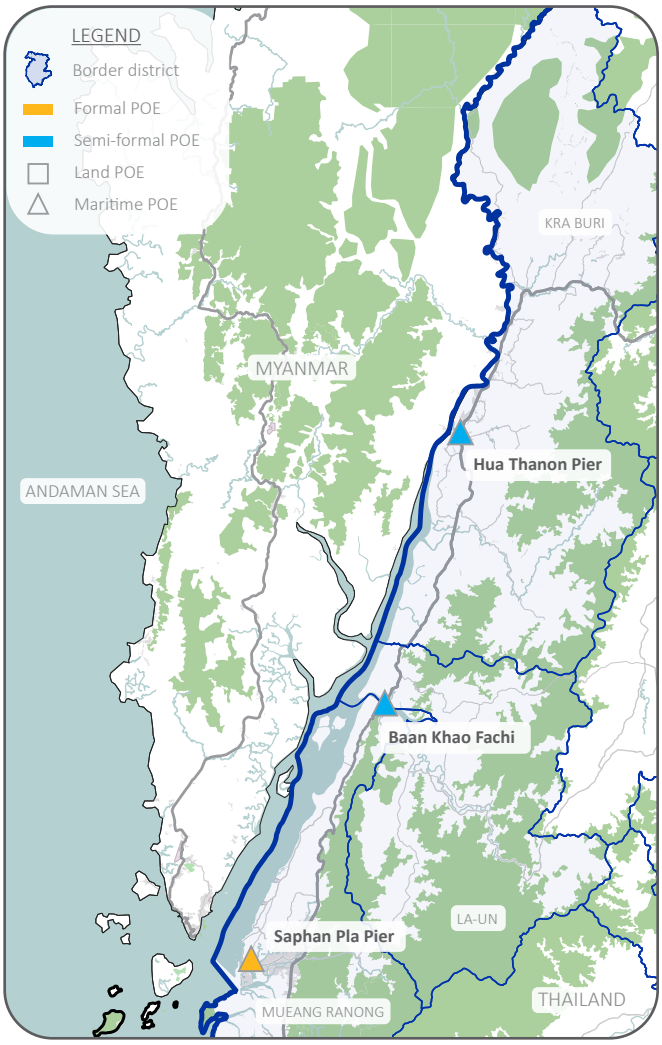


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POE PROFILES

3 IDENTIFIED POES

MAP 1: POE LOCATIONS AND TYPE



All three of Ranong's identified POEs are classified as maritime border points, lining the Kra Buri river as it flows into the Andaman Sea to the west of both Myanmar and Thailand. Ranong's busiest formal POE, Saphan Pla Pier, is located at the mouth of the river, where the distance to Myanmar's mainland is around six kilometers and where Thailand's largest mangrove forest is preserved.

Saphan Pla Pier, located in Mueang Ranong district, is the only formal POE identified in Ranong[1]. Meanwhile, Hua Thanon Pier, in Kra Buri district, and Baan Khao Fachi, located in neighboring La-Un district, are semi-formal (see Map 1). During site observation, all three POEs were accessible, having just been reopened at the beginning of July, and reachable by paved road. The nearest villages by Hua Thanon Pier and Saphan Pla Pier are less than one kilometer away, while Baan Khao Fachi's nearest village is less than five kilometers away.

According to key informants, movements across the border were relatively local. Most Myanmar nationals crossing into Thailand were reported to be arriving from Tanintharyi Region, the region immediately across the river from Ranong province. At the same time, reported destinations included exclusively locations in Ranong.

All POEs had access to a functional water source around five minutes away. However, Hua Thanon Pier did not have any latrines present on site, and while Baan Khao Fachi and Saphan Pla Pier did have latrines, they were present in low numbers and not separated between men and women.

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TABLE 1: ACCESSIBLITY AND MAIN PROVINCES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION (JUL/AUG 2022)

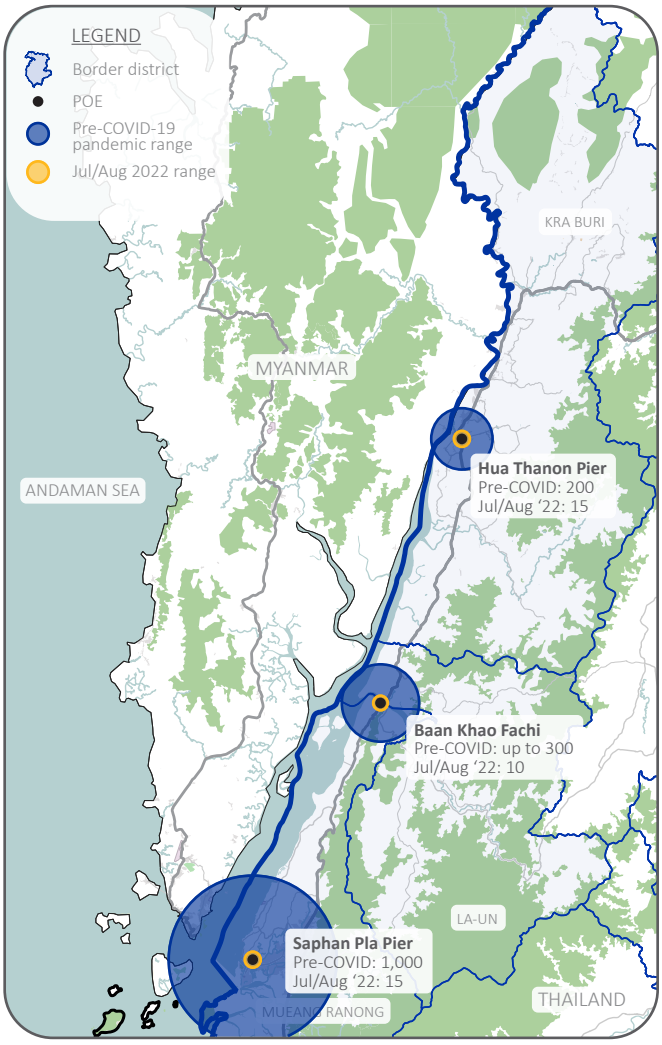
POE	ACCESSIBLE?	DISTANCE TO NEAREST VILLAGE	ORIGIN REGIONS IN MYANMAR	DESTINATION PROVINCES IN THAILAND
Hua Thanon Pier	Yes	<1 km	No response	Ranong
Baan Khao Fachi	Yes	1-5 km	Tanintharyi	Ranong
Saphan Pla Pier	Yes	<1 km	Tanintharyi	Ranong

TABLE 2: WASH SERVICES (JUL/AUG 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?
Hua Thanon Pier	Yes	5 min	No	NA	NA	NA
Baan Khao Fachi	Yes	5 min	Yes	5 min	1	No
Saphan Pla Pier	Yes	5 min	Yes	5 min	2-5	No

1 Three other formal POEs, Pak Nam Ranong, Andaman Club Pier and Ranong Customs Pier, exist in Ranong. Since Pak Nam Ranong functions as a transit point on the way to Saphan Pla and Andaman Club Pier and Ranong Customs Pier are used by Thai nationals crossing temporarily to nearby Myanmar islands only, these three points were not included in the analysis.

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



Map 2 illustrates fluctuations in the volume of crossings as recorded pre-COVID-19 pandemic and in July-August 2022. Numbers of crossings are based on key informant estimates. It should be noted that site observation was initiated in Ranong directly after the border points reopened at the beginning of July 2022. As a result, the number of daily crossings is still low compared to pre-COVID-19 volumes. There is little variation among the different POEs regarding their flow estimates for July-August 2022, with all experiencing fewer than 20 crossings per day, according to key informants.

Despite Saphan Pla Pier having been the highest volume POE prior to COVID-19, it was the only POE where health screening was not available as of July-August 2022. Meanwhile, thermometers and sanitizer were available at both Hua Thanon Pier and Baan Khao Fachi but antigen tests were only offered at the former and health declaration forms only at the latter. Saphan Pla Pier also lacked hand washing facilities, while facilities were available at the other two POEs. COVID-19 risk information was available at all POEs through pamphlets, posters, and at Hua Thanon Pier, through loud speaker announcements.

All POEs included a handful of law enforcement personnel. These included heads of village at Hua Thanon Pier, heads of village, border police and army at Baan Khao Fachi and Thai Immigration Bureau officials at Saphan Pla Pier. Saphan Pla Pier was the only POE to lack health worker presence, while Hua Thanon Pier was the only POE to have presence of NGO/UN agencies.

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TABLE 3: HEALTH SERVICES (JUL/AUG 2022)

POE	SCREENING PRESENT?	WHAT TYPE OF SCREENING IS PRESENT?	HAND-WASHING AVAILABLE?	COVID-RISK INFO AVAILABLE?	DISTANCE TO NEAREST HEALTH FACILITY
Hua Thanon Pier	Yes	thermometer; sanitizer; antigen test	Yes	Yes	<1 km
Baan Khao Fachi	Yes	thermometer; sanitizer; declaration form	Yes	Yes	1-5 km
Saphan Pla Pier	No	NA	No	Yes	<1 km

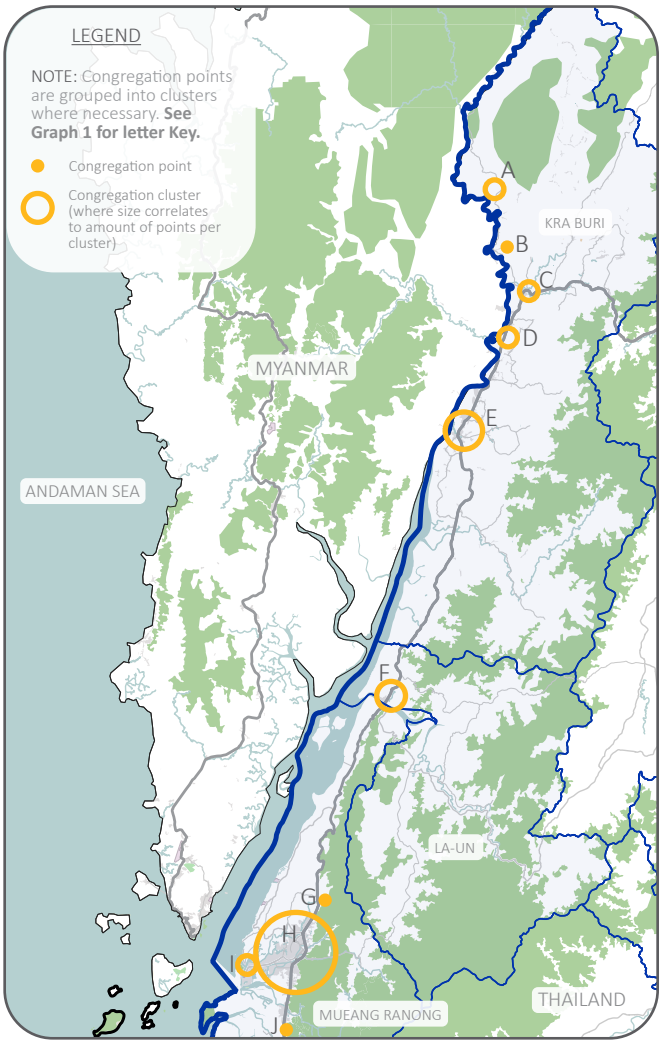
TABLE 4: PRESENCE OF VARIOUS PERSONNEL (JUL/AUG 2022)

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
Hua Thanon Pier	Yes	1-5	Yes	1-5	Yes	COVID info; screening
Baan Khao Fachi	Yes	1-5	Yes	1-5	No	NA
Saphan Pla Pier	Yes	1-5	No	NA	No	NA

CONGREGATION POINT PROFILES

37 IDENTIFIED CONGREGATION POINTS

MAP 3: CONGREGATION POINT LOCATIONS

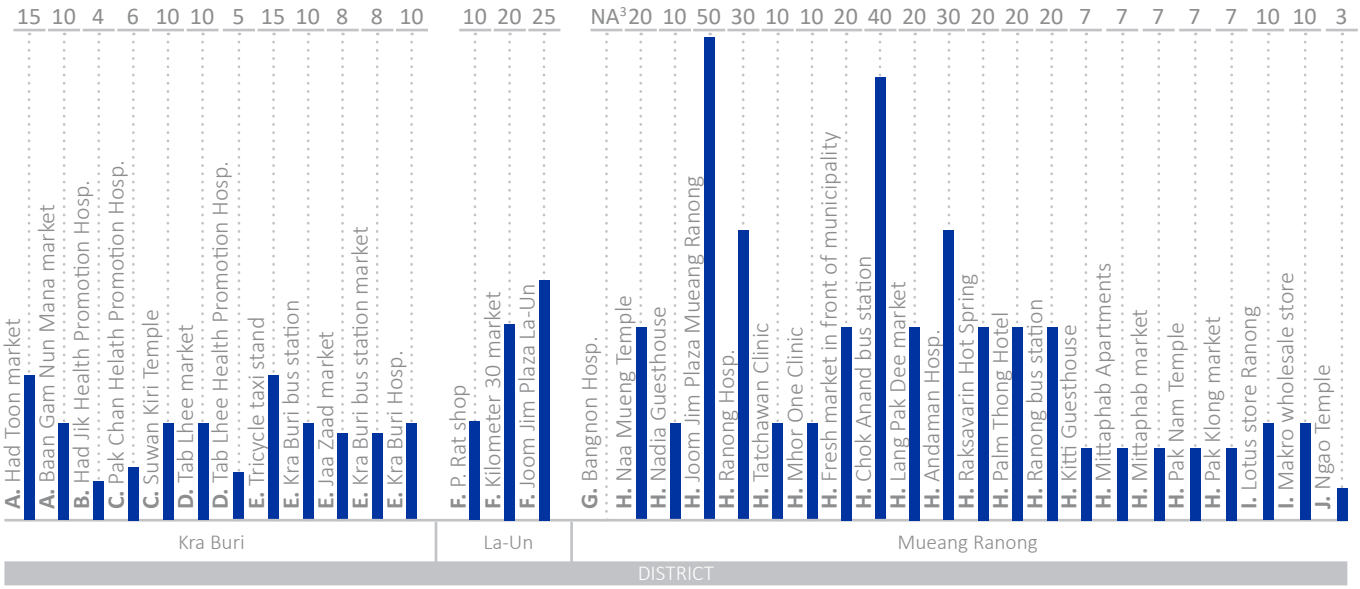


The 37 congregation points identified are located in three districts along Ranong's western border. Mueang Ranong district included the highest number of congregation points identified, with Joom Jim Plaza and Chok Anand bus station in that district receiving the largest volume of daily flows as of July-August 2022. Congregation points in Kra Buri district, on the other hand, experienced lower volumes of daily flows. In La Un, the busiest congregation points were two markets. It should be noted that key informant estimates for flow volumes at congregation points may be higher than estimates at POEs because key informants may not be able to differentiate recent arrivals from long-term residents who also frequent congregation points.

All congregation points were accessible as of July-August 2022 and are located relatively near villages and paved roads. The only exceptions may be Bangnon Temple and Chok Anand bus station which were located 6-10 kilometers from the nearest village, compared to less than five kilometers for all other congregation points. Primary modes of transportation to all congregation points included car, bus, motorcycle, and occasionally bicycle and foot. Congregation points mainly consisted of health facilities and markets, though temples and bus stations were also sites of congregation. Intended destinations included Ranong and other southern Thai provinces. Almost all congregation points included latrines, hand washing facilities, health screening and COVID-19 risk communication information. Four sites included presence of NGO or UN agencies: three in Kra Buri district and one in Mueang Ranong district. At both, activities were health-focused, including COVID-19 information and screening.

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GRAPH 1: CONGREGATION POINTS DAILY FLOW VOLUME ESTIMATES (JUL/AUG 2022)[2]



2 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. Also, among congregation points with flows that fluctuate throughout the week (i.e. weekday versus weekend volumes), the maximum estimated flow is reported in Graph 1.
3 Key informants did not provide estimate.

SUMMARY KEY FINDINGS

1. A total of three POEs and 37 congregation points were identified in Nong Khai. All POEs and all congregation points were accessible during site observation in July-August 2022.

2. POEs in Ranong are still experiencing decreased volumes of flows as of July-August 2022 compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic, most likely due to border points just having just opened in early July 2022 in the province. Political events in Myanmar may also be a factor.

3. Saphan Pla Pier was the highest volume POE prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but is the least equipped in terms of hand washing facilities, health screening and health worker presence.

4. Congregation points throughout Ranong were relatively well-equipped with latrines, hand washing facilities, health screening and COVID-19 risk communication information.

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