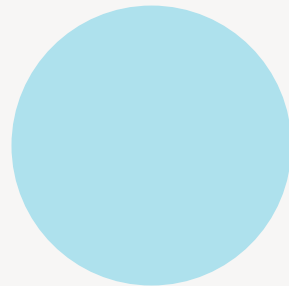
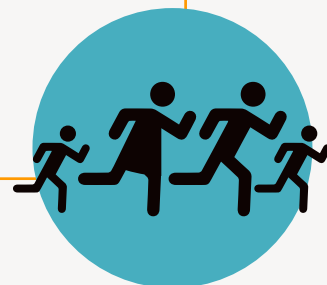
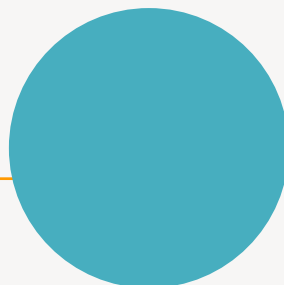
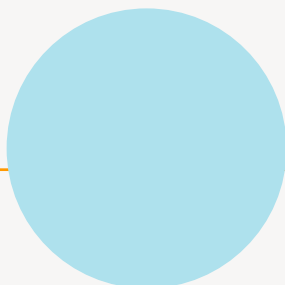


KNOW YOUR OPTIONS:
A booklet for asylum seekers
and refugees in Thailand



KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

A booklet for
asylum seekers
and refugees
in Thailand





About Asylum Access Thailand

Founded in 2007, Asylum Access Thailand (AAT) is a non-governmental organization and forms part of the Asylum Access family. We work to make human rights a reality for refugees. We believe all refugees deserve a fair chance at a new life.

AAT provides legal counsel and representation to refugees seeking asylum in refugee status determination proceedings conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Bangkok. Our clients come from over 40 different nationalities. While the majority are from Pakistan, Vietnam and Cambodia, we also see clients from Somalia, Sri Lanka, China, Afghanistan, Iraq and many other countries. To address the critical need for legal aid in dozens of languages, we train refugees as legal interpreters.

AAT also conducts collaborative community legal empowerment activities to enhance the capacity of refugees. Our activities include the management of Democratic Collective Action groups, Community-Based Social Support, and peer support to increase livelihood opportunities and delivery of Know Your Options training sessions.

AAT works in coalition with other Thai and Southeast Asian organizations, including Coalition for the Rights of Refugees and Stateless Persons (CRSP), Bangkok Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance Network (BASRAN) the Core Urban Refugee Network (CURN) and the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN). Through these partnerships, we collectively advocate for changes in Thai law and policy that will create stronger protections for refugees and asylum seekers throughout the region.

Contact us

Address: 1111/151 Ban Klang Muang, Ladphrao Road, Chankasem, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900

Telephone: +66 2 513 5228

Email: thailand@asylumaccess.org

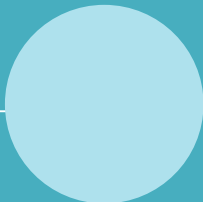


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Disclaimer

This KYO Booklet is produced by AAT. The content of this KYO Booklet does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. It is intended to provide general information in summary form, current at the time of publication. The information in this KYO Booklet is current as of 22 October 2019. Information can change rapidly.

Please check directly with AAT if you have any questions.



Funded by the U.S. Government

1

REFUGEE SITUATION UPDATE

THAILAND

REFUGEE SITUATION UPDATE THAILAND

Thailand is home to approximately 4,300 refugees and 850 asylum seekers who fled armed conflicts and persecution in their home countries. Their countries of origin include Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam Cambodia, Somalia, Palestine, Syria and China.*

Although Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, Thailand has attempt to make a step toward improvement of protection and solutions for refugees and asylum seekers in Thailand. However, regulations and policies are still on-going process and its impacts on refugees and asylum seekers in Thailand remain unclear.

Voluntary Repatriation

Voluntary Repatriation is the process of the return to home based on individual's voluntary basis with the support of **UNHCR** and **IOM** for refugees and asylum seekers who are in their process.



IOM is able to assist closed cases to return home through their Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Program (AVRR). AVRR may take many months. For further information, please contact IOM by following means:
(Tel: +66) 2-343-9300,
email: iomthailand@iom.int



For recognized refugees or asylum seekers in the RSD process, UNHCR should be contacted in relation to voluntary return.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the IOM AVRR programme, may be able to facilitate UNHCR Persons of Concern (both refugees and asylum seekers). If you wish to repatriate or would like to obtain additional information, please contact UNHCR to make an appointment by following means:

UNHCR office number: (+66) 2-288-2330 or (+66) 2-288-2529
(office hours: 08:00 – 16:30)
or email at: THABA@unhcr.org

*Data derived from BASRAN meeting, September 2019

2

IMMIGRATION CONCERNS

IMMIGRATION CONCERNS

A Visa and Law

1. Why are we arrested for violating immigration laws if we are asylum seekers/refugees?

- ▶ Under Thai law, if you enter into Thailand without lawful document or permit and do not enter via immigration check points, you will be considered to have illegally entered into Thailand.
- ▶ If you obtain a visa to Thailand but remain in Thailand after your visa has expired, you are then considered to be an illegal over-stayer and are possibly subjected to detention or deportation. There is no law in Thailand to differentiate refugees from other migrants who overstay their visas because Thailand is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention.



2. What precautions can I take while I am here in Thailand concerning immigration?

- ▶ Under Thai law, you are required to carry photo ID with you wherever you are not at home, including finding an apartment and contacting a landlord.
- ▶ Remember that Thai authorities i.e. police, immigration officers, or soldiers, have the right to ask you for your ID at any time.
- ▶ Make copies of your passport and important documents and keep them in various places and with yourself.



3. How can I renew my visa legally?

- ▶ You are required to leave Thailand to apply for a new tourist or education visa.
- ▶ The process of legally renewing a visa depends on the type of visa you have. You can find further information in English or Thai at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website <http://www.mfa.go.th> or at <http://www.thaiimmigration.net>



4. What are the risks concerning visa in Thailand?

Using an Agent

- ▶ People who claim that they can get you a visa we call them 'agents.' These are often independent travel agencies or people dealing in illegal visas. Remember that:
 - Agent secured visas are almost always stolen or fake;
 - The agent may claim that they did not know the visa was false, leaving you liable to fraud charges.

- ▶ If you receive and attempt to use a fake or stolen visa, it is a criminal offence which carries up to 10 years of imprisonment. You will also be at risk of deportation or detention. Please note that UNHCR cannot help you for criminal proceedings.
- ▶ Agents charge much higher prices for visas than the government.

Having No Visa

- ▶ You are considered *illegal* in Thailand and are at risk of arrest and detention.
- ▶ You cannot move freely without a visa. Your access to basic services, such as housing, is limited.

If you are asked to pay a court fine and cannot afford it at that time:

- ▶ Negotiation of the amount of the fine is common but if it seems non-negotiable, ask if you can call a friend or family or AAT to assist you.
- ▶ You could be put in prison - the confinement time for an unpaid court fine is THB 500 a day.
- ▶ After confinement, you will be transferred to the Immigration Detention Center (IDC).

What will happen if I am arrested, how can I respond and what can I expect?

Show your UNHCR card and call the UNHCR hotline number

- UNHCR may be able to negotiate your release.
- If you are taken to a police station, you will be asked basic information about yourself and charged with not having a visa and / or not having a passport.
- You will be blacklisted by Thai Immigration and not permitted to enter the country for 5 years. For overstay case, you will be blacklisted for 10 years.
- Your case will be brought to the court and you will be asked to pay a court fine.
- When you are arrested, you may also be subjected to immigration detention. In any case, please be cooperative and polite to the authority (not only the police, they could be officer from the Ministry of Interior, or the army).

ARREST AND RAID



What will happen if there is a police raid at my apartment building?

- Apartment raids are usually on a larger scale and many people may be arrested at the same time.
- One person should call the UNHCR hotline and report the address of the building and if possible, how many people are involved and whether they are all refugees and asylum seekers, or a mixed group.
- If the UNHCR officer cannot be reached, you can also call refugee-serving organizations, including AAT.

- ▶ In case of emergency, please contact UNHCR Emergency Protection Hotline by (+66) 81-899-7617 (from 16:30 to 23:00 on weekdays and from 08:30 to 23:00 on weekend).
- ▶ If you cannot reach the UNHCR officers, try to contact another refugee-serving organization like Asylum Access Thailand (AAT).

CONCERNS OVER UNHCR DURABLE SOLUTIONS



My case is closed and I am interested in going back to my country (Voluntary Return).

Who can I contact?

You can contact the following organization for further information about Voluntary Return :

IOM International Organization of Migration*

18th Floor, Rajanakarn Building,
3 South Sathorn Rd, Bangkok
10210

Working hours:

Monday – Friday from 08:00 to 17:00

Contact Number:

(Tel: +66) 2-343-9300

Email:

iomthailand@iom.int

If you are in IDC - please contact the UNHCR officer in IDC.



I am still waiting for resettlement.

- Please note that refugee status does not mean that you will be resettled. Please understand that resettlement is not a right or a guarantee for all refugees. Worldwide, less than 1% of refugees are resettled every year. Resettlement opportunities for urban refugees in Thailand are very limited. Obtaining refugee status does not guarantee resettlement or even consideration for resettlement. Being considered does not necessarily result in being resettled.

UNHCR will contact you if you are being considered for resettlement.

- If your case has been submitted for a resettlement through UNHCR, the decision to accept or reject the case is made by a resettlement country in which your case was submitted to.



Does UNHCR facilitate private sponsorship?

- UNHCR, BRC, AAT and JRS have no direct role in private sponsorship offered by different governments around the world. It depends on immigration law of each country.
- Please submit your sponsorship application with a copy of UNHCR card to the corresponding embassy or immigration authority directly, with a request that the immigration authority contact UNHCR to verify the status of the sponsored refugee.



My RSD case with UNHCR is still active/open and I want to return to my country.

who can I contact?

Please note that Voluntary Repatriation through UNHCR is for active CASES only.

Please contact UNHCR for further details:

UNHCR Office Number: (+66) 2-288-2230 and (+66) 2-288-2529 (during office hours).

Email: THABA@unhcr.org



I have arranged private sponsorship or resettlement and just need a UNHCR recognized refugee card – can UNHCR issue one?

- You will still need to contact and go through the UNHCR process of refugee status determination (RSD).
- All UNHCR Persons of Concern will receive the card upon registration and throughout the process. The card will not be extended and will be required to be returned when the case is no longer active.

B

Immigration Detention Center (IDC)



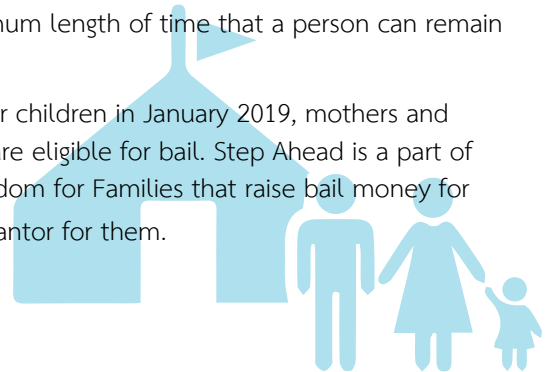
1. How will UNHCR process my case if I am in IDC?

- ▶ UNHCR will continue to process your case even if you are in IDC. Please make sure that a UNHCR officer is notified you are there.

2. How many options are there for me to get released from IDC and what are the criteria?

- ▶ IDC is operated by the government of Thailand. UNHCR has no influence over how IDC is controlled. In the past, UNHCR has negotiated the release of Persons of Concern that are particularly vulnerable, e.g. mothers with children or people with serious illnesses.
- ▶ The Immigration Act, B.E. 2522 (1979), does not set a maximum length of time that a person can remain in detention awaiting deportation.
- ▶ After Thai Government signed MoU to end the detention for children in January 2019, mothers and children who are Persons of Concerns but detained in IDC are eligible for bail. Step Ahead is a part of a collaborative project with other organizations called Freedom for Families that raise bail money for mothers/primary care providers in the IDC, and acts as guarantor for them.

Contact numbers: (+66) 89-106-0223 or (+66) 96-405-4749
Email: stepaheadfostercare@gmail.com



3. What is the bail policy and how do I access it?

- ▶ Following the signing of the MoU on end of the detention for children, children and their mothers (PoCs) are eligible for bail, please see more details above.



4. Medical services in IDC

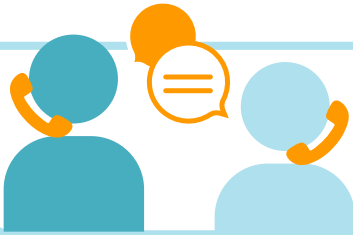
- ▶ Immigration Bureau is responsible for medical care in IDC. There are two clinics in IDC. One is operated by the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and another is operated by Jesuit Foundation. Detainees are advised to reach out to the IDC clinics for medical care.

UNHCR cannot provide medical care in IDC. However, UNHCR is able to share the medical history, with your consent, to IDC clinic for further medical care and follow-up with IDC clinics, when it's necessary including for those with life-threatening condition.

Dental care is not available.

5. Psychosocial counselling in IDC

- ▶ For the UNHCR PoCs detained in IDC who require psychosocial support/attention, please request to UNHCR. UNHCR staff will reach out for the support for psychological assessment and psychological/psychosocial counselling.
- ▶ BRC will provide psychosocial service in IDC when requested by UNHCR (both organizations work together to deliver the service).



6. How can I contact my family or friends who are living outside?

- ▶ IDC authorities normally allow detainees to use the telephone booth in IDC once or twice a week but detainees are responsible for the cost.

7. Is there any school for my children in IDC?

- ▶ It is impossible for children to access formal education while they are detained in IDC. However, Thailand has signed MoU on Alternative to detention for children in January 2019 to end children (immigration) detention.



8. I need someone to visit me in IDC.

- ▶ Any foreigner with a valid visa or Thai with valid legal document is welcome to visit IDC during the visiting hours from Monday to Friday except holidays (08.00-11:30 am).

9. How can I have legal advice while being a detainee?

- ▶ When you have time to use the landline call service in IDC, you are welcome to call AAT. One of the lawyers will speak to you directly. It is best to call on a Tuesday if you require an interpreter.



10. I want to register with UNHCR, but I am in IDC.

- ▶ Please submit request letter to UNHCR in writing. UNHCR will get back to each individual for further process.



11. I got my first RSD rejection while in IDC. What do I do next?

- ▶ You have **30 days** to submit an appeal to the UNHCR.
- ▶ You can call AAT and ask us to visit you in IDC and then assess your case for representation - AAT lawyers are allowed to come into IDC to represent clients both at first instance and on appeal. For appeals, it is very important that we get a copy of the UNHCR rejection letter as soon as possible after you receive it.

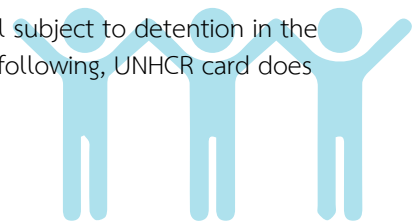


12. UNHCR has closed my case while I am in IDC.

- ▶ Voluntary Repatriation - See the section on Voluntary Repatriation and contact the IOM.
- ▶ Call the lawyers at AAT and they can advise you on your options, including a legal evaluation of the likelihood of having your case reopened and how to proceed with the attempt if that is your wish.
- ▶ Deportation - the costs of deportation are to be covered by the person being deported. Even though detainees in IDC have already paid the fine, they will have to pay for airfare and administrative costs.

13. UNHCR has recognized me as a refugee and I am in IDC.

- ▶ Unfortunately, even though you are a recognized refugee, you are still subject to detention in the IDC because Thailand does not sign the 1951 Refugee Convention. In following, UNHCR card does not allow you to reside in Thailand legally.



3

PROTECTION and SAFETY

PROTECTION AND SAFETY



What do you do if you have a threat or risk of harm in your apartment building or in your community or Thai community?

1. For emergency, please call UNHCR as soon as possible if you foresee immediate risks/threats.

UNHCR also has protection counselling on every Tuesday at BRC from 09.00 – 16.30 for 20 cases per day on appointment basis. You are advised to register your appointment with BRC in person with valid UNHCR card. UNHCR will be able to assess your situation and refer as needed.

Any protection issues include security, arrest/detention, legal concerns, child protection, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) including domestic violence, financial, education, birth/death certificate, community persecution (e.g. forced marriage, persecution due to sexual orientation) and other related matters.

UNHCR will not provide counselling on RSD and RST related issue.



2. What do I do if my landlord says I have to leave my apartment or if I need to leave for other reasons and have nowhere to go?

- In case of an emergency, you can contact UNHCR which may be able to coordinate for further assistance. If you are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to your financial situation, the UNHCR is unable to assist with housing. In this situation you will be advised to contact family / friends / local church, mosque or temple to ask if they can offer any support.
- You can also contact JRS on walk-in days: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-15:30. JRS has association with three emergency housing “shelters” in accordance with JRS criteria and shelter availability.

Please contact via email: urp.caseworker@jrs.or.th and cc: urp.pd@jrs.or.th or call on Tel: (+66) 084-427-4136.
- An Emergency Home run by Association for the Promotion of the status of Women (APSW) - For vulnerable women and children: They have an Emergency Home in Don Muang area of Bangkok.
Please contact 086-899-0660 or contact AAT for a referral since they prefer Thai speaking.



IMPORTANT: If you see any woman or child who is at risk of homelessness, some local service providers might be able to help, and AAT and some NGOs might be able to assist with a referral. Please do let us know, or ask the child/teenager to contact AAT themselves.

3.



What will happen to me if I am charged with a crime?



Crime in Thailand refers to an action or activity that is against criminal law, e.g. murder, robbery, theft. If you are charged with a crime that is NOT ONLY based on your immigration status as an asylum seeker/refugee who does not have a valid visa (e.g. having a forged passport or other illegal activity):

- You will be subjected to a court hearing/ police investigation and due process.
- You may be imprisoned as a result. UNHCR has the prison monitoring visit.

4.

I am a victim of domestic violence. What can I do?



You can talk to UNHCR and BRC or report to AAT (who can help you report to UNHCR). The assessment is conducted and referred to relevant departments due to SGBV, physical harm, legal arguments, etc.

There are four responsive mechanisms provided to SGBV survivor:

- Medical assistance: In addition to police hospital, you can contact BRC medical unit to be referred for other public hospitals based on your preference and convenience.
- Emergency shelter: Upon request, you will be placed in an emergency shelter which can be a private or government facility.
- Psychological service: You can request for psychological counselling or psychological treatment in order to support your recovery from traumatic experience. The counselling is offered at BRC or JRS.
- Legal assistance: If you wish to press a charge against the perpetrator, a protection staff from UNHCR or your legal representative can provide you counselling on positive/negative consequences of your decision. If you insist to press a charge, UNHCR will facilitate by calling the authority in charge to waive your immigration charge during your process.

5.

I am a survivor of sexual/gender-based abuse/violence. Where can I report this and have the forensic exam/test (“PEP Kit”)?

- You can call UNHCR, AAT, BRC, JRS or other service providers to arrange to report to the police and have a medical examination. It is important that you do this as soon as possible and at the latest within 72 hours of the SGBV incident.

- The Police General Hospital provides FREE medical examinations for SGBV survivors if you have a notification (police report) issued by the police. If you do not have a notification/report, the cost is 2,000 - 3,000 THB.
- However, the police report is not mandatory for SGBV survivor. Instead, it is a right. The survivor caretaker will be counselled on Pros and Cons for filing the police report. So, the survivor or the caretaker can make informed decision.



6. I am a woman and I feel a threat in my neighborhood. What can I do?

- Reach out to the UNHCR and BRC.
- Approach your community leader or someone you trust and alert them to your situation.

7. Is there any assistance for children who have come to Thailand on their own without an adult ?

- UNHCR is directly involved in case management for children who have come to Thailand without an adult or unaccompanied minor (UAM). If you are UAM, you can inform UNHCR registration staff upon your registration interview in order to be referred to UNHCR child protection focal point who will assess your situation and refer you to suitable services.
- JRS provides services like counselling, psychosocial, vocational training, etc for children who live on their own and not living with their parents.
- BRC provides unaccompanied children with the same services with refugee children in general. These services include education services such as intensive Thai language classes and facilitation of enrollment of refugee children in Thai public schools.



4

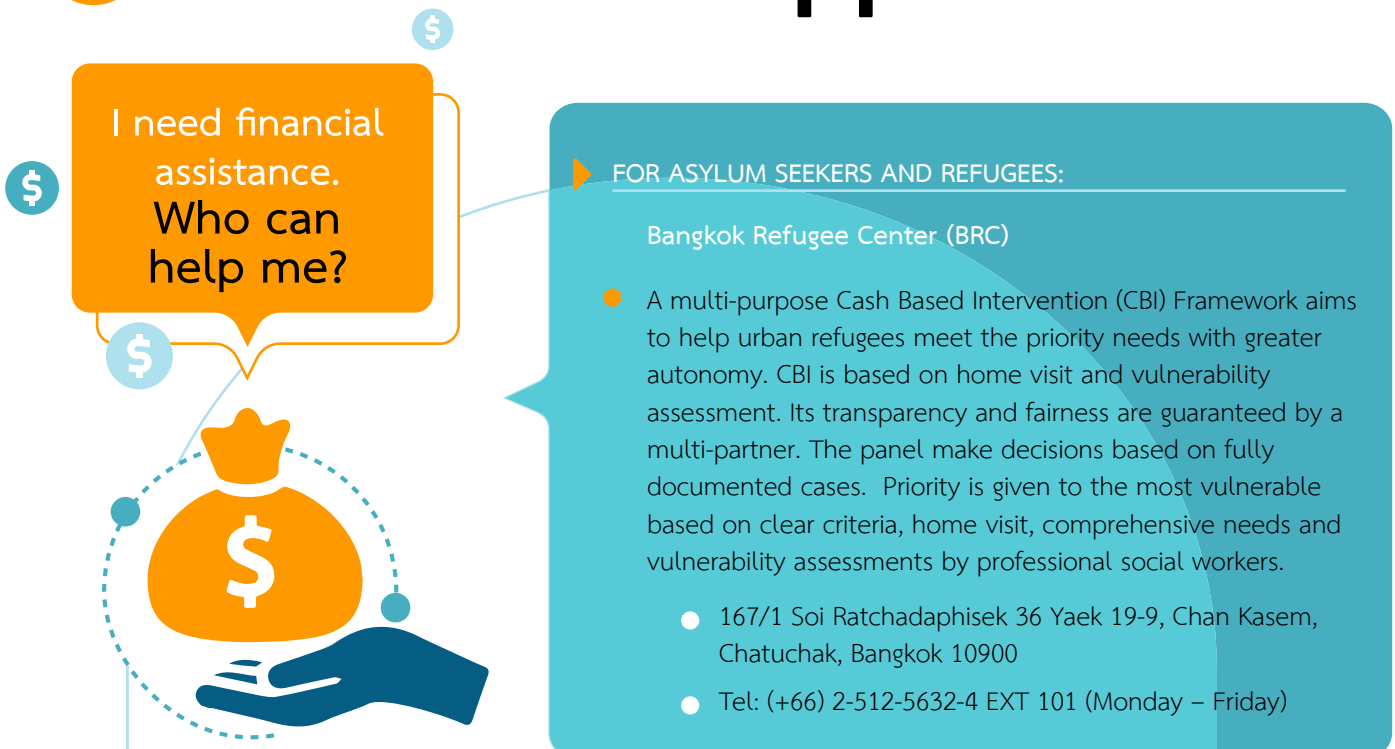
FAMILY and LIVELIHOOD

FAMILY and LIVELIHOOD

A Housing



B Financial Support



UNHCR

- UNHCR and COERR-BRC is an implementing partner on social services.
- UNHCR and COERR-BRC provides financial support for refugees in IDC and outside IDC through CBI (cash-based intervention) framework. The support is not automatic and will be considered on case-by-case basis.
- Please seek further advice for the CBI process at CBI information.



FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS:

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Urban Refugee Program (JRS-URP)

- Those in need of help may approach on walk-in days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 9:00 - 15:30. Financial support will be provided to those who meet URP criteria.

Contact number: (+66) 84-427-4136

Email: urp.caseworker@jrs.or.th and cc: urp.pd@jrs.or.th

43 Phahonyothin Road, Soi Rachawithi 12, Victory Monument, Phayathai.

Livelihood

1

Are there any organizations that increase / promote livelihood opportunities for asylum seekers and refugees?

HOST International and AAT run projects including CHAMALiIN to promote livelihood of female refugees. For more information, please contact AAT and HOST International.

2

What are the risks of working without a work permit?

All Foreigners (non-Thai citizens) must obtain a working visa and a work permit to be officially hired.

If you do work without permission, then there is a risk to be caught, be detained in IDC, asked to pay the fine and be deported. There is also the risk of being subject to a criminal charge.

3

Is there any assistance if I am disabled and cannot work?

Bangkok Refugee Centers (BRC) runs a multiple-purpose Cash Based Intervention (CBI) project to help refugees. CBI is based on home visit and vulnerability assessment. Please contact BRC for further information.

If you are asylum seekers, please contact JRS for more details.

D Health and Wellness



1

What do I do if I fall sick?



You can reach UNHCR with the assistance of Bangkok Refugee Center based on a case-by-case basis.
Bangkok Refugee Center (BRC) can provide you:

- A list of government hospitals and public health centers in your area as well as information on the financial support for the life threatening cases
- Information on vaccination
- Advice on family planning and birth control
- Provide you an interpreter at the Rajavithi Hospital but one day or more advance notice is required
- Information and counselling on medical prescriptions assistance
- Psychosocial assessment
- Hygiene promotion
- Access to national and other available services.

Commonly reimbursable care includes:

- Life threatening treatment
- Emergency/accidental care (only in life threatening condition)
- Medical care for pregnancy and new-borns (only the first pregnancy in Thailand)
- Immunization as per national guidelines at public health center
- Access to prevention, testing and care for HIV/AIDS, SGBV, TB and STI cases and some chronic conditions.

Please contact BRC for more information. In case of medical reimbursement, medical report is required.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MEDICAL SUPPORT FROM BRC

- BRC wants you to inform them first BEFORE the hospital visit
- Please call BRC on (+66) 2 512 5632-4 EXT 108 during office hours
- For emergencies after office hours, contact their hotline on 08 6010 4117 which operates every day from 07:00–23:00 to provide guidance on emergency situation (interpretation service is only available from 09:00-16:00 on weekdays).

Alternatively, you can also visit the Tzu Chi Foundation and Suksala Nanak Clinic.

The Tzu Chi Foundation has a free clinic operates once a month from 09.00-15.00 in front of Suan Luang Ror Kao (Suan Luang Rama IX). For more information, please visit Tzu Chi website <https://tzuchithailand.org/th> or call +66 2 328 1161. The treatments provided include:

- General medicine, child vaccinations for under 5 years old
- Dental treatment for under 18 years old (upto 2-3 times per year)
- Free shuttle buses from Udomsuk BTS (sky train station) but subject to availability
- Free medication for refugees with active cases once a month
- Blood and basic lab testing
- Psychology clinic
- Acupuncture care

Suksala Nanak Clinic

Tel: (+66) 2-224-8093

35, 37 Chakphet Road, Wang Burapha Phirom, Khet Phra Nakhon, Bangkok 10200



- A female doctor who speaks English, Thai and Hindi
- Operated by Sikh Community
- No doctor fee but pay (max 200THB) for medicines

By yourself

- Many pharmacies have English speaking pharmacists and can help you with over-the-counter drugs, even with antibiotics.
- Be aware that Thai brand names are cheaper than foreign ones
- Government hospitals and public health centers are substantially cheaper than private ones

What if I have an accident?

2



- Please contact BRC as soon as possible. Reimbursable treatment for emergency/accidental care is when in life threatening condition only. Medical report is required.

Where can I access mental health services?

3



- You can reach out to BRC medical unit for further referral.
- If you or anyone needs psychosocial/psychological support and coping with stress, please go to JRS-URP on Monday or Tuesday or Thursday.

Who can assist me if I am pregnant?

4



- Please contact BRC if you are pregnant and need assistance. Please note that BRC will cover antenatal care cost (limited to 5 times) and child delivery for mothers who have the first pregnancy in Thailand only.
- BRC provides counselling, information and assistance on family planning issues.

I am not yet registered with UNHCR or my case with UNHCR was closed and I can no longer access BRC medical services and funds.

5

- Try to find the public health center closest to you and remember that in Thailand, many drugs are available at pharmacies. Thai made drugs are much cheaper than imported drugs.
- If you are pending registration with UNHCR or your case is closed, please contact BRC through medical hotline number to inquire about public health centers and/or hospitals in your area as mentioned above. Some provide medical care for 50 THB. You will also have to pay for the medications. Tzu Chi Clinic is another possibility for non-emergency illnesses.

**Where can I get a FREE tuberculosis screening test?**

6



- For TB and HIV/AIDS, BRC will cover for screening and treatment as recommended by doctors please contact Health and Referral Services unit for more information every day during working hours.

E Family



1. Who can assist if I would like to find a missing family member?

The ICRC, National Red Cross, and Red Crescent Societies, work together around the world to locate people and put them back into contact with their families. You can contact AAT to put you in contact with them.



You can also contact the organizations directly:

The Thai Red Cross Society

- (+66) 2-256-4032-6 or 1644, Email: webmaster@redcross.or.th
- Thai Red Cross Society, International Relations Department, Administration Bureau, Terd Prakit Building 1871, Henry Dunant Road, Bangkok 10330

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

- Tel : (+66) 2-262-1680, Email: ban_prot@icrc.org
- International Committee of the Red Cross, Regional Delegation, 191/6-8 CTI Tower, 30th Floor, Ratchadapisek Road, Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110, THAILAND

2. How do I deal with family member's death in Thailand?

For those with active case, you can contact UNHCR or AAT for further assistance and advice on how to get a death certificate. BRC provides funeral support for refugees with active case under CBI framework please contact: (+66) 2-512-5632-4 EXT 101.

5

EDUCATION

A Children's Education

I want to enroll my children in Thai public school.

1

Thailand has an education policy, known as “Education for all”, which promotes access to education for all children living in Thailand. UNHCR (through its Partner COERR) is providing Thai intensive classes at the Good Shepherd Sisters School (GSS) – aiming at children aged 6-17. The classes are held from Monday to Friday (except Wednesday) between 10:00 – 15:00 with one-hour lunch break.



BRC also facilitates the admission of children to Thai public schools and private as well as officially recognized international schools at both primary and secondary levels. Assistance will be in line with Eligibility and Standard of Assistance for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Apart from that, BRC also provides counselling and orientation for parents and students.

For registration and more information, please contact the BRC education unit at (+66) 2-512-5632-4 EXT 308 or 309.

Will my children get a certificate after graduation?

2



No, there is no official document after graduation at the moment for the Thai intensive programme.

However, those studying in the Thai public schools (accredited by the Ministry of Education) will receive the official certificate upon graduation.



3

What should I do if I want my kids to improve their English skills?

There are some NGOs or other types of organizations which provide English courses.

B Informal Education



Are there alternative ways of educating my children?

There are a number of organizations aiming to support educational and vocational education for asylum seekers and refugees. You can find the lists below:

Courageous Kitchen

- Please contact the organization in advance about availability.
- Target groups: Classes for children (ages 3 to 6) 10:00 - 12:00 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- Classes for teenagers (ages 11 to 17) every Saturday 10:00 - 15:00
- Any refugee families living in Saphan Mai are welcome to join.
- Contact details: Saphan Mai area, <http://courageouskitchen.org>

Good Shepherd Sisters Language School

- Target groups: children from kindergarten age – 17 years old and adults
- Children can study Thai language, English language, social studies and mathematics.
- Contact details: (+66) 2-245-0457, info@goodshepherdbangkok.com, 4128/1 Din Daeng Road, Bangkok
- www.goodshepherdbangkok.com
- Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 09:00-16:00

Friendship Bridge (Bangjak Baptist Church)

- Friendship Bridge English Center is a positive place to learn English for FREE.
- Classes are held weekly on Fridays and Saturdays from 18:00-19:30, and on Sundays from 10:00-11:00.
- Lessons also include learning about the Bible.
- Contact details: (+66) 2-746-1502, Email: bjbangkok@gmail.com, Sukhumvit 101/1 Rd, Khwaeng Bang Chak, Khet Phra Khanong, Bangkok 10260
- www.facebook.com/pages/Bangjak-Batist-Church/3809579219 58712

C Adult Education



I want to learn English, where can I go to learn English for free?

Bangkok Refugee Center

- Contact details: 167/1 Soi Ratchadaphisek 36 Yaek 19-9, Chan Kasem, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900
- Tel (+66) 2-512-5632-4 EXT 108

Christ Church Creative Life Foundation

- Contact details: 170/23 Soi Phra Phinit, Suan Phlu, Thung Maha Mek, Sathon Bangkok Thailand 10120
- Tel (+66) 2-679-3180
- www.creativelifefoundation.com
- www.facebook.com/creativelifefoundation/

What are my online options for higher education/university or others?



Future Learn (www.futurelearn.com)

- Hundreds of FREE online courses from top universities and specialist organizations.



open2study (www.open2study.com)

- www.open2study.com - is an online platform which offers a range of different courses.
- Courses are not all free, please check when you enroll.
- You will receive a free Certificate of Achievement which can be added to your CV.
- These courses cannot be counted toward a degree.

University of the People (UoPeople) (www.uopeople.edu)

- University of the People is the first non-profit, tuition-free, accredited online university. Dedicated to opening access to higher education globally, UoPeople is designed to help qualified high school graduates overcome financial, geographic, political, and personal constraints keeping them from collegiate studies.
- To be eligible for admission to an Associate or Bachelor's degree at UoPeople, applicants must be at least 18 years of age, must hold a high school diploma and must prove English language proficiency (with TOEFL/IELTS etc.).
- To be admitted to UoPeople's MBA program, applicants must be English proficient, have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, must have a minimum of two years of full-time work experience, and must provide a letter of recommendation.



edX (www.edx.org)

- This is an online resource in English which offers a number of courses for free.
- However, you will need a bank account or a credit card to enroll in a paid course or to receive a certificate.

Kiron Online (<https://kiron.ngo>)

- Kiron is a non-profit organization that wants to help refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers access higher education for free (Courses usually take 3 years).
- Kiron is for free, but only for refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers.
- Kiron aims to transfer its students to partner universities among the country of the student's location. If you are in a country in which Kiron does not have a partner university yet, you can still apply to one of our partner universities to complete your degree.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON KIRON

- Kiron is a learning opportunity, but not a university - Kiron does not provide direct access to university or degrees.
- Kiron is not an official university, but are a service provider that helps you start your studies with online courses.
- Kiron does not offer Masters courses.
- Enrollment as a student at Kiron does not provide you with any legal status as a student in any country.

Coursera (<https://refugees.coursera.org>)

- Coursera provides universal access to their partnering top universities and organizations that offer courses online.
- A new programme sponsored by the US government will waive course fees for refugees.
- If you get financial aid in a specific course, it will only apply to that course. You will be able to access all of the course content and complete all work required to earn a course certificate.
- You can take your English communication skills to the next level at Coursera before you apply to any of the free online degree programs available!
- Refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR can contact BRC if they wish to register. There are many types of courses available in many languages.



D Vocational/Skills Training

Is there an organization that runs a skill training program for asylum seekers and refugees and what types of training do they do?



Skill-building Activity Scholarship (SAS) from Good Shepherd Sisters

- Offers English, Thai and vocational skills at Good Shepherd School (five days/week).
- Participants are required to express his/her motivation why s/he wishes to participate in the program.
- Participants will be provided with assistance for basic housing and food needs on a monthly basis, conditional upon their attendance.

Good Shepherd Sisters

- A course of marketable skills, Thai language, hairdressing, dressmaking for adults
- Contact details: (+66) 2-245-0457, Email: shepherd@cscoms.com, 4128/1 Din Daeng Road, Bangkok

Courageous Kitchen

- Provide cooking lessons, distribute food, and small financial assistance.
- Contact details: Saphan Mai area, Sukhumvit 101/1 <http://courageouskitchen.org/>

HOST and AAT- CHAMALiIn Project

- CHAMALiIn creates space and provides women with materials for producing handicrafts that reflect their cultural identities. This project seeks to economically and socially empower women by developing their skills, promoting livelihood preparedness and access to income generating opportunities so that they can become self-reliant. For further information, please contact HOST International and AAT.



6 DO's and DON'Ts in Thailand

DO's and DON'Ts in Thailand

DO

DO Dress modestly at temples or monuments.

DO Follow Thai laws for behavior in public, to avoid any excuse for the police to stop you. In Thailand you can be stopped and fined for:

- J-walking
- Littering
- Smoking in public areas including government office, temple, bus stop, restaurant, park, etc.

DO Make your best effort in taking care of your health and hygiene. Dress and live clean and tidy.

DO Maintain good relationship with Thai neighbors and community. (e.g. by being helpful and generous) Respect their culture and norm. Having good neighbors could give you useful information.

DO Feet low/Head high – In Thailand your head is considered high and holy and your feet are considered low and dirty. It is considered very rude to raise your feet above someone else's head (especially if they are older than you). Pointing at or touching something with the feet is also considered rude. Remember to remove your shoes when entering home of Thais or a sacred area.

DO Respect the King and the Royal family – Thai people show great respect for their King and royal family and you should always show respect for them as a visitor to Thailand. Lese Majeste Law - Thai Criminal Code elaborates in Article 112: "Whoever defames, insults or threatens the King, Queen, the Heir-apparent or the Regent, shall be punished with imprisonment of three to fifteen years."

DO Make a plan for all situations including a back-up plan and another back-up plan of the back-up plan.

DON'T

DON'T Get angry and shout in public or initiate confrontation – Thai people generally speak softly and avoid confrontation at all costs. Please do not shout or raise your voice.

DON'T Drink alcohol. This has been a key factor leading to public nuisance.

DON'T Step over someone's legs or feet – In Thailand it is considered to be very rude and impolite to step over someone's outstretched legs or feet. You should walk around the end of their feet.

DON'T Point: Pointing at someone is considered rude in many cultures but particularly so in Thailand. If you must indicate a person, do so by lifting your chin in their direction. When motioning for someone to come over, don't use fingers pointed upward; make a patting motion with your fingers straight and palm toward the ground. For inanimate objects and animals, it's more polite to point with your entire hand rather than a single finger.

DON'T Try to travel in large groups and do not gather in noisy groups outside your apartment building.

DON'T Share your RSD status with anybody. Keep it strictly confidential to yourselves.

DON'T Kiss or Show a lot of affection in public.

DO's and DON'Ts in Thailand

DO

DO Learn Thai language and eat local Thai food (Thai food is usually cheaper and your life will usually be slightly easier if you have the language skills).

DO Carry your UNHCR card with you or another photo ID at all times.

DON'T

DON'T Play loud music/sing late at night in your residence. Immigration raids are often result of complaints from neighbors. As such, it is crucial for PoCs to maintain good relationship with their neighbors and avoid any loud activities at night. Additionally, landlord may contact law enforcement authorities in the event of overcrowded rooms. Please abide by the rules of the landlords.

DON'T use social media or any online platform for fraud or defamation because you can be charged of violating the Computer Crime Act 2017.



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