

# 2025 Child Rights Analysis in Mae Sot: Snapshot and Key Insights

## Five Years After Myanmar's Coup, Displaced Children Are Still Not Safe

The 2025 Child Rights Situation Analysis identifies a worsening trend of violence against displaced children, driven by policy and legal frameworks that fail to adequately protect children in migration contexts. Ongoing violence in Myanmar since 2021 has led to the forced displacement of large numbers of children, exposing them to heightened risks of rights violations and exploitation. Despite legal developments to promote children's rights in Thailand, significant gaps in implementation persist, leaving migrant and displaced children inadequately protected and failing to meet the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### Key findings



#### Protection

- **Children are reluctant to report violations** due to perpetrators' proximity, fear of deportation linked to undocumented status, and child-unfriendly justice processes.
- **Ineffective coordination** and the lack of systematic referral mechanisms among government agencies delay and disrupt assistance for children



#### Education

- **Security-driven policies** are often used to restrict the rights of **children on the move**, limiting the mobility of undocumented children and preventing their participation in capacity-building activities.
- **Access to higher education and desired employment** remains **limited** due to the lack of official accreditation of MLCs and curricula, as well as resource constraints, including shortages of Thai teachers



#### Legal identity

- **Most unaccompanied and separated children** lack **legal documentation** due to the absence of Myanmar smart ID cards, preventing entry through regular migration channels and leaving them and their families living in fear of arrest and deportation



#### Health

- **Shortages of mental health professionals and services** prevent many children in need of psychosocial support and care from fully accessing appropriate services
- **Fragmented health information systems** hinder continuity of medical records and vaccination tracking, and limit timely disease surveillance and outbreak control



## Policy Recommendations

- 1. Develop a Children on the Move Strategy** to strengthen the rights of displaced children, reduce exploitation, and address structural challenges by integrating technology with locally available resources in line with on-the-ground realities
- 2. Develop a rights-based and secure data system** for the protection of displaced children, linking education, health, and social services, and establish a central task force to systematically identify, screen, and register migrant children to enable effective service planning
- 3. Establish child reception centers for displaced children** in the event of influx, providing crisis screening and assistance through a one-stop service model. The centers should operate through inter-agency coordination to reduce duplication and avoid shifting responsibility to any single authority, and be staffed by multidisciplinary teams, including psychologists, legal advisors, and interpreters
- 4. Reform laws and regulations by** reviewing and amending legal provisions, administrative practices, and Cabinet resolutions that hinder undocumented or stateless children's access to basic education and health services, and increase budget allocations and staffing in relevant agencies to support proactive and comprehensive responses to complex needs



Linking child rights protection to legal immigration status constitutes a major barrier to effective child protection and excludes many displaced children from protection systems based on international child rights principles.