



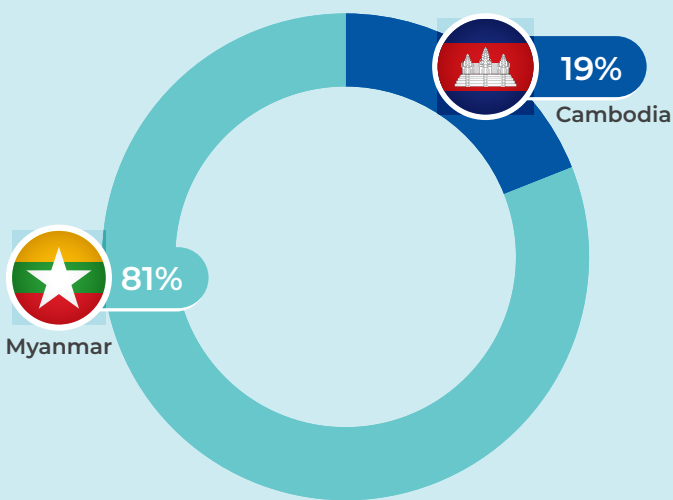
INFOSHEET:

The impacts of the Thai Government's Migrant Worker Amnesty Program and Forced Labor Risk

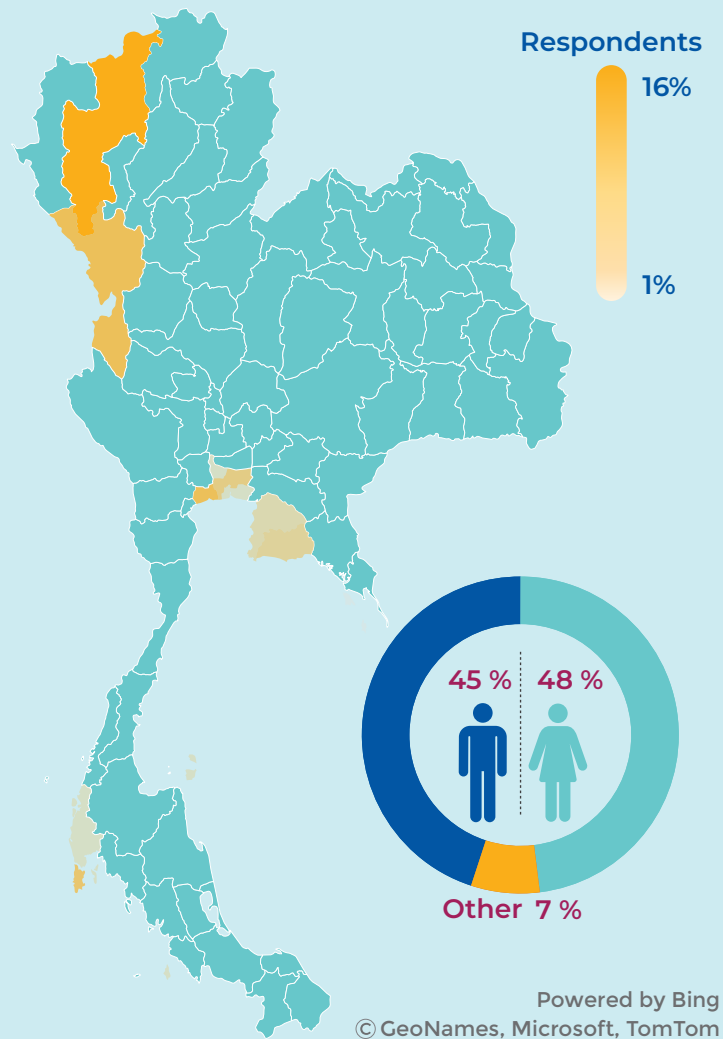
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Total Respondents: 195 migrant workers
 Data collection period: 30 March – 31 August 2021

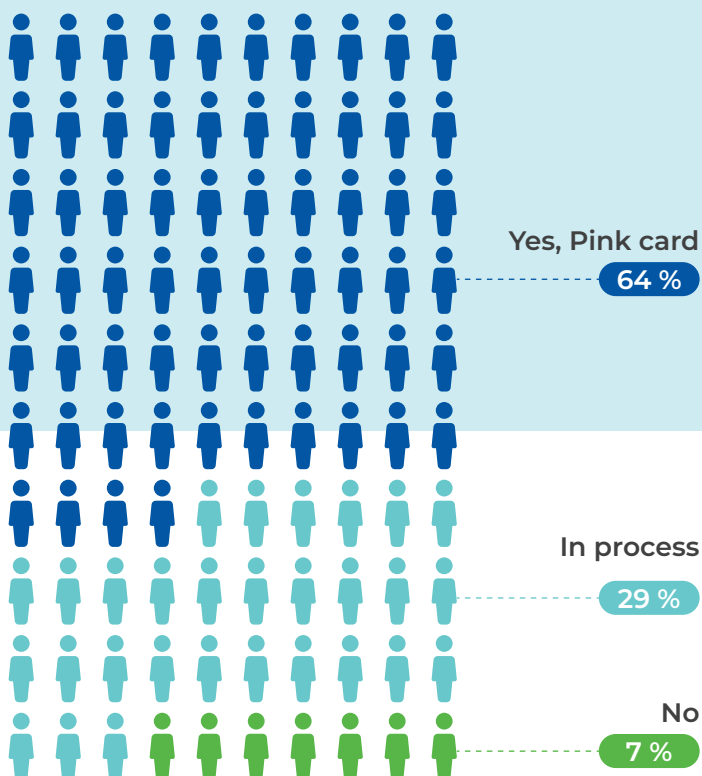
■ **Figure 1: Country origin of respondents**



■ **Figure 2: Provinces where respondents live**



■ **Figure 3: Do you have work permit? (in 2021)**

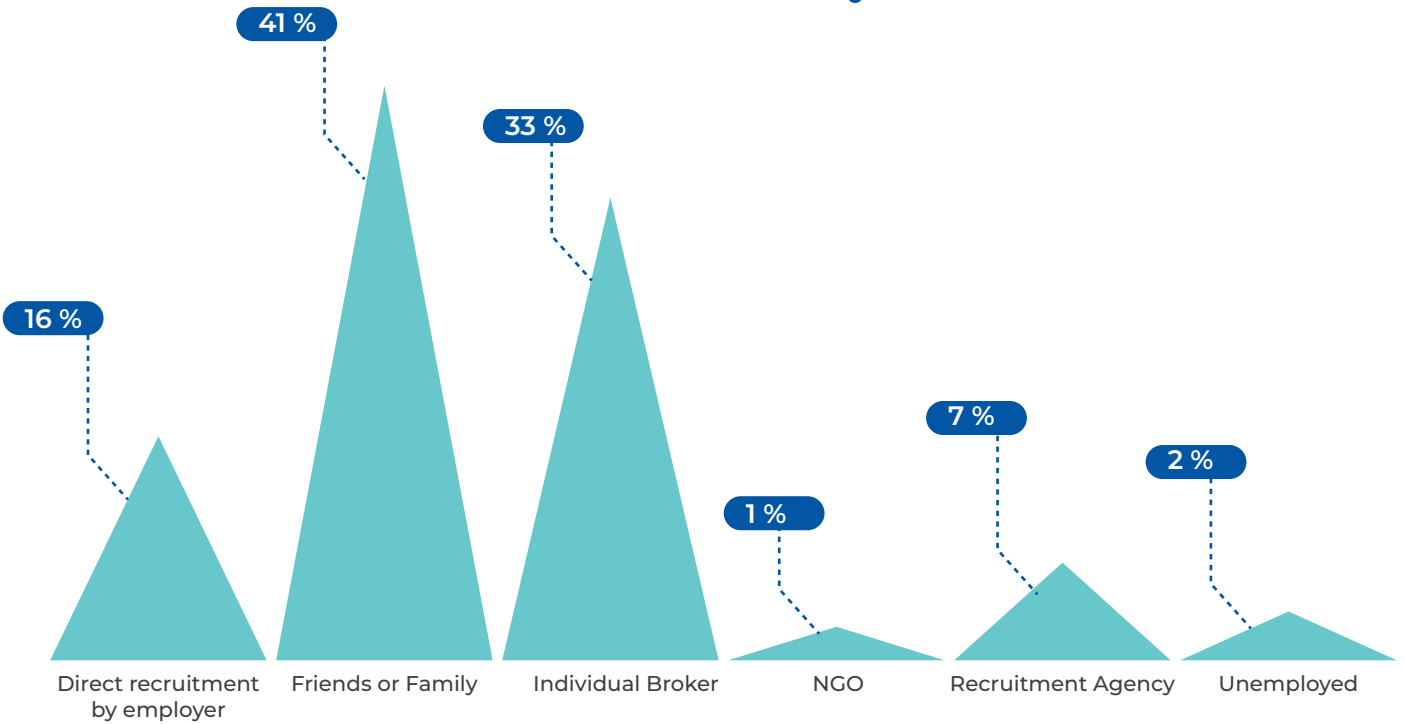


“A median debt of **8,000-12,000 Baht (\$242-364 USD)** was incurred by

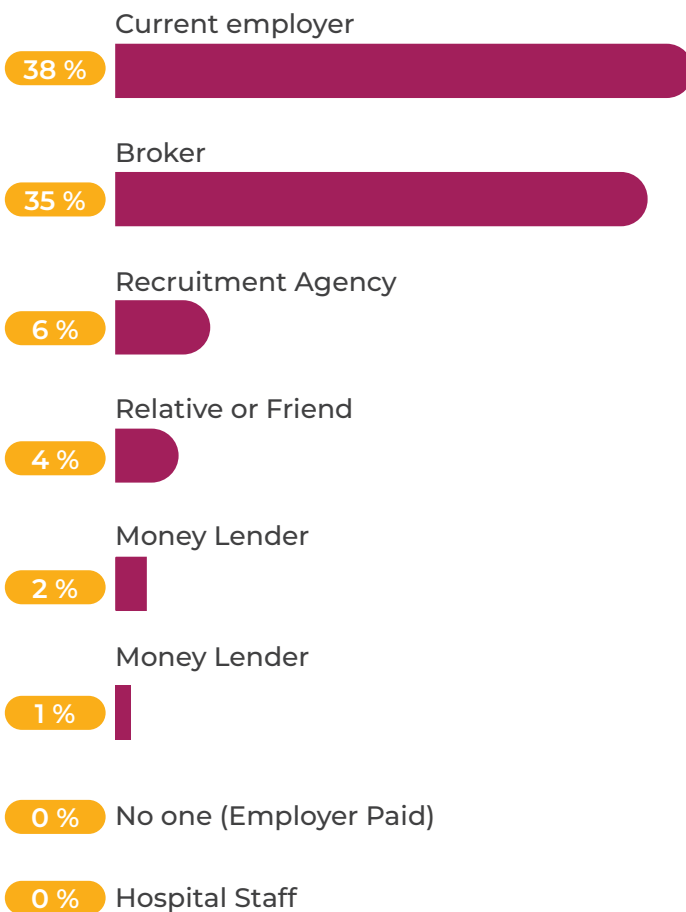
79% of migrant workers to pay registration fees.

73% of migrant workers owed their employers to register.”

■ **Figure 4: Recruitment methods (by percentage)**



■ **Figure 5: Overcharged cases according to the persons paid for registration (by percentage)**



“**79%** of migrant workers were overcharged in completing the registration process, having to pay **more than 10,000 Baht (\$303 USD)**, instead of 8,480-8,680 Baht (\$257-263 USD), as prescribed by the government.

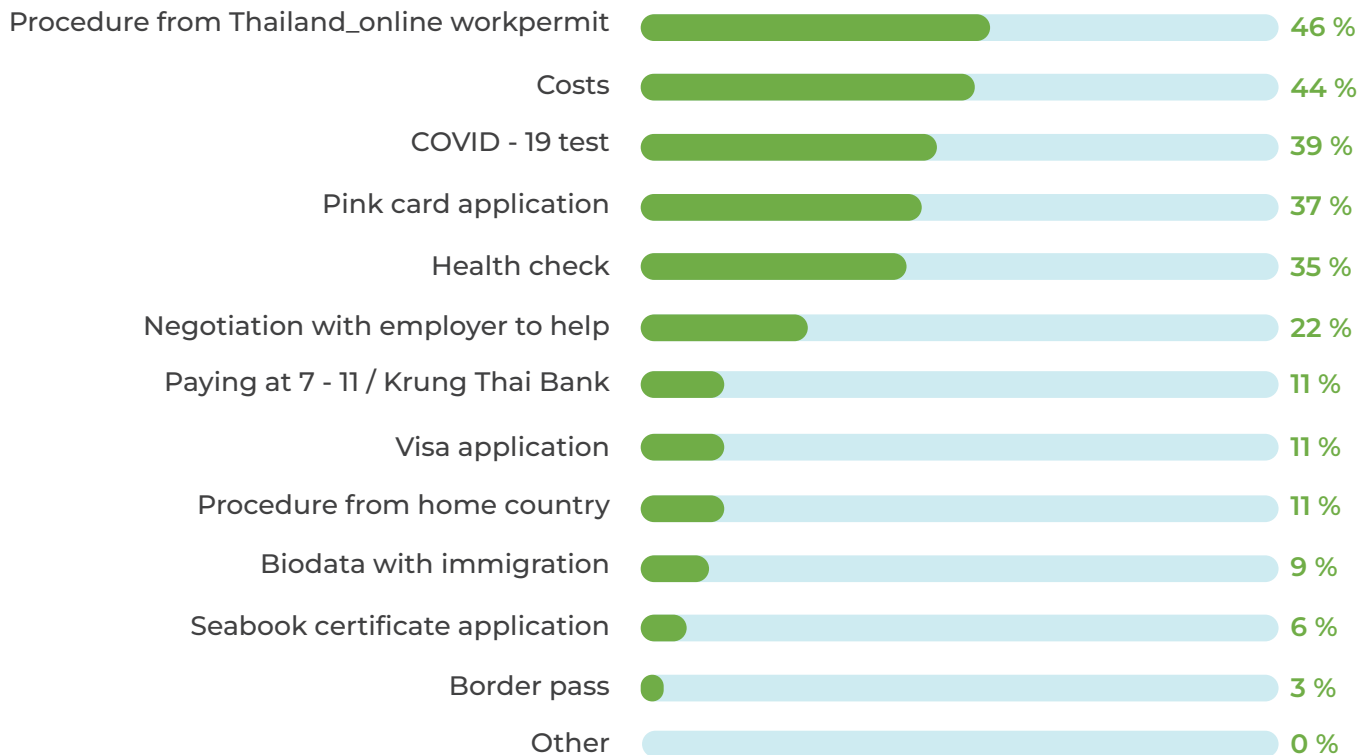
Of the migrant workers who relied on brokers to complete the registration process,

98% were overcharged, on average paying 17,000 Baht (\$515 USD) to register; of the migrant workers who relied on their employers,

82% were overcharged, on average paying 12,000 Baht (\$364 USD) to register; and of the migrant workers who relied on recruitment agencies,

80% were overcharged, on average paying 13,000 Baht (\$394 USD) to register.”

■ **Figure 6: The most difficult part of registration**



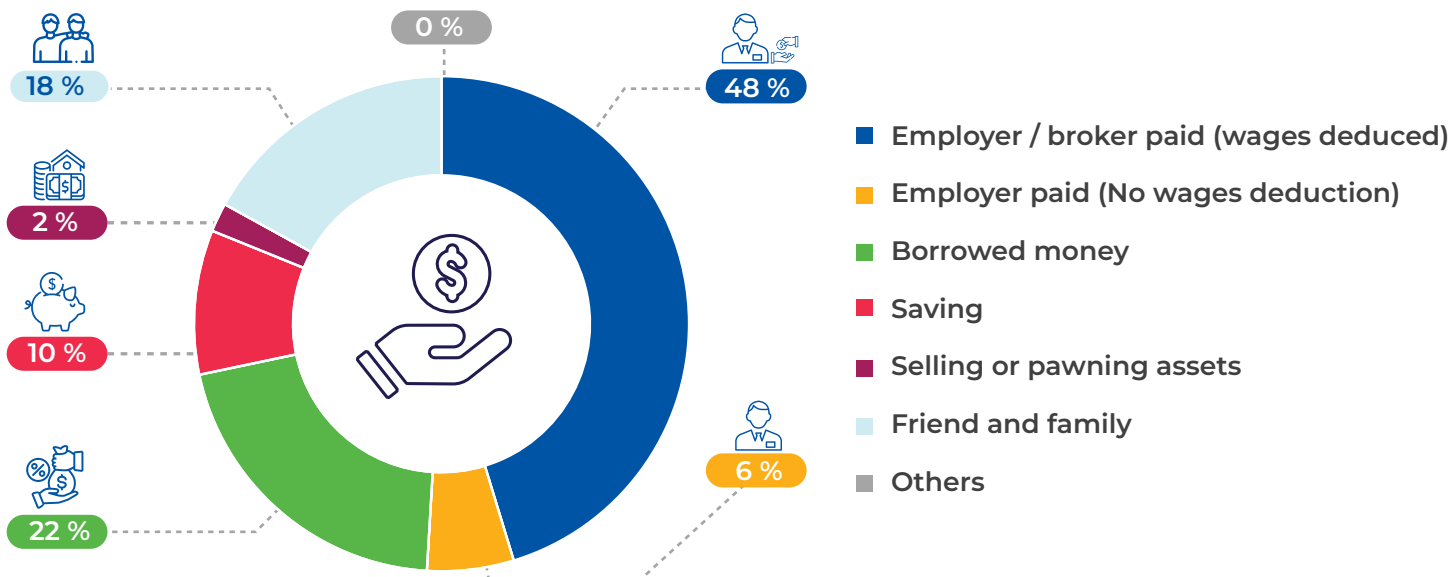
“93% of migrant workers were unable to complete the registration process by themselves and instead had to rely on their employers, brokers, and recruitment agencies in order to register.

55% of migrant workers needed help completing the online application on the Department of Employment (DOE) website,

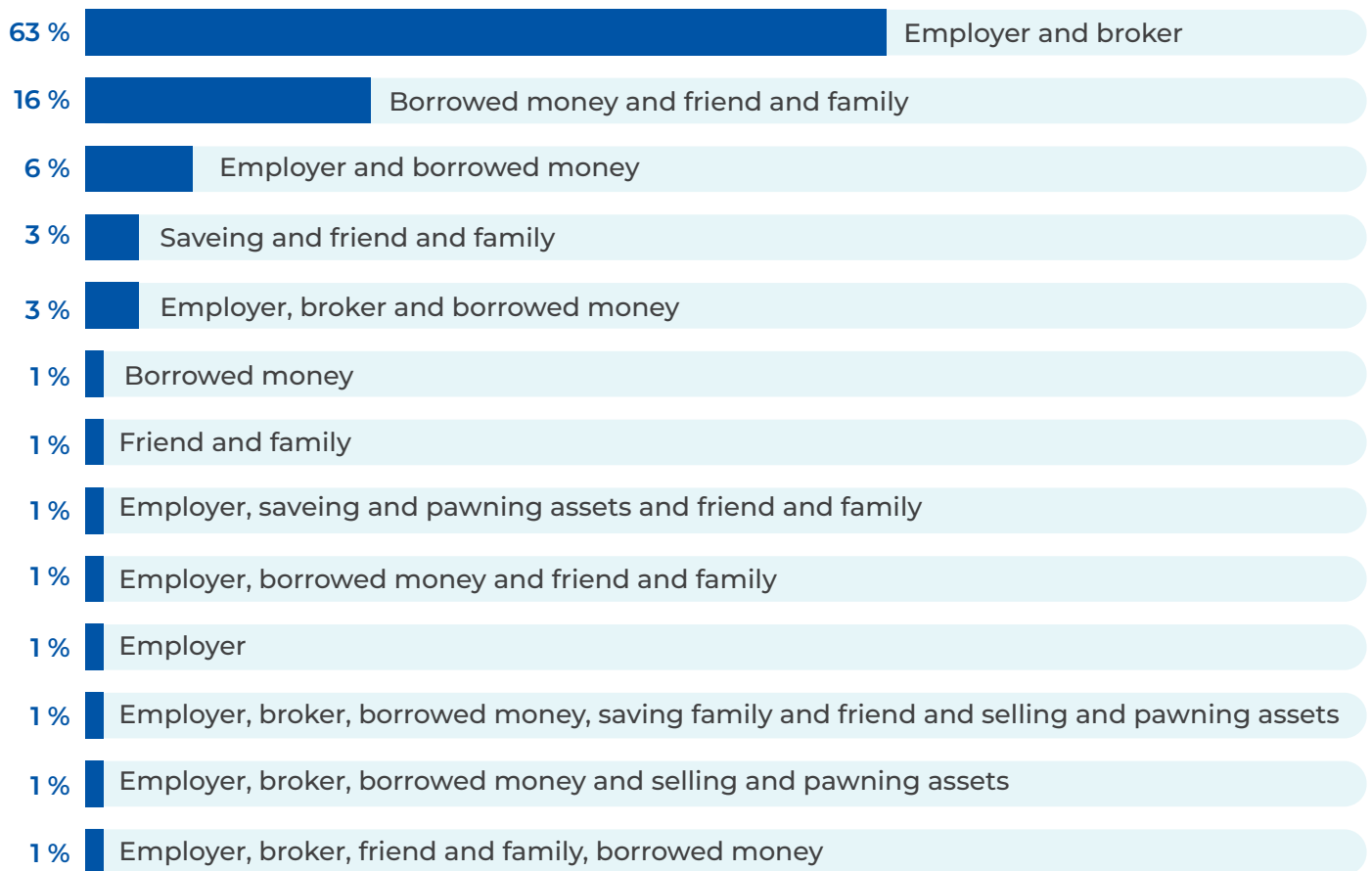
largely in part due to language and technical barriers.

69% of migrant workers reported COVID-19 testing to be the most challenging requirement for registration, followed by the cost of registration (59%).”

■ **Figure 7: Methods of payment for registration**



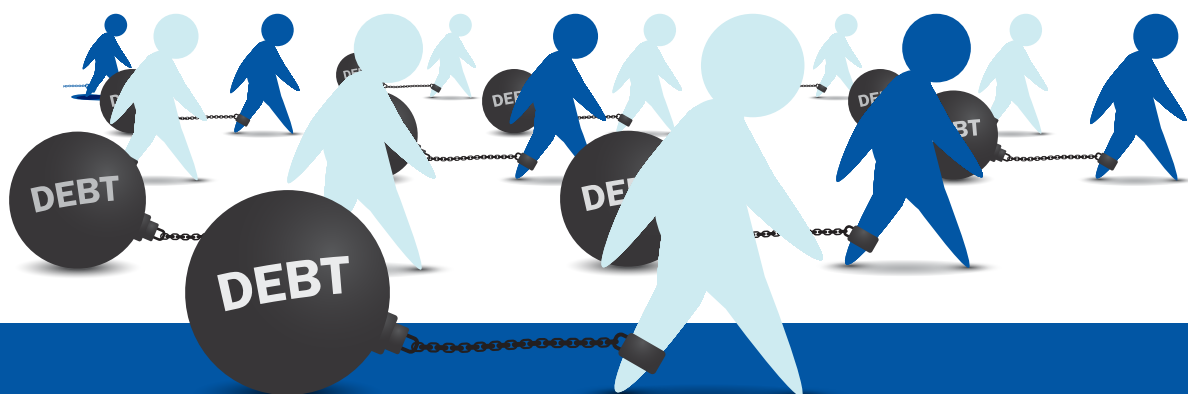
■ **Figure 8: Relationship between methods of payment for registration and situation of debt**



64% of those who became indebted to their employer,

89% of those who became indebted to a broker, and

55% of those who became indebted to a recruitment agency had their wages deducted to service their debt. Eight migrant workers reported experiencing one or more of the following indicators of forced labor in their work: excessive overtime, withheld wages, confiscation of assets, and retention of identity documents.



Recommendations

To address the heightened risk of forced labor among migrant workers as a result of the amnesty program, MWG, GLJ-ILRF, and the Solidarity Center recommend that the Thai government consider adopting the following policy reforms (see Section IV of the report for the full set of recommendations):

- 1 Employer responsibility for recruitment fees and related costs:** The Ministry of Labor (MOL) should enact and enforce regulations to prohibit the charging of document and registration procedure processing fees on migrant workers and to require employers to bear responsibility for such costs, in accordance with ILO guidelines.
- 2 Simplification of registration process:** The MOL should review and commit to overhauling the registration process, including providing a simplified, single and all-inclusive migrant worker identity card/work permit. Prior to amending the registration process, the MOL should establish a consultation period with civil society organizations (CSOs) and worker leaders. The MOL should review and adjust Section 63/2, Paragraph 3 of the Royal Ordinance Concerning Management of Employment of Foreign Workers (2017) to increase the period of work and stay from two to four years.
- 3 Comprehensive assistance at OSS centers:** The MOL should provide in-person assistance with the registration procedure at one-stop service (OSS) centers, including providing necessary health checkups.
- 4 Expansion of CI Centers:** The government should increase the number of Country Identification (CI) centers to reduce delays in the registration process.
- 5 Accessible online application:** The MOL should re-design its websites and applications to be user-friendly for migrant workers, including addressing language and technical barriers, in order to allow for worker-self registration and access.
- 6 Accessible health insurance and COVID-19 testing:** The MOL should offer health insurance in a favorable manner to migrant workers. The government should also provide free COVID-19 testing and allow migrant workers to register immediately for the Social Security System after completing the migrant worker registration process to minimize redundancy in the purchase of health insurance.

