

Thai Military stepped up humanitarian assistance to locate and aid migrants at sea
Priority remains to save lives

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HTMS Ang Thong will serve as a floating base to help migrants at sea with medics and police on board. (Royal Thai Navy photo)

- Thailand is taking further steps in delivering humanitarian assistance to migrants currently at sea, in addition to providing temporary shelters to more than 130,000 displaced persons in the country and other persons with protection needs.
- In response to the present humanitarian situation, the Thai Prime Minister has ordered the launch of an integrated special taskforce to oversee our humanitarian assistance to migrants stranded at sea.
- The Operation Center for Patrol and Humanitarian Assistance to Irregular Migrants in the Indian Ocean (OCPHAM) commences today. It is operated by the Ministry of Defense and the Royal Thai Armed Forces to aid around 7,000 migrants remaining at sea.
- Surveillance units have been deployed by air and sea to monitor Thailand's maritime border, while floating platforms equipped with medical and other staff on board to provide necessary humanitarian assistance are in operation. The Thai military welcomes U.S. participation.
- If disembarkation is absolutely necessary, the migrants will be treated first and foremost according to humanitarian principles under Thai laws.
- Police officers are also on board to interview and gather evidence in order to prosecute human traffickers.

Royal Thai Embassy
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