

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT UNDP IN THAILAND



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FOREWORD



If 2022 brought long-awaited relief from the COVID-19 pandemic, it was also marked by the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. This conflict in the heart of Europe triggered economic crises worldwide, affecting international trade and leading to widespread inflation. Global tensions increased further in October 2023, with the war in Gaza. There were also numerous natural disasters, highlighting the serious impacts of climate change and the urgent need for climate action.

With multiple factors affecting Thailand, UNDP re-oriented its emphasis, from the COVID-19 response to the 'Agenda 2030' and its 'Leaving No One Behind' principle. We have focused our work on activities that directly and indirectly contribute to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Two sectors were targeted: SDG financing and SDG localisation. The launch in June 2022 of a UNDP published SDG Investor Map and related work laid the foundation for an Integrated National Financing Framework. We also completed a Development Finance Assessment and a Diagnostic Study of Inclusive Insurance and Risk Financing. These enable the Government of Thailand and other stakeholders to ensure alignment in all aspects of development financing with the SDGs.

Alongside success at the national level, UNDP initiated an ambitious process to bring the 2030 Agenda to the sub-national level, by encouraging provinces, districts and municipalities to accelerate progress.

UNDP's *Thailand Policy Lab* and *Accelerator Lab* successfully advocated for and demonstrated the benefits of new approaches to policy-making and interventions in areas such as mental health and inclusive tourism.

From better understanding the expectations of communities to an emphasis on system-thinking and co-creation, we and our partners have rolled out new methodologies that improve social inclusion and participation, enhancing our rights-based approach.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting and the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, both hosted and chaired by Thailand at the end of 2022, were opportunities to showcase the Bio-Circular-Green development model, promoted by Thailand and to which UNDP contributes and strongly supports.

For UNDP, 2022 was the first year of a new programming cycle, approved by the Executive Board. The *Country Programme* was formulated in close consultation with all key sectors in Thailand, including government, civil society, businesses and communities. It contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-26 and is aligned with the national priorities of the 13th National Socio-Economic Development Plan. Youth groups, the LGBTI community, People with Disability (PWD), ethnic minorities and people on the move were pro-actively engaged in both the formulation and the ongoing implementation of the programme.

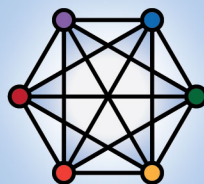
This Annual Report highlights the results delivered in addressing the diverse and complex challenges that Thailand faced in 2022 and 2023. UNDP Thailand's team is grateful to those who have provided financial and technical support, as well as everyone who encouraged and guided us in identifying and implementing effective and integrated solutions. This support has helped us speed up the country's progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Policy planners from the National Economic and Social Development Council participated in a workshop by the TP Lab.

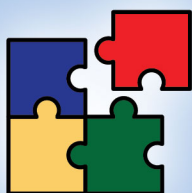


**RESPONDING
TO A COMPLEX
AND UNCERTAIN WORLD
THROUGH INTEGRATED,
INNOVATIVE AND
INCLUSIVE SOLUTIONS**

RESPONDING TO A COMPLEX AND UNCERTAIN WORLD THROUGH INTEGRATED, INNOVATIVE AND INCLUSIVE SOLUTIONS



INTERCONNECT & COMPLEX PROBLEMS
AMIDST UNCERTAINTIES



INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS



INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS



INCLUSIVE SOLUTIONS



Thai people underwent COVID-19 testing in 2021.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres described the disruption caused by COVID-19 as a 'wake-up call', highlighting the choice between continuing 'business as usual', with siloed and isolated approaches to interconnected issues, and reimagining how we drive achievement of the SDGs through integrated solutions which move beyond crisis response to scanning and preparing for future scenarios.

COVID-19 proved that we are living in a complex and uncertain world with deepening inequalities. As such, UNDP focused on developing integrated solutions to respond to interconnected issues, allowing an experimentation space for innovation and ensuring that solutions include vulnerable people.

¹ The UN Secretary-General's statement in 2021 released alongside the 'Our Common Agenda': Report of the Secretary-General. https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf



SDG Localisation Campaign in northern Thailand fostered understanding of integrated SDGs.

CREATING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Rather than focusing on individual SDGs separately, from 2022 to 2023 UNDP focused on identifying the connections between them. We worked on provincial SDG progress data, integrated policies, development finance and a systemic approach to solutions, identifying leverage points to make the 2030 agenda possible.

In 2023, UNDP, through the SDG Localisation initiative, began to develop SDG profiles for 15 pilot provinces, enabling us not to only track performance at the provincial level for the first time in Thailand, but also to see the gaps and links within and between the SDGs, serving as data-supported evidence to inform strategies, policies and implementation plans for all stakeholders.

While strengthening SDG monitoring at the provincial level, we supported government and non-government partners in the development of integrated policies and the design of development financing. This involved the integration of climate action, biodiversity conservation and social inclusion in local policy planning and budgeting, supported by our climate portfolio team and BIOFIN programme. Additionally, with support from the European Union, we launched the 'Human Rights Due Diligence Handbook' to guide businesses on the inclusion of human rights principles in their operations, enabling the achievement of economic goals, while fostering a fair society.

Our focus on data analytics, planning and financial resource management is key to the development of integrated solutions, but it needs translating into action. Driving sustainable development was reimagined, by employing a systems approach to various development issues, including food security. Led by UNDP, the Public Policy Institute at Prince of Songkla University thoroughly analysed the food systems in Songkhla and Yala, to identify problems and define transformational solutions.

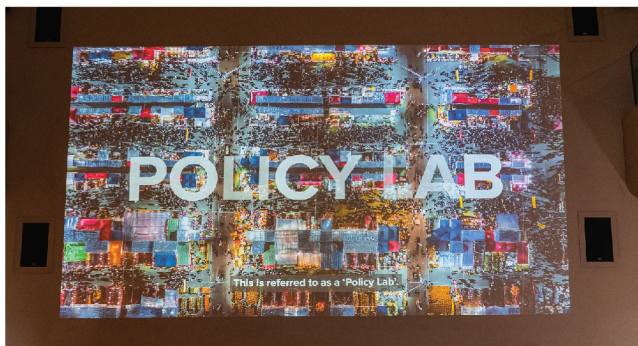
Meanwhile, the UNDP's Thailand Policy Lab and the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) applied a systems approach to national population planning, to address the complexities of an aging society while attempting to institutionalise this approach in the NESDC's policy planning methodologies.

² The collaborative initiative between UNDP, the Ministry of Interior, the National Economic and Social Development Council with the support of the European Union.

³ Human Rights Due Diligence Handbook developed by UNDP Thailand in collaboration with the Rights and Liberties Protection Department (RLPD) of the Ministry of Justice.

UNDP'S INNOVATION LABS

UNDP realises that, for stronger integrated solutions, innovative and people-centred ideas are needed to address complex challenges. In 2022 and 2023, innovative solutions for various development areas were generated through the efforts of UNDP's three innovation labs: the Thailand Policy Lab, the UNDP Accelerator Lab Thailand, and the Youth Co:Lab. These labs were established to work with government and non-government partners, by bringing together those who are most affected to 'co-design' and test relevant solutions with innovative tools and multi-level interventions.



TP Lab organized Policy Innovation Exchange 2, participated by Kanni Wignaraja, UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.



UNDP Accelerator Lab Thailand prototyped an inclusive tourism model based on universal design for people with disabilities.

UNDP ACCELERATOR LAB

UNDP Accelerator Lab Thailand, part of the accelerator lab network operating in 90 locations and supporting 115 countries, focuses on nudging changes through a portfolio approach and grassroots innovations. In 2022 and 2023, these tackled development issues, such as air pollution, waste management and the illegal wildlife trade. They also led to solutions for sustainable tourism, requiring local catalysts to stimulate change.

THAILAND POLICY LAB

The Thailand Policy Lab (TP Lab) engages with all stakeholders, from government to local partners, to make public policymaking processes inclusive, innovative and future-oriented, utilising policy innovation tools. TP Lab's goal is to address national policy outcomes, including Universal Healthcare Coverage, Mental Health Policy for Youth by Youth and National Population Planning.



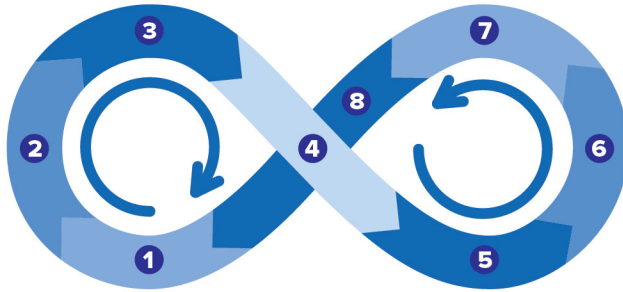
Thai youth participated in the Youth Co:Lab programme to be incubated in innovation and entrepreneurship.

YOUTH CO:LAB

Meanwhile, the Youth Co:Lab empowers young people in the co-creation of solutions for the SDG agenda, through social innovation and entrepreneurship, and leverages these solutions by facilitating intergenerational dialogue, engaging youth in state decision-making processes on issues such as climate change and social cohesion.

Despite their differing positions and strategies, the exchange of knowledge between these innovation labs has evolved the tools themselves, tailoring them to various contexts and purposes.

8 ELEMENTS IN ACTION



1

POLICY JOURNEY EXPLORATION

- 1.Literature Review
- 2.Foresight & Horizon scanning & Weak signal Scanning
- 3.Social Listening
- 4.Data Analytics
- 5.Stakeholder Analysis
- 6.User Journey Mapping
- 7.PESTEL
- 8.Persona
- 9.CLA
- 10.Hopes and Fears
- 11.In-depth Research
- 12.Discourse Analysis
- 13.Ethnography Research

2

SYSTEMS MAPPING

- 1.Value Chain
- 2.Stakeholder Analysis
- 3.System Mapping Diagram
- 4.System Mapping Grid
- 5.Forces Model
- 6.Diamond Model
- 7.Cluster mapping
- 8.User Journey
- 9.Journey Mapping

3

INTENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROBLEM REFRAMING

- 1.Imagining the desired future (News Headline)
- 2.Hopes and fears
- 3.How might we?
- 4.Priority Matrix
- 5.Future Triangle
- 6.Future Wheel

4

SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION REVIEW

- 1.Priority Matrix
- 2.Future Triangle
- 3.Consult with experts

5

SOLUTION AND POLICY IDEATION

- 1.Brainstorming
- 2.Think the unthinkable
- 3.Six-thinking Hat
- 4.Priority Matrix
- 5.Future Triangle
- 6.Back casting

6

POLICY ASSESSMENT, TESTING AND EXPERIMENTATION

- 1.Emotional Impact Assessment
- 2.Inclusive, Innovative and Transformative Policy Index
- 3.Sandbox
- 4.Simulation
- 5.Public Hearing
- 6.Project Evaluation
ex. Cost-benefit Analysis

7

EXECUTION PLANNING AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- 1.Policy Canvas
- 2.Back casting
- 3.Resource Management
- 4.Operational and Managerial and Financial Model

8

POLICY MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 1.CIPP Model
- 2.System with Joint KPI
- 3.OKR
- 4.SMART Goal
- 5.After Action Review
- 6.Social listening
- 7.Public hearing
- 8.Sentiment analysis

Note: The reimagined policymaking process, called '8 Elements in Action', was developed and tested by the Thailand Policy Lab during 2022 and 2023.



Danucha Pichayanan, Secretary-General of Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council at Policy Innovation Exchange 4.

“Over the past 3 years, Thailand policy Lab has carried out activities and initiatives to promote an inclusive and participatory policy making process, to address the challenges and enhance the capabilities of the public and private sectors, in order to design and implement policies using innovative processes and to build and expand sustainably the innovation network as a leading regional hub for policy innovation with strong domestic and regional partnerships.”

Danucha Pichayanan,
Secretary-General of
Office of the National Economic and
Social Development Council

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Both crises with immediate effects and phenomena with impacts spread across generations have highlighted that vulnerable groups often suffer the most. Therefore, in our development efforts in 2022-2023, 'no-one-size-fits-all' regulations, policies and solutions have been central. The aim has been to respond to diverse needs by involving not only those who are being left behind, but also by engaging with those systems designed to leave people behind, by focusing on inclusive data analysis, participation, laws and justice systems.

To understand the current and future needs of those left behind in Thailand; social, economic and environmental, UNDP includes, identifies and assesses young people, individuals with disabilities, ethnic minorities and LGBTI individuals through surveys and consultations on various issues, all aimed at gathering disaggregated data and evidence and unpacking the range of disadvantages that marginalise certain groups.

In 2023, TP Lab conducted a survey of over 2,000 respondents on familial dynamics in Thailand's aging society. It focused, inclusively, on the decision to have children, to identify policy gaps and support their benefits and needs. Similarly, TPLab conducted 150 in-depth interviews with the urban poor, people with disabilities, those with severe health conditions and ethnic minorities nationwide, to enhance the tailoring of public health services.

Those who are left behind are often excluded from state decision-making processes. To empower them, UNDP facilitated meaningful participation across our development works in 2022 and 2023, by collaborating with vulnerable groups as solution co-creators. This was achieved through the SDG Localisation Initiative and UNDP's projects addressing biodiversity, climate change, air pollution, waste management, mental health, disability employment and universal healthcare coverage. This allows us to place vulnerable people at the centre of solution design and has gradually transformed the practices of government institutions.

To achieve a truly inclusive society, certain practices also need to be formalised through laws, regulations and the administration of justice. In 2022 and 2023, UNDP facilitated collaboration between lawmakers, the LGBTI community and ethnic minority groups in Thailand during the development of the draft gender recognition bill and legislation concerning the rights of ethnic groups. With the inclusion of the voices of the vulnerable, new related legislation is now poised for parliamentary review.



Thai youth joined the 2023 Youth Climate Leader Camp.



Our disability inclusion advisor and guide runner demonstrated how to run with people with visual impairments.



An ethnic individual from northern Thailand wearing traditional ethnic attire.



Pride parade in Bangkok in 2022

An ethnic individual from northern Thailand wearing traditional ethnic attire.





SDG LOCALIZATION: LOCAL ACTIONS FOR GLOBAL GOALS

LOCAL ACTIONS SUPPORTING GLOBAL GOALS

UNDP has accelerated the implementation of the SDGs in Thailand by strengthening and institutionalising existing localisation efforts within Thailand's governance, while also empowering local collective action through the 'SDG Localisation' initiative, a collaboration between UNDP, the Ministry of Interior and the National Economic and Social Development Council, with funding from the European Union.

CO-CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR 15 PILOT THAI PROVINCES

The ESCAP's SDG snapshot of Thailand reveals that 42% of the indicators are progressing as planned, while approximately one-third require acceleration. The remaining quarter are regressing. The least progress has been made on goals related to climate, inequality and hunger. It should be noted that in the Asia-Pacific region, not a single SDG is currently on track to be achieved by 2030. At the current trajectory, the SDGs will not be achieved in the region until 2062, which is 32 years behind schedule.

For the first time in Thailand, the SDG Localisation Initiative delved deeper into the obstacles to achieving the SDGs, which need to be addressed at the provincial level, especially considering that only 64% of data on SDG progress in Thailand is available. This involved the gathering of quantitative and qualitative data to create an SDG provincial roadmap for Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Son, Nakhon Ratchasima, Narathiwat, Pattani, Phetchaburi, Phuket, Songkhla, Surat Thani, Tak, Ubon Ratchathani, Udon Thani and Yala.

PROCESS OF LOCALIZING SDGS

TIME FRAME: DEC 2022 - JUL 2024



The development issues across each of these 15 provinces were prioritised through surveys, with a total of 6,000 participants interviewed and 14,000 online respondents. The analysis of public opinion, combined with existing evidence-based data on SDG indicators, supported by the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) and the Thailand Development Research Institute Foundation (TDRI), served as the baseline for multi-stakeholder consultations on each of the 15 SDG provincial roadmaps. 15 provincial governors participated, along with government officials, civil organisations, the private sector, academia and the media, aiming to co-create a roadmap to a sustainable future.

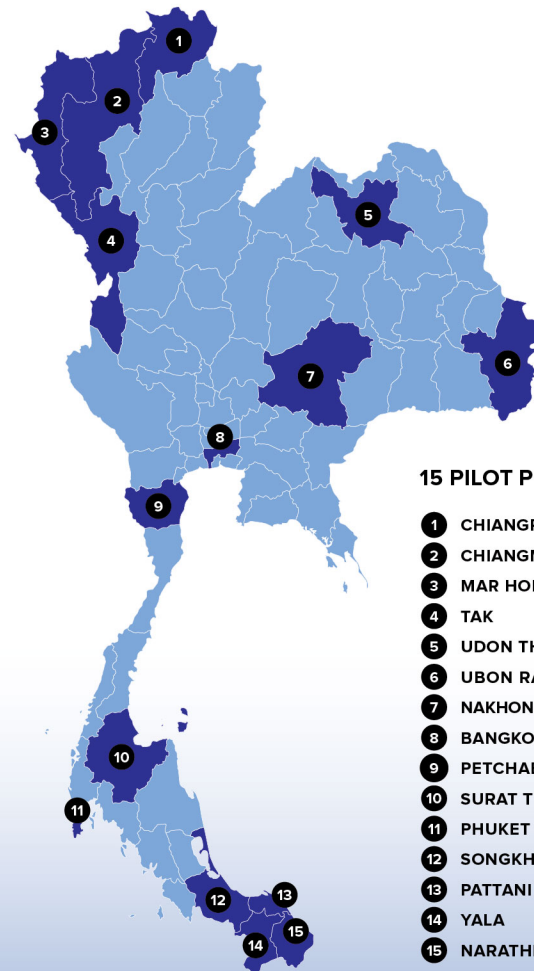


Multi-stakeholder consultation in Chiang Mai for SDG profiles development.



Thailand's SDG progress as of 2022 discussed in the multi-stakeholder consultation on SDG localization.

Five SDG goals, including Goal 1: No Poverty, Goal 2: Zero Hunger, Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being, Goal 4: Quality Education and Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, were identified as common priorities among the pilot provinces. Additionally, it was found that the lack of open data on Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities and Goal 14: Life Below Water, as well as the limited awareness of climate change at the provincial level, have significant implications. All of these findings contributed to the creation of 15 SDG provincial profiles to inform decision-making. Once tested, this methodology will be scaled up to all 77 provinces.





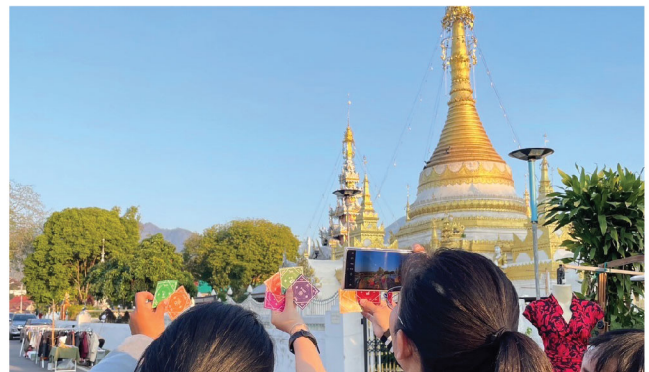
People in Bangkok joined the SDG Walk Rally organized by the SDG Localization project during Bangkok Design Week.

BRINGING THE SDGS CLOSER TO PEOPLE'S HEARTS

Achieving the SDGs requires collective action, driven by a shared awareness among all stakeholders. To facilitate this, the Our SDGs mobile exhibition and SDG Walk Rally were organised across the 15 pilot provinces. These campaigns aimed to connect the SDGs to people's everyday lives, addressing issues ranging from broken roads to unstable electricity supply and air pollution, laying a foundation for sustainable development that could shape people's thinking and actions, particularly in provinces where such activities are less concentrated than in Bangkok.

The Our SDGs mobile exhibitions were held at traditional provincial festivals, offering an opportunity for the public to learn how the SDGs relate to the various aspects of their lives, express their hopes and dreams for their provinces and draw inspiration from others' actions supporting sustainable development.

During the SDG Walk Rally, participants took trips within their own provinces and shared their visions for a future aligned with the SDGs.



People in Chiang Rai joined the SDG Walk Rally organized by the SDG Localization project.



People joined the SDG Walk Rally in Chiang Mai, organized by the SDG Localization project.



"We are in the Decade of Action called for by the United Nations to take action and accelerate our progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Thailand, as part of the global community, has committed to creating an inclusive and sustainable society focused on people, prosperity, and the planet. In this vision, economic development does not compromise environmental protection, and the benefits of development are equitably distributed to the people.

To translate this vision into action, the 'SDG Localization' initiative, in collaboration with UNDP and the Ministry of Interior and funded by the EU, has been a platform for Thailand to adopt the principles of Sustainable Development through a whole-of-government approach. Sustainable Development has become the guiding direction for the country's development across all government levels, from national plans to local actions. From 2023 to 2024, the initiative has worked with 15 pilot provinces and all stakeholders to create SDG provincial profiles that help define key challenging priorities and design responsive development plans for SDG achievement. Moreover, the initiative has strengthened collaboration between the central government and local authorities, including governors, the Department of Local Administration, Provincial Administration Organizations, Municipalities, and Sub-district Administration Organizations, to implement local development plans aligned with the global agenda, driven by a bottom-up approach that engages all stakeholders in society, including academia, the private sector, civil society, and vulnerable groups.

A localized and participatory approach to achieving the SDGs, implemented in the 15 pilot provinces, will be scaled up to other 62 provinces. The experience and lessons learned from the SDG Localization initiative represent valuable resources for Thailand to develop a responsive strategy supporting the country in achieving the SDGs and contributing to sustainability at the global level."

*Suttipong Juljarern
Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Interior*



"The UN secretary general called this decade a decade of action and he invited all countries and partners to have a specific mobilization needed on 3 levels: global action; local action; and people action. We have less than 6 years left to meet the deadline in 2030. We have to enhance our collaborative efforts and sprint at full speed. EU and its member states are not only talking about this, but we are acting. European Union and its member states together fund almost half of the world's development assistance. We are committed to 2030 agenda and its 17 SDGs. We are not alone in these efforts. This is an international effort with many actors, many donors, many of them here today.

This project is all about demonstrating that we're not just making general statements of good intention. The implementation of this EU-UNDP Strengthening SDG Localization project, this is demonstrating clearly the necessity to make a transition from global to local. Local governments play a key role in converting the ambitions vision of the SDGs into concrete actions that benefit directly the people in the local communities. Local governments are closest to the people and have a profound understanding of the community's specific needs and challenges. And this local knowledge is vital to foster the citizens' involvement including ensuring, rather, local ownership for the transition.

The whole-of-society approach give space not only for local governments, but citizen, Civil Societies, academia, the private sectors, and others, to contribute their parts. This is a comprehensive and collaborative approach to advance new ideas, to leverage resources, and build a strong foundation for achieving sustainable future at the local level."

*David Daly
Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand*

Green Transition

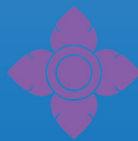
Human Capital

Inclusive Society





THAILAND'S JOURNEY TOWARDS INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABILITY



THAILAND'S JOURNEY TOWARDS INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Thailand has transitioned from a low to an upper-middle-income country in less than a generation. Advances in the banking system, combined with openness to trade, labour migration and investment, have allowed for high levels of growth in gross domestic product (GDP) and a significant reduction in poverty.

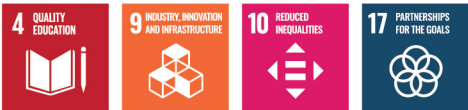
The Thai economy continued to grow post-COVID-19 during 2023. The 2022 Human Development Index (HDI) for Thailand came in at 0.803, placing it in the “very high human development” category (66th out of the 193 countries and territories indexed). The socio-economic and environmental disruptions, exacerbated by COVID-19 have, however, exposed existing vulnerabilities in Thailand’s SDG progress.



PIVOTAL MISSION
Supporting Thailand’s Green Economy



PEOPLE FOR THE MISSION
Strengthening Human Capital needed for Sustainable Development



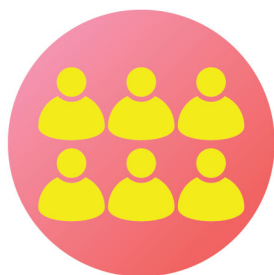
LOCALIZATION INNOVATION

⁴ <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2021-22>
⁵ Credit Suisse Global Wealth Data Book in 2022 <https://www.credit-suisse.com/about-us/en/reports-research/global-wealth-report.html>

enefits from Thailand’s progress in poverty reduction have not been shared equally. Thailand’s income Gini coefficient is 43 percent. The richest 1 percent of the population has an average wealth of 33 million baht, 2,500 times more than the poorest 20 percent. Moreover, UNDP’s report reveals that employment opportunities for LGBTI people in Thailand may be limited, due to stigma, discrimination and health disparities, resulting in unequal wages and unfair recruitment processes. These inequalities can hinder progress in human capital accumulation and delay progress in achieving the SDGs.

UNDP, along with governmental and non-governmental partners, including youth, ethnic minorities, the LGBTI community and people with disabilities, has defined three key development areas for 2022 through 2026 to foster Thailand’s SDG achievement: Thailand’s Green Transition, Human Capital needed for Sustainable Development and Leaving No One Behind for Equitable Development. These are based on Thailand’s development context, lessons learned and participatory consultations, shaping a programme that supports Thailand’s 20-Year National Strategy.

Thailand’s inclusive green transition is pivotal in achieving economic growth without compromising the environment, wherein biodiversity is protected, climate promises are kept and businesses operate sustainably. Achieving this, however, requires that people possess the necessary skills and capacities, which is the second key area for UNDP. UNDP supports Thailand’s digital transformation and the building of innovation capacity and resilient communities. The third key area ensures that Thailand’s green transition leaves no one behind.



PARTICIPATORY JOURNEY TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Leaving No One Behind
for Equitable Development



DIGITALIZATION

DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

⁶ UNDP’s Tolerance but Not Inclusion Report in 2019 <https://www.undp.org/thailand/publications/tolerance-not-inclusion>

⁷ UNDP’s 5-year Country Programme Document for the Kingdom of Thailand (2022-2026) <https://www.undp.org/thailand/publications/country-programme-document-2022-2026>

KEY RESULTS IN NUMBERS SUPPORTING THAILAND'S INCLUSIVE GREEN TRANSITION



2,109

species were recorded on the iNaturalist phone application in 2022, thanks to the contributions of the public. Additionally, 26 threatened species were recorded on the IUCN Red List, and 73 Alien Species were found during the 2022 City Nature Challenges Survey, with support from the BIOFIN Programme and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.



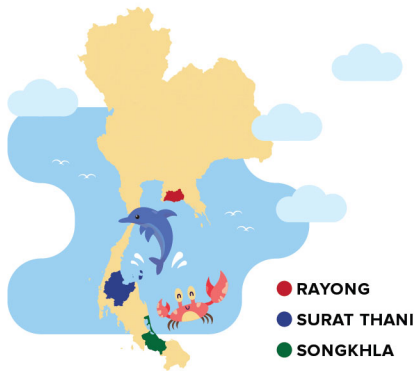
9.02

million views by people in 109 countries was reached for a video developed by BIOFIN, via the 2022 Global Landscapes Forum Biodiversity Finance Digital Forum. The video highlighted how Thailand improved the livelihoods of 1,000 households and rebuilt the biodiversity of Koh Tao during the COVID-19 crisis.



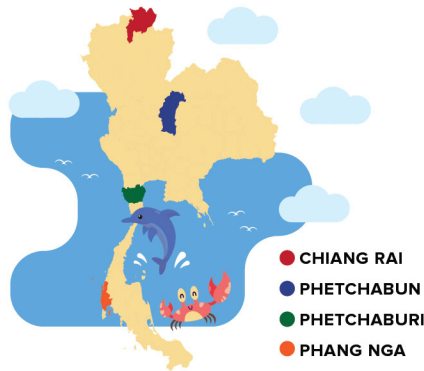
30

women established the first ever Koh Tao women's group in 2022, which was officially endorsed by the municipality, and created the Koh Tao Green Market for their eco-friendly tie-dye cotton clothing products.



608,700

hectares of terrestrial and marine protected areas were managed under improved practices in 2022. 59,500 hectares of marine national parks in two of four pilot sites - Rayong and Surat Thani - were managed under improved practices in 2023, alongside 177,800 hectares of marine national parks in the Gulf of Thailand.



101,943

hectares, with improved community management, use agro-ecological practices and are protected by communities, of which 97,703 hectares are in the Mae Lao watershed, Phetchabun Mountains, Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex, and 4,240 hectares in Phang Nga Bay. An estimated 32,267,220.85 tons of CO2e have been avoided accumulatively.



27,000

schools adopted disaster risk reduction techniques, incorporating practical measures and disability inclusiveness in 2023.

STRENGTHENING HUMAN CAPITAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



2,000+

mayors were trained on the SDGs as part of a strategic partnership with the National Municipal League.



1,000+

policy planners and government officials participated in each of the Thailand Policy Lab's annual Policy Innovation Exchange initiatives.



40

individuals with disabilities were trained in digital skills, with the aim of sustaining these improvements over time.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND FOR EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT



15

SDG provincial profiles were created through a participatory process, with local government partners and civil society, to support provincial development plans.



12

provincial and local government development plans, which foster human rights, equality and non-discrimination in all its forms, were approved.



133
women

150
men



from Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in 10 provinces were trained on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) in 2022.



20%

of vulnerable people gained improved opportunities to engage with decision making bodies at national and subnational levels in 2023.



279
young women

46
young men

42
government officers



participated in a series of dialogues to formulate a 'Youth Climate Action Agenda for Thailand'.



1 MILLION+

viewers per day saw the digital campaign to stop all forms of gender-based violence, during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, displayed on sky trains in Bangkok and screened at airports across 15 provinces.



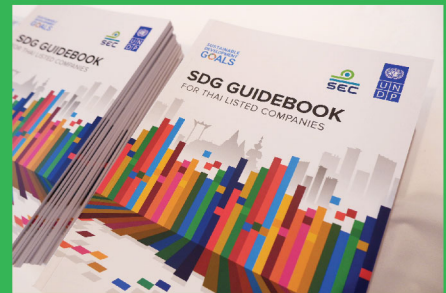
SECTION 1



CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS



TAKING CLIMATE ACTION



GUIDING SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT



PIVOTAL MISSION:
**SUPPORTING
THAILAND'S
GREEN
TRANSITION**

SECTION 1

PIVOTAL MISSION:

Supporting Thailand's
Inclusive Green Transition

A Thai farmer harvesting rice in the field.



PROTECTING ECOSYSTEMS AND SAVING ENDANGERED SPECIES

Conserving Biodiversity

Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience are vital to Thailand's transition to a Green Economy. Protecting both life on land (SDG:15) and underwater (SDG:14), especially endangered species, are crucial in revitalising ecosystem diversity. These indispensable ecosystems resource economic activity and human well-being. They have, however, suffered harm from humans and are impacted by climate change. In 2022 and 2023, UNDP promoted and supported multi-level interventions, from strategic plans to financial mechanisms, cross-border solutions and capacity building for all stakeholders, to protect these ecosystems, while ensuring that economic activities are not compromised.

UNDP recognises that, without adequate financing, as well as sustainable economic policies and business operations, Thailand cannot achieve long-term ecosystem resilience. The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) is a global partnership, launched by UNDP, to develop the new Biodiversity Finance Plan (2023-2027). This plan presents sub-national public-private and finance sector solutions. These solutions incorporate results-based budgeting, reduction of harmful subsidies, finance sector and impact investment, sustainable tourism and pilot wildlife and protected areas. The financing builds on lessons learned from the biodiversity finance model used on Koh Tao, which generated annual revenues of US\$200,000.



Local people in Koh Tao deployed fish aggregating devices in the fishing zones off its coast.

The commitment to this biodiversity finance, as part of the updated National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan (NBSAP) for Thailand (2023-2027), supports achievement of the biodiversity targets outlined in the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

To accelerate post-COVID-19 economic recovery, the government granted visa-free entry to tourists from several large countries. This decision put additional pressures on fragile island ecosystems, exacerbating biodiversity depletion already affected by climate change. With support from UNDP, biodiversity conservation was incorporated into national and local tourism development during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sustaining this effort, UNDP, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), created an inclusive biodiversity-driven tourism model, to address severe threats from unsustainable tourism practices, while enabling local communities to benefit. The model will be implemented in Prachuap Khiri Khan in 2024 and is expected to be implemented through national and subnational tourism policies and standards.

Meanwhile, UNDP BIOFIN's finance solution to biodiversity conservation for marine and coastal resources, especially coral ecosystems, serves as a guideline for waste and natural resource management, while also instilling vital knowledge and skills in local communities. This aims to address the risks posed by tourism activities that negatively impact biodiversity.



UNDP, KrungThai Bank, and local communities in Koh Tao joined a study trip on biodiversity conservation in 2023.



*An Indochinese tiger
in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary.*

Combating the Trans-border Illegal Wildlife Trade

The illegal trade in wildlife harms biodiversity in Thailand. Due to its location on the illegal trade's routes, Thailand has become a hub for the illegal trade in wildlife, exacerbated by online trade and its resulting surge in demand for species like elephants, rhinos, pangolins and tigers and parts thereof.

In response, UNDP, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), worked with Thailand's Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) to strengthen on-the-ground and cross-border collaboration, data-based intelligence gathering, wildlife forensic science use and technology. Collaboration between the authority's border province units was strengthened through the Provincial Wildlife Enforcement Network Divisions in the pilot provinces of Nong Khai, Songkhla, Chiang Rai and Trat in 2023, aimed at avoiding siloed implementation. The collaboration between neighboring countries at border checkpoints was strengthened. This more integrated approach has resulted in increased seizures from the illegal wildlife trade and has become a model for other provinces on the illegal trade's routes.

Data intelligence and integration are key weapons in protecting endangered species. UNDP supported the creation of the Wildlife Crime Intelligence Centre within the DNP. Its data platform supports data exchange, analysis and investigations executed by units based in various provinces. This leads to more evidence-based, effective and agile enforcement. The DNP's decision to institutionalise the Wildlife Crime Intelligence Centre was a milestone in the protection of wildlife in Thailand. This effort was implemented alongside forensic science, to provide genetic evidence in the tracing and monitoring of endangered species.

Longer-term solutions were championed through communication campaigns, promoting behavioural changes, created by youth in Chiang Rai province. This aims to empower youth as future leaders in tackling the deep-rooted culture of consuming and selling endangered species. Meanwhile, the 'Tigers Next Gen' campaign was launched in Suphan Buri province, to raise public awareness of natural habitat protection.



These strategies enabled UNDP to summarise the budget needed to combat the illegal wildlife trade. This was communicated to all stakeholders via a data visualisation platform. Meanwhile, these practical wildlife conservation efforts have been consolidated into the '10 Lessons Learned

Combating the Illegal Wildlife Trade' report, serving as an invaluable guideline when upscaling efforts globally. UNDP's strategic approach is testament to the effectiveness and tangible results of work done to address the illegal transnational trade in wildlife.



Run 4 Wildlife campaign held in Chiang Saen district, Chiang Rai province.



Youth in Chiang Rai joined a wildlife conservation campaign.

MESSAGE FROM

Dr. Phirun Saiyasitpanich,

Former Secretary-General, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning and, Director-General, Department of Climate Change and Environment

The past years have been critical for Thailand, as well as the global community. We strived to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, while also putting our best efforts into keeping the environmental crisis at bay.

Emergencies related to biodiversity loss and climate change are closely linked. They place our world and the well-being of humankind at great risk. In 2022, we witnessed admirable climate action and biodiversity conservation. The UN Climate Change Conference in Egypt provided an opportunity seamlessly to translate the COP26 pledge into solid on-the-ground action.

Less than a month later, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted at the UN Biodiversity Conference in Montreal. The framework laid out the plan for the next decade. It highlighted the power of nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based adaptation and the critical role of local communities.

Recognising the importance of the above, the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green Economy - the key outcome of the 2022 APEC Summit - reflected strong synergies between sustainable growth, climate action, biodiversity conservation and waste management.

I hereby commend UNDP's close collaboration with Thai agencies and multi-stakeholder partnerships that strengthen these synergies.

The BIOFIN project assists Thailand to achieve its commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity by developing financial mechanisms for biodiversity management. I would also like to highlight the "Enhancing Climate Resilience in Thailand through the Effective Water Management and Sustainable Agriculture" project, together with the Royal Irrigation Department, marking the first ever project to receive financial support from GCF to help vulnerable farmers adapt to climate risk.

UNDP made concrete contributions to the preparation of Thailand's Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR4), as well as the country's Fourth National Communication (NC4). This helped to communicate Thailand's efforts to combat climate change and limit the increase of global average temperatures. These efforts are in line with the Paris Agreement and follow the country's path towards net-zero GHG emissions.

On behalf of ONEP, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to UNDP for its devotion to and support for Thailand's endeavours. I am confident that Thailand's aspirations towards attaining sustainable development goals and related environmental multilateral commitments shall be achievable. We look forward to strengthening our constructive and active partnership in the years to come.





TAKING CLIMATE ACTION TO ADAPT TO AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Thailand is a developing country highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Therefore, Thailand's commitment to climate action holds significant importance in global efforts to address this common and pressing challenge. To support Thailand in achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), UNDP has worked extensively on gathering data on climate change circumstances, supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, addressing cross-cutting issues, and facilitating enablers for climate resilience, as outlined in Thailand's Climate Change Master Plan 2015-2050.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of achieving the goals set as part of the Paris Agreement. NDCs measure the efforts by each country to reduce their emissions and how they are adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Source: <https://unfccc.int/>

To support evidence-based actions, UNDP, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), supported the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) in preparing Thailand's Fourth National Communication (NC4) and Third Biennial Update Report (BUR3). These provide updated and comprehensive information on the national circumstances, vis-a-vis climate change and its impacts at the national and provincial levels. They focus on water management, agriculture and food security, natural resources, tourism, public health and human settlement and security. Additionally, the NC4 includes the national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, disaggregated by key emission sectors. The national climate situation is presented alongside the status of and progress on institutional arrangements, adaptation and mitigation policies. The reports also identify the constraints, gaps and the support needed from the global community to implement adaptation and mitigation actions.

Nonetheless, comprehensive and inclusive policies on climate change need to be backed by concerted investment from the public and private sectors. In the government sector, UNDP further supported Thailand in planning the budget allocations and expenditure required to implement climate action through the 'Climate Change Financing Framework'. Investment of up to THB 6.3 trillion is required for climate action, with 50% of this coming from the public sector. A handbook on integrating climate change, gender and social inclusion into planning and budgeting was developed to guide governmental agencies. The handbook has supported public agencies in formulating budget requests to strengthen climate action, including, for example, enhancing health adaptation capacities for climate change projects and exploring the adoption of carbon credit management models at the domestic and international levels.



The road in southern Thailand eroded by rising sea levels.

Nature-Based Solutions for Climate-Vulnerable Areas

Thailand's coastal areas, spanning 18 provinces, face significant climate hazards, including unpredictable weather, causing coastal erosion, and rising sea levels. These significantly affect the livelihoods of people whose economic activities depended upon fisheries, agriculture and tourism. Unable to entirely avoid the effects of climate change, they must adapt to sustain their economic activities. With funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), UNDP has supported the Department of Climate Change and Environment and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources in implementing the National Climate Adaptation Plan (NAP). In 2022, climate risks in the pilot provinces of Rayong, Phetchaburi, Surat Thani and Songkhla were assessed, to inform stakeholder mapping plans, identify groups needed to co-create and to prioritise and develop adaptation solutions. These assessments and stakeholder plans led to capacity building for the government sector, local communities and businesses.

Alongside the development of nature-based solutions, innovated by local communities, UNDP's Small Grants Programme, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), prioritised indigenous people, women and youth, who are disproportionately impacted by climate change in the target areas in Chiang Rai, Phetchabun, Loei, Phetchaburi, Ratchaburi and Prachuap Khiri Khan provinces, as well as coastal and marine areas of Phuket, Phan Nga and Krabi provinces. This programme aimed to empower their co-creation of responsive and nature-based solutions. These solutions, such as cultural ecology to conserve forests and the biodiversity of local communities and mangrove forest restoration, supported climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. The mangrove forest in Phuket province was restored, because it can absorb carbon emissions, helping to mitigate climate impacts. These nature-based solutions, initiated through 55 civil society organisations, engaged 375 communities, complementing other relevant efforts, including biodiversity conservation and pollution reduction.

Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, use and manage ecosystems sustainably, to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, preserve biodiversity and enable sustainable livelihoods.

Source: <https://climatepromise.undp.org/>



UNDP staff discussed with a local community on climate adaptation.



The local community protecting mangrove forest in Phetchaburi.



The local community in Surat Thani province released baby crabs into the sea after caring for them in a crab bank.

Encouraging Electric Vehicle Adoption

Reducing and preventing greenhouse gases or enhancing carbon sinks that remove them from the atmosphere - referred to as 'Climate Mitigation' - is another area in which UNDP provided support to Thailand. In 2022 and 2023, UNDP collaborated closely with government bodies to enhance the efficacy of electrified public transport. A primary focus has been on reducing carbon footprints and improving accessibility, user-friendliness and safety.

In 2022, UNDP conducted a study on E-Transportation in Nakhon Ratchasima, which provided suggested routes and locations for accessible stations and identified commuter needs. The recommendations from the study informed policy formulation for Smart Mobility and Smart City initiatives.



3D Landscape Plan for the E-Public Transportation Station in Nakhon Ratchasima.

City of Nakhon Ratchasima - A Notable Example of Electrifying an Urban Transport System to Support Low-carbon Transition

A study, conducted by UNDP, in collaboration with Chulalongkorn University and supported by UK PACT, addressed the issue of climate change in the transport sector. The findings revealed that the sector is the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Nakhon Ratchasima. The city relies heavily on road transportation, which led to high emissions, low air quality and poor road conditions. Furthermore, the system was not ideal for many users, since it did not take into account gender and social inclusion considerations, such as user accessibility and safety for women and vulnerable groups.

The results of this analysis were provided to policymakers, so that they could strategize for the full electrification of the transportation system. UNDP trained 53 stakeholders, enhancing their ability to implement the recommendations.

The new design improved access for all users, reduced traffic congestion and improved air quality, while reducing carbon emissions.



SDG and EV Climate Credit Programme introduced in the project closure event.

In 2023, with support from the Government of Japan, UNDP began developing an SDG & EV Climate Credit Platform. This aims to assess emission reductions, and their contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by promoting the use of Low Emission Vehicles (LEVs) as passenger cars, motorcycles, buses, trucks, taxis and three-wheelers. As well as incentivising the use of LEVs, the insights gained will inform the adoption of the SDG & EV Climate Credit Platform, assessing the contributions of battery electric vehicles (BEVs), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) and fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



Managing Waste to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions



The Waste bank station developed by UNDP at Surat Thani Rajabhat University.

The climate mitigation efforts also involved a waste management experiment at Surat Thani Rajabhat University, funded by Cargill and the Government Savings Bank. The model within the university prevented 40-50 tons of waste from reaching landfills or the ocean and reduced its carbon footprint by 33,086 kgCO₂eq, equivalent to planting 1,654 trees. This model has become a prototype for implementation in other areas.



The award ceremony of the Clean Air Border Innovation Challenge held at the United Nations Conference Centre.

Furthermore, the burning of agricultural waste emits airborne pollutants and greenhouse gases, decreasing air quality and endangering health. This is especially the case in Northern Thailand and in neighbouring countries, causing among the highest PM_{2.5} levels in the world. The UNDP Accelerator Lab Thailand, the UNDP Accelerator Lab Lao PDR and Youth Co:Lab jointly organised the 'Clean Air Without Border Innovation Challenge'. 60 participants worked in cross-country, cross-sectoral and cross-generational teams to develop 10 solutions, ranging from turning agricultural waste into useful products to cross-border communication campaigns. The Biofilter innovation, by the winning 'Nikorai' team, received a grant to upscale the solution, supported by the Embassy of Luxembourg, the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the World Health Organisation. The initiative also inspired cross-border collaborations for clean air campaigns.



Toward a Climate-Resilient Nation: From Rice Fields to Roads and Railways

While we address climate change, by adapting to its impacts and reducing emissions, UNDP also supports the transition to sustainable agriculture and the building of climate-resilient infrastructure. These efforts lay the foundations, with a focus on placing local communities at the centre of decision-making.

A prime example is the Chao Phraya basin in Thailand. It is a key agricultural area, which is vulnerable to extreme climate-hazards, both flooding and drought, affecting a large number of farmers and, therefore, food security. UNDP, working with the Royal Irrigation Department (RID) and funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), supported farmers in sensitive areas in their migration to climate-smart practices and improved access to climate information. Meanwhile, to improve water management, the flood control and irrigation infrastructure in the Yom and Nam sub-river basins will be made more climate resilient, including the construction of two new floodgates. These initiatives directly benefit the agrarian livelihoods of 62,000 people in the Phitsanuloke, Sukhothai and Uttaradit provinces and will eventually benefit some 25,000,000 inhabitants of the Greater Chao Phraya River Basin, who live in or downstream of the project area.



The Chao Phraya River Basin, Thailand's significant agricultural area, where UNDP focuses on promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Meanwhile, in 2022 and 2023, UNDP facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogues and enhanced the collaborative capacities of local actors, to accelerate subnational food system transformation through broader digitalisation and social inclusion in the food and agricultural sectors. UNDP's convening power drove a community of practice, centred around action learning goals, exemplified by the Food Systems Social Innovation Platform in Thailand's southern border provinces. Through this platform, UNDP improved the leadership and systems thinking skills of 95 local planners, policymakers and practitioners, empowering them to develop effective food system public policies and inclusive planning processes.

This approach also proved beneficial when grant assistance was provided to 6 CSOs and community enterprises in these southern provinces. The assistance encouraged small scale farmers and entrepreneurs to work closer together and involve, proactively, heretofore overlooked key players in food systems, including municipalities, administrative organisations and schools. This strategic effort resulted in an increased number of farmer peer-to-peer learning communities, equipped with digital and entrepreneurial capacities, economically empowering 246 women and 133 men, fostering capacity development, participation in decision-making and social cohesion.



Patimoh Sadiyamu, a vendor at the local Railway Market in Yala province, participated in UNDP's multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Our efforts to enhance resilience also encompass disaster risk mitigation, employing a whole-of-society approach. In close partnership with the Government of Japan, Thailand's Office of the Basic Education Commission, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the Thai Red Cross Society, local administration offices and other relevant stakeholders, UNDP vigorously trained schools in high-risk areas in the development of disaster preparedness plans and drills. Meanwhile, national guidelines for tsunami evacuation plans and drills were disseminated to 27,000 schools under the Office of the Basic Education Commission, ensuring the inclusion of people with disabilities in their local preparedness.



Inclusive tsunami drill conducted at a school in Phang Nga province.

GUIDING SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT

Businesses, and the private sector as a whole, play a crucial role in accelerating SDG achievement in Thailand, through sustainable business ideas, models and operations.

To boost investment in the sustainability of business, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand (SEC) and UNDP developed an SDG Investor Map in 2022, to assist investors in identifying projects, government policies and market opportunities aligned with SDG priorities. It identified 15 investment opportunities across the SDG-related sectors of food and beverages, renewable resources, alternative energy, health services, transportation, financials, infrastructure, services and education. These opportunities focus on addressing productivity issues, leveraging technology and benefiting the vulnerable. Working with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Thai Listed Companies Association and the Global Compact Network of Thailand, UNDP launched, with Prime Minister of Thailand Srettha Thavisin in attendance, the SDG Guidebook for Thai Listed Companies and SDG Impact Standards.

"Sustainable development is a mega-trend that has established a new norm and order in conducting business. If any business cannot adapt to this new trend, it will lead to loss of opportunities, affecting the country's competitiveness," said the Former Prime Minister during the launch.

These resources aim to promote over US\$1 trillion in SDG-related expenditure and investment with practical guidelines on seamless integration of SDGs into business operations and strategies.

The guidebook incorporates globally recognised tools and frameworks for impact measurement and management, enabling businesses to articulate their positive contributions to social and environmental issues. Furthermore, UNDP's collaborative commitment extends to the development of the SDG Resources Centre for Thai Business, funded by the SEC, to facilitate sustained SDG-driven investments and foster transformative change in both corporate practices and national development.

More than guidance and training, UNDP also focused on developing tools to enable businesses to measure their impact on sustainability. The first initiative involved the SEC in the development of the Environment, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) Assessment Toolkit. This is for private companies to assess their businesses from various aspects, such as equal employment opportunities and greenhouse gas management. In tandem, UNDP developed a new Environment, Social and Corporate Governance Health Check tailored for self-assessment by small and medium enterprises, organisations preparing for registration and listed companies in the early stages of sustainable development.

Under the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), UNDP worked with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and Thailand's National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) in evaluating subnational projects, under the post-COVID economic rehabilitation programme. This work provided lessons for future policy formulation on strengthening the nexus between rapid economic revitalisation and sustainable development acceleration



The SDG Guidebook Launch in 2023, attended by then-Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin.

Also on the sustainable development agenda, UNDP is working with the Ministry of Finance, the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) and other development actors in formulating the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), which identifies a holistic set of policies - from tax and budget to public debt, incentives and financial instruments - that will lead to improved management of available and additional resources.

Meanwhile, as part of a tripartite agreement between the German Government, the Insurance Development Forum and UNDP, UNDP has collaborated with the Ministry of Finance, the NESDC, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the Office of the Insurance Commission, the Thai General Insurance Association and the Insurance Development Forum, to safeguard progress on SDG achievement. Through this initiative, Thailand is now a pioneer in formulating a risk-informed and integrated financing strategy for sustainable development.

The INFF and the Inclusive Insurance and Risk Finance Initiative for Thailand were launched in Bangkok in April 2023, with the Minister of Finance emphasising the importance of a risk-informed INFF.

Complementing national level initiatives, a sustainable transformation vision and financing strategy for Phuket was formulated, through collaboration between UNDP, Prince of Songkhla University, the provincial authorities, the private sector and civil society.

UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner, met with the Thai Prime Minister to discuss our support for Thailand's development priorities. This covered climate actions, digital transformation and the role of development finance in driving growth for all. The Administrator also met with Thailand's Minister of Finance, to discuss opportunities to migrate to a more green and digital economy, focusing on sustainable growth. Meanwhile, the Administrator's meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment focused on Thailand's longstanding partnership in advancing NDC commitments.



Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, had a courtesy meeting with then-Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.

A light orange map of Thailand is centered in the background of the page. The text is overlaid on this map.

STRENGTHENING HUMAN CAPITAL NEEDED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SECTION 2

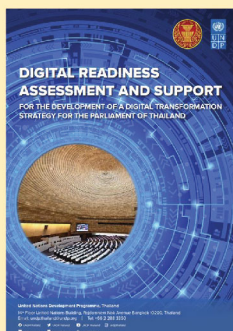
PEOPLE FOR THE MISSION:

Strengthening Human Capital for Sustainable Development

ENABLING DIGITAL GOVERNANCE AND LITERACY

UNDP has strategized digitalisation as an enabler, to be integrated across its SDG interventions. Without adequate capacity and knowledge of digitalisation, as well as fair access to digital technology, societal inequality can be exacerbated. In response, UNDP supports the adoption of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to digital transformation, building digital capacity in the public sector and civil society. This includes vulnerable and marginalised groups, aiming to ensure that the benefits of digitalisation are extended to all.

Digital transformation and strategy can bolster legislative processes and democracy by enhancing public engagement. To strengthen a modern and effective digital parliament, UNDP and the National Assembly of Thailand collaborated to conduct the “Digital Readiness Assessment and Support for the Development of a Digital Transformation Strategy for the National Assembly of Thailand”. This comprehensive digital assessment of internal administration and public engagement processes includes several key recommendations on the reform of documentation and information management, implementation of E-voting, development of a comprehensive whole-of-parliament digital communications strategy and the creation of public engagement channels with standing committees. These initiatives aim to enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability in governance, while ensuring that the people's actual needs drive decision-making processes.

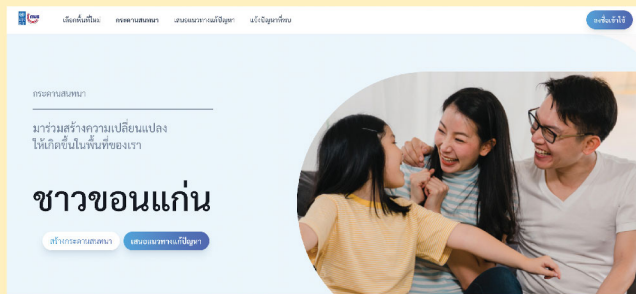


Digital Readiness Assessment and Support for the Thai Parliament



Stakeholder consultation on developing a public policy platform by TP Lab.

The digitalisation of policymaking processes has been a focus for UNDP, to enhance citizen-centric governance. The Thailand Policy Lab, working with the Office of the National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO), has developed a virtual policy platform, based upon the 5 levels of civic engagement: inform, involve, consult, collaborate and empower. Detailed and inclusive stakeholder consultations and interviews were conducted prior to platform development, engaging policy planners from 10 ministries, local governments in 5 provinces and representatives from diverse and vulnerable communities. Working closely with UNDP Digital X, renowned for its expertise in advising governments on engagement, the insights from the consultations informed the design of the platform prototype. Policy proposal submission, debating and policy voting have been incorporated. Ministries, local governments and civil society entities can access these features to support their policy initiatives. The virtual policy platform is expected to be formally adopted by the National Economic and Social Development Council.



Idea4gov.com, a citizen-engagement platform for local communities.

UNDP has also prioritised the strengthening of local government through digitalisation. In partnership with the Office of the Public Sector Development Commission, UNDP launched the citizen engagement platform called Idea 4 Gov (Idea4gov.com). This provides a space in which the public and local authorities can collaborate on local policy design, budgeting and addressing community needs to enhance the responsiveness of public services. The platform has been widely used by the HuaVieng Municipality in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province and by Saen Suk Municipality in Chonburi province. Citizen recommendations on waste management, local tourism and stray dogs were considered by local authorities during their planning processes. The platform is now set to be rolled out nationwide and will be integrated into the 'Tang Rat' application - the centralised portal for all government digital services.



Justice by Design, hosted by UNDP, Court of Justice and Thailand Institute of Justice, brought together judicial officials from the Asian countries and UK.

The effort on digitalisation extended to the judiciary. UNDP worked closely with Thailand's judicial sector in developing a new digital transformation strategy for the Courts of Justice, aiming for a more efficient, inclusive and transparent justice system, especially for vulnerable individuals. 165 Thai judges had the opportunity to exchange knowledge and insights on digital justice systems with counterparts from India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the UK.



We Are Able project: Training programme for young people with disabilities.

Achieving a truly inclusive society requires the enhancement of the people's digital capacity, especially among vulnerable groups. Individuals with visual impairment are often left the furthest behind in the digital transformation process. In response to this inequality, UNDP worked with the Thailand Association of the Blind, with support from the Citi Foundation, to provide digital skills training to 40 visually impaired individuals and increase employability.

Capacity building for people with disabilities extended to other essential skills, through the We Are Able initiative, supported by the Citi Foundation. 226 young people with disabilities were trained in social and communication skills and financial literacy, alongside raising awareness in the private sector regarding disability-inclusive employment. An inclusion job fair was held to connect qualified young job seekers with disabilities to desiring private sector employers. 77 youths with disabilities and 53 organisations participated in the job fair. At least 40 young people with disabilities were employed at the beginning of 2024 as a direct result.

INCUBATING INNOVATION AND INCLUSIVITY MINDSETS AND SKILLS



Suriyon Thunkijjanukij, Senior Advisor of NESDC, introduced the 'Reimagined Policymaking' concept at PIX3.

Responding to complex and uncertain challenges requires a mind-set that fosters inclusion and diversity. Traditional governance structures, however, often encourage siloed thinking and working, making them inefficient and ineffective. During 2022 and 2023, the Thailand Policy Lab hosted its Policy Innovation Exchange (PIX) and Policy Innovation Journey (PIJ) policy knowledge exchange platforms. The PIX brought together over 1,000 national and local policy planners, government officials and academia to exchange experiences in digital analytics, e-Governance and systems thinking, with international practitioners from within UNDP. This included those from the Pulse Lab Jakarta and UNDP Seoul Policy Centre, as well as representatives of the governments of Iceland and Singapore and policy institutions like Estonia's e-Governance Academy and Good Lab Hong Kong. Meanwhile, the PIJ focused on strengthening the innovation capacity of local policy planners and government officials. These sessions took place in Songkhla, Saraburi, Khon Kaen and Phayao provinces across four regions of Thailand. The Thailand Policy Lab knowledge exchange activities have become a crucial platform for Thailand's policymaking ecosystem.

Collaborating with various foreign institutions, including the Chora Foundation and Singapore's Civil Service College, the Thailand Policy Lab introduced a comprehensive set of policy innovation tools, covering design and systems thinking for the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), policy planners and young civil servants, through the Office of the Public Sector Development Commission.

UNDP has institutionalised knowledge of international development principles through several government training institutions. Over 1,000 mayors, through a training institute of the Department of Local Administration, and 400 director-level officials, through public service training institutes of the Office of Civil Service Commission, were trained on gender equality, innovation and climate action.

Moreover, UNDP's innovation team worked with the National Municipal League of Thailand to incubate social innovation principles and social entrepreneurship skills in 10 municipalities, by engaging with vulnerable groups in co-designing solutions to the challenges facing them. As a result, the two municipalities were selected to pilot the initiatives with vulnerable groups: An e-commerce solution for teenage mothers, piloted by Koh Taew Municipality in Song Kla, and creative spaces for all genders, piloted by Khemarat Municipality in Ubon Ratchathani.

Community Empowerment for Responsive Solutions

Community-based organisations can promote and maintain human security. UNDP trained ten organisations on the Human Security Approach, to tackle grievances at the community level. Three of these, each with expertise in human security, human rights, community development and sustainability, showed exceptional abilities in identifying risks and proposing innovative solutions. These organisations were each awarded a grant of USD 10,000 to carry out innovative solutions, whereby:

- *Vulnerable lesbian girls and women were trained on how to eradicate violence, stigmatisation and discrimination through effective engagements.*
- *Vulnerable youth (such as LGBTI persons, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities) were trained to identify alternative career choices and on financial literacy.*
- *Female sex workers were trained on budget planning.*
- *Women living in the conflict-affected southern border regiozn were given health assistance, vocational training for income generation and education on their rights.*

The stigma and discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS can also hinder Thailand's development. In response, UNDP plays a pivotal role in combating this, including advocacy, capacity-building and guidelines for practitioners.

In 2023, UNDP raised awareness among law enforcement officers and prison officials regarding the treatment and care of LGBTI individuals, emphasising their human rights and dignity.



Thai youth participated in the Youth Co:Lab programme to be incubated in innovation and entrepreneurship.

To strengthen human capital for sustainable development, we need to incubate innovation and inclusivity in the mind-sets and skills of civil society. The UNDP Accelerator Lab Thailand and the Youth Co:Lab focused on incubating social innovation principles and social entrepreneurship skills among youth and vulnerable groups, empowering them to become agents of change. Working closely with the Thailand Knowledge (TK) Park, a living library and learning space spanning 30 provinces, 229 youths and 40 partners across four provinces were engaged in an initiative called Local Heroes. Clean Air Heroes were incubated in Mae Hong Son, Waste Heroes in Narathiwat, Circular Heroes in Pattani and Zero-to-Social-Innovation Heroes in Yala.



Two Muslim youth attended a dialogue to co-design solutions for discrimination.



Young ethnic individuals at the Regional Dialogue on Indigenous Youth Social Entrepreneurship.

Moreover, the Youth Co:Lab worked with the Thai Health Promotion Foundation to empower vulnerable youths, by engaging them in a co-designed process to tackle discrimination and reduce inequality. These included dialogues in which each vulnerable group could share their stories with the public, social innovation training and an inclusive hackathon, in which vulnerable groups and youth co-designed and piloted solutions for an inclusive society. 556 young people participated in the process, including 27 with disabilities, 54 ethnic youths, 72 Muslim youths and 70 LGBTI persons.

The Youth Co:Lab also focuses on empowering and strengthening the capacity of ethnic groups. 41 young ethnic people from six communities participated in training on youth-led community enterprises, organised by the Youth Co:Lab. Three ideas from the training were showcased at the Regional Dialogue on Indigenous Youth Social Entrepreneurship event, where young ethnic people also had the chance to exchange their experiences with ethnic youth entrepreneurs from across the Asia-Pacific region.



SECTION 3



**HUMAN RIGHTS
PROMOTION FOR
INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



**YOUTH AND MINORITIES
ENGAGEMENT FOR
INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**



**LAWS AND POLICIES FOR
GENDER EQUALITY**



**DISABILITY INCLUSION
IN EVERY ASPECT OF
DEVELOPMENT**



**PARTICIPATORY JOURNEY TOWARDS
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE:
LEAVING
NO ONE BEHIND
FOR
EQUITABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

SECTION 3

PARTICIPATORY JOURNEY TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE:

Leaving No One Behind for Equitable Development

PROMOTING RIGHTS-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Tawe Sodsong, Minister of Justice, participated in the launch of 2nd National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

The 2022 UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) described Thailand as a nation with "very high human development" and significant economic progress made over the past decade. This growth has not, however, been equally distributed, especially among the vulnerable. In response, one of UNDP's key areas of support to Thailand is to ensure that economic development benefits everyone.

UNDP has supported Thailand in enhancing human rights responsibility in the business sector, by working with the Ministry of Justice to develop the 2nd National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. Inclusive dialogues with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), including 77 CSO representatives and human rights defenders, ensured their inputs were incorporated into the national business framework. The integration of human rights principles and over 200 recommendations provide public and private sector guidance on safeguarding individuals and communities from rights violations associated with business activities.

The framework provided a basis for training programs on business and human rights. Working with the Government of Japan, UNDP designed a 3-step process to assist businesses and their suppliers in better integrating human rights into their operations. This, in turn, informed training programs implemented by UNDP, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Ministry of Justice.

Targeting SMEs, which represent over 99% of enterprises in Thailand, 283 SME representatives, including 133 women and 150 men from 10 provinces, were trained in the Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) framework. These sessions enhanced their understanding of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

96% of the participants found the training relevant and applicable to their business operations, with 95% committing to integrate HRDD into their business practices.



Businesses participate in the discussion on drafting ethical recruitment policies for their companies

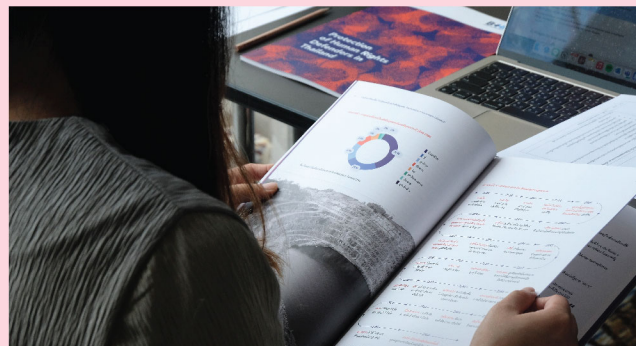
The effort to enhance businesses' capacity in human rights also involved the specific area of recruitment. UNDP, in collaboration with the IOM, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Labour, conducted workshops in eight pilot provinces to guide companies in the setting up of a due diligence process for ethical recruitment. The workshops included discussions on drafting ethical recruitment policies, conducting risk assessments, monitoring outcomes and communicating the results to the companies' leaderships, customers and partners.

The training sessions have prepared SMEs to comply with regulations, including those imposed by international buyers, such as those in the European Union, and domestic Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting, as mandated by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand (SEC).



The tools for SDG Impact Measurement and Human Rights Due Diligence introduced to businesses.

The second initiative, regarding assessment tool development, involves UNDP's collaboration with the SEC, to develop tools enabling businesses to measure their impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the integration of human rights principles into their operations. These tools, named 'SDG Impact Measurement and Human Rights Due Diligence,' also provided essential training to the private sector.



Statistics on SLAPPs revealed in the study on human rights defenders.

UNDP also focuses on addressing violations of human rights defenders. In 2023, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and civil society organisations, UNDP launched two studies concerning their protection.

- The first study, titled "Protection of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)," provided an overview of existing mechanisms to address such violations, identified their shortcomings and outlined necessary steps to improve the situation.

- The second study, "Laws and Measures Addressing Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs)," examined patterns in cases related to business and human rights in Thailand. It analysed 109 cases from 1997 to 2022 and their multidimensional impacts on human rights defenders. These studies reveal alarming data, indicating that 37% of incidents targeting human rights defenders by businesses resulted in violence, leading to loss of life.

Businesses involved in natural resource extraction are found file lawsuits against human rights defenders most frequently. In response, UNDP conducted multi-stakeholder dialogues across five provinces, including Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Songkhla and Udon Thani, involving 163 participants. The aim was to raise awareness about SLAPPs and other forms of business-related abuse, strengthen access to remedies and empower female human rights defenders within youth and ethnic minority groups. Concurrently, UNDP conducted a baseline assessment in communities surrounding the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) in Rayong, the Industrial Model City project in Chana district, Songkhla and gold mining in Loei, to review the situation of human rights defenders and the ongoing litigation they face.

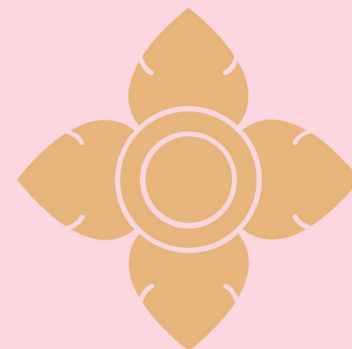
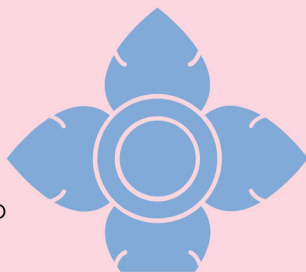
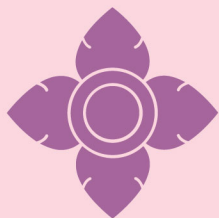
ENGAGING YOUTH AND MINORITIES IN DEVELOPMENT



Young ethnic individuals at the Regional Dialogue on Indigenous Youth Social Entrepreneurship.

Youth and ethnic minorities are frequently excluded from the decision-making processes of states, particularly those whose identities are neither respected nor legally embraced. Global phenomena, such as Climate Change and online education during COVID-19, underscore the importance of involving young people in decision-making. Concurrently, to foster a peaceful society, it is imperative to embrace diversity in terms of race, religion and culture.

Youth and ethnic minorities are among the most vulnerable groups vis-a-vis Climate Change and environmental degradation. UNDP has made efforts to involve these groups in environmental dialogues at both national and international levels.



Youth and Ethnic People for Climate Action

In 2022, with funding support from the Government of Sweden, UNDP organised the Stockholm+50 National Consultation. This brought together national and subnational governments, the private sector and vulnerable groups, including women, youth and ethnic minorities. The consultation included field visits and aimed to facilitate the exchange of ideas and perspectives among all sectors and to discuss sustainable solutions incorporating the on-the-ground experiences of local communities, such as those in coastal areas of Phuket.

Additionally, the 'Youth Climate Action Agenda' was formulated through a series of inclusive dialogues, involving 279 young women, 46 young men and 42 government officers. Through the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) and other national-level dialogues, the UNDP engaged 331 local youths and 21 youth networks in active discussions on climate action. These dialogues resulted in climate action recommendations being shared with authorities and suggestions for enhancing youth participation and capacity building.

The youth network for climate action, fostered by UNDP, culminated in a youth forum on 'Climate Protection' at the Thailand Climate Action Conference, a platform on which young people could share best practices on achieving the SDGs and Net Zero in Thailand with stakeholders. Additionally, a booth featuring the 'NDC Tree' encouraged participants to share their climate action initiatives, supporting the country's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement.



Youth attended a dialogue on 'Youth Climate Action Agenda'.

Mental Health Policy for Youth by Youth

Mental Health was another area in which the Thailand Policy Lab engaged youth in the national policymaking process. A survey conducted among over 1,000 young respondents, post-COVID-19, indicated that this is their most prioritised and urgent issue. Social media listening tools, scanning over 100,000 social media messages, further revealed that online education, during COVID-19, was one of the factors causing stress and mental illnesses among young people.

In response, the Thailand Policy Lab organised a 'Mental Health Policy for Youth-by-Youth Hackathon', involving 7 young teams comprising 40 participants. This provided a platform on which students, teachers, mental health practitioners and national policy planners could co-design solutions. The result was the development of a compulsory course for school students, focusing on mental health awareness, which includes student assessments, extracurricular activities to support mental well-being and a one-stop service to connect, guide and treat students in need of support.

Collaborating closely with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Rajanagarindra Institute and the National Health Commission Office, this course is expected to inform national education policy. Furthermore, the experimental youth engagement in the policymaking process was incorporated into the policy planning methodologies of the NESDC.

The risk to the mental health of the young was also evident in two surveys on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE), conducted by UNDP. They revealed that nearly 50% of respondents, particularly women and youth, have encountered hate speech. Amidst the prevalence of hate speech in Thailand, 60% of respondents expressed concern about the potential for violence in the country.



Youth Mental Health Exhibition by TP Lab at TK Park, Bangkok, 2022.

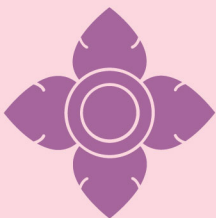
Preventing Violent Extremism by Empowering Youth



Ethnic youth attended the workshop in Amphawa, Samut Songkhram.

Societal prejudice, intertwined with scarce economic opportunities, can render individuals susceptible to violence. To prevent violent extremism, UNDP and the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre supported 18 young women and 10 young men in six ethnic communities in developing community-based enterprises. These initiatives aimed to nurture the creation of artisanal products rooted in local resources, traditional wisdoms and ethnic cultures and, thus, empower ethnic youth to become leaders of change, prevent violence caused by exclusion and foster peacebuilding.

UNDP, in partnership with the Standing Committee on Decentralisation, Local Administrative Organisations, Special Local Administrations, Rajabhat Universities and local government officials from Surat Thani, Udon Thani and Bangkok facilitated “Training on Sustainable Civic Education: Locality is Our Matters towards Sustainable Local Governance” sessions. These aimed to educate youth at Rajabhat Universities about the concept of decentralisation in Thailand and how the SDGs can be implemented at the local level. Furthermore, these initiatives provided fora for dialogues, to amplify youth voices, to discuss challenges, pathways and solutions with the local governments.



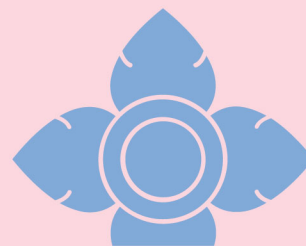
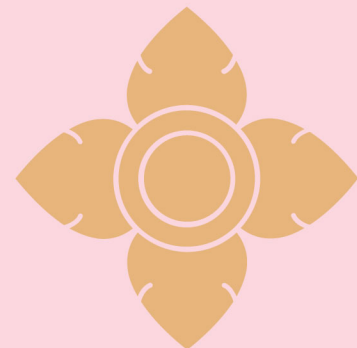
Youth and the Law



30th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum, chaired by Chuan Leekpai, then President of the National Assembly.

UNDP has furthered its efforts to ensure inclusive access for youth to the legislative process and justice system, both at the national and international levels. UNDP partnered with Thailand's Young Parliamentarian Caucus to host a roundtable at the National Assembly of Thailand, titled "Young Parliamentarians of Asia Pacific's Engagement to Leave No One Behind", during the 30th Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, hosted by Thailand. The roundtable aimed at promoting and enhancing the roles of young parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific region and youth representatives from vulnerable and marginalised groups. Participants were invited to share ideas, good practices and lessons learned, and to discuss ways forward in jointly addressing development challenges.

Additionally, UNDP collaborated with UNICEF and the Judicial Training Institute to exchange practices and knowledge on fair access to justice for youth.



Supporting Ethnic Communities and their Cultures

In Thailand, ethnic communities face the challenges of unrecognised rights, limited access to land and statelessness, hindering their cultural preservation and livelihoods. Working with the Thai parliament, UNDP facilitated consultations on draft acts regarding ethnic groups' rights, engaging 72 women and 109 men from ethnic minorities to present their draft law for the first time. This legislation has the potential to bolster the dignity and rights of approximately 6 million members of ethnic minorities and is currently awaiting parliamentary review.

New Zealand's effective policies recognising indigenous populations serve as an inspiring blueprint for Thailand. On the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, UNDP organised a gathering at which representatives from Thailand's diverse ethnic communities engaged in discussions with Thai MPs and the New Zealand Embassy. Additionally, the team worked closely with ethnic youth groups to produce videos showcasing their ways of life, cultural pride and profound ties to ancestral lands. These narratives not only foster social cohesion, but also highlight the richness of cultures inherent in Thailand's ethnic communities.



Melissa Haydon-Clarke, then Chargée d'Affaires of the New Zealand Embassy, presented New Zealand's inclusive ethnic policies to Thai MPs.

Marginalised populations that experience exclusion and discrimination are best placed to shape the policies that address these issues. With this in mind, UNDP worked with state and non-state organisations, at national and sub-national levels, to define these issues by:

- Transforming processes and systems in the local food sector in conflict-affected southern border provinces through Social Innovation Platforms. This was to demonstrate that social cohesion can be strengthened through processes that focus on learning and improvement.
- Exposing ethnic youth, youth with disabilities and youth from rural areas to tools and methods that allow for meaningful participation in policy making and public service processes.
- Introducing policy makers to systems and design thinking, so that they can develop more effective policies.
- Ensuring ethnic minorities lead the process of developing the draft laws to promote their rights.
- Strengthening the role of public engagement in the Thai Parliament by facilitating idea exchanges between MPs, senators, experts, civil society organisations and vulnerable groups.



Ethnic youth visit United Nations ESCAP for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on ethnic rights.

ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH LAWS AND POLICIES



Pride Parade in Bangkok, 2022.

Despite potentially being the first country in Asia to pass a marriage equality bill, Thailand continues to grapple with biases and discrimination against women and LGBTI individuals. The UNDP's national survey on experiences of discrimination against LGBTI people in 2019 indicates that 47.5% of such individuals have experienced at least one form of discrimination, including from within their families. To move Thailand towards gender equality, UNDP has implemented systematic, multi-level interventions spanning laws, policies, advocacy and community empowerment efforts.



Stakeholder consultation with LGBTI sex workers discussing the decriminalization of sex work.

Marriage equality & Gender Recognition

Thailand still lacks a gender recognition law, resulting in stigma and unequal access to welfare and social services. To bridge this gap, UNDP collaborated with civil society organisations and the LGBTI community to develop a gender recognition legislation, aligned with international human rights standards. The aim was to ensure the inclusion of LGBTI voices in the law. The draft legislation is scheduled for review in parliament in mid-2024.

Concurrently, UNDP is dedicated to advancing the rights of LGBTI sex workers, with the ultimate goal of decriminalisation. Throughout the advocacy process, UNDP worked closely with the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, as well as civil society organisations. Together, we provided vital information to sex workers in Chiang Mai and Pattaya on accessing essential health and social services, despite the profession's illegal status in Thailand. UNDP also worked alongside civil society organisations and the LGBTI community, such as the SWING Foundation, to enable sex workers in Thailand to exchange perspectives on decriminalisation and to propose recommendations to relevant authorities.



Promotion of Gender Equality and DE&I

In the public sector, UNDP achieved a significant milestone by securing a commitment from the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) to become the first public organisation in the Asia-Pacific region to participate in UNDP's gender equality assessment program, known as the 'Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions'. This assisted the BMA in conducting a self-assessment, to identify existing gaps in gender equality practices within the organisation. The BMA's participation in the Gender Seal program also served as a model for other public organisations in Thailand.

Furthermore, UNDP engaged with chief gender equality officers and gender focal points across nearly 20 ministries, encouraging them to participate in the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions initiative voluntarily. A survey was conducted to assess the capacity development needs of these officers and focal points, guiding UNDP and the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development in providing tailored support for their effective role fulfilment.

The 'Gender Seal' program was also used as an internal assessment tool within UNDP, with the Thailand Country Office achieving a 'Silver' rating. This indicates that we are performing well in promoting gender equality and an inclusive workplace. There is, however, still room for improvement to reach the 'Gold' standard. This is aligned with our zero-tolerance policy on sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse.



Memorandum Signing Ceremony with the Deputy Bangkok Governor on the 'Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions'.

In the private sector, UNDP successfully engaged with over 10 leading corporations in Thailand, securing their commitment to embrace the organisational framework of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I). This significant commitment led to the development of a DE&I toolkit, tailored for Thai companies. Its creation was informed by insights and inputs from stakeholders from the private sector and the LGBTI community and is aligned with the United Nations' Standards of Conduct for Business - Tackling Discrimination against LGBTI People in the Workplace. It also draws inspiration from the Workplace Pride international toolkit for corporate entities. Launched in 2024, the DE&I toolkit serves as a practical guideline for any organisation aiming to foster gender equality.



Launch of the Inclusion Toolkit for Organizations and Businesses in 2023.

Key points of the DEI toolkit

What is LGBTIQ+ inclusion?

It is recognising the differences in people's gender identity, sexual orientation and gender expression – and trying to make everyone feel safe and comfortable in their own skin.

Why should your organisation strive for LGBTIQ+ inclusion?

- Diverse and inclusive teams make better business decisions by up to 87%.
- Employees who feel excluded underperform, while people who are happy at work are 13% more productive.
- Organisations in the top quartile for LGBTIQ+ diversity are 25% more likely to earn above average profits.

The LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Toolkit for Organisations and Business Focuses on:

- The LGBTIQ Business Case
- HR Policies and Practice
- A Code of Conduct
- Awareness and Training



MESSAGE FROM

Dr. Sarah Taylor,

Ambassador of Canada to Thailand

As we strive collectively to build back better following the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we face both the opportunity and the challenge of ensuring that we leave no one behind. In particular, Canada has adopted a feminist approach to its international assistance, because we firmly believe that women and girls, in all their diversity, have the ability to achieve real change. We prioritise investments, partnerships and advocacy efforts that have the greatest potential to close gender gaps, eliminate barriers to gender equality and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a core donor to UNDP globally, Canada proudly supports the UNDP in its objectives in Thailand and the region. With the UNDP and partners in Thailand, such as APCOM and the Equal Asia Foundation, we are proud to promote greater workplace diversity and inclusion. This work includes fostering gender equality and the social and economic inclusion of LGBTQI people, while recognising youths as agents of change. Canada applauds the work of UNDP and partners in developing the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Toolkit, and the companies who are turning these valuable tools into action. Close cooperation between the public and private sectors is essential to attainment of the SDGs. Together, we can help ensure that diversity remains a source of creativity, resilience and strength.

Canada, Thailand and UNDP also share objectives with regard to climate change, as we all work to transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient, nature-positive and inclusive sustainable development. We hope to cooperate further with UNDP and Thailand in the future, leveraging Thailand's role as ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation and Canada's co-chairing of the Sustainable Development Goals Advocates group.

In this special year, marking the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I look forward to working with UNDP Thailand to ensure we respect and protect human rights for all and embrace diversity, as we work to advance progress on the SDGs and post-pandemic recovery.



Gender Equality and Parliament

UNDP collaborated closely with the parliamentary leadership to advocate for gender-sensitive legislative policies, aimed at enhancing women's representation and participation in decision-making processes. This included awareness raising campaigns to integrate SDGs within parliamentary work. Additionally, UNDP amplified the voices of female MPs on various Standing Committees considering gender equality and mainstreaming this issue into policy and inclusive governance practices.

Ending Gender-Based Violence

UN Women and WHO's report reveals that 31% of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a current or former husband or intimate partner. To stop violence caused by gender biases rooted in culture, UNDP worked closely with UN sister agencies to create various public campaigns.

In March 2023, UNDP, in collaboration with IOM, UNFPA, UN Women, WHO and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, launched a video campaign titled 'It is OK to say NO.' This raised public recognition of different types of sexual harassment, empowering individuals assertively to reject and report such incidents. These videos were prominently displayed on digital billboards in more than 100 convenience stores nationwide throughout April 2023.

To sustain the momentum, in November 2023, UNDP partnered with UNFPA and WHO to produce another video campaign titled 'STOP all forms of gender-based violence.' This was displayed on sky trains in Bangkok and at airports in 15 provinces for 10 days during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The campaign generated over 1 million views per day.



Video campaign on 'STOP all forms of gender-based violence' broadcast on a skytrain.

On-the-ground campaigns were also implemented. The Kham Khong (Cross-Border) Run, co-hosted by UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women during the 16 Days of Activism in November 2023, promoted the prevention of gender-based violence in border provinces.

Our efforts also encompassed International Women's Day, on which a forum on 'Women as one of the Backbones of Our Shared Future' was co-hosted with UN Women, UNFPA and the British Embassy in March 2024. This forum brought together women from various professions to share their perspectives. Furthermore, in collaboration with the BIPAM group, a street performance, featuring a diverse group of actors, was held at landmarks in Bangkok, to raise public awareness about gender equality.

Kham Khong (Cross-Border) Run during the 16 Days of Activism in November 2023 along the Thai-Lao border.



INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN EVERY ASPECT OF DEVELOPMENT



Study visit in Suphan Buri for an inclusive tourism infrastructure prototype, by UNDP Accelerator Lab.

In Thailand, people with disabilities face systemic discrimination, rooted in ingrained beliefs and cultural norms, resulting in unequal opportunities across various aspects of life. Recognising the severity of this inequality, UNDP integrates people with disabilities into all facets of development, encompassing infrastructure, employment and communication tools, to reshape the narratives surrounding disability.

The Disability Inclusive Development Strategy for 2022-2026 was launched, prioritising:

1. The promotion of equal rights for people with disabilities,
2. Enhancing economic empowerment opportunities for people with disabilities,
3. Mainstreaming disability inclusion across all development initiatives.

Thailand's government formalised the promotion of equal employment opportunities for people with disabilities through employment quotas across government agencies and the private sector, while providing incentives to private companies that hire people with disabilities. Achieving the quota, however, requires the right understanding of people

with disabilities, a positive mind-set from employers, accessible infrastructure, reasonable accommodation etc. In addressing this, UNDP launched a study on 'Promoting an Inclusive Workplace for Persons with Disabilities in Thailand', in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Key findings and policy recommendations from the report were presented at an event which brought together government officials, private sector representatives, organisations of persons with disabilities, embassies and UN sister agencies.

To continue our efforts, UNDP's disability inclusion team and the Thailand Policy Lab conducted a consultation involving individuals with visual impairment, physical disability and psycho-social disabilities, alongside relevant government officers. Policy innovation tools supported participants in identifying the challenges faced and collaboratively designing office infrastructure, inclusive communication methods and capacity building for those with disabilities. These recommendations were subsequently submitted to the NESDC and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

Disability Employment



Opening of a policy hackathon on disability employment, titled Hack Hug Hug.

UNDP's disability inclusion team, the UNDP Accelerator Lab and the Thailand Policy Lab worked closely with the Thai Public Broadcasting Service (ThaiPBS) to organise a policy hackathon on disability employment, called 'Hack Hug Hug'. This brought together people with various disabilities, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, foundations, private companies and relevant stakeholders. The aim was to co-design solutions that support disability employment in both the public and private sectors. People with disabilities were trained in facilitation skills and were engaged as co-facilitators in each group. Policy recommendations from the 8 groups (with 140 participants) included data for disability recruitment, transition to work for university students with disabilities, enhancing employment for people with disabilities in the public sector according to a quota system, freelancing and self-employment and the creation of inclusive working environments. Some solutions have already been adopted by the participating organisations.

UNDP realises that inclusivity needs to extend beyond workplaces and strengthening the capacities of people with disabilities; it also involves matching their skills with the shifting demands of the job market. This led to Thailand's first inclusion job fair, co-organised by UNDP and the Social Innovation Foundation, with support from the Citi Foundation. It connected 53 organisations with nearly 100 young people with disabilities across various skill sets, resulting in the hiring of more than 40 such youths in 2024.

Empowering People with Disabilities Through Sport



'Run2Gether' event for people with and without disabilities to run together in Lumpini Park, Bangkok.

The effort to promote disability inclusion encompasses sport as well. Sports formats and facilities are typically designed for people without disabilities, leading to a lack of support in athletic skill development, a scarcity of public spaces for people with disabilities and public misperceptions of people with disabilities. Sport can, however, be leveraged to create systemic change. So, the UNDP Accelerator Lab worked with Klong Dinsor, a Thai company focused on disability inclusion, to support the creation of sports for people with disabilities by people with disabilities.

This initiative provided a co-creation platform on which people with and without disabilities can design formats and rules for certain sports to play together. These are now being trialled and refined with Run2gether, a community of runners with and without disabilities. The aim is to enable the sports to be played in public spaces to strengthen relationships between people with and without disabilities, support the health of everyone involved and improve the inclusivity of infrastructure and facilities.

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2023, the UNDP Accelerator Lab and 'Run2Gether' arranged for around 60 people without disabilities to join 60 people with disabilities as guide runners in Lumpini Park. The ambassadors of Ireland and Malaysia also took part.

Inclusive Tourism



UNDP Accelerator Lab Thailand and the Disability Inclusion Advisor conducted a field study in Suphan Buri to develop an inclusive tourism prototype.

Inclusive Tourism enhances the lives of people with disabilities while providing an important opportunity for Thailand's tourism sector to ensure that everyone, regardless of their abilities, can enjoy tourism. Using its 'co-creation' approach, the UNDP Accelerator Lab developed user-centric and inclusive tourism prototypes, working in close collaboration with the Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (DASTA) and Nutty's Adventures, an inclusive Thai social enterprise. People with disabilities and local communities in Sukhothai and Suphan Buri provinces were engaged as co-creators of inclusive tourism prototypes.

This approach resulted in user-centric prototype solutions, including an accessibility ramp, meeting universal design standards and seamlessly blending with traditional architecture, along with tactile tools, such as wooden models, enabling the visually impaired to engage with and understand traditional architecture through touch. The benefit of these solutions extends to elderly people, injured individuals, children and pregnant women. With success at the community level, the prototypes are being scaled up to the city level, starting with Song Khla Old Town area in 2024, ultimately aiming to incorporate this initiative into the national tourism policy.

Change Begins at Home

UNDP and UNV are committed to leaving no one behind. As part of this commitment, the Talent Programme encouraged recruitment of people with disabilities to the workplace. With support from the Government of Sweden, UNDP opened a position for a Disability Advisor. A candidate with psycho-social disability was recruited to form a team that promotes disability inclusion for 10 months.

"Being a UN Volunteer as a Disability Advisor in the Disability Inclusion Team at UNDP Thailand has provided me with many opportunities. Having a psychosocial disability, I have learned to thrive in an international organization that promotes inclusivity. My experience has deepened my understanding of teamwork and expanded my skills in areas such as public speaking and writing funding proposals. Moreover, I have improved my knowledge of disabilities and contributed to projects benefiting persons with disabilities in Thailand. I am proud and grateful for the opportunity to have served as a UN Volunteer and to have been part of UNDP Thailand." - Neeranuch Kunakorn, Disability Advisor, UNDP



Neeranuch Kunakorn, Disability Advisor, UNDP

Disability Representation in Media



Media professionals attended disability-inclusive media training.

Discrimination against people with disabilities often stems from ingrained beliefs and cultural norms. A truly inclusive society demands that we go beyond mere policy and infrastructure improvements and address the underlying attitudes and unconscious biases. In Thai mass media, people with disabilities have often been portrayed as incapable or unfortunate, perpetuating negative stereotypes. To challenge and reshape this narrative, UNDP worked closely with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission, with support from the Irish and Australian Embassies, to organise disability-inclusive media training seminars for approximately 50 media professionals and 140 young journalists from various universities in 2023. These seminars aimed to promote inclusive reporting in the media, to combat societal stigma.

The Disability-inclusive Media contest invited submissions of inclusive media pieces from journalists, content creators and producers from across Thailand's media landscape, including articles and short and long-form documentaries, which were published through various media platforms. Award-winning media pieces were promoted by UNDP, fostering better understanding of disabilities.



Interview of a young autistic student and their teacher, part of the 'Make the Invisible Visible' campaign.

On the UNDP platform itself, during the month of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2022, we ran a joint campaign with UNFPA, UN Women and UNICEF. 'Make the Invisible Visible' videos featured interviews with people living with invisible disabilities, including psycho-social, intellectual, learning and autistic conditions. The campaign aimed to foster better public understanding regarding the various types of disability and the unique challenges each presents. In 2023 we released a campaign video on International Sign Language Day, in collaboration with 'ThisAble.Me,' a Thai media outlet focused on disability inclusion, which attracted a significant viewership.

Moreover, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme promotes volunteerism in supporting peace and development worldwide. It benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer.

The commencement
of the SDG Localization Project in 2023.



STRENGTHENING STATE INSTITUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNDP focuses on working with state institutions to ensure that, as duty bearers, they have incorporated sustainable development. UNDP works closely with local and national government, the National Assembly of Thailand and the judicial sector, to ensure that the country's governance is aligned with the SDGs.

National and Local Ambitions for the SDGs



*Training on local budgeting for biodiversity management
in northeastern Thailand.*

SDG achievement needs recognition of their interconnections. During 2022 and 2023, UNDP addressed cross-cutting issues through work with a series of relevant government agencies to create systemic change.

The SDG Localisation Initiative, funded by the European Union, has aligned national and local ambitions with the SDGs through collaboration with the National Economic and Social Development Council, alongside the Ministry of Interior and sub-national government agencies.

UNDP also secures climate justice through collaboration with the various branches of government and the Office of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand. This ensures that these entities are aware of the climate impact on vulnerable groups.

Biodiversity protection also requires the different authorities to take collective action. While UNDP has worked on the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, effective governance and budgeting are needed to actually implement these strategies. In response, UNDP has also worked with the ministries of Interior and Finance, to ensure that biodiversity is incorporated into local action plans and budgeting.

Driving SDGs through the National Assembly of Thailand



The courtesy meeting with Wanmuhammadnoor Matha, President of National Assembly and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

UNDP has strategically engaged with the National Assembly of Thailand to promote sustainable development, governance and inclusive participation in legislative programmes. These efforts focus on environmental and climate change, disaster preparedness, risk reduction, gender equality and social inclusion.

UNDP worked closely with Parliamentary Standing Committees to foster systemic change. We provided technical support to the National Assembly of Thailand in digital democratic governance and promoted gender equality in political participation, aiming to increase equality, efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness.

Throughout the drafting of laws on ethnic rights and gender recognition, which are pivotal in advancing equality, UNDP reshaped its approach by facilitating engagement between civil society organisations and groups representing ethnic and LGBTI individuals, so they can present their perspectives to MPs, Standing Committees and various political parties. Furthermore, we ensured that the draft laws align with international human rights standards.

UNDP has also strengthened the capacity of parliamentarians, permanent and elected, to play significant roles in implementing the SDGs through capacity building and the fostering of dialogue on critical issues. UNDP also facilitated workshops and roundtable discussions, encouraging collaboration between lawmakers, civil society, and stakeholders.

To support the National Assembly of Thailand in advancing the Green Parliament Agenda, UNDP and the Secretariat of the House of Representatives jointly developed the Climate Finance Handbook in 2023. This document serves as a guideline for parliamentarians and officials when engaging all sectors in a wide range of collective climate action elements.

The efforts on capacity building extend to the on-the-ground roles of parliamentarians in their respective constituencies and communities. Given that Thailand is among the most vulnerable countries to climate hazards and seasonal disasters, UNDP recognises the opportunity to empower parliamentarians to take a frontline role in supporting local community efforts to reduce disaster risks.

In 2022, UNDP worked closely with the Standing Committee on Natural and Public Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, to highlight the vital role of parliamentarians in disaster risk reduction. This included knowledge exchanges among experts in various fields to advance early warning systems, enhance multi-hazard preparedness and integrate disaster risk reduction measures into legislative processes.



Launch of the programme to strengthen parliament's role in disaster prevention with the Standing Committee on Natural and Public Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

Institutionalising an Inclusive Justice System and Administration



Workshop on Systems Design for a Safer Space in Criminal Justice for lawyers, judges, and judicial officers.

We have collaborated closely with the judicial sector to enhance integrity within its institutions and leverage its pivotal role in supporting Thailand's journey towards an inclusive and equitable society. Our efforts with the judiciary have ranged from capacity building on social inclusion and justice innovation, to facilitating digital transformation.

Innovation is a cornerstone of our sustainable development approach. It is integrated into our various initiatives. In the judicial sector, innovative thinking has reshaped justice systems, prioritising people-centred and humanistic approaches. If justice systems are not inclusive, they can perpetuate injustice and inequality. UNDP worked with the Nitivajra Institute, under the Office of the Attorney General, and the Thailand Institute of Justice to ensure inclusivity of justice systems and administration.

Together, we adopted design thinking methodologies in a workshop called "Violence through a Different Lens: Systems Design for a Safer Space in Criminal Justice Systems." This engaged the courts, prosecutors, police, lawyers and related professionals, enabling them to examine the journeys of various groups' through the justice system and administration. Existing inequities were identified, prompting proactive measures to address them.

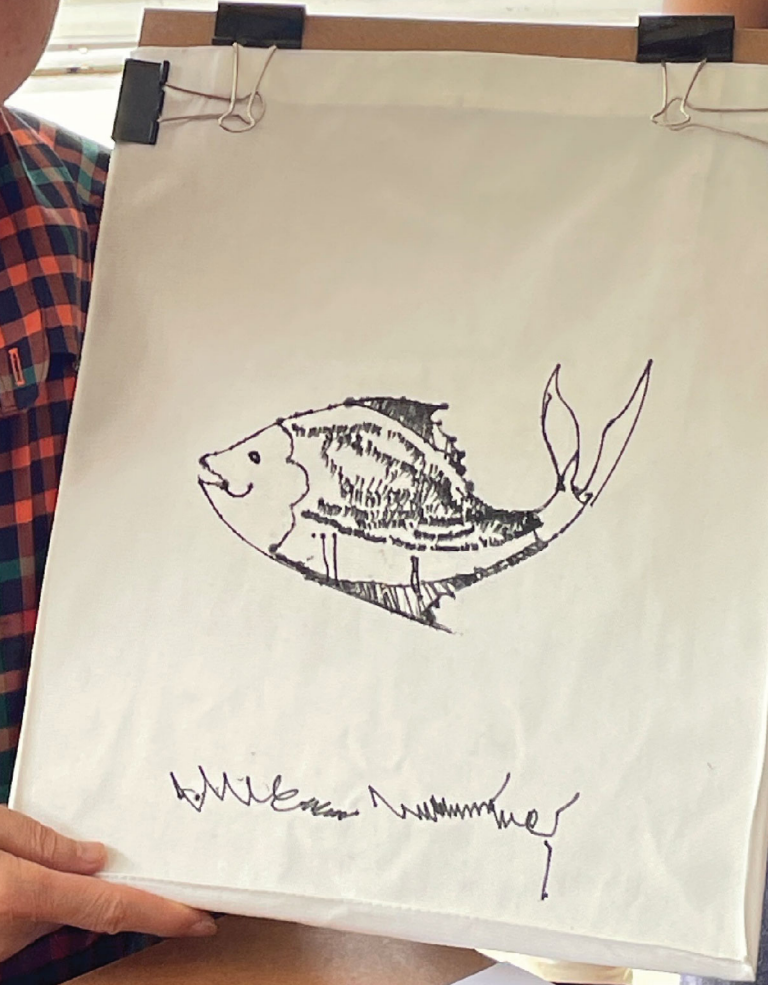
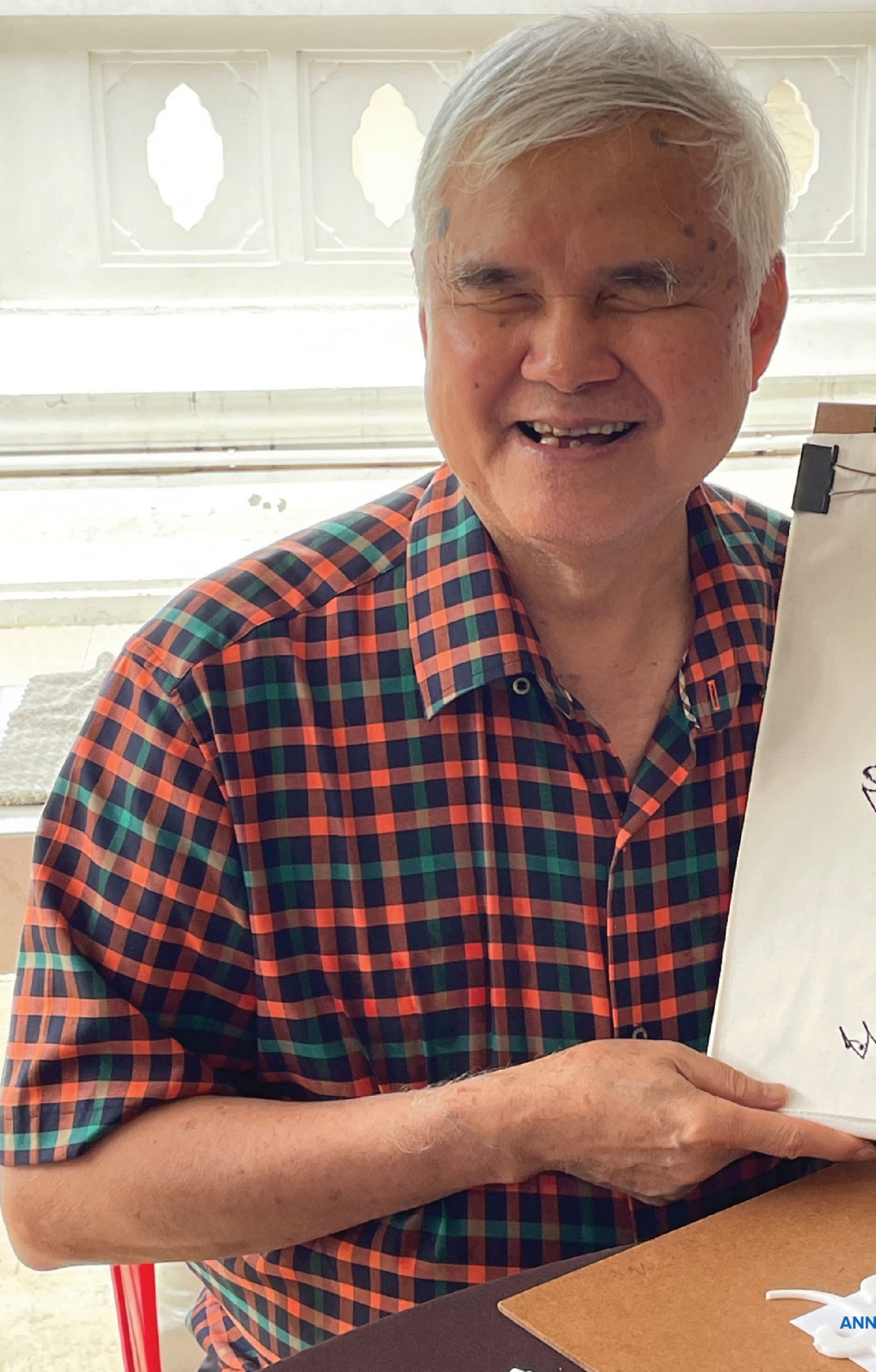
Additionally, UNDP, the Ministry of Justice, the Judicial Training Institute and other relevant organisations worked closely to introduce the "Leave No One Behind" principle to judges and judicial officials. This aimed to deepen their understanding of the inequalities experienced by vulnerable groups, with the goal of improving their access to justice.

With digital transformation being a new and critical area of development for many countries, UNDP leveraged its global network to facilitate knowledge exchange sessions between 165 Thai judges and judiciary representatives from India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the UK. These exchanges provided valuable insights and empirical evidence, serving as a foundation for the development of a new digital transformation strategy, tailored to the needs of Thailand's Courts of Justice.

UNDP's "Justice by Design" project partners with the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand, the Thailand Institute of Justice and LUKKID to identify pain points and to design people centred court services collaboratively. Over eight weeks, more than 50 judges, attorneys, activists and academics developed a judicial service prototype, to enhance accessibility for vulnerable groups. A key focus was on improving website accessibility for people with visual impairments. Following the prototype's development, the Court of Justice incorporated the tools into its website.



Justice by Design: A workshop on an inclusive justice system for lawyers, judges, and judicial officers.



Billie Williams

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

In 2022–2023, UNDP initiated several South-South Cooperation activities benefiting partners in Thailand across various areas, including policy innovation, digital governance, and inclusive legislative processes.

ASIA PACIFIC COUNTRIES

UNDP and Thailand's Young Parliamentarians Caucus brought together young parliamentarians from Asia-Pacific countries for a roundtable discussion on “Young Parliamentarians of Asia Pacific's Engagement to Leave No One Behind” at the 30th Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum in Bangkok. The event aimed to promote and enhance youth participation in legislative processes.

- Youth Co: Lab organized the Regional Dialogue on Indigenous Youth Social Entrepreneurship, where ethnic youth in Thailand exchanged entrepreneurship experiences and practices with other ethnic youth entrepreneurs from across the Asia-Pacific region.
- UNDP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNESCAP co-organized Global South-South Development Expo 2022 (GSSD Expo 2022) under the theme “Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future. Around 100 countries participated to exchange idea, experience and lesson learned to advance SDGs after COVID-19 era.

UNDP, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and UNESCAP co-organized the Global South-South Development Expo 2022 (GSSD Expo 2022) under the theme, “Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future.” Around 100 countries participated to exchange ideas, experiences, and lessons learned to advance the SDGs in the post-COVID-19 time.

- UNDP and the Government of Thailand co-organized a roundtable discussion on the Bio-Circular-Green Economic approach for green and inclusive growth, as part of the Bangkok Goals endorsed by APEC members.



SOUTH KOREA – THAILAND

UNDP's Seoul Policy Centre and the Thailand Policy Lab exchanged policy innovation approaches and tools during Thailand Policy Lab's Policy Innovation Exchange (PIX) 2 held in Bangkok, Thailand, in April 2022. This knowledge exchange focused on digital governance with a people-centered approach, aimed at enhancing the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of government in policy design and implementation. Over 1,000 government officers participated in the exchange.



INDIA – INDONESIA – MALAYSIA – THAILAND

UNDP hosted a forum on digital justice in Thailand in 2022, where 165 Thai judges exchanged knowledge and insights on digital justice systems with counterparts from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the UK.

UNDP KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

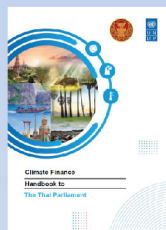
CLIMATE AND NATURE



10 Lessons Learned Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade



Achieving Low Carbon Growth in the City Through Electrified Urban Transport System in Thailand



Climate Finance Handbook to the Thai Parliament

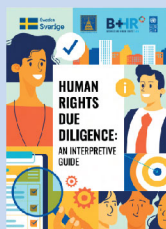


Innovative Solutions for Waste Bank Development in Surat Thani



SCALA Guidance Brief: Private sector mapping, outreach and engagement in climate-responsive agrifood systems

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS



Human Rights Due Diligence: An Interpretive Guide



Human Rights Due Diligence: Training Facilitation Guide

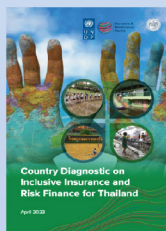


SLAPPs in the Context of Business and Human Rights



The Protection of Human Rights Defenders in the Context of Business and Human Rights

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE



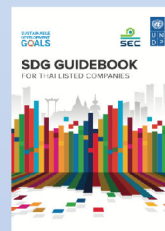
Country Diagnostic on Inclusive Insurance and Risk Finance for Thailand



Development Finance Assessment for Thailand



Inclusive Insurance and Risk Financing in Thailand: Snapshot and way forward 2023



SDG Guidebook for Thai Listed Companies



SDG Investor Map Thailand

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Making Our Future: New Directions for Human Development in Asia and the Pacific

INNOVATION



Co-Creation Playbook for Collaborative Actions in Your Local Fresh Markets



Community-Based Tourism for All Co-creation Journey



Community-Based Tourism Social Innovation Playbook

LOCALIZATION



Phuket Sustainable Transformation Vision and Strategy



SDG Provincial Profiles - 15 Pilot Provinces in Thailand

SOCIAL INCLUSION



Promoting an Inclusive Workplace for Persons with Disabilities in Thailand



Standards of Conduct for Business: Tackling Discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, & Intersex People



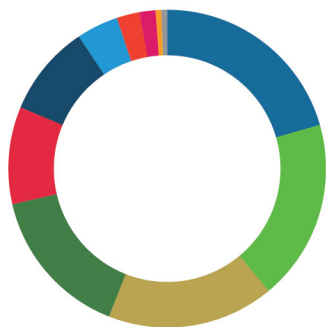
Thai Women's Unpaid Care and Domestic Work and the Impact on Decent Employment

UNDP FUNDING

2022 UNDP EXPENDITURES PER SDGS

All SDGs

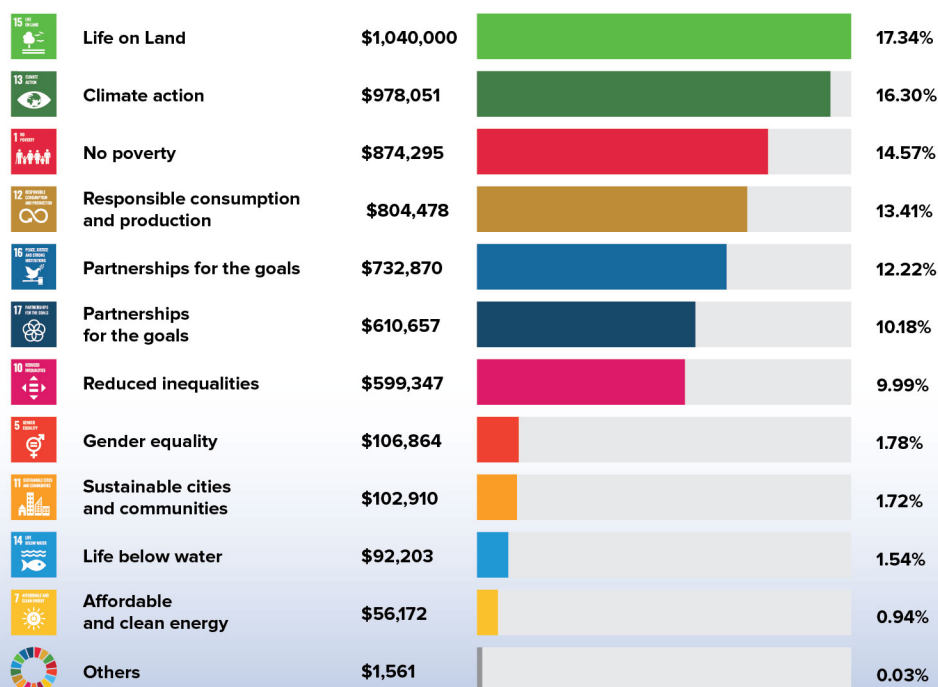
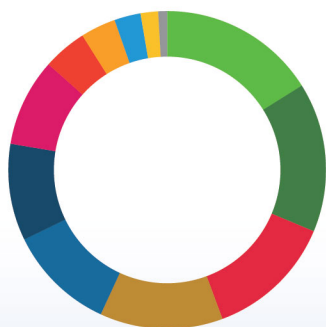
\$4,963,277.35



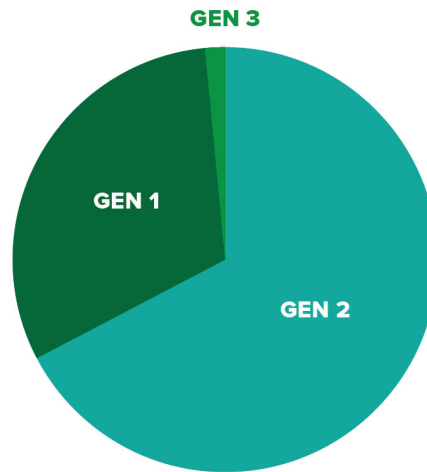
2023 UNDP EXPENDITURES PER SDGS

All SDGs

\$5,999,408.05



UNDP CONTRIBUTION TO GENDER EQUALITY



Percentage of expenditure per gender marker





UNDP introduced the Gender Marker in 2009 as a tool to track the organisation's expenditure towards contributions to gender equality. The marker is a four-points scale from "Not expected to contribute to gender equality" (GEN0) to "Gender equality being the principal objective" (GEN3).

In 2022-2023, 72% of the Thailand Country Office (CO) projects and programmes contributed to gender equality under GEN2 (Gender equality as a significant objective), with only 27% of its projects with GEN1 (Some contribution to gender equality).

















CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Out of the US\$ 6.9 million in resources for UNDP's development work in 2022, key contributions include US\$ 2.6 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for wildlife conservation, climate action, and sustainable natural resource management; US\$ 1.0 million from the Green Climate Fund for climate adaptation in Thailand; US\$ 1.8 million from the European Union to advance business and human rights and promote peace; and US\$ 1.3 million from the Thai Government for the Thailand Policy Lab. Additionally, the UK, Germany, Sweden, Japan, Citi Foundation, and other funding partners contributed US\$ 2.4 million.

CONTRIBUTORS

 Global Environment Facility (GEF)	 European Union	 Thailand Government	 Green Climate Fund (GCF)
US\$ 2.6 MILLION	US\$ 1.8 MILLION	US\$ 1.3 MILLION	US\$ 1.0 MILLION

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS











 UNDP Funding Windows - Nature Climate Energy	 UK-BEIS	 Joint UNDP-DDPA	 Government of Germany
 Government of Sweden	 UNDP	 Government of Japan	 Citi Foundation
 UK-FCO	 OECD	 Agriculture and Community Development Foundation	 Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
 Japan - Partnership Development Programme, Private Sector Cooperation Fund	 UK-FCDO	 Blue Carbon Society	 SIDA
US\$ 2.4 MILLION			

Out of the US\$ 10.4 million in resources for UNDP's development work in 2022, key contributions include US\$ 3.0 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for climate adaptation in Thailand, US\$ 1.7 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for wildlife conservation, climate action, and sustainable natural resource management, and US\$ 1.4 million from the Government of Japan for sustainable transportation. Additionally, the Royal Thai Government, Luxembourg, Ireland, Australia, Germany, Canada, and other international partners contributed US\$ 1.5 million.

CONTRIBUTORS

 Green Climate Fund (GCF)	 Global Environment Facility (GEF)	 Government of Japan
US\$ 3.0 MILLION	US\$ 1.7 MILLION	US\$ 1.4 MILLION

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

 Thailand Government	 Government of Luxembourg	 Government of Ireland	 Government of Australia
 Government of Germany	 Irish Aid	 Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)	 UN Trust Fund for Human Security
 Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Action on Green Economy	 UNDP		
US\$ 1.5 MILLION			

CORE DONORS TO UNDP GLOBAL

Core donors form the pillar of regular resources so that UNDP can support countries to eradicate poverty and inequality, attain sustainable development, and strengthen resilience to crises. It is with the help of these core resources that we can enable coordinated, flexible, and rapid responses to development needs and emergencies. We also utilise these resources to provide capability for multi-sectoral and integrated solutions and to support countries to leverage financing for the SDGs. Enhancing thought leadership, innovation, and quality assurance are also achieved through core resources. We would therefore like to thank our partners at core:

IN 2022



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



GERMANY



SWEDEN



JAPAN



SWITZERLAND



NORWAY



NETHERLANDS



CANADA



DENMARK



FRANCE



BELGIUM



INDIA



AUSTRALIA



REPUBLIC OF KOREA



IRELAND



QATAR

IN 2023



GERMANY



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



JAPAN



SWITZERLAND



NORWAY



SWEDEN



NETHERLANDS



CANADA



UNITED KINGDOM



DENMARK



FRANCE



REPUBLIC OF KOREA



BELGIUM



IRELAND



AUSTRALIA

UNDP COMMITMENT TO PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

The Thailand Country Office (CO) has made it a priority to promote a safe workplace, with a zero-tolerance of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse. The CO developed a sexual harassment and sexual exploitation action plan, with a number of successfully implemented activities.

The CO ensured that UNDP personnel and partners were kept aware of corporate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation policies. A paragraph on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was included in the 2022-2023 UNDP Thailand Annual Report.

Moreover, UNDP conducted a session on the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation for all implementation partners and responsible parties. UNDP and external personnel were made aware of what to do if they experience or witness harassment or exploitation, with various options and channels being provided for the reporting of such issues and behaviours. The CO also ensured accountability, by organising quarterly and ad-hoc meetings of the working group on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation.

UNDP made it compulsory for all personnel to complete online courses on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse within the first three months of joining the organisation. The culture of trust was also strengthened through the CO's efforts to create a work environment free from any kind of discrimination.

A video was produced as part of a joint UN campaign, titled "It's OK to Say NO", to promote the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.





LGBTI RIGHTS

สิทธิของ LGBTI = สิทธิมนุษยชน

LGBTI Rights = Human Rights

HUMAN RIGHTS



ACCELERATING THAILAND'S PATH TO PROSPERITY, EQUITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY



In September 2024, at the United Nations in New York, 193 countries endorsed the Pact for the Future. In signing the Pact, world leaders made a promise to avoid transferring the conflict between people and planet to next generations. They promised, instead, to accelerate an inclusive, gender-sensitive and green transition, so that today's children inherit the ability to determine their own futures.

I had the privilege of taking up the role of Resident Representative for UNDP in Thailand at the time that the Pact for the Future was signed. It gives me hope that we still have the potential to pull progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) onto the right tracks globally, even as global uncertainty, conflict, and the climate crisis pull strongly in the opposite direction.

It also reinforced for me that, with just five years remaining until the 2030 SDGs deadline, making real progress will take everyone – public and private – pulling in the same direction together.

UNDP in Thailand is committed to working side-by-side with all our partners to help turn the words of the Pact into action. That means supporting an inclusive, green transition, with strengthened human capital, where no-one is left behind – the three outcomes of our country programme from now to 2026. This translates into five priorities for 2024/25:

1. Advancing nature-positive, inclusive economic development

UNDP supports sustainable growth by promoting climate and biodiversity financing while fostering biodiversity-based tourism – balancing economic growth with environmental preservation and advancing Thailand's global climate and nature commitments.

2. Localizing SDGs and expand SDG financing options

UNDP promotes bottom-up, responsive solutions through SDG localization and innovative financing. This includes generating inclusive local SDG data and analysis, aligning provincial plans and budgets with the SDGs, exploring innovative, sovereign financing instruments to enhance domestic resources for development, and designing guides, incentives, and bankable projects to help align private sector action and financing flows with the global goals.

3. Building climate resilience

UNDP strengthens Thailand's resilience to climate impacts, helping Thailand to put in place the tools, skills, policies, partnerships, and legislative environment necessary to adapt and respond to the climate crisis, especially in the face of increasing devastation from flooding and droughts.

4. Empowering agents of change

UNDP fosters collective action by empowering decision-makers across all sectors as 'Agents of Change', including government officials, parliamentarians, the private sector, youth, and the media to drive positive, collective ambition and action towards the SDGs, including creating space and platforms for exchange, collaboration, and engagement.

5. Supporting Thailand's transition to a development partner

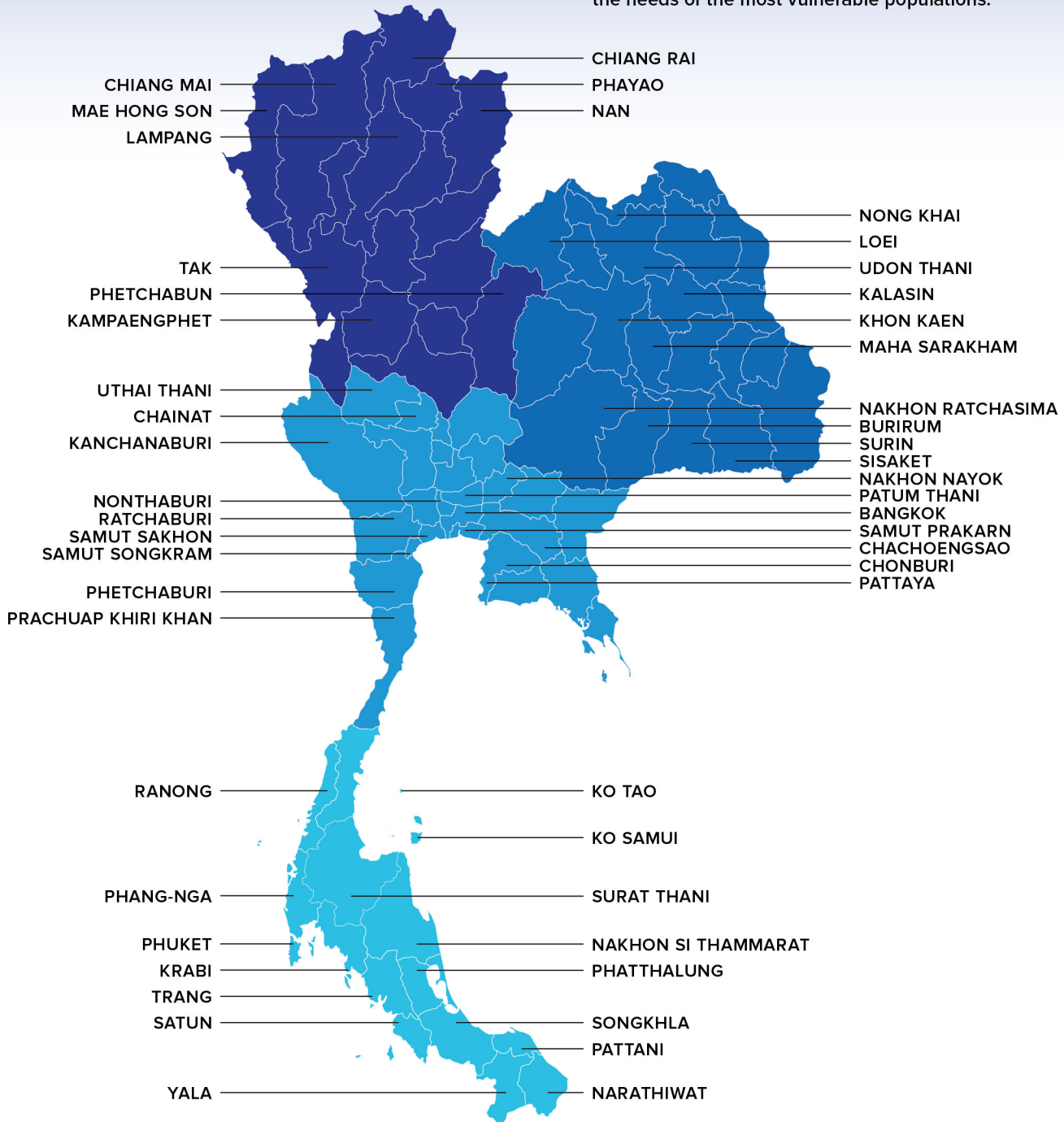
UNDP supports Thailand's evolving role as a regional and global SDG-aligned partner through South-South collaboration.

At UNDP, as the stories in this annual report set out, our commitment to Thailand's SDG journey runs deep. My team and I look forward to supporting that journey together.

*Niamh Collier-Smith,
UNDP Resident Representative to Thailand (since July 2024)*

WHO ARE WE AND WHERE WE WORK

With its office in Bangkok, a lot of UNDP's work takes place in Thailand's capital. However, UNDP's reach stretches far beyond Bangkok, with 77 provinces of Thailand to leave no one behind and address the needs of the most vulnerable populations.



UNDP TEAM AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2022



The UNDP team comprises 60 staff members, 57 of whom are Thai nationals, while 3 come from other countries: France, Kazakhstan, and Italy. Among the 60 staff members, 44 are women, 16 are men, and 11 identify as LGBTI.

The team's academic and professional backgrounds span economics, government affairs, law, international development, social and political sciences, business, environmental science, forestry, and communications, offering a broad range of skills and expertise to support the implementation of the UNDP Programme.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

APEC - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN - Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BCG - Bio-Circular-Green
BHR - Business and Human Rights
BIOFIN - Biodiversity Finance Initiative
CO - Country Office
CSO - Civil Society Organisation
DEP - Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
DEDE - Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency
DNP - Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation
DRR - Disaster Risk Reduction
EE - Energy Efficiency
ESG - Environment Social and Corporate Governance
GEF SGP - Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme
GHG - Greenhouse Gases
HDI - Human Development Index
HRDD - Human Rights Due Diligence
INFF - Integrated National Financing Framework
LGBTI - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex
LNOB - Leave No One Behind
MFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoNRE - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MP - Member of Parliament
MRV - Measurement Reporting and Verification
NAP - National Action Plan
NDC - Nationally Determined Contribution
NESDC - National Economic and Social Development Council
NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation
NSC - National Security Council
ONEP - Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning
PAGE - Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PVE - Prevention of Violent Extremism
PSEA - Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PWD - People with Disabilities
SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals
SEC - Securities and Exchange Commission
SH and SEA - Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SIP - Social Innovation Platform
UN - United Nations
UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCT - United Nations Country Team
UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund
UNOCT - United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRCO - United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UNSDCF - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNV - United Nations Volunteers

GLOSSARY

Agenda 2030: The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. In 2015, all UN Member States adopted the 17 goals as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which set out a 15-year plan to achieve the Goals.

Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model: An economic model that Thailand promotes, where technology and innovation are used to create value, reduce waste, advance resource efficiency, and promote sustainable business models.

Biodiversity: All the varieties of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life.

Human Security Approach: A strategy that extends beyond conventional military and state defence, focusing instead on the security of individuals and their communities. This approach addresses various dimensions, including economic, food, health, environmental, individual, community, and political aspects.

Leave No One Behind Principle: The principle is the central, transformative promise of Agenda 2030, which represents the unequivocal commitment of all UN Member States to reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity as a whole.

National Action Plan: A document through which the government of a country articulates priorities and actions that it will adopt.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC): This is a way to measure the efforts by each country to reduce their emissions and how they are adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Net Zero: This means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance.

PAGE Initiative: The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) is an alliance of 5 UN agencies, 8 funding partners, and 22 partner countries that work together to transform economies into drivers of sustainability. They do this by supporting nations and regions to reframe economic policies and practices around sustainability.

Round Table Discussion: A form of interactive discussion where participants agree on a specific topic and each person is given equal right to participate.

Social Inclusion: The process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society by enhancing the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity.

Social Innovation Platform (SIP): An experimental approach where UNDP brings together people, governments, and business to co-create and test out digital solutions that speak to local needs, challenges, and opportunities.

Southern Border Provinces: This is made up of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat, and the Malay-speaking districts of Songkhla. They have a combined population of between 1.8 and two million people, of whom more than 1.5 million are ethnic Malays who are of Islamic faith.

Thailand Accelerator Lab: UNDP's Thailand Accelerator Lab brings together grassroots innovations with new sources of real-time data and experimentation to tackle priority issues such as air pollution, waste management and the digital divide.

Thailand Policy Lab: A policy innovation lab established by the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) and UNDP to innovate Thailand's public policymaking for greater efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness to new challenges and people's needs.

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework: The Framework guides the entire programme cycle, driving planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of collective UN support for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Cooperation Framework determines and reflects the UN development system's contributions in the country and shapes the configuration of UN assets required inside and outside the country.

Vulnerable Communities: Groups with social, cultural, economic and/or political traditions and institutions distinct from the mainstream or dominant society that disadvantage them in the development process.

Youth: The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines 'youth' as those between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

Renaud Meyer — Resident Representative
Irina Goryunuva — Deputy Resident Representative
Karnklon Raktham — Communications and Outreach Analyst /
Annual Report Focal Point and Writer
Hugh Brammar — Language Editor

This report has been prepared with inputs from Programme Officers
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