ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2022



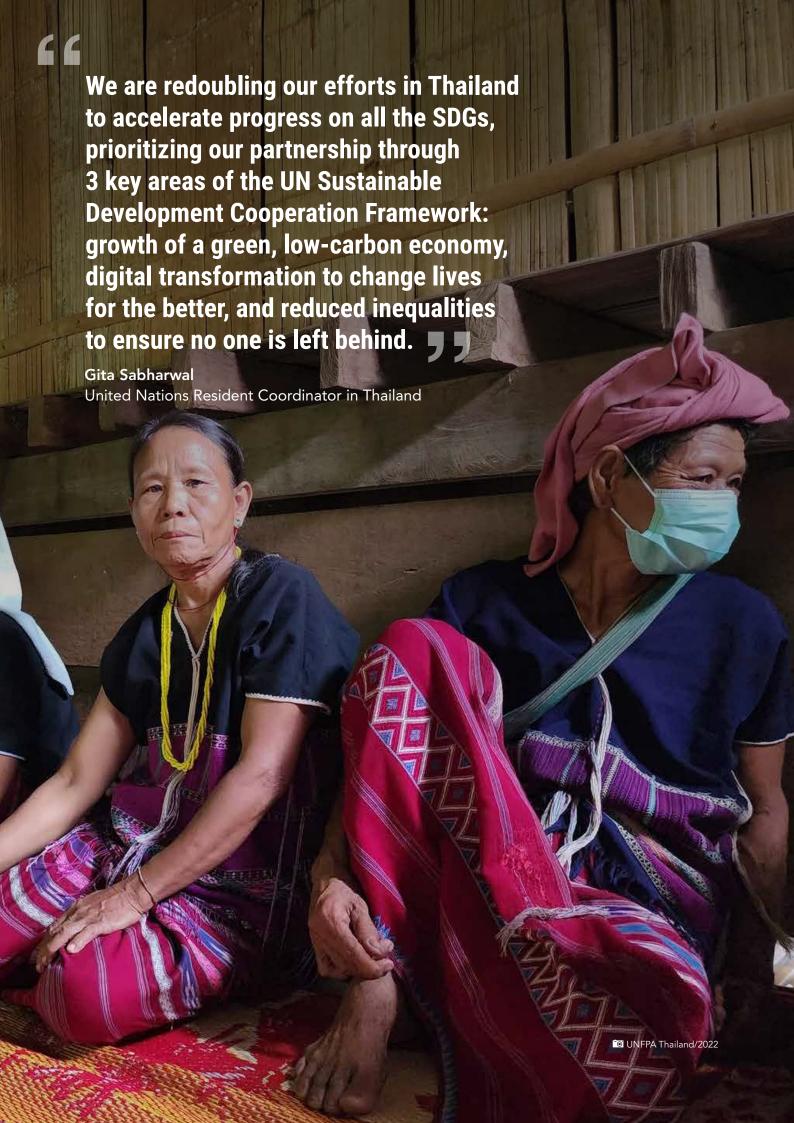
UN Country Team Thailand







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FOREWORD FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

The United Nations Country Team in Thailand leveraged the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to accelerate the country's green transition into a low-carbon, resilient, inclusive, and prosperous nation. Towards that end, our 21 UN agencies provided cutting-edge policy advice and introduced best available technologies, including digitization, to lower greenhouse emissions, strengthen human capital development, and boost social inclusion. The momentum gained in these areas will carry on well into 2023 and beyond.

The UN also deployed its convening power with members of the Global Compact Network in Thailand, a key segment of the private sector, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and support the protection of 30 per cent of land and marine areas nationwide. These successes will provide the blueprint for comprehensive actions across the sector in coming years towards further reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and "no net loss" in the biological diversity of genetics, species, and ecosystems. The financial markets, including banks, investors, and asset managers, committed to principles of sustainability, which will translate into increased investments for the green transformation.

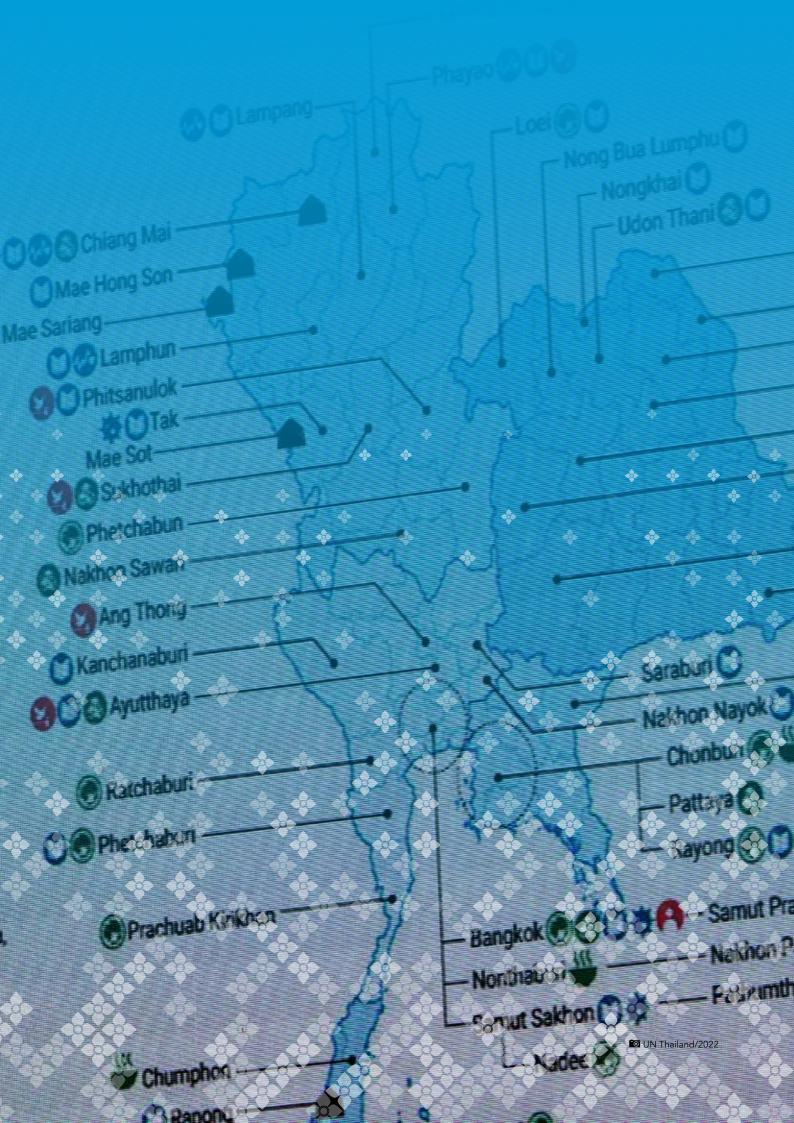
A landmark agreement reached with all the 77 Governors of Thailand is enabling the UN to localize SDGs. UN agencies in Thailand have also been working with their partners in the public and private sector nationwide to scale up digitization and social protection measures to improve people's access to health services, quality education, digital literacy, lifelong learning, upskilling and other life-changing benefits with the aim of leaving no one behind.

Capitalizing on these achievements, we are redoubling our efforts in Thailand to accelerate progress on all the SDGs and national development priorities.

Gita Sabharwal

Giá Soffondol

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand



ACRONYMS

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GHG Greenhouse Gas

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ILO International Labour Organization

IOM International Organization for Migration

ITC International Trade Centre

ITU International Telecommunication Union

LGBTI Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people

MFA Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NESDC National Economic and Social Development Council

OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

PAGE Partnership for Action on Green Economy

PROMISE Poverty Reduction Through Safe Migration, Skills Development and Enhanced Job Placement

SDGs Sustainable Development GoalsSME Small and Medium Enterprise

UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNDRR United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UN Habitat United Nations Human Settlements ProgrammeUNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and CrimeUNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services

UNSDCF UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

UNV United Nations VolunteersWHO World Health Organization



In 2022, Thailand's economy has shown resilience in the face of recent global shocks with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 3.2 percent, up from 1.6 per cent the previous year. Growth has been mainly driven by higher private consumption, increased exports of goods and services and total investments. This has been backed by high currency reserves, a healthy banking sector, and manageable public debt1, which has enabled the country to balance the economic risks. Capital inflows amounting to 1.5 percent of GDP² together with gains in the stock market served to support growth. Labour market continued to expand in tandem with the economic recovery with over 800,000 new jobs being created³.

The government maintained a proactive fiscal policy to support the economic recovery and mitigate rising costs of living. Public spending remained relatively high at 23.4 per cent of GDP because of pandemicrelated relief measures and energy subsidies including diesel and cooking gas⁴. The country's 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan aims for high value-added, sustainable, and resilient growth in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Bio-Circular-Green economic model. This model seeks to capitalize on the country's strengths in biological and cultural diversity through technology and innovation in alignment with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, a key principle of social and economic development in Thailand.

Global dynamics affected domestic energy and commodity prices — including oil, chemical fertilizers,

and wheat — as the country is a net importer of both oil and gas with energy being an important component of the Consumer Price Index. Global food prices increased by 14.3 per cent in 2022, but inflation in Thailand remained at 6.1 per cent, indicating the resilience of the domestic economy. Exports of palm, sugarcane and corn benefitted from higher global food prices, enabling farmers to see strong growth in incomes,⁵ which outpaced increases in the input costs⁶.

As an upper middle-income country, Thailand has a robust private sector with domestic private investment amounting for 88 per cent of GDP and providing more than nine out of ten jobs. The industry suffers from a "missing middle" in enterprise size, with a small number of large firms making superior productivity gains compared to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which contribute to slightly over a third of GDP. More than half of the workforce is employed in the informal economy, which is largely dominated by women raising concerns about workplace safety, job security and social protection. The slowdown of labour and capital productivity growth in recent years has further widened the gap between SMEs and larger firms.

World Bank analysis suggests that the poverty rate dropped slightly to 6.3 per cent⁷ with most of the poor living in rural areas, mainly in agricultural households. The distribution of poverty is uneven across regions with the poverty rate in the South and Northeast almost double the national level at over

The economic fundamentals remained sound with foreign exchange reserves at US\$ 210.7 billion and external debt accounting for 37 per cent of GDP. The banking system's capital adequacy ratio was 19.2 per cent while the public debt to GDP ratio stands at 61 per cent.

Net capital flows into the bond and stock markets were around US\$ 7 billion in 2022. Data point for October 2021 to September 2022.

It is estimated to be at around 3 percent of GDP.
There are around 2.3 million farmers cultivating oil palm, sugarcane, and corn farmers, amounting to 18 per cent of all farmers in Thailand.

Fertilizers account for a quarter of total input costs. In 2021 the poverty rate among children stood at 9.9 per cent in 2021, which was significantly higher than that of the overall population, according to the National Economic and Development Council.

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|---|
| STRONG RECOVERY |
| 800,000 NEW JOBS (MORE THAN HALF IN INFORMAL WORKFORCE) |
| |

NEW JOBS HALF IN F PRKFORCE) PR

♣ 6.3% POVERTY

↑ 6.1% INFLATION

↑ 6.9% FOOD INFLATION



ROBUST PRIVATE SECTOR

88% OF GDP FROM DOMESTIC PRIVATE INVESTMENT

PROVIDING 9/10 JOBS NATIONWIDE

SMES CONTRIBUTING TO 1/3 OF GDP

72%OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS FROM PRIVATE SECTOR



ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

HOUSEHOLD DEBT
AT 88% OF GDP

1/3 LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN DEBT

INCOME GINI COEFFICIENT 43.3%

FOOD INFLATION
"SUBSTANTIAL THREAT"
TO HALF OF POOREST
HOUSEHOLDS



CLIMATE GOALS

CARBON NEUTRALITY
BY 2050

NET-ZERO EMISSIONS
BY 2065

NDC TO REDUCE GHGS TO 30-40%

CLIMATE CHANGE ACT TO BE FINALIZED IN 2023

11.5 per cent, reaching 14.7 per cent in the rural South⁸. Thailand's income inequality remains high nationwide with an income Gini coefficient of 43.3 percent with the country performing better in terms of consumption inequality⁹. Inequality can impact progress in human capital accumulation and reduce the pace of sustainable growth and poverty reduction.

While economic recovery continued in 2022, not all segments were recovering at equal pace. People in rural areas, the poorest and people with children often found it more difficult to return to work with care obligations being a critical obstacle for employment. At the same time, some 54 per cent of the poorest saw price increases as a "substantial threat" to their household finances compared to 34 per cent of the better-off. Delevated private debt driven by high household borrowing (88 per cent of GDP) and large corporates (79 per cent of GDP) could become a potential drag to future growth. This will have an impact on debt serviceability and could lead to higher non-performing loans for households, thereby increasing the vulnerability of the financial sector.

Overall, the economy is well integrated globally, which necessitates its staying abreast of climate action legislation and other developments worldwide. The country has set a goal for carbon neutrality by 2050 and net-zero emissions by 2065. At COP27, the country revised its nationally determined contribution

to reduce GHG emissions by between 30 per cent and 40 per cent from its business-as-usual levels within the decade. Thailand relies heavily on gas and is shifting its focus to clean energy transition, which foresees a far larger share for renewables. By the end of the decade the share of renewables is predicted to rise from the current installed renewable capacity of 15 GW to more than fourfold. This fast adoption rate can position Thailand as a leader in renewables in Southeast Asia. The UN is supporting this transition by building partnerships with the public and private sectors to scale up the adoption of low-carbon technologies in GHG-intensive sectors such as energy, agriculture, industry, and transport.

The National Climate Change Master Plan views the carbon market as a mechanism to achieve targeted emission reductions in key industries. The upcoming Climate Change Act is expected to outline specific instruments for a national emission trading system, providing a regulatory framework for the country's climate change response, including measures to lower GHGs. These include reducing emissions at source, increasing carbon sinks, and enacting other initiatives that prevent GHGs from entering the atmosphere. These objectives will lead to extensive planning at policy, sectorial and project levels, and impose reporting and disclosure obligations on the public sector and certain private sector operations.

⁸ Based on World Bank data for 2021.

⁹ In 2019 the consumption gini coefficient was 35 per cent based on World Bank data.

¹⁰ UNICEF (2022) "Is Thailand on the path to an inclusive recovery?", High Frequency Phone Survey, First Round, Available at: https://www.unicef.org/thailand/reports/high-frequency-survey-findings-first-round (Accessed: 20 January 2022)

Gross national savings to GDP declined from 28 per cent to 27 per cent in 2021.



The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026 was launched in January, led by the UN Country Team, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), following extensive consultations across the country with the most vulnerable populations. This ensured that diverse set of stakeholders could inform the Cooperation Framework's priorities, outcomes, and focus areas with a specific emphasis on the UN's value add in supporting the government to advance the SDGs while leaving no one behind.

The UNSDCF is comprised of three Outcomes: 1) creating an inclusive, green, and low-carbon economy; 2) strengthening human capital development with a focus on digitization; and 3) eliminating inequalities while leaving no one behind. These align with Thailand's 20-year National Strategy and contribute to the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan.

The 21 UN entities composing the UN Country Team work closely with the Royal Thai Government in collaboration with civil society, the private sector, and other key partners. The Tripartite Steering Committee, co-chaired by MFA, NESDC and the Resident Coordinator, validated the UNSDCF's joint bi-annual work plans, through which the UN is delivering 120 targeted interventions with a US\$85 million annual budget. Over a third of the budget is co-financed with the private sector and government.

Much of the UN's interventions focused on supporting the Government with policy advice and technical assistance, including co-convening, and strengthening capacity of national development partners. The UN's value propositions encompassed leveraging its regional assets for science-based solutions to tackle climate action; supporting digital transformation and innovation; providing cutting-edge evidence-based integrated policy support; and protecting the rights of the vulnerable while leaving no one behind including through legislation, regulations, and standards.

The UN Country Team's program implementation was supported by the Operations Management Team, the UN Communications Group and the Data and Partnership Results Group. These interagency coordination mechanisms supported joint management of operations, a comprehensive approach to advocacy for the SDGs, and the delivery of results based on government data. Advocacy for the SDGs reached 40 million people, primarily on social media, through the UN Communications Group. The UN in Thailand doubled its outreach to a wide range of individuals, civil society and youth groups, reaching 2 million people directly online through the UN Country Team platforms, including Twitter (@unthailand @sabharwalgita) and website (thailand.un.org) alone this year.

The Data and Monitoring Group has prioritized bridging the SDG data gap using geospatial and satellite imaging for five indicators related to climate



action and life underwater. Underpinning our delivery are the efficiency gains realized by the Operations Management Team through the Business Operations Strategy, which is likely to yield \$950,000 in cost avoidance.

As the increased engagement of youth and civil society will be key to long-term sustainable development and an equitable green transition, the UN Country Team continued to deepen its engagement. The SDGs Youth Panel, an institutionalized advisory board to the UN Country Team and the Resident Coordinator, has been at the forefront of policy agendas, both domestically and internationally. Members of the panel engaged with the Deputy Secretary General and the President of the UN General Assembly while also contributing to the global discourse on the establishment of the UN youth office.

The UN was also supporting pathways for the SDG Youth Panel's engagement on the SDGs in areas addressing climate change, food waste, plastic pollution, disability inclusion, mental health, gender equality, and racism. The panel worked closely with the UN Communications Group, providing advice on advocacy campaigns and strategies to make the UN accessible to young people. This resulted in increased monthly outreach¹². Similarly, the UN is strengthening the employability of young persons, including those with disabilities, to support their labour market transition and facilitated youth consultations on the latest five-year National Social and Economic

Development Plan together with the government.

The UN remained committed to protecting and promoting open civic spaces that are essential to progress on the SDGs and Thailand's future as a prosperous and inclusive society. The UN Country Team's key strategies included formalizing dialogues with civil society, encompassing marginalized communities and youth agencies in areas such as education, social protection, health, gender equality, migration, disability inclusion, climate change, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people's (LGBTI) rights, human rights, entrepreneurism, and SDG advocacy. To that end, the first institutionalized dialogue was held with 70 civil society organizations to inform thinking on the draft Not-for-Profit Organization bill that was being promulgated in country.

The UN has undertaken a series of listening exercises, reflecting a whole-of-society approach, with civil society at the forefront. UNDP held wide-ranging national consultations in the run-up to Stockholm+50, which included youth dialogues on climate change, biodiversity, and sustainability. The Transforming Education consultations, supported by UNESCO and UNICEF, focused on strategies for learning recovery, strengthening flexible learning pathways, and ensuring that skills development aligns with the labour market.



OUTCOME 1



Premised on Thailand's bio-circular-green model of sustainable growth, Outcome 1 of the UN's Cooperation Framework prioritizes crosscutting initiatives to scale up low-carbon technologies, waste management, sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, and climate resilience. It accounts for 37 per cent of the budget of the Cooperation Framework for the year.

Low-carbon technologies: UNIDO and UNEP are working to introduce low-carbon technologies in partnership with the private sector across industry. As part of this, resource efficiency assessments were conducted with 121 factories in the eco-industrial town development areas of Rayong, Chonburi, and Samut Prakan provinces to evaluate resource use and production processes. These assessments facilitate cutting waste, reducing environmental footprints, and introducing renewable energy to support a fourfold increase in renewable capacity by 2030.13 UNIDO is also providing technical expertise to set up floating solar panels underwritten by the private sector at a budget of around US\$11.5 million. In partnership with the Private Financing Advisory Network, it also supported joint ventures with 48 entrepreneurs mobilizing over US\$13 million with investors to prioritize investments in biogas, low-carbon housing, and plant-based foods.

UNEP in partnership with the National Housing Authority seeks a pathway to accelerate the construction of 1,300 energy-efficient green housing units in the low-rise sector by supporting the design and piloting of energy-efficient technologies while strengthening the home-labelling scheme and associated financial mechanisms. This will showcase the benefits to developers and tenants of using lightweight bricks, energy-saving glass, insulation, solar rooftops for street lighting, wastewater treatment and other green features.

UNEP has leveraged its partnership with the private sector to pilot e-motorcycles in Bangkok while also developing a charging system. Fifty e-motorcycles were deployed to as many local taxi riders with access to battery-swapping stations and an e-motorcycle service center. This will generate data to inform policy on savings in energy costs, emission reductions, and battery-swapping patterns to scale up electric motorcycle taxis. In parallel, UNDP's technical

UNIDO

US\$13mn mobilized for biogas, low-carbon housing & plant-based foods.

UN Habitat, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO

Waste management assessments across 20 hotspots & 258 plastic leakage points along Mekong.

Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)

50,000 farmers upcycling agricultural wastes from durian, mangosteen, mango, oil palm, coffee & cocoa.

UNESCO

1,100 large & medium-sized hotels join Sustainable Travel Pledge to end single-use plastics & promote creative culture.

FAO, UNDP

300 SMEs partner to reduce food waste by up 55% & increase returns by 17% in snack foods, fermented rice, animal products, fishery & dairy sectors.

assistance to Nakhon Ratchasima supported the design of an EV ecosystem to accelerate a low-carbon mobility transition.¹⁴

Waste management: UN Habitat, UNEP, UNDP and UNIDO are piloting waste management assessments across 20 hotspots nationwide in partnership with provinces and cities to inform policy for recycling and reuse. These show that three-quarters of waste is going to landfills and dumpsites already close to saturation, indicating an urgent need for improved waste management. In partnership with the Government, UNEP also tracked plastic leakage hotspots and waste accumulation across 258 locations along the Mekong River¹⁵ with the assistance of CCTV riverbank monitoring and citizen scientists equipped with a mobile application for reporting. This will feed into ongoing waste management assessments.

UNODC, in collaboration with UNEP, initiated the UNwaste project to better understand waste flows between Europe and Southeast Asia while promoting cooperation through national dialogues to combat illicit movements of waste as well as facilitating intra and inter-regional policy dialogues to promote partnerships in Thailand and three other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.

¹³ Based on the government's projections

¹⁴ The Thailand Industrial Standard Institute approved the technical standard for a charging system for electric mopeds and motorcycles, developed with support from UNEP

Waste circularity: Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) in Thailand is collaborating with the Department of Agriculture to provide training on circularity to policymakers and practitioners under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives with capacity building targeting the reuse and upcycling of agricultural wastes from cash crops — such as durian, mangosteen, mango, oil palm, coffee, and cocoa — into new products. Over 50,000 farmers with crops cultivated on more than 200,000 hectares from across 14 provinces are supported with agricultural waste having been reduced by half.

PAGE, led by UNIDO and UNEP, is also working with the Rayong Municipality Office to establish a financing mechanism for sustainable waste management. It includes a new application for fee collection, education and rewards for waste separation and recycling. This initiative comprises research on the true costs of waste, including collection, transportation, recovery, and final disposal.

Ecotourism: UNESCO and UNDP are leading transformative initiatives on ecotourism. UNESCO has expanded the Sustainable Travel Pledge in partnership with Expedia to reduce the use of plastics and support marine conservation with the participation of over 1,100 large and medium-sized hotels at tourism hotspots nationwide. A simultaneous policy focus is on Thailand's world-famous creative sectors such as arts and crafts, visual arts, and fashion, which can point the way forward for inclusive human capital development and sustainable economic growth.

UNDP has been working on innovative pilots to promote community-based ecotourism to leverage environmental conservation for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. In one community-centered initiative in the Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, home to critically endangered species such as tigers, wild animals can be viewed from a distance during guided tours in an income-generating scheme for local communities, which can result in them valuing and protecting wildlife more.

Sustainable agriculture: UNDP, FAO, UNEP and ITC are working on cutting food waste, boosting organic rice production, diversifying farming, greening fisheries, and fortifying the vulnerable against climate change. FAO and UNDP are partnering with 300 SMEs to identify low-cost technologies for cutting food waste by up to 55 per cent while improving production chains in snack foods, fermented rice,

Thale Noi Wetland Pastoral Buffalo Agro-ecosystem

This year FAO designated the Thale Noi Wetland Pastoral Buffalo Agro-ecosystem in Phattalung Province as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System in Thailand. This diversified farming system boosts local food and livelihood security and aids in biodiversity conservation in the wetland area of Thale Noi in southern Thailand. It is a diversified farming system in which the cultural, socio-economic, and ecological elements of the landscape are the results of the longstanding interactions between humans and buffaloes. Pastoralism has shaped and conserved the area's biodiversity and landscapes for centuries while buffaloes adapted to survive in this environment where the land is flooded for almost five months during the year. Thale Noi Wetland Pastoral Buffalo Agro-ecosystem is a good example of adaptive management of biological and natural resources as well as co-evolution based on deep environmental knowledge guarded by local communities.

FAO-GIAHS/2022

animal products, fishery, and dairy. Process control and monitoring, in tandem with better quality control of raw materials and finished products, increased returns by over 17 per cent.

To support further progress towards reducing food losses, FAO engaged with the government on capacity building among farmers to collect geospatial data to generate agriculture statistics, including the use of drones for ground-truth data and crop mapping. This included promoting digitalization, boosting community food security, and improving economic livelihoods by supporting people with physical disabilities who run an organic vegetable farm for it to double as a knowledge center for growing healthful produce using the Internet of Things. FAO also worked on mainstreaming biodiversity in sustainable agriculture by documenting and promoting responsible policies and practices in conservation and biodiversity use.

Simultaneously, UNEP is assisting the government in quantifying the benefits of expanding organic rice production to enhance biodiversity in paddy fields, lower emissions and reduce pesticide use while maintaining yields. Analysis shows that increasing the cultivated area of organic rice in the northeast of Thailand by 10 per cent could generate benefits of over US\$400 million over 15 years. ITC is complementing these efforts by strengthening certification bodies for organic produce by building capacities to access new markets, supporting the conversion of farmers to organic agriculture, and creating a conducive business environment for SMEs in country.

Stocktaking of the green economy: Through the PAGE initiative, the participating five UN agencies¹⁶ provided national platforms for exchanges on actions to accelerate inclusive green economy and green recovery. The Green Economy Stocktaking report recommended actions on decarbonization, waste management and other targets as priorities for implementation. PAGE Thailand collaborated with the Office of National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to set up a framework for a mandatory carbon capture and trading system in Thailand to enhance sectoral decarbonization capacity and shift Thailand to a low-carbon society.

Vulnerable communities and climate: UNICEF, IOM and UNDP were facilitating the development of child- and gender-sensitive climate policies¹⁷. To that end, UNICEF's flagship "U-Report Thailand" has been relaunched on the LINE mobile application to enable youth to voice their views on the climate crisis. UNDP, together with the Government, held consultations with young people to produce the Thai Youth Agenda for Climate Action, which featured at COP27 and developed a Climate Finance Handbook for Parliament. In refugee camps UNHCR is engaging by installing solar energy at Camp Committee offices. It also installed solar streetlights in the Umpium, Nu Po, and Mae La camps in communal spaces to enhance the safety and protection of refugees. At the same time, IOM is expanding the evidence base on the impacts of climate change-induced extreme weather events on mobility.

IOM is also enhancing the knowledge of local government officials in 15 disaster-prone provinces to incorporate migrants in crisis preparedness and response plans. UNDRR is making cities resilient while also building resilience to natural disasters at the local level by boosting academic and governmental capacities. Simultaneously, the UN Country Team is partnering with nearly 500 in-person and online volunteers through the United Nations Volunteer program, as well as 440 migrant health volunteers, who received training to raise awareness in their communities and support community-based disease surveillance.

Sustainable financing: The UN Country Team is leveraging its convening power to connect the private sector, banks, investors, and insurers to scale up sustainable financing premised on ESG principles. These partnerships are translating into more banks and investors signing up to the Principles for Responsible Banking and Investment. Three banks have signed the Principles for Responsible Banking with their combined assets representing 32 per cent of the country's banking sector.

With support from the UN, many of the banks are setting their own targets in sustainable financing and investment. For example, one of the major banks has already announced its net zero commitment in its own operations and financial portfolio by 2030, allocating 4 per cent to 8 per cent of total loans¹⁸ for sustainable financing and investment while supporting its customers' decarbonization efforts. One of the largest investors in the country is allocating part of its funding to an ESG-focused portfolio.

UNDP led the Integrated National Financing Framework, informed by the Development Finance Assessment, a diagnostic study on inclusive insurance and risk finance which identified existing financing gaps and risks to provide needs-based risk finance solutions for vulnerable populations as well as the SDG Investor Map, which enables the identification of investment priorities¹⁹. These initiatives will form the basis for synergizing a wide range of tools such as taxes, budgets, public debt, incentives, and insurance policies to mobilize development finance in support of the SDGs.

UNEP, ILO, UNDP, UNIDO and UNITAR

UNICEF completed a groundbreaking "Study on the Impact Assessment of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation on Children in Thailand."

Between \$3 billion and \$6 billion https://www.bangkokbiznews.com/business/economic/1016759



OUTCOME 2



In alignment with the aims of Outcome 2, the UN is working on transformative initiatives to develop human capital for social and inclusive progress through improving accessibility and the quality of public services, strengthening institutions, boosting public-private partnerships, accelerating a digital transformation, and empowering individuals and communities. Specifically, UN agencies are facilitating accessible healthcare and education services, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention, improvements in mental and migrant health, and digital literacy and skills. The UN Country Team allocates 32 per cent of the Cooperation Framework budget towards this outcome.

Safe births for minorities: UNFPA, in a public-private partnership, is training 200 traditional birth attendants as health volunteers from ethnic minority communities in 57 border villages to facilitate safe births for vulnerable mothers and their children as well

UNFPA

200 traditional birth attendants from57 ethnic minority border villages trained.

UNICEF

Advocating psychosocial support for adolescents where 1 in 7 aged 10 to 19 face mental health issues.

UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women

Digitally upskilling 3,000 teachers & 300 women in Southern Border Provinces. Connecting 11,000 children to 10 mobile libraries.

1.7mn learning engagements on the Lifelong Learning platform.

IOM

Upskilling of 2,000 migrants in the labour market and facilitating legal assistance for 100 migrants on labour rights violations.

WHO

Digital health governance mechanisms including an integrated health information system being developed

Girls in ICT – connecting the unconnected

The International Girls in ICT Day is an annual event celebrated worldwide to provide an opportunity for girls and young women (14 to 24 years) to experience the benefits of ICT for their careers and aspirations during year-long activities and training sessions. The initiative is led by ITU together with UN agencies, NBTC, Ministry of Education and the private sector, to enhance the digital skills of young women and girls and facilitate their inclusion in the field of STEM where they have traditionally been underrepresented.

In Thailand the Girls in ICT Day has been a marked success and contributed to greater gender inclusion in the digital sphere. Thailand's progress has been held up as an example which is being emulated by 10 countries across Asia and the Pacific to empower girls and young women to take their rightful place in all areas of ICT.



as capture statistics on maternal and infant mortality and adolescent births for provincial surveillance systems.

Similarly, UNFPA's "Teen Club" initiative, a pioneering digitalized service, has enabled 50,000 young people to take better reproductive health decisions.²⁰ With the support of UNICEF, counselling services have been included as part of this platform with an outreach to more than one million users.

Community-led solutions and HIV prevention:

UNAIDS supported the development of national guidelines for innovative HIV self-testing, increasing the availability and accessibility of test results to ensure early HIV diagnosis. As the first such example in the Asia-Pacific region, the government formally recognized Community-led Health Services as a public health service that can be directly reimbursed by the Universal Health scheme. UNAIDS is providing technical support to ensure sustainable financing through strengthening the social-contracting mechanism, providing evidence on unit cost of services, and piloting community health worker certification for personnel at 22 community-led organizations that work with and are led by people living with HIV. Thailand has been selected²¹ as one of six focal collaborating nations to accelerate the multisectoral response to eliminate all forms of HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

Early childhood development: UNICEF led the Early Moments Matter on Mobile, the parenting messaging service providing knowledge and skill to parents of children 0 to 6 years old, which was recognized as an effective tool for building literacy in maternal and child health. This reached 122,559 parents and caregivers and 4,230 health workers during the year.

Preparation for an aging society: UNFPA has been supporting the Government in preparing the country on population development towards an ageing society using lifecycle approaches, the National Transfer Account and a new census. This initiative includes trainings as well as a hybrid-census and Social Return on Investment analysis.

Communicable diseases and healthy lifestyles:

WHO is providing catalytic support²² to address communicable diseases in vulnerable populations



while supporting the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B. WHO and UNDP partnered on a Non-Communicable Disease Investment Case to demonstrate the benefits of addressing the adverse health effects of tobacco use, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity through policy interventions and modified behaviors. The findings show that investing US\$6 billion will save 310,000 lives and generate double the economic benefits over the next 15 years.

WHO and UNICEF are tackling childhood obesity and promoting healthy diets by producing evidencebased policy options and high-level advocacy for draft legislation on restricting the marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages to children. WHO facilitated a platform for exchanges of experiences with other countries on obesity, resulting in strengthened commitment from non-health ministries on implementing health and nutrition criteria for food in child foster homes and to promote physical activity. Through its convening role, WHO engaged with the Ministry of Public Health and national partners to develop evidence-based and cost-effective interventions to reduce sodium consumption in the general population. These include the development of a public food procurement policy for healthy diets, front-of-pack labelling, and a food reformulation policy through taxation.

Mental health: UNICEF is supporting the government

Teen Club is expected to reach over 8 million people within five years.

By the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund and UNAIDS

Through the review of three priority National Programmes – Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV

Assessing digital skills gaps and mismatch under the Poverty Reduction Through Safe Migration, Skills Development and Enhanced Job Placement (PROMISE) Initiative

Labour migration is a pathway to socio-economic empowerment and resilience for the millions of migrant workers who have been contributing to economic growth and social development in Thailand. ITU and IOM conducted a first-of-its-kind digital transformation study, identifying the digital skills and related gaps of migrant workers as well as demand by employers in the construction, manufacturing, and service industries. Findings suggest that

while 97.6 per cent of migrants have access to smartphones and utilize social media applications, digital literacy remains low with respect to content creation, problem solving and cybersecurity. This knowledge base is critical to ensure the relevance of migrant contributions as new technologies are increasingly embedded across all industries towards the Government's Thailand 4.0 economic model.

to develop a costed integrated Mental Health and Psychosocial support plan for children and adolescents. It is also assisting children and young people in coping with mental health challenges by raising awareness while also equipping parents, caregivers, and teachers with tools to support them to build resilience for mental wellbeing. These efforts are crucial as one in 14 children aged five to nine and one in seven adolescents aged 10 to 19 in Thailand have mental health issues.²³ UNHCR, in partnership with Humanity and Inclusion, conducted Mental Health and Psychosocial Support activities for persons with disabilities residing in refugee camps, including art therapy sessions, breathing exercises, and individualized counseling with home visits for the most vulnerable individuals.

Healthcare for migrants: WHO, in consultation with the Ministry of Public Health and Health Systems Research Institute Thailand, led a joint mission to review health system functions in addressing migrant health needs in six thematic areas, including policy and governance, financing, information system, and access to health services. UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR worked closely with the National Health Assembly and the National Health Commission for a cabinet resolution granting migrant and stateless children access to healthcare services.

WHO facilitated Thailand's participation as one of four pilot countries in the Universal Health

Preparedness Review, an intergovernmental peer assessment, to strengthen national preparedness. WHO assisted in reviewing the challenges inherent in expanding migrant health services, addressing HIV, TB and malaria, with Thailand as the first country to undergo such a review utilizing WHO's Country Assessment Tool on refugee and migrant health. The review focused on advancing Universal Health Care to migrant populations, identifying health system strengths, and informing global learning. UN Women has worked with CSOs and relevant government agencies to prevent and respond to violence against women migrants by providing accessible services, psycho-social counselling, and capacity building. IOM and UNFPA are assessing how well migrant women can access basic health services, particularly on sexual reproductive health, to inform policy.

Road safety: WHO, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNDRR, and ESCAP are assisting in initiatives to improve road safety as Thailand has one of the world's highest traffic mortality rates, with 75 per cent of deaths and injuries resulting from motorcycle accidents. The UN agencies are supporting the development of the 5th National Road Safety Master Plan to reduce Thailand's road traffic deaths from the current rate of 32.7 per 100,000 people a year to an annual rate of 12 per 100,000 by 2027 and zero deaths by 2050. WHO, UN, Habitat and ESCAP are also assisting to develop the National Motorcycle Master Plan.

Digital health: In terms of Convergence of Digital Health and Health Information Systems, WHO, in collaboration with the government, worked to develop a collaborative digital health governance mechanism to support the development of digital health and integrated health information systems. Efforts focused on five main areas, including a landscape analysis for digital health, the design of a standard dataset for priority issues such as road safety and migrant health, and the strengthening of telemedicine in Thailand.

Digital literacy: ITU, UNICEF and UNESCO are leading a systems-based approach to strengthen the digital infrastructure of schools nationwide in partnership with the Ministry of Education in support of the government's development of an ICT Masterplan for Education to boost connectivity, content, and the capacity building of teachers. Among the priorities are expanding digital education and tools to accelerate technology-based solutions to achieve the aim of leaving no one behind. As part of this, UN agencies are empowering vulnerable and disadvantaged people with increased access to digital literacy, infrastructure, and innovation for them to benefit from Thailand's economic, social, and environmental transformation. Ongoing projects include developing the digital skills of 3,000 teachers in the Southern Border Provinces to better integrate ICT into classroom practices.

UNICEF digitally upgraded 10 mobile libraries, which engage over 11,000 children in remote areas in five provinces. UNESCO's LearnBig and Lifelong Learning platforms are delivering online learning resources, including to migrant children, reaching nearly 820,000 views. To ensure education continuity for migrant children along the Thai-Myanmar border, daily online lessons of basic subjects were broadcast

in Burmese through the LearnBig Facebook page. UNICEF successfully advocated for the formation of the Thailand Safe Internet Coalition to create a safer digital Thailand for all children.

UN Women organized digital literacy trainings to enhance the skills of over 300 women in the Southern Border Provinces with 20 women gaining capacity as trainers to conduct digital literacy and prevent hate speech in Songkhla province. Local leaders provide instruction in digital literacy to other groups in their communities, reaching nearly 141,000 people.

Using the Life Cycle Approach, UNFPA and UN Habitat are deploying virtual reality Mind Craft tools to conduct a safe zone block-by-block neighborhood assessment to determine the best social investment in women and girls to enable them to reach their potentials through each stage of their lives.

Labour rights: IOM supported the upskilling of more than 2,000 migrants in the labour market and facilitating legal assistance for 100 migrants on labour rights violations. ILO, in partnership with the Standard Chartered Foundation, continued to provide momentum for skills and enterprise development, including for people with disabilities. A special area of progress entailed gains in the mutual recognition of skills within the ASEAN for migrant workers, especially from Cambodia and Laos. Consequently, more employers in Thailand now recognize skills acquired by bricklayers, electricians, and other manual tradespeople in their home countries, which has helped migrant workers move up the value chain and receive higher remuneration. IOM- and ILO-led advocacy also benefitted 1.6 million migrant workers with the government reducing the cost of visas to a fourth and fast-tracking the regularization of undocumented migrant workers.









OUTCOME 3



Outcome 3 aims to provide an enabling, rights-based, and inclusive environment to address inequalities, support equal opportunities and reduce poverty to leave no one behind. In line with these goals the UN has engaged in crosscutting initiatives to boost social protection measures and employment opportunities for the most vulnerable, support good governance and the rule of law, eliminate discrimination, and eradicate human trafficking. Outcome 3 comprises 31 per cent of the budget of the Cooperation Framework for the year.

Social protection: ILO, UNICEF, UN Women, and IOM leveraged the Joint SDG Fund to advance policy dialogues and expand social protection to informal workers and make the child support grant universal. They also used financial modelling to recommend universalizing and scaling up social transfer benefits to match the cost of living with a proposed entrylevel formalization package including mandatory insurance coverage of domestic workers, with contributions from employee and employer as well as pilots for small enterprises in commerce, transport, and tourism. Diagnostics show this approach would reduce informality from 67 per cent to 49 per cent. The Joint Fund intervention also contributed to child support grant coverage being extended to 2.35 million children, constituting 56 per cent of all children in the country.²⁴

UNICEF's High-Frequency Surveys are assessing the socio-economic effects of the pandemic on the welfare of households and tracking the recovery trajectories of groups across socio-economic dimensions. These include employment, income, coping strategies, education, and health as well as rising energy and food prices, capturing high-frequency data for timely decision-making. UNHCR also provided multipurpose cash support to over 3,300 refugees to assist with their basic needs.

Child protection: UNICEF-led advocacy contributed to the Parliament increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years in line with the Universal Periodic Review, which impacted the lives of 250 children in the criminal justice system. UNICEF in partnership with the National Child

ILO, UNICEF, UN Women, IOM

Enhanced child support grant coverage for 2.35 million children through the Joint SDG Fund.

UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR

300 migrant & stateless children, plus 62 mothers, released from immigration detention & assisted.

ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO

Reskilled 10,000 youth in cultural & creative industries, plus 1,800 disadvantaged young women & persons with disabilities.

UNDP, ILO, IOM

Trained 423 private companies & connected supply chains on human rights due diligence & gender-responsive business practices.

UNHCR

3,700 stateless persons supported on nationality & permanent residency process.

Protection Committee, and the National Child and Youth Development Promotion Commission is supporting the development of a second national child protection strategy and visioning document.

Support for migrant children: UNICEF, IOM, and UNHCR are strengthening government capacities on alternatives to detention and child protection for a more consistent application of measures for irregular migrant mothers and children. IOM provided immediate relief to the most vulnerable groups in detention and other government shelters. UNICEF supported the implementation of SOPs for handling migrant children, as a result of which over 300 migrant and stateless children as well as 62 mothers were released from immigration detention and received assistance and social support from government.

UNHCR, in partnership with the COERR Foundation, provided training and capacity-building to stakeholders to reinforce the Child Protection Referral System. This included support to youth clubs in refugee camps to organize talent activities, reaching almost 2,000 children and young people.



Employability: ILO, UNICEF and UNESCO are promoting the employability of youth by providing market-led technical skills training, career guidance and job placements to disadvantaged young women and persons with disabilities. It is reaching over 1,800 youth — most of whom are not in employment, education, or training — for upskilling while expanding to the Southern Border Provinces. UNESCO is upskilling nearly 10,000 youth for participation in the cultural and creative industries through cooperation with the Creative Economy Agency, including training in entrepreneurship and digital skills.

To enhance digital platforms for young people's access to training and employment opportunities, UNICEF partnered with the Thailand Professional Qualification Institute to ensure that the E-Workforce Ecosystem²⁵ is youth-friendly. This includes mainstreaming the Social Innovation Toolkit in the Thai VET system that will reach 18,000 students by 2024 while ensuring a more diverse and inclusive workplace for LGBTI people.

Business and human rights: UNDP, ILO and IOM led a flagship UN initiative to mainstream business and human rights, which has resulted in the Securities and Exchange Commission integrating it as part of its mandatory reporting requirements for all listed companies on the stock exchange. Over 300 companies and their supply chains at the national and sub-national level in 10 provinces are being trained on human rights due diligence with access to grievance mechanisms for victims of business-related human rights abuses by working through the National Human Rights institutions, judiciary, and civil society. Two-hundred multi-disciplinary officials were trained on the ILO forced labour instrument and operational indicators to improve labour inspections.

IOM is conducting training at 40 companies and their supply chains on human rights due diligence, including migrant-centered approaches, and strengthening management systems. ILO supported 300 women migrant workers to learn about the importance of organizing and having their voices heard. UN Women has promoted Women Empowerment Principles in the private sector with 83 companies committing to broaden and strengthen gender-responsive business practices, including gender-equal corporate leadership, inclusive and safe workplaces, and equal pay for work of equal value.

Localizing SDGs: The UN in Thailand co-convened with the Ministry of Interior, nearly 400 governors and deputy governors and other officials from all 77 provinces for an in-depth workshop on SDGs. UNDP, UNDRR and UN Habitat formalized long-term partnerships with 15 provinces and cities. This will result in provincial-level SDG profiles to serve as a baseline to monitor progress and inform the annual Voluntary National Review. UNDP raised awareness at the sub-national level on SDG localization with over 5,000 elected executives of local administrative organizations and, in partnership with leading banks, is mobilizing crowdfunding at the local level in support of the SDGs. The SDG Investor Map for Thailand, launched by UNDP in cooperation with the Securities and Exchange Commission, will complement these efforts through investments to benefit vulnerable communities.

UNDP, together with UNFPA, the Department of Local Administration and the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, strengthened the capacity of more than 300 staff at local administrative organizations from 76 provinces to mainstream

Improving the effectiveness of public policies with assistance from the Thailand Policy Lab

The Thailand Policy Lab was set up by UNDP in partnership with the Office of the NESDC to bring efficiency and responsiveness to public policies to meet new challenges and respond to people's needs. The Lab employs innovative tools and in-depth consultations with stakeholders to foster inclusive, citizen-driven policymaking, expand public services, and improve local and urban governance. The results will enhance public and private sector capacities; build a multi-level sustainable network of policy innovators; and promote Thailand as a leading regional hub for policy innovation.

The Lab this year reached over 300,000 people through its digital platforms on policy issues such as sustainable tourism, including youth in policy processes, and foresight for healthcare. It specifically focused on boosting sustainable tourism in three provinces with community-centric policies. It also sought to improve urban governance through a whole of society approach that empowers public institutions, private sector entities, and citizens to collaborate more closely towards SDGs. These feed into a larger transformative policy agenda to reduce poverty and inequality by localizing the SDGs.



gender equality and women's empowerment into policy planning and implementation at national and subnational levels. UN Women-led advocacy and capacity building with more than 400 national and local authorities resulted in mainstreaming gender-responsive budgeting and procurement.

Engaging with Parliament: UNDP, in partnership with other UN agencies, led initiatives to strengthen the capacities of Parliament with over 100 parliamentarians receiving legislative knowledge from international experience through a series of seminars and field visits on issues related to the protection of human rights of ethnic minorities and LGBTI people, acceleration of climate action, and prevention of non-communicable disease. UNDP provided support to the 30th Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum, hosted by Thailand and mobilized colleagues from UNODC, UNESCO, ITU, and WHO to train parliamentarians and parliamentary staff on the SDGs.

Working with the Young Parliamentarians Caucus, UNDP organized a round table discussion on "Asia Pacific Young Parliamentarians' Engagement to Leave No One Behind" to raise awareness on youth vulnerabilities and on the role of Parliaments to engage youth in policymaking. In parallel, UNDP, together with civil society and the Standing Committee on Decentralization and Local Administration, provided civic education trainings for around 400 students from across Thailand on how youth can work with parliamentarians and local governments to co-design policy.

Social cohesion: A joint UNDP-DPPA program together with OHCHR is engaging with civil society and community leaders on social cohesion in the Southern Border Provinces. The initiative has strengthened government interlocutors and civil society leaders to serve as national peace resources. This includes the Social Innovation Platform with UNDP providing grants to civil society to pilot transforming local food systems in their communities. OHCHR has led by building the capacity of women human rights defenders and journalists nationwide, working on torture, women's rights, and child rights to improve skills on rights monitoring as well as on digital spaces and online risks.



UN Women, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and the Southern Border Province Administrative Centre, worked to empower women and women's groups on gender equality and ending violence against women. In addition, technical support is provided to advance UN Security Council Resolution 1325 through the capacity building of local authorities and civil society to support policy framework development for Women Peace and Security.

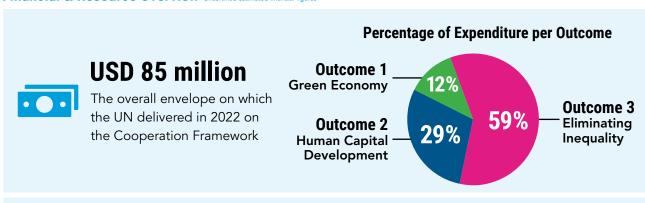
UNDP and UNODC, in partnership with the National Security Council, have trained more than 250 local governments and civil society representatives in four regions of Thailand to foster collaborative approaches to analyzing existing tensions and local solutions to prevent violence. IOM, OHCHR, UNODC, UNESCO and UNICEF are also supporting the drafting of ministerial regulation on the use of force and provided trainings to over 360 officers and civil society representatives on freedom of expression and safety, raising awareness about the need for free access to information. OHCHR is also strengthening national laws in line with international human rights standards and building the capacity of key institutions on freedom of association and assembly while enabling safe civic spaces.

Anti-trafficking, statelessness, and international protection: IOM, UNHCR, and UNODC have supported the standardizing of the referral system for victims of trafficking in persons, which contributed to Thailand being upgraded from a Tier 2 watch list nation to a Tier 2 nation²⁶. Given the involvement of transnational organized crime in irregular movements in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, where Rohingya people are often exploited, the UN is increasing government capacities to tackle challenges in a gender and human rights responsive manner.

UNODC, in partnership with MFA, developed the ASEAN Border Management Roadmap, to promote peace and security in the region. UNHCR and IOM are coordinating humanitarian responses to manage the flow of refugees and migrants, bringing together key stakeholders. UNHCR provided technical support to the government to finalize the draft criteria for the National Screening Mechanism, which received Cabinet approval in October 2022. UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior organized training for 87 government registrars on the effective implementation of legislation and policies on granting legal immigration status and facilitating the grant of nationality to ethnic minority groups. UNHCR also supported 3,700 stateless individuals to submit applications for nationality and permanent residency in 2022.

2022 Estimated Expenditures in USD\$

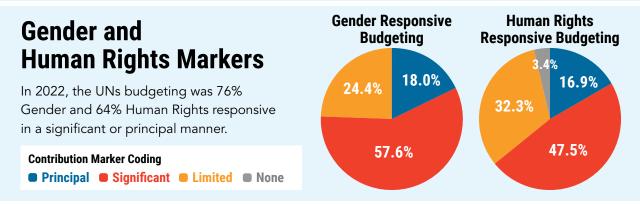
Financial & Resource Overview Uncertified estimated financial figures



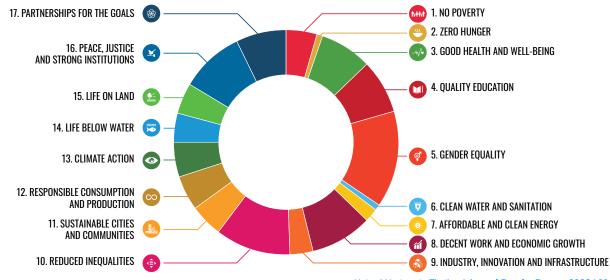
UN

1,000 UN personnel across 21 entities

Delivered programmes in 2022 across all regions of Thailand



SDG contributions based on Joint Workplans





In 2023, the UN Country Team will continue delivering on the three Outcomes of the Cooperation Framework, supporting the Government through policy advice, technical assistance, co-convening, and capacity strengthening.



Together with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency, the UN will develop South-South and Triangular Cooperation Flagship Initiatives across the three Outcomes. These flagship initiatives will provide an opportunity for Thailand to exchange within the region and globally on best practices in global health diplomacy, private-public partnerships to prevent adolescent pregnancies, maternal health and orchestrating Voluntary National Reviews.



In line with the SGs Our Common Agenda, the UN together with the Government will showcase SDG best practices with a focus on Health and Universal Health Care.



The UN will further deepen its private sector partnership and convening on Sustainable Development and Climate Change. The UN Country Team in partnership with the UN Global Compact will the aim to bring the private sector together from upper middle- income country contexts to further raise ambition on Climate Action, Biodiversity, and the SDGs including fulfilling the rights of children²⁷.

The highlighted key initiatives that underpin delivering on a green economy, human capital development and 'leaving no one behind' through the joint work plans include the following:



The UN will raise the bar on the Efficiency Agenda. We will support our programme delivery through an enhanced efficiency agenda as we continue to quantify efficiency gains through the Business Operations Strategy.



The UN will deepen its support to SDG localization, working closely with state and non-state actors to improve data availability, awareness raising, and capacity building around the SDGs and SDG localization at all levels, with a strong focus on gender equality, human rights, youth engagement and climate action.



The UN will partner to increase awareness on gender equality and ending gender-based violence, including through 16-day activism and other key international and national days.



The UN will support the Government with the development and implementation of policies and advocacy based on strong evidence and data, such as the MICS 7, High Frequency Survey on Socio-economic Impact of COVID19, National Disability Survey, In-depth Research on Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training in Thailand, amongst others, to ensure no one is left behind.

²⁷ One example is the MOU signed between UNICEF and the Global Compact Network Thailand, focusing on enhancing family-friendly policies and practices in the private sector, advancing young people's skills and employability, strengthening the protection of children in online and offline space, and mainstreaming children's rights in business principles and practices.

THE ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2022



UN Country Team in Thailand

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