



UNITED
NATIONS
THAILAND

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2019



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FOREWORD

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Thailand, I am pleased to present our 2019 Annual Report which provides an overview of the UN family's work to support the Royal Thai Government and people of Thailand.

The UNCT Thailand comprises of agencies, fund and programmes¹ and contributes to the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country through the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2017-2021.

This report summarizes the key results organized along the key elements of the SDGs: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Justice, and Partnerships as anchored in the 2030 Agenda.

The report is also being issued at a particularly significant moment, as we collectively tackle the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that has had a huge impact in Thailand and globally, and which the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described as the biggest global challenge since World War Two.

But, as evident in this report, we clearly see the opportunities for forging ahead in Thailand amid these challenging times, in 2020 and beyond, as there are so many success stories upon whose foundation we will build back better. To achieve this together, partnerships are key – as exemplified in SDG 17, Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Royal Thai Government for our partnership and the extensive collaboration, grounded in the critical elements of the SDGs.

I would also like to acknowledge our development partners including, civil society, member states, academia, the private sector and others for their invaluable contributions and support to our programmes.

And not least, I am grateful to and commend the people of Thailand as a whole, for their continued support to the UN family.

Without these critical partnerships, many of the achievements outlined in this report would not have been possible. On behalf of the UN Country Team, pledge to continue strengthening our contribution to the ongoing development of Thailand and the wellbeing of all its citizens.



Ms. Gita Sabharwal

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand

¹ The UN agencies in the UN Country Team for Thailand are: FAO, ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNV, and WHO.

Credits:

- UN Country Team in Thailand
- UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Thailand - Editor
- Jeremy Walden-Schertz, co-Editor

ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
NCDs	non-communicable diseases
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
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 Programme
UNHCR	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 Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNPAF	United Nations Partnership Framework
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

The 2019 Annual Progress Report summarizes the UNs delivery on the outcomes set out in the UNPAF 2017-2021, a strategic framework for the joint Thailand–UN partnership. The UNPAF is aligned with the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan 2017-2021, Thailand’s aspiration to achieve the SDGs by 2030, and the country’s international commitments and obligations. It is grounded in the key elements of the SDGs, namely, People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace & Justice as well as Partnership and this Annual Progress Report highlights key results in these areas.

UN Thailand Staff and Budget

The Thailand UNCT is comprised of the below referenced UN entities, which are a mix of Thailand Country Offices and UN Regional Offices based in Bangkok, who have specific Thailand programmes and projects¹. Being located in a major regional hub, the UNCT in Thailand has a unique opportunity to bring together national and regional concerns in its collaboration with stakeholders and the national Government. In 2019, a total of USD 112 million was spent on operations and programmes in Thailand by the UN.

	Agency	No. of Staff	Budget (USD)
1	FAO	2	\$1,270,437
2	ILO*	16	\$3,107,246
3	IOM	411	\$27,389,150
4	ITU*	6	\$90,000
5	OHCHR*	3	\$0
6	UN Women	7	\$435,000
7	UNAIDS	3	\$260,000
8	UNDP	31	\$7,900,000
9	UNDRR*	14	\$50,000
10	UNEP*	64	\$19,400,000
11	UNESCO	76	\$9,078,936
12	UNFPA	6	\$700,000
13	UN-Habitat	3	\$550,000
14	UNHCR	142	\$11,400,000
15	UNICEF*	80	\$11,473,710
16	UNIDO	23	\$1,067,700
17	UNODC*	64	\$993,400
18	UNOPS	22	\$11,207,717
19	UNV**	55	\$65,000
20	WHO	26	\$5,400,000
Total		1,054	\$111,838,296

* Includes regional staff and budget contributing to the Thailand component

** Budget includes UNV funded volunteers only and activities in Thailand

¹ A comprehensive list of projects of UN Entities in Thailand, spanning several years of the relevant programme cycles, may be found at this link: <https://bit.ly/3eaM28z>

PEOPLE

Throughout 2019, Thailand faced considerable social welfare challenges linked to chronic drought, stagnant wage growth and a widening poverty gap, with vulnerable groups most seriously affected during times of crisis.

In the context of Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, UNCT achievements for people and society in 2019 focused on No Poverty (SDG 1), Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Good Health and Well Being (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4) and Gender Equality (SDG 5). This work has laid a foundation based on mutually reinforcing principles of development and human rights to be built upon in 2020, including in resilience and recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the course of the year, UNCT efforts in this area focused on poverty and social protection, quality education, gender equality and addressing health challenges. The UN agencies that directly contributed included UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO, UNAIDS and UNOPS.



Poverty and Social Protection

Addressing **poverty and social inequality** is a core priority for Thailand. UNCT Thailand provides technical and implementation support to bridge critical policy and implementation gaps to further the vision of becoming an equitable and inclusive high-income country.

Thailand is a successful country in **controlling under-nutrition** with the prevalence of undernourishment reduced by half in less than two decades from 18.8% in 2000 to 9% in 2016. Progress towards zero hunger is now threatened, however, by the prevalence of the “double burden of malnutrition”, which describes the coexistence of under-nutrition and overweight/obesity. FAO celebrated World Food Day 2019 in Thailand with the theme “Our Actions Are Our Future: Healthy Diets for a Zero Hunger World”. In cooperation with the Royal Thai Government, policy-makers, academics, researchers, the private sector and general public, FAO calls for progress towards zero hunger by making a healthy and diverse diet available to everyone.

Housing poverty and substandard housing affect family health and perpetuate income poverty. UN-Habitat continued to advocate, facilitate and support the Royal Thai Government to combat housing poverty through **affordable housing projects and public housing provision** for poor and vulnerable communities. On World Habitat Day 2019, UN-Habitat, the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights and the Community Organization Development Institute organized a seminar attended by 300 participants, including senior government officials, to discuss innovative ways to address housing needs of vulnerable people in Thailand.

Including the perspective and meaningful participation of persons living with disabilities is essential to achieve inclusive and sustainable

development. Thailand has made an international commitment to fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities, including taking their specific needs into consideration, by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008. However, people living with disabilities in Thailand still face many potential barriers and challenges to finding employment, staying employed, advancing in their careers, and achieving equal pay. Women living with disabilities encounter even greater challenge, especially when other characteristics such as disability type, severity or minority status are introduced. There are several studies suggesting that women with disabilities are often disadvantaged by the different layers of discrimination, including the stigma of “weakness” associated with both their gender and their disability status. SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth calls for full and productive employment and decent work for all. In view of improving opportunities for vulnerable groups in Thailand, support was provided to empower women living with disabilities to increase their employability through trainings in digital literacy. **UNDP engaged with the private sector to exchange good practices of inclusive employment of persons with disabilities.** This work will be scaled up in 2020 to further promote more inclusive employment for people with disabilities.

Thailand will be the first developing country to become a **hyper-ageing society** by 2035. UNFPA and the National Economic and Social Development Council developed a comprehensive policy framework on a life-course ageing to guide Ministries in the design of their Futures Lab on Life-course Aging in 2020. UNFPA in partnership with the Royal Thai Government and Thailand Science Research and Innovation also produced a technical report that supported the development of the new National Population Development Plan.



The Fantastic Four, a team of four male youth pitches their creative idea to develop a website to promote employment opportunity for young offenders at UNICEF's Generation Unlimited (Gen-U) Youth Challenge. The challenge is a new global initiative aims to unleash the creativity of young people across the world in designing solutions to the issues that concern them. The Fantastic Four won the Thailand challenge, and later went on to win the challenge at the global level. © UNICEF

Quality Education for Vulnerable Children and Youth

The adoption of the Early Childhood Development Act in April 2019 was a significant achievement to increase access to **quality childhood development** services, with UN agency support led by UNICEF. The Act established the National Early Childhood Development Policy Committee to expand access to quality early childhood development services in health and education for more than 4,050,000 children aged 0 to 6 as well as 600,000 pregnant women. UNICEF also supported the fourth National Disability Survey focusing on specific barriers children with disabilities face, with findings informing advocacy for improved access to assistance and education for **children with disabilities** as well as for other marginalized communities.

More than 300,000 viewers in Thailand viewed the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) series of **education advocacy videos** in its effort to enhance access to education for every child. UNESCO co-organized 10 education events to train nearly 2,630 government officials, teachers and partners on flexible and innovative education programmes for disadvantaged children and youth. Through UNESCO's support, more than 5,000 learners, including Thai, migrant and ethnic minority children,

gained access to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) **based and alternative/flexible learning programmes** in Tak, Chiang Rai, Samut Sakhon and Southern Provinces.

UNESCO and the Ministry of Education carried out a pilot for the "Happy Schools Project" at Chulalongkorn Demonstration School to build the capacity of teachers and school principals to integrate a whole-school approach and **social and emotional learning** into schools and classrooms. In collaboration with the Office of the Basic Education Commission, UNESCO has contributed to "Ending School-Related Gender Based Violence" with draft data collection tools including more than 1,000 students to implement the Connect with Respect curriculum initiative to strengthen monitoring and evaluation system for **school related gender-based violence**.

UNESCO, UNFPA and International Planned Parenthood Federation jointly conducted a regional review on the status of **comprehensive sexuality education** in 30 Asia-Pacific countries including Thailand. In June 2019, UNESCO in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden in Thailand released the Thai-language version of the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education to further support the quality of comprehensive sexuality education curricula for Thailand.



Women from the Hmong ethnic minority group lead a community mechanism that monitors cases related to gender-based violence and trafficking in Chiang Rai. © UN Women/Ploy Phutpheng

Gender Equality

In 2019, UNOPS Thailand achieved **overall workforce gender parity** targets of 66.7% for management positions and 66.8% for support positions. UNOPS adopted a dual approach – grow female talent through capacity development and strengthening activities, as well as attract female candidates through talent acquisition efforts. In Thailand, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO and ITU, among others, contributed to advancing gender equality among vulnerable groups.

Through a series of capacity-building training workshops, using the handbook “How to Conduct a Workshop on Human Trafficking”, UN Women trained 204 women leaders from 102 communities in seven sub-districts in Chiang Khong District of Chiang Rai and 130 women and 10 men migrants in six communities in Mae Sot District of Tak Province. The training enhanced their knowledge and capacity to **prevent trafficking in persons and violence against women and girls** in their communities. UN Women also facilitated the establishment of community network platforms through Line and Facebook.

ITU continued to work with the Royal Thai Government to bridge the **digital gender divide**. As part of International Girls in ICT Day celebrations, the Ministry

of Digital Economy and Society and ITU continued a capacity-building programme aimed at imparting digital skills that can enhance employment to 400 female students since its launch in 2017 in partnership with CISCO (Thailand), Microsoft (Thailand) and FAO. In 2019, a training on **Agritech Using ICTs** was organized by the ITU, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, NBTC and FAO, with support from UNESCO, CCKDM, CISCO, National Electronics and Computer Technology Center; Geoinformatics Center of Asian Institute of Technology and Huawei to train about 50 girls and young women.

UNDP supported the development of key frameworks to ensure **lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people have equitable access to services** including a training curriculum on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression for law enforcement officers, standard operating procedures on the management of transgender prisoners and a handbook to effectively implement the Gender Equality Act 2015. With UNDP’s support, Thailand saw improved capacity and commitment of government agencies to develop, implement and monitor **LGBTI inclusive and protective laws**, policies and programmes, for instance through the inclusion of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression in prisons management and law enforcement practices. To improve public awareness on gender inequality, UNDP also published a report based on a national survey on experiences of discrimination and social attitudes towards LGBTI people in Thailand on “Tolerance but not Inclusion”.

Through UN Women’s support and advocacy on **Women’s Leadership and Political Participation**, political participation of women and women leadership at all levels gain wider support. One strategic event to harness gender equality support was the Breakfast Meeting with Thai female Members of Parliament, which was organized in cooperation with the Embassy of Finland, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Parliamentarians for Human Rights, Delegation of European Union in Thailand and UN Women to report on the National Seminar on Women’s Political Participation and pave the way for further advocacy.

Good Health and Well-being

The UNCT, through WHO, UNAIDS, UNOPS, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and other agencies, has established long-term partnerships with the Royal Thai Government and civil societies to support Thailand in eliminating health poverty by advancing **equal access to quality healthcare services** for all. The priority focuses on enhancing healthcare access for disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

The goal of **eliminating hepatitis B in Thailand** was achieved in 2019 ahead of the regional 2020 target, as verified by WHO, based on the 2017-2021 National Strategy on Viral Hepatitis B Prevention and Control. UNOPS' Regional Artemisinin-Resistance Initiative for Malaria Elimination Phase 2, implemented with IOM, has contributed to successful malaria reduction at the community level. As a result, the total number of malaria cases in Thailand, from 2017 to 2019, fell by 77%. In efforts to stem a **measles epidemic in the Deep South**, the WHO provided technical support for an intensive immunization campaign.

Through the Strategic Technical Advisory Group meetings in 2019, WHO supported the Ministry of Public Health to make **progress against non-communicable diseases** (NCDs). Progress to reduce hypertension included development of public education materials, a social media campaign and a survey to assess the quality of services. Support was also given to Thailand to reduce sodium consumption to combat hypertension and other NCDs.

In other areas of WHO's health advocacy, the Ministry of Finance **increased the tax rate** on loose tobacco by 20 percentage points, further addressing a high risk to NCDs. WHO also provided technical support to promote champions on **road safety** in the Thai parliament and hosted the launch of the ASEAN-WHO SEA Regional Network for Road Safety Legislators in Bangkok in August 2019. The Royal Thai Police also

amended the Road Traffic Act to introduce a demerit point system advocated by WHO.

Supported by UNAIDS and The UN Joint Team on AIDS, Thailand has reached several milestones towards **Ending AIDS**. In line with the "90-90-90 Targets" to diagnose 90% of all HIV-positive persons, provide antiretroviral therapy for 90% of those diagnosed, and achieve viral suppression for 90% of those treated by 2020, Thailand achieved the first and third 90s at 94% and 97%, respectively, but fall below the second 90: at 79% at the end of 2018. Thailand is becoming the first country in Asia to include the **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis** in the Universal Health Coverage benefits package. The Joint Team has accelerated HIV combination prevention by developing Standard Operating Procedures for the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis service for adolescents and advocated for enhancing condom programme. Thailand's Ending AIDS strategy has emphasized the essential role of community health workers, peer educators and community-led organizations in delivering services. Significant progress was made with AIDS spending allocated to key population programmes increasing from 9% in 2015 to 36% in 2019. With support from the Joint team, local evidences on costing of HIV services delivery for key populations, strengthening social contracting mechanism and an operational guide of Community Health Worker certification to boost domestic funding for CSOs. A system wide stigma and discrimination reduction interventions in health care settings using e-learning and the use of handbooks among prisoners addressed LGBT have been expanded. Thailand and Bangkok Partnership for Zero Discrimination has been launched to accelerate collective efforts from multisectoral stakeholders.

The Royal Thai Government has set an ambitious target to cut the rate of **teenage pregnancies** to 25



Measles vaccination for children during the nationwide measles campaign © WHO

per 1,000 by 2026, as compared to the current rate of 50 per 1,000 teenage girls and the Asian regional average at 47 per 1,000. UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO have contributed to policy advocacy, technical support and implementation to reverse the current trend. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has introduced a nationwide curriculum on **sexual and reproductive health and rights** to address adolescent pregnancy for members of the Children and Youth Council of Thailand. UNFPA played a key role including by empowering more than 1,000 young people in Chiang Mai as Youth Reproductive Right Advocates through the “I Design” project, a precursor to the curriculum. To facilitate policy formulation, UNFPA drafted the first national common peer approach guidelines on Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights for Young People with Disabilities.

In 2019, as many as 1.8 million people visited lovecaresation.com, a website providing relevant

information and counselling services on **sexual and mental health**. More than 200,000 adolescents received mental health assessments following UNICEF support to strengthen the capacity of health and education professionals to conduct mental health screenings. The website implemented by the Path2Health Foundation also provides relevant information and counselling services for young men who have sex with men to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

UNCT also **engaged youth** to design policies and programmes to meet their needs and those of their peers throughout 2019. UNFPA, in collaboration with the Children and Youth Council of Thailand and the Thai Public Broadcasting Service, gathered inputs from more than 3,000 young people nationwide, including vulnerable youth. These were developed into strategic recommendations and presented to the National Committee on Implementing the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Solution Act, chaired by the Minister of Public Health in 2019.

Tackling non-communicable diseases and promoting healthy lifestyles



The UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs meets with the Prime Minister during its joint mission to Thailand.

The UN Country Team in Thailand and the Royal Thai Government have developed a unique partnership through the Task Force on NCDs. Reporting to the Prime Minister and chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, the Task Force has provided technical expertise to combat growing threats to health and made several recommendations that have informed policy development. Recommendations have included introducing plain packaging for tobacco; addressing

interference from tobacco, alcohol, air pollutants and the food industry to ensure that public interests remain above commercial interests; increasing the tax on sugar-sweetened beverages; and simplifying the cigarette tax system. In 2019, a successful example of the Task Force's advocacy was the adoption of the recommendation for cigarettes to be sold in plain packaging, enforced from September 2019. Moreover, interference from the tobacco industry is being monitored and reported regularly.

PROSPERITY

In recent decades, Thailand has made substantial economic and development progress, bringing it from a low- to upper-middle income country. Many people, however, continue to work in the informal sector and rely on day-to-day wages, making them particularly susceptible to the recent economic downturn.

UNCT Thailand's activities to support the country's drive towards economic prosperity span Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), Industry Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), Reduced Inequality (SDG 10), and Sustainable Cities and Communities goals (SDG 11).

Key achievements of UNCT have been organized under five categories of agriculture, clean energy, sustainable cities, industry and infrastructure, and labour and migrant protection. UN agencies that have directly contributed towards this include UNIDO, ILO, FAO, UNEP, IOM, UNDP and UNESCO.



Agriculture Development and Livelihood Enhancement

Farming households account for 22.9 percent of the population, about 15.45 million people. Data suggests that four of ten farmers live below the national poverty line. To support Thailand in its effort to restore healthy ecosystems and healthy soil, FAO supported Thailand to enhance its capacity in mainstreaming and scaling **sustainable land development**. FAO partnered with the Land Development Department to develop tools, and document and disseminate sustainable use and management of land resources. FAO provided technical support to the Centre of Excellence for Soil Research in Asia and develop its capacity and connect with similar research centres globally.

FAO also collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to reduce **postharvest banana losses** along the value chain and maintain high value for both domestic and export markets. This technical support is important given that bananas are highly perishable and sensitive food products.

UNEP supported **sustainable agriculture development** and initiated a programme on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food. The programme informs policy on the real costs of food production by reviewing economic interdependencies between humans, agriculture and food systems, and biodiversity and ecosystems. This programme identified rice as focus of the work prioritizing organic and conventional rice production methods in Surin and Buriram.

UNDP continued its efforts to promote a harmonious and prosperous **coexistence between people and nature** through its small grant programme. In 2019, the programme supported the livelihoods of people from ethnic communities to support the extension of sustainable production with a focus on premium coffee, organic herbs and Karen woven crafts. It also prioritized revitalization of traditional culture, agroforestry, market extension, and environmental management and education. Women's groups were targeted to extend support to other local enterprises to develop ecological tourism, community homestays, local wisdom restoration and investing in a community revolving fund.



Researchers examine soil quality in Nan Province as part of the Sustainable Land Management Project. © Land Development Department



UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security launch the Thai-English translation of the New Urban Agenda © UN-Habitat 2019

Clean Energy to Fuel Green Growth Engine for Economic Prosperity

UNIDO supported **affordable and clean energy** to promote green growth. It promoted investment in low-carbon enterprises by establishing the Private Financing Advisory Network to enhance access to financing opportunities. This included supporting small and medium enterprises to adapt energy-efficient practices and use low carbon technologies in selected sectors. More than 560 participants joined through 13 energy awareness and capacity development training, including an online platform.

In collaboration with Chiang Mai University, UNIDO also supported the establishment of a learning centre for scaling on-grid power plants using **small-scale biomass gasification** for sustainable energy management. The learning centre provided knowledge and training to investors, including fuel management, and demonstrated the usefulness of waste wood that can produce electricity using gasification technology. The experience from the project has been collated for policy recommendations to facilitate and promote the spreading and replication of small-scale biomass gasification power plants in Thailand.

Sustainable City and Localizing the New Urban Agenda

UN-Habitat with the Royal Thai Government promoted sustainable cities of the **New Urban Agenda** through capacity-development activities and the organization of forums, international conferences and workshops. Key areas of capacity development were land governance, regional planning, barrier-free design for aging societies and sustainable cities.

With the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and support from UN Women, UNDP and IOM, UN-Habitat also organized a series of workshops as part of a national roadshow titled "Local is the Key" in Chiang Mai, Nakhon Ratchasima and Songkhla provinces. Bringing together representatives from provincial Ministry offices, key partners and stakeholders, the workshops focused on **localization of the SDGs** and helping local authorities to learn more about the New Urban Agenda and contextualizing the SDGs in their existing work.

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

With 51 percent of the population living in urban areas, expected to grow to nearly 69 percent by 2050, sustainable cities and economic prosperity require investing in industry, innovation and infrastructure. Recognizing that infrastructure includes ICT, UNESCO is supporting the country to achieve **universal internet access**, organizing a series of activities to raise awareness, build capacities and increase knowledge on developments in ICT and media. UNESCO also launched the **Open Tech Summit** in Thailand in cooperation with the National Innovation Agency and FOSSASIA. The summit resulted in collaborative projects among developers, scientists and entrepreneurs based on innovations in open technologies, including artificial intelligence, cloud computing, hardware and the Internet of Things.

UNDRR worked to increase **resiliency to disasters** in partnership with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand Chamber of Commerce and Thailand Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. This included training workshops in Phuket and Bangkok to enhance the capacities of more than 150 small and medium enterprises to strengthen their resilience to natural hazards, share best practices, and develop disaster and climate resilient business plans.

The Eastern Economic Corridor Office, in collaboration with Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization and UNIDO, organized a seminar on the **circular economy, waste management and sustainability** as a side event of the 35th ASEAN Summit. Networks of public and private actors were created at the regional level to contribute to the 20-year national strategy for Thailand 4.0.

UNFPA collaborated with Magnolia Quality Development Cooperation to implement the **Young Entrepreneur Empowerment Initiative**, with the “Be the Change” for a Better Society campaign. Fifty teams of young entrepreneurs were selected and UNFPA contributed with coaching in life course application skills.

UN Women initiated the **Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women** at work project in Thailand. The project enhances the capacity of private sector companies to implement the Women’s Empowerment Principles by promoting decent work opportunities for women, integrating a gender perspective in the business environment and practices, strengthening women’s networks and partnerships at the local, regional and global level.

ITU together with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission organized three trainings that built skills of ICT stakeholders in emerging technologies (including 5G, Internet of Things, Internet network planning, Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain) that are critical for development of digital infrastructure and digital economy.



Cambodian students participate in an internship scheme on hospitality under IOM's PROMISE programme, which is aimed to offer skills development through training for those in the hospitality sector, domestic workers, manufacturing and construction. © IOM 2019

Labour and Migrant Protection and Inclusion

ILO continued to provide technical support and advisory services to Thailand to ensure the key provisions and overall principles of the ILO core conventions that Thailand ratified are adequately reviewed and reflected in the national legislation. Key technical support in 2019 included the case of the **Forced Labour Protocol (P29)** and **Work in Fishing Convention (C188)**. ILO and its tripartite constituents continue to work to strengthen the labour inspectorate and to facilitate greater access to complaint mechanisms, as essential measures to extend the protections provided in the law to vulnerable workers, including migrant workers.

The **Ship to Shore Rights Project** institutionalized capacity for the labour inspectorate through provision of a curriculum and conduct of trainings for the Ministry of Labour. More than 180 new labour inspectors were hired and trained. An intensive five-day training designed by the Ship to Shore Rights Project and Labour Ministry tested the skills of inspectors in identifying labour abuses and enhancing enforcement in fishing and other

sectors. The project improved implementation of the Good Labour Practices Programme in the fishing sector for seafood factory representatives.

To support Thailand's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2019, UNODC worked closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand to make **border management a primary focus for ASEAN**. The initiative, which will be continued in 2020, will lead to a final roadmap for action and form the basis of an ASEAN border management arrangement in support of the ASEAN Vision 2025.

IOM continued to provide technical and analytical supports to inform the Royal Thai Government on **inclusive migration policy and strategy**, including launching the "Thailand Migration Report", a joint UN collaboration. This assessed the challenges faced by migrants as well as progress made in protection and inclusion. IOM also researched new trends related to migration with the publication of "Debt and the Migration Experience: Insights from Southeast Asia". Almost 800 officials and civil servants received training on immigration, border management and trafficking in persons.

UNODC launched its 2019 “**Transnational Organized Crime in East Asia and the Pacific: A Threat Assessment**” study, according to which organized crime groups in Southeast Asia have scaled up and migrated their operations to areas with weaker governance, generating illicit income from cross-border trafficking and smuggling of illegal drugs and precursors, people, wildlife, timber and counterfeit goods. Put together, the illicit flows studied generate at least US\$ 130 billion per year.

With ILO’s technical and evidence-based analytical support under the TRIANGLE in ASEAN project, the Royal Thai Government made an important policy decision to extend right to migrant workers in the agriculture and fishing sectors to access **Workers’ Compensation Fund**. ILO also worked closely with the Social Security Office to support efforts to expand **social security coverage** to migrant and domestic workers in Thailand. A review process was also conducted to harmonize the legal framework in line with the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

IOM continued to provide **direct legal and health services** to migrants and advocate for greater access to social services and protection, with direct assistance provided to 1,100 migrants including return and reintegration assistance, legal aid and improved access to public services. More than 900 children born to non-Thai mothers had their birth registered with the assistance of IOM’s Legal Clinic. IOM’s medical team conducted health assessments of 12,000 migrants, while 34,000 migrants and Thai nationals were educated on malaria prevention and 250 volunteers were trained. IOM and UNHCR assisted 3,000 urban and camp-based refugees to resettle and helped 875 camp-based refugees to return to Myanmar.

Under the Poverty Reduction through Safe Migration, Skills Development and Enhanced Job Placement programme, IOM has been advocating for migrant inclusion with employers’ and industry associations in the areas of skills development, decent work, and

equal treatment at work among Thai and migrant workers. The initiative has led to an agreement between the private sector and Government to establish the Public-Private Steering Committee on Migrant Employment to facilitate policy dialogue on enhancing ethical recruitment, decent employment and skills development for migrant workers. In 2019, 1138 migrants were reached under this programme, which includes providing on-the-job trainings for 888 migrant workers in the manufacturing, construction and domestic work sectors, in collaboration with 66 Thai employers and 29 skills providers. More than 90 per cent of the migrant workers trained were women. In addition, IOM facilitated 3-month internship placements for 77 aspirant migrant workers in partnership with hotels in Thailand. More than half of the trainees benefiting from the internship scheme in 2019 were young women migrants. IOM also reached an agreement with the Thailand’s Professional Qualifications Institute to pilot Thailand’s first-ever official skills recognition and certification for migrant workers in the domestic work. At least 200 migrant domestic workers in Thailand will benefit from the scheme in the following years.

Under the Safe and Fair initiative, UN Women in collaboration with ILO and UNODC strengthened the capacities of at least 250 government and non-governmental organizations service providers to migrant workers on Coordinated Quality Services for **Ending Violence against Women**. At the community-level, in collaboration with Center for Girls, UN Women trained more than 2,500 migrant women on safe migration and prevention of human trafficking and gender-based violence. Nearly 350 women leaders from communities of Chiang Rai and Tak provinces were trained to enhance their knowledge and capacity to prevent trafficking in persons and violence against women and girls in their communities.

In Mae Sot, UN Women empowered 40 women migrants through a series of vocational trainings and community socioeconomic initiatives to **improve livelihoods**. UN Women also facilitated the establishment of women



A male 'Khon' teacher assists his student to dress for a school performance. This type of soft-and-sophisticated skilled work is usually performed by women, but it is not always the case. © ILO/Jittima Srisuknam 2018

community network and communication network platforms through Line and Facebook applications. ILO and private enterprises in the electrical and electronics sector trained 7,000 low-skilled women workers in critical soft skills. More than 1,150 low-skilled women workers employed in the sector were trained in Data Analytics and Visualization for Manufacturing in collaboration with Department of Skills Development and the private sector. The activities were carried out under the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics **Workforce Readiness Program**, part of an initiative supported by the Royal Thai Government.

The ILO Skills Programme supported the Ministry of Labour to conduct benchmarking exercises of national competency and skills standards, assessments and certification mechanisms in skills areas with Cambodia, Myanmar and Lao PDR, a milestone towards achieving effective **Mutual Recognition of Skills** of the subregion. Effective mutual recognition of skills is a critical building block to facilitate a free flow of skilled labour for the goal of a single market and production base by 2020 as set out in the ASEAN's Bali Concord II of the ASEAN Economic Community initiative.

PLANET

Over the course of the year, Thailand weathered severe drought, air pollution and forest fires, but also saw remarkable ecosystem restoration as the result of temporary park closures. The climate crisis, care for the environment and protection of the planet will set the global context for achieving the SDGs in the coming decade.

UNCT supported Thailand to achieve goals in Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), Climate Action (SDG 13), Life below Water (SDG 14) and Life on Land (SDG 15).

Achievements were made in the areas of natural resource management, climate action, and responsible consumption and production. FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNESCAP, UNEP, UNIDO and UN-Habitat were the key UN agencies supporting Thailand in these areas.



Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity

Contributing to increased biodiversity, FAO supported the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to establish a forest reference level for **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation+**. This will contribute to the institutionalization of the National Forest Monitoring System and build national capacity for the measurement, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions from the forest and land use sector.

UNDP supported **biodiversity conservation efforts** contributing to the better co-existence living principle, empowerment of local communities, strengthened institutional capacity and local livelihoods development.

Progress included the return of the endangered Easter Sarus Crane, which was once extinct from Thailand; the extension of a flyway for endangered migratory shorebirds; and better protection of threatened and endangered flora and fauna species. Additional private-sector financing was mobilized to sustain conservation efforts, while youth were engaged through the establishment of the Thailand Youth Biodiversity Network to influence change. UNDP also supported the increase of more than 33,000 hectares of conservation area, budget allocations for biodiversity conservation by local governments, and the adoption of land-use plans.



Photos captured by a drone show pieces of plastic in Mun River, Ubon Ratchathani.
© Geoinformatic Center, Asian Institute of Technology



Villagers living in Huay Kha Khang Wildlife Sanctuary crop hay, Uthai Thani Province. With the support from UNDP and DNP, small villages are now transitioning towards a more sustainable system of community forestry, integrated farming and organic production of vegetables and herbs. © UNDP

Climate Action

During the year, many areas in the Northeastern Region were affected by **flooding and drought**. In Ubon Ratchathani, a province hard hit by flood, UNICEF provided cash assistance to 1,000 families including distribution of school bags and learning materials to schools.

Besides providing relief to mitigate climate change impact, UNDP supported to enhance long-term adaptive capacity to climate change to strengthen the resilience of the economy and contribute to reduce **global emissions of greenhouse gases**. In partnership with national agencies, local governments, civil-society organizations and academia, UNDP supported action towards achieving reduction targets by improving the management of peatland ecosystems as carbon sinks, integrating low-carbon development plans, and

demonstrating solutions in target cities, as well as building gender and social inclusion into the climate budgeting framework. With UNDP support, reductions totaled 14,000 tons of carbon emissions, more than 210,000 tons per year of solid waste was utilized, and 266,000 MWh of power generated.

Adding to its work in **disaster preparedness** with the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, IOM increased the capacities of migrant populations for preparedness against environmental disasters by training 248 migrants, and 29 Thai nationals, as well as 60 government officials and 7 NGO representatives on disaster preparedness and inclusive responses, which involved simulation exercises in at-risk communities.

Responsible Consumption and Production

UN-Habitat collaborated with national and local government agencies on **sustainable urban resource management**, including with the National Housing Authority to organize outreach campaign to enhance awareness and build capacity to recycle waste.

UNIDO supported Thailand to become a member country of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy which will boost the country's **agenda on the green economy** and sustainability. UNIDO also contributed to exploring the application of world-class environmentally friendly technologies in Thailand by organizing a technical mission to Italy, increasing awareness on dioxins, and sharing best practices and technologies.

In recent years, Thailand has taken important legal and policy measures to reduce the amount of plastic. Shifting from single use plastic to more sustainable options will require big behavioral changes. **To increase the public's awareness of the importance of moving away from plastic**, a partnership was established by UNDP with Dentsu and Plan B to produce an awareness raising campaign that was displayed on billboards nationwide on 'No Plastic Yes We Can'.

UNEP, UNESCO and other UN agencies supported increased efforts to **control plastic marine waste**. UNEP helped to leverage synergies at global, regional and national level to control marine pollution. With the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, UNEP supported the country's efforts as ASEAN chair to lead the development of the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris adopted in 2019. Activities strengthened coordination between government agencies and regionally focus on marine litter planning and monitoring.



A UNIDO expert inspects a factory in Ayutthaya. This is under UNIDO's Greening Industry through Low Carbon Technology Applications for SMEs funded by the Global Environment Facility © UNIDO

UNEP also supported strengthening data and information capacity on plastic leakage, capacity to assess and monitor plastic waste, and assist with outreach activities. Technical assistance was provided to the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources to establish a national marine litter monitoring system, including to create a national source inventory approach, an analysis of plastic material flows and national marine litter accumulation hotspot assessments. UNESCO also launched The Plastic Initiative to address plastic debris at its root cause, including through an online platform

PEACE AND PARTNERSHIP

Throughout 2019, Thailand continued to be affected by displacement and migrant inflows in part linked to regional conflict, requiring security and economic cooperation at all levels. With the support of UNCT, the Royal Thai Government made significant progress, including the commitment to end the detention of refugee and asylum-seeker children, as well as the mainstreaming of human rights into business. In the Deep South, there was a continuing effort to strengthen national capacities and build community resilience.

As a core UN mandate, Peace and Prosperity achievements in Thailand spanned four areas of the Southernmost Provinces, transparency and governance, human rights, and South-South and trilateral cooperation. UNCT supports Thailand's activities under the Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, implemented through agencies including UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, OHCHR, WHO and UN Women.





Youth across Thailand, many of whom are from the Southernmost Provinces, participate in the Youth Co-Lab programme aimed at promoting social cohesion and sustainable livelihoods. © UNDP Thailand

Southernmost Provinces

UNDP promote **sustainable livelihoods for youth** communities in the Southernmost Provinces through its Youth Co-Lab programme. The programme provided training on social innovation leading to social enterprise development for more than 50 youth from across the country, many of whom were from the Deep South. UN Women also supported two local women's groups in Yala and Narathiwat Province on socio-economic development initiatives.

In partnership, UNICEF and UN Women supported the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to establish the Coordination Centre for Women and Children in the Southern Border Provinces. This facilitated coordination between government agencies, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and community groups to address **challenges faced by women and children** in the Deep South.

UN Women, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and the Civic Women

for Peace, organized the Consultation on Women's Leadership, Peace and Security in the Deep South, to **empower women in building social cohesion**. At least 30 local women's groups in Songkhla, Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat developed joint advocacy strategies to apply gender responsive peace-building approaches to public policies and to promote meaningful engagement and participation of women in promoting cohesive and resilient communities.

OHCHR contributed towards building peaceful, cohesive and resilient communities by enhancing **capacity of human rights defenders** to report on racial discrimination. OHCHR also co-organized with the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University and the Buddhist for Peace Group the workshop on Non-discrimination and the International Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the Southern Provinces. The training contributed to the capacity of human rights defenders to prepare a shadow report for submission to the Committee.



Human rights defenders participate in a public seminar “Engagement with International Organizations/ UN Agencies and the Diplomatic Community, which was part of the Human Rights Defenders School, organized by OHCHR. © OHCHR

Transparency and Governance

UNDP supports Thailand in enhancing transparency and integrity of public spending through **public procurement reforms**. The capacity of procurement entities was improved especially in the areas of price performance procedures and alignment of the bidding process to international standards, contributing to a more efficient, transparent and value-for-money procurement systems.

The ITU provided technical support to Thailand to bolster the regulatory ecosystem for **digital transformation towards Thailand 4.0** by organizing capacity development and strengthening activities. ITU and the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission organized the high-level Asia-Pacific ICT regulatory dialogue Digital Transformation through Collaborative Regulation. Subsequently the International Training Program on Regulatory Enablers for Digital Transformation was implemented followed by a white paper on digital infrastructure policy and regulation in Asia-Pacific region.

Human Rights

UNCT upholds human rights for all as a fundamental guiding principle. Activities of UNCT focused on protecting human rights of vulnerable and marginalized Thai and Non-Thai people living in Thailand including migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people. With UNDP's technical support, Thailand launched the National Action Plan on **Business and Human Rights**, making it the first country in Asia to formally adopt such an instrument formulated through an inclusive and participatory process. The mechanism enables the UN and civil society organizations to engage government and the private sector to promote human rights and advocate for stronger contributions from the business community to development and advancement of SDGs.

To support a whole-of-society approach and with UNDP's support, the Thailand Responsible Business Network was launched in December 2019 to mobilize and **coordinate the contributions of the business sector to the SDGs**. The launch was presided by the Prime Minister who stressed the importance of partnerships between the public and private sectors to achieve sustainable development. The Network includes major organizations such as the Stock Exchange of Thailand, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Bank of Thailand, the UN Global Compact Network Thailand, and many private sector companies from various sizes. The Network's three focus areas are inclusivity, good governance and carbon emissions reduction.

Thailand also continued to improve the protection of child human rights, as the Royal Thai Government developed and signed a Memorandum of

Understanding on alternatives to detention for children. This provides a framework for the **release of all refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children** detained in Immigration Detention Centers. Following consultations with the Royal Thai Government and non-governmental organizations, UN agencies including UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF provided technical assistance to develop standard operating procedures to implement the framework.

The legal system also advanced child protection, with prosecutors increasing **pre-trial alternatives to detention for children**. In addition, 132 public prosecutors were specially trained in child protection and are now employed in the Provincial Public Prosecutors Office in 53 provinces nationwide. The project to strengthen the application of pre-trial alternatives to detention, supported by UNICEF, resulted in the rate of application in qualified cases increase from 13 percent in 2017 to 47 percent in 2019.

Thailand also saw an increased use of a helpline to **stop violence against children**. Following a campaign to promote its use, calls to Helpline 1300 increased from a previous average of 6,000 per month to more than 14,000 per month. UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security launched the campaign as part of a bigger effort entitled "One Thousand Nightmares Can End with Your One Voice" aimed at addressing cases of suspected child abuse.

UNODC developed a **training package on family treatment to address the concern of youth with drug use disorders**. The training package also include those in contact with or at risk of contact with the criminal

justice system, where their families are most often faced with grave challenges without appropriate support and access to effective treatment and rehabilitation services.

UNCT also supported Thailand to **provide education and development opportunities to migrant children** as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1991. Together with UNICEF, IOM and other partners, UNESCO supported the Ministries of Education in Thailand and Myanmar to organize the 1st Working Group Meeting on Migrant Children and Education in August in Bangkok and set recommendations to enhance access to education for about 500,000 migrant children in Thailand.

Through UNICEF advocacy and technical support, 1,350 children affected by migration gained access to **basic education services** in Chiang Mai province, in line with a more progressive government policy towards the migrant population, allowing access to education, healthcare and child protection systems and services. Additionally, almost 13,000 migrants (27% of whom are children) accessed **low-cost community-based health insurance** in Tak province, lessening the burden on national healthcare financing.

UNHCR and UNAIDS continued to advocate for the provision of **HIV-prevention activities** including prevention of mother-to-child transmission testing, treatment and care for Myanmar refugees and asylum-seekers and other refugees in urban areas. Discussions with the Ministry of Public Health regarding sustainable access to standard antiretroviral therapy for refugees continued, with all 118 refugees on the Thai-Myanmar border in need of antiretroviral therapy able to continue uninterrupted treatment.

The UNODC **Terrorism Prevention Programme** completed the training on inter-agency cooperation for the Royal Thai Government, resulting in the Office of the National Security Council of Thailand incorporating the inter-agency training manual into its national training curriculum for counter-terrorism officers.

As a potential cause and consequence of displacement, UNHCR continued to advocate for **reduction of statelessness**, with 40 events, workshops and seminars organized during the year through the Statelessness Reduction and Community Sensitization Project in Chiang Rai Province. These activities targeted key stakeholders including government officials, non-governmental organizations, community leaders, academics and stateless persons to raise awareness, advocate for policy change, and accelerate progress in support of Thailand's commitments towards reducing statelessness.

IOM worked closely with the Thai Immigration Bureau and other Royal Thai Police agencies on **capacity building measures to counter migrant smuggling, human trafficking and organized crime**. The measures focused on enhancing capacity of frontline officials on travel document examination, improving secondary inspection processes at borders and fostering inter-agency cooperation. IOM also initiated a comprehensive Border and Migration Management Assessment in collaboration with multiple Royal Thai Government stakeholders. The assessment analyzes existing structures, processes and capacities of migration and border management authorities and include targeted action plans to address gaps.

Thailand is the first country in Asia to launch a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights with UN support



The Royal Thai Government launches the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights at the UNCC on 16 December 2019.

On 29 October, the Cabinet approved and adopted the First National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2019 - 2022). UNCT Thailand commended the Royal Thai Government for launching the Plan, driving forward Thailand's commitment to sustainable development. The Plan sets priorities for work under four areas: labour rights, land and the environment, human rights defenders, and cross-border investment.

The Ministry of Justice developed the draft with support from the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and UNDP Thailand. This benefited from an initial baseline assessment conducted to identify gaps and priority areas for action, in which the Ministry of Justice consulted with government agencies, international organizations, the public sector, civil society organizations, state enterprises and the business sector.

Partnership with Volunteers to Advance 2030 Agenda

There are currently 8 million registered volunteers in Thailand implementing people-centered activities, with UNV, UNESCAP and UNDP as key agencies that are **leveraging volunteers to accelerate SDGs**. In 2019, UNV mobilized 55 UN Volunteers to contribute to the UN System, providing guidance and methodology to prepare the National Situation Analysis on Volunteerism following consultations with organizations involved with volunteers, led by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. This analysis used to develop

a national action plan for integrating volunteers to accelerate SDG progress.

To support the development of a national action plan for integrating volunteerism into the Agenda 2030 and to strengthen **capacity of national SDG-coordinating agencies**, UNV and UNESCAP co-organized a series of regional workshops in Thailand in partnerships with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.



South-South and Trilateral Cooperation with Thailand

At the request of Afghanistan and with FAO support, experts from Thailand provided training to the newly established **animal feed quality control laboratory** at the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in Kabul. Experts from Thailand's Department of Livestock Development provided technical training to laboratory staff after conducting a needs assessment based on the laboratory and staff capacities in fisheries and environment. FAO also supported the Thailand-Timor-Leste Collaborative Survey on **Marine**

Fisheries Resources and Environment, which resulted in guidelines for the protection and sustainable development of marine resources in Timor-Leste waters.

UNDP supported Thailand in successfully promoting south-south cooperation among 15 nations from Europe, Asia and Pacific in Chiangmai. Thailand successfully planned and hosted the 5th Biodiversity Finance Regional Dialogue, including facilitating experience sharing and technical discussions among countries.

In other areas of South-South Cooperation, UNFPA in collaboration with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency, the Faculty of Nursing of Chiang Mai University and Khon Kaen University co-hosted two workshops on good practices in Thailand to end **preventable maternal deaths** in which 50 health personnel from 15 countries with high rates of maternal mortality participated. The Thailand International Cooperation Agency took the lead in the training. An assessment showed that Thailand-UNFPA South-South and trilateral cooperation yielded a high social rate of return, equivalent to \$4 for every \$1 invested in Laos, for example.



This spectacular view of a 'hidden' beach is from Ko Khao Yai Island in Satun in the south of Thailand. The sinkhole was caused by collapsing limestone. Satun UNESCO Global Geopark covers four districts including two national parks and one wildlife sanctuary. The UNESCO Global Geopark label was given to the site in 2018. © Satun Geopark/Niruth Tangsiri

South-South Cooperation

South-South Cooperation is a key element of the UN Country Team's support to the Royal Thai Government, facilitating collaboration and support for Thailand sharing experiences in development with other countries in the region.

Experience in developing key policies and programmes include Universal Health Insurance Coverage, responses to HIV/AIDS and disease outbreaks, and the sufficiency economy, which have been distilled into developing capacities for countries in the Asia-Pacific region. As such, Thailand has contributed to the sustainable development and prosperity of the region.

The UN Office for South-South Cooperation and the Siam Cement Group co-published "A Decade of the Siam Cement Group Sustainable Development Symposia" at the Sustainable Development Symposium 10 Years-Circular Economy: Collaboration for Action on 26 August 2019. The Prime Minister joined the event highlighting the significant contribution of this partnership in Thailand and beyond.

The photo of Mekong River taken from Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai
© UNRCO Thailand/Piyasak Ausup

UN ENTITY DESCRIPTIONS AND MANDATES

FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Country Programming Framework for Thailand (2018-2021) has identified three outcomes as below:

- Implementing food safety and standards for consumer health and trade promotion to enhance food safety management along food chains.
- Enhancing the uptake of inclusive and efficient agricultural value chain opportunities to expand agricultural value chains and supply chain management.
- Enhancing sustainable natural resources management and resilience to climate change impacts.

Current collaboration between FAO and Thailand covers a range of activities – combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, food safety and standards, zero hunger action plan, plant and animal diseases, climate smart agriculture, sustainable natural resources management (soil, land, forest, marine, water), Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System, South-South Cooperation activities, Global Environment Fund projects and others.

FAO-Thailand is a Country Office hosted under FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, focusing mainly on programmes and projects formulation. The Deputy Regional Representative acts as the focal point for programmes in Thailand.

ILO

In 1919, Thailand became a founding member of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**. Bangkok is home to the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; the sub-regional office, known as the Decent Work Technical Support Team for East and South East Asia and the Pacific; and the Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The main aims of ILO are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues. The Thailand Decent Work Country Programme 2019-2021 governs ILO's work programme in Thailand. It represents the joint commitments of the ILO and tripartite partners to promote decent and productive work for all in line with Thailand's national and international development priorities and commitments. It sets out the following three Country Priorities:

- Promote an enabling environment for the growth of decent and productive employment.
- Strengthen labour protection, especially for vulnerable workers.
- Strengthen labour market governance in line with international labour standards.

IOM

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** began its operations in Thailand in 1975, assisting the resettlement of Indo-Chinese refugees to countries offering them permanent residence. With the Kingdom of Thailand joining IOM as a Member State in 1986, the organization's cooperation with the Royal Thai Government has expanded to cover all aspects of migration affecting the Kingdom and its neighbours, including labour migration, migration health, counter-trafficking, emergency and post crisis, institution building, border management, corporate responsibility, security and law enforcement.

ITU

The **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, the UN specialized agency on ICTs, facilitates international connectivity in communications networks, allocates the global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develops technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strives to improve access and applications of ICTs worldwide.

In Thailand, ITU works closely with its Members including government agencies (National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission and Ministry of Digital Economy and Society), Sector Members (DTAC, TRUE, AIS), and Academia Members (Chulalongkorn University); UN and development agencies; as well as other partners. The prime areas of work include facilitating the policy and regulatory ecosystem, digital infrastructure, digital inclusion, e-applications and building digital skills.

OHCHR

The **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** is the principal United Nations Office mandated to work in support of the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide.

The Regional Office based in Bangkok covers Thailand as well as other countries in South-East Asia.

The OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia was established in Bangkok in 2002 to support Member States in discharging their human rights obligations and engaging with all relevant human rights stakeholders to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights across the region.

In its work in Thailand, the OHCHR Regional Office:

- Engages with the Royal Thai Government and state institutions on a range of technical cooperation initiatives, including legislative and policy development and reforms, capacity-building and support for its engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms.
- Advocates for the strengthening and widening of civic and democratic space.
- Contributes to the protection and capacity building of civil society organizations and human rights defenders to effectively engage on human rights issues.

UN Women

Building on its triple mandate of advancing the normative, operational and coordination roles for achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Rights, the **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)** in Thailand works in three strategic areas. The first intends to strengthen and implement a comprehensive and dynamic set of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. This allows UN Women to link its work with other outcome areas such as women's leadership and political participation, access to justice, anti-human trafficking and women, peace and security.

The second focuses on ending violence against women, ensuring that all women and girls including

marginalized groups such as migrant workers live a life free from all forms of violence. The third anticipates the expansion of the work in the areas of women's economic empowerment and private sector engagement for implementing the Women's Empowerment Principles.

UNAIDS

The **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS** (UNAIDS) is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the SDGs. In 2016, UN Member States came together at the UN General Assembly for the High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS and agreed to implement the Fast-Track Commitment by 2020 to achieve the 90-90-90 targets, reduce HIV new infections by 75%, and eliminating HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

UNAIDS works with Thailand to meet that commitment, plays the secretariat role for the UN Joint Team on AIDS, and promotes a collaborative effort among government, people living with HIV and civil society, communities, and others in fast-tracking the HIV response at the national and sub-national levels.

UNDP

With programmes and activities in more than 170 countries, the **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) works to eradicate poverty while protecting the planet, assisting countries to achieve the SDGs. For more than 50 years, UNDP has been working as a trusted partner of the Royal Thai Government and people of Thailand. As a member of the UN Country Team, UNDP advocates for and promotes inclusive, sustainable and human-centred development for all people in Thailand.

With innovation deeply embedded in the development approach, UNDP's work spans from climate action to biodiversity conservation; strengthening institutions and social cohesion; promoting integrity and inclusion

to address inequalities; and reducing discriminations and marginalization of vulnerable groups like people from the LGBTI community, youth and people with disabilities to ensure no one is left behind.

UNDRR

The **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction** (UNDRR) supports the implementation and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-30), with its work anchored on the four priorities for action set out in the Framework. The UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific covers 39 countries and 13 territories. In Thailand, UNDRR activities focus on:

- Training in national capacity-building for disaster damage and loss data collection for Sendai Framework reporting, and private sector resilience to natural hazards and disasters.
- Providing technical assistance to Thailand in the development of national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans.
- Facilitating Thailand participation in global and regional forums to share their experiences with other member states.

UNEP

The **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

UNEP's work falls into seven broad thematic areas: climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency and environment under review.

UNEP's Headquarters are located in Nairobi, Kenya, while the regional office for Asia and the Pacific is located in Bangkok and covers 41 countries in the region, including Thailand.

UNESCO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, the **UNESCO's** main mission is to spread a culture of peace, alleviate poverty, propagate sustainable development, and foster worldwide dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information. All actions are framed by a human rights-based approach, ensuring inclusiveness and respect for everyone.

The UNESCO Bangkok office, opened in 1961, has a dual role as both the Regional Bureau for Education in Asia and the Pacific and Cluster Office to Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Singapore, Cambodia and Viet Nam. It also has a project office in Yangon, Myanmar. UNESCO Bangkok also hosts the regional branch for Asia and the Pacific of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics to strengthen Member States' statistical capacities in producing quality data in the areas of the UNESCO mandate.

UNFPA

The **United Nations Population Fund** (UNFPA) promotes the rights of every woman, man and young person to enjoy a healthy life with equal opportunities and free of violence. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

In Thailand, UNFPA supports the country's efforts to strengthen national institutions, systems and developing an enabling environment for promoting youth participation and advancing adolescent

reproductive health and rights. UNFPA supports the country on increased use of evidence-based analyses of population issues for the development of equitable, rights-based national policies and strategies targeting young people, women and vulnerable populations.

UN-Habitat

The **United Nations Human Settlements Programme** (UN-Habitat) is mandated to promote socially just and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. UN-Habitat Bangkok Office was established as a branch office to the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific based in Fukuoka, Japan, with a view to strengthen coordination functions with its regional partners and its advocacy function at the regional level. Today, the office is a recognized focal point for housing and sustainable urban development with a number of engagements in Thailand supporting localization and implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

UNHCR

The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR) in Thailand works closely with the Royal Thai Government, together with international agencies and non-governmental organizations as well as government and private donors, to address the protection, assistance and durable solutions needs of about 93,000 refugees from Myanmar in the nine government-run temporary shelters on the Thai-Myanmar border. UNHCR's work also focuses on 5,000 urban refugees and asylum seekers from more than 40 countries, as well as approximately 475,000 persons registered by the Royal Thai Government as stateless.

UNICEF

The **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund** (UNICEF) envisions that all children

and adolescents in Thailand, especially those most disadvantaged and excluded, have their rights progressively fulfilled to develop and grow in an inclusive and protective society. To deliver this change, the intergenerational cycle of inequities and deprivation must be halted, giving children and adolescents from deprived and vulnerable backgrounds an equal chance of reaching their full potential.

In 2019, UNICEF Thailand focused on systems building and reform through policy development, demonstration models and decentralized government budgeting. UNICEF aimed for a catalytic role in decision-making by strengthening data systems, public finance mechanisms, public-private partnerships and national evaluation capacity.

UNIDO

By translating the global vision of Inclusive and Sustainable Development (SDG 9) into Thailand's context, the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization** (UNIDO)'s work in Thailand aims at mainstreaming inclusiveness and sustainability into the country's industrial and economic development agenda. UNIDO's work contributes to Thailand's National Industrial Development Master Plan, to Thailand's Industry 4.0 vision as well as to the achievement of the SDGs, especially Goal 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13. In collaboration with partners in Thailand, UNIDO is currently working on various projects aimed at:

- Strengthening the competitiveness of local firms.
- Supporting government partners in building their capabilities to enable business for better regional and international integration in the areas of production and supply chains.
- Enhancing the capacity of Thai small and medium enterprises to adhere to environmental standards and practices.
- Using resources and energy more efficiently.

UNODC

The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** (UNODC) Southeast Asia and the Pacific has a team of more than 200 providing advice and technical assistance related to the rule of law, non-traditional security threats, law enforcement, criminal justice, and drug-related supply and health issues. The Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok is home to a multi-disciplinary team of 50 regional programme managers, advisors and administrators working with, and supporting, Member States and regional organizations, and aligned country offices.

UNOPS

The **United Nations Office for Project Services** (UNOPS) is an operational arm of the United Nations, supporting the successful implementation of its partners' peacebuilding, humanitarian and development projects around the world. UNOPS is mandated by the General Assembly (resolution A/RES/65/176) to expand implementation capacity through its project services – including infrastructure and project management to support Governments, United Nations and other partners in achieving Member States' Global Goals and local objectives. With more than 40 years of experience in building the infrastructure needed for development (roads, bridges, schools and hospitals) in more than 80 countries worldwide, UNOPS links infrastructure development with community-engagement and inclusion.

In Thailand, through the Thailand Multi-Country Office, UNOPS delivers human resource transactional services on behalf of global clients. Through this service provision, UNOPS enhances the operational capacity of partners. UNOPS HR services include on-time contract and payroll management, and expert recruitment, designed to bring most suitable candidates on board. UNOPS is also the principal recipient of the Global Fund in Thailand, and currently supports the implementation

of the Regional Artemisinin Resistance Initiative— a USD\$243 million regional grant to accelerate the elimination of Plasmodium Falciparum malaria in the Greater Mekong Subregion in the period 2018-2020.

UNV

The **United Nations Volunteers** (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development by advocating for the recognition of volunteerism worldwide. UNV works with partners throughout the world to integrate qualified, highly motivated and diverse UN Volunteers into development programming, and promotes the values of volunteering. In Thailand, UNV assists national partners, the Thailand International Cooperation Agency, universities and local Volunteer Involving Organizations in strengthening volunteer engagement in South-South Cooperation. UNV also cooperates with these partners to strengthen the role and recognition of volunteerism in achieving the SDGs.

WHO

The **World Health Organization** (WHO) supports and adds value to the Royal Thai Government and other stakeholders in improving the health of all people living in Thailand and in promoting expertise around the world. WHO's Country Cooperation Strategy for 2017–2021 brings together more than 60 stakeholders in health, including government, academia, civil society, and other sectors to work together on Thailand's most pressing health issues. WHO's work, through the Strategy, focuses on six strategic priorities: Antimicrobial Resistance; Global Health Diplomacy; International Trade and Health; Migrant Health; Non-communicable Diseases; and Road Safety.

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2019



UNITED NATIONS
THAILAND



The Annual Progress Report 2019 provides an overview of the work of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Thailand in 2019. The UNCT is comprised of 19 UN agencies, each with their own programme in Thailand, and collaborates with the Royal Thai Government under the framework of the United Nations Partnership Framework 2017-2021 which entered its third year of implementation in 2019.

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