THE ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2021
UN Country Team in Thailand

A compilation of success stories, lessons learned and key development trends from the UN team in Thailand.
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“All of our development goals, the solutions to the most pressing challenges of our time, depend on fully inclusive decision-making and partnerships.”
In 2021 and beyond, the UN Country Team in Thailand is providing comprehensive support for the economic and social transformation to achieve a high value-added, resilient, sustainable and low-carbon society. Partnerships are critical to all of the UN’s work in Thailand, including the close working relationship with the Royal Thai Government, deepening collaboration with the private sector, bankers and investors, and expanding ties with civil society.

In response to the pandemic, the UNCT led by repurposing financing and generating evidence to reach the most vulnerable, followed by a policy-orientated approach for the sustainable and resilient recovery. The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022-2026) was co-created with the Royal Thai Government to improve coordination and integrated policy advice including UNCT members and partners.

Over the course of 2021, UN research, coordination and policy advice moved the needle on legislation and practices on migration, social protection, non-communicable diseases, comprehensive drug reforms, improvements to healthcare and transition to a low-carbon society. Leave No One Behind and build back better have been guiding principles in both the pandemic response and strategic planning, with gender, youth, finance, innovation and digitalization also cross-cutting priorities across the UNCT’s programming.

Following the UN’s anniversary, 2021 marked 75 years since Thailand joined the United Nations, during which time the country has seen remarkable development and emerged as a regional leader in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN stands committed as a steady and innovative partner in the achievement of the national development plan and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms. Gita Sabharwal
United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand
March 2022
# ACRONYMS

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<td>GCNT</td>
<td>Global Contact Network Thailand</td>
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<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
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<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
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<td>ITU</td>
<td>International Telecommunication Union</td>
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<td>LGBTI</td>
<td>Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people</td>
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<td>MFA</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>National Economic and Social Development Council</td>
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<td>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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<td>PAGE</td>
<td>Partnership for Action on Green Economy</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>UN Women</td>
<td>United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</td>
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<td>UNAIDS</td>
<td>Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS</td>
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<td>United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund</td>
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<td>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</td>
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<td>UNPAF</td>
<td>United Nations Partnership Framework</td>
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<td>UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</td>
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<td>United Nations Volunteers</td>
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Thailand has been severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis to a greater extent than its ASEAN neighbours with an expected slow and uneven recovery path, exacerbating pre-existing inequalities and disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups. After contracting by 6.1% in 2020, the worst rate since the Asian financial crisis, the economy expanded by 1.2% in 2021 with projected growth of 3.5% to 4.5% in 2022.\(^1\)

The economy has proven resilient, however, with a very low level of external debt and relatively high foreign reserves,\(^2\) giving room for additional fiscal stimulus measures.\(^3\) The recovery has been uneven with exports expanding by 15.3% to exceed pre-crisis levels, but the services and tourism-related sectors seeing slower growth and continued setbacks linked to new waves of infections and travel restrictions. Tourism accounts for about 12% of GDP and 20% of total employment, with widespread impacts for employment and household wealth.

The pandemic has disproportionately affected SMEs, which previously accounted for nearly 86% of employment\(^4\) and are integral to the country’s social and economic transformation for sustainability. About one-sixth of SMES have ceased operations\(^5\) and lending for the so-called “missing middle” of the economy has been lower than expected. In a survey of SME impacts of COVID-19 in Thailand, 14% of respondents reported they had laid off workers and 4% laying off at least one-quarter of their total workforce.\(^6/7\) A large majority (90%) of manufacturing firms also indicated the need for government support to recover from COVID-19 impacts on their respective firms.

The government has responded with robust economic stimulus and support measures amounting to nearly 20% of GDP, the largest proportion of which has gone to cash transfers and expenses reductions,\(^8\) with more than 44 million people, or about 80% of households, receiving assistance in the form of direct benefits or compensation. The civic response has also been strong with four of ten members of the public reporting that they had given away food, household items or cash handouts.\(^9\)

The government’s compensation package is estimated to have prevented the poverty rate from increasing by a further one percentage point, which would have been disproportionately felt by rural households and in the Northeast,\(^10\) with poverty reaching 6.8% in 2020. Following Thailand’s third wave of the pandemic starting in April 2021, nearly eight in ten people reported they were in a worsening financial situation, with more than 40% reporting inadequate income to meet their expenses.\(^11/12\) Already high levels of household debt increased to nearly 90% of GDP, limiting disposable income and consumer spending.

Prior to the pandemic, Thailand had the lowest multidimensional poverty level among ASEAN
countries, but the highest level of household income inequality and a shrinking middle class. As an exception to the regional trend, the rate of food inflation fell during 2021 although increasing towards the end of the year. The crisis has exposed systemic weaknesses and inequalities affecting people in poverty, children and the elderly, people with disabilities and chronic illnesses, as well as informal workers and those not covered by the social protection system. Homelessness grew during the pandemic by an estimated by 30%, although remaining far below regional numbers.

The official unemployment rate rose to 2.25%, more than half of whom were former workers in the service sector. Young people have been disproportionately affected with 6% unemployment for men and 8% for women, with further cutbacks anticipated and diminished job prospects for new graduates. Part-time employment increased in almost all sectors over the same period, showing decreased volume of work not reflected in employment data.

There has been an increase in gender-based violence during the pandemic, with a rise of online searches for domestic violence resources and people seeking help, as well as higher incidence of online misogyny such as trolling, using images without consent and sexual harassment. Rising levels of stress and anxiety related to the pandemic have also led to mental health issues challenging healthcare services, including young people experiencing stress, depression and risk of suicide. Increased burdens for parents balancing work and childcare, reduced outdoor activity and school closures have potential long-term consequences such as addiction to devices and decreased sociability.

Access to education, particularly in the form of school attendance during lockdowns, was a major source of deprivation in 2021, widening pre-existing gaps in access based on geography, migrant or stateless status, disabilities and other factors. Nearly 80% of families responded that they were prepared for online classes, but less than half said students had full attendance and nearly three in ten did not attend at all. The education system is identified as a leading constraint on growth with graduates unprepared for labour market transformation in line with the demands of Industry 4.0.

The government’s Thailand 4.0 initiative provides a framework to restructure the economy to promote innovation and creativity based on digitalization, automation and the transition to Industry 4.0 involving the internet of things, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics. The draft 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan is based on the Bio-Circular-Green Economy in the pandemic recovery and to advance the Sustainable Development Goals while maintaining global competitiveness and incorporating circular and green economy principles. The model focuses on key areas of development in agriculture and food, health and medication, energy and biochemicals, and tourism and the creative economy.

Thailand is highly vulnerable to climate change and variability and experienced widespread flooding in the Central, Northeastern and Southern Provinces floods in 2021. At the UN Conference on Climate Change in November, the Prime Minister pledged more aggressive action in line with the Thailand’s Nationally Declared Commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by or before 2065.
The UN Country Team supports Thailand’s national strategy to become an inclusive and equitable high-income country that leaves no one behind, and a development partner in the region and globally.

The 21 entities composing the UN in Thailand work closely with the Royal Thai Government in collaboration with civil society, the private sector, and other key partners. Throughout 2021, the UN Country Team continued to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and prioritize the green recovery, which saw major changes in how agencies collaborated to support the Government and civil society in terms of logistical and supply chain challenges, the social and economic needs assessment and build back better strategies.

Coordination to achieve the SDGs was integrated into the People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership strategic priorities of the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2017-2021. The Tripartite Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) and Resident Coordinator’s Office, met three times over the year to assess lessons learned and inform the co-creation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026 completed in January 2022.

In the context of a high middle-income country, much of UN Thailand’s work focused on providing the Government with policy advice and technical support, including co-convening conferences, workshops, training, and capacity strengthening for national development partners. The UN Country Team continued to offer policy analysis supporting adjustment to legislation, regulations, and standards, with progress on migration, social protection, non-communicable diseases, the COVID-19 response, comprehensive drug reforms, improvements to health and the transformation to a low-carbon society.

Key strategies include expanding the civic space and formalizing dialogue with civil society, encompassing marginalized communities and youth agency in areas such as education, social protection, health, LGBTI, migration, disability, climate change, human rights, entrepreneurship, and SDG advocacy. The UN Country Team also strengthened ties with the private sector as a development partner, including new initiatives to engage investors and financial institutions as drivers of social and economic transformation.

The UN Country Team’s programme 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.

The Operations Management Team includes representatives from 40 UN entities based in Bangkok with many operating throughout the region. In 2021, the key achievement was the UN-wide COVID-19 response for staff health and wellbeing as well as business continuity. A common service response was developed based on a Bangkok returnee website and COVID-19 hotline, with 3,681 staff and dependents vaccinated and the strategic interface with the Resident Coordinator Office’s COVID-19 position on business operations strategy.
The UN Communications Group continued to strengthen coherent advocacy for the achievement of the SDGs based on the principles of Leave no one behind, human rights and gender equality. The joint communications strategy encompassed traditional and social media, youth engagement and advocacy targeting development partners, and extensive outreach in speaking engagements by Heads of Agencies.

In the pandemic response, the UN Communications Group collectively engaged 25 million people through vaccine outreach, complementing a public information hotline available in five languages providing COVID-19 information, including addressing misinformation and vaccine hesitancy through community volunteers and health workers in vulnerable and marginalized communities, catered to local radio and social media users in the Southern Border Provinces in Yawi, Thai and English. Forty-eight international days and events elicited cross-agency advocacy, with five or more agencies collaborating on eight campaigns, which collectively reached over 40 million people across the country through online and social media channels. Increasing engagement with the UN website saw 277,060 unique page views, 84% originating from Thailand and the majority via the Thai-language portal.

In the co-creation of the UNSDCF 2022-2026, the Data and Partnership Results Group conducted consultations with seven Ministries to identify, develop and prioritize indicators and establish baselines, in the first consultative process of its kind. Complementing these efforts, the UN, MFA and NESDC led an extensive dialogue process across Government, the private sector, civil society, academia, and other development partners, ethnic communities, young people, women, people with disabilities, the LGBTI community, migrants, refugees, stateless people, and others.

The Data and Partnership Results Group worked closely with Regional Offices and ESCAP in line with the UN reform agenda. In partnerships with the MFA, NESDC, the National Research Council, ESCAP and education institutes, the Group led two national conferences to advance SDG implementation through a data-driven approach. With ESCAP and the OECD, the Group supported the National Statistical Office (NSO) of Thailand’s pilot of labour force and SDG data using the .Stat Suite platform. Through UNFPA, it also provided a policy brief on NSO’s strategic direction to adapt to digital transformation including the data revolution, the fourth industrial revolution, machine learning, big data, artificial intelligence, the internet of things and data stewardship.

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The principle of “Leave no one behind” continued to be central to the UN Country Team’s support for public health, education, gender equality, and vulnerable groups’ rights and welfare. In multiple areas, UN agencies supported Thailand in achieving good practices that can be replicated through leveraging technology, community outreach, sustainable financing arrangements, and integration into existing services and partnerships.

**Public health support through telemedicine and capacity building**

Lessons from the COVID-19 public health response informed collaboration between WHO and the Ministry of Public Health for “new normal” medical services piloted in Pattani province and expanded to state hospitals in Bangkok and in 12 regions. Patients with different diseases are classified into three “traffic light” color-coded groups of green, yellow, and red based on the need for direct medical care and risk of COVID-19 infection, with those not requiring face-to-face visit to a healthcare facility supported by telemedicine and remote consultations with physicians.

In Lampang province, a pilot project has implemented online training and teleconsultations to strengthen the primary healthcare system and continue services even during lockdowns and self-isolation. Chiang Mai University has trained health workers and village health volunteers at the province’s 53 primary care centers on the treatment and follow up of hypertension including teleconsultations, demonstrating how telemedicine can be used in rural areas with continued training support and data collection for healthcare workers.

To identify and reduce the risk from zoonotic diseases, WHO, FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health developed a multisectoral platform to address complex health threats at the human-animal-environment interface. WHO and the Government of Japan also supported the renovation of biosafety laboratories in the Department of Medical Sciences contributing to research and development of vaccines and treatment for COVID-19 and emerging diseases.

**Non-communicable diseases collaboration**

The UN co-chairs Thailand’s thematic working group on non-communicable diseases, which was highlighted as a global good practice in the WHO Director-General’s report to the UN Economic and Social Council. In 2021, Thailand joined the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund on NCDs and Mental Health as a Founding Strategic Partner and member of the Steering Committee together with Uruguay and Kenya in a model of South-South cooperation.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, WHO together with UNDP and the United Nations Interagency Task Force on NCDs conducted an investment study in 2021 showing the cost to the economy and advocating for four policy interventions that reduce exposure to risk factors on tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet, and physical inactivity. Through a global initiative led by WHO and ITU, the mAgeing programme assists older persons by scaling up mobile health technology within the national health system to combat NCDs and support healthy ageing through evidence-based self-management and self-care interventions.
COVID-19 and migrants

100,000 MIGRANTS supported by IOM and NGO partners through COVID-19 case finding, testing, treatment, training and health education and relief items in Tak, Chiang Mai, Ranong and Songkhla

12+ MILLION PEOPLE benefitting from cold chain equipment UNICEF is providing in support of the national vaccination campaign

IOM established a weekly coordination group with UN and NGO partners on migrants’ health which monitored the impact of COVID-19 on Migrants in Thailand and neighboring countries. Approximately 130,689 migrants were supported by IOM, ILO and NGO partners through COVID-19 case finding, testing, treatment, training and health education and emergency relief items, especially in Tak, Chiang Mai, Ranong and Songkhla. IOM, WHO and partners advocacy campaigns as well as support to vaccination also contributed to the increase of migrant vaccination rates from less than 20% mid 2021 to 42% by December. Complementing this, UNICEF is supporting the national vaccination campaign by providing cold chain equipment benefitting more than 12 million people along with approximately 3 million syringes to hospitals and health centres nationwide.

In Phetchaburi, the ILO was the first to establish a Migrant Workers Resource Centre connecting government agencies, local administration, employers, and migrant workers while assisting migrant workers with home isolation, social security claims and vaccination.

COVID-19 and HIV community-based health interventions

+ 60% PrEP USERS reached by community-based clinics

16,434 PrEP USERS as of September 2021 from 3,000 users in 2018

Civil society and community-based organizations working with UNAIDS responded to COVID-19 by building capacity among community leaders and key populations of health workers and peer educators to set up a system for diagnosis and community isolation supported by online consultations with physicians from Chulalongkorn Hospital. After demonstrated success in 23 slum and low-income communities, the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority and Ministry of Public Health adopted the guidelines on home and community isolation to scale up the model.

Thailand is leading on regional and global standards with UN support on sustainable and diversified mobilization of resources through universal healthcare coverage in the full integration of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV infections and the rapid expansion of the service in the health system. By the end of 2021, UNAIDS was supporting national partners roll-out community health worker certification and organization accreditation for supporting community-led response as a core strategy to end HIV/AIDS with sustainable financing a key factor. The national action plan to eliminate all forms of HIV related stigma and discrimination has been developed. The multisectoral consultation on ending HIV-related discrimination and human rights included more than 170 stakeholders to engage with Parliament, the private sector, civil society and youth.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

8,000 YOUTH in 77 provinces engaged in sexual and reproductive health and rights and youth empowerment

30,000 YOUNG PEOPLE reached in 2021 on “Teen Club” digital platform; 8 million youth targeted by 2027

30,300 VULNERABLE PREGNANT WOMEN in ethnic communities along the Thai-Myanmar border supported by the ‘Safe Birth for All Project.’

Almost 8,000 young people in all 77 provinces were engaged in sexual and reproductive health and rights and youth empowerment in Thailand, including 300 youth trainers nationwide using UNFPA’s flagship advocacy curriculum. A strategic partnership with the Child and Youth Council of Thailand and civil society organizations sought to ensure the sustainability of efforts to reduce adolescent pregnancy enhance the sexual and reproductive health as fundamental human capital. In 2021, UNFPA and UNICEF contributed
Digital connectivity and remote learning

**280,000 THAI YOUTHS AND ADULTS**

affected by COVID-19 enhanced with digital skills through "Accelerating Thailand" project

ITU in coordination with UNICEF and UNESCO conducted a comprehensive mapping study of the digital divide in school education that provides an overview of the shift to online education because of COVID-19 pandemic to bridge the digital divide and support Thailand in keeping up with improved and inclusive technologies. The study covered student access to digital devices and internet connectivity at school and home, analysis of the adequacy of digital devices and instructor capabilities, and an evidence-based school policy for internet and digital device usage.

To promote upskilling for youth and adults affected by the pandemic, UNESCO has enhanced literacy and ICT skills for more than 280,000 Thais, including through a mobile literacy smartphone application for learners residing along the Thailand-Myanmar border and in the Southern Border Provinces. The “Learning Coin” project for more than 450 out-of-school and marginalized children in Bangkok, Mae Hong Son, Nakhon Nayok and Yala provinces provided conditional cash transfers of up to THB 800 monthly per reader to address school drop-out rates and financially support low-income learners’ families.

**Child and disability grant capacity building**

**THB 13 MILLION** in public funding mobilized for national Child Support Grant information system to bridge educational gap

UNICEF supported the expansion of the Child Support Grant to reach more than half of all children below the age of 6 and provided technical assistance for the Early Childhood Development National Strategic Plan (2021-2027) approved by Cabinet. Through UNICEF’s advocacy, THB 13 million in public funding was mobilized to finance the development of an information system to improve accountabilities, work processes and the vertical integration of the Grant, with the handover of the system and capacity building of Department of Children and Youth staff to be completed in 2022.
UNICEF continued providing support to improve the policy and implementation of the Disability Grant Scheme through a review of eligibility criteria, a study to assess the feasibility of a tier-system for disability benefits, and an assessment of availability of and linkages among social services for children with disabilities. A joint strategy focused on improving internal communication with key agencies implementing the Scheme as well as external communications with beneficiaries and families.

UNHCR continued to provide technical and functional support for progress on the implementation of the National Screening Mechanism to distinguish people who need international protection from economic migrants. UNHCR and its implementing partner also supported access to basic rights for stateless persons to acquire Thai nationality and permanent residency.

The Safe and Fair joint programme worked to ensure that labour migration is safe and fair for all women in the ASEAN region, including analysis on domestic violence laws in Thailand with recommendations to be more gender-responsive, survivor-centered and migration-inclusive. An EU Spotlight Initiative, Safe and Fair is implemented through a partnership between ILO and UN Women in collaboration with UNODC through the end of 2022.

In Thailand with relevant government ministries, Safe and Fair provided technical support to develop national-level standard operating procedures on violence against women. Across the region, partners worked to ensure that women migrant workers are less vulnerable to violence and trafficking, benefit from responsive quality services, and have knowledge and attitudes on rights, experiences and contributions of women migrant workers.

The programme reached more than 65,000 people in Thailand through awareness-raising campaigns on violence against women migrant workers, strengthened information systems in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Mae Sot, and disseminated information on safe migration and violence against women to over 500 women migrant workers. More than 50 frontline service providers were trained on quality coordinated services, who assisted over 100 women migrants.
PLANET

In line with global developments linked to the COP26 Climate Conference and growing emphasis on biodiversity conservation, the UN Country Team advanced a cross-cutting agenda on green, resilient, and low carbon development. New and ongoing projects included partners from Line Ministries and local governments, the private sector and industry, and academia and civil society focusing on the green recovery from COVID-19 and stimulus measures based on long-term environmental sustainability.

Low-carbon sustainable development

NEARLY USD 882 MILLION leveraged in low carbon projects linked to greenhouse gas emissions reductions, waste management, transport, and electricity end use

Focusing on energy under the Bio-Circular-Green Economy model, UNIDO supported Thailand on climate action through policy and capacity-building by evaluating renewable energy policies, sharing experiences of advanced economies, and preparing policy recommendations and pilot projects. Building policymaking capacity included a study on electric vehicles promotion, including impacts on the oil and biofuel industries and their supply chains, and a roadmap on achieving 100% renewable energy in industry.

In line with national development plans and international environmental conventions, UNIDO promoted eco-industrial development for resource efficiency and reducing pollutants and impacts on human health and the environment. Leveraging additional financing from government and the private sector, the project conducted assessments at 45 factories nationwide in 2021 with at least 20 potential investment projects supported by building capacity for factories, online learning and assisting local authorities.

Led by the Ministry of Industry, UNIDO contributed to the introduction of regenerative furnaces and scrap processing for smelters in the steel and aluminum industries that increase efficiency, reduce costs, cut CO₂ emissions by more than 6 per cent, and halve carcinogenic byproducts. The lead industry is adopting similar technologies, exemplifying the knock-on benefits of upgrades across industries.

A joint four-year UNDP project concluded in promoted low carbon urban development with pilots in the mid-sized cities of Nakhon Ratchasima, Chiang Mai, Samui and Khon Kaen. Focused on waste management, transport, and electricity end use, nearly USD 882 million of new investment was leveraged through local plans for low carbon projects based on greenhouse gas emissions reductions, economic benefits and enhancement of people’s lives through the improved urban environment.

In a demonstration project on carbon sinks and biodiversity, UNDP contributed to the conservation of Thailand’s second-largest peat swamp forest area, the Kuan Kreng Peat Swamps Forest, and restored the ecosystem to provide people in surrounding communities with improved ecosystem services. The project applied nature- and gender-based solutions for sustainable management of natural resources, water management, restoration of forest cover, and sustainable forest and wetland uses such as community forestry and ecotourism.

Disaster risk and resilience

Satellite image analysis provided by UNOSAT on flooding in the Central and Northeastern regions provided extensive data on floodplains, potential trouble areas, number of people impacted, nature of
Plastic leakage, and resource recovery systems. The lessons learned are being applied in Hatyai, Koh Samui and Surat Thani to support the development and quality of City Action Plans in each city.

SDG-based city planning

UN-Habitat was a strategic advisor on inclusive practices based on current international guidelines supporting the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority on an integrated data hub, flood management and transit-orientated development. Based on the SDG Project Assessment Tool application, the initiative focused on balancing transport, urban mobility, and hazard management in urban extension areas.

Hatyai City has been selected among eight pilot cities in ASEAN countries to co-develop city technical proposals with UN-Habitat supporting urban policy planning and the use of AI and CCTV to make cities safe and more accessible for people with disabilities. Another new joint initiative integrated the Leave no one behind principle and social inclusion principles into local policies and provincial housing plans at the municipality level in Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen and Hat Yai.

Waste management

To improve solid waste management and tackle plastic pollution, UN-Habitat in partnership with UNEP piloted the Waste Wise Cities Tool programme that assesses municipal solid waste management performance and the proportion of waste collected in controlled facilities. Along with cities in Cambodia, Malaysia, and Viet Nam, Chonburi was selected with 25 local government organizations participating to assess the environmental performance of the solid waste management system, food waste generation, plastic leakage, and resource recovery systems. The lessons learned are being applied in Hatyai, Koh Samui and Surat Thani to support the development and quality of City Action Plans in each city.

Air pollution mitigation

ESCAP analyzed air pollution through daily satellite imagery and chemical fingerprinting of smoke to

PAGE Key Results in 2021

Thailand joined the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) in 2020 to contribute towards the Bio-Circular-Green economic model, green jobs, capacity for green economy, energy transition, digitalization and financing the green economy transition, as well as supporting the economic and social recovery through technical assistance and capacity building. In 2021, PAGE initiated an impact evaluation of recovery projects by developing evaluation criteria for six projects based on economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The National Institute of Development Administration will undertake evaluation and develop strategies to make social and economic policies and packages support needed and the map of agricultural damage to compensate farmers. UNOSAT used artificial intelligence to analyze the data and developed a decision-making dashboard embedded in the UN Thailand website for public dissemination.

The Government led by example on the implementation of the Bangkok Principles on health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction supported by UNDRR’s overall technical assistance and sharing of good practices. In partnership with the Asia Disaster Preparedness Center, a UNDRR initiative worked on building resilience in the private sector with government support. UN Women helped to develop a report on gender and the disaster risk reduction profile of Thailand identifying the importance of integrated cooperation to utilize gender-responsive approaches.

In 2022, PAGE will organize capacity-building activities and media events on green and inclusive economic recovery for developing policy frameworks for green economic growth, including fostering green industrialization, the circular economy and green jobs.
As part of SDG Localization efforts, UNDP is working with partners in Chiang Rai to develop an integrated simulation tool to guide policy analysis and identify priorities to address air pollution in a participatory and interactive process. The “Clean Air Heroes” project engages local youth and stakeholders in an innovation challenge co-creating locally viable solutions to improve air quality.

**PROSPERITY**

In support of the equitable and green economy, the UN Country Team contributed to national policy and SDG localization through research, training, digitalization, and technical advice. Major progress focused on policy reforms supporting vulnerable communities and capacity building to recover from the pandemic based on sustainable livelihoods.

**Strengthening the social protection system**

A joint UN initiative played a major role strengthening the social protection system mapping existing coverage and how current schemes could be further integrated and expanded. Research and briefing papers analyzed the strengths, challenges and gaps focusing on more vulnerable groups such as children, elderly, informal workers, and people with disabilities, while making policy and practice-related recommendations. Consultations with people in the formal and informal economy, including migrants and domestic workers, gathered inputs for more detailed policy recommendations, including innovative outreach such as Line groups, webinars, social media campaigns and big data polling.

ILO coordinated background papers on the extension of social protection to informal workers and on Pension, complementing its support for the Social Security Office’s adoption of policy measures to improve adequacy of benefits and strengthen sustainability. IOM conducted a comprehensive review of the design, coverage, and accessibility of the social protection system for migrant workers and a regional study of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. UNICEF and ILO conducted a mapping study with dedicated reports on children, active age, migrants, gender, and older people informing policy dialogue and consultations. UN Women, with inputs from ILO, developed a policy review on social security and social protection for domestic workers.

**KEY RELATED SDGs**

- **85 COMPANIES** have signed the Women’s Empowerment Principles to promote gender equality
- **176 WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS** supported with access to finance and gender-responsive financial products
- **100 CONFLICT-AFFECTED WOMEN** entrepreneurs in the Southern Border Provinces enhanced with e-marketing and vocational trainings
To advance gender responsive budgeting at the national and local levels, UN Women and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security signed an agreement on gender responsive budgeting. UN Women is continuing to provide technical support including training, consultations, and assessment mechanisms to enhance the knowledge and understanding of gender focal points, equality officers and relevant authorities.

Led by the Securities and Exchange Commission and UN Women, 85 companies have signed the Women’s Empowerment Principles offering guidance to businesses on how to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in the workplace, marketplace, and community. UN Women supported 176 women entrepreneurs with access to finance and gender-responsive financial products and services and about 100 conflict-affected women entrepreneurs in the Southern Border Provinces through economic empowerment activities including online marketing courses and vocational training.

With ILO technical support, the Ministry of Labour revised labour inspection guidelines to add sections on violence and harassment in the workplace, including domestic work and forced labour, with a focus on women migrant workers to improve the quality and effectiveness of labour inspection services on priority compliance issues while improving labour protection coverage.

The ILO supported the Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion, the Network of Domestic Workers, and the State Enterprises Workers’ Relations Confederation to provide a range of services, including trainings on labour rights, negotiation, organization, and livelihood skills to migrant workers in the domestic work and construction sectors. The ILO assessed the Seafood Good Labour Practice programme, which aims to improve factory working conditions for the predominantly female and migrant labor force. Important gaps were identified in related to non-discrimination, equal renumeration, sexual harassment, pregnancy screening and access to maternity leave, providing the basis for strengthening gender sensitive policies towards women workers.

The UN Thailand Network on Migration supported the mainstreaming of migration into national policies as well as institutional frameworks in its first country workplan to provide concrete and measurable results through 2023. IOM completed standards in line with existing legislation for fair and ethical recruitment, decent work, and skills development for migrant workers as well as a collaborative initiative on reopening borders and assistance for safe migrant work. These recommendations informed several advocacy documents about participatory policies, processes, and procedures ahead of the resumption of labour migration during COVID-19.

IOM also partnered with Diginex Solutions to pilot a blockchain-based mobile app to collect feedback on recruitment and employment experiences to pinpoint the stages of the labour migration where migrants are particularly vulnerable to exploitation.

The ILO continued to work in the areas of law and policy review, research on migrant workers employment conditions, in building the capacity of tripartite stakeholders on labour inspection, skills, provision of psychosocial support, as well as in the fishing sector. Finally, ILO supported service delivery to migrant workers in Thailand to a total of 16,446 migrant workers (57 per cent women).

Agricultural digitalization, food waste reduction and the promotion of organic farming

**GOAL:** improving post-COVID supply chain resilience

**HOW:** 10 pilot smart farms + MSMEs in 66 Thai provinces to reduce avoidable food waste in livestock, fisheries, rice, snack food, and dairy products.
In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and Kasetsart University, FAO evaluated digitalization policy on agriculture and food systems prior and during the COVID-19 pandemic and gap analysis on existing data, providing cost-benefit analysis of digitalization for small-scale farmers and national agricultural digitalization policy recommendations. With the Digital Economy Promotion Agency, the Digital Village initiative selected 10 pilot sites nationwide to develop business plans and applications of smart farming, utilizing the internet of things in food production and other digitalization initiatives.

To reduce food waste and increase the technical and economic efficiency of micro, small and medium enterprises, FAO initiated a project identifying hotspots where food waste occurs in processing, distribution and retail in livestock, fisheries, rice, snack food and dairy food production. With the Department of Agriculture, FAO also studied critical loss points of postharvest banana to introduce improved measures along the value chain.

In collaboration with the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards, ITC supported the expansion of organic production in by strengthening the capacities of certification bodies, training rice farmers, farmer groups and mangosteen producers in selected regions to be organically certified.

Digital and vocational skills training

- **7,000 YOUTHS** from ‘Accelerating Thailand’ project trained as teachers and taught digital skills to more than 100,000 unemployed young people (66% of whom are women).
- **150 FEMALE STUDENTS** upskilled in AI, STEM and gender and human rights issues under ‘Girls in ICT Day’ initiative.
- **10 SCHOOLS** engaged in AI coding trainings for teachers and students
- **1,451 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** supported with digital skills training
- **2,000 WOMEN ASSEMBLY LINE WORKERS** trained in STEM + 15,000 women in the electrical and electronics sector were trained in critical soft skills

In a partnership with the private sector, UNESCO and the Office of Non-Formal and Informal Education trained more than 7,000 youths as non-formal education teachers, who in turn taught critical digital skills for employment to more than 100,000 unemployed young people, 66% of whom are women. “Girls in ICT Day in Thailand 2021” provided a series of online training in Artificial Intelligence, the ethical and human rights principles in its development, and gender issues in AI and STEM to more than 150 female students. UNESCO also engaged 10 schools in Thailand in a series of AI coding trainings for teachers and students.

A series of ITU initiatives with partners included the “Women ICT Frontier Initiative” to enhance digital skill and raise awareness of the role of ICT and its applications in business functions among students and young women; an introduction to cybersecurity covering awareness, data confidentiality and good practices when using cyberspace and social media; “Emerging Technologies towards SDGs” on the smart grid; and “Technology for Good Online Challenge” addressing social issues through design thinking and using ICT tools for development and empowerment of girls and young women in social innovation.

With the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, UNDP jointly organized a training workshop for women with disabilities to equip them with digital skills needed to promote a sustainable and inclusive recovery for Thailand in the context of COVID-19. UNDP supported a grant project to bridge the disability employment gap through digital skill training and recruiting program enrolling 1,451 people and exploring more innovative approaches through the UNDP Thailand Accelerator Lab.

To support disadvantaged youth, in particular young women and persons with disabilities, and women workers, ILO worked to increase decent and productive employment with demand-led technical skills training, employability training, career guidance and job placements. Programmes included technical support to improve employment-related knowledge and skills, identifying relevant training curricula for adaptation to the needs of young people, entrepreneurial awareness, and soft skills training curricula for youth, the adaptation of data analytics and visualization courses to the needs of youth, and technical support to strengthen institutional resources.
Koh Tao, Suratthani province, who lost jobs during the COVID-19 tourism slump to redeploy to marine conservation through a cash-for-work programme. Small tourist boat drivers and fishers received payments for collecting marine debris in the ocean and cleaning beaches.

The ILO responded with humanitarian emergency support for migrant workers, including provision of food, personal protective equipment, hygiene items, and referral support. Reaching at least 30,689 migrant workers (including 45 per cent women) in 12 provinces. The ILO supported migrant workers during the lockdown of construction camps, including children, pregnant women and people suffering from chronic diseases. IOM provided skills development and certification to 500 migrants from Cambodia, Lao and Myanmar working in Thailand, through vocational trainings in sectors such as construction, IT, sewing, cooking and elderly caregiving.

Programmes for women workers empowered the career development of low-skilled women working in entry level STEM-related jobs and mid-level skilled women working in STEM-related occupations. Nearly 2,000 women assembly line workers were trained in STEM and digital skills and 15,000 women in the electrical and electronics sector were trained in critical soft skills development.

**COVID-19 livelihood assistance**

30,689 MIGRANT WORKERS (45% women) in 12 provinces received humanitarian emergency support (food, personal protective equipment, hygiene items)

Through innovative biodiversity crowdfunding, UNDP contributed to livelihoods for boat owners in Koh Tao, Suratthani province, who lost jobs during the COVID-19 tourism slump to redeploy to marine conservation through a cash-for-work programme. Small tourist boat drivers and fishers received payments for collecting marine debris in the ocean and cleaning beaches.

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Thailand’s strategy for Food Systems Summit

The UN Food Systems Summit convened by the Secretary-General proposes new actions to transform the way the world produces and consumes food, with the national dialogue in Thailand contributing to the global initiative. In line with the “Kitchen of the World” strategy on the safety, security and sustainability of agriculture and food sectors, in 2021 Thailand participated in UNEP’s Global Summit Dialogue on Sustainable Food Systems focusing on nature-positive food systems for a healthy planet and people.

In national, regional and global dialogues, FAO and other UN agencies supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives designing the sustainable food systems approach, proposed and developed content, and used their convening power to bring diverse stakeholders to the table. Through The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity programme, UNEP worked with the Ministry to develop a food system national pathway.

In 2022, the Ministry with UN support will formulate an action plan for food system transformation promoting more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems leaving no one behind.
Border humanitarian preparedness and support

Following unrest in Myanmar and increasing cross-border risks, UNHCR, IOM and partners developed the Refugee and Migrant Preparedness and Response Plan to support the Government-led humanitarian response and coordinate planning and implementation, including protection activities and provision of humanitarian assistance. IOM has been conducting mobility monitoring using a network of partners in seven border provinces. In cooperation with UNHCR, UNICEF monitored the situation of displaced population crossing the border in the provinces of Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Kanchanaburi, Ranong, Chumphon and Prachuap Khiri Khan.

The Resident Coordinator’s Office continued to work on integrated analysis with UNHCR, IOM, UNODC, WHO, DPPA and DSS to engage headquarters in New York and Geneva as well as Regional Offices in support of advocacy on key issues such as non-refoulement.

Law enforcement and trafficking capacity-building

As Thailand remained a significant transit and destination country for drugs and contraband trafficking, UNODC strengthened cross-border intelligence sharing and inter-agency cooperation with the Office of the Narcotics Control Board through the Border Liaison Offices network and cooperation with the National Security Council on border management. To support UNODC’s technical assistance for Border Liaison Offices at border crossings, UNV conducted a regional survey on public perceptions on the dynamics of drugs, wildlife, timber trafficking and human trafficking, including poverty and economic factors as driving factors.

At the regional level, UNODC worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen the ASEAN framework on border issues in a major milestone for regional cooperation in response to transnational organized crime and illicit cross-border trafficking. IOM developed a National Referral Mechanism guidance document leading to cross-border collaboration between Thailand and Cambodia and the adoption of a new standard operating procedures for case management, repatriation, and reintegration of victims of trafficking.

Comprehensive drug legislation and prison reform

The new Narcotics Code Bill was introduced with continued UNODC political support and technical assistance for relevant authorities, including a legal review of the previous narcotics code to understand gaps in alignment with global standards. UNODC is also working with the Ministry of Public Health to assist in developing the policy and strategy to enact changes, including the abolishment of compulsory treatment for people who use drugs.

In support of Southeast Asian countries reforming criminal justice systems in compliance with human
rights principles and UN standards and norms.\textsuperscript{128} UNODC and the Thai Institute of Justice developed in Thai the first scenario-based e-learning platform to address the gaps in national prison legislation, regulations and standing orders. In collaboration with the Thai Institute of Justice, UNODC held an online event on prison management under COVID-19 conditions.

\section*{Prevention of violent extremism}

The UN deepened its strategic relationship with the National Security Council supporting the development of Guidelines on the Prevention of Violent Extremism\textsuperscript{129} with inputs from UNDP, UNODC, UNOCT, UN Women and UNESCO. UNODC and UNDP began an 18-month Human Security Trust Fund programme aimed at promoting cross government and whole-of-society approaches.

\section*{Southern Border Provinces}

In support of social cohesion in the Southern Border Provinces, the UN joined integrated civic empowerment initiatives led by local institutional partner Prince of Songkhla University’s Institute for Peace Studies. The initiatives supported by UNDP and the joint UNDP-DPPA programme strengthened civic voice particularly from youth, and collaboration towards social cohesion through civic empowerment platforms to connect and capacitate civil society actors and an inter-community agricultural exchange programme.

UN Women supported the capacity building and knowledge sharing of more than 30 women’s groups and civil society organizations in the Southern Border Provinces to empower and enable them to engage in public decision-making, conflict prevention, social cohesion promotion, and prevention of violence against women and children.\textsuperscript{130} Through the Coordination Center for Children and Women in the Southern Border Provinces,\textsuperscript{131} UN Women provided digital and media literacy training for women groups in and encouraged community dialogue among women leaders on violent extremism issues and hate speech.

\section*{Human rights technical assistance and capacity building}

The UN took steps to develop a framework to institutionalize dialogue with civil society, including to promote its role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through a coordinated strategy to support advocacy and inform interventions including DPPA, OHCHR and UNDSS. From political, human rights and security perspectives, the UN utilized integrated analysis including big data and social listening analytics on the protest and anti-government movements, trends, and narratives to assess potential escalation of tensions.

Through OHCHR, the UN has provided technical assistance and capacity building with Government, human rights defenders and civil society organizations regarding the protest movement and international human rights mechanisms,\textsuperscript{132} including through engaging authorities on the rights and protection. OHCHR also increased the capacities of human rights defenders on protection of rights in the context of COVID-19, holding trainings on international standards on the use of force, international human rights mechanisms and right to information.

OHCHR provided capacity building to 37 operational level staff of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand on demonstration monitoring, the network of national human rights institutions, accreditation process of national human rights institutions and the use of force. OHCHR also supported IOM in building capacity of immigration officials, mainstreaming human rights in immigrations officials’ functions.

\section*{Education for peace}

As part of the Together for Peace initiative advocating “positive peace” curricula in the Asia-Pacific, UNESCO\textsuperscript{133} organized a manga exhibition\textsuperscript{134} at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre featuring the work of artists from around the world. Bilingual Thai-English teaching materials are also being distributed to schools across the country.\textsuperscript{135}
Sustainable financing and private sector

**43 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** committed to climate action and the SDGs

**TARGET:** net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or no later than 2070

Sustainable financing and expanding the role of the finance sector in achieving the SDGs continued to be key strategies based on expanding partnerships with private investment and business as well as financial regulators. Leading up to the 2021 UN Climate Conference Paris Agreement, the UN Country Team partnered with the Government Pension Fund and Global Compact Network Thailand (GCNT) to scale up ambitions for climate action and emissions reductions.

A high-level roundtable brought together the Ministry of Finance, senior regulators and 43 financial institutions in a statement of commitment to act on climate change and promote the SDGs. The roundtable included an information session on the Principles of Responsible Banking, led by UNEP, complementing events raising awareness among asset managers and investors about the Principles of Responsible Investment. The UN and the GCNT jointly organized another high-level roundtable attended by the Prime Minister where private sector leaders committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or no later than 2070, reducing emissions in their own operations and value chains, and promoting positive consumer behaviours.

For the first time, the Resident Coordinator was represented on the GCNT Advisory Board in a strategic position to advise on its direction and operational plans. Through the Federation of Thai Industries and GCNT, engagement with the private sector focused on the green recovery and support for SMEs affected by the pandemic and in the process of transforming operations for sustainability.

Partnerships with the Security and Exchanges Commission and the Stock Exchange of Thailand supported the Women’s Empowerment Principles being adopted by nearly 100 business leaders. UN Women led collaboration to increase women’s leadership in boardrooms and incorporate gender and diversity indicators as part of environmental, social and governance ratings for listed companies, which has been recognized as a good practice for the Asia-Pacific region.
Youth engagement

Youth engagement and development continued to be cross-cutting priority based on the SDGs and the UN Youth2030 Strategy in achieving sustainable development, preventing crises, and advancing peace. In 2021, the SDGs Youth Panel was formed as an advisory board consulting with the Resident Coordinator’s Office and Heads of Agencies, with youth informing the 2022-2026 Cooperation Framework’s strategic priorities, engaging with the Secretary General’s Youth Envoy, and advising the UN Communications Group on SDG advocacy.

Chulalongkorn University, Mae Fah Luang University and NIDA graduate university have embedded the SDG Primer online course in their curricula reaching about 55,000 students. The UN also contributed to course development, guest lectures and events on campuses, and worked with NIDA on polling of SDG awareness in Thailand, the COVID-19 impact on the public and children, and national priorities for the development of the Cooperation Framework.

Civil society

The UN strengthened ties with civil society, non-governmental and grassroots organizations as essential partners to raise awareness about the SDGs, reach communities including vulnerable and leave-no-one-behind groups, create spaces for advocacy and to inform policy. During the drafting of the Cooperation Framework, the UN engaged in broad-based consultations with civil society groups and sought to institutionalize dialogue through formal channels for ongoing partnerships. The UN Country Team also engaged with NGOs, civil society and community-based organizations regarding the protection and promotion of free and open civic spaces.

In the COVID-19 response, the UN engaged with civil society organizations to support practices such as such as home-based isolation and community care that were scaled up by the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority and Ministry of Public Health. In support of the public health campaign, the UN Country Team conducted joint COVID-19 communications that reached more than 25 million people raising health awareness and countering vaccine hesitancy and misinformation.

Public sector

The UN’s close working relationship with Government, line ministries, and provincial and local administrations remained indispensable for UN operations in Thailand and as a regional hub. Government continued to provide crucial support for the UN Country Team, such as the Ministry of Industry’s annual staff secondment to UNIDO, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society’s new provision of office premises to ITU, and pooled funding arrangements with WHO.

UN’s engagement with Parliament has also been notable working closely with the sub-committees on labour, human rights, decentralization, and civic engagement to influence and institutionalize SDG-based policymaking.

Engagement with the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth

The UN Country Team and the SDGs Youth Panel engaged with the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake to exchange lessons and good practices for youth engagement. The key takeaway was that youth leaders want UN support, in addition to consultations and inclusion, in the form of resources and capacity building for development projects and SDGs attainment. UN Thailand is one of seven country offices invited by the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth to participate in Headquarters-level UN Youth Engagement consultations that inform the Youth2030 Strategy’s implementation.
Lessons Learned

In the final year of implementation of the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2017-2021, the UN in Thailand commissioned an independent report to generate key findings, lessons learned and recommendations to inform the design and execution of the successor United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. The review considered factors such as human rights, gender equality, Leave no one behind and accountability and results-based management.

The partnership model was evaluated as “highly effective” in contributing to the SDGs and could be emulated across the UN system. Government partners observed, however, that the UN was still inclined towards uncoordinated individual UN agency policy advice, for example on climate change, private sector development, youth engagement, and South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Consultations with national stakeholders helped to inform programme implementation, but it was not clear whether voices from across the provinces and groups at risk of being left behind were fully engaged.

Key Risks and Management Strategies

To ensure smooth and successful delivery of UN programming, key risks have been identified along with mitigating measures. The identified risks, including contextual, programmatic, and institutional risks, are summarized below:
## Risks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Level:</th>
<th>Likelihood:</th>
<th>Impact:</th>
<th>Mitigating measures</th>
<th>Action by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>Almost Certain - 5</td>
<td>Extreme - 5</td>
<td>The UN will continue regular monitoring of the situation and discuss scenario planning both at the UNCT level for programme implementation and Security Management Team (SMT) and COVID-19 Contingency Management Team (CCMT) level for business continuity.</td>
<td>UNCT, SMT, CCMT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Likely - 4</td>
<td>Major - 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Possible - 3</td>
<td>Moderate - 3</td>
<td>The cooperation framework builds on the quality and diversity of partnerships, with the RTG, with the private sector and civil society. Similarly, partnerships with &quot;Leave No One Behind&quot; groups are important for ensuring development is meaningfully inclusive and impacts these groups constructively.</td>
<td>UNCT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Unlikely - 2</td>
<td>Minor - 2</td>
<td>UN is taking steps through the youth engagement deep dive and in consultation with the SDGs Youth Panel to streamline communications to enable better partnerships.</td>
<td>UNCT, Young People Working Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Rare - 1</td>
<td>Insignificant - 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 outbreaks jeopardize gains made in recovery and create new setbacks.

Leveraging partners consistently is critical to ensuring the ability of the UN to contribute to transformative change as per the 13th NESDP.

Technical nature of UN work may appear inaccessible to youth.

### Assumptions:
- There is significant commitment by the RTG to respond to COVID-19.
- Vaccination implementation will continue immunizing most people living in Thailand.

## Financial Reporting

### 2021 Estimated Expenditures in USD$ thousands

#### Financial & Resource Overview

**USD 89.31 million**

The overall envelope on which the UN delivered to "build back better"

**970 UN personnel across 21 UN entities**

Delivered programmes in 2021 across all regions of Thailand

### Partnerships

- **Partnerships**: $16.41
- **Peace**: $11.23
- **Prosperity**: $6.83
- **Planet**: $9.10
- **People**: $45.70

### Sector Distribution

- **People**: 51%
- **Peace**: 13%
- **Prosperity**: 8%
- **Planet**: 10%
Key Focus in 2022

The UN Country team will deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026, which was endorsed by Cabinet in January 2022 based on extensive multistakeholder consultations and an evidence-based assessment of SDG progress. The Cooperation Framework is aligned with the draft 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan and guided by the UN principles of Leave no one behind, human rights, gender equality, sustainability, and resilience. The Framework embeds public governance that promotes digitalization, innovation and policy coherence in the social and economic recovery as well as addressing inequalities and climate change. The three key outcomes of the Cooperation Framework are:

1. The green and resilient economy for inclusive and sustainable growth as well as strengthening the capacities for a low-carbon society, disaster recovery and reduction of poverty.
2. Human capital development improving accessibility and the quality of public services as well as digital inclusion and promoting innovation.
3. Ensuring all people benefit from development by addressing inequalities, promoting good governance, and strengthening institutions and the rule of law through an enabling, rights-based, and inclusive environment.

The UN Country Team’s programme implementation is data-driven and enabled by joint operations and advocacy. These three key priorities will be delivered against the Cooperation Framework’s results matrix, through an online planning, monitoring, and reporting database that enables data-driven results-based management.
National Economic and Social Development Council.

Net portfolio outflows and current account deficit of about USD 10 billion with net international reserves of USD 280 billion.


Export-Import Bank of Thailand estimates 500,000 of 3 million SMEs have shuttered, projecting that NPLs among SMEs could rise to 10% from the current 6% depending on relief measures. https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2223191/sme-npls-may-reach-10-in-year-ahead

The most frequently reported business needs among manufacturing firms were R&D and innovation (52%), business continuity plans (50%), access to new domestic markets (43%), development of new products (38%), and access to new foreign markets (38%).


Since March 2020, the fiscal stimulus packages worth about 3.3 trillion THB (19.4% of GDP) consists of tax deductions (1.2%), cash transfers and expenses reduction (7.6%), loan schemes (6.5%) and other measures (4.1%).


Families reported that they were mitigating financial impacts by reducing household expenses (57.06%), using savings (18.66%), taking loans from informal sources (8.09%), taking loans from financial institutions (7.80%), or selling property or belongings (4.25%).


Multidimensional poverty reduces worldwide while COVID-19 exposes existing vulnerabilities.

Ministry of Commerce and FAO figures show -0.13% food inflation over 2021, and 0.3% in the food quarter, compared to the 2.9% average among ASEAN countries.

https://www.unicef.org/thailand/media/5666/file/Socio-Economic%20Impact%20Assessment%20of%20COVID%20Thailand.pdf

UN-Habitat reports 3,534 homeless people in Thailand in 2021, 86% of whom are male, more than 50% between 40 to 59 years old, and more than 50% in major cities. By comparison, recent figures for homelessness in Viet Nam were 162,000, Indonesia 3 million and Philippines 4.5 million.

Women and girls in the workforce aged 15 to 29 years were the most impacted by COVID-19, accounting for 65% of all unemployed women since the pandemic's onset.


Between October 2020 and September 2021, domestic violence affected 2,177 people in Thailand, 81% of whom were women, the majority aged 36 to 59 years, 41% married and 71% of women victims did not seek legal help, according to the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

The Big Conversation: Handbook to Address Violence against Women in and through the Media.

Department of Mental Health's Mental Health Check-in found that 28% of adolescents experienced high levels of stress, while 32% were at risk of depression and 22% at risk of committing suicide from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2021.

COVID-19 pandemic continues to drive poor mental health among children and young people.

Thailand spends 4.1% of GDP on public education, compared to the average of 4.7% in the region, and 0.5% on social assistance, compared to the regional average of 1.1%.


Thailand 4.0.

Thailand ranks 9th among countries most affected by extreme weather events between 2010 and 2019 according to the Global Climate Risk Index.

Resident agencies are IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO. Non-resident agencies are FAO, ILO, ITC, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNV and UN Women.

UN personnel and dependents who accessed the COVID-19 vaccination programmes led by the Royal Thai Government and the UN.


Based on the WHO HEARTS technical package for cardiovascular disease management.

The Tripartite Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) tool supported the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment and Forestry to conduct a joint risk assessment training involving 75 participants from human, animal, and wildlife sectors.

Five units of basic biosafety level 2 and one unit of containment biosafety level 3 laboratories.

UN-wide and multi-partner initiative to support Member States and catalyze whole-of-government and whole-of-society policy change and programme actions as well as increase domestic resource mobilization.

"Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in Thailand – The Case for Investment”.

NCDs cost the economy THB 1.6 trillion annually, equivalent to 9.7% of 2019 GDP including THB 139 billion to treat NCDs and THB 1.5 trillion in lost productive capacity.
36 The Be He@lthy, Be Mobile (BHBM) initiative works with governments to scale up targeted communication messaging services for NCDs and their risk factors.

37 Led by UNAIDS, UNICEF support updating national guidelines for PrEP provision for youth at substantial risk of HIV, and UNODC support for a pilot PrEP programme for people who use drugs through a one-stop service integrated with community-led health services.

38 With more than 60% of PrEP users reached by community-based clinics, the uptake increased from 3,000 users in 2018 to 16,434 as of September 2021.

39 About 200 community health workers and 18 community-based organizations ready to be certified.

40 70% of THB 6.5 million for HIV/AIDS services allocated to community-based organizations for prevention and treatment to be scaled up in the next two years.

41 In line with strategic partnership of UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF and UNODC on legal issues and ending discrimination in the workplace.

42 The I D-Sign curriculum.

43 With the Ministry of Public Health, Thai Health Promotion Foundation and UNFPA.

44 The Child and Youth Council of Thailand secured a budget of USD 82,000 for fiscal year 2022 from the Department of Child and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

45 The rate of teenage pregnancy was 31 per 1,000 in 2019 with the government target to reduce to 14 per 1,000.

46 Initiated by the Department of Health in 2020 in line with the Royal Thai Government’s voluntary commitment to the International Conference of Population and Development.

47 The platform has reached 30,000 young people registered to receive information and access services with the target of 8 million youth by 2027.

48 The Safe Birth for All Project undertaken by the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, UNFPA and Reckitt.

49 Preventable maternal deaths in Thailand declined from 26.70 per 100,000 live births in 2016 to maternal mortality ratio of 23.10 per 100,000 live births in 2020.

50 Training for 209 nurses, health workers, health volunteers and traditional birth attendants scaled back from target of 500 because of COVID-19 conditions.


52 The digital literacy curriculum was developed into an electronic online learning module and will be shared and used by the women trainers to further train women in communities.

53 The “Smart Domestic Workers” mobile phone application was drafted and verified in consultation with a focus group of women migrant workers and civil society organizations.

54 The EU Spotlight Initiative jointly implemented by UN Women, ILO and UNODC “Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers’ rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region” (2018-2022) delivers technical assistance and support to make labour migration safe and fair for all women in Thailand and the ASEAN region.


56 In collaboration with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, National Press Council of Thailand and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

57 “The Big Conversation: Handbook to Address Violence against Women in and through the Media” with corresponding Thai-language translation.

58 “E-learning in Thailand: Mapping the digital divide”.

59 COVID-19 has affected 15 million enrolled learners in Thailand.

60 97.47% of schools were connected to the internet, 0.8% did not have connectivity, and there was no connectivity information for 1.7%. On average, 17 students shared one computer at school.

61 Since the launch of the Accelerating Thailand program in December 2020, UNESCO and its public and private partners including Microsoft Thailand, the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (depa), Department of Skill Development, Office of the Non-Formal and Informal Education, Thailand Professional Qualification Institute (Public Organization), JobsDB Recruitment (Thailand) Limited, and Thai Fund Foundation, has provided skill-enhancing training through both online and offline channels.

62 The LearnBig open-access digital library and smartphone application makes available over 1,500 books and learning materials in Thai, Myanmar, and Malay languages.

63 With the support of the Equitable Education Fund, Ministry of Education and Chulalongkorn University.

64 2.3 million children.

65 With a focus on needs-based/age-appropriate child development, improved coordination among ministries, and adequate resourcing for quality services.

66 The enhanced Child Support Grant Management Information System.

67 Under the partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

68 With the Thailand Development Research Institute.

69 In 2022, communication materials are expected to serve 2 million people with disabilities, including children and their families.

70 The promulgation of the Prime Minister’s Regulation in December 2019 and the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Criteria, Procedures, and Condition in 2021.
Adventist Development and Relief Agency submitted 4,454 new nationality applications at the district level, including 643 applications of stateless elderly. From January to June 2021, 2,740 individuals acquired Thai nationality and 260 were granted permanent residency status. In cooperation with the Korea Energy Agency and Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency, Ministry of Energy. The project supports the Government and private sector in enhancing their capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and net zero emissions by 2065. The 12th and draft 13th National Economic and Social Development Plans, Paris Climate Agreement and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. "Application of industry-urban symbiosis and green chemistry for low emission and persistent organic pollutants free industrial development in Thailand".

Co-financing with USD 10 million in grants from the Global Environment Facility and USD 20 million from PTT Public Company Ltd., the Federation of Thai Industries Environment Institute, and the Government. Leveraging USD 18 million from the private sector.


"Maximizing Carbon Sink Capacity and Conserving Biodiversity and through Sustainable Conservation, Restoration and Management of Peat-Swamp Ecosystem" through the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, with academic and civil society organizations and budget support of the Global Environment Facility.

The Kuan Kreng Landscape spans 74,363 hectares in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Phatthalung and Songkhla provinces including 152 villages and about 148,000 residents.

In coordination with the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA).

International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction measures to prevent and/or reduce the risk of health emergencies such as pandemics.

ARISE: Resilient Business, Sustainable World.

With the Department of Women’s Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior.

The application is part of the SEA circular project implemented by UNEP and funded by the Swedish Government.

The Chonburi Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment, Office of Administrative Promotion and 20 local government organizations facilitated site visits and a survey at 100 households was conducted with local volunteers.

With WWF’s Plastic Smart Cities initiative and Chulalongkorn University.

In line with the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Strategy (ASUS) with support from the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II.

The LNOB Pilot Cities Project with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, UN-Habitat and Urban Studies Lab and a financial contribution from the Royal Thai Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

United Nations Joint Programme on Social Protection for All in Thailand, funded by the Joint SDGs Fund and implemented by ILO, IOM, UNICEF, and UN Women.

Between September and November 2021.

With the Social Security Fund and the Workers Compensation Fund, these include an increase in the earnings ceiling used to calculate benefits, the introduction of indexation of benefits in payment approval, and a change in the strategic asset allocation that reinforces investment governance.

"Background Study on Social Protection for Migrant Workers and Their Families in Thailand" in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

"Socioeconomic Impact of COVID-19 on Migrant Workers in Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, and Thailand".

"Vulnerability Mapping and a Diagnostic Review of Social Protection".

With the Secretariat of the Senate, Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Budget Bureau, Department of Local Administration, King Prajadhipok’s Institute and the Securities and Exchange Commission.


The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare and ILO trained more than 300 labour inspectors on the new guidelines.

The work plan was reviewed and endorsed by the Royal Thai Government in April 2021.

"Shared Responsibility Framework on Ethical Recruitment, Migrant Employment and Skills Development”, with employers, Ministry of Labour and civil society organizations through Chulalongkorn University.

In partnership with UNDP, the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Labour, IOM collected recommendations from nearly 600 stakeholders, including employers, civil society organizations, recruitment agencies and government partners across Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Thailand.

From 238 Myanmar migrant workers employed by IKEA's and Delta Galil's supply chain partners based in Thailand.

Survey of almost 2,500 smallholder farmers across the country found accelerated adoption of farm digital applications to 40% total smallholders in 2021, but only 6% had adopted precision farming technology.

Nearly 270,000 tCO2eq of cumulative direct GHG emission reductions.
107 Pala-U Village, Prachuap Khiri Khan; Na YaiAm District, Chanthaburi; Bang Yai District, Nonthaburi; Association of the Physically Handicapped, Pathumthani; U Thong District, Suphan Buri; Mueang Rayong District, Rayong; Mueang Chiang Mai District, Chiang Mai; Pak Chong District, Nakhon Ratchasima; Sak Lek District, Phichit Province; and Sathing Phra District, Songkhla.

108 “Capacity Building to Reduce Avoidable Food Waste in Micro, Small and Medium Food Processing Enterprises and in Retail” with support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of Japan.

109 Surveys were conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in 66 out of 77 provinces, the largest nationwide food waste survey in the food processing sector in Thailand to date.

110 The “Accelerating Thailand” initiative on offline and online platforms, including UNESCO’s Lifelong Learning platform, based on Microsoft Office, Power BI, and Microsoft Power App.

111 ITU, UNESCO, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission and Microsoft Thailand.

112 With funding from CODEMAO in cooperation with Thailand’s National Commission for UNESCO.

113 Respectively Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development, CISCO, Chulalongkorn University and Thammasat University.

114 Three-day training on Microsoft Office skills including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

115 Through the Social Administrative Foundation and Vulcan Coalition.

116 “Young Futuremakers Thailand – Promoting youth employability” in partnership with Department of Skills Development and Department of Employment.

117 Based on the ILO Ready for Business curriculum and conceptualized a peer-to-peer modality for implementation.

118 Designed by BIOFIN together with Raks Thai Foundation and Krungthai Bank.

119 The crowdfunding campaign raised USD 91,980 for 197 registered tourist boat drivers and taxi drivers, 175 male and 22 female, as direct beneficiaries.

120 UNHCR supported the Government’s response with the distribution of blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene sets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets in addition to protective facemasks and hand sanitizer to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

121 Between 1 February and 31 December 2021, an estimated 15,700 Myanmar refugees fled armed clashes and sought safety in Thailand.

122 UNODC and the Government have established 28 Border Liaison Offices in the North and Northeastern regions.

123 The questionnaire administered in border communities in five Southeast Asian countries including Thailand focused on socio-demographic information, residents’ perceptions of illicit trafficking and border crossings.

124 ASEAN adopted the ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap in October 2021.

125 In 2021, 352 victims of trafficking were identified, 252 of whom were Thai, 94 Myanmar, 2 Lao and 4 from other nationalities.

126 The Bill is composed of three Sections: Section 1: Prevention, Suppression and Control of Narcotics; Section 2: Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation; and Section 3: Penalties.


128 The Nelson Mandela Rules on protecting the rights of persons deprived of liberty.

129 Pursuant to the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018-2025).

130 In the final year of the Measures and Guidelines on Women Peace and Security (2017-2021), UN Women continued to support the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

131 Established by UN Women and UNICEF in 2019 in collaboration with the Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.


133 With the support of the Japan Foundation Thailand.

134 “Together for Peace Silent Manga” artworks on themes such as out-of-school children, lifelong learning, anti-bullying, youth in conflict, learning to live together, displaced peoples and shared cultural histories.

135 Together for Peace Silent Manga Teacher’s Companion is being disseminated throughout the 180-member UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network in Thailand in cooperation with the Thai National Commission for UNESCO.

136 Covered by UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC, UNIDO and UN Women.

137 “Sustainable Thailand: Sustainable Investing, Sustainable Banking”.

138 The Government Savings Bank and Kasikornbank, representing 22% of Thailand’s banking industry, are PRB signatories.

139 The Government Pension Fund is the only asset owner signatory in Thailand.

140 Representing 90 members from the private sector.
