



ANNUAL
RESULTS
REPORT
2023

UN Country Team
Thailand

ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2023



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Cover page: A close-up image of a handwoven artwork depicting Thailand's geography displayed inside the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles in Bangkok. The museum is known to be the country's first dedicated textile conservation laboratory, with a key mandate of preserving traditional cultural heritage related to the production of Thai textiles and crafts. In addition, it serves as a learning centre showcasing the history and significance of Asian fabrics. © UN Thailand/2023

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FOREWORD

The Annual Results Report provides a high-level narrative of the UN Country Team's contributions to accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at scale in partnership with the government, private sector, and civil society. Individually each of the 21 UN agencies brings its own specialized area of expertise; together they contribute comprehensively to the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with Thailand. In support of this framework the UN brings to bear technical, normative and policy solutions to facilitate Thailand's transformation into a more equitable, inclusive, and prosperous nation in alignment with its national priorities.

In tandem, the UN has maximized its convening role through the Global Compact Network in Thailand, whose commitments on carbon neutrality, biodiversity conservation and human capital investment is raising ambition for the industrial, business, and agricultural sectors. The UN Country Team has taken the localization of SDGs countrywide in partnership with the 77 Governors for the benefit of all, including the most vulnerable. Together with the government, the UN has also bolstered South-South Triangular Cooperation to take best practices from Thailand to the regional and global stage.

Among its primary aims, the UN is contributing to lowering emissions, generating carbon credits, boosting digitization to upskill the labor force, including people with disabilities, and reducing informality. In the spirit of leaving no one behind it offers solutions to empower youth and women, promote human rights, ensure the wellbeing of migrants and refugees, and leverage digital healthcare solutions to expand their reach to the remotest of villages.

By continuing to work closely with all stakeholders, the UN will intensify its efforts in the next year to support Thailand to fast-track the achievement of the SDGs. I am grateful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Economic and Social Development Council, and Line Ministries, as well as the private sector and civil society for their continued partnerships with the UN.

Gita Sabharwal

UN Resident Coordinator, Thailand

UN COUNTRY TEAM IN THAILAND



**UNITED
NATIONS
THAILAND**



The UN Country Team is dedicated to advancing all the SDGs in Thailand, while emphasizing the importance of SDG localization, which brings the global agenda to the local level for effective impact.

Our efforts support Thailand's national strategy to become an inclusive, 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. We also work closely with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).



1

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY

ECONOMY

In 2023, Thailand's economy continued to grow despite geopolitical uncertainties with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2.4 per cent, down marginally from the previous year. Growth was driven by an increase in private consumption, investment, and tourism. High foreign reserves, a healthy banking sector and financial resilience enabled the country to withstand fiscal stresses.

The labor market expanded owing to an increase in employment¹ in agriculture, manufacturing and tourism with unemployment returning to pre-pandemic levels.² However, youth employability remained low with just under half of young people in the labor market. Thailand relies heavily on migrant workers with at least 2.5 million documented foreign workers registered in labor-intensive sectors.³

Although economic risks remain manageable, public debt sustainability will pose challenges over the medium term. Public expenditures dropped to nearly 23 per cent of GDP⁴ as pandemic-related stimulus measures were scaled back, but energy subsidies for households continued. The path to fiscal consolidation will be challenging⁵ as the country focuses on accelerating economic growth as part of its green transition. Thailand is a rapidly ageing society, which reinforces the importance of continued investment in human capital development to increase productivity and mitigate the impact on future economic growth.

Inflation for food and consumer items dropped dramatically to 1.3 per cent, a rate far below the global average. This translated into a relative increase in purchasing power for all, albeit inflation disproportionately affected the 8 million people with low incomes. However, upside risks to inflation remained owing to a government policy to drive economic growth by stimulating household spending. Domestic financial markets remain buoyant with an increase in capital investment mobilization. However, elevated

household debt, which currently stands at nearly 91 per cent of GDP, could become a potential drag to future growth. The banking sector is seeing an increase in non-performing loans for households⁶, increasing its vulnerability over a longer term.



PRIVATE SECTOR

As an upper middle-income country, Thailand has a dynamic business sector with private investment amounting to 74 per cent of total investments and providing more than nine out of 10 jobs. Industry suffers from a "missing middle" in enterprise size with a small number of large firms making major productivity gains. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) contribute to slightly over a third of GDP and employ nearly 10 million people. More than half of the workforce is employed in the informal economy, which is dominated by women. This level of informality raises concerns about workplace safety, job security and social protection.



¹ The number of employed workers reached 40.1 million in the third quarter of 2023.

² One per cent.

³ As of December 2023, including food processing, construction, fishing, and tourism.

⁴ Down from 25.8 per cent last year.

⁵ Public debt to GDP ratio stood at 62.1 per cent as of September 2023.

⁶ 2.8 per cent in third quarter of 2023.

Thailand is becoming a hub of electric vehicle manufacturing and a third of vehicles made locally are projected to be electric by 2030, according to government plans. This will require workers with relevant skills in cold engines. Similarly, the energy sector will generate new green jobs as Thailand transitions to a 50 per cent share of renewables. Upskilling and reskilling will be critical for the success of this transition.

POVERTY & INEQUALITY

World Bank analysis suggests that poverty declined to 6.3 per cent⁷ as a result of labor market recovery and social assistance. As many as 79 per cent of the poor remain in rural areas and mainly in agricultural households. The distribution of poverty is uneven across regions with the poverty rate in the south and northeast almost double the national level at just over 10 per cent, reaching 23 per cent in the rural south. Thailand's income inequality remains high with an income Gini coefficient of 43 per cent, but the country performed better in terms of consumption inequality. Socio-economic inequality disproportionately impacts children whose developmental trajectories and access to services are significantly reduced for the poorest 20 per cent of families. This can impact progress in human capital accumulation and slow the pace of sustainable growth and poverty elimination.

Despite declining poverty rates, low-income rural households risk falling back into poverty. They have high debt burdens and limited access to smart agricultural services. High exposure to climate shocks and limited access to water and irrigated land pose additional challenges. Only 42 per cent of farming households can access water resources and only 26 per cent have access to irrigation systems. This constraint is most severe in the south and the northeast where only 10 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively, of farmlands are irrigated. In addition, the current El Nino is expected to impact water security with below-normal rainfall, which will impact the southern region most. At the same time, the effects of droughts will particularly be felt in the northeastern rice basket of Thailand. As a result, rice production could drop by 3 per cent for the upcoming harvest season.

At the SDG Summit, Thailand committed to alleviating generational poverty in all affected households by 2027 and investing in upgrading Universal Health Coverage to ensure that the number of households facing health impoverishment is below 0.25 per cent. The country's 1.4 million village health volunteers play a significant role in health promotion and disease prevention. Their contributions account for 0.2 per cent of GDP.⁸

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Persons with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups. A National Statistical Office survey found that the number of people with disabilities has risen to 4.2 million⁹ and their employment rates have dropped to 21.2 per cent. Amongst children, one third have unmet welfare needs such as insufficient disability allowance. However, access to healthcare and education have improved markedly with healthcare reaching over 91 per cent and education 84.2 per cent. Persons with disabilities are more likely to have access to information and communication technologies through internet and mobile services¹⁰.

Even though Thailand is making progress on gender-based violence, many cases go unreported. A UNICEF and National Statistics Office Multiple Indicator Cluster survey showed that women who are mothers and caretakers in poorer households with lower levels of educational attainment face higher levels of domestic violence. Poverty, substance abuse, social norms and untreated mental health problems are key drivers of violence. Compounding the situation is the belief expressed by 3.5 per cent of women that such violence against them is justified under certain circumstances.¹¹ This points to social norms of male dominance that will need to be addressed.



Children and adolescents experience a high burden of poor mental health such as depression and anxiety amongst other risk factors.¹² One in seven adolescents have a mental disorder with suicide being the third leading cause of death amongst 15- to 19-year-olds.

Refugees, migrants, and stateless groups remain populations of concern and substantially exceed the officially registered.¹³ In 2023, an estimated 1.3 million migrants entered Thailand from Myanmar for short- or longer-term stay.

⁷ In 2021.

⁸ This translates into \$2.5 million in total per day.

⁹ 6 per cent of the population.

¹⁰ 40 per cent of persons with disabilities aged five years and over had internet access and over half owned mobile phones.

CLIMATE CHANGE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change is a top priority for the government and the Prime Minister set out an ambitious pathway for lowering emissions, which includes:

- transforming agriculture into a low-carbon, climate-resilient and resource-efficient ecosystem.
- phasing out the use of coal by 2040.
- increasing forest cover to 55 per cent of the total land area by 2037.
- committing an investment of \$2 billion through sustainability-linked bonds to unlock additional green financing from domestic markets.

With only 25 per cent of plastics being recycled, plastic pollution is an urgent issue that requires addressing. The Roadmap on Plastic Waste Management¹⁴ sets out important pathways to make the country's bio-circular-green economy a reality, including much higher rates of waste collection, sorting and recycling.

In combating climate change, the government established the Department of Climate Change and Environment,¹⁵ which will play a pivotal role in overseeing climate change initiatives in collaboration with public, private, and international organizations. The country will soon pass the Climate Change Act to regulate mandatory Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions by outlining specific instruments for a national emission trading system.



1 | CONTINUED EXPANSION

↑ **2.4%** GDP GROWTH

↓ **1.3%** INFLATION ↓ **6.3%** POVERTY

40.1 MILLION EMPLOYED WORKERS

2 | ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

91% OF GDP IS HOUSEHOLD DEBT

26% OF FARM HOUSEHOLDS HAVE ACCESS TO IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

43% INCOME GINI COEFFICIENT

3% DROP IN RICE PRODUCTION ANTICIPATED DUE TO EL NINO

3 | LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

4.2 MILLION PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

3.5% OF WOMEN BELIEVE MEN ARE JUSTIFIED IN HITTING WIVES.

1 IN 7 ADOLESCENTS HAVE A MENTAL DISORDER

0.2% OF GDP CONTRIBUTED BY VOLUNTARY HEALTH WORKERS

ADOLESCENTS HAVE A MENTAL DISORDER

4 | CLIMATE GOALS

TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE INTO A LOW-CARBON, CLIMATE-RESILIENT & RESOURCE-EFFICIENT ECOSYSTEM

PHASE OUT COAL USAGE BY **2040**

INCREASE FOREST COVER

INVESTING IN SUSTAINABILITY LINKED BONDS FOR **\$2 BILLION**

55% OF TOTAL LAND AREA BY 2037

¹¹ 3.5 per cent of the poorest women thought it was justified as compared to 2.9 per cent of the most well-off women.

¹² Risk factors include exposure to violence within families, schools and communities; discrimination; and exclusion.

¹³ IOM 2023 assessment.

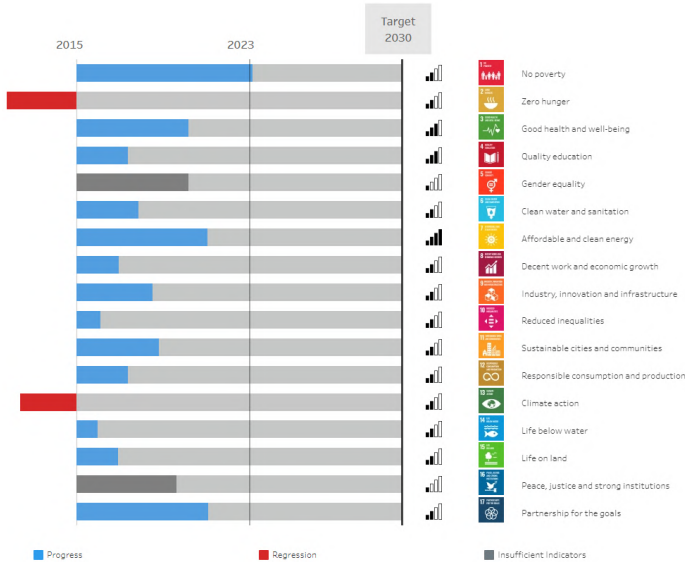
¹⁴ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

¹⁵ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

2 | UN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

SDG PROGRESS

ESCAP's SDG snapshot¹⁶ for Thailand demonstrates that 29 per cent of indicators are on track with a third regressing. The least progress has been made on goals related to climate, inequality, and hunger.



However, the SDG snapshot provides only a partial picture because it is based on 66 per cent data availability. The UN is partnering with the government to increase this evidence base.¹⁷ To strengthen qualitative data, the UN is investing in institutionalizing SDG profiles through UNDP's SDG Localization initiative piloted in 15 provinces for informed decision-making. Once tested, this methodology will be scaled up in all 77 provinces and inform voluntary local reviews.¹⁸ A financing landscape analysis suggests that an additional investment of at least \$410 billion will be needed to deliver on all the SDGs in country.

SDG ACCELERATION

To accelerate the SDGs, the UN identified high-impact initiatives offering scale and pace while leveraging partnerships for nationwide impacts. These initiatives are aligned with Cooperation Framework outcomes and prioritize four transitions: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution; digital connectivity; food systems; jobs and social protection.

PARTNERSHIPS

The UN leveraged its convening power to deepen collaboration with the government, private sector, young people, and civil society for innovative, high-impact solutions.

A landmark commitment with all 77 governors through the Ministry of Interior (MOI)¹⁹ is enabling localized SDG progress at scale with a focus on climate action. The UN convened nearly 1,000 local-level authorities to develop SDG action plans at subnational level. This enabled the scaling up of waste segregation and collection to 14 million rural households, which is yielding over 550,000 tons²⁰ in annual carbon reductions and its equivalent in carbon credits. The first tranches of these credits, approved by the Greenhouse Gas Management Organization, was bought by a national bank and companies. Carbon credits are used by local authorities to invest in community climate action. The partnership is expanding to community waste banks across 22 provinces, enhancing the recycling rate of paper, plastic, and aluminum. This example of good practice was showcased by Thailand at COP28.



¹⁶ The SDG snapshot is assessed against best practices in Asia and the Pacific and not Thailand's indicator targets.

¹⁷ With UN support and working across line ministries, SDG data availability increased to 66 per cent in 2023 from 64 per cent in 2022. It was only 51 per cent in 2021 prior to the UN's intervention. Progress was particularly notable on enhanced data for six indicators related to SDG 5 and 10 indicators for SDG 16.

¹⁸ Currently under piloting in the provinces of Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Udon Thani.

¹⁹ The commitment was signed in 2022.

²⁰ 550,000 tons of carbon reductions amount to 0.13 per cent of Thailand's GHGs.

The UN continues to leverage its partnerships with the private sector through the Global Compact Network Thailand (GCNT), which has 134 members with a revenue base of \$400 billion. The GCNT's latest pledge targets investing in human capital development for 1 million people to drive the country's green transition.

The annual convening of financial institutions translated into national banks with a 32 per cent share of the asset market signing up to the UN Principles of Responsible Banking. In parallel, investors and asset managers handling \$74 billion adopted the Principles of Responsible Investment. This contributed to an uptick in domestic financing in support of the green transition. At the same time, the Prime Minister announced at the Climate Ambition Summit that the government would invest in \$2 billion's worth of sustainability-linked bonds. In addition, the government provided tax incentives for the creation of ESG Fund. This fund mobilized \$150 million from investors, which will be invested in 200 ESG-rated companies on the Stock Exchange of Thailand.²¹

Institutionalized dialogues with civil society brought together 150 civil society organizations, with a focus on women, girls, and young people, who are among those especially vulnerable to the effects of the triple planetary crises. The dialogues were aligned with the General Assembly's resolution on the universal right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and resulted in actionable advocacy in line with the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. Subsequently the UN is collaborating on disaggregating data to strengthen ethnic minority inclusion while exploring avenues for leveraging carbon markets to benefit them.

PLEDGES MADE TO DATE BY GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK THAILAND

2020	\$46.2 billion to accelerate 2030 Agenda through multiple projects
2021	Commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050
2022	Commitment to protect 30 per cent of land and marine areas

The UN's partnership with young people is formalized through our engagement with the Children and Youth Council, the largest youth network comprising of 150,000 young people from across the country. UNICEF supports the annual national assembly of the Council each year and provided technical assistance to digitize membership registration and set up a monitoring system to enhance diversity and participation in local governance.

Flagship UN South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives were launched at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in partnership with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), the European Union, and line ministries. These flagships aim to scale up organic agriculture based on EU norms; strengthen capacities for strategic health diplomacy at the World Health Assembly; ensure access to quality reproductive health services for marginalized people; and upskill migrant workers towards gainful employment while strengthening their protection.

OUTCOME 1

Premised on Thailand's bio-circular-green model of sustainable growth, Outcome 1 prioritizes crosscutting initiatives to scale up low-carbon technologies, waste management, sustainable agriculture, forest management, wildlife protection, ecotourism, and climate resilience. It accounts for an estimated 36 per cent of the Cooperation Framework's annual budget.

Highlights

- In total, the UN contributed to an estimated 6.8 per cent reduction in GHG emissions. This was achieved through UNEP and UNIDO's decarbonization efforts and FAO's sustainable forest management, as well as the UN's key partnerships with the MOI and GCNT.
- Over 600,000 trees covering an area of 6,000 hectares have been registered on the e-Tree platform, reducing the risk on agriculture encroachment and illegal logging of CITES-listed species, primarily agarwood and rosewood.
- The collaboration of UN Habitat, UNEP and UNIDO with ADB on wastewater management led to ADB committing \$800,000 to the Zero Source Pollution Initiative, facilitating technical assistance on improved sanitation and service delivery.
- The UN's partnership with 2 million women weavers nationwide through the MOI on sustainable fashion has resulted in these weavers earning higher incomes.
- The National Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan 2021-2027 has incorporated UNDRR's "10 Essentials for Building City Resilience."

²¹ The ESG fund is managed by 16 asset management companies.

Deep decarbonization: UNIDO and UNEP, in partnership with the Ministry of Industry and private sector, are implementing initiatives towards the country's commitment on carbon neutrality by 2050. UNIDO's work with more than 80 manufacturers resulted in a reduction of 226,500 tons of CO₂eq by boosting energy, water efficiency and waste reduction. UNIDO and UNEP are introducing nature-based technologies in high-emission industries such as steel, aluminum, gas, rubber, and consumer goods. They are also developing low-carbon steel, iron, and cement products in construction to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors while preparing these industries for the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

UNIDO is working closely with the private sector to deploy floating solar farms to treat industrial wastewater and generate electricity for an industrial park. It is also introducing best available technologies and environmental practices to reduce persistent organic pollutants from metal recycling facilities and improve energy efficiency. This includes installing regenerative burners in existing furnaces to boost production efficiency and reduce energy consumption for aluminum scrap melting, projecting a 1,580 tons reduction of CO₂ annually. Collectively, UNIDO's initiatives leveraged \$150 million of co-financing from private and public sources and reduced emissions by over one per cent.

Energy-efficient housing: UNEP, in partnership with the National Housing Authority, is accelerating the construction of 1,300 energy-efficient housing units in the low-rise sector by supporting the design and piloting of green technologies while strengthening the home-labelling scheme and associated financial mechanisms. This will increase the market availability of energy-efficient housing and support affordable green housing for low- and middle-income residents. The initiative will also showcase the benefits of green features such as lightweight bricks, energy-saving glass, improved insulation, solar rooftops for street lighting and wastewater treatment. It will lead to a potential reduction of approximately 1.5 million tons in GHGs through project investments and changes in regulations.

Electric vehicles: UNEP, in partnership with the public and private sector, piloted 580 locally assembled e-motorcycles in Bangkok and Nonthaburi provinces with a battery-swapping station provided by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand. Data from the project will be used to formulate policies and facilitate access to carbon financing mechanisms to report the emissions mitigation impacts of road transport decarbonization initiatives.²² UNIDO, together

with the Eastern Economic Corridor Office and Rayong Municipality, is piloting electric vehicles for minibuses and songthaews in Rayong province where the project is incubating a new ecosystem of charging stations and batteries along with the retraining of electrical vehicle technicians. UNDP is collaborating with the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning to develop the SDG and EV Climate Credit Program, which is incentivizing individuals and organizations with credits for adopting clean transportation.

Waste management: UN Habitat, UNEP and UNIDO are partnering with the Asian Development Bank on wastewater management assessments to improve service delivery and reduce river basin pollution from municipal solid waste, plastics, toxic industrial effluents, and agricultural run-offs such as chemicals and fertilizers. The bank committed \$800,000 to the establishment of a Zero Source Pollution Initiative in Thailand, organizing a roundtable on river basin pollution with the UN, exploring a feasibility study in Hat Yai and Chonburi, and developing a bankable project to reduce waterbody pollution. UNIDO and UNEP, under the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, provided support for the systemic profiling of waste and identifying financing mechanisms for sustainable waste management at municipal level. As part of this, a mobile application is being developed to assist municipalities in the improved financing of waste management in support of the circular economy. UNDP, in partnership with Cargill and the Government Savings Bank, is pioneering a waste management model tested in a sandbox area of Suratthani Rajabhat University, preventing 50 tons of waste from reaching landfills and the ocean and reducing the university's carbon footprint, which is equivalent to planting 1,654 trees.

Sustainable forest management: FAO is supporting sustainable forest management and protection in partnership with the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and the Royal Forest Department. Interventions cover 1,800,000 hectares constituting 11% of forested land, including four forest complexes in the northeastern and eastern regions. FAO also trained over 100 companies on forest trade requirements and sustainable forest management certifications. Through these interventions, FAO is promoting community forests with 65,000 smallholders living in biodiverse buffer zones. This will generate 1 million tons of CO₂ credits, of which 40 per cent will be earned by participating smallholders. The initiative is leading to a 4.2 per cent GHG reduction, amounting to 18 million metric tons. Furthermore, together with the Royal Forest Department, FAO designed the

²² UNEP is also developing a battery-swapping technical standard and prototype for Thailand.

e-Tree traceability platform and forest management system which uses QR codes. Over 600,000 trees covering 6,000 hectares had been registered towards biodiversity conservation, reducing agricultural encroachment and addressing illegal logging.

Reducing wildlife trafficking: UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, local governments and civil society, is working with the Wildlife Crime Intelligence Unit to use DNA testing to investigate wildlife crimes targeting the smuggling of ivory, rhino horns, tiger parts and pangolins.²³ With support from UNDP, Thailand has revolutionized the monitoring and prevention of trafficking in big cats, underscoring the crucial role of wildlife forensic science in safeguarding endangered species.^{24 25}

Sustainable tourism: UNESCO and UNDP, together with the private sector, are leading transformative initiatives on ecotourism and promoting the creative economy. UNESCO launched the Sustainable Travel Pledge with Expedia Group with over 1,300 large and medium-sized hotels joining the initiative in tourism hotspots. These hotels committed to reducing plastic use, supporting local crafts, and promoting environmental conservation. Simultaneously, capacity-building activities have been undertaken, premised on UNESCO-standard tourism management assessment tools. This benefitted over 500 heritage site managers and tourism professionals in Thailand and across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). UNDP partnered with the Prince of Songkhla University, the Phuket provincial

UNEP Study to Abate Emissions for SMEs

UNEP, in partnership with Chiang Mai University, undertook an analysis of manufacturing SMEs with a focus on food and beverage, fabricated metal products and non-metallic products to assess their emissions and generate carbon credits. The study identified five priorities to introduce technology for energy efficiency: motors, chillers, boilers, industrial ovens, and incinerators. These will contribute to 4.36 MtCO₂eq reduction, which is equivalent to over one per cent of GHGs.

The recommendation is to bundle SMEs into a program of activities to secure scale and reduce the cost of independent verification of carbon credits. This is premised on the success of the solar rooftop projects by households and small farms, which generates an equivalent to 3,000 tons of carbon credits annually.

office and Chamber of Commerce to formulate the Phuket Sustainable Transformation Vision and Strategy, which prioritizes resilience to shocks, climate action and inclusivity.

Disaster risk reduction and management: UNDRR is working with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to make the capital a resilience hub²⁶ and facilitating peer-to-peer and city-to-city support networks to disseminate knowledge, spur innovation and foster collaboration. This is part of UNDRR's deepening partnerships with local universities, municipal authorities, national governments, international bodies, and the private sector to strengthen the resilience of cities²⁷ and local governments to disasters and climate change. An emphasis is on integrating climate change adaptation strategies into local planning and decision-making processes, in view of which UNDRR is supporting cities in minimizing the impacts of disasters on their communities. UNDP, in partnership with the German government and the Insurance Development Forum, is working across line ministries in Thailand and other partners to develop innovative insurance products and services for the most vulnerable in society. IOM enhanced local disaster responder capacity in 14 provinces to manage shelters and ensure that migrants are included in response planning.

Sustainable fashion: The UN is partnering with the MOI to provide upskilling on sustainable fashion to 2 million women weavers nationwide. This partnership assesses the carbon footprint of silk fabrics to reduce emissions during their lifecycle. It also supports the use of natural dyes and the preservation of traditional motifs and designs, which has resulted in women weavers earning higher incomes by globally benchmarking Thai fabrics and making them even more competitive. Young people are increasingly embracing these sustainable practices in this creative industry within UNEP's framework for sustainable and circular textile value chains.

Food systems: FAO together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, is measuring food losses across value chains in mung beans, bananas, fish, and vegetables and developing a strategy for reducing food

²³ All these are used in some forms of traditional medicine, which places critically endangered species at increased risk of poaching.

²⁴ The initiative has four key components: enhanced cooperation and information exchange; increased enforcement and prosecution; demand reduction for illegal wildlife products; and knowledge management with monitoring and evaluation. The initial 4 million funding for Thailand from the Global Environment Facility has been matched by the government co-financing of \$25 million, indicating sustainability.

²⁵ This has been acknowledged globally through the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award (a collaboration between UNEP, UNDP, UNODC, INTERPOL, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the Secretariat of CITES, and the World Customs Organization).

²⁶ Resilient Hub of Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative.

²⁷ Mahasarakham and Phitsanulok.

waste in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within the processing, distribution, and retail sectors. These strategies are key to achieving targets outlined in the food waste management roadmap.²⁸ This approach conserves resources, mitigates GHG emissions, and addresses hunger by increasing food availability. UNDP and FAO are supporting the Ministry of Agriculture to develop the Climate Change Action Plan for the Agricultural Sector to strengthen the sector's capacity and resilience to climate change.

Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE): UNIDO, UNEP, ILO, UNDP and UNITAR, are working through PAGE²⁹ towards greener and more inclusive development trajectories. This strengthens the green economy capacity of policymakers, young people and the public based on needs assessments. Six online training modules, including training materials and case studies, focus on the green economy, jobs, recovery, industry, finance, just transitions and circular economy. The Office of the Civil Service Commission and Thailand Cyber University³⁰ agreed to host these online training courses on their learning portals.³¹ In collaboration with ESCAP, PAGE also conducted a macro-economic modeling exercise on green and climate policy development for policymakers.

UN Flagship South-South and Triangular Cooperation Initiative | Organic Agriculture

ITC in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the European Union, and TICA is promoting trilateral cooperation between Thailand, the EU, and other ASEAN Member States by sharing experiences and lessons learned on organic agriculture and exports. This initiative enhances knowledge and practical experience on organic farming, which not only strengthens ASEAN's commitment to food security and safety to promote resilience but also enhances biodiversity, lowers emissions, and supports trade opportunities both within and outside the region.

Innovative shrimp farming: FAO has implemented innovations in shrimp farming to enhance energy efficiency by incorporating solar panels and smart aerators. Energy consumption has been reduced by 28 per cent,³² resulting in a 39 per cent decrease in energy costs. With enabling policy support for the adoption of these innovations, potential economic gains range from 431 million to 1,129 million baht, accompanied by an annual reduction in GHGs.³³

Organic agriculture: UNEP is working to transform rice and agricultural production by reconciling competing social, economic, and environmental interests while protecting, restoring, and improving biodiversity, ecosystems services, and healthy food systems. UNEP is using an integrated landscape management approach to create inclusive, sustainable rice farming practices through enabling policies, capacity building, financing, and sustainable land management at landscape scale. This is crucial as Thailand is a global leader in rice growing, producing 20.7 million tons, of which over half is exported. However, increased rice production without a sustainable landscape approach has resulted in significant GHG emissions and declines in biodiversity and ecosystem services. ITC is working with the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards to enhance organic agriculture practices in line with the country's economic development plan.³⁴

One Health approach: UNEP, together with WHO, FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health, is championing the One Health approach in recognition of the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. Through research and policy development, UNEP is leading this collaboration focused on the environmental dimensions of One Health towards promoting a healthier planet that benefits all living beings, fostering a harmonious balance between ecosystems and human societies.

OUTCOME 2

In alignment with Outcome 2, the UN is accelerating the SDGs through strengthening human capital for social and inclusive progress, with a focus on digitization. Specifically, UN agencies are facilitating improved governance and public engagement, community-led Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention, management of non-communicable diseases, early childhood care, public safety, and digital literacy, among others. It accounts for an estimated 26 per cent of the Cooperation Framework's annual budget.

²⁸ Roadmap 2023-2030.

²⁹ <https://www.un-page.org/>

³⁰ [Thailand Cyber University – TCU \(thaicyberu.go.th\)](https://www.thaicyberu.go.th/)

³¹ <https://learningportal.ocsc.go.th/learningportal> and [Thailand Massive Open Online Course platform](https://www.thaicyberu.go.th/).

³² 1.5 kWh/kg of shrimp.

³³ The aquaculture industry's transition to alternative energy sources necessitates innovative ecosystems and supportive institutional settings.

³⁴ Premised on the Bio-Circular-Green Economy model and Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

Highlights

- UNESCO's "Accelerating Thailand" initiative is benefitting over 300,000 young people and adults in enhancing their digital skills for employability and lifelong learning with an additional 500,000 users accessing "Digital School" online classes. UNICEF's "Caution First" online safety campaign has gathered 16 million views in Thai and English.
- ITU's Girls in ICT initiative involved 1,136 girls, boys and educators on cyber security, coding, and new technologies to steer young people towards STEM careers.
- IOM is scaling up skills development for 7,000 migrant workers and partnering with employers to improve occupational safety and health standards. IOM and migrant health partners are also supporting 7,000 Migrants Health Volunteers to enhance access to health for vulnerable migrants.
- UNAIDS's contributions to community-led provision of HIV services reached over 200,000 marginalized and vulnerable individuals via community health workers. More than 300 healthcare staff and community health workers received training on reducing disease-associated stigma and discrimination.
- In addition, UN Habitat is enhancing urban, environmental and road safety by working to support the mobilization of \$7.3 million in government funding for city development strategies and bankable projects.

Hypertension management: WHO, in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and Chiang Mai University, piloted a community-based model for the management of hypertension using a simple protocol with primary care workers and village health volunteers. The pilot showed good blood pressure control of up to 60 per cent among the registered patients in remote communities in Lampang and Chiang Mai provinces. This is critical as 15 million people nationwide have elevated blood pressure.³⁵ This initiative provides basic treatment and lifestyle counselling to people with high blood pressure in accordance with new treatment protocols. The project trained over 100 primary care workers with learning assets available to all primary care teams. Additionally, hospital staff were trained on monitoring facility-based hypertension management performance indicators. The initiative can be scaled up nationwide to reach 10 million people while also improving screening and care.³⁶ In parallel, WHO has facilitated the evaluation of the Thai Food and Drug

Administration's trans-fat policy as trans-fat intake increases the risk of coronary heart disease mortality. Thailand is one of five countries awarded with a WHO certification for demonstrating best-practice in trans-fat elimination and for having adequate monitoring and enforcement in place.

Prevention of chronic diseases in children: WHO facilitated Thailand's participation as an "accelerator" country for the prevention and management of obesity over the life course, serving as a model in the region. WHO and UNICEF lent advocacy and technical support to draft legislation on marketing restrictions of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children. This progressed to national consultation and is expected to be approved by Parliament.

WHO assisted the MOPH to generate comparable data through the Global Youth Tobacco Survey, which show that 17 per cent of boys and nearly 8 per cent of girls currently use tobacco products and over 17 per cent of students use electronic cigarettes.

Youth mental health: WHO partnered with the Department of Mental Health to equip young people with essential life skills via an Adolescent Classroom CPS digital platform.³⁷ Over 400 young people were engaged, with students reporting increased understanding of how to cope with mental health issues. This collaboration extended to mental health centers and schools across the country, with plans to incorporate the program's content in school curricula. Moreover, a self-help WHO Step by Step application, a story-based intervention for people with depression, is currently being adapted in the Thai context.

Early childhood development: UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministries of Education and Interior, prioritizes early childhood development and education by targeting 4.3 million children under six. In a rapidly aging society, this paves the way for a healthy and productive workforce. Early childhood education attendance rates vary across the country with three-quarters of children aged 36 to 59 months receiving such education and with 78 per cent of children aged 24 to 59 months developmentally on track.³⁸ Among 2nd and 3rd grade students reading skills remain low at 47 per cent and numeracy skills at 40 per cent. This poor performance is reflected in international assessments such as PISA.

³⁵ The government aims to increase this rate to 60 per cent.

³⁶ As evidence of the project's success it will receive a grant of £2.2 million from the United Kingdom, enabling the inclusion of diabetes and chronic kidney disease management.

³⁷ Data show that 11.94 per cent of teenagers are at risk of depression and 19.94 per cent at risk of suicide.

³⁸ According to the Early Childhood Development Index. Nutritional issues among children under five include stunting (13 per cent), being overweight (11 per cent), wasting (7 per cent) and being underweight (7 per cent).

Education: UNICEF prioritized foundational learning benefiting 100,000 children through school-based onsite and online activities against a year-on-year decline in foundational skills. A mobile library focused on digital skills reached more than 13,000 children and over 1,000 children in Mae Hong Son province, a home of ethnic minorities. These children benefited from mother tongue-based remote classroom education. The UNICEF-led initiative includes mapping early childcare services, deploying the private sector's best practices in support of family-friendly policies, and developing a costed childcare plan. It also encompasses advocating for childcare and family-friendly policies, enhancing early years learning, engaging families in child development, and addressing barriers for minorities and children with disabilities. It also strengthened the quality of early childhood education in disadvantaged areas reaching over 13,000 children.

Digital literacy: UNESCO and UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the private sector, are deploying a systems approach to inclusive digital learning. UNESCO is supporting the development of equitable digital education policies targeted at vulnerable learners; enhancing holistic digital citizenship; and equipping teachers with digital competencies. This is benefitting 300,000 young people and adults who are enhancing their digital skills for employability and lifelong learning through the "Accelerating Thailand" initiative. Another 500,000 users, including vulnerable migrant children, are benefitting from access to learning materials and "Digital School" daily online lessons. UNICEF partnered with EdTech hub to operationalize the Education Master ICT plan. The One Teacher Network trained over 2,000 teachers on using ICT tools and building digital literacy and indirectly benefitting nearly 10,000 students. Evidence shows that such learning works better than teacher training, resulting in every region developing peer-to-peer teacher learning networks.

Greening education: UNESCO launched the Greening Education Partnership, which has strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships for greening skills training and communities through lifelong learning that will contribute to addressing plastic pollution while supporting ecotourism. UNESCO worked with the government in sharing good practices on climate change education, including at COP28. UNICEF initiated an analysis of climate education policies in support of a case for investing in green and adaptive school infrastructure.

Creating a safe online environment: UNICEF led a household survey³⁹ to assess online risks and leveraged its convening power to establish the Thailand Safe

Thai SDG Micro-Primer

UN Thailand in partnership with the UN System Staff College, launched the Thai SDG Micro-Primer at the Sustainability Expo with more than 1,000 high school and university students, academics, and civil society organizations. In a global first, the Thai SDG Micro-Primer promotes learning among young people through an online format tailored to the Thai context. The Micro-Primer, available in English and Thai, focuses on three key issues: plastic waste in the oceans, air pollution, and inequalities in education. Nearly 3,000 learners accessed the Micro-Primer in the first two months after its launch.

English: <https://w02.unssc.org/sdg-e/>

Thai: <https://w02.unssc.org/sdg-t/>

Internet Coalition for internet service providers and line ministries to empower children to navigate the online world safely. Technical assistance is being provided to revise the criminal code to cover sextortion, online grooming, and cyberbullying.⁴⁰ UNICEF's "Caution First" awareness-raising online safety campaign, championed by the Minister of Social Development and Human Security, has reached 16 million views, and resulted in 1.26 million engagements. In addition, UNESCO and UNICEF, together with the Safe-to-Learn Secretariat, convened a symposium on policy and pedagogical interventions to address school-related gender-based violence and cyberbullying.

Skills development for migrant workers: IOM, in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and the private sector, is scaling up skills development for migrant workers. More than 2,700 migrant workers received skills trainings in manufacturing, domestic work, and construction. In addition, IOM and ITU partnered with Chulalongkorn University to assess current digital competency levels among migrant workers. Insights from the study are key to developing digital skills training programs tailored to the needs of migrant workers and their employers.

Empowering girls and women through digitization: ITU, in partnership with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, and Ministry of Education, hosted the annual Girls in ICT Day initiative for girls, boys and young women to acquire digital and leadership skills.

³⁹ The survey is titled "Disrupting Harm" and found that up to 31 per cent of adolescents experienced online sexual exploitation and abuse in the past year.

⁴⁰ The new legislation will be presented before Parliament for adoption.

This involved 1,136 participants, including 416 girls, 170 boys and 550 teachers from across the country, focusing on cyber security, coding, and emerging technologies to facilitate STEM careers. This initiative has been deemed a “best practice” and is being replicated in 10 countries across Asia and the Pacific.

UNFPA, together with the National Science and Technology Development Agency, developed the Line@SoSafe, a life-cycle digital platform.⁴¹ This enables the most vulnerable women and girls to access a one-stop inclusive digital platform for the prevention of and responses to gender-based violence as well as unplanned adolescent pregnancy.

Community-led HIV prevention: UNAIDS, in a broad-based partnership,⁴² championed extending access for over 156,000 individuals from vulnerable populations to HIV prevention and testing. More than 60,000 people living with HIV were provided with support services, facilitated by community health workers.⁴³ A significant milestone was reached when 39 community organizations, including 16 led by people living with HIV, were registered under Universal Health Coverage. UNAIDS raised \$3.0 million for the next three years from the Global Fund to accelerate national efforts to address barriers related to human rights and gender while reducing stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and tuberculosis.

Flagship South-South and Triangular Cooperation Initiative | Global Health Diplomacy

WHO in partnership with MOPH and TICA launched a flagship UN south-south and triangular cooperation initiative on global health diplomacy. This initiative is building on Thailand’s expertise to train officials in other countries on effective engagement during global health forums, with officials from Timor Leste, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh having been trained. The initiative’s objective is to maximize Member States’ influence in global health agendas through active participation in committees, drafting groups and discussion panels.

Road Safety: WHO, UN-HABITAT, and ESCAP in partnership the Ministry of Transport are establishing the underlying causes of road traffic accidents involving motorcycles, which account for more than 75% of the total fatalities⁴⁴. Through the UN Road Safety Fund, this joined-up approach focuses on developing innovative strategies to enhance motorcyclists’ safety. The aim is

to halve the number of road traffic deaths and injuries by 2027 and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs ahead of schedule.

Public safety: UN Habitat partnered with municipal authorities in Hat Yai⁴⁵ to enhance urban safety through digital solutions by supporting the mobilization of \$7.3 million in government funding for city development strategies and bankable projects. The initiatives focus on public safety, control of environmental hazards and traffic management, with the potential to be scaled to three additional cities in Songkhla province. This involves four municipalities getting equipped with new CCTV cameras, unmanned aerial vehicles and internet-based walkie-talkies. Given the initiative’s success, ASEAN is providing an additional \$3 million to UN Habitat to expand it to 24 cities across eight countries, including Thailand.

Facilitating access to healthcare for migrants: The UN Migration Network continued to formalize the role of Migrant Health Volunteers in national health programs while enhancing the existing 7,000-member volunteer network. These volunteers act as a critical link between migrant communities and healthcare providers, sharing essential information about services and providing language assistance.

OUTCOME 3

Outcome 3 provides an enabling, rights-based, and inclusive environment to address inequalities, support equal opportunities and reduce poverty so that no one is left behind. In line with these goals, the UN is boosting social protection and employment opportunities for the vulnerable, eliminating gender-based discrimination, bolstering the rights of migrant workers and refugees, promoting safe birthing for ethnic minorities, and addressing human trafficking. It accounts for an estimated 38 per cent of the Cooperation Framework’s annual budget.

Highlights

- UNDP and IOM provided human rights due diligence training for more than 300 SMEs, creating an enabling ecosystem and securing compensations worth 75 million baht for 5,000 migrant workers. IOM also provided

⁴¹ Launched with Phayao, Lamphun, Khon Kaen, Phuket, and Yala.

⁴² With the MOPH, the National Health Security Office, the Global Fund, the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and other national partners.

⁴³ Community-led organizations played a crucial role, delivering pre-exposure prophylaxis to over 60 per cent of individuals using this effective HIV prevention measure.

⁴⁴ This is the second leading cause of death among young people between 10 and 29.

⁴⁵ As part of its partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat.

humanitarian assistance to over 25,000 vulnerable migrants, including children, in immigration detention and other settings.

- UNHCR facilitated refugees' access to education and work and, in collaboration with partners, submitted 5,159 individuals for resettlement; 2,517 refugees departed to third countries.
- WHO enhanced the leadership skills of 80 municipality and city leaders and health officials, promoting Healthy City initiatives to impact public health and urban wellbeing.
- UN Women enabled women's groups to combat violence against women in southern and northern border provinces with potential nationwide scalability. UN Women also empowered women entrepreneurs through the promotion of gender-responsive procurement principles, resulting in 92 large corporations adopting these practices.
- Teen Club and LoveCareStation, two digital services supported by UNFPA and UNICEF, provided 1.4 million young people, including those with disabilities, with information on sexual and reproductive health. Another 38,043 young people received online counselling.

SDG localization: UNDP led a partnership with the Ministry of Interior to accelerate progress towards SDG localization across 77 provinces by strengthening subnational initiatives in alignment with an evidence-based system of local indicators based on ESCAP methodology. This partnership fosters local innovations to tackle challenges slowing SDG progress. Comprehensive analysis reveals that over three-quarters of existing local government projects align with the SDGs as local authorities continue to address the needs of children, young people, women, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. The UN is facilitating broad-based social inclusion in partnership with these authorities and the private sector. It is institutionalizing subnational and local monitoring of SDG progress across 15 provinces, through SDG profiles for informed decision-making. The methodology developed in this pilot will be implemented across all provinces.

75% OF CURRENT LOCAL PROJECTS ALIGN WITH SDGS.



LOCAL AUTHORITIES EXPRESS INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT LNOB PRINCIPLES, EXTENDING BEYOND YOUTH, WOMEN AND GIRLS, THE ELDERLY, AND PwDs, INCLUDING LGBT, HIV, MIGRANTS, ETHNIC MINORITIES, STATELESS INDIVIDUALS, AND OTHER LNOB GROUPS.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS OF LOCAL PROJECTS INCLUDE:



LOCAL-LEVEL AUTHORITIES

PRIORITIZE CHILDREN, YOUTH, WOMEN, ELDERLY, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

UN Habitat, in partnership with the government, supported Voluntary Local Reviews⁴⁶ in two cities in support of qualitative SDG reporting and evaluation. These reviews are being incorporated by the National Economic and Social Development Council into its national monitoring framework for cities, laying the foundation for a data-driven, and participatory approach to SDGs. WHO, with the Department of Health and Chulalongkorn University, organized a capacity-building activity for around 80 municipality leaders and health officials who are implementing Healthy City initiatives. By equipping mayors, administrators, and local health authorities with essential skills, this laid the groundwork for impactful changes in public health and urban well-being.⁴⁷ The UNV program, in partnership with the United Nations system, engaged 162 UN Volunteers who have been contributing to SDG localization, bringing expertise and innovative solutions to youth empowerment, inclusion and community development.

Governance and public engagement: UNDP is supporting the digital readiness of Parliament to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability in governance. Digital transformation will improve policymaking by enabling parliamentarians to leverage greater public engagement in legislative processes. This included eVoting, a whole-of-Parliament Digital Communications Strategy and pathways for digital engagement with civil society. UNDP has been requested to convert the recommendations into a parliamentary digital transformation plan in 2024.

Business and human rights: UNDP and IOM are leading on human rights due diligence training for nearly 300 SMEs in 10 provinces, contributing to an enabling ecosystem with demand for this type of training by the private sector increasing. IOM has also been leading on migrant-centered due diligence and the establishment of a corporate labor migration management system. IOM's efforts enabled over 100 companies to implement due diligence processes for ethical recruitment, employment, and onward migration of workers. This process has additionally secured compensations worth 75 million baht for 5,000 migrant workers. UNICEF, in partnership with Baan Dek Foundation, is changing industry practices to uphold migrant children's rights living at construction camp sites with 17 businesses joining the initiative benefiting 1,700 children.

ILO, in partnership with the Employers Confederation of Thailand, provides comprehensive legal counseling to more than 2,500 migrant workers from Mae Sot,

⁴⁶ Piloted in the provinces of Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Udorn Thani.

⁴⁷ Currently, there are 143 cities enrolled in the Healthy City program and seven cities have applied for WHO recognition.

⁴⁸ A number of migrant workers received nearly 1.5 million baht in compensation.

Chiang Mai, and Bangkok. This outreach addresses immediate legal concerns and secures fair compensation.⁴⁸ ILO has also engaged 145 employers in the agricultural sector to institutionalize fair recruitment and working conditions. This partnership has secured adequate housing for migrant workers with a focus on those employed in the construction and agricultural sectors. Additionally, a guide for employers addressing violence and harassment was developed. Together, all these contribute to creating a decent work environment for migrant workers.

Durable solutions for refugees: UNHCR submitted a total of 5,159 individuals for resettlement with 2,517 refugees departing to third countries. For the refugees in the nine camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, UNHCR, together with the government and the United States, launched a large-scale group resettlement initiative to rebuild their lives in third countries. In preparation UNHCR, jointly with the MOI, rolled out a verification exercise to update refugee records and confirm the eligible population for the upcoming resettlement program.

For those refugees remaining in country, UNHCR continues to advocate for access to legal work opportunities, inclusion into the national system, and higher education for youths. In 2023, six urban refugees started their undergraduate school year at Siam University in programs ranging from Civil Engineering to International Hotel and Tourism Management⁴⁹ through a scholarship program that offers qualified refugee students the possibility to earn an undergraduate degree. The national screening mechanism was formally commenced in September based on the government's pledge at the Global Refugee Forum⁵⁰ with criteria for determining status as a protected person published in the Royal Gazette. UNHCR continued to support the national screening mechanism's alignment with international standards while advocating for the further development of the administrative system and legal framework to provide efficient and effective protection.

Ending statelessness: UNHCR, in partnership with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, submitted more than 3,500 nationality and permanent residency applications on behalf of stateless persons through the Statelessness Reduction and Community Sensitization Project. It established a community support network for stateless persons in Chiang Mai by providing legal training for volunteers who assisted in preparing, submitting, and following up on nationality applications for stateless persons. At the Global Refugee Forum, Thailand reiterated its pledge to develop a national action plan for the ending of statelessness by 2024.⁵¹

Enabling Transformations through SDG Localization

The SDG Localization initiative strategically aligns with three pivotal transitions — Food Systems; Education; and Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Pollution — to catalyze multiplier effects across SDGs. This is driven by local communities, fosters resilient and inclusive local food systems, addresses educational disparities, and promotes community-led environmental stewardship. Leveraging multi-stakeholder engagement, data ecosystems and financing, it strengthens gender-responsive actions, youth engagement, and civil participation. By integrating SDG data and monitoring, the initiative empowers stakeholders at the provincial level to identify gaps, advocate for change and prioritize targeted initiatives. It creates a transformative roadmap by connecting local challenges to national policies and global SDGs.

Protection of migrants communities and in detention:

IOM, in collaboration with provincial authorities, supported over 25,000 vulnerable migrants through provision of food and other assistance in provinces bordering Myanmar as well as in Samut Sakhon and Bangkok. IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR and partners also supported alternatives to detention for children in immigration centers through capacity building activities, evaluation of existing government policies, and provision of services in shelters and communities hosting children.

Human rights capacity building:

OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Government, the National Human Rights Commission, and civil society organizations to protect and advance the realization of human rights, including engaging with the United Nations human rights mechanism. UN advocacy resulted in increasing Thailand's commitment to ratify the remaining core international human rights treaties, in particular the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances. OHCHR together with UNODC and UNESCO, also strengthened the capacity of the Royal Thai Police on the use of force and policing of assemblies, as well as that of human rights defenders on protecting their freedom of expression. In tandem,

⁴⁹ DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship program
⁵⁰ During the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, the government committed to (1) investing in data and interpretation systems; (2) developing protection and referral frameworks and conferring appropriate legal status to the "Protected Person"; (3) enhancing cooperation between government agencies and the civil society through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches; and (4) cooperating with partner countries, UNHCR, and the Asylum Capacity Support Group.

⁵¹ UNHCR enabled an exchange between Viet Nam's Ministry of Justice's and Thailand on civil registration, nationality, policy and operational issues.

OHCHR's Human Rights Defenders School flagship programme, continued to train human rights defenders across the country in monitoring and documentation. This included the monitoring of civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights and the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, among others.⁵² UNDP conducted two studies on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation and Human Rights Defenders, which were incorporated in the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

Cases of unwarranted arrests and human rights violations against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (LGBTI) community remain widespread, especially in tourist destinations where there is a high visibility of sex workers. UNDP together with the Ministry of Justice is sensitizing law enforcement officers on human rights principles, including sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, resulting in a discernible reduction in the number of arrests and abuses against transgender and LGBTI individuals. UNDP is also championing an anti-discrimination law, decriminalization of sex work, enactment of the equal marriage law, and legal recognition of gender identity for transgender and non-binary individuals.

Child protection: UNICEF supported the initiation of the National Action Plan on Child Protection 2023-2027, which addresses alternative care, boosts online and offline protection, fortifies the child protection system and deters family separation. It is slated for endorsement by the National Child Protection Committee early this year. UNICEF, in partnership with local administration organisations, extended the purview of child protection services across more than 3,000 sub-districts reaching over 12,600 children.

Women, Peace and Security: UN Women, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, prioritized empowering women through trainings and workshops focusing on women peace and security to more than 30 provincial and local government organizations in the three southern⁵³ and northern provinces.⁵⁴ An emphasis was on the integration of gender-responsive approaches and budgeting into organizational policies at local level.⁵⁵ UN Women, together with the ministry, also conducted digital literacy training for women community leaders, including human rights defenders. This focused on preventing, responding, and addressing digital disinformation, online hate speech, cyber-enabled exploitation, and trafficking. It also addressed the dissemination of violent extremist ideologies to fortify the role of women in advancing cybersecurity.

Simultaneously, UN Women, in collaboration with the government and civil society, implemented activities aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women in southern and northern border provinces. These initiatives encompassed capacity development and campaign activities with an emphasis on addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, including conflict-affected women, women from ethnic minorities, and migrant workers.⁵⁶

South-South and Triangular Cooperation: A Social Health Protection Center of Excellence

ILO is partnering with CONNECT, a network of public and non-for-profit organizations in Asia working on social health protection. Through south-south and triangular cooperation, the network promotes knowledge development and capacity building by offering master's degree scholarships for government officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to study primary health care and social health protection at Mahidol University, in addition to short-term trainings on social health protection and actuarial analysis in Thailand.

Gender-responsive budgeting and procurement:

UN Women advances gender responsive budgeting through capacity development of 15 line ministries and partners with private corporations and the Securities Exchange Commission to advocate the implementation of a gender-sensitive business culture and gender-responsive procurement. This involved capacity building to institutionalize such procurement throughout the supply chains of large companies and companies publicly traded on the stock market. This initiative also supported women-owned SMEs to link up with these corporations to secure equitable access for women to networks, finances, and markets. This public-private partnership led to 92 large corporations adopting gender-responsive procurement principles and resulted in 101 MSMEs capacitated and listed as part of the diverse suppliers for business.

⁵² The training initiative was launched in 2015 and comprises two four-day training workshops per year, in which various groups such as women, young people, persons with disabilities and LGBTQI+ individuals can participate.

⁵³ Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat.

⁵⁴ Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son.

⁵⁵ UN Women collaborated with local government, civil society organizations and women's groups to set up the Women's Economic Empowerment and Learning Center in Chiang Rai province to serve as a focal point for fostering learning and upskilling opportunities for women.

⁵⁶ UN Women also provided technical support to the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security for formulating the National Action Plan on Ending Violence against Women.

Social protection: ILO collaborates with the Thailand Social Security Office to increase coverage in existing schemes for the 25 million workers who lack adequate social protection and are vulnerable to lifecycle risks. These workers are critical to Thailand's economy and their inclusion in social security will strengthen their resilience and support national employment goals. Priority sectors include transport, MSMEs, construction, and domestic work. The goal, via a well-defined roadmap, is to include 2.5 million more workers into social security schemes over the medium term. The insights gained from this process will guide the further formalizing of the informal sector.⁵⁷ UNICEF continued to advocate for the Child Support Grant expansion and enhanced integration in the social protection sector in partnership with the Ministry of Finance. UNICEF's targeted social protection policy analyses resulted in increased prioritization of 0-2 childcare in the Annual Budget Allocation Strategy for 2024, with a goal of a 10 per cent enrollment, following successful advocacy with the Budget Bureau.

UN Country Team Pledge 2.0 on Refugee Inclusion

UN Thailand joined the common pledge 2.0 on refugee inclusion ahead of the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023, affecting a targeted population of 662,000 people in alignment with the government's pledges at the Global Refugee and Migration Forums. Key areas of focus include alternatives to detention, enhancement of the National Screening Mechanism, access to health care and education, as well as enhancement of birth registration and civil registration. The UN will deliver on this pledge through the Cooperation Framework by including refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless individuals in UN plans and will work with government to increase their inclusion in national systems.

Youth employment: ILO, in partnership with the Ministry of Labor, has implemented FutureMakers, which equipped over 120 young people, including 43 young persons with disabilities, with demanded technical skills, employability training, career guidance and placement opportunities. This targets disadvantaged youth⁵⁸ and aligns their skills with changing market demands. It offers a scalable model for the green skills market of the future. A highlight has been the development of a Public Employment Services diagnostic tool, which identifies strengths and areas for improvement within public employment services. This makes policymaking more responsive to both business needs and the aspirations of young people.

UNICEF backed the Thailand Professional Qualification Institute in creating the E-Workforce Ecosystem, the first national workforce management system and life-long learning platform, which includes career guidance as well as the first national occupational standards for youth workers.

Technology-based reproductive health: UNFPA, in partnership with the MOPH, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and the MOI, is leveraging the power of technology to empower young people about their reproductive health. Teen Club and LoveCareStation, two digital services supported by UNFPA and UNICEF, provided 1.4 million young people, including those with disabilities, with information on this critical issue. Another 38,043 young people received online counselling. UNFPA, leveraging behavioral science insights, trained 200 tech-savvy youth who use social media to provide peer support. It has accumulated over half a million views. UNFPA, in partnership with the government, also developed a comprehensive benefits package for 1,500 teen mothers, including nutritional and welfare support, antenatal care services and pathways for returning to education, pursuing careers and entrepreneurship. This partnership also prioritizes building the capacities of traditional birth attendants in ethnic minority communities to address immediate health needs and ensure safe birthing practices.

Bridging the digital divide for people with disabilities: ITU, supported the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, in raising awareness on Digital Accessibility to facilitate independent living of persons with disabilities, through the use of ICTs. Additionally, ILO trained 43 disabled young people in digital and entrepreneurial skills for fulfilling employment. UNDP, together with the private sector, initiated the "We are Able" initiative focusing on digital, social, communication, and financial literacy skills for young people with disabilities. This culminated in the first-ever inclusion job fair, with employment agreements between 53 businesses with nearly 100 young persons with disabilities, serving as a catalyst for extending inclusive employment. UNICEF increased the evidence base by supporting the fifth round of the National Disability Survey.

Addressing human trafficking: IOM, in collaboration with the government, focuses on improving detection of human trafficking and aiding victims. This culminated in the National Referral Mechanism and Standard Operating Procedures to streamline the process of identification and assistance for victims. By recognizing the transnational nature of human trafficking, these

⁵⁷ IOM also provided health insurance packages to more than 3,600 vulnerable migrants.

⁵⁸ Aged 15 to 24 years.

mechanisms benefit not only Thailand but also the region by paving the way for similar referral systems in countries of origin, transit, and destination. It also included capacity-building for frontline officers and establishing multidisciplinary teams to screen, identify, and refer human trafficking cases.⁵⁹

UN Women has provided support to women's groups in Chiang Rai with the aim of supporting⁶⁰ and preventing human trafficking within ethnic minority communities. This support entails enhancing the capacity of local and ethnic women, empowering them to participate in initiatives aimed at preventing human trafficking.

Improving public perception on migration: IOM, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has launched a two-year joint project for journalists, students and government officials to promote inclusive, balanced, and ethical migration discourse and media reporting in Thailand. Factual reporting can boost social harmony and also guide decision-makers in enacting policies to improve the lives of migrants and their families. As a basis for a training curriculum in development, IOM conducted a survey amongst Thai nationals in Bangkok, Chanthaburi and Mae Sot to understand their perceptions towards migrants.⁶¹

Data-driven approach for advancing SDGs: UNFPA provided technical support to the government on population and development, including Thailand's National Statistical Office, in preparation for the upcoming 2025 census. Knowledge and skills in methods for estimating population from annual survey data will aid in constructing an updated national sampling and applying spatial statistical modeling techniques for calculating small-area population counts with a special emphasis on gated communities and high-rise buildings. Accurate data is critical for effective policy development in Thailand's evolving demographic landscape.

Flagship South-South and Triangular Cooperation Initiative | Midwifery Capacity Building

UNFPA in partnership with the MOPH, and TICA launched a flagship UN south-south and triangular cooperation initiative on building the capacities of midwives in the region. Many countries in ASEAN are lagging and unable to meet the International Midwife Confederation Global standards on Midwifery Education, causing preventable maternal mortality. Thailand is building on its compliance with these standards and building institutional capacity and that of midwives in five countries.



⁵⁹ Around 500 individuals were identified and assisted by the government in 2023 as compared to 444 the year before.

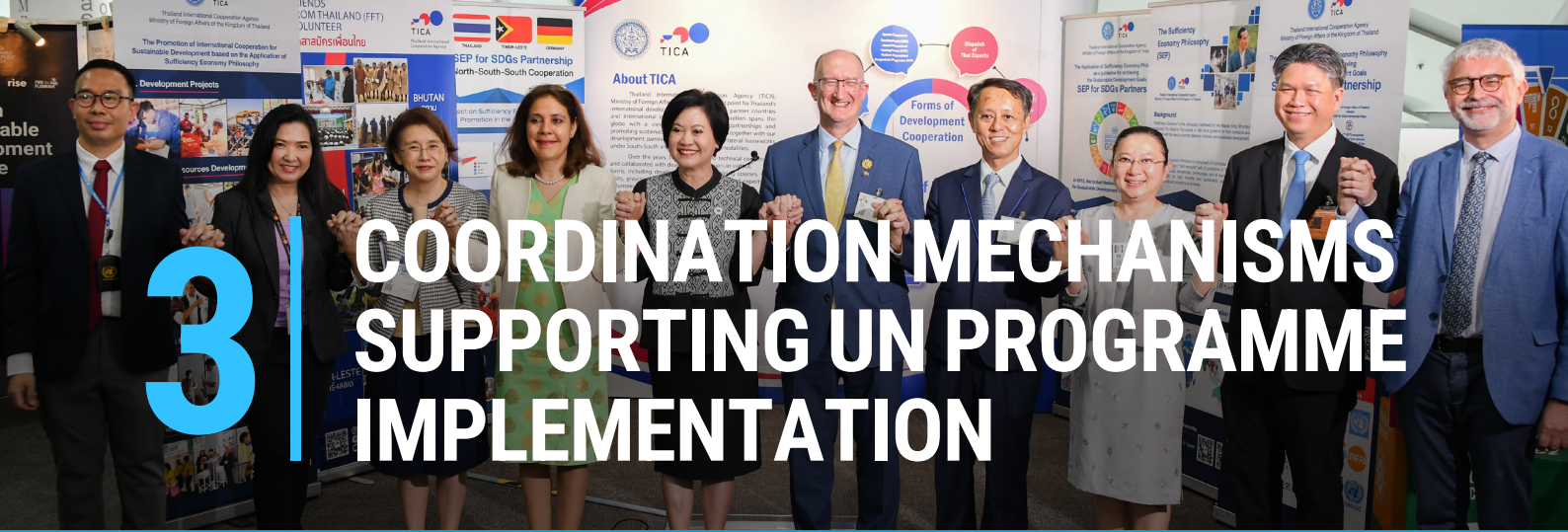
⁶⁰ A total of 226 women and girls belonging to Hmong, La Hu, and Tai Lue ethnic groups, residing in 104 villages across seven sub-districts in Chiang Khong, Chiang Rai Province, have undergone training facilitated by UN Women.

⁶¹ The findings from the survey highlight the Thai public's largely welcoming attitude towards migrants, a recognition of their contributions to the Thai economy (78 per cent), and strong support for protecting migrant rights such as migrant children's right to attend public school (84 per cent).



3

COORDINATION MECHANISMS SUPPORTING UN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION



1 | DATA & PARTNERSHIP RESULTS GROUP ADDRESSES SDG DATA GAP

SDG DATA AVAILABILITY INCREASED TO

↑ 66%

FROM 64% IN 2022 WITH AN AIM OF HITTING 70% NEXT YEAR.



SDG 5

6 INDICATORS TO BE SOURCED THROUGH EXISTING SURVEYS (AGRICULTURE CENSUS, MICS) AND FIELDING A NEW SURVEY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY NSO AND MSDHS, PENDING FUNDING.



SDG 12

INDICATOR ON FOOD LOSS (12.3) ESTABLISHED BY GOVERNMENT BASED ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY FAO USING EARTH OBSERVATION DATA.



SDG 16

10 INDICATORS TO BE SOURCED THROUGH A NEW SURVEY MODULE INTEGRATED AS PART OF **CRIME VICTIMISATION SURVEY** BY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.

2 | OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TEAM

\$1.45 MILLION

IN ESTIMATED COST AVOIDANCE AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES REALIZED BY THE OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TEAM THROUGH THE BUSINESS OPERATIONS STRATEGY.




INTRODUCED **DISABILITY INCLUSIVE PROCUREMENT.**



INSTITUTIONALIZED **GENDER PARITY ASSESSMENT** FOR UNCT.



3 | COMMUNICATIONS GROUP UNCG COLLECTIVE OUTREACH ON SOCIAL MEDIA STANDS AT 40 MILLION. | ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS GARNERED:

3 MILLION 

EYEBALLS THROUGH DIGITAL BILLBOARDS ACROSS 36 CITIES AND SKY TRAINS DAILY SUPPORTING **MENTAL WELLING IN YOUNG PEOPLE**

2 MILLION  


EYEBALLS THROUGH DIGITAL SCREENS ACROSS 2,700 CONVENIENCE STORES AND HOTLINE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY SUPPORTING **PREVENTION AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE.**

76 PROVINCES 

SUPPORTED **THE SDG SUMMIT SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN** IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, KICKED OFF BY PRIME MINISTER.

2023 UN AWARENESS POLL

A NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE POLL SHOWS INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT UNS WORK IN THAILAND

32%  **52%**

2022 2023

2023 SCORECARDS (INDICATIVE)

THE UN IN THAILAND CONTINUES TO DEMONSTRATE PROGRESS AGAINST THE THREE CORPORATE SCORECARDS.

YOUTH 85%

GENDER 93%

DISABILITY 93%

300 EMERGING YOUNG LEADERS

CHAMPIONING **GENDER EQUALITY** THROUGH THAILAND'S BIGGEST CREATIVE DIGITAL CONTEST '**AMBASSADOR FOR A DAY 2023**' IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WOMEN AMBASSADORS AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.



4 FINANCIAL REPORTING

2023 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES IN USD \$

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE OVERVIEW

\$87^{USD} MILLION 

THE OVERALL ENVELOPE ON WHICH THE UN DELIVERED TO IN 2023 ON THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

1,000 UN PERSONNEL ACROSS 21 UN ENTITIES



DELIVERED PROGRAMMES IN 2023 ACROSS ALL REGIONS OF THAILAND

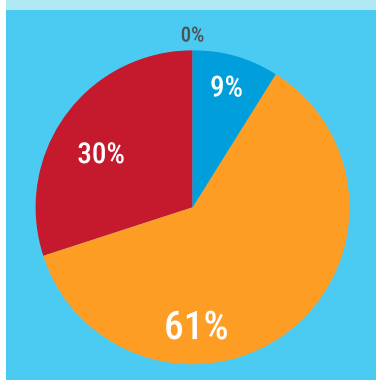
2023 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES IN USD \$

IN 2023, THE UNs BUDGETING WAS 70% GENDER, 66% HUMAN RIGHTS AND 89% YOUTH RESPONSIVE IN A SIGNIFICANT OR PRINCIPLE MANNER.

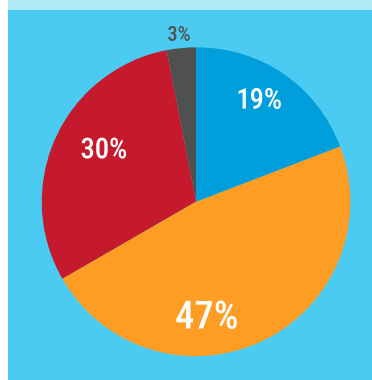
CONTRIBUTION MARKER CODING:

■ PRINCIPAL
 ■ SIGNIFICANT
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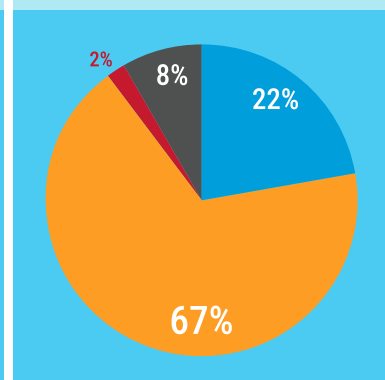
GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING



HUMAN RIGHTS RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

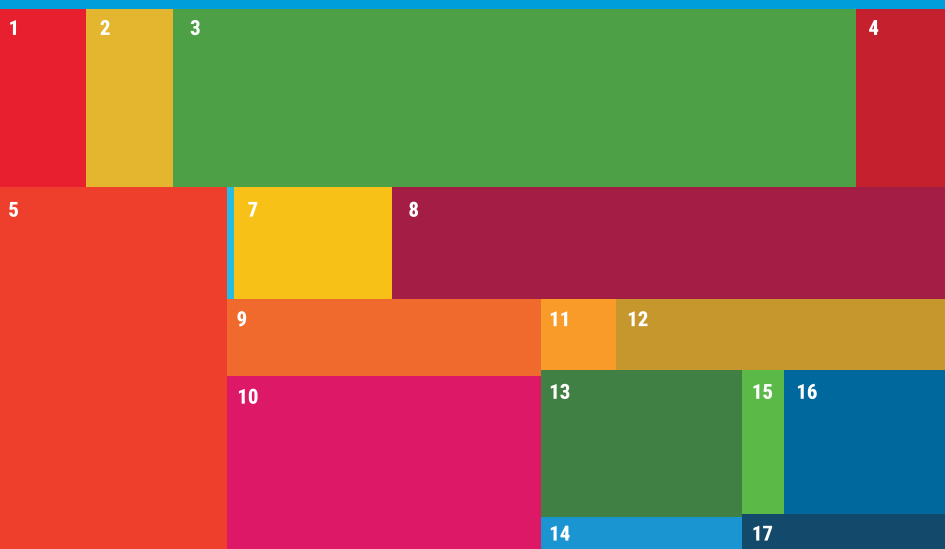


YOUTH RESPONSIVE BUDGETING



SDG CONTRIBUTIONS BASED ON JOINT WORKPLANS

AVAILABLE RESOURCES USD \$100.8 MILLION



-  **SDG 1 No Poverty**
2.9% of total
-  **SDG 2 Zero Hunger**
3% of total
-  **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being**
23.2% of total
-  **SDG 4 Quality Education**
3.3% of total
-  **SDG 5 Gender Equality**
15.9% of total
-  **SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation**
0.2% of total
-  **SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy**
3.3% of total
-  **SDG 8 Decent Jobs and Economic Growth**
12.2% of total
-  **SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
4.5% of total
-  **SDG 10 Reduced Inequality**
11% of total
-  **SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities**
1% of total
-  **SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production**
4.5% of total
-  **SDG 13 Climate Action**
5.7% of total
-  **SDG 14 Life Below Water**
1.5% of total
-  **SDG 15 Life on Land**
1.2% of total
-  **SDG 16 Peace and Justice - Strong Institutions**
4.6% of total
-  **SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals**
1.7% of total

JOINT PROGRAMMING IN THAILAND ACCOUNTED FOR USD \$7.8 MILLION

JOINT PROGRAMME NAME

UN AGENCIES

Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)



Green technology
UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, ILO



Waste management
UNIDO, UNEP



Covid-19 recovery
UNIDO, ILO, UNEP, UNDP, UNITAR



Improving road safety and supporting Thailand in achieving road safety-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



ESCAP, UN Habitat, WHO



Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region



UN Women, ILO, UNODC



Tackling waste trafficking to support a circular economy (Unwaste)



UNODC, UNEP, UNITAR



Safety across Asia for the global environment (SAFE)



UNODC, UNEP, FAO



The Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS



UNAIDS, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO



Scaling up Climate Action on Land Use and Agriculture (SCALA)

Supported by:



FAO, UNDP



on the basis of a decision by the German Bundestag



5 | KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2024

In 2024, the UN Country Team will support the government through SDG acceleration, co-convening, leaving no one behind, and enhancing the efficiency agenda. The key initiatives will include the following:

SDG ACCELERATION

The UN Country Team will deepen its partnerships with the government, private sector, and civil society to speed up the country's transition to climate action, digitization, sustainable food systems, and increased social protection in line with the SDGs.



Climate actions will prioritize:

- Lowering emissions and generating carbon credits including for rural and ethnic minority communities.
- Scaling up the waste management and recycling, including plastics.
- Investing in the creative economy by promoting sustainable tourism.



Digitization will prioritize:

- Scaling up digital literacy in partnership with the Ministry of Education, teachers, and academics.
- Creating a safe online environment for young people and empowering girls to bridge the digital divide.



Sustainable food systems will prioritize:

- Partnering with SMEs to reduce food loss and waste and increase incomes.
- Working with small scale farmers to scale up smart agriculture to protect biodiversity, increase yields and reduce input costs.



Social protection will prioritize:

- Designing assistance packages to reduce informality in partnership with the government and the private sector.
- Scaling up demand-led green skills training for young people.
- Enhancing effectiveness of existing social protection schemes, specifically targeting children and families.

CO-CONVENING

The UN Country Team will convene stakeholders to support SDG localization, invest in human capital development and green higher education in partnership with governors, the private sector, and the academic community.

EFFICIENCY AGENDA

The UN Country Team will raise the bar by securing higher efficiency gains through the Common Back Office by streamlining operations and bolstering gender-and-disability responsive procurement.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

UN Country Team will prioritize the most vulnerable — including people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, women, migrants, and refugees — to foster their inclusion, create equal opportunities and assist transition to the labor market through skilling and upskilling. Supporting the development of a national action plan for women peace and security will also be a priority.

ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
MSME	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
TICA	Thailand International Cooperation Agency
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
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
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WHO	World Health Organization



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 UN COUNTRY TEAM
Thailand