



UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



2021 Annual Report

UNDP IN THAILAND



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Foreword

2021 has been a second year marked by the Covid-19 pandemic that has continued to disrupt so many people's lives, country's economies and societies, and organisations' plans and activities. In Thailand, the government has responded to the crisis with speed and efficiency to both the health dimension and the socio-economic impact, thereby mitigating to a great extent the consequences of the pandemic.

UNDP has continued adjusting its programming and has intensified activities started in 2020 to alleviate the burden of the pandemic on communities. This is being done with a focus on the most vulnerable groups: the elderly and youth, women, the LGBT community, people with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, and migrants and informal workers. Informed by the analysis of the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 in Thailand published by the United Nations Country Team in 2020, UNDP directed its support to these groups across the country, thanks to successful financial support from countries like Japan and Switzerland and special funds from the headquarters.

2021 has also been a transition year for UNDP in Thailand. As the last year of a 5-year programming cycle 2017-2021, this was the time to evaluate our work and results, and to consult with partners on how to design and formulate a new Country Programme for 2022-2026. This process is parallel to the formulation of a new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the broad roadmap for collaboration between Thailand and the United Nations System.

Running consultations to collect feedback and aspirations from all communities across the country has been challenging because of Covid-19 travel restrictions. UNDP embraced a digital transformation that has required both financial investments and increased staff capacity to shift to online platforms and adopt innovative approaches to ensure a successful transformation process.

In 2021, UNDP has been building on the strong local partnerships established over the years. We have been inspired by the

resilience of communities across Thailand and are informed by the lessons of the previous Country Programme and those of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have especially been focusing on the critical need to urgently address climate change, biodiversity loss, inequalities and social cohesion. With this in mind, UNDP formulated the new Country Programme 2022-2026 around three pillars: accelerating Thailand's transformation into a green and inclusive economy; fostering innovation and digital solutions to empower people and develop capacities; and strengthen people participation and institutions. This new Programme, fully aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the draft 13th National Social Economic Development Plan, was endorsed by the government in late 2021 and approved by the UNDP Executive Board in February 2022.

With the new Country Programme, further guided by the new Strategic Plan of UNDP approved in September 2021, the UNDP team is focusing on implementing integrated development solutions, in cooperation with all our partners from government, civil society, and the business sector to address the various challenges with which Thailand is confronted. We are grateful to all the support and cooperation received from our partners and the encouragement of the local communities in delivering results that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring no one is left behind.

This publication presents some of these results, highlights our strong partnerships with stakeholders and provides information on our resources and publications. We count on your continued support to achieve more and better for the sustainable development of Thailand and to improve the livelihoods of all.

Renaud Meyer
UNDP Resident Representative to Thailand

Supporting Covid-19 Recovery

2021 was the second year of the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in Thailand and around the world. The pandemic slowed down progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contracting the country's GDP and affecting all sectors, especially tourism, and the informal sectors where social security is lacking. Despite the government's \$58 billion stimulus package for social protection and economic rehabilitation in 2020, the circumstances of vulnerable groups such as women, LGBTI, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and youth continued to worsen. Additionally, some of the

progress that Thailand was making, has slowed because of the pandemic, hampering progress in poverty reduction, reducing inequality, and improving quality of education.

Even though the country's GDP is projected to grow at 3.5 - 4.5% in 2022¹, the socio-economic impact of the pandemic was further aggravated by the severe floods that affected several parts of Thailand, accounting for 0.1% loss of GDP². At the same time, the pandemic has worsened the severe unemployment and poverty in the Southern Border Provinces.

¹ National Economic and Social Development Council Economic Report: Thai Economic Performance in Q4 and 2021 and Outlook for 2022.

² 2018-2021 Strategic Plan - Results Oriented Analysis Report For Country Offices, page 2



For Thailand, the road to recovery from Covid-19 requires transformation that includes an eco-friendly economy, equal opportunities for all, and sustainable ways of living. This requires rethinking of development pathways for an equitable and sustainable recovery. The pandemic has posed challenges to UNDP's work in the country, and the severe socio-economic impact has materialised into barriers to advancing equitable, sustainable, and people-centred development, including promoting anti-corruption, citizen engagement, social cohesion, and south-south cooperation initiatives.

In response to the distress caused by Covid-19, UNDP focused on supporting human capital development by strengthening the capacity of state and non-state actors; promoting use of digital technology to improve economic transactions; and encouraging dialogue between community members and decision makers that focus on solution building.

UNDP, with support from the Japanese government, provided grant assistance to rural and urban communities. The Covid-19 Social and Economic Response and Recovery project supported the most vulnerable populations and at-risk communities through grants awarded to civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including in Narathiwat, Pattani, and Yala.

This helped mitigate the impact of the pandemic on food security, access to basic services, social protection, and livelihoods. The grants focused on livelihood support and improvement; civil society and people engagement; and technical support to local governments to apply approaches that prevent conflict and Strengthen social cohesion.

The beneficiaries of the grants were ethnic minorities, stateless people, migrants, people with disabilities, LGBTI, sex workers, farmers, and local communities. UNDP played a vital role in providing technical input and building the capacity of the grant recipients and community members. The grants encouraged community resilience and designing solutions that address nature conservation. This resulted in beneficiaries gaining more knowledge and skills than before the pandemic, in addition to access to better food, improved income and food affordability, and strong community engagement.

Grants activities directly impacted over 4,000 (1,487 male and 2,531 female) beneficiaries from local communities including youth returnee migrants from Malaysia.





The Covid-19 Social and Economic Response and Recovery project allowed vulnerable groups, like women, to build their knowledge and skills to improve their income and access more affordable and nutritious food.

©UNDP

Creating a Robust Covid-19 Recovery Plan

The road to Covid-19 recovery requires understanding of how the pandemic affected vulnerable groups and what changes are needed to make systems more resilient and responsive.

UNDP commissioned a socioeconomic impact assessment of Covid-19 on Phuket, integrating an analysis of the Human Achievement Index and highlighting Covid-19's impact on vulnerable groups. The results stressed the need to diversify Phuket's economy and reduce dependence on tourism. Innovative recovery strategies have been recommended including balancing short-term recovery and longer-term economic diversification, strengthening project planning criteria to focus on priority investments, and increasing public and private funding for priority investments. Additionally, Phuket's economic diversification strategy emerged from this study and informed the latest Provincial Development Plan.

In the Southern Border Provinces, a study of food value chains focused on provincial and regional efforts, mapped out key stakeholders and socioeconomic development baselines of the region, and illustrated value chain analysis of the seven main agricultural products which are essential to livelihoods and economy.

UNDP designed a crowdfunding strategy to put together an evidence-based analysis on the impact of Covid-19 on tourism in Koh Tao. The crowdfunding platform did not only contribute to tackling a global issue by collecting 40 tons of marine debris, but it also created around 200 green jobs in the community by helping local men and women improve their livelihoods after the pandemic.



Covid-19 impacted women disproportionately, including their personal spaces and economic security. By diversifying their skills, vulnerable women were able to improve their circumstances as a way of recovery from the pandemic.

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The Covid-19 situation made it important for the most at-risk groups to diversify their skills to mitigate economic distress. UNDP worked with vulnerable groups such as transgender women and men, youth, and people with disabilities to supplement their skills and capacities so that they could explore new avenues to generate income during the pandemic recovery process.

Covid-19 impacted women personally and socio-economically. To understand gaps in their capacity to respond to gender-based violence, UNDP conducted a joint analysis with the UN Country Team titled “Gap Analysis and Needs Assessment of Gender-Based Violence Response System in Thailand and Implications for Crisis Responses during COVID-19”. This activity generated policy recommendations to improve the gender-based violence response system.

People with disabilities have also been affected by Covid-19. In addition to job losses, many had limited access to news and information, and lacked the opportunity to improve their skills to adapt. To ensure that this group is not left behind, UNDP organised training sessions to equip people with disabilities with competitive skills with a focus on digital work.

Designing SDG Financing for Covid-19 Recovery and Beyond

The pandemic and associated economic shocks emphasised the need to ensure that Thailand’s development is supported by a comprehensive financing framework. Despite the devastation, the pandemic recovery roadmap gave those who work on development issues an opportunity to relook at how SDGs need to be financed for their timely achievement.

UNDP and others have sought ways of increasing public and private finance for national development priorities and the SDGs. These include a financing strategy, better budgeting, attracting private finance, and measuring the impact of this finance on the SDGs.

UNDP, in partnership with the National Economic and Social Development Council and the Ministry of Finance, is establishing an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). This will serve as a method that strengthens the dialogue between policymakers, the private sector, and other development professionals to better manage existing resources and ensure they are aligned to priorities.



Message from NASHIDA Kazuya, Ambassador of Japan to Thailand

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and growing climate emergency poses a threat not only to human survival, but also to livelihoods and dignity. Under these circumstances, to achieve the SDGs, it is important to cope with these multifaceted threats and respond to global issues by following a philosophy of human security adapted to the new era.

As the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 addresses the importance of human security in building resilience, the Japanese government works with UNDP in Thailand on important global issues including climate change, disaster risk reduction and SDGs.

Here I would like to highlight some important projects Japan has carried out in coordination with UNDP.

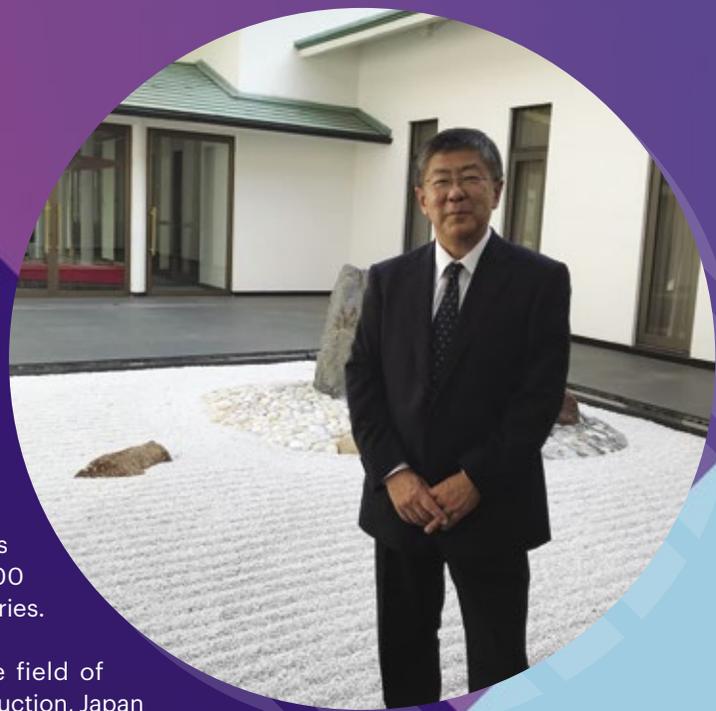
First, I am proud of the fact that at the height of the pandemic in 2021, Japan and UNDP provided emergency assistance to the most vulnerable and at-risk communities all across Thailand through the provision of relief goods, and strengthened their livelihoods and

resilience by implementing 23 grant projects involving 23,500 direct beneficiaries.

Second, in the field of disaster risk reduction, Japan continues to support schools in tsunami-prone areas of Thailand to upgrade their preparedness. With the remarkable expertise and efforts of the UNDP team, the program of tsunami drills at the targeted schools was successfully enhanced to include the local community too.

Lastly, in 2022 Japan will start a new collaboration with UNDP for the Business and Human Rights Global Project. The project is focused on promoting human rights due diligence in global supply chains and strengthening responsible business practices by Japanese companies and their suppliers through relevant research, seminars and consultations.

On all these projects and beyond, I am looking forward to working with UNDP to realise in the post-pandemic era a virtuous cycle of economic and environmental growth that is flexible and disaster-resilient.



Bringing the SDGs to the Local Level

With the SDGs as its roadmap, UNDP worked in several cross-cutting areas in 2021, including green growth, climate action, and biodiversity conservation; reduction of inequalities with a rights-based approach to development; promotion of local innovations; and digital transformation. The principle to Leave No One Behind was a

guiding light in 2021, as UNDP expanded its work on contextualizing the SDGs for local action by engaging all branches of power and a wide range of partners.

UNDP intensified support to SDG efforts by strengthening the capacity of municipalities to align their plans, budgets, and action with the SDGs and by empowering the most vulnerable groups to become champions for the Goals. UNDP worked with state and non-state actors at national and subnational levels to advocate a rights-based development agenda that leaves no one behind, strengthens social cohesion, and improves the balance between people and planet.

UNDP collaborated with the Securities and Exchange Commission to train and provide technical assistance to private sector companies to measure and manage impact on the SDGs.

SDGs were contextualized in the Southern Border Provinces with the help of a Social Innovation Platform, which includes deep listening with target groups across sectors. This process recognizes partners, or co-creators, as essential players who have the power to overcome silos and can achieve collective impact. The direct partnerships that were forged with sub-district governments, which are the direct public service providers to local populations, saw encouraging results since they are committed to improving ground level challenges with effective means and citizen engagement. This is expected to add value to the development structure and aspiration for SDG localization in the region and beyond.

As a result of this process, UNDP has been able to facilitate impactful dialogues and actions with those involved in the various projects in the south of Thailand. This work strengthened the policy framework for local food systems through collaborative strategic planning at the regional level and capacity development of local government officials. UNDP also facilitated co-designing of a digital strategy for traceability and e-commerce in municipal food markets, which plays a critical role in the local food value chain.



A ‘SDG Guidebook for Youth in Action’ was developed with UNICEF for municipalities and the Children and Youth Councils in five municipalities. The guidebook proposes policy recommendations for SDG implementation. The successful engagement between youth and Members of Parliament created opportunities for youth voices to be heard, including advocating the rights of ethnic minorities.

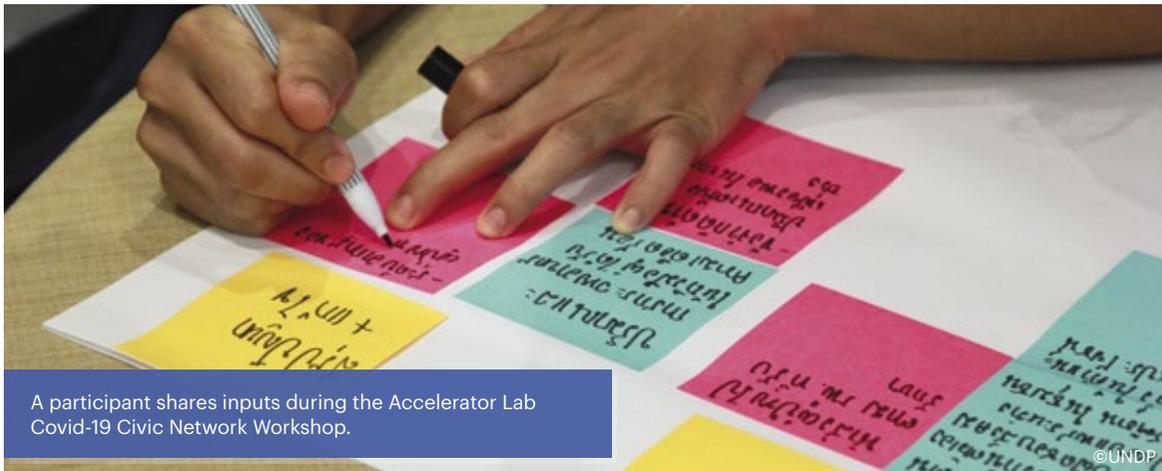


Youth have an important role to play in localising and achieving the SDGs. UNDP engaged youth groups through open dialogue and workshops as a way of encouraging youth action to localise the road to reaching the SDGs.

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A participant shares inputs during the Accelerator Lab Covid-19 Civic Network Workshop.

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Key results in numbers



1,200,000

views of the “Don’t Choose Extinction” video, a global campaign to disseminate a powerful message on fighting climate change and tackling inequality through the character/ mascot, Frankie the Dinosaur were recorded. The video dubbed in Thai by a local artist, Kornkan Sutthikoses, urges people to take action on climate change.



30,935

people received grant assistance from UNDP to mitigate the impact of Covid-19.



19,202
women



8,290
men



3,443
LGBTI



639,800

video views on the No Hate Thailand website and 2,600 hate speech words were submitted. The website was built to raise awareness on the impact of hate speech on citizens’ lives.





27,850,000+

views were received on a video produced in collaboration with the Plan-B Media Company Limited, as part of a campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of Covid-19 and air pollution. The video was broadcasted on digital billboards in airports, shopping centers, and intersections in Bangkok and Chiangmai from September to December 2021.



56,950+

people benefited from 51 projects supported by the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme.

29,050
women

27,900
men

- 1 PEOPLE
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION
- 14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- 15 LIFE ON LAND



300,000+

people reached through the social media platform of the Thailand Policy Lab raising awareness on the importance of innovating policy making.





UNDP promotes social cohesion and democratic processes by designing and implementing programmes that specifically address development challenges in a community.

Section 1

Fostering Social Cohesion, Democratic Governance, and Rule of Law

In Thailand, the number of people living in poverty increased from 4.85 million in 2015 to 6.68 million in 2018 due to declining income among the poorest households.³ Some of the root causes for this distress lie in gender inequality, lack of equal opportunity, the digital divide, and social discrimination against some vulnerable groups.

A core mandate of UNDP is to work with the government to strengthen in-country legislative and judicial processes to promote democratic governance. UNDP prioritises working with the government to realise the SDGs through programmes and activities that address local challenges. To achieve this, UNDP

brings together a range of government bodies including Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Economic and Social Development Council, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

³ Taking the Pulse of Poverty and Inequality in Thailand Report, The World Bank, 2020

Fostering Human Rights for Inclusive Growth

The Covid-19 pandemic brought to the fore the link between business and human rights. The experience highlighted that business frameworks need to look beyond profits and focus on human rights and social cohesion to have long term impact for all sections of society. To help transform business models to be more inclusive and people-friendly, UNDP deployed business and human rights approaches that focus on protection, respect, and remedy.

To push for a social environment that values and upholds human rights, UNDP launched studies on Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Anti-Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation laws and measures. UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Justice launched the first online sub-national Consultation on these laws and measures, where preliminary findings were compiled and presented for feedback, inputs, and recommendations. This resulted in participants reporting increased

practical knowledge that could be applied to their work. Participants were then asked to conduct similar training sessions to increase outreach of these concepts. The subsequent national consultation played an important role in raising awareness on the intersecting challenges that human rights defenders face and the practical support that can be given.

UNDP organised several peer learning sessions with India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. In addition, after Thailand became the first country in Asia Pacific to adopt a standalone National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in 2019, UNDP supported learning sessions and consultations on action plan development with other country offices. To boost the impact of the action plan, UNDP coordinated with the Rights and Liberties Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice, the leading agency on action plan implementation.





To accelerate the achievement of SDG16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, UNDP, in partnership with the Thai government, private sector partners, and civil society organisations, designed strategies to reduce corruption and bribery. UNDP worked with the National Anti-Corruption Commission to develop an assessment study called the Integrity and Transparency Assessment Tools. The assessment report, which has recently been published and endorsed by

the National Anti-Corruption Agency, paves the way for further studies on enhancing these tools. Subsequently, UNDP was invited to support the sub-committee on improving anti-corruption mechanisms chaired by the Office of the Public Sector Anti-Corruption. This was an opportunity for UNDP to provide technical assistance to the committee for a prevention strategy which has also been reflected in the national strategy on anti-corruption.

Giving Voice to Vulnerable Groups to Improve Policy and Law Making

Making sure vulnerable people take part in planning local actions is important. Finding ways to do this helps make sure that what is done benefits everybody. UNDP has been doing this through participatory activities where a range of beneficiaries get a chance to vocalise their stories. UNDP designed mechanisms for marginalised groups so that they could contribute effectively to policy discussions and provide their inputs into

interventions that would help Thailand cope with a range of social and developmental issues.

To commemorate the International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples 2021, UNDP mounted an online exhibition on 'You Me We Us'. This helped to get to know people of different ethnic groups in Thailand through the lens of lifestyle, culture, natural resources management, human rights, as well as statelessness.

As a part of the exhibition, a documentary titled *Becoming Home* was produced by UNDP and Realframe Production with support from the European Union. The film tracks lives, friendships, griefs, and dreams of six young men and women who are 'stateless', and how it has affected their lives, including their ability to travel, obtain an education, and access basic legal rights and social welfare.

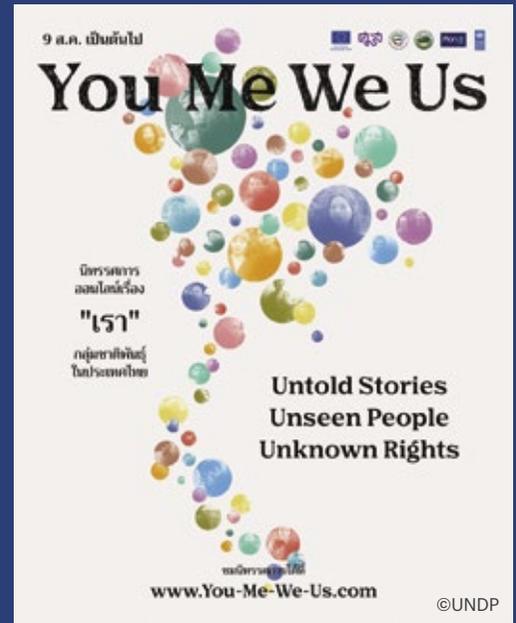
"I can feel the impact and how our voices have been amplified. This documentary is a first step for us to start telling our stories and talking about the challenges faced by stateless people who were yet unheard."
– Suchart, stateless youth featured in 'Becoming Home'.



©UNDP



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OymTzctTiwk>



Vulnerable voices are best amplified when they are heard over several channels. A public forum titled 'Where Did the Voices of the People Go? (or not): A Joint Effort to Draft a Law to Protect the Rights and Lifestyles of ethnic minorities in Thailand' urged people to promote the law and encouraged public participation to strengthen the rights of ethnic minorities.

To bring about policy change, UNDP supported CSOs to work with parliamentarians on the draft anti-discrimination law and the law to decriminalize sex work. For this, UNDP facilitated consultations between CSOs and Members of Parliament where the two groups developed protective laws and policies that address stigma and discrimination towards LGBTI people, people living with HIV, and other vulnerable groups. UNDP also worked with CSOs to develop a draft legal gender recognition law in line with international human rights standards.

Promoting Social Cohesion

While law and policies play an integral part in maintaining peaceful societies, accepting diversity and celebrating differences is just as important to build cohesive communities.



The Youth Co:Lab is a youth economic empowerment programme that aims to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs through social innovation and entrepreneurship. The programme connects young people working in business and technology, so that they can contribute to the SDGs, including actions for the vulnerable. Under the theme of 'What it takes to leave no one behind', UNDP worked with youth groups and representatives as part of the Youth Co:Lab to develop fresh ideas that address challenges that vulnerable groups face. The programme identified 32 youth applicants from 9 teams who have been working on issues related to ethnic minorities, LGBTI people, people with

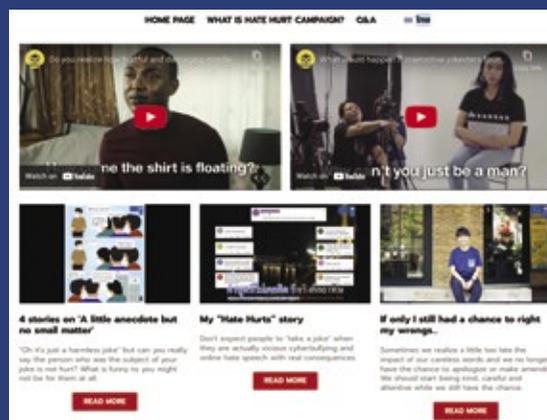
disabilities, Muslim youth, and people living in flood-impacted areas.

As part of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, UNDP established a mechanism through which multiple stakeholders could discuss potential policy innovations based on project experience and lessons learned. Extensive discussions with the National Steering Committee focused on projects that could facilitate and promote policy dialogue. Since its inception and despite Covid-19 related restrictions, more than 600 multi-stakeholder participants have engaged in these policy dialogues.

UNDP, together with a local media company, Toolmorrow, and Thai media influencers, launched an online campaign against hate speech to create an environment of pluralism and diversity in Thai society and to foster better understanding of how hate speech can affect people's lives. The No Hate Thailand website invited visitors to share words that "hurt" them the most while presenting various media products to raise awareness of hate speech. Through the campaign, UNDP crowdsourced insights and experiences from visitors to the website, which will be used to inform UNDP's future research to prevent violent extremism and promote diversity.



<https://nohatethailand.com/>



Strengthening Democratic Governance

A society where the voice of the vulnerable is heard also needs strong democratic governance to be more just. UNDP works in close collaboration with the government for sustainable and resilient development that leaves no one behind. UNDP's role of bringing together various groups and organizations that work to achieve the SDGs was useful for the government to promote social inclusion through law and policy reform and development.

Memorandums of Understanding signed with the Secretariat of the House of Representatives and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung E.V. Foundation in Thailand provide a framework to enhance awareness and capacities of parliamentarians towards SDG implementation. To enhance the capacity of those working to achieve the SDGs, UNDP and the Parliament signed a Memorandum

of Understanding on capacity building and knowledge exchange on the SDGs. UNDP also conducted a capacity building activity on SDG budget analysis to support 40 parliamentary staff in their review of the Annual Budget Appropriations Bill. This improved parliamentarians' knowledge of the SDGs and budget analysis; as a result they could exchange ideas with experts on applying new digital tools for SDG budget analysis.

Additionally, UNDP organised a forum on 'Climate Change and Parliament's Roles for Climate Action' to better understand the roles of the Parliament. A Climate Finance Handbook for Parliament will serve as a practical guide for Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff on climate change finance. It will also address gender-specific vulnerabilities and contribute towards achieving gender equality and social inclusion.



Advancing Youth Action by Engaging Parliamentarians

Youth voices are integral for an inclusive and just society that prioritises leaving no one behind. UNDP is committed to ensuring that the voices and actions of youth representatives and groups are heard.

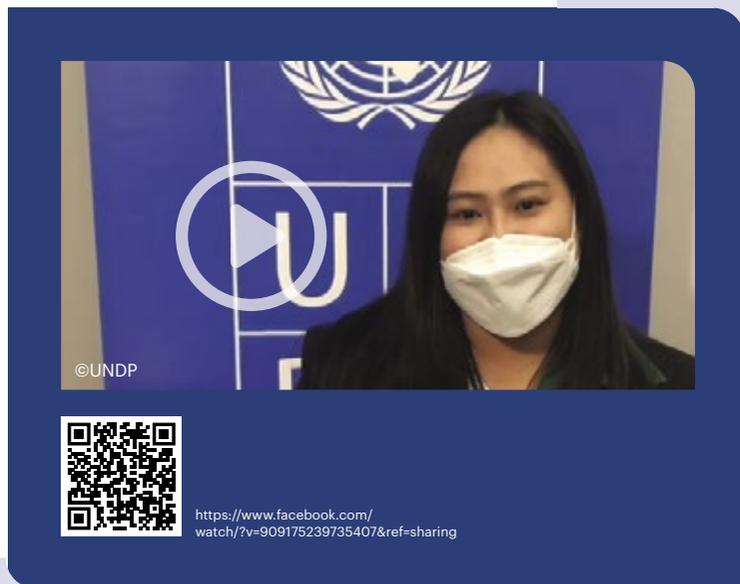
“A Day in Conversation about the Future of Ethnic Youth in Thailand ” was a dialogue for youth from ethnic minority groups that UNDP organised. During the event they shared their challenges and dreams with policymakers. The event encouraged participants to share common challenges despite their diverse ethnicities and backgrounds. Some of the aspects that came up were access to citizenship and basic rights, transfer of local wisdom, and the engagement between generations. In addition to this dialogue,

work was also done on the draft Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Way of life of Ethnic Groups. This work was taken up by young people and representatives from the Parliament’s Standing committee on Children, Youth, Women, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, and LGBTs.

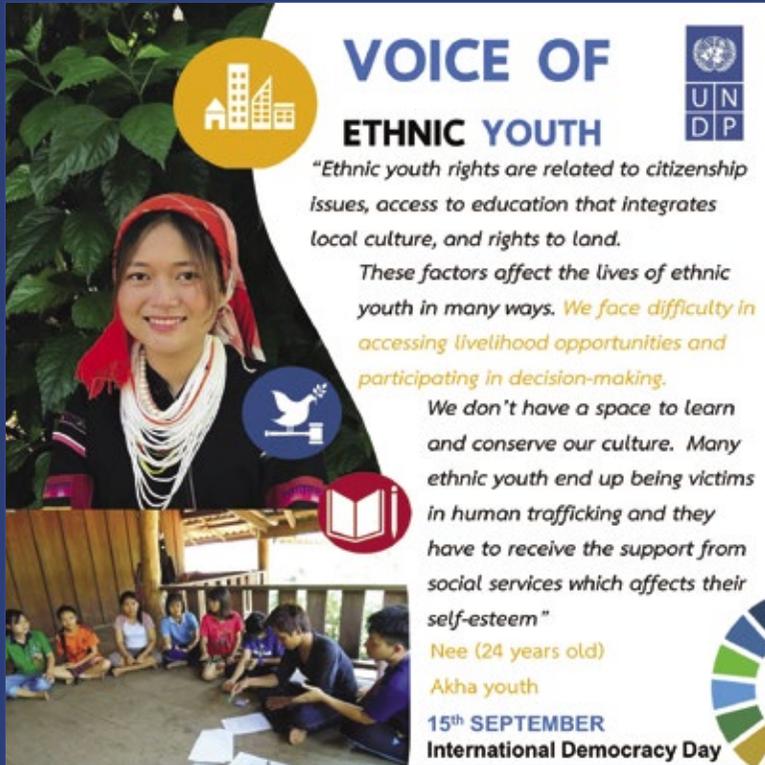
In collaboration with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung E.V.Foundation and the parliament, UNDP created a storytelling programme based on the human-centric approach for the Youth Network of the Parliament. The programme created a space for youth to explore local challenges and its effects on vulnerable groups. As part of this programme, the youth participants from each region interviewed locals and created a video that was presented to MPs.

UNDP, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung E.V.Foundation and Parliament jointly organised a virtual event on “Fostering Climate Ambition and Inclusive Climate Action: The Role of the Parliament” by presenting the progress on COP26, in addition to panel discussions with Parliament and stakeholders. The event promoted inclusive climate action and youth engagement on climate change. Participants also learned about financing climate action and exchanged knowledge with members of the Commission VII of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, on tackling climate change and how their best practices can be applied in the Thai context.

Further, UNDP and the Secretariat of the House of Representatives and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung E.V.Foundation also organised the “Youth and MPs for SDGs” event to listen to the voices of the Democratic Youth Program representing the 4 regions in Thailand. SDG related issues such as ethnic minorities’ access to citizenship, social inclusion and quality of education were voiced to members of the House of Representatives.



On International Day of Democracy 2021, UNDP collected and amplified stories of vulnerable youth in their own voices as they spoke about the challenges they face.

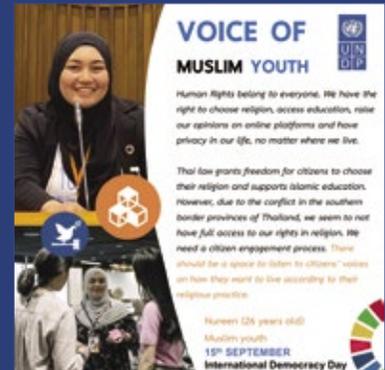


VOICE OF ETHNIC YOUTH

"Ethnic youth rights are related to citizenship issues, access to education that integrates local culture, and rights to land. These factors affect the lives of ethnic youth in many ways. We face difficulty in accessing livelihood opportunities and participating in decision-making. We don't have a space to learn and conserve our culture. Many ethnic youth end up being victims in human trafficking and they have to receive the support from social services which affects their self-esteem"

Nee (24 years old)
Akha youth

15th SEPTEMBER
International Democracy Day

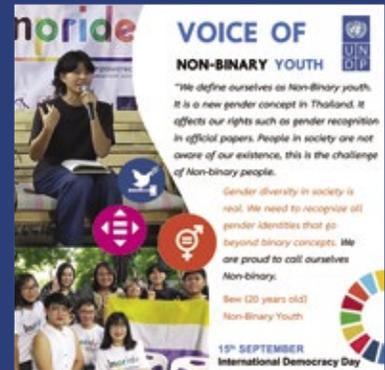


VOICE OF MUSLIM YOUTH

"Human rights belong to everyone. We have the right to choose religion, access education, raise our opinions on online platforms and have privacy in our life, no matter where we live. The law grants freedom for citizens to choose their religion and supports Islamic education. However, due to the conflict in the southern border provinces of Thailand, we seem to not have full access to our rights in religion. We need a citizen engagement process. There should be a space to listen to citizens' voices on how they want to live according to their religious practice."

Nureen (24 years old)
Muslim youth

15th SEPTEMBER
International Democracy Day

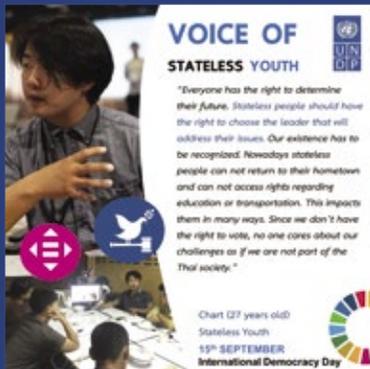


VOICE OF NON-BINARY YOUTH

"We define ourselves as Non-binary youth. It is a new gender concept in Thailand. It affects our rights such as gender recognition in official papers. People in society are not aware of our existence, this is the challenge of Non-binary people. Gender diversity in society is real. We need to recognize all gender identities that go beyond binary concepts. We are proud to call ourselves Non-binary."

Bew (20 years old)
Non-Binary Youth

15th SEPTEMBER
International Democracy Day

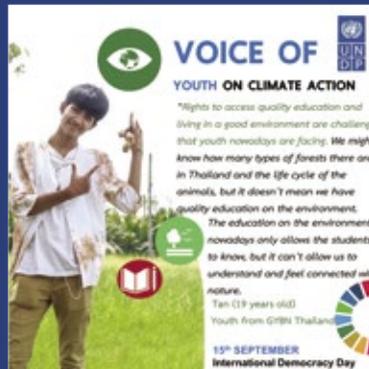


VOICE OF STATELESS YOUTH

"Everyone has the right to determine their future. Stateless people should have the right to choose the leader that will address their issues. Our existence has to be recognized. Nowadays stateless people can not return to their hometown and can not access rights regarding education or transportation. This impacts them in many ways. Since we don't have the right to vote, no one cares about our challenges as if we are not part of the Thai society."

Chan (27 years old)
Stateless Youth

15th SEPTEMBER
International Democracy Day

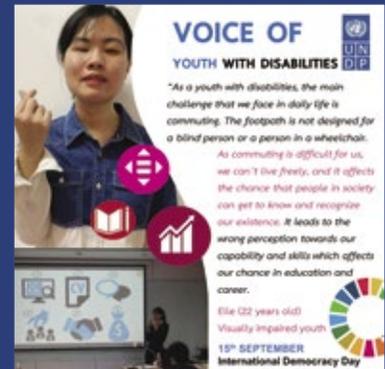


VOICE OF YOUTH ON CLIMATE ACTION

"Rights to access quality education and living in a good environment are challenges that youth nowadays are facing. We might know how many types of forests there are in Thailand and the life cycle of the animals, but it doesn't mean we have quality education on the environment. The education on the environment nowadays only allows the students to know, but it can't allow us to understand and feel connected with nature."

Tan (19 years old)
Youth from Gribh Thailand

15th SEPTEMBER
International Democracy Day



VOICE OF YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

"As a youth with disabilities, the main challenge that we face in daily life is commuting. The footpath is not designed for a blind person or a person in a wheelchair. As commuting is difficult for us, we can't live freely, and it affects the chance that people in society can get to know and recognize our existence. It leads to the wrong perception towards our capability and skills which affects our chance in education and career."

Eile (22 years old)
Visually impaired youth

15th SEPTEMBER
International Democracy Day



In early 2021, UNDP and the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), partnered with the Japanese Government to support the livelihood activities of women, the elderly and youth to ease the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, through the sustainable use of Krajoed.

Section 2

Promoting Wildlife Conservation, Climate Action, and a Green Environment

In the context of climate change, Thailand needs to be strategic about its conservation efforts and reliance on natural resources. The country is susceptible to natural disasters, which aggravates economic vulnerability, including that in the agricultural sector. In addition, Thailand is one of the largest contributors to marine waste, with the pandemic increasing plastic pollution, owing to the reliance on single use plastic for hygiene and safety. Given this, it is important that development efforts strike a balance between diversion of resources to economic production in support of pandemic recovery and achieving Thailand's low-carbon economy goals.

Moreover, in the backdrop of Covid-19 recovery, it has become increasingly important to view wildlife conservation and climate action through a new lens. The Bio-Circular-Green Economic Model is promoted by the Thai government as an economic model for inclusive and sustainable growth. The model capitalises the country's strengths in biological diversity and cultural richness to employ technology and innovation to transform Thailand to a value-based and innovation-driven economy.

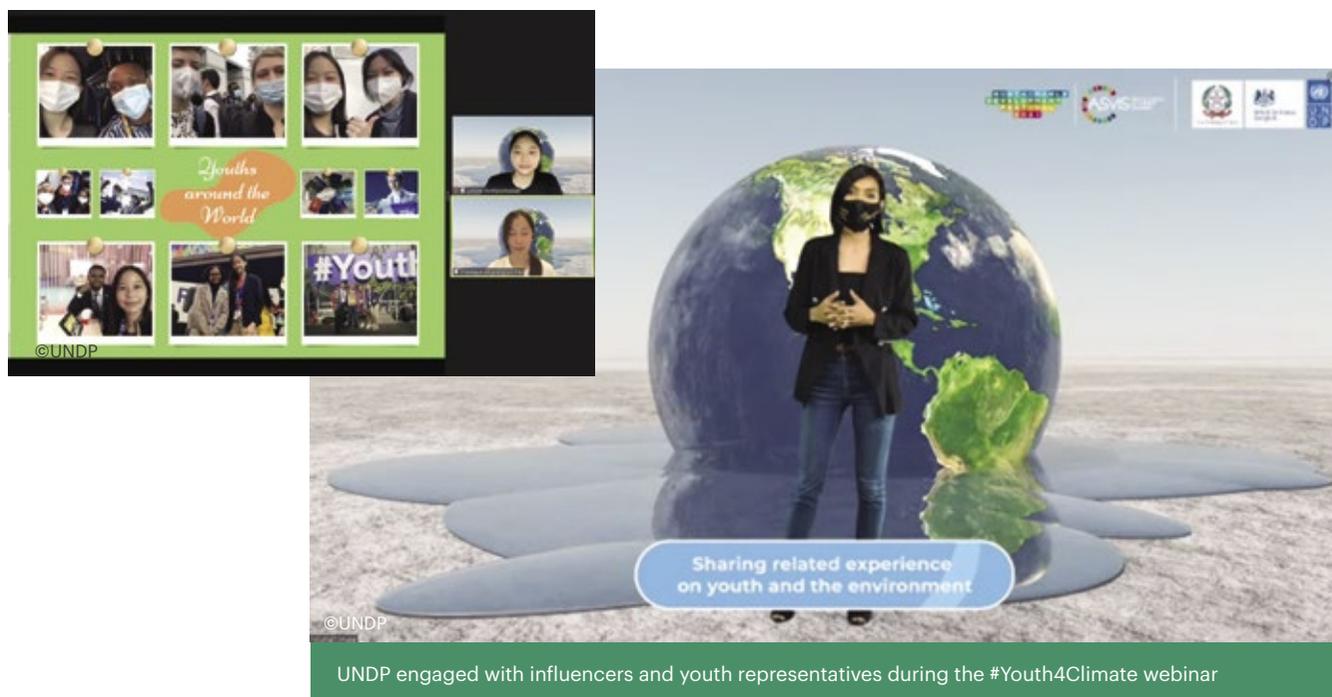
The Bio-Circular-Green Economic Model provided UNDP with opportunities to collaborate with partners for a low-carbon economy that meets the commitments made by the country on net-zero emissions and carbon neutrality. UNDP further contributed to these efforts with climate action and finance and biodiversity conservation, working with both state and non-state actors.

Section 2
Promoting Wildlife Conservation, Climate Action, and a Green Environment

Achieving the SDGs requires planning and financing. UNDP collaborated with the government on the first Biodiversity Finance Plan for Thailand, which guides action towards revenue generation; better delivery; expenditure realignment; and better planning on how finances can be spend in the future to achieve the SDGs.

UNDP also worked with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, a youth constituency under the Convention on Biological Diversity to increase the impact of biodiversity protection. To address action towards the global biodiversity framework 'Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework', the

Network launched a 'Consultation to Action' so that national chapters can implement and mobilise young people's voice. The inputs for the report was collected during the 'Global Youth Biodiversity Network Consultation 2021' which focused on Thai youth's voice on the direction for biodiversity development. After the consultation, Global Youth Biodiversity Network Thailand recruited youth leaders to mobilise ideas into action through 3 climate action projects. UNDP received support from the Embassy of France to organise 'Thailand Youth-led Climate Action', a program that provided capacity building and grants to each to the 3 youth-led climate projects.



To reduce demand for wildlife products, the travel, tourism, and advertising industries, as well as consumers, are important in identifying and promoting new opportunities, roles, and responsibilities. Two campaigns aimed to reduce demand for wildlife products.

The *Mercy is Power* campaign, focused on ivory and tiger products, and the Kind Dining campaign aimed to reduce wildlife meat consumption. Both these campaigns were designed by UNDP and TRAFFIC, a leading non-profit organization working in the area of wildlife trade. The campaigns shed light on the impact of illegal wildlife trade on biodiversity, conservation efforts, and animal rights. UNDP and TRAFFIC organised a workshop in collaboration with WWF Thailand on “Wildlife Demand Reduction Campaigns in Thailand: Lessons Learned” to bring

together government agencies and development partners to share experiences, lessons learnt, and best practices from these wildlife demand reduction campaigns.

View *Mercy is Power* videos



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNg9QFKznykHvAE18jbJb8A/videos>

Kind Dining Campaign Aimed at Discouraging Urban Youngsters from Consuming Wild Meat

UNDP worked with TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, the Global Environment Facility, Thailand’s Department of National Parks Wildlife and Plant Conservation and the Thai Tourism Authority among others to launch the Kind Dining campaign. The campaign invited Thais to pledge not to eat illegal wild meat and take a stance against illegal wildlife trade with the aim of reducing the risk of infectious disease transmission from wild animals to humans. Targeting young people between the ages of 18 and 30 in urban Bangkok and Chiang Mai, video messaging through local celebrity influencers reached over 10 million viewers on social media with 4,500 pledges on the campaign website saying no to illegal wild meat consumption as of December 2021.



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzbJQA11EXYfLmGjxLf7jg/videos>



<https://www.kind-dining.com/>

UNDP and the International Organisation for Conservation of Nature in collaboration with the Department of National Parks Wildlife and Plant Conservation, and partner organisations came together for the “Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade Forum 2021” to look at how illegal wildlife trade can be reduced in Thailand with a focus on law enforcement and community involvement. The forum also brought forth experiences, lessons learned, best practices and challenges around illegal wildlife trade during and post Covid-19. UNDP and the Department of National Parks collaborated with the police to organise a 2-day training workshop on wildlife crime investigation so that groups can monitor and reduce wildlife crime. The workshop, with 45 participants from the Department of National Parks Wildlife Crime Taskforce Group, recorded ten wildlife crime cases and agreed to proceed with further deep investigation in collaboration with Royal Thai Police and Customs.

To further boost conservation efforts, the Thailand Wildlife Enforcement Network committee combats illegal wildlife trade. As part of this, a review of illegal wildlife trade was launched. Additionally, campaigns on the new Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act and reducing demand for wildlife meats and products were launched. The committee was established in December 2020 as the policy body to support law enforcement teams to better tackle illegal wildlife trade. Today the committee comprises 28 key government agencies, including the Department of National Parks, Royal Thai Police, C Anti-Money Laundry, Department of Special Investigation, and Court of Justice. In 2021, the committee came together to form an ad-hoc Pangolin Task Force and brought 12 wildlife trafficking cases for prosecution.

DON'T CHOOSE EXTINCTION



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Don't Choose Extinction – Frankie The Dinosaur and celebrities worldwide warn the world about the climate crisis

UNDP joined a global campaign called “Don't Choose Extinction” to disseminate a powerful message on fighting climate change and tackling inequality through the character, Frankie the Dinosaur. Worldwide, celebrities made media appearances on top-tier morning and news shows reaching 367 million people, while their social media posts reached over 118 million hits. The global campaign launch video, which had 1.2 billion views and was dubbed in Thai by a local artist, Kornkan Sutthikoses, urged humans to take stock of the climate crisis and change course before it is too late. Frankie's message also appeared on 200 digital billboard screens across 5 provinces in Thailand.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jcgzOthKUs>



Bang Tabun Mangrove Forest Conservation Area

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Leveraging Biodiversity Finance for Conservation Efforts

UNDP's BIOFIN initiative promotes economies that benefit, both, people and the planet. The Covid-19 pandemic further highlighted the linkages between the health of our planet and that of our economies.

UNDP supported the draft Biodiversity Act in Thailand and identified opportunities in the draft legislation that could lead to effective planning and implementation of biodiversity management. UNDP worked with the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources and Koh Tao Municipality to map local fishing zones and coral reef restoration areas. As a result, a restoration plan was endorsed and approved by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources and funds were channelled for Koh Tao coral reefs restoration.

The private sector also has an important role to play in scaling up the impact of biodiversity initiatives.

UNDP provided the evidence and technical backstop to support the development of the first 'biodiversity finance plan for sustainable mangrove management at provincial level', particularly in Phetchaburi province. The focus was on a technical analysis that could persuade the government, prospective investors, and stakeholders on the opportunities available and benefits of investing in biodiversity preservation.

UNDP also supported the development of a tool that brought together enterprises that promote biodiversity and impact investors. The tool provided them with the skills and financial instruments and products that harness impact investment and blended finance approaches in Thailand. This tool was designed for the biodiversity sectors including sustainable fisheries, food waste management, and organisations that work on circular economy and biodiversity investment cases.



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“Bangkama” World Heritage Forest Life and Sustainability Adaptation

A sign that reads “4x4 Car at the turning point” makes it clear that the road ahead leading to the village of Bangkama is difficult to navigate. This steep and bumpy road is the only way to Bangkama and the one the villagers have to rely on for errands such as crop transportation, going to school, and accessing health care facilities. While an attraction for tourists, everyday living in such hard-to-reach places is challenging.

Bangkama village is located at Chaloe Phra Kiat Thai Prachan National Park and is one of the traditional communities in the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex, an area that has been announced as a world heritage site. Because of this, the roads leading to the village are closed to any outside engagement or development.



Even though these restrictions protect the forest area, they come in the way of villagers transporting their agricultural products, travelling to other areas, and accessing education and healthcare outside of their communities. The villages solved this issue by coming together to collect and sell their produce at one time to recover their costs efficiently, and by bringing products from the Banka district back to their village on the same trip. Community-based forest management that aligns with local religious beliefs has been another solution and formed a buffer between farmland and conservation forests.

Maintaining a balance between community members' quality of life and ecosystem restoration is a complicated process. Villagers as well as development agencies are collaborating for better resource allocation, especially in terms of land and water, and to design interventions so that the people of the regions can live without conflict with the ecologically diverse nature around them.

Read more



<https://en.gefsgpthailand.org/bang-kama>



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Being central to the Thai economy, the tourism sector is an important player in terms of BIOFIN activities. With support from UNDP and Raks Thai Foundation, the mayor of Koh Tao endorsed five diverse conservation and environmental protection groups to foster collaborations between small-scale fisherfolk, small-scale taxi boat groups, and women's groups. These groups came together to map, collect, and store tourism-related information and also developed their own materials to promote sustainable fishing activity as a new tourism activity in Koh Tao.

Sustainable fishery practices are closely linked to sustainable tourism activities and have the potential to reduce conflict with diving activities. The BIOFIN team, along with the Department of Marine and Coastal Resource in Koh Tao deployed 15 Fish Aggregating Devices for the local fishing community. This has led to livelihood and biodiversity improvement for 50 local fisherfolks. The devices further helped improve sustainable fishery practices and saved THB1,000 as fuel cost per catch. As a result, fisherfolk in nearby areas are also encouraged to commit to sustainable fishery.

UNDP Hosted German Ambassador's Visit to Low Carbon Cities Project Site in Chiang Mai



Renaud Meyer, UNDP Resident Representative to Thailand was joined by H.E. Mr. Georg Schmidt, Ambassador of Germany on a field visit to Chiang Mai in northern Thailand to promote UNDP's Low Carbon City project. During the visit, the project's public and private sector partners introduced the team to the use of clean energy in major cities across Thailand. The Ambassador met with the local government,

local private firms, and academics on how Chiang Mai, one of the pilot project sites, was able to introduce cost-effective solutions. These included more electric vehicles for urban transport and changing local peoples' behaviour towards adopting energy efficient modes of transportation. The discussion also covered how the private sector could use low carbon solutions for efficient productivity.



NM Neo-Mind and the Panare Artisanal Fisheries Association under the support of UNDP and the Japanese Government worked together to promote women's empowerment through "Southern Border Local Cuisines: Local Wisdom and Beliefs, Women's Role in Inheriting of Cultural Heritage" project in Pattani Province.

Section 3

Strengthening Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

It is a priority for UNDP that people living in Thailand, especially those at risk of being left furthest behind, are able to participate in and benefit from development, free from all forms of discrimination. Some of the root causes of vulnerable groups slipping back into poverty lie in gender inequality, lack of equal opportunity, the digital divide, and social discrimination.

UNDP's experiences over the years point to the fact that human capital is improved when institutions and partnerships are strengthened to empower people. UNDP's work is designed to increase engagement at the sub-national level among communities, foster dialogue, and empower vulnerable groups, particularly women, LGBTI groups, youth,

the elderly, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Through diverse programmes, UNDP ensures these groups can access services and are included in decision-making processes. These goals are best achieved by bringing key partners together to collaborate on sustainable solutions that best fit the local circumstances of vulnerable groups.

Fostering Gender Equality

UNDP's work has empowered young women entrepreneurs, particularly in communities affected by Covid-19, to improve food security and safety. In 2021, UNDP built the capacities of women entrepreneurs to set up micro-businesses with a focus on accessing funding, raw material, and quality at a fair price. UNDP built vocational skills of women and youth to reduce learning inequality and create new opportunities.

UNDP supported CSOs to develop a draft legal gender recognition law that recognizes the gender identity of transgender and non-binary people. Through a series of consultations CSOs jointly developed the draft law and a legal drafting committee was set up to which UNDP provided support. As a part of this, UNDP encouraged discussions around good practices from other countries and provided guidance in terms of human rights standards to ensure the draft law is in accordance with emerging international norms and principles.

As per data collected by the Being LGBTI in Asia project, 195 participants of diverse gender identify, sexual orientation, and sex characteristics attended events organized by UNDP in 2021.

Recognizing that diversity and inclusion of LGBTI people in workplaces requires the private sector's involvement. UNDP worked with Sansiri, a real estate company, to support the standards of conduct for business to promote diversity and inclusion of LGBTI people. UNDP and TikTok organised a panel discussion "For Your Pride" on issues of LGBTI equality and the stigma and discrimination that LGBTI people face in Thailand. Further, UNDP collaborated with Unilever Thailand to build capacities of subject matter experts via an Inclusivity Business Partnership Programme that supports gender equality and social inclusion in the context of the SDGs.

A large retail company, Siam Piwat, invited UNDP to work on a campaign titled "DiversCity", which aligned with the company's work to promote diversity and inclusion of people's different identities including size, race, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Campaign launch video:



<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1304374610083800>



UNDP worked with ILO, UN Women, the Ministry of Labour, and the Department of Women’s Affairs and Family Development under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security on policy recommendations for unpaid care and domestic work. The focus was on reducing the unequal burden of unpaid care and domestic work, while improving women’s labour market outcomes and social protection measures.

In order to deepen the impact of women-led initiatives in Thailand, UNDP developed baseline assessments and strategies for four specific landscapes. This allowed the implementation of 51 grant projects funded by Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (SGP) in the target landscapes, namely Mae Lao Watershed, Phetchabun Mountains, Phang Nga Bay and Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex. More than 200 women participated in the landscape strategy development process and 5 of the projects among the 51 grant projects are women-led. According to the project’s gender analysis and action plan, apart from taking action and running activities together with men, women have been more empowered especially vis a vis policy dialogues, decision-making process, and leadership.

Responding to the economic challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic posed, UNDP organized capacity building sessions for transgender sex workers to improve their livelihoods . Makeup training courses were offered for 20 transgender cabaret show dancers and sex workers, who lost their income due to the government’s closure of entertainment businesses during the pandemic. They have used the skills to earn income.

UNDP and the Thai Parliament paid tribute to the contributions of women on International Women’s Day 2021 with the theme “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world”. The joint campaign showcased the contributions of women parliamentary staff and members of the Thai Parliament in response to the pandemic.



https://express.adobe.com/page/hFH9sWVGpwnAr/?fbclid=IwAR31UIBf6r-yyqg5FJQtrOswi3DeHt4zI5lePfbDUT-pYrHG65pDyS1_6Z1



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SWING Food Bank - Diversifying Income Sources to reduce the Covid-19 Impact for Vulnerable Women

Prisana is a 51-year-old sex worker, originally from Sisaket Province, where her family earned a living from paddy farming, while she worked at a department store in Bangkok. Following her divorce soon after the birth of her daughter, she found it difficult to make ends meet as a single mother and the added responsibility of four other family members.

She started working in a bar in 1999, earning between THB 40,000 and 50,000 a month. This was enough for her to take care of her family and to support her daughter's university education. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic reduced her income to THB 10,000, making it impossible for her to meet her expenses. That is when Prisana decided to join the SWING Food Bank Project, where she shared dried food every Thursday and distributed relief items to

members' families. This has allowed her to save up to THB 2,000 baht a month on her family's food expenses. The project also provides her with legal and health services since her occupation is not legally recognized by the social security fund.

The SWING Food Bank project is one of twenty four short-term projects selected by UNDP and funded by the Government of Japan to strengthen socio-economic recovery and human security in Thailand in the context of Covid-19, with the assurance to Leave No One Behind.

Read more



<https://www.undp.org/thailand/stories/bar-lights-go-out>

UNDP joined Muse by Metinee to celebrate Pride Month 2021 in creating better awareness and more acceptance towards gender diversity under the theme “Celebrate with Pride” as we continue to support LGBTQ pride and gender equality for all in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind.



<https://www.facebook.com/musebymetinee/videos/141607254702905/>



Addressing Stigma and Discrimination

The Thailand Policy Lab in collaboration with University of Phayao organized a seminar to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism to review the current situation of violence against women, in local communities, especially in the northern sub-region of Thailand. The seminar focused on policies

and national mechanisms and how they can end gender-based violence in local communities. The seminar raised awareness and mobilized stakeholders to take collective responsibility to fight against sexual and gender-based violence.

Due to stigmatization, discriminatory practices, and limited access to education and training opportunities, persons with disabilities face many potential barriers when finding employment, staying employed, advancing their careers, and achieving equal pay. UNDP in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities commissioned the study on 'Promoting Inclusive Workplace for Persons with Disabilities in Thailand' to explore the current situation of exclusion and inclusion of people with disabilities in the area of employment. Practical measures and policy recommendations were provided through the study for both the private sector and the government to develop a more inclusive workplace environment for persons with disabilities. The findings and recommendations from the study also guide UNDP's work plan on persons with disabilities in 2022.

Digital communication is a significant part of being able to access news and information, but using digital devices can be a challenge for people with disabilities. To address this, UNDP worked with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to improve the accessibility of the Department's website by setting it to AAA standards. AAA is the most preferred accessibility level according to the Website Content Accessibility Guideline. This has made it easier for a variety of audiences to access the website for information related to Covid-19, rights, entitlements, and government services provided to persons with disabilities.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. The campaign calls for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.



Message from Mr. Chuti Krairiksh, Minister of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand



As the minister of Social Development and Human Security, I have seen how collaboration between UNDP and the Royal Thai Government has grown. Since 2015, UNDP has played a role in supporting the Royal Thai Government to achieve the SDGs and build equal access to social and economic resources and opportunities for people of all ages. However, the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic has hampered the implementation of the SDGs. This situation presented an unprecedented challenge to public health as well as economic and social protection to Thais and people around the world. Covid-19 exacerbate previously existing social and economic disparities, particularly among disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. In the face of the **volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity** (VUCA) World and the devastating impacts of the pandemic, UNDP has worked more closely with Thai agencies including the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. This has helped maintain the financial, emotional, and physical well-being of the Thai people. Tackling inequalities and protecting human rights have been prioritized through several initiatives including extending support to hairdressers and organizing activities that benefit women, sex workers, the LGBT community, and people with disabilities.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to UNDP for their work. I am also delighted to note the continuation of the joint programme over the next five years. I believe that the active collaboration between UNDP and Thailand is important for engaging the public, and private sectors, along with, civil society, academia, youth networks, and citizens, so that they can play their active roles in society. This collaboration will definitely drive Thailand to work towards more balanced and sustainable development.

A New Opportunity Amidst the Covid-19 Crisis

Mongkol Pinkaew (Cherry), a 37-year-old, has mobility disabilities of a paraplegic nature and is a wheelchair user. She worked as a souvenir vendor in Pattaya's Walking Street for more than six years before the Covid-19 pandemic forced her to look for ways to earn an income. When the government imposed lockdown measures and closed all tourism venues, including markets and shopping malls, Cherry returned to her hometown in Kamphaeng Phet province. This was the right decision for her at that point, given the high expenses of living in Pattaya without being able to earn money during the lockdown.

Even though she had an academic background in computer and business management, her disability made it difficult for her to find a job in IT. She tried to earn an adequate amount in her hometown by selling small merchandise, but found that she could not make ends meet, because the area is not as commercial as Pattaya. Soon Cherry was almost out of her savings.

That is when she got an opportunity to earn through document typing and online fiction writing. This was made easier through the Vulcan Digital Skills Development training provided by Vulcan Coalition and the Social Administration Foundation in partnership with UNDP. This initiative was part of the Covid-19 Socio-economic Response and Recovery Project, and was financially supported by the Government of Japan.



Today Cherry says that programmes that focus on improving information management and AI technology for people with disabilities are highly required. Digital work is especially beneficial for people with disabilities because it can be done from anywhere with an internet connect.

Read more



<https://www.undp.org/thailand/stories/new-opportunity-amidst-covid-19-crisis>



Jyri Jarviaho, Finland's Ambassador to Thailand, accompanies Renaud Meyer UNDP Resident Representative to Thailand with persons with disabilities navigating Bangkok streets.

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To commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disability, UNDP's Accelerator Lab raised awareness on accessibility. A core part of this was a video that demonstrated the challenges faced by PWDs when navigating the streets of Bangkok and taking public transportation. The video focused on transforming experience of PWDs into data so that others are also aware of the challenges.

The Finnish Ambassador to Thailand joined UNDP representatives on a journey with people with disabilities to learn about commuting on public transport. The journey was broadcasted as a short documentary on 'Bangkok Accessibility Journey - Experimentation on Public Transportation Challenges for PWDs'. The journey touched upon barriers to accessibility and called for collaborative actions from the government, private sector, and civil society to leave no one behind.

This short documentary brought to light the issues for stakeholders in both public and private sectors to prioritise and ensure effective implementation of solutions. With public transport that is accessible to all, PWDs living in both urban and remote areas will have better opportunities to access education, employment, and recreation. UNDP and the Embassy of Finland also co-authored an op-ed piece to highlight the significance disability inclusion in contributing to the acceleration of Agenda 2030.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hieazURRnk>



<https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/2226647/more-must-be-done-for-those-with-a-disability>



UNDP Accelerator Lab Thailand and Youth Co:Lab together with Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage organized workshops for selected youth from Chiang Rai province to learn about social innovation development process using learning-by-doing approach.

Section 4

Innovating and Partnering for a Sustainable Future

UNDP has been a long-standing and trusted partner of the Thai government, and works closely with a rich network of civil society, private sector, and global partners to link with communities across the country. This way, UNDP is strategically positioned to support the country's structural transformation.

In addition to sectoral ministries, in 2021 partnerships have been formed with provincial and local administrations, academia, the media and civil society to provide local, evidence-based solutions that are green, inclusive and

gender sensitive. UNDP also engaged with civil society and community-based organisations, including those representing women and ethnic minorities to collaborate on their holistic empowerment.



UNDP's Accelerator Lab convenes youth in Chiang Rai province to tackle air pollution using innovative solutions through the "Clean Air Heroes" initiative.

Promoting Inclusive Policy Making Through Innovative Policy Labs

Launched in early 2021, the Accelerator Lab brought together grassroots innovations with new sources of real-time data and experimentation to tackle important issues such as air pollution, waste management and the digital divide.

The Thailand Policy Lab launched in late 2020, is a joint initiative between UNDP and the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council that introduces an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to public policy-making and public service delivery in Thailand. The programme taps into insights and the knowledge of people closest to the problem and solutions.

As part of the Accelerator Lab, UNDP piloted a project to tackle air pollution in the Chiang Rai province, and sought solutions by working with local communities and by developing integrated policy analysis and modelling at the subnational level.

The Clean Air Heroes innovation challenge was one such effort under the Accelerator Lab. In collaboration with Chiang Rai governor's office and the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage, this project invited local youth to learn about social innovation processes and to develop local solutions to address air pollution issues in their own communities.

Recognizing that youth are often left behind in the policy design process, Thailand Policy Lab initiated an experiment on how innovation tools, data sources, and participatory methods can make the policy process more inclusive and maximise youth voices. As a result of the Policy Hackathon, which used social media activities to gain insights, it was revealed that Thai youth considered health and well-being as the most relevant and urgent issue that needs to be addressed when designing policy.

Thailand Policy Lab hosted a series of policy discussions on the social media platform, Clubhouse. The discussions focused on the lessons learnt from the Covid-19 crisis, and how the pandemic affected tourism, local economy, and migrant labour. The Clubhouse discussion served as a channel for participants to share knowledge and best practices on relevant solutions, while exploring opportunities for policy change.

Training on sustainable tourism by the Thailand Policy Lab, the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council, and the UNDP Regional Innovation Centre helped policymakers contribute to the national development plans. To further strengthen policy making processes, the Lab produced a draft of policy options that can be adopted to address barriers to sustainable tourism in Phuket and Bangkok .

Thailand Policy Lab and the School of Public Policy, Chiang Mai University co-designed a tool that can be used in workshops for policymakers. This tool encouraged policy makers to focus on empathy and inclusion during policy making. Additionally, The Lab in collaboration with the Thailand Institute of Justice, came up with a toolkit to help administrators incorporate policy innovations into the curriculum of different universities. The aim of this process was to enhance the technical skills of future policymakers.

Thailand Policy Lab also facilitated a global Policy Innovation Exchange to raise awareness on the innovative tools and processes currently being implemented in policymaking and public engagement in the global arena.





Partnering with Key Actors to Catalyse Impact on SDGs

Partnerships with the private sector were strengthened on several fronts, with UNDP supporting the development of an SDG Investor Map and promoting the UN guiding principles on business and human rights. UNDP also mobilised funding from Cargill, which was aimed at reducing leakage of organic and plastic waste, and in turn has leveraged partnerships with other entities including the Government Savings Bank.

Through the “SeaShine” initiative, Cargill, UNDP and the Rajabhat Surat Thani University will develop a sustainable and innovative waste management

system on the campus of the university. This goes beyond traditional waste management by integrating other aspects of the SDGs such as gender equality, poverty reduction, strengthening sustainable communities, while addressing climate change. Currently UNDP is well poised to scale up successful initiatives and expand work on entrepreneurial opportunities accessible to everyone; youth engagement; and capacity-building of local authorities and communities. The focus continues to be on SDG localization, diversifying funding sources, working with national and sub-national bodies, and increasing public participation in policy design.

UNDP and the UN

In 2021, UNDP worked with several UN bodies to deepen the range of multi-sectoral efforts that were being implemented across the country.

UNDP, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour, and International Organisation for Migration co-hosted consultations to promote fair and ethical recruitment and employment practices. After the event, participants expressed their desire to improve recruitment systems. Many endorsed the guidelines on ethical recruitment and human rights that helped them ensure decent work. Participants also provided policy recommendations to the government on advancing ethical recruitment and employment.

UNDP in collaboration with ILO, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour, and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Corporate Social Responsibility Network held a workshop titled 'Policy Framework for the Promotion of Responsible Business and Corporate Social Responsibility in Thailand: A policy dialogue in the context of Covid-19 and the upcoming trade and investment opportunities for Thailand (Policy Framework)'. The workshop brought together people from civil society and business to discuss sector specific policy and practice recommendations, and lessons learned from the implementation of international and regional frameworks on business and human rights.

To address issues of security within the country, UNDP and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in collaboration with National Security Council of Thailand launched the "Promoting Human Security Approach to Violence Prevention" project to help foster locally driven solutions to recurring security challenges. The project promoted a people-centred framework to address complex local issues by advocating directly with civil society and security and non-security government agencies.



UN collaboration was demonstrated through the Thailand Policy Lab, where UNDP led a series of training sessions on community-based tourism for groups across Thailand. The training was conducted to build knowledge on implementing and utilising customized tools to enhance capacity and productivity of communities on sustainable tourism.



UNDP and UNODC organised the multisectoral dialogue to exchange knowledge and innovative solutions on reduction of violence through human security framework with representatives from the government and the civil society in Thailand.

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BIOFIN
Covid 19
Crowdfunding



“ Everything is driven reasonably and parallelly. Like tourism, it must go with environment and sustainable. Koh Tao is beautiful and is not too expensive as you thought. Welcome all to Koh Tao. ”

Mr. Chaoyant Thurasakul
Mayor of Koh Tao Sub-district



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Thailand's BIOFIN organized crowdfunding to help clean up the beaches of Koh Tao and to support livelihoods impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The former Mayor of the island, Chaoyant Thurasakul, was selected to join other mayors across the region to learn about designing sustainable urban environments, building smart and inclusive cities, and to support development of sustainable development pathways. Mr. Thurasakul graduated from the 2020 – 2021 Asia Pacific Mayors Academy. “BIOFIN stood ready to support Koh Tao by raising \$92,000 from public donations for a 3-month ocean and beach cleaning campaign. The campaign helped to build trust between the Koh Tao municipality and local people, whose engagement is critically important.” - Chaoyant Thurasakul, Former Mayor of Koh Tao.

UNDP, in partnership with the World Health Organisation released the “Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in Thailand – The Case for Investment” in November 2021. The “Investment Case” study has shown that non-communicable diseases not only have a human and health cost, but also an economic cost. This report provides evidence that Thailand would benefit from the four policy intervention packages that reduce exposure to behavioural risk factors (tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity).

Read the report



<https://www.undp.org/thailand/publications/prevention-and-control-noncommunicable-diseases-thailand-%E2%80%93-case-investment>

UNV and Volunteerism in Thailand

For several years now UN Volunteers have played an integral role in pushing efforts to achieve the SDGs and to help amplify the reach of national and regional activities. While the pandemic placed barriers to these efforts, UN Volunteers were still able to support UNDP's agenda towards gender and social inclusion, public information, mobilising youth, value chain initiatives, and community development. Volunteering is a core part of Thai culture and is energised by the participation of youth. The programme is important because the UN Volunteers embody the ideals and values of the United Nations and work for development and peace.

In 2021, a total of 132 UN Volunteers, including 78 internationals and 54 nationals, were serving in Thailand. 39 UN Volunteers, 16 internationals and 23 nationals, from diverse nationalities served with UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and Country Office.

The United Nations Volunteers' Regional Office for Asia and Pacific marked the International Volunteer Day 2021 together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This was an opportunity to share their reflections on the theme: 'Volunteer Now for Our Common Future'. The gathering included discussions on using volunteering to achieve the SDGs, community engagement, inclusion, climate change, volunteerism, and a resilient future. The event was also an opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV).

The event highlighted the growing role of volunteerism in Thailand for the SDGs. It was also noted that volunteers played a pivotal part in responding to Covid-19 pandemic.

"Being part of UNDP though the UNV programme and contributing to climate action has captivated me because it provided opportunities for meaningful participation of youth towards tackling global climate challenges in partner countries across Asia and the Pacific." Hyea Yoon Jung, International United Nations Volunteer Specialist, Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions Coordinator



UN Volunteers, Regional Office for Asia, and Pacific team pause for a family photo after celebrating IVD and 50th anniversary of UNV – 2021



Hyea Yoon Jung (left) discussing with her colleague Aminata Camara Traore on their team initiative



Kansiree Sittipooaegkat, Research and Coordination Assistant speaks during an event

"A strong foundation for the public procurement system will facilitate the advancement of SDG 16 with peace, justice, and strong institutions; and specifically encourage anti-corruption. The right transfer of public funds to those who need it most will make way for people's well-being, green economy, and timely climate action. Digital transformation is key to strengthening the governance system by increasing its accountability, integrity, and transparency." - Kansiree Sittipooaegkat, UNV 2021, focused her work with UNDP on transparency, good governance, and the strengthening of social cohesion, including mitigating corruption, enhancing the public procurement system, and promoting social inclusion and diversity.

South-South Cooperation

In 2021, UNDP initiated South-South cooperation initiatives engaging over 10 countries, benefiting Thai partners in key areas such as business and human rights, climate action and SDG integration.

Nepal



UNDP conducted a joint dialogue series with the Youth Council in Action for Nation from Nepal. The youth exchanges comprised episodes covering issues related to youth entrepreneurship, mental health wellbeing, climate change, Covid-19, e-learning and living in the 'new normal.'

India



Indonesia



Malaysia



Mongolia



Myanmar



Sri Lanka



Learning session on Human Rights Due Diligence with India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka through the Business and Human Rights project

India



Indonesia



Mongolia



Pakistan



As Thailand became the first country in Asia Pacific to adopt a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, UNDP co-organized learning sessions on action plan processes with UNDP in India, Indonesia, Mongolia and Pakistan.

Indonesia



UNDP invited the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia to share experiences on tackling climate change.

Republic of Fiji



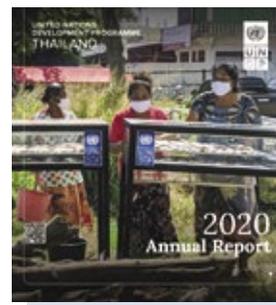
UNDP invited the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji to share how they incorporated the SDGs in reviewing their annual budget law.

UNDP Knowledge Products

Publications can be accessed at



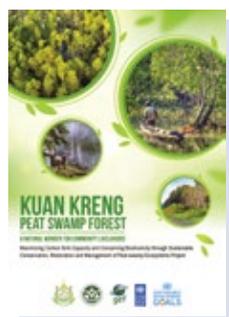
<https://www.undp.org/thailand/publications>



UNDP Thailand Annual Report 2020



SDG Booklet



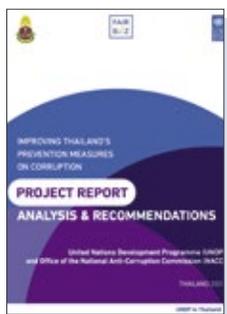
Kuan Kreg Peat Swamp Forest: A Natural Wonder for Community Livelihoods



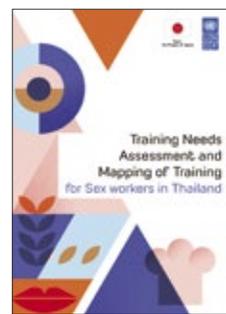
Situation Analysis of Substance Use among LGBT Communities in Thailand



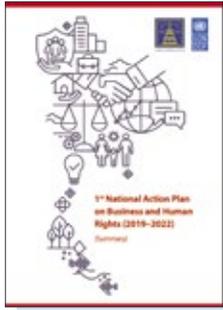
The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)



Improving Thailand's Prevention Measures on Corruption



Training Needs Assessment and Mapping of Training for Sex workers in Thailand



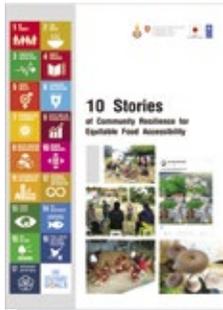
NAP and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in Thailand



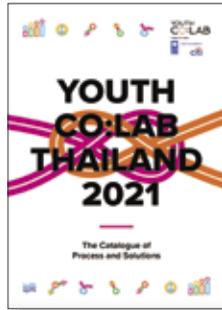
Handbook for Local Food Systems Planning and Projects



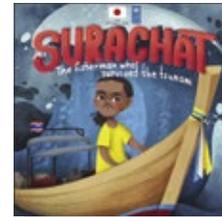
Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in Thailand – The Case for Investment



10 Stories of Community Resilience for Equitable Food Accessibility



Youth Co:Lab Thailand 2021 Report



Surachat: The Fisherman who survived the Tsunami



แนวทางการจัดทำแผนความต่อเนื่องสำหรับการบริหารความพร้อมต่อสภาวะวิกฤตขององค์กรปกครองส่วนท้องถิ่น กรณีศึกษา COVID-19



รายงานคำแนะนำในการปรับปรุงแผนบริหารความต่อเนื่องสำหรับการบริหารความพร้อมต่อสภาวะวิกฤต กรณีศึกษา COVID-19

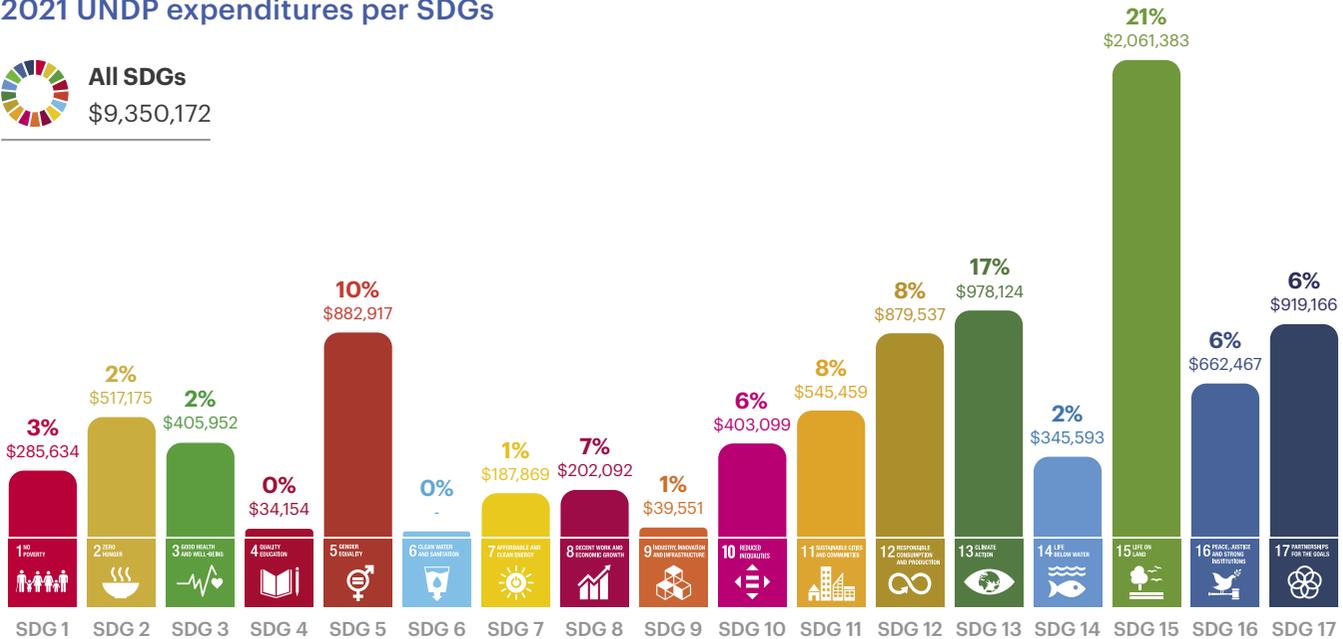


SDG Guidebook

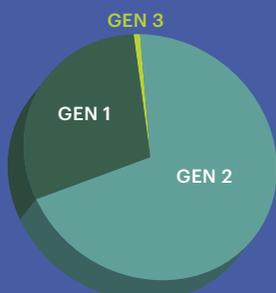
UNDP Funding

2021 UNDP expenditures per SDGs

 **All SDGs**
\$9,350,172



UNDP contribution to gender equality



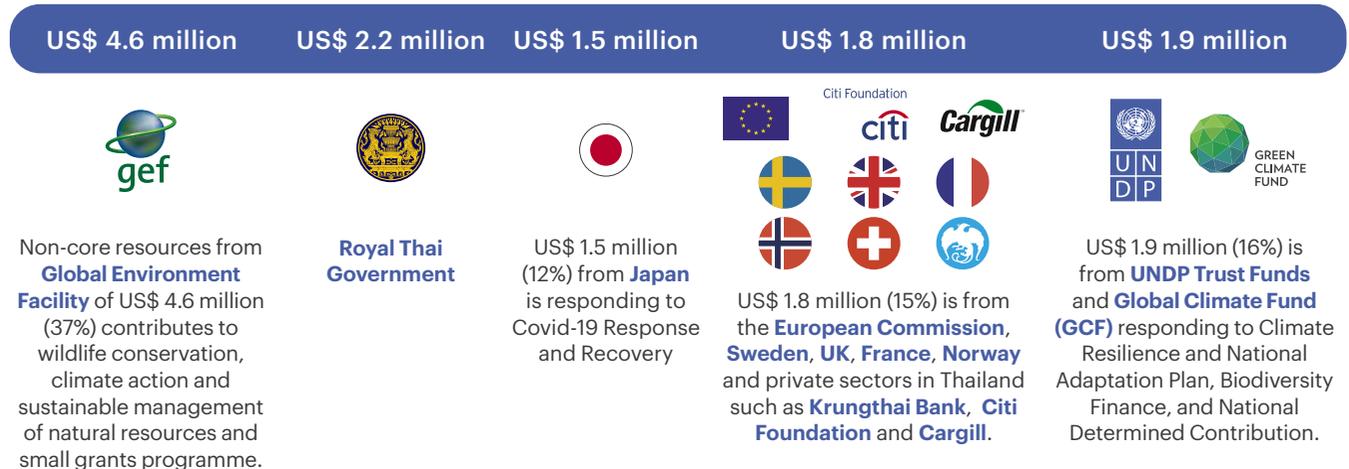
Percentage of expenditure per gender marker

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

In 2021, UNDP implemented several national and regional projects, of which 1% of the total expenditure went to projects that had gender equality as their principal objective (GEN3), 69% of expenditure had gender equality as a significant objective (GEN2), and 30% of expenditure contributed to gender equality in a limited way (GEN1).

Contributing Partners

In 2021, UNDP has mobilized over US\$12 million from the Royal Thai Government as well as international and local donors. This is the highest annual non-core resource mobilized during the current country programme cycle 2017–2021.



Core donors to UNDP global

Regular resources, or core, is the pillar of UNDP’s support to countries to eradicate poverty and inequality, attain sustainable development, and strengthen resilience to crisis. Core resources allow UNDP to enable coordinated, flexible, and rapid responses to development needs and emergencies; provide capability for multi-sectoral and integrated solutions; support countries to leverage financing for the SDGs; and enhance thought leadership, innovation, and quality assurance. We would therefore like to thank our partners at core:



All financial figures are provisional as of April 2022 and subject to change until the completion of audited financial statements

UNDP Commitment to Prevention of Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation, and Abuse

All forms of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse are unacceptable and are prohibited in UNDP, whether perpetrated against a recipient of assistance or a coworker. Sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse violate human rights and are a betrayal of the core values of the United Nations. It is our collective priority to prevent such behaviours and to support those affected. We are also committed to ensure that all allegations of sexual harassment and abuse are responded to swiftly, appropriately and effectively.

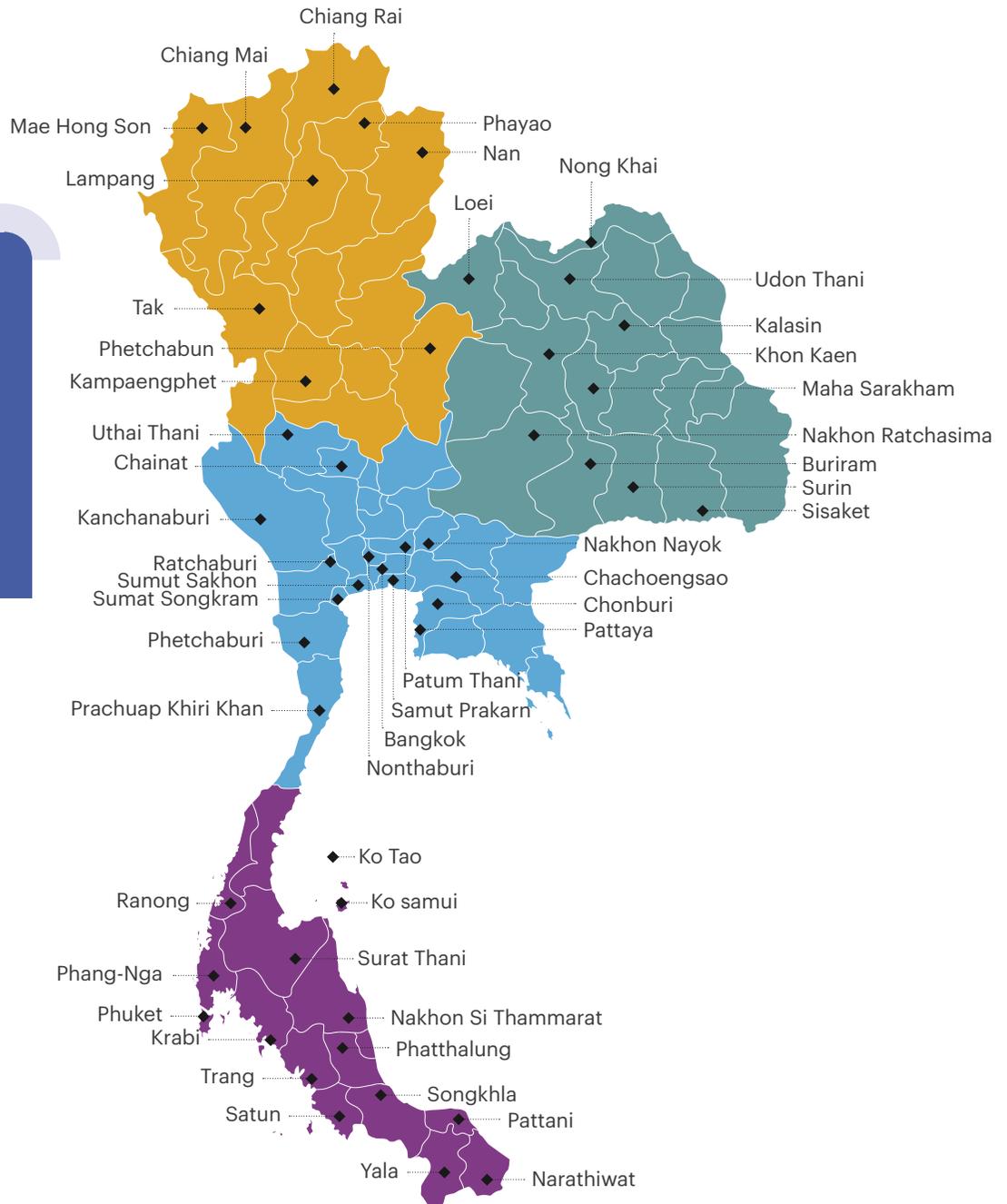
UNDP adheres to the standards of conduct related to sexual harassment are covered by the policy on harassment, sexual harassment, discrimination, and abuse of authority. For more information visit:



<https://www.undp.org/accountability/prevention-and-response-sexual-misconduct>

Who we are and where we work

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





UNDP Thailand team

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UNDP Thailand Team as of 31 December 2021

The UNDP team consists of 67 staff members: 62 are Thai nationals and 5 are from other countries: China, France, Mauritius, Norway, and Sweden.

Out of the 67 staff members, 46 are women, 14 are men and 7 are LGBTI.

The academic and professional background of the team includes communications, government affairs, law, international development, social and political science, business, environmental science, forestry, providing a wide range of skills and expertise to support the implementation of the UNDP Programme.

67
Total



46 Women **14** Men **7** LGBTI

List of acronyms

BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PWD	People with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIP	Social Innovation Platform
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNITF	United Nations Interagency Task Force
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNV	United Nations Volunteers



Name of Annual Report 2021 Committee

Renaud Meyer – Resident Representative

Lovita Ramguttee – Deputy Resident Representative

Kirke Kyander – Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Advisor

Reidun Gjerstad – SDG Advisor

Nittaya Mek-aroonreung – Resource Management Associate

Wadee Deeprawat – Communications and Outreach Specialist

Sukuma Uttarak – Communications and Engagement Assistant

Nichakarn Kaveevorayan – Programme Associate

Kanokporn Jaroenrith – Programme Analyst - RBM

Remya Sasindran – Annual Report Writer

Nick Maddock – Language Editor

This report has been prepared with inputs from Programme Officers, Project Managers and Project Communication Officers.

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22nd Floor, Ocean Tower II,
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Bangkok 10230 Thailand
Tel: +66 (0)2 943 7166
Email: contact@scandmedia.com



UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
THAILAND

14th Floor United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Email: undp.thailand@undp.org | Tel: +66 2 288 3350



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