



**DISABILITY INCLUSIVE  
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
OF UNDP THAILAND  
2022-2026**

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## FOREWORD

The Disability Inclusive Development Strategy of UNDP Thailand has been formulated to support and guide the implementation of its Country Programme (2022-2026) and reaffirms the centrality of the “Leave No One Behind” principle at the core of Agenda 2030 and the UNDP Strategic Plan. It adopts a rights-based approach centered on empowerment, inclusion, equity, and human development. This strategy highlights how UNDP works with state and non-state actors as well as UN agencies in Thailand to support the country’s commitments toward persons with disabilities. The objective is to ensure that they are able to enjoy their rights and fundamental freedom on an equal basis with others without any discrimination and can participate in as well as benefit from inclusive development.



## INTRODUCTION:

Persons with disabilities are one of the largest minorities and most vulnerable groups in Thailand. According to the Disability Survey conducted by the National Statistical Office (2017), disability prevalence in Thailand was 5.5% of the population, equivalent to 3.7 million people. The proportion of persons with disabilities living on less than \$1.25 a day was 16.1%, which indicates extreme poverty. UNDP Thailand aims to improve the lives of the people in Thailand and knows that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will never be fully achieved if persons with disabilities are left behind and not meaningfully included in development.

## INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL REFERENCES

The Disability Inclusive Development Strategy of UNDP Thailand is inspired by and contributes to the following frameworks.

### INSPIRATION:

- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD)
- UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS)
- Person with Disability Empowerment Act (PDEA)

### CONTRIBUTES TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF:

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 20-Year National Strategy
- 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan
- Thailand 4.0 Policy
- National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2019-2022)



# CHALLENGES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THAILAND

- lack of accessibility of physical and virtual environments
- institutional and attitudinal barriers;
- being unable to access the educational system and lack vocational training opportunities
- unemployment, high cost of living, poverty
- mental health
- being abandoned in climate change crisis or during natural disasters
- intersecting vulnerabilities regarding multidimensional identities (gender, age, and geographical areas)



## UNDP AS A PARTNER IN SUPPORTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THAILAND

With a strong emphasis on the Leave no one behind agenda under UNDP's new Country Programme for Thailand (2022-2026) and building on previous interventions to support diversity and inclusion in partnership with both state and non-state actors, UNDP is committed to strengthen its support towards persons with disabilities in Thailand through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, leveraging on the below resources, expertise and networks.

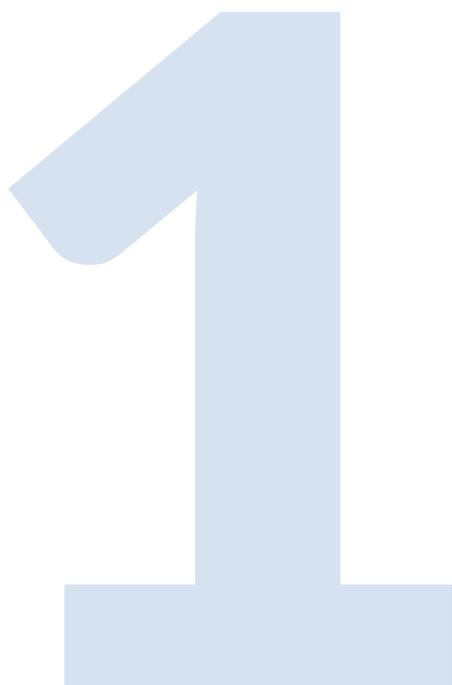
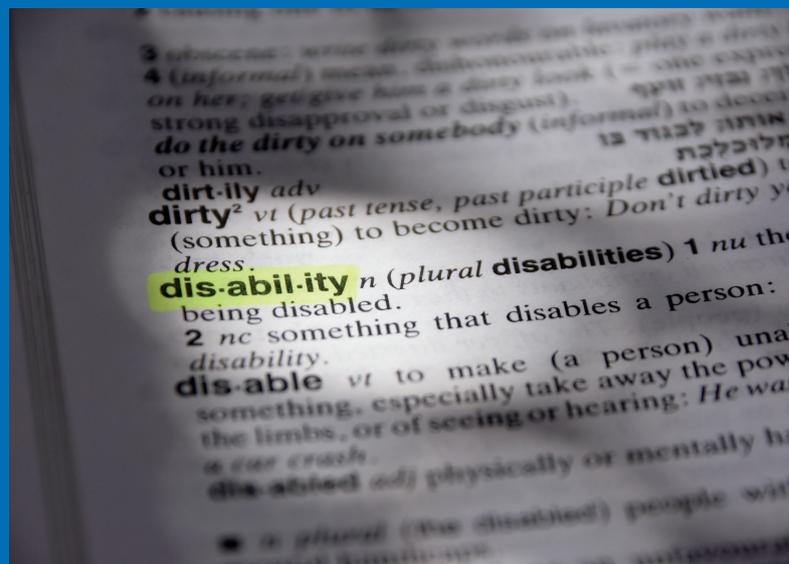


- a) UNDP's convening power and impartiality allows the organization to be a mediator, strengthening partnerships between government, private sector, academia, civil society, and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and connecting them to work collaboratively to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities in Thailand.
- b) Leveraging on its mandate related to SDG integration, UNDP's programming and policy support towards persons with disabilities will ensure that the challenges they face are tackled in a holistic and integrated manner.
- c) UNDP has developed a strong partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, and signed agreements with the Thai Parliament, the League of Municipalities and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand to promote and protect human rights of persons with disabilities and foster their inclusion in the Thai society and economy.
- d) UNDP can leverage the expertise and resources available through its global networks to bring and connect Thailand with knowledge and good practices from other countries and provide real-time advisory as well as capacity building support to its partners on disability inclusive development.
- e) Through UNDP's ongoing interventions on business and human rights, UNDP can further expand its engagement with private sector to adopt more inclusive approaches toward persons with disabilities.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS

PROMOTING EQUAL RIGHTS  
STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT  
MAINSTREAMING DISABILITY INCLUSION



## 1.Promoting equal rights:

To promote the equal rights of persons with disabilities, UNDP works with both duty bearers and rights holders.

For duty bearers such as government, private sector, civil society, and media, awareness raising and capacity building initiatives on disability rights, including disability equality and language sensitivity, are implemented to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are better protected and fulfilled.

UNDP also collaborates with its partners to empower persons with disabilities as rights-holders for them to be aware of and better able to claim their rights and ensure their voices are heard.

## 2. Economic empowerment:

To promote meaningful employment of persons with disabilities, UNDP provides technical advice to the government in revising laws and policies related to employment of persons with disabilities in order to accommodate both employers and persons with disabilities job seekers.

UNDP works with both demand and supply sides. Regarding demand side, UNDP strengthens business sector's capacity and addresses the perception and attitudes of employers on hiring persons with disabilities, with the aim of building an inclusive workplace. UNDP also seeks to empower persons with disabilities job seekers through training programmes, such as digital skills training, and support entrepreneurs with disabilities to start their own business.



### 3. Mainstreaming disability inclusion:

UNDP leverages its capacity on SDGs integration to mainstream disability inclusion in different sectors, including social, economic, environmental and political, and extend disability inclusion in the engagement with both national and local partners.

UNDP is strengthening its partnerships with national and local Organizations of Persons with Disabilities through regular consultations to ensure that UNDP's initiatives and projects are disability-inclusive.

UNDP collaborates with other UN agencies to promote disability inclusive development in Thailand. The collaboration allows each agency to bring their specific expertise on disability inclusion related to different SDGs to ensure that persons with disabilities will not be left behind in the achievement of the 2030 agenda.



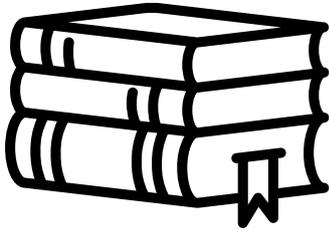
# TARGET BENEFICIARIES



The work under these three priority areas benefits all persons with disabilities living in Thailand, irrespective of their disability type.

If persons with disabilities are better accepted by society and inequalities are reduced, they will fully enjoy their rights and be able to meaningfully participate in and contribute to society.

When it comes to empowerment of individual persons with disabilities, UNDP aims to reach out to persons with disabilities with intersecting vulnerabilities who are left furthest behind. They include youth and women with disabilities, LGBTI people with disabilities, persons with disabilities who belong to ethnic minority groups, and persons with disabilities living with HIV.



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