**Programme Framework of Support in response to Thailand’s development challenges and in supporting the achievement of the SDGs**

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| **UNPAF Outcome:** “By 2021, systems and processes are more effective and equitable to progressively advance inclusive, sustainable and people-centred development for all people in Thailand’ |  |
| **Expected CP Outcome:** Same as UNDAF Outcome |  |
| **Implementing Partner:** UNDP |  |
| **Responsible Parties:** UNDP, Government of Thailand, civil society organizations (CSOs), research organizations, foundations, etc.    2021 AWP budget: USD XXXXXXXX  Total resources required: USD 400,000  Total allocated resources: USD XXXXXX   * Regular: USD XXXXXX * Other:   + Donor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   + Donor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   + Donor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   + Government \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Unfunded budget: USD XXXXXXX  In-kind Contributions -  Project Period: Jan 2021 – Dec 2021  Atlas Award ID: TBA  Atlas Project ID: TBA  Start date: 1/01/2021  End Date 31/12/2021  PAC Meeting Date TBC  Management Arrangements: DIM |  |

# BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In Thailand, due to COVID-19, Thailand is facing severe socio-economic effects of the global pandemic. Economic impacts are caused by both demand and supply factors, as well as control measures on economic and social activities to reduce the number of infections. At sector-level, initial impact was felt on the travel and tourism sector since the outbreak started in China earlier in 2020. As the infection cases in Thailand continue to rise and stricter measures are enforced, the health crisis is affecting all the economic and social sectors in Thailand at an unprecedented scale. The Bank of Thailand sharply revised down the country’s 2020 GDP growth forecast from 2.8% expansion to 5.3% contraction[[1]](#footnote-1)—the worst performance since the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997.

COVID-19 will affect all people in Thailand but will hit the most vulnerable hardest. While the risk of infection to COVID-19 and its economic impact are already felt by all, analysis from across countries reveals that those who are economically and socially vulnerable are the most affected. Informal workers have also been affected immediately, as they lack access to contributory social protection and entitlements at workplaces, like paid leave or sick leave. According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) Informal Economy Survey, 2019, 20.4 million people or 54.3% of the labour force are in the informal sector. Most of all, the countries’ poverty and inequality could rise drastically, as the number of ‘new poor’, affected by COVID-19 is also expected to rise.

A lesson from global experiences of health crises is that these shocks have a long-term impact that profoundly deepen inequalities and undo progress on sustainable development. Lessons from the past show that effective response must be taken immediately and proactively, driven by solidarity, science and human rights. It is critical that responses minimize SDG regression and recovery time. Key to achieving this is to target vulnerable groups from the outset in line with the logic of a human centred development framework and human rights principles.

COVID-19 has also revealed the vulnerability of global systems to protect the environment, health and economy. There is an increasing recognition of how multiple economic, social and institutional drivers exacerbate environment risks, impacting on human health and increasing the burden on health services. Fundamental to a transformational and green recovery will be early action on a longer-term agenda to address climate change, avoid habitat loss and fragmentation, reverse the loss of biodiversity, reduce pollution and improve waste management and infrastructure.

In addition to ongoing interventions in the country. UNDP Thailand has begun incubating a number of strategic initiatives aimed at ensuring UNDP is ‘fit for purpose’ to deliver a new generation of solutions in line with the challenges the country faces. This reflects a combination of a) formulation of a new programme development for the country aligned to its needs and priorities, b) policy advocacy interventions, c) resource mobilisation efforts in view of addressing the most pressing needs of the country, d) a strengthened youth engagement vis-à-vis the SDG agenda and e) an improved communication and knowledge management strategy in support of south-south cooperation

# OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The purpose of this Project is to enable UNDP to respond more flexibly and effectively to emerging needs from the Royal Thai Government mainly vis-à-vis the above-mentioned areas.

The Project will also provide a platform for the formulation and/or strengthening of frameworks, mechanisms and tools in areas such as knowledge management, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and innovation, which can facilitate and expedite the country’s development process. In addition, it will house interventions for UNDP’s support to the Government in identifying national priorities and setting the national agenda for localizing the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as developing mechanisms and tools to implement and monitor these goals at central, provincial and local levels.

It will also facilitate engagement and collaboration between government and civil society organizations, as well as collective action, towards achieving the outputs identified.

In addition, it will support and serve as a resource mobilization platform for piloting new and innovative strategies and approaches in UNDP’s areas of technical assistance, with a view to contributing to an inclusive, equitable and human development focused growth of the country.

As such, under this overall umbrella framework, the Project will support the following efforts among others:

1. house upstream policy interventions, including support to policy formulation and advocacy.
2. accommodate capacity building support to strengthen systems and processes for national-level development planning, plan implementation and monitoring the effectiveness of development interventions.
3. accommodate requests from the Government for additional programme-related support which does not fall strictly within UNDP’s existing programme frameworks, but are nevertheless relevant to achieving the outputs and outcomes under the UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD).
4. house interventions for UNDP’s support to the Government in localizing and institutionalizing the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, including mechanisms and tools to implement and monitor development goals at central, provincial and local levels.
5. Facilitate engagement and collaboration between government and civil society organizations as well as collective action for addressing a range of development issues.
6. house initiatives on South-South and triangular cooperation, innovation, and knowledge management.
7. support and serve as a resource mobilization platform for piloting new and innovative strategies and approaches in UNDP’s areas of technical assistance with a view to contributing to an inclusive, equitable and human development focused growth in the country.

# PROPOSED OUTCOME, OUTPUTS AND INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES

The interventions proposed under this Project will contribute to the current CPD Outcome namely “By 2021, systems and processes are more effective and equitable to progressively advance inclusive, sustainable and people-centred development for all people in Thailand’ and also across all the 10 CPD outputs, given the cross-cutting and integrated nature of the proposed interventions. In addition, it will support the development of the future programming cycle of UNDP in Thailand

In discussion with ongoing discussions with the Royal Thai Government, the Project will potentially support the achievement of the following Outputs and through the corresponding activities and interventions:

**Output 1: Support the formulation of a new Country Programme Document for UNDP (2022-2026)**

The Thailand CPD 2017-2021 is expected to contribute to the vision of the 20-Years National Strategy 2018-2037 and the 12th NESDP, which aims to transform “Thailand as a developed country with security, prosperity, and sustainability in accordance with the principles of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy”.

With the current UNPAF coming to an end in 2021, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO), the UN system in Thailand is currently developing a Common Country Assessment (CCA) which will inform the development of the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Thailand for the period 2022-2026. In view of UNDP Thailand’s current CPD also ending in 2021, a mid-term review (MTR) of the ongoing CPD was undertaken at the end of 2019 to review UNDP Thailand’s ongoing work, assess changes in the programme and operational environment towards the achievement of the desired targets and outcomes, stock take the results achieved and lessons learnt from programme implementation, and, in view of new developments in Thailand, shape the strategic and programmatic focuses of the programme in view of better responding to the needs of Thailand in supporting its efforts in achieving the SDGs.

UNDP Thailand is now planning to design a new CPD for Thailand which will entail the following key interventions:

1. an evaluation of its current CPD for the period 2017-2021 in view of informing the development of its next CPD for the period 2022-2026
2. the design of the new CPD in a consultative process

**Output 2: National and sub-national partners supported through policy research, analysis and advocacy**

UNDP has continuously supported the Government and other partners in the areas of policy research, analysis and advocacy. For instance, Human Development Reports (HDRs), prepared at the global, regional and national levels, are meant to raise public awareness and trigger action on critical human development issues. These reports have been evidence-based resources for policy development and reforms, and have mobilized partners to work together to address development issues.

Within this Output, UNDP would look at more upstream support to government and civil society interventions on areas such as environmental sustainability, disaster resilience, good governance, social integration, and gender and youth empowerment. The following are some indicative activities of potential technical assistance:

* Raise awareness and advocacy on the findings and recommendations of the 2021 National Human Development Report titled “Sufficiency Economy Philosophy: Empowering People and Communities to Achieve the SDGs and Human Development” and triggering action on critical human development issues
* Advocacy on the socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19, the 2020 GHDR to push for change and transformation at both national and sub-national level and producing policy analysis and support to the priority setting and nationalization and localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals
* Support to long-term evidence-based policy formulation in priority sectors, involving a collaborative network of academics, government officials, professionals, civil society representatives, media, etc., with a view to institutionalizing sound policy formulation systems and approaches
* TO INCLUDE OTHER COMMS RELATED EFFORTS

**Output 3: Strengthen youth engagement for the SDGs**

In line with UNDP’s global strategy on Youth and aligned with national priorities, UNDP Thailand has developed a Youth Strategy focusing on 3 main pillars namely:

a) civic engagement - Increasing youth partic­ipation for sustainable development through civic engagement. UNDP creates platforms to connect youth with government and other partners to ensure their voices are heard and support their contribution to development

b) economic empowerment - Ensuring sustainable livelihoods for youth through economic empowerment. UNDP strengthens youth capacities on entrepre­neurship and innovation through public & private partnership to provide better economic opportunities

c) change agent for the SDGs - Engaging youth in the achievement of the SDGs. UNDP exposes youth to complex development is­sues and creates platforms for collaboration with local communities and connects them to global experiences

In view of supporting the implementation of this strategy, the following interventions are envisaged:

* Youth related events and advocacy
* Youth survey?
* Etc

**Output 4: Strategic framework, mechanisms and tools for South-South and Triangular Cooperation developed**

The focus is to develop a strategic knowledge sharing mechanism whereby Thailand is well positioned to exchange its knowledge and expertise with and gain from the experience of other countries in the South and particularly within the region.

UNDP Thailand is well-positioned to facilitate the development of such a framework and the establishment of relevant mechanisms since it has the ability to draw from the experience and know-how of its regional knowledge hubs and country offices which have put in place similar mechanisms.

UNDP Country Programme actions on South-South and Triangular Cooperation will be integrated under this output, which will cover UNDP’s thematic focus areas, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, environmental management, good governance, social integration, and gender and youth empowerment*.* Emphasis will be placed on sharing of and collaborating on new and innovative ways of addressing systemic and structural issues and barriers. These interventions will also leverage on the work of the UNDP Accelerator Lab and the Thailand Policy Lab

INSERT HERE REFERENCE TO TCAC and related events as potential interventions

**Output 5: Support resource mobilisation and financing potential for Thailand in view of addressing key development challenges**

**GCF**

**Coral Reef**

**IKI**

**SDG Impact Framework**

**Etc**

**Output 6: Strengthen SDG localisation**

UNDP’s support has led to the approval by the National Council on Sustainable Development of an SDG Roadmap for the country reflecting both integration of SDGs into the national strategy and SDGs Localization. The Government has selected pilot sites (9 provinces and 5 local administrative organisations) for SDG localistation which will form the basis for UNDP to engage strategically with NESDC on their operationalisation starting with provinces/areas where UNDP already has a presence (from awareness raising to institutional arrangements to integrated planning, costing and financing, implementation and M&E).

This represents an opportunity to foster the SDG integration agenda at the local level, leveraging on the ongoing work in the Deep South through the establishment of social innovation platforms.

Proposed interventions include the following:

* Roll out awareness raising campaign on the SDGs in 2 selected provinces

**Proposed Workplan and budget for 2021 – TO BE CONVERTED INTO A PROPER WORKPLAN WITH OUTPUTS, CORRESPONDING ACTIVITIES, TIMELINE, RP AND BUDGET**

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| **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**  *And baseline, associated indicators and annual targets* | **PLANNED ACTIVITIES**  *List activity results and associated actions* | **TIMEFRAME** | | | | **RESPONSIBLE PARTY** | **PLANNED BUDGET** | | |
| Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Funding Source | Budget Description | Amount |

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| **Activites** | **Account** | **DAS** |
| Outcome Evaluation | Int'l/Nat'l Consultants | 10,000 |
| Youth Engagement | National UNV - Bright | 26,000 |
| Youth Engagement | SC - Kadae | - |
| Communication & Outreach | Contractual Services | 30,000 |
| Project Preparation | National Consultants | 55,000 |
| Parliament | SC - Aticha ($30K), IC - Nattawut $ (25K) | - |
| Direct Project Cost |  | - |
| Pending PO from 2020 |  | 15,034 |
| Youth strategy support |  | 5,000 |
| CPD Development | National consultant – Dr Silaporn | 40,000 |

1. The Monetary Policy Committee Decision, March 25, 2020 <https://www.bot.or.th/Thai/MonetaryPolicy/Documents/PressMPC_22020.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)