

Ref. 157/18/DGSA

28 September 2018

*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

Dear Mr. Hitoshi Kozaki,

**Subject: The Final Report of the Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation project – STEP - Phase II**

I am pleased to submit the Final Report of the STEP II project: Output 3 Local communities more resilient with stronger social cohesion, through the improvement of livelihoods.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Government of Japan for the generous support to this important project over the past 7 years, enabling UNDP to maintain our engagement in this most disadvantaged region of Thailand, and contributing to peacebuilding efforts in an internationally often forgotten conflict.

Our work in the region in the previous phase is by no means over, and as you are aware, we are currently extending a new engagement to the Southern border provinces, building on the work undertaken during the past two phases of the STEP project, related to peace dialogue platforms, and the community social cohesion and livelihoods components.

Additionally, we are building in a new initiative aimed at preventing violent extremism, addressing both national challenges by supporting the development of a framework to prevent violent extremism, as well as building capacities of local communities and young people to promote peace, human rights, tolerance and respect for diversity.

While we have secured short term funding to enable us to fully implement these new initiatives in 2018 and 2019, we would be very grateful if the Government of Japan would consider continuing to support the project in the longer term. In that regard, UNDP stands ready to meet with yourself to discuss this further and share with you a detailed proposal for consideration by the Japanese Embassy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Ramguttee', is placed above the typed name.

Lovita Ramguttee  
Deputy Resident Representative  
UNDP Thailand

Mr. Hitoshi Kozaki  
First Secretary and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP  
Embassy of Japan  
177 Witthayu Road, Lumpini, Pathum Wan, Bangkok 10330

# Final Report

## Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation Project II

Output 3 : Local communities more resilient, with stronger social cohesion,  
through the improvement of livelihoods.

January 2015 - December 2017



From  
the People of Japan

**UNDP-JAPAN Partnership Fund**



**Thailand**

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# Final Report

## STEP II PROJECT

### Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation Project Phase II

January 2015 -December 2017

#### I. BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	
UNDP Project ID	00090901
Project Duration	3 years (January 2015-December 2017)
Reporting Period	January-December 2017
Total Approved Project Budget	Japan – UNDP Partnership Fund: \$ 300,240
Participating UN Agencies	-
Implementing Partners/ National Collaborating Agencies	Prince of Songkhla University, Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre. Office of the National Security Council, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior
Donors	JAPAN-UNDP Partnership Fund
UNDP Contact Officer	1. Wisoot Tantinan, Programme Specialist 2. Naruedee Janthasing, Senior Project Manager 3. Kwanruen Seub-am, Programme Associate

#### II. INTRODUCTION

##### Project Background:

The continual episodes of violence in the southernmost provinces of Thailand, namely Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat are jeopardising human security and development of people living in the area. In addition to becoming direct victims of attacks, local people are indirectly beleaguered by the impact of violence. Residents, of which Malay-Muslims comprise around 80 percent, have to contend with insecurity, disrupted education, and fears generated by the activities of both the insurgents and security forces on a regular basis. The negative impacts on residents include (1) a low level of community security and perpetual threats to personal safety; (2) economic hardships from difficulty securing sustainable livelihoods, particularly for women, and for, youth and those with disabilities; (3) the social exclusion of marginalized groups as a result of distrust and tension in communities; (4) less space for participation in public affairs and democratic governance processes due to the tightening of security measures; and (5) deprived access to government services and justice. In order to stop

violence and promote a future sustained peace settlement, peace initiatives must be built on the support of the majority of the population and address major grievances such as the economic marginalisation of vulnerable groups, limited access to justice, and the distrust within different segments of the population.

The Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation Phase 2 (STEP II) Project combines both conflict-prevention elements and peace-building activities in all deliverables and provides the opportunity for a large number of stakeholders, both government and non-government, to come together with the aim of finding solutions to achieve social cohesion in the southern border provinces. Prince of Songkhla University as the implementing partner, coordinates with responsible parties and stakeholders to address a wide range of challenges in the three southern border provinces and contribute to the achievement of social cohesion and human security to prevent further escalation of the on-going situation of conflict in the region.

### **Project Objective**

The STEP II Project's overall objective is "to foster a resilient society in the southern border provinces of Thailand through expanding participatory planning and sustainable livelihood activities, a holistic approach to justice, and progress towards a peaceful society." Within Thailand's development context, the project seeks to integrate peace building and conflict prevention elements in order to achieve the following specific objectives:

- To broaden peace processes with inclusive participation of all peace networks.
- To enable vulnerable groups to access effective legal services and receive quality legal protection from key duty bearers.
- To empower key communities in need with skills and resources to successfully establish and manage community development initiatives based on locally appropriate and sustainable practices that contribute to improved human security and social cohesion.

### **This project consists of three outputs:**

**Output 1** (Broader participation in peace processes through strengthened capacity of local peace networks and better access to information) aims to support and broaden the peace building process (horizontal peace building).

**Output 2** (Vulnerable groups empowered to access justice with support of key institutions and networks) seeks to ensure that vulnerable people can access legal assistance and that a holistic approach to justice is applied to assist those affected by the conflict.

**Output 3** (Local communities more resilient, with stronger social cohesion, through the improvement of livelihoods) seeks to build social cohesion through inclusivity and participation in community livelihood projects.

To implement the project, the Government of Japan generously provided funding to UNDP to implement Output 3 of the project

### III. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNDP implemented the project “Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation Project phase II (STEP II project)” during 2015 -2017. The project has provided the opportunity for a large number of stakeholders, both government and non-government, to come together with the aim to find common solutions to achieve social cohesion in the southern border provinces and supported activities that enhance capacity development, community empowerment and public participation.

For Output 3 “Local communities become resilient, with a strong social cohesion, through the improvement of livelihoods” of the STEP project, UNDP is awarded financial contribution from the government of Japan through Japan-UNDP partnership.

The project demonstrated how a small grant fund could build social cohesion within community through livelihood improvement and have a positive impact of economic wellbeing among vulnerable groups. The success of 13 local communities supported by small grants has addressed the need of economic empowerment and inclusion. Some projects have already registered as a community enterprise, foundation, while others even successfully developed their own products.

Participatory approach laid a foundation for inclusive local governance and decentralization, using a bottom-up approach. Participatory planning and sustainable livelihood activities will be a means to build participatory governance capacity, to maintain the relationship among religious and cultural diversity, to promote social cohesion and to overcome economic marginalization.

At the end of the project, 10 out of 13 successfully developed community projects, representative of Embassy of Japan in Bangkok, experts and beneficiaries were interviewed and filmed for a documentary. The ten video documentaries were broadcasted on the citizen reporter programme of Thai Public Broadcasting Service channel (Thai PBS), an influential television channel in Thailand, and disseminated through social media such as Facebook, YouTube, and so on, to make people living outside the southern province aware and understand the importance of the project and contribution from the Government Japan in the area.

A series of project reviews, i.e. the spot check, the project working group meeting, the project executive committee meeting, were conducted to review success and lesson learned to inform future engagement in next phase.

## IV. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The project conducted a number of project activities under Output 3 of the project during 2015-2017 with the following achievements

### Output 3: Local communities more resilient, with stronger social cohesion, through the improvement of livelihoods.

Target	Indicator	Result
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eight vulnerable communities are identified with the assessment and baselines on social capital and natural assets report</li> <li>- Eight communities learned on participatory community planning and social cohesion</li> </ul>	Target achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 11 vulnerable communities are identified and supported and learned from participatory community planning</li> </ul>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women and youth groups in at least eight communities are identified and trained for necessary skills in local business development</li> <li>- At least eight communities identified above implement small-scale projects that combine livelihood support with social cohesion promotion.</li> </ul>	Target achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women and youth groups in 13 communities are training for necessary skills in local business development</li> <li>- 11 communities implement small-scale projects</li> </ul>
2017	Community based business operation are up-scaled and supported by local government plan	Target achieved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community –based business operation are supported by Southern Thailand Provincial Administrative Center for marketing and selling the products in other provinces</li> </ul>

#### Result 1: Goods or services to be produced for income generating activities are identified and prioritized in local community plans with the market assessment conducted

##### Activity 1.1: Conduct baseline surveys on social capitals, natural assets and market opportunities

STEP II project has supported a social capitals survey in three sub-districts in the area, wherein residents have demonstrated their interest in volunteering to conduct the survey in their sub-district: The survey was conducted by King Prajadhipok's Institute (KPI) to find value, natural resources, and folk wisdom in communities to devise a development plan for government agencies and help strengthen local governments by public participation through the process of social capital-based development-plan preparation. It has also showcased the process of development planning and budget preparation based upon public participation.

**Activity 1.2: Identify suitable tools and expertise needed, based on the needs assessment and the needs of selected potential areas for intervention.**

The experiences of the project indicated that most of local communities have not been able to access to financial assistance due to their inability to write project proposal and to effectively manage their project even though they are supported. The project has produced a manual on project proposal preparation for community to be distributed to all communities who would like to learn how to prepare project proposal and to manage a project. The manual is authored by the King Prajadhipok's Institute (KPI) which designed and write the manual to be easily understandable to all. In November 2017, 500 copies of the manual were produced and distributed to local communities and all stakeholders.

**Activity 1.3: Commission experts to integrate tools for community planning and local enterprise train on community participatory planning for community leaders, key local stakeholders and local authorities**

The project recruited experts to help monitor, support, and provide consultation to the thirteen sub-projects. Dr. Hamdia Mudor and Ms. Jareeya Arttanuchit, who previously helped implement the income-generation projects in STEP Phase I, provided technical advice to the thirteen-projects from September 2015- June 2017. Key functions include:

- Develop sub-project implementation plans based on the needs, skills and social capital of local communities;
- Provide specific vocational training to the sub-projects;
- Work cooperatively with local authorities to effectively implement the sub-projects;
- Provide consultations on project management, budget planning, product development, and market accessibility for the selected sub-projects; and,
- Engage stakeholders in the activities linked to social cohesion and ensure needs of local people are addressed.

**Result 2: Eight target groups such as female household heads and youths identified from both Muslim and Buddhist communities are assessed on their needs and capacity gaps to receive initial training for the necessary skills to start up activities**

**Activity 2.1 : Conduct communities and target groups baseline**

Communities and target groups baseline was also conducted by the expert team, which include Dr. Hamdia Mudor and Ms. Jareeya Arttanuchit. See more information in activity 1.3

**Activity 2.2 : Provide initial training for selected target groups in community planning and local business development**

Team of expert including Dr. Hamdia Mudor and Ms. Jareeya Arttanuchit was recruited to provide initial training for selected target groups in community planning and local business development. See more information in activity 1.3

**Result 3: Community-based micro and small enterprises established and operated with support from experts and small financial contributions provided**



### **Activity 3.1 : Commence the application process, select proposals and provide funding to at least 8 communities**

To make the selection process of local community groups for small grants systematic and transparent, small grants body and selection criteria were established. A Small Grant Committee was established on 16 April 2015 and had regular meeting since then. Dr.Yusuf Talek, Director of CIS served as the chairperson of STEP Project Management Committee, which included representatives from various project implementing parties, for instance, College of Islamic Studies, Institute for Peace Studies, the Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity, Faculty of Communication Sciences, and King Prajadhipok's Institute. Its functions are to develop the criteria and procedures for small grants and to identify small grants projects and target areas.

The criteria for small grant proposals was created and approved by the Small Grants Committee. The key criteria are (1) A grant of up to USD10,000 available for livelihood improvement projects; (2) Only local communities, community-based organisations, civil society organisations, and non-governmental organizations in the three Southernmost provinces of Thailand are eligible for small grants application; (3) The group should have at least ten members ; (4) The project should be a minimum of 12 months duration; (5) The project should focus on livelihood improvement of people in the three Southernmost provinces of Thailand; and (6) The project can be a new or ongoing project but not being supported by any other funding source.

Eight community groups were selected in the third quarter of 2015 and officially started their projects in October 2015 whereas three more groups were selected in the last quarter of 2015 and started their projects in 2016. The selected eleven local community groups included groups of women, elderly, people with disability, and vulnerable youth in Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat. In the fourth quarter of 2016, Small Grant Committee Meeting was organised to consider additional two livelihood improvement project proposals, which were submitted by local communities from Narathiwat.

### **Activity 3.2: Organize specific training for grant funding recipients**

Trainings were regularly provided to grantee during quarterly meeting. The first small grantees meeting was conducted on 1 September 2015 at C.S Pattani Hotel, Pattani in which 65 participants from various local government agencies and the eight grantees (local community groups), which was provided grants in 2015, were invited to meet and share their experience in running their small grant projects. Local government agencies in three Southern provinces, including the Provincial Office of Non-Formal and Informal Educations, Provincial Public Health Offices, Provincial Community Development Offices, and Provincial Commerce Offices, were also invited to discuss and provide guidance for each community project.

In the meeting, grantees were provided training by expert team including Dr. Hamdia Mudor and Ms. Jareeya Arttanuchit who was recruited to provide technical advice and training to all selected communities. As well, local communities and local government agencies were matched for partnerships. The small grantees meeting was conducted quarterly to exchange knowledge among community groups, maintain the relationship between Buddhist and Muslim families from different communities, and provide links between communities and local government apparatuses.

### **Activity 3.3 : Dispatch experts and field teams to follow-up and to provide advice to grantees**

Team of expert including Dr. Hamdia Mudor and Ms. Jareeya Arttanuchit recruited to provide technical advice also conducted follow-up missions to provide advice to grantee. See more information in activity 3.2

### **Activity 4.1: Compile and produce IEC (information, education and communication) materials that have been used during the program implementation**

Two key publications for development planning and participatory community planning were published and disseminated to the project's counterparts and networks. The materials aim to enhance capacities of local communities using participatory planning for livelihood improvement. The materials include:

(1) A Manual on 'Social Capital-Based Development Plan and Budget Allocation' - A manual on Social Capital-Based Development Plan and Budget Allocation was developed and published in English, Thai, and Malayu. In May 2015, 1,000 copies of the Thai manual and 1,000 copies of the Malayu/Yawi manual were published and distributed to targeted beneficiaries and stakeholders, especially all Sub-district Administrative Organisations in the three Southernmost provinces.

(2) A Book titled "Lessons Learned from the Implementation of Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation (STEP) Project 2010-2014". Upon the completion of the Step I Project, experiences and knowledge gained from the implementation of project activities were captured and summarized as a lesson learned for future project implementation. In 2016, 100 copies of the lesson-learned book were initially printed and distributed.

### **Activity 4.2: Collect progress reports, assess results, and identify and advocate best practices**

The Project Working Group (PWG) Meeting for the Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation (STEP) Project was held on quarterly basis to monitor the progress of each project. The PWG consists of representatives and specialists assigned by responsible parties. The PWG has the following responsibilities:

- To ensure that project activities are implemented and in line with the Project Executive Committee (PEC) guidance and strategies laid down in the project document
- To monitor the implementation of project activities in accordance with the annual work plans as stated in the Project Document and as approved by the PEC
- To review and approve project activities on a quarterly basis while ensuring that such proposed activities take into account any potential impact on available funds
- To provide technical support and substantive advice on particular outputs and activities
- To ensure appropriate and timely delivery of the sub-project results as stated in activity milestones
- To approve changes in activities and project sites or any deviation that may occur at the field level

The most successful outcome of the livelihood-improvement projects supported with small grants was the participation of local authorities in the projects by providing direct help to the groups. Some groups were financially supported, while others were provided with advice, ideas, documentation, labour and

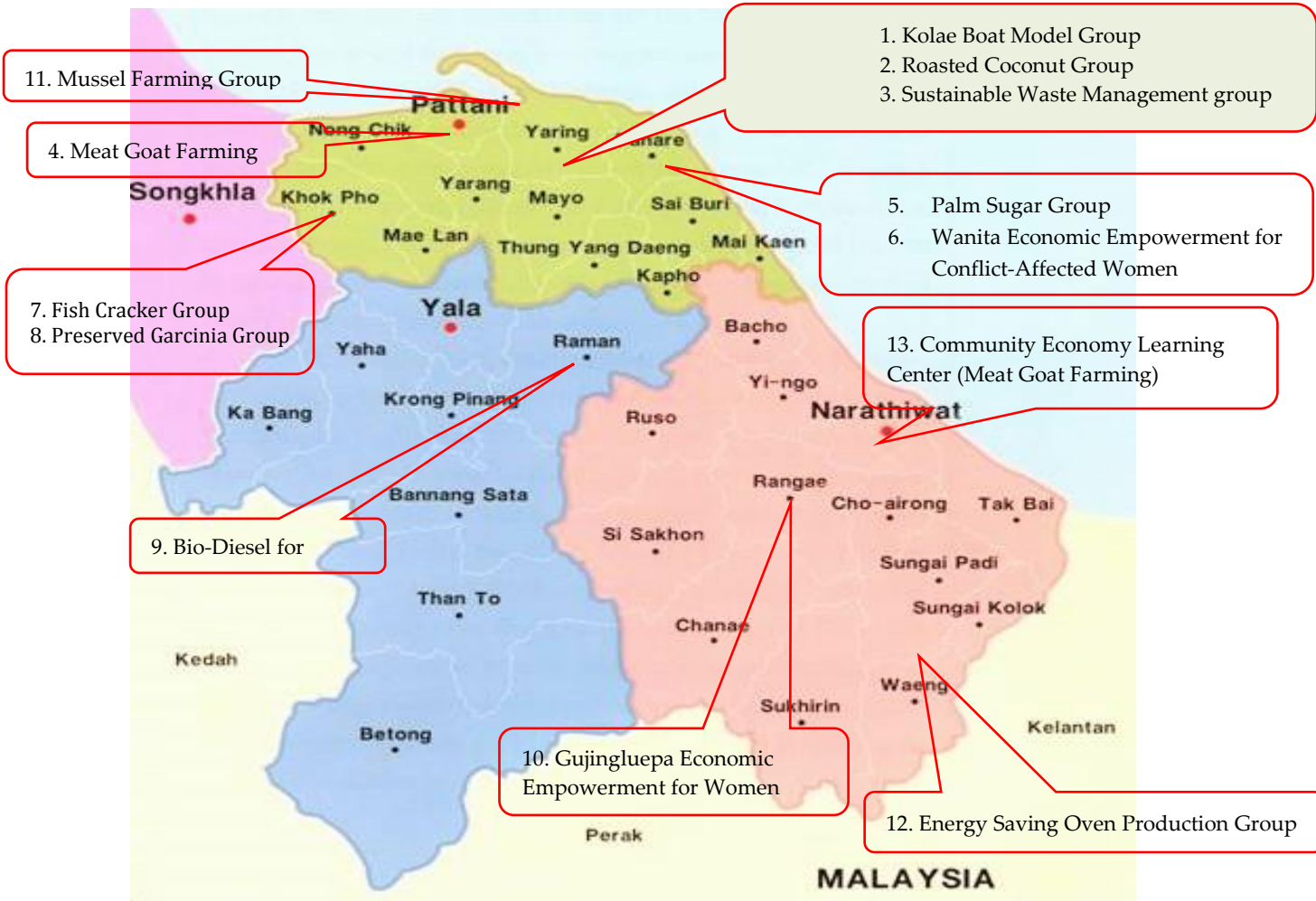
so on to enable their projects to develop sustainably. Thirteen community projects have been supported, directly engaging 328 people, which include 173 men and 155 women.

The thirteen livelihood improvement projects, which had been supported by UNDP’s STEP II project, were categorized as follows:

- Empowerment of women, youth, and of vulnerable groups of people
- Energy and environment preservation
- Creating opportunities for agricultural business

The projects are located in several villages in three southernmost provinces shown on the map below.

**Map of Project Sites**



## List of small grant projects

No	Project	Location	M	F	beneficiary	product	progress
1	<b>Production of Kola Boat Model</b>	<b>Pattani</b> (Datoh village, Laem Pho sub-district, Yaring district)	10	-	Under-privileged children/youth. To take unemployed or vulnerable youth in the community away from the corruptive environment of drug use or dealing.	Kolea Boat Model	The youth has a mutual space to spend their leisure time. Increased income 500-600 THB/Month
2	<b>Roasted Coconut Production</b>	<b>Pattani</b> (Thienya village, Thienya sub-district, Yaring district)	-	10	Conflict-affected women (Buddhists-Muslims mixed community)	Roasted Coconut	Increased income/participation of local government 3,00-5,000 THB/M
3	<b>Palm Sugar Development and Branding</b>	<b>Pattani</b> (Ban Thung and Ban Huakhlong, Panareh district)	20	7	Villagers (Buddhists-Muslims mixed community)	Standard Palm Sugar	Community Enterprise 5,000-6,000 THB/M
4	<b>Dried and Fresh Fish Crackers Production</b>	<b>Pattani</b> (Na Pradu sub-district, Khok Pho district)	3	12	Villagers (Muslim community)	Dried and Fresh Fish Crackers	4,000-5,000 THB/M
5	<b>Development of Prepared/Preserved Garcinia</b>	<b>Pattani</b> (Sai-Khao Sub-district, Khok Pho district)	-	54	Group of Elderly women (Buddhist community)	Garcinia Products: Tea	Community Enterprise 3,000-5,000 THB/M
6	<b>Economic Empowerment for Gujingluepa Conflict-affected Women</b> By Muslima KL Group	<b>Narathiwat</b> (Ra-ngae district)	-	15	Conflict-affected women (Muslim community)	Herbal Fish Crackers	3,000-6,000 THB/M
7	<b>Economic Empowerment for Po-Ming Conflict-affected Women</b> By Warnita Group	<b>Pattani</b> (Panareh district)	-	15	Conflict-affected women (Muslim community)	Roasted coconut/coconut-based products	1,000-1,200 THB/M
8	<b>Energy-Saving Oven Production</b>	<b>Narathiwat</b> (Lochut sub-district, Waeng district)	30	-	Under privileged / Vulnerable youth and children (Muslim community)	Charcoal, Energy saving ovens	6,000-18,000 THB/M
9	<b>Sustainable Waste Management</b> By Laem Pho community group and Laem Pho sub-district Administration Office	<b>Pattani</b> (Laem Pho sub-district, Yaring district)	4	6	Villagers (Muslim community)	-	Awareness of community is raised/clean environment
10	<b>Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise for People with Disabilities</b>	<b>Yala</b> (Raman District)	25	15	People with disabilities and their caretakers (Buddhists-Muslims mixed community)	Bio-diesels/ Product from Bio-diesels	Foundation 3,000-10,000 THB/M
11	<b>Meat Goat Raising</b>	<b>Pattani</b> (Paka Harang, Muang Pattani)	11	1	Agricultural workers and their families (Muslim community)	Meat Goat	Community Learning Centre 5,000-13,000 THB/M
12	<b>Mussel Farming for Fishermen of Pattani</b>	<b>Pattani</b> (Muang)	20	-	Fishermen and their families (Muslim community)	Mussel	Learning center
13	<b>Meat Goat Farming</b>	Hutaetuwo, Khok Kian, <b>Narathiwat</b> (40 households)	50	20	Muslim Agricultures /Farmers	Meat Goat	Goat farm is set and members are trained
<b>Total of direct beneficiaries: 328</b>			173	155			
<b>Each member's income increased approximately 20-50 percent* (*from before &amp; after income interview conducted by Project Management Unit)</b>							

## V. LIST OF SMALL GRANT PROJECTS

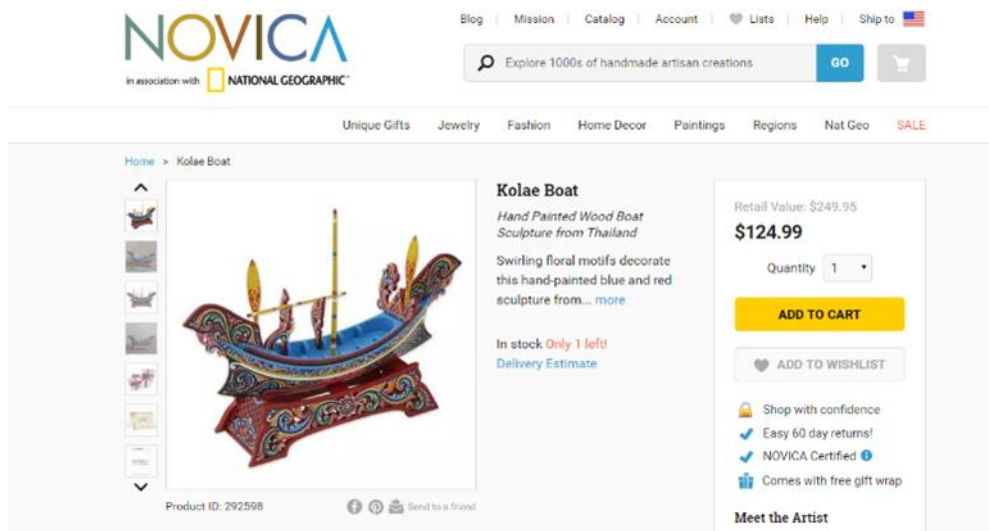
*Category 1: Empowerment of women, youth, and vulnerable group of people*

### 1. Project on “Production of Kolae Boat Model—A Traditional Wooden Boat Souvenir”

The project is located in Ban Datoh, Yaring district, Pattani. Ban Datoh, a coastal village located in Laem Pho sub-district, is a long-time fishing community. Due to the decline of natural resources as a result of decreasing fish stocks, income from fisheries has significantly plummeted. Many villagers travel to Malaysia to seek income, leaving their children behind with the elderly. This coastal community has received some negative impacts from the ongoing conflict and suffers from rampant illicit drug activity, which is quickly spreading among the unemployed youth. Due to the illicit drug situation, robberies are occurring more frequently. In an effort to address and resolve this problem, adults and young men in Ban Datoh decided to set up a group called “Underprivileged Youth Group” and began to provide vocational training for young people to make “Kolae Boat Models” a traditional wooden souvenir. They hope this will dissuade susceptible youth from consuming illicit drugs.

The project provided not only a space for the youth to spend their leisure time to learn to produce Kolae boat model, but also a channel for the group to sell their products. The products were slowly produced because it took a lot of time to produce a single one. Now the group was contacted by Novica, an online shop, to buy their products and sell on the website.

<https://www.novica.com/p/hand-painted-wood-boat-sculpture-from-thailand/292598/>





Handicraft made by youth of Ban Datoh who participated in UNDP project. ©UNDP Thailand/2017

## 2. Project on “Thienya Roasted Coconut”

This project is located in Thienya village, Thienya sub-district, Yaring district, Pattani. Once a harmonious mixed community, recent brutal and violent attacks against Buddhists have strained the relationship between Buddhists and Muslims here. Group members have erected a small building to serve as a space to make their roasted coconut products. They have already established markets to sell their products, sometimes importing to Malaysia. At this stage, the members have been very pleased to glean some profit from this project. They have also been enthusiastic to collectively work to advance the project and are happy to be part of the group. Group members expect the project will not only be a community enterprise but also a relaxing place to share experiences and support one another for those who have lived in fear for an extended period of times due to the conflict.



Member of Thienya Roasted Coconut explains about the product of the group. ©UNDP Thailand/2017



Members of Thienya Roasted Coconut put roasted-coconut in package ©UNDP Thailand/2017

### 3. Project on “Palm Sugar Development”



A member of “Palm Sugar Development Project” is making palm sugar after training by UNDP. ©UNDP Thailand/2017/Naruedee Janthasing

The project on “Palm Sugar Development and Branding” is located in Ban Thung and Ban Huakhlung, Panareh district, Pattani. Ban Thung and Ban Huakhlung are mixed communities, which are located in two adjacent sub-districts—Tha Kham and Ban Noak, respectively—in Panarae district. These two villages are relatively peaceful wherein Muslims and Buddhists still maintain close ties, in contrast to nearby villages, which

occasionally witness violent attacks. Ban Thung has a total population of 458, in which 194 are Buddhist (42.36 per cent) and 264 are Muslim (57.64 percent). Traditionally, villagers earn a living by growing rice, though they produce mostly for household consumption. Some villagers have additional sources of income from fish farming and growing a variety of crops, such as coconuts, palms, beans, and cashew nuts. Others occasionally seek jobs outside the villages. But violence in the surrounding areas has forced villagers to restrict traveling outside the familiar territory, reducing their chances of earning extra income.

The group continued to use palm sugar syrup in their production of granulated palm sugar and sliced palm sugar to meet the demands of their market. Previously, members only produced palm sugar syrup, which generates a lower profit. The group members can earn 50 percent more from selling granulated palm sugar than palm sugar syrup. How much the members can earn depends on how many palm trees they have and how much palm sugar they can collect.

#### 4. Project on “Dried and Fresh Fish Crackers”

The project on “Dried and Fresh Fish Crackers” is located in Na Pradu sub-district, Khok Pho district, Pattani. Na Pradu sub-district has 1,316 households with a population of 3,177. It is a mixed community in which 80 percent of residents are Buddhist and 20 percent Muslim. The most common occupation of the villagers is rubber plantation worker and rice and fruit farmer.

The group has been generating their product in functional areas of the factory and selling it in the local market. Even though it is not a direct conflict-affected group, members live in a conflict area, which limits the villagers’ opportunities to travel freely, work without fear, and find jobs outside their village. Therefore, it is more sustainable for the members to have stable jobs by developing a community enterprise in the village. The group has been unemployed Muslim and Buddhist villagers to be part of production process. However, as Buddhists cannot be involved in the food production process, they are assigned to work on marketing.



A member of “Dried and Fresh Fish Crackers” project in front of new equipment at Na Pradu sub-district ©UNDP Thailand/2017/

#### 5. Project on “Development of Prepared/Preserved Garcinia”



A member of “Development of Prepared/Preserved Garcinia,” project is peeling garcinia at Female agriculture center in Sai-Kao sub-district ©UNDP Thailand/2017

The project on “Development of Prepared/Preserved Garcinia,” is located in Sai-Khao Sub-district, Khok Pho district, Pattani. Sai-Khao is an ancient village with a long history and is rich in natural resources. Villagers from Sai-Khao harvest a large number of agricultural products, particularly well-known seasonal fruits of the South such as durian, longkong, and garcinia. As garcinia is a sour fruit and widely planted in Sai Khao, farmers sell it to merchants at a low price (4-5 Baht/kilogram). The Sai-Khao Agriculturist

Housewife Community Enterprise, which currently has 50 elderly members, was established to process garcinia in order to add value to the fruit. So far, they have created a variety of products from preserved garcinia and want to develop more products. Perhaps most importantly, they wish to acquire a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certificate in order to expand their market. The group would like to apply for the GMP standard since it is a significant component for a successful food business/industry. A public health officer was contacted to provide advice to the group. As the factory of this group is well built, it did not need to be significantly renovated; only some parts were improved to meet the requirements outlined under the GMP



standard. The group has improved the factory and also designed new products. They later decided to produce spicy and sour preserved garcinia.

After successfully creating new products like garcinia tea and spicy preserved garcinia, which were popular with consumers, the group designed appropriate packaging for the spicy preserved garcinia—a small plastic cup with a colourful sticker label. In 2016, the group produced and sold spicy preserved garcinia in various markets in the Deep South and also in Bangkok, especially through the One Tambon One Product markets organised by the government. As this group is considered a successful and stable local community enterprise, the group leader volunteered to share her experience with other groups and manage the project effectively after the project or business has grown in scale.

**6. The Project on “Economic Empowerment for Gujingleupa Conflict-affected Women”**

This project is located in Gujingleupa village, Ra-ngae district, Narathiwat. It comprises a group of 15 women who call their newly-established project the “Muslima KL Group.” They hope their group and other villagers will be more secure in terms of economic stability in the hostile environment of the Deep South. Gujingleupa village became well known a teacher who left her home in the North to instruct children in the South was abducted from a local school. She died in 2007 after having been severely beaten by her abductors. Since then, Gujingleupa has been considered a dangerous area. Residents have been in constant fear and encounter difficulties of living, which affects their livelihoods and well-being.



A member of UNDP-supported project at Gujingleupa is putting herbal fish crackers in newly-developed packaging ©UNDP Thailand/2017/

As some members of the 15 conflict-affected women group from Gujingleupa were victims of violence and others have lived among violence for a long time in the high-conflict area, they have invested their time and energy in playing an important role in peace-platform participation, which is conducted by the Network of Civic Women for Peace (NCWP). The project members considered themselves a women peace-builder group that can be part of the larger peace-building process. They have

introduced the phrase “Eatable Peace” to market their group and their products. The members initially planned to produce various products, such as donuts, fish crackers, and hot-pressed coconut oil, by using raw materials in the community.

The group's members neither have experience of project management nor vocational skills. Yet the potential of the group lies in the strength of its members, who regularly attend peace platforms, and the drive of the group leader, who is very active and eager to learn new things. The members were trained by a group of conflict-affected women from Po-Ming sub-district in Pattani. They began by making traditional fried fish crackers but have since diversified their product line to include additional flavours. Given the leader's enthusiasm to seek product development and marketing skills and keenness to follow the advice of the project consultant, the group has opened up opportunities to join market fairs and events arranged by government sector. The products were popular and sold out quickly. The members are now producing both regular fried crackers and herbal fried, which are available at more than 15 local shops such as Narathiwat bus station, Yee-Ngo hospital, and local markets. Their products are also exported to Malaysia. The members have currently earn an additional 5,000 Baht a month from selling fried crackers.

## 7. Economic Empowerment for Po-Ming Conflict-affected Women



A member of UNDP-supported project at Po-Ming sub-district is desiccating coconut for sundrying ©UNDP Thailand/2017

This project is located at Po-Ming sub-district, Panareh district, Pattani. Pho Ming sub-district is one of the "Red Zones" considered by the military to be under the sway of armed Islamic separatists. Several violent incidents, clashes, and arrests of suspected insurgents have taken place in this area. Most villagers make a living by growing rice and other crops, such as palms, coconuts, and beans. The cross-village project will be undertaken to help foster social cohesion between Buddhists

and Muslims in one of the most contentious areas of the Deep South.

A group of conflict-affected women from Po-Ming sub-district who have regularly participated in peace platforms conducted by the Network of Civic Women for Peace (NCWP) indicated their interest in running a community enterprise to develop their quality of life and to help people in their village. They established the "Warnita Group" to initiate the project in close cooperation with the KL women's group from Gujingluepa, Narathiwat.

The Warnita group has 15 members implementing the project. The composition of this group exclusively features conflict-affected Muslim women. Several of the group members have been widowed as a result of violence in the Deep South, while others have been forced to become the primary income-generating source in their families due to the incarceration of their

husbands. The group members would like to enhance their quality of life and expect the project will assist in improving their livelihood. As Po-Ming has an abundance of coconut trees, the group primarily creates products from coconuts. The Warnita group has endeavored to create a more diversified product line than any of STEP's other small grants beneficiaries. Among the many goods offered are roasted coconut, coconut dessert balls, packaged locally produced rice, and potato chips. The project's manufacturing site is small but sufficient for the scale of operations at present. Coconut grinding and roasting are performed beneath an overhang of the factory. The members who produce desserts can earn 800-1,000 Baht/Month and those who produce roasted coconuts can earn 1,000-1,200 Baht/Month.

In addition to their increasing income, the pivotal role the group members play in supporting their families have empowered them immeasurably and instilled in them a great entrepreneurial spirit. The empowerment of the women from Warnita Group is an integral component in perpetuating their ambition. This is directly educed from the strong social cohesion among group members, in which project participation offers them a space in which they may share similar experiences and offer support to one another.

### Category 2: Energy and environment preservation

While fuel prices have been declining globally, oil smuggling from Malaysia to Thailand via the southern border provinces has become increasingly problematic. This trend will continue as long as fuel prices differ between Malaysia and Thailand and conflicts in the Southern border provinces remain. Lack of income-generating opportunities in the Deep South triggered the migration of male household members to Malaysia and elsewhere, but those who cannot leave their hometown remain unemployed or underemployed. The following three projects aim to build a sustainable community economically, socially and environmentally.

#### 8. Project on "Energy Saving Oven and Charcoal Production"



Youth is trained to produce energy saving oven at Lochut Sub-district community center

The project on "Energy Saving Oven and Charcoal Production" is located in Lochut sub-district, Waeng district, Narathiwat. Due to environmental problems and an energy crisis in the country, there has continually been an increase in prices of oil, gas, and electricity, despite the stagnant incomes of local people.

A youth group of 30 unemployed members from five villages in Lochut sub-district, Waeng district, Narathiwat wants to promote the use of energy-saving household appliances and at the same time generate income in the community by producing energy-saving ovens and charcoal kilns. This project will help

steer the local young men away from illegal activities, assist them in earning a living, and allow them to be more productive.

As most of the villagers in Waeng district still use charcoal stoves for cooking instead of electric stoves to save energy and economize on expenditures of the household, charcoal is in high demand. Therefore, the group will produce not only energy-saving ovens and stoves but also charcoal kilns to meet the demand of users. In September, the Pleasant Community Development Foundation, an escort organisation of the youth group, planned to organise a workshop on production of energy-saving ovens and charcoal kilns. Village philosophers from the foundation and an expert from the Narathiwat Energy Office were invited to teach and share their knowledge in the workshop. Materials used included rambutan branches, trees, and old, dried coconut shells.

The group produced 100 ovens and placed some of them at each member's house to produce charcoal for household consumption and for sale. There are several positive effects in the community as a result of the project: first, smoke from the oven helps keep mosquitos away from the vicinity. Second, each member contributes two percent of their income to the group's savings. Young men now have a greater sense of pride. Third, community leaders were not so interested in community-development projects before, but have since realised the positive impacts that the project has had on young men, their families, and their communities. Fourth, other villagers who have interest in similar income-generating activities and community-development activities visited the project sites, leading to increased communication between villages.

This project initially focused on taking the unemployed or underprivileged young men in the project area away from illegal activities by providing them an opportunity to develop their vocational skills and use their leisure time wisely through the project's activities. Prior to participation in the project, the young men did not have a certain income source. After they joined the project and learned how to produce the energy-saving ovens, their income from selling the products was between 1,500-3,000 Baht/Month, depending on their production capacity.

## 9. Project on “Sustainable Waste Management”



A teacher of Laem Pho school is guiding students on waste management  
©UNDP Thailand/2016

Laem Pho sub-district is a densely populated area with a population of approximately 9,000 in Yaring district, Pattani province. It is a Muslim community and became a touristic area in Pattani years ago. The survival of tourism in a conflict zone signifies that the area can still maintain some semblance of normalcy. Tourism provides an oasis amidst violent conflict and serves as an income-generating activity for those living in difficult

situations. Seaside tourism in Laem Pho sub-district has expanded and new resorts have blossomed in recent years, albeit with little planning. Tourism has also had some less-than-desirable effects on the community as well. Improperly disposed of waste has accumulated and piled up quickly. Improper waste disposal has quickly accumulated and piled up by villagers who do not appropriately manage their household garbage compound

One of the most severe problems is a dearth of waste management in the area. To complicate matters, the landfill site for dumping garbage is almost full. Some homestay owners have taken initiative by burying the waste on their own land. The Laem Pho sub-district Administrative Organisation (SAO), which is the responsible local government, is in need of technical support and a sustainable and environmentally-friendly method of waste management. The waste issue has been taken more seriously by both local government agencies and villagers.

A group of nine villagers that has shown willingness to voluntarily solve this waste problem was gathered and encouraged by the Laem Pho SAO to apply for a small grant to run a waste management project. Even though it is clearly not an income-generation project, it mainly aims to manage waste in the community to improve the quality of life of villagers. Moreover, it is a good mechanism for promoting cooperation between local government and people and building trust among them. This can be an effective tool in cultivating social cohesion. Therefore, the Small Grants Committee approved the project.

Various types of activity have since been implemented, including a weekly garbage collecting activity by youth and children, designation of garbage collection/disposal points in the community, recycling activities in schools and households, and so on, to inform households and schools about the gravity of the waste issue and its negative impact to their lives. After a year of activity implementation, the group received excellent feedback from villagers and school children, who now have a mutual understanding of what needs to be done to solve the waste issue. Waste-management activities will certainly benefit from increased cooperation

and make quick progress. It is obvious that the waste piled up in the area is now well managed, and this has been reflected in an increase in tourists and visitors. Once the waste-management systems are well in place for all stakeholders who take mutual responsibility to keep their community clean, the next step of this project will be determining how to make a profit from the waste. All stakeholders will work cooperatively toward sustainable waste-management.

**10. Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise for People with Disabilities**



Member of Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise is collecting cooking oil ©UNDP Thailand/2017

The Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise is located in Lam Mai sub-district, Muang District, Yala. It was established in 2009 amid growing concern for the environment and an increased awareness of energy crisis. Bio-diesel is an alternative form of energy refined from used cooking oil. Because it is recycled, bio-diesel conserves energy and is less detrimental to the environment than other fuel sources. Furthermore, bio-diesel production discourages

improper disposal of cooking oil in inappropriate places or manners. Households and restaurants in the Deep South of Thailand, in which deep fried fish crackers and fried chicken are popular dishes, are especially good candidates for bio-diesel sourcing. Aware of this prospect, the Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise runs a small bio-diesel manufactory to capitalize on what would otherwise be a discarded byproduct. The community enterprise provides a wonderful opportunity for its members to reap some benefit from selling used cooking oils to use as bio-diesel for diesel-engine vehicles. Even though bio-diesel is not very popular, its utility is manifest; coupled with an impending energy crisis, ever-present threats of short diesel supply or high prices, and a steadily increasing environmental awareness, bio-diesel usage will likely become more widely accepted in the near future. At the local level, this is a chance for members of the community to forge ties among themselves, foster social cohesion, and gain some profit—all for a minimal opportunity cost and a positive impact on the environment.

Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise has been providing opportunity to people with disabilities to buy used cooking oil and sell it to Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise to gain profit. The project on “Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise for People with Disabilities” was financially supported by connecting people with disabilities to the Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise. Initially, 40 people with people with disabilities from Raman district, including congenitally disabled people as well as those disabled from accidents or armed conflict, were trained to expand their capabilities. However, they neither have enough money to purchase

used cooking oil nor appropriate containers. Moreover, as they are disabled, their mobility is limited and they encounter great difficulty in traveling to acquire resources. These factors affect their income and directly impact their quality of life. Therefore, they were provided with tools and skills that would enable them to earn a living. Additionally, used cooking oil drop-off and purchasing points have been established in Raman district for people with disabilities residents to obtain the oil with greater ease. A great number of people with disabilities have been afforded the privilege to tap into a reliable and steady stream of income—all for a virtually negligible opportunity cost. The people with disabilities who are interested in participating in this project need to register for membership with the Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise, which currently comprises 167 members. An even greater number of people with disabilities have been interested in participating in this community enterprise.

The Yala Biodiesel community enterprise project has demonstrated remarkable progress in fomenting social cohesion and community resilience among people with disabilities in the region. People with disabilities involved in this community enterprise act as intermediaries between purveyors of used cooking oil and the Yala Biodiesel factory. To diversify their product line, Yala biodiesel has begun to introduce new products such as car wax. This will help to supplement sales by targeting customers beyond the environmentally-minded consumer base. The inclusivity of people with disabilities has proven a momentous force in empowering locals and has forged strong community ties among local resident.

### **Category 3: Creating opportunity for new business**

The following two projects have the potential to create new industries for job and income generation in the southern border provinces based on their culture and natural resources.

#### **11. Project on “Meat Goat Raising”**

The “Meat Goat Raising” project is located in Paka Harang, Muang Pattani, Pattani. Paka Harang sub-district is composed of eight villages with a total population of 5,230, in which 87 percent of the population is Muslim. Most of the villagers earn a living through rice farming, crop rotation, and goat farming. However, as Paka Harang sub-district is proximal to the Muang district, many villagers seek income as hired workers in the city and some travel to work in Malaysia.



Uncle Dolwahab, the leader of goat raising group is explaining to UNDP staff on the current progress of the project ©UNDP Thailand/2017

Goat raising has long been associated with the Thai Muslim community, and the majority of the goat population in Thailand is concentrated in areas where Thai Muslims live. Goats normally feed on natural grass or weed plants near their grazing sites. Typically, farmers raise two or three goats per family and feed their goats via a cut and carry system. In smaller farms with a few goats, the animals are let out to graze and roam freely in the rubber

plantations or around the house. Goat raising is an integral part of the Muslim way of life in Thailand in which goats are commonly used in religious ceremonies and rituals. Twenty villagers in Paka Harang who love goat farming have established The Meat Goat Farming Group to manage the project on 'Meat Goat Farming'. The Meat Goat Farming project was established not only to increase the income of its members but also to maintain the goat-raising occupation in the community. To develop the goat-herding vocation for sustainable livelihood improvement, goat farms need to be well established and goat farming should be promoted to meet market demand for local consumption to improve the income of local people in the southern provinces of Thailand.

The Meat Goat Raising Project started by raising 25 goats and now has more than 40. Caring for goats as well as reproducing them have become easier and more effective due to the act of herding in one plot. The market price is currently around 170 Baht/Kg. for a 6-month-old goat weighing around 30 Kg., which is suitable for sale, translating into 5,000 Baht or \$150. This would become significant additional income for rice farmers. Members take turns coming to the farm to take care of the goats between rice farming activities. Cognizant of the project's success, residents from other villages have visited the group in an effort to learn from the skilled group members. The group is now looking to develop some products from goats such as goat curry and has tried to make the project sustainable for villagers. This group has also served as a goat-raising prototype for other communities.

## 12. Mussel Farming for Fishermen

The project on Mussel Farming for fishermen is located in Pattani Bay, Munag, Pattani. The project was newly established by a group of fishermen supported by a group of researchers



from the Fisheries Department, Faculty of Science and Technology, PSU, Pattani Campus with a starting membership of 20 fishermen.



A member of Mussel Farming group shown a bunch of mussel ©UNDP Thailand/2017

The project is developed from a mussel demonstration farm, which was a model on participatory and sustainable coastal natural resource management in Pattani Bay of STEP phase I. Most of the members were volunteering fishermen who participated in activities to strengthen their capacity. As there is a high demand for mussels in the market due to a limited number of mussel farms in Thailand, the project will help increase the income of Pattani

Bay fishermen and ensure food security as well as the number of aquatic resources in the area, which will directly benefit fishermen. Other villagers or fishermen who are interested in mussel farming can become involved in this project full time or to supplement their primary source of income.

Since project initiation, the mussel seed has successfully reproduced and migrated to surrounding poles. The group members expected the yield and growth rate to be sufficient for production to cross the sustainability threshold within two months. This would mark a turning point in the project in which seed need not be purchased and transplanted from colonies outside of Pattani province, which would help reduce transportation fees and other overhead considerably.

The mussel farm is a demonstrable livelihood improvement project. Even though the members have not yet generated a profit from the sale of mussels, their income is increasing from selling other marine resources, which have increased numerous around as a result of the mussel farms. Other villagers have also benefited from the increase in marine resources.

### **13. Meat Goat Farming and Fodder Production for Sustainable Agriculture**

The project includes 70 members and located in Hutae Tuwo Village, Khok Khian sub-district, Narathiwat. The members aim to have a Meat Goat Farming Centre for the members and villagers who are interested in goat farming.

The project was allowed to use a land that belong to the government and built a shelter for the goats owned by each member.

Experts invited from the university/universities trained the members to provide particular knowledge needed for goat farmers.



A member of Goat farming group is working in a project area ©UNDP Thailand/2017

## VI. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION FOR SMALL GRANT PROJECT

To maximize visibility of the Government of Japan as a donor and UNDP as an implementer, UNDP developed a communication strategy for small grant project to communicate the progress and promote the visibility of UNDP and UNDP-Japan partnership fund through various channel. The strategy was implemented during 2015 and throughout 2017. Key communication activities include:

- Online communication through the website and Facebook of UNDP Thailand.
- An exhibition at National Malid Ceremony. UNDP presented the progress of STEP II project and small grant activities to the Royal Crown Prince of Thailand during his visit at the exhibition. The Prime Minister of Thailand also visited the exhibition of STEP II for the closing ceremony. Every channel in Thailand broadcast the news on STEP project on 30 April 2016.





Exhibition of the project at National Malid Ceremony 2016©UNDP Thailand/2016

News programme on small grants. Ten out of thirteen successful community projects, staff from the Embassy of Japan in Bangkok and UNDP staff were interviewed and filmed for a documentary. Thai Public Broadcasting Service channel (Thai PBS) broadcast the ten video documentaries of ten out of thirteen successful communities on the citizen reporter programme during 2016-2017. Social media channels such as Facebook, YouTube, and many more also disseminated the documentary to raise awareness among people who live outside the southern province and keep them updated on regional news.



Thai PBS News on support of the Government of Japan to livelihood improvement project.

## **VII. MONITORING & EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The STEP II Project Management Unit undertook regular project monitoring through various mechanisms including monthly team meetings, quarterly meetings, and project site visits. All levels of project monitoring were undertaken to ensure that projects were implemented as planned and were managed efficiently and the monitoring activities allowed the project team members to oversee, improve, and solve any problem that might occur at all stages of project implementation in due time.

Project small grant committees were organized to monitor the progress of each project and provide support. Project Executive Group Meetings were organized on a yearly basis to provide strategic direction and monitor overall progress of the project.

According to Project Executive Groups Meeting, the project has provided direct and tangible benefit to community members and UNDP should explore opportunities to continue livelihood improvement project to extend number of beneficiaries and inclusion of remaining sensitive areas.

In addition, UNDP commissioned an external consultant to review the Output 3 of the project. One of the recommendations is to extend the work in sensitive areas to ensure the inclusion of livelihood development in the Deep South if funding is available. Another key recommendation is to work directly with government agencies on livelihood improvement project to build capacity of government to implement government livelihood improvement project in a more inclusive manner.

## VIII. DISBURSEMENT AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

During the project period, the funding was disbursed as per output as follows:

### STEP II Budget

Year	JP Partnership (32045)
Approved Funding	300,240.00
2015 Utilization	84,319.18
2016 Utilization	83,305.43
2017 Utilization	131,002.44
2018 Utilization	48.30*
Total	298,675.35

***\*The transaction in 2018 concerned to closure of project account and settlement of unexpended balance\****

**Summary Expenditure Analysis for STEP II Project  
Year 2015 - 2018**

No	Activity	2015 Budget	2015 Expenditure	2016 Budget	2016 Expenditure	2017 Budget	2017 Expenditure	2018 Expenditure	Total Budget	Total Expenditure	Balance	Exp. In %
1	Output 3	93,960.00	78,043.97	171,720.00	77,122.70	34,560.00	121,202.45	44.72	300,240.00	276,413.84	1,564.65	99
2	GMS	-	6,275.21	-	6,182.73	-	9,799.99	3.58	-	22,261.51		
<b>Total</b>		<b>93,960.00</b>	<b>84,319.18</b>	<b>171,720.00</b>	<b>83,305.43</b>	<b>34,560.00</b>	<b>131,002.44</b>	<b>48.30</b>	<b>300,240.00</b>	<b>298,675.35</b>	<b>1,564.65</b>	<b>99</b>

Note for 2018 expenditure: this is UNDP Implementation Support Services (ISS) charge for receiving and recording balance NIM advance from Implementing partner into UNDP account prior to project closure

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>ADR</b>	Alternative Dispute Resolution
<b>CIS</b>	College of Islamic Studies
<b>CSCD</b>	Centre for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DSW</b>	Deep South Watch
<b>DSJ</b>	Deep South Journalism School
<b>IPS</b>	Institute for Peace Studies
<b>ISOC</b>	Internal Security Operations Command
<b>KPI</b>	King Prajadhipok's Institute
<b>MAC</b>	Muslim Attorney Centre Foundation
<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of Interior
<b>MoJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>PSU</b>	Prince of Songkhla University
<b>RTG</b>	Royal Thai Government
<b>SBPAC</b>	Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre
<b>STEP II</b>	Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation Project Phase II
<b>TAO</b>	Tambon Administrative Organisation
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme



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**Project Title "Southern Thailand Empowerment and  
Participation, Phase II (STEP II)"  
(ATLAS PROJECT ID: 00081751; AWARD ID: 00090901)**

**Project Period: 20 May 2015 to 31 October 2017**

**Project Status: Operationally Closed**

**Summary of Total Project Expenditures as of  
24 September 2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>USD Amount</b>
2015	\$84,319.18
2016	\$83,305.43
2017	\$131,002.44
2018	\$48.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$298,675.35</b>

\*The transaction in 2018 concerned to closure of project-based financial account and settlement of unexpended balance\*

	<b>USD Amount</b>
Total Project Budget	\$300,240.00
Total Project Expenditures	\$298,675.35
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,564.65</b>

24 September 2018

Signature

Wisoot Tantinan  
Team Leader/Programme Specialist  
Democratic Governance and Social Advocacy Unit  
The United Nations Development Programme