

UNDP Country Programme for Thailand (2007-2011)

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I. Situation analysis

1. Thailand is on track to achieve most of the global Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in advance of 2015. Thailand has reduced poverty from 38 per cent in 1990 to 11 per cent in 2004, and the proportion of underweight children has fallen by nearly half. The majority of children attend school, and universal primary school enrolment should be achieved within a few years. Malaria is no longer a problem in most of the country, and annual new human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections have been reduced by more than 80 per cent since 1991, the peak of the epidemic. Real efforts are being made to achieve gender equality. And there is progress in safe water supply, secure tenure, and improving lives in the peri-urban areas.

2. Despite these successes, persistent development challenges remain, particularly for certain groups and geographical regions. Challenges include: high levels of poverty in the north, the north-east and the far south; higher rates of maternal mortality among hill tribes in the north and among Muslim communities in the south; pockets of child malnutrition in remote northern areas; and unsustainable use of natural resources in many parts of the country. Prevention efforts to combat HIV/AIDS are faltering in Thailand, and there are warning signs of a resurgence of the epidemic.

3. Women still have fewer career advancement opportunities and limited participation in electoral politics (see the thematic MDG report on women's political voice: http://www.undp.or.th/documents/goal3_March_final_.pdf.) Problems of inequality and domestic violence against women persist. Education reform has been greatly advanced in the last few years but gaps remain in terms of quality of education and adaptability to the needs of the economy. Vulnerable groups such as migrants, rural communities in the far north and south, and indigenous groups are not benefiting from the overall economic progress. A combination of drought and floods earlier this year has had a severe effect on the northern and north-eastern provinces. In addition, the tsunami had a devastating impact on communities and local economies along the Andaman coast. (For a full assessment of the situation in Thailand, please refer to the [United Nations Common Country Assessment 2005](#).)

4. A variety of ongoing and new government policies seek to address these problems. These include anti-poverty policies guided by the 'sufficiency economy' philosophy of H.M. the King, which adheres to the

Buddhist concept of the middle path and moderation; implementation of the Decentralization Act of 1999 combined with strengthening the capacity of local government; the universal health care scheme and expanded social protection coverage; pioneering in adapting agricultural products for biofuel and other renewable energy practices; and the National Women's Development Plan to promote gender equality.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

5. The current country programme for 2003–2006 emphasizes four main themes: (a) the contribution made by Thailand to South-South cooperation; (b) responsive governance, focusing on emerging issues related to decentralization and local governance; (c) environmentally sustainable development; and (d) policy advocacy for the achievement of the national MDG-Plus agenda.

6. The tsunami that struck Thailand on 26 December 2004 resulted in the transformation of the UNDP office in Thailand and more than doubled programme resources in only a few weeks. As part of a joint United Nations country team (UNCT) effort, the UNDP contribution to the response of Thailand to the tsunami focuses on the longer-term challenges of restoring livelihoods; community empowerment and participation in recovery planning and implementation; environmental rehabilitation, disaster preparedness and mitigation; and support to the coordination of international assistance.

7. The current country programme marked the beginning of a new era for UNDP in Thailand. The traditional donor-recipient relationship between the Government of Thailand and UNDP was replaced by a relationship of mutually beneficial partnerships in areas of strategic importance to Thailand as a middle-income country. Examples of this new partnership approach included cutting-edge MDG-Plus analysis and monitoring at national and provincial levels; experimentation with participatory planning and policy-making methodologies, such as the 'people's audit' initiative, to strengthen local governance; community-based sustainable resource management initiatives; and support to the Thailand-Africa partnership for development initiatives. These changes and the lessons learned from the previous country cooperation framework provided an opportunity for a more strategic, coherent country partnership, which has become a model for other middle-income countries.

8. More broadly, a midterm stocktaking of the United Nations development assistance framework 2001–2006 brought together key stakeholders to look at lessons learned and the evolving role of the UNCT in Thailand. The review meetings discussed the need for the team to work closely together and focus on those areas and groups within the country that are not benefiting from the rapid economic progress. This strategic approach has been adopted in the new United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF), 2007-2011, as well as in the proposed UNDP country programme.

III. Proposed partnership

9. The proposed country programme between Thailand and UNDP is based on a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and expertise. In its role as the global development network of the United Nations, UNDP is a crucial gateway for Thailand to access international expertise, policy advice, and global best practices. For its part, Thailand is an indispensable link in the UNDP global development network, allowing UNDP to assist other countries using the knowledge and development experience of Thailand.

10. The Tenth National Economic and Social Development Plan, 2007-2011, will provide the framework for the partnership of UNDP with Thailand, incorporating government commitment to the MDG-Plus targets. These go well beyond previously agreed international targets in the areas of poverty reduction, health, education, gender equality, and the environment. The partnership with UNDP will build on the policy statement of the Government of Thailand made on 23 March 2005 to the National Assembly, and will aim at achieving sustained prosperity, a more balanced economic structure, and better distribution of resources and opportunities for the benefit of all.

11. The proposed country programme will be guided by the decision of the Cabinet of the Government of Thailand in June 2004 endorsing the Millennium Development Goals report of Thailand, which committed the Government to the MDG-Plus targets (see the [Thailand MDG report, 2004](#)). The report also set out a vision for addressing key priority challenges, including: disparities of opportunities and outcomes (among specific geographic areas or population groups); inclusive economic growth; improving the quality of social services; support of decentralization to

build local ownership and capacity around MDGs; and ensuring data-analysis–policy linkage.

12. This document is an integral part of UNPAF, 2007-2011, which directs the UNCT to focus on underserved areas to reach the most vulnerable groups. The proposed UNDP country programme will focus primarily on four of the five UNPAF components/outcomes, as follows:

A. Contribution of Thailand to the global partnership for development (MDG-8)

13. As an emerging ‘donor of the South’, Thailand is increasingly reaching out to other developing countries in support of human development and poverty reduction. In 2005, Thailand became the first country outside the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to produce an MDG-8 report, outlining the contribution of Thailand to the global partnership for development through development cooperation, improved market access for imports from least developed countries, and foreign direct investment in neighbouring countries and beyond (see the [Thailand MDG-8 report](#)).

14. The proposed country programme will support the Government of Thailand in following up on the recommendations of the Thailand MDG-8 report and will contribute to UNPAF outcome 5: *“By 2010, Thailand will have increased its South-South cooperation engagements and [will] effectively deliver technical and financial support to other countries in Asia and beyond.”*

15. UNDP engagement in this area will focus on the following four priorities:

(a) *Support to new initiatives and partnership modalities to enhance South-South cooperation between Thailand and countries within the region and beyond*, in support of the policy of ‘foreign engagement’ and commitments made at United Nations development conferences and international forums;

(b) *Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of the development cooperation of Thailand* with other countries, in line with global efforts to increase aid effectiveness. This will include initiatives to improve the coordination and monitoring of development cooperation of Thailand with other countries; support to the preparation of a strategic planning framework for the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency to guide Thai official development assistance

(ODA) in line with the Paris Declaration principles; help in preparing results-based programme procedures and a manual for delivery of Thai technical cooperation; and capacity-building of Thai government authorities involved in development cooperation;

(c) *Analysis, documentation and dissemination of the Thailand experiences and best practices*, including support to publications of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on best practices and lessons learned in development; sharing of experiences through exchange of experts and study visits; promoting Thai experts and volunteers serving in other countries; and

(d) *Promotion of Thai private sector involvement in South-South cooperation activities*, including direct engagement of Thai private-sector partners in development cooperation activities with other countries, under the existing framework such as the Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD) or other mechanisms.

B. Decentralization and local governance, including MDG monitoring and statistical strengthening

16. In support of government efforts to promote participatory democracy and good governance within the framework of the 1997 Constitution of Thailand, the proposed country programme will contribute to UNPAF outcome 2: *“By 2011, subnational administrations [will] effectively respond to people’s rights in a participatory and transparent manner, based on quality data and evidence-based planning.”*

17. To supplement national efforts to reduce poverty and inequality in Thailand, the country programme will focus on six areas:

(a) *Strengthening participatory planning and monitoring* to improve strategic development planning and capacity for implementation at provincial and local levels; ensuring greater participation of poor people and vulnerable groups in local governance by using the ‘people’s audit’ and other participatory planning tools; and increasing community-based disaster preparedness;

(b) *Promoting transparency and accountability*, including capacity-building of national institutions, and provincial and local government agencies, to implement anti-corruption and information disclosure initiatives; and strengthening the capacity and voice of community groups to hold public agencies accountable;

(c) *Promoting women’s empowerment*, focusing on the implementation of the National Women’s Development

Plan on women’s rights, gender-responsive budgeting, and standards for local government organizations to promote women’s development;

(d) *Mobilizing youth for good governance* in a dialogue about key issues of democracy and human rights, and supporting youth groups and student committees to develop and implement local and school development projects applying good governance principles;

(e) *Strengthening statistical capacity for evidence-based, gender-sensitive planning* at the national, provincial and local levels, with emphasis on improving the availability of statistics that capture the situation of vulnerable and marginal groups, including support to the National Statistical Office for the development of the national statistical master plan; strengthening of socio-economic survey programmes; and building capacity in data collection and analysis;

(f) *Facilitating national, provincial and cluster MDG analysis and monitoring*; cutting-edge policy analysis of the challenges and opportunities of attaining the MDG-Plus targets and reducing poverty and inequality in Thailand; the publication of thematic MDG reports on specific MDG-Plus targets; periodic national human development reports; and an expansion of the provincial and cluster MDG monitoring initiative to reinforce provincial strategic planning processes.

C. Environmentally sustainable development

18. Restoring a sound environment with more balance between economic development and environmental sustainability is at the heart of the long-term development and poverty eradication agenda of the Government. As a fast-growing, middle-income country, Thailand is facing the typical environmental problems that arise from urbanization, rapid industrialization, and depletion of natural resources.

19. It is proposed that the UNDP country programme will promote the creation of ‘partnership playgrounds’ where community voices and actions demonstrate to policymakers new strategies for optimum use of resources and ways of promoting sustainable development. The programme will support Thailand in addressing environmental issues closely linked to poverty and vulnerability reduction, as well as taking necessary steps towards implementing the outcomes of environment-related international agreements.

20. The new UNDP country programme will contribute to UNPAF outcome 4: *“Improved*

sustainable utilization and management of natural resources and environment at [the] community and national policy levels". It will contribute to the achievement of three main results:

- (a) Efficient community-based natural resources and environmental management in selected ecosystems with effective engagement of people's organizations in policy- and decision-making processes affecting the environment and the use of local natural resources;
- (b) Increased capacity of national agencies to set policy priorities and remove barriers to pursuing sustainable management of biodiversity, renewable energy, and water resources in response to national priorities and in compliance with international treaties;
- (c) Promoting community-based knowledge management by supporting the formation of community networks and promoting evidenced-based policymaking at all levels.

D. Multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS

21. Despite past successes in reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, this is still a cause for concern in Thailand. The epidemic is evolving; there are clear warning signs of a new wave of infections; and the virus continues to spread unchecked among certain vulnerable groups. While Thailand has recently made progress in expanding access to HIV treatment, the overall national response has lost its energy, and current levels of prevention efforts do not measure up to the new realities of a shifting epidemic (see the [MDG thematic report on HIV/AIDS](#)).

22. As a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and a contributor to the United Nations integrated strategic plan for HIV/AIDS in Thailand, UNDP will continue to be an active partner in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Thailand, and will contribute to UNPAF outcome 3: *"By 2011, Thailand ensures increased access to and utilization of effective prevention, treatment, care and support services for HIV/AIDS"*.

23. The work of UNDP in the area of HIV/AIDS will focus on three priorities:

- (a) *Promoting broad-based policy dialogue and analysis*. Under this component, policy dialogue and analysis will contribute to a truly multisectoral and rights-based response to HIV/AIDS, and to the integration of HIV/AIDS priorities into national, provincial, and local strategic development planning;

- (b) *Capacity-building for a decentralized response*, focusing on building capacities at the provincial and local levels for the implementation of a more inclusive, rights-based, gender-sensitive response to HIV/AIDS, with special focus on internally mobile populations and their home communities that are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS; and

- (c) *Fighting stigma and discrimination* by supporting efforts to promote the respect and protection of the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and to fight stigma and discrimination in the public services and in society in general.

IV. Partnership management, monitoring and evaluation

24. Results-based management (RBM) will be the mainstay of the UNDP country programme, 2007-2011. UNDP will work with key partners to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of development results, in order to enhance impact and ensure transparency and accountability in the use of resources. For specific programmes and projects, detailed results frameworks with simple and measurable indicators will be developed, in partnership with the Government and other key stakeholders.

25. As the country programme is fully aligned with the UNPAF, linkages between the results of UNDP programmes and the overall results of the United Nations system in Thailand will be ensured through operational coordination and joint monitoring by United Nations organizations. Linkage of programme monitoring mechanisms with government and civil society monitoring efforts, particularly related to progress towards the MDGs, will further facilitate the assessment of the UNDP contribution towards attaining the MDGs.

26. The regular resource allocation forecast for the country programme period 2007-2011 is \$2.222 million, excluding subsequent yearly target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC-2) allocations determined at a later stage. Working with the Government, UNDP will seek financing partnerships to mobilize an estimated additional \$10 million in non-core resources, including funding from the Global Environment Facility.

National priority: To enhance development and implement the global partnership for development (MDG-8).					
UNPAF outcome: By 2001, Thailand has increased its South-South cooperation engagements and effectively delivers technical and financial support to other countries in Asia and beyond.					
Programme component	Programme outcomes	Programme outputs	Output indicators, baseline and targets	Roles of partners	Resources by goal
Contribution of Thailand to the global partnership for development (MDG-8)	1. Increased policy dialogue, ODA provided to countries with more strategic focus based on demand-driven process, policy document to guide participation in the Paris Declaration, and sharing of expertise and experiences among Thailand and countries in Asia and beyond through both public and private sectors.	1. New partnership modalities for human development and poverty alleviation formulated. 2. Aid management capacity and coordination mechanism strengthened at the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency. 3. Role further enhanced as 'donor of the South' and in aid effectiveness, including the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) working group. 4. Strategic policy recommendations proposed on ODA delivery to other countries. 5. Role of private sector in South-South cooperation enhanced.	1. No. of new partnership initiatives initiated. Target: 10-15 initiatives with over 20 countries in Africa/Latin America, 5 with private sector. 2. Capacity of ODA agencies strengthened and results-based programme manual developed. Thailand ODA database set up. Target: 100 officials of the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency and other agencies trained on manual and database, policy options on ODA proposed. 3. No. of Thai experts/volunteers served in developing countries, and no. of publications on Thailand best practices/lessons learned published/distributed. Target: 50 experts/volunteers, 5 publications.	- Govt.: policy and ODA programming. - Universities: research. - UNCT: joint initiatives. - Private sector: contribution to South-South cooperation.	Regular : \$444,400 Other: \$500,000 Total: \$944,400
National priority: To promote participatory democracy and good governance within the framework of the 1997 Constitution of Thailand, including decentralization of duties to local administrative organizations and civil society development.					
UNPAF outcome: By 2011, subnational administrations effectively respond to people's rights in a participatory and transparent manner, based on quality data and evidence-based planning.					
Programme component	Programme outcomes	Programme outputs	Output indicators, baseline and targets	Roles of partners	Resources by goal
Decentralization and local governance, including MDG monitoring and statistical strengthening	1. Improved responsiveness and quality of social services at the subnational level. 2. Enhanced local democracy and meaningful participation of civil society, especially women and youth, in decision-making. 3. Policy frameworks and measures in place to promote transparency and accountability at the subnational level. 4. Quality and disaggregated socio-economic data in place for evidence-based policy making and public dialogue.	1. Local government with enhanced capacity to implement decentralized social services for achievement of MDG-plus, including gender-based budgeting. 2. Civil society engaged in decision-making and participatory monitoring through the 'people's audit'. 3. Enhanced capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) and local government to implement anti-corruption measures. 4. Women's political voice and participation in local government strengthened. 5. Strengthened statistical capacity for evidence-based planning and MDG analysis and monitoring.	1. No. of local government bodies adopting participatory planning tools, including the 'people's audit'. 2. No. of local government bodies that apply gender-based budgeting tools. 3. Increase in confidence of the people in transparency of public services and anti-corruption programmes. 4. No. of women elected to local government bodies. 5. Availability and accessibility of quality and gender-disaggregated data at provincial and local levels. 6. National and sectoral statistical master plans in place.	Community-based and non-governmental organizations (CBOs, NGOs): advocacy and community mobilization. - Govt.: policy and planning. - Local govt.: participation and implementation. - Universities: research. - UNCT: joint programmes.	Regular : \$888,800 Other: \$1,000,000 Total: \$1,888,800

UNPAF outcome: Demonstration of sustainable utilization and management of natural resources and environment at community and national policy level					
Programme component	Programme outcomes	Programme outputs	Output indicators, baseline and targets	Roles of partners	Resources by goal
Energy and environment for sustainable development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Efficient community network in sustainable use of local natural resources and energy with engagement in policy and decision-making processes. 2. Increased capacity of national focal points in addressing policy and removal of barriers in pursuing local sustainable management of environmental flow and renewable energy. 3. Knowledge management and evidenced-based and participatory policymaking strengthened. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functioning CBO network in coastal and wetland ecosystems. 2. Demonstration of policy implications and co-management of sustainable development initiatives. 3. Capacity strengthening of national focal points on the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. 4. Biodiversity hot spots and protected areas management established. 5. Barriers to biomass and other renewable energy removed. 6. Knowledge management and community networking for tropical forest resource management enhanced. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public recognition and application of CBO successes. 2. Adoption of 'green indicators' for Tha Chin river basin. 3. National reports on each convention submitted to Conference of Parties meetings. 4. Biodiversity record and management efficiency. 6. Utilization of knowledge resources and facilities among network members and reception of appeals from communities and decisions made from evidenced-based references. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBOs and NGOs: advocacy and community mobilization. - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment: policy and planning. - Local govt.: participation and implementation. - Universities: research. - United Nations Environment Programme, World Bank, bilateral donors: development partnerships. 	<p>Regular : \$444,400</p> <p>Other: \$8,000,000</p> <p>Total: \$8,444,400</p>
National priority: To reduce the number of new HIV infections and the socio-economic impact of HIV and AIDS in Thailand.					
UNPAF outcome: By 2011, Thailand ensures increased access to and utilization of effective prevention, treatment, care and support services for HIV and AIDS.					
Programme component	Programme outcomes	Programme outputs	Output indicators, baseline and targets	Roles of partners	Resources by goal
Responding to HIV/AIDS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotion of a broad-based policy dialogue and analysis. 2. Increased capacity for a decentralized, multisectoral response. 3. Stigma and discrimination on the basis of HIV/AIDS status is reduced 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidenced-based planning and implementation of effective HIV/AIDS programmes for vulnerable groups is enhanced. 2. Strengthened capacity of partners – government, CSOs, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) – to jointly develop, adopt, and implement rights-based policies and programming. 3. Local partners' capacity to provide socio-economic and legal support for people infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS is improved. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National composite policy index (United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS). 2. Amount of government funds disbursed for prevention and care support services initiatives led by CSO/PLHA groups. 3. Adoption of human rights and gender indicators in AIDS response management and monitoring. 4. Regional/local budget for socio-economic support to families or individuals affected by AIDS. 5. Stigma and discrimination legislation revised and in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Govt: policy development and implementation; budget allocation and investment; programme implementation and support. Civil society: advocacy for policy and implementation. 	<p>Regular: \$444,400</p> <p>Others: \$1,250,000</p> <p>Total: \$1,694,400</p>