



## Project Brief

### INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIAL COHESION IN MAE HONG SON PROVINCE

#### Background

UNDP is supporting a project aimed at improving the lives of the population of Mae Hong Son province by supporting and enhancing the livelihood of its local communities.

Mae Hong Son is the poorest province in Thailand with the country's lowest Human Development Index (*National Human Development Report 2007*). It is also home to a diverse population, including a large number of displaced people from Myanmar and other areas. Due to scarce resources, economic opportunities are few, and basic services including housing, transportation, communication, education and health are often inadequate. The situation in the province can therefore give rise to possible tensions over unequal and poor access to services as well as finite natural resources. Furthermore, the unsustainable use of existing natural resources may lead to the region becoming increasingly vulnerable to natural disaster.

UNDP, in partnership with Mae Hong Son's Governor's Office and other local beneficiaries, is aiming to improve this situation by promoting fair and equal treatment and access to resources and services among the different communities residing in the province, as well as promoting the sustainable use of existing resources -- with special attention given to women and children, who make up the majority of the population in the province.

#### Project strategy

The project has three interrelated components which focus respectively on:

1. Enhancing food security and increasing agricultural and non-agricultural income generation opportunities
2. Developing an effective public service by improving the delivery of services, focusing on local planning processes and assisting local communities to make better use of government services
3. Developing management and technical skills for natural disaster risk management and environmental activities, including environmentally friendly enterprises.

To achieve these objectives the project strategy is to focus on livelihoods generation, capacity development of local government, and natural resources management.

Community Radio will broadcast information about the project and its status to the various communities (in particularly the highland communities in remote areas), in the various hill tribe languages. It will also be used as a means to support social cohesion, access to information, informal education, provide entertainment and keep local traditions alive.

## **Expected outcome**

The project is expected to result in:

- 1) Improved livelihood for vulnerable groups in underserved areas
- 2) Improved responsiveness and quality of social services at the sub-national level
- 3) Enhanced local democracy and meaningful participation of civil society in decision making
- 4) Community learning and advocacy of pro-poor policies on sustainable use and management of natural resources.

## **Project partners and management**

The project is implemented by the Office of Governor of Mae Hong Son province in close collaboration with the UNDP Country Office (CO) in Thailand, relevant UN agencies and government institutions including the Ministry of Interior, as well as local NGOs.

The Office of the Governor of Mae Hong Son Province, in close collaboration with UNDP CO, will be responsible for the overall management of the project and delivery of the project outputs. The project will draw on the expertise at the UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok, other UN Agencies, as well as international and national consultants for technical support, as required. Project service providers will be identified in collaboration with the relevant counterpart agencies or organisations.

A Project Board will be established, chaired by the Governor of Mae Hong Son province and co-chaired by UNDP. Project Board members will include stakeholders representing different segments of the project.

## **Timing**

The project was launched on 22 August 2008, and will run over two years (to July 2010).