

Thailand's Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development





Table of contents

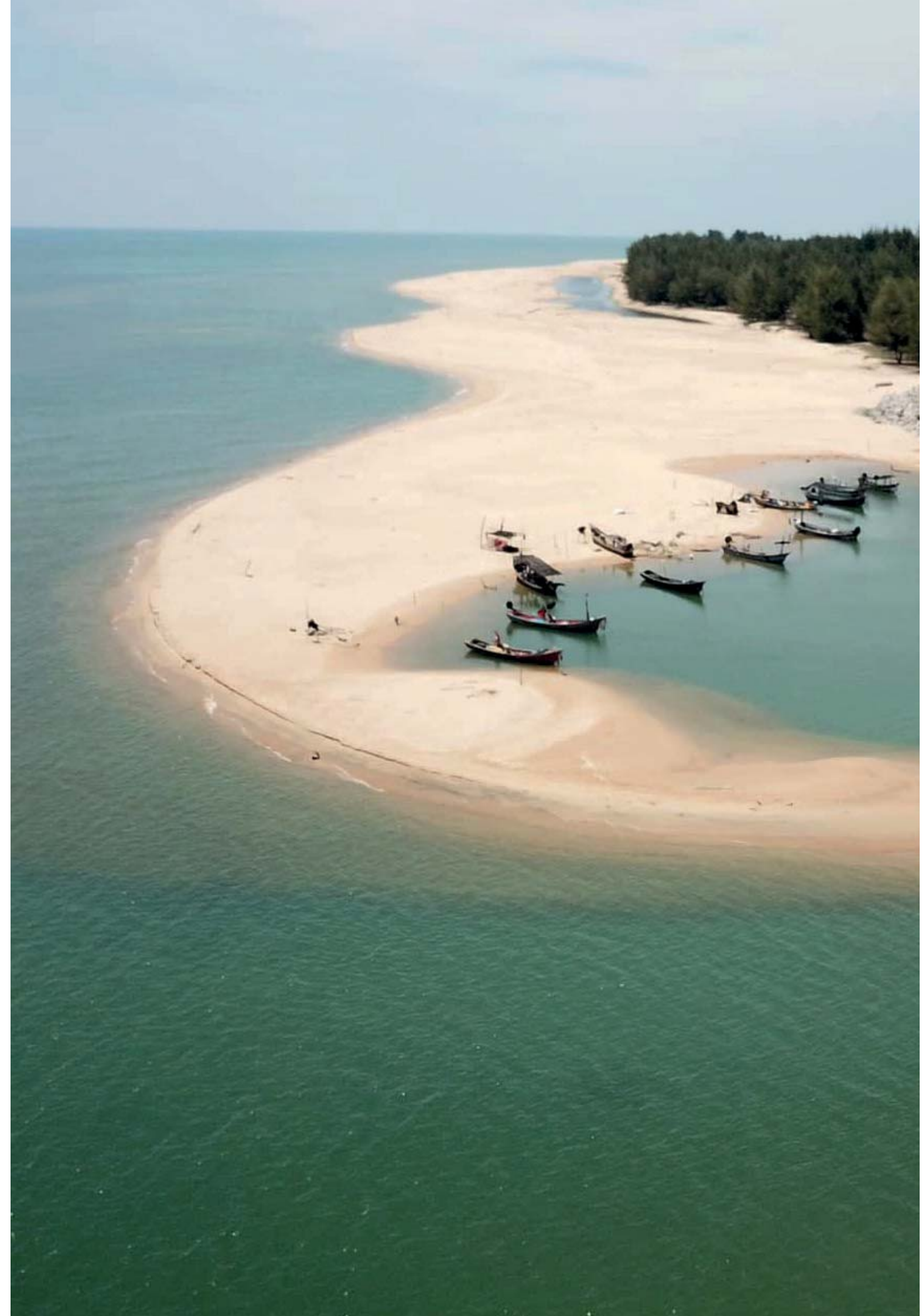
05 | Executive summary

13 | Progress in driving
Thailand's SDGs in 5 dimensions

85 | Driving SDGs
at the local level

97 | Preparation of Voluntary Local Review
on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
for Sustainable Development

103 | Conclusion and next steps



An aerial photograph of a serene landscape. In the foreground, a calm body of water with a greenish-blue hue meets a wide, light-colored sandy beach. A low, grey stone wall runs along the edge of the water. Beyond the wall, a paved road curves gracefully through a dense, lush green forest. The sky above is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Chapter

01

Executive Summary

Global context

2022 and 2023 are critical years for the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development since it is 8 years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 by member states. With 7 years to go until 2030, the deadline for attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations has declared this decade as the Decade of Action, where all sectors of society, be they the public sector, private sector, civil society or academia, must accelerate progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, national level, and particularly local level which is the key to achieving the SDGs.

The year 2023 is a pivotal year since the SDG Summit was held on 18 - 19 September 2023, during the 78th United Nations General Assembly in New York, to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, after the first SDG Summit which took place in 2019. This year's SDG Summit marked the half-way point of the 2030 Agenda and the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the SDGs for the planet and the people, against the backdrop of challenges faced by many countries such as recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, increased geo-political tensions, and climate change.

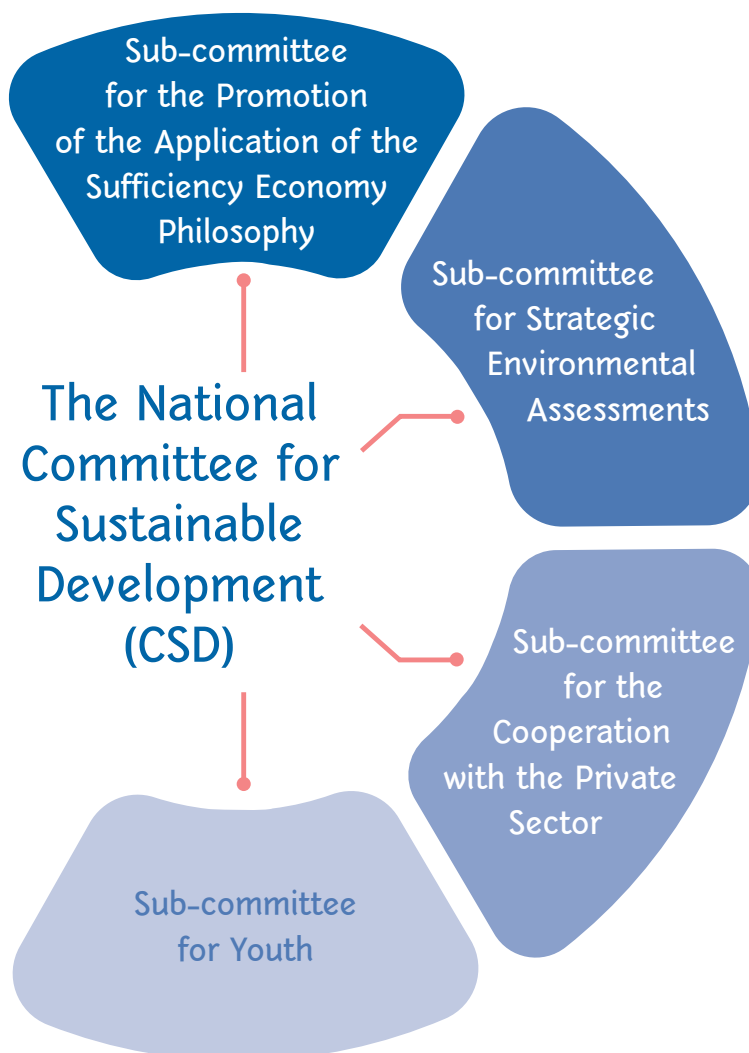
Our context

Thailand attaches great importance to achieving sustainable development, through the adoption of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy which guides the country's development since the 9th National Economic and Social Development Plan. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs have been integrated into the 20-year National Strategy to strengthen development and ensure security, prosperity and sustainability for Thailand. The SDGs were also incorporated into the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan. Under the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2023 - 2027), 4 principles and concepts were outlined to enable Thailand to overcome challenges and ensure that Thailand has security, prosperity and sustainability, namely, (1) the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, (2) resilience building, (3) the SDGs concept of "Leave no one behind" and (4) development of the bio economy, circular economy, and green economy by promoting the application of science, new technologies, and creativity to add economic value, while maintaining the balance between conservation and utilization of natural resources and biodiversity, as well as by adjusting methods of production, service provision, and consumption to reduce environmental impacts.





The National Committee for Sustainable Development (CSD) is Thailand's main organizational structure to drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs at the national level. Sub-committees have been established under the CSD, including the Sub-committee for the Cooperation with the Private Sector and the Sub-committee for Youth, so that all sectors of society can contribute to driving forward the SDGs. Thailand attaches importance to the involvement of all sectors of society in the implementation of SDGs through consultative processes with the public sector, legislative sector, private sector, civil society, academia and volunteers in order to utilize their expertise to provide recommendations to propel the country towards sustainable development.

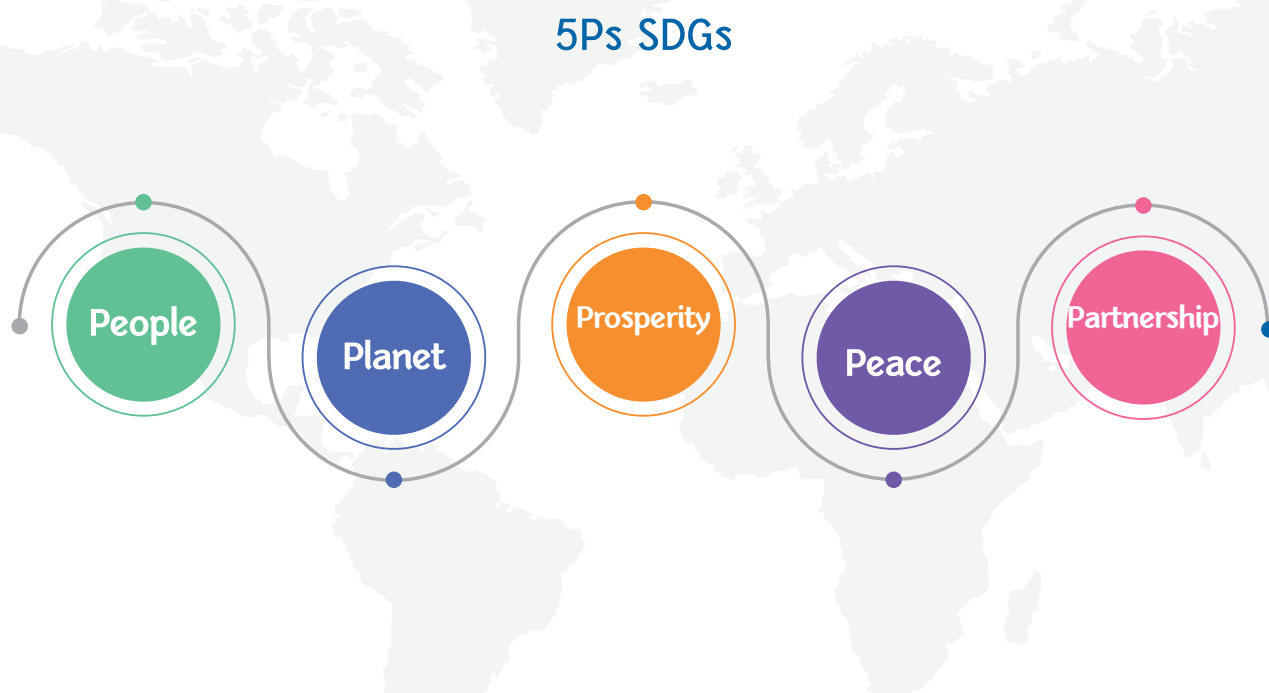


Thailand's Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2022 - 2023

The preparation of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) is an important mechanism that the United Nations views as helping to promote the efforts of countries to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thailand has prepared VNR reports continuously since 2017, the first year that Thailand officially presented the VNR report to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), since it sees the benefit of report preparation as a means to monitor the progress of driving forward sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Thailand. In addition, the process of preparing the VNR report also helps to integrate the implementation of various SDGs and foster participation and cooperation among all sectors of society such as the public sector, private sector, academia and civil society.



Preparation of Thailand's 2022 - 2023 VNR report focuses on the review of SDGs implementation in the 5 dimensions of sustainable development, namely, the people dimension with emphasis on ending poverty, hunger, and reducing inequality in society; the planet dimension; the prosperity dimension; the peace and justice dimension; and the partnership dimension.



Although progress on sustainable development cannot be easily measured, the 2023 Sustainable Development Report, prepared by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) revealed that Thailand's progress in achieving SDGs in the people dimension has continuously improved. In addition to achieving the SDG 1 (No Poverty) since 2016, Thailand has recently achieved the SDG 4 (quality education), adding another goal which reflects Thailand's achievement in conducting its development policy that is based on human-centered development.

This report also aims to reflect the process of driving SDG localization which is an important approach to accelerate SDGs attainment in a concrete manner by 2030. Emphasis is placed on utilizing and strengthening existing mechanisms at the local level, as well as initiating Voluntary Local Review (VLR) processes which can help monitor and accelerate sustainable development at the local level, contributing to that at the national level.

The VNR reporting process

There are two important processes for the preparation of this report: **(1) evaluation by the lead agencies responsible for driving each sustainable development goal**, in consultation with other agencies in order to collect information and summarize the progress of Thailand's progress in achieving the respective goals as well as any problems, obstacles and challenges faced; and **(2) emphasis on SDG localization**, especially the presentation of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) by the Nakhon Si Thammarat Municipality and examples of cooperation projects on SDGs at the local level in order to reflect the participation of all sectors in driving SDGs in an integrated and coherent manner.

Although this is an unofficial VNR report, it is prepared in order to focus on monitoring progress and evaluating challenges in driving SDGs in Thailand by the various sectors, with the hope that there will be continuous improvement in terms of content and comprehensiveness of participation and contribution by all sectors in society which will be beneficial to the reporting process and in increasing awareness of SDGs in the country.

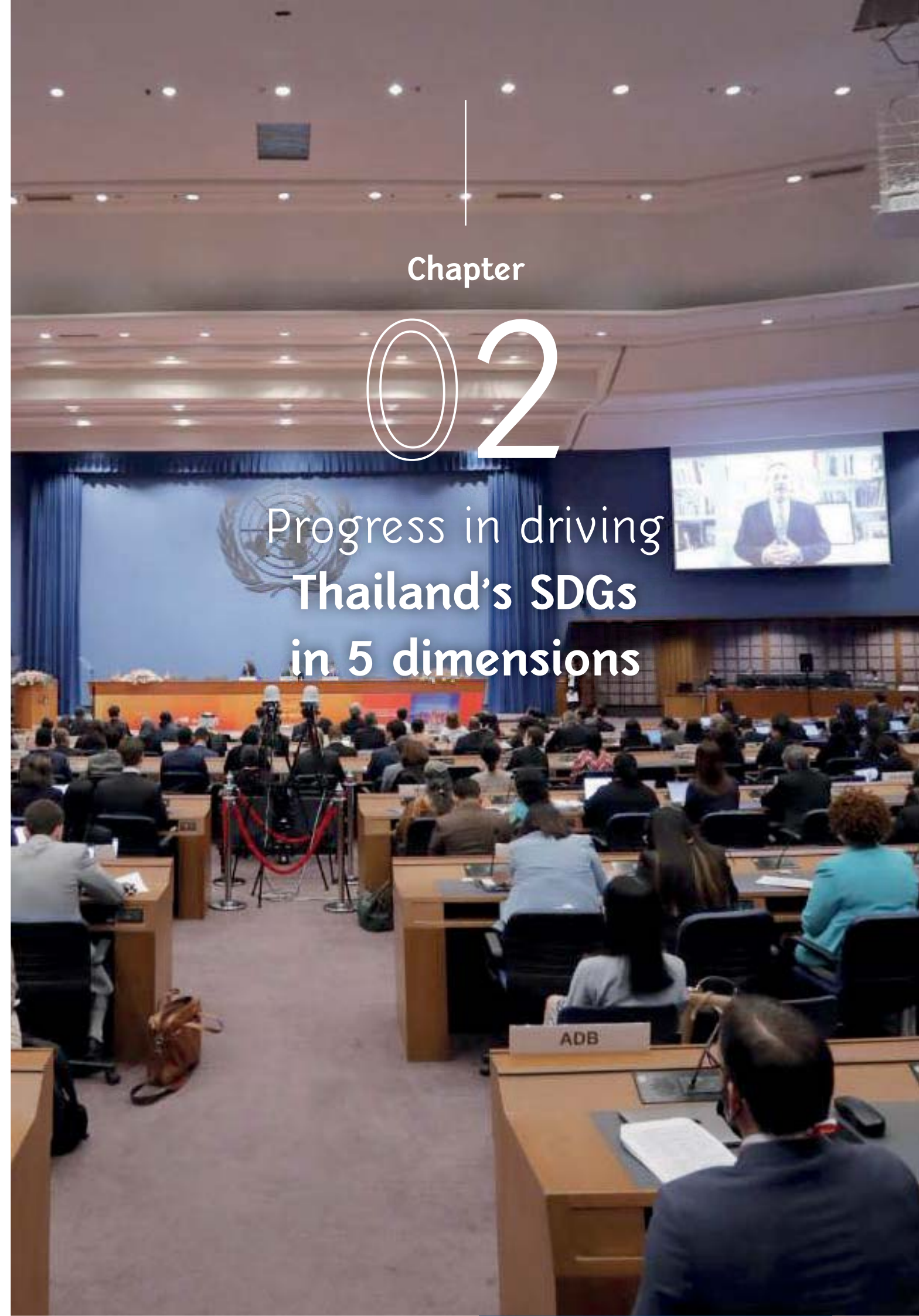




Chapter

02

Progress in driving
Thailand's SDGs
in 5 dimensions



Thailand attaches importance to the promotion of sustainable development and the acceleration of the implementation to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) through enhanced cooperation between government agencies and other sectors such as the private sector, academia, civil society and the general public to work together to drive social, economic and environmental development at the national and local levels in a comprehensive manner. The Thai government is well aware that in the midst of current global challenges and efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, sustainable development must be driven by means of structural change and cooperation from all sectors of society.

Thailand has established the National Committee for Sustainable Development (CSD), headed by the Prime Minister, as the organizational structure to drive sustainable development, and the SDG roadmap as the guideline to ensure the utmost efficiency in the implementation of projects and budget allocation by the government to achieve SDGs. There are 4 sub-committees under the CSD, namely, (1) the Sub-committee for the Promotion of the Application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, (2) the Sub-committee for Strategic Environmental Assessments, (3) the Sub-committee for the Cooperation with the Private Sector, and (4) the Sub-committee for Youth. Among the sub-committees, the Sub-committee for the Cooperation with the Private Sector and the Sub-committee for Youth were recently

established in 2022 to promote participation of the private sector and youth to drive SDGs more comprehensively. In addition, the government focuses on driving operations at the local level in tandem with raising awareness of SDGs in every community to ensure SDGs are driven seriously at all levels through the implementation of pilot projects on sustainable development in communities and provinces, the adoption of SDGs as key performance indicators of local agencies, and the promotion of cooperation with UN agencies in driving SDGs at the local level.

With regard to the implementation in 2022 - 2023, Thailand made progress in driving SDGs in all 5 dimensions (5Ps), namely **(1) People or human development** which is fundamental for building strength from within, **(2) Planet or earth and the environment** which results from balanced growth and development, **(3) Prosperity or economic growth and prosperity** which must be sustainable and balanced in all aspects, both between humans and between humans and nature, **(4) Peace or peace and justice** since an effective justice system with strong and transparent institutions is the foundation for driving SDGs while leaving no one behind, and **(5) Partnership or enhancing partnership for development** for all sectors and levels of society which is key to achieving SDGs. Outcomes of the implementation are as follows:



Dimension

1

Human development
(People)

Dimension

2

Earth and
environment
(Planet)

Dimension

3

Economic growth
and prosperity
(Prosperity)

Dimension

4

Peace and justice
(Peace)

Dimension

5

Partnership
(Partnership)

Dimension

1

Human development (People)



Thailand gives importance to human development by eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms everywhere, and by creating equal opportunity in human development and reducing inequality in society. **The human development dimension focused on the first five goals of SDGs namely Goal 1: No Poverty, Goal 2: Zero Hunger, Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being, Goal 4: Quality Education, and Goal 5: Gender Equality.**



Goal



Eradicating poverty (No Poverty)



Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Thailand's poverty situation had improved continuously. Thailand made remarkable progress in eradicating extreme poverty, **which can be seen from the ratio of Thai people living on less than USD. 1.90/day which reached zero since 2016¹**, due to Thailand's economic growth and government measures to assist low-income and vulnerable people. It was found that most of the Thai people had access to basic services, though some low-income households still had restricted access to computer and internet service. However, from 2020 onwards, the ratio of poor people calculated from those living below the poverty line (less than 2,762 baht per person per month), increased from 6.24% in the previous year to 6.84% or an increase in the number of people living in poverty from 4.3 million to 4.8 million, due to the COVID-19 pandemic which seriously affected the economy and employment. The Thai economy shrank by 6.12%, compared to the growth of 2.3% in the previous year. It can be noted that although the COVID-19 pandemic affected the economy widely, the number of poor people calculated from people living below the poverty line did not increase significantly, partially as a result of government relief measures during

¹ The global poverty line prior to September 2022 was \$1.90 per person per day. However, since September 2022, the World Bank has adjusted the poverty line to \$2.15 per person per day.

the pandemic. Moreover, the government was not complacent and accelerated efforts to reduce and eradicate poverty in the country. According to the latest statistics, in 2021 overall Thai people's income increased to 9,874 baht per person per month or increased by 2.42% compared to the income in 2017 at 9,614 baht per person per month. It is a good sign and the government continues to monitor to ensure that income inequality does not increase.

An important government measure to eradicate poverty in all forms and dimensions, not only income, was the preparation of the **Thai People Map and Analytics Platform (TPMAP)** which was developed from the Thai Poverty Map and Analytics Platform, to identify target groups living in poverty, taking into account all 4 important dimensions, i.e. **education, health, well-being, and financial security**, while maintaining the platform's ability to target poverty. Therefore, TPMAP was able to identify poverty problems at individual, household, community, local, provincial, and national levels or tackle each aspect of poverty, resulting in more targeted solutions to the problem. In 2022, the government provided assistance/development to 621,442 households or 98.74% of 631,119 targeted households by using TPMAP.

At the local level, the **Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development for All Ages by Applying Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and Life Cycle Development Centers (PELCD)** at provincial or district levels provided assistance and solved problems

for 100% of targeted households, including implementing projects for solving poverty problems, such as the Development Project on Sufficiency Economy Village for 41,997 villages during 2009 - 2022, and **the development of model areas to improve the quality of life according to the new theory** as applied to the "Khok Nong Na Model" for restoring local and community economy through job creation and income generation to farmers, workers, new graduates, and migrant workers who had returned to their hometown.

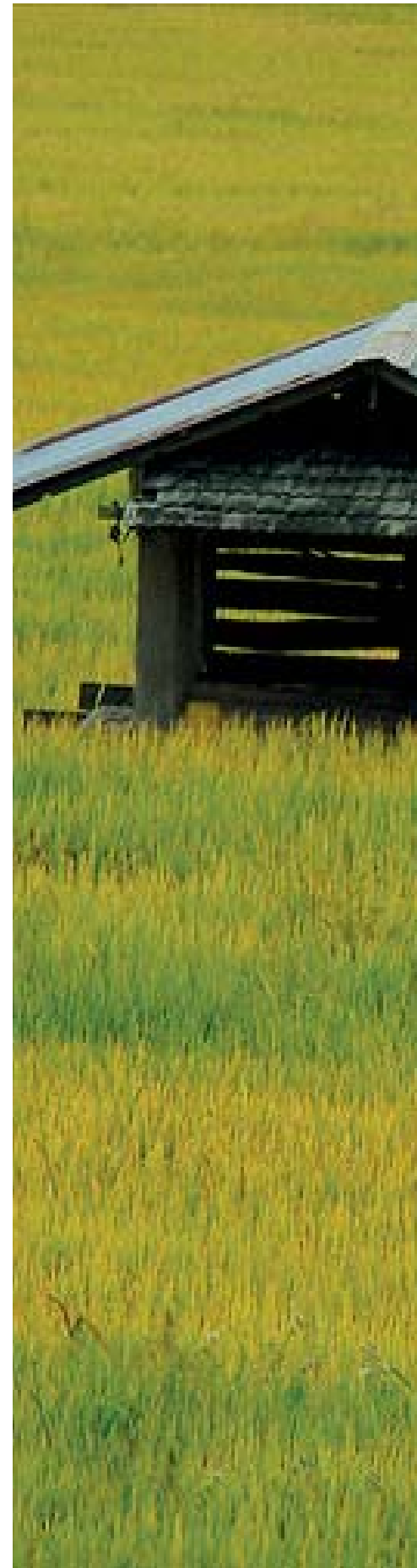
The Thai government also implemented other projects that promoted the quality of life of grassroots, such as **the project to promote people to access community sources of funding** in terms of promoting people savings by means of the **Savings for Production Group (SPG)** comprising 3,056,876 members, of which 1,178,979 members received benefits at over 24,336 million baht; and **the project to solve poverty problems**, especially households having income lower than the basic minimum needs standard by means of village support funds of 280,000 baht per village to be used as working capital for households to borrow in order to carry on an occupation. In this regard, 1,098,562 households received such benefits valued at more than 7,686 million baht. The **Community Fund Management Center** solved household debt problems by implementing 3 dimensional frameworks, i.e. debt management, economic management, and mindset adjustment for living in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy

Philosophy, through debt restructuring. During 2017 - 2022, 60,282 households underwent debt restructuring and were able to reduce/pay off debt totaling more than 966 million baht.

Furthermore, the **Thai Women Empowerment Fund** was available as a source of low-interest working capital for career development, job opportunities, and income generation for women. Currently, the Thai Women Empowerment Fund has approximately 15 million ordinary members and 75,801 women organization members, and groups of women have collectively asked for supportive budgets for carrying out a profession and for quality of life improvement totaling over 16,411 million baht.

The Thai government implemented projects to stimulate grassroots economic development such as the **One Tambon One Product (OTOP) Project** that allowed communities to utilize their local wisdom to develop products in order to generate income. There were 97,913 OTOP manufacturers and entrepreneurs registered with the Community Development Department, and 221,302 OTOP products were developed which could be categorized into (1) 85,120 food products, (2) 11,634 beverages, (3) 42,353 textile and clothing, (4) 53,631 consumer products/decorative items/souvenirs, and (5) 28,564 non-food herbal products. The value of sales in 2022 was over 244,189 million baht (data as of 30 September 2022).

The Thai government implemented the **OTOP Nawatwithi Community Tourism Project** in 76 provinces, where 3,680 villages/communities received training in tourism management focusing on 5 aspects: preparing the local people for tourism (People), landscape/location development (Place), OTOP products and tourism services development (Product), protect and preserve resources that are reflective of the local identity, community, as well as the surrounding environment (Preservation), and community tourism public relations and marketing development (Public Relations/Promotion). Additionally,





the Thai government implemented the **“One Tambon, One Sustainable Village” Project** by selecting the least developed villages/communities or those with problems that urgently needed to be addressed as targets for implementing the project, under the concept of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainable Development Goals (SEP for SDGs). A district team leader was appointed and equipped with the knowledge base and the ability to expand the concept to the sub-district team level and the village team level. The village committee was the key mechanism that worked together with network partners in order to develop the area, elevate the people’s quality of life in all aspects, and strengthen the community.

The conservation and continuance of Thai fabric local wisdom through a campaign to encourage Thai people to wear Thai fabrics was successful in promoting the grassroots economy. Provincial weaving groups benefitted from the sale of the following products: (1) sales of Thai fabrics and local woven fabrics (June 2020 - February 2023) were over 44,628 million baht and benefitted 15,533 weaving groups, (2) HRH Princess Sirivannavari’s Mudmee fabric with Kho pattern (hook-patterned fabric) made more than 1,698 million baht in sales (January 2021 - February 2023) and benefitted 11,803 weaving groups, and (3) sales of Khit Naree Ratana Rajakanya patterned fabric (February 2022 - February 2023) were over 389 million baht and benefitted 11,336 weaving groups.

Goal

2

Ending all forms of hunger (Zero Hunger)

2 ZERO HUNGER



Thailand's hunger situation was on a positive trend, as can be seen from the ratio of the population with average monthly consumption expenditure below the food poverty line that decreased from 0.54% in 2016 to 0.39% in 2020. However, **access to nutritious food remained a major challenge**. According to information from the National Statistical Office of Thailand (NSO), it was reported that 12.5% of Thai children below 5 years old had stunted growth caused by long-term malnutrition. Meanwhile, 7.2% of Thai children were underweight and 10.9% were overweight, an increase from 2019. In addition, Thailand faced challenges related to the preparation of the Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index, and elimination of residual pesticide in food. The COVID-19 pandemic also caused economic difficulties to the Thai people. Therefore, ensuring food security and producing adequate food supply are issues that Thailand attaches importance, along with restoring the country from various crises and promoting sustainable food production systems that are resilient to climate change and are environmentally-friendly.

As for the development of the agricultural sector to achieve food security, the value of agricultural production per labor unit remained low, with a growth



of approximately 3% per year. Similarly, the expansion of sustainable agricultural areas has not achieved the goal. In 2021, Thailand had 1.76 million rais (about 700,000 acres) of land in sustainable agriculture system, lower than the goal of 7.5 million rais (about 3 million acres) of sustainable agricultural land area by 2025.

The government has continuously invested in the agricultural sector, as can be seen from the directional investment index of the government sector for agriculture that increased, the promotion for people to adopt the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy to enhance household food security during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as **the establishment of the National Biodiversity Bank** dedicated to the conservation of the country's biodiversity and enhancement of long-term food security. Moreover, the government provided assistance to farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic by means of information dissemination, relief programs for farmers, and the support of distribution channels since farmers' well-being is essential for achieving food security.

At the local level, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives provided agricultural knowledge to farmers in order to increase agricultural output and income for small-scale food producers under various projects, such the One Tambon One New Theory Agriculture Group, the Large Scale Agricultural Extension System Project (Mega Farm Project), the Learning Center for Increasing Production Efficiency for

Agricultural Products, the Project for Enhancing Plant Protection to Increase Production Efficiency for Agricultural Products, and the Project for Strengthening Agricultural Production Groups. Activities in promoting food security at the community level and the recovery of the agricultural sector after the COVID-19 pandemic were implemented, enabling more than 64,144 farmers to earn more income, and 32,072 farmers in 4,009 sub-districts in 75 provinces were employed. Furthermore, organic farming projects were implemented in land reform areas in Yasothon Province to encourage farmers to convert from chemical-based farming to organic farming, with over 1,500 rais (about 600 acres) of land used for safe farming. A Royal initiative project that promoted animal husbandry so that farmers would have a source of food was implemented. Farmers were equipped with knowledge on animal husbandry, and ecosystem management until they could create their product identity for generating income and contributing to sustainable utilization, maintenance, and management of the system, thus generating food security. There were also projects for children and youth development in remote areas by promoting schools to conduct agricultural activities for lunch programs. Schools became both a source of production and a source of learning for students of all ages to reduce malnutrition, increase food security in a continuous manner, and sell agricultural products to the communities.

Goal

3

Good Health and Well-being

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



The COVID-19 pandemic reflected that a public health threat could severely and widely impact the economy and society. An effective universal health coverage (UHC) was an important factor which enabled Thailand to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic effectively. In 2022, Thailand's universal health coverage had a 99.27% comprehensiveness rate. Additionally, Thailand was the first country in Asia to efficiently eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis in 2016. The number of HIV infections was declining, and access to sexual well-being and reproductive health services for women was increasing, similar to the comprehensiveness of essential public health services, all of which reflected the progress of public health implementation in Thailand.



Thailand has the Determining Plans and Process Decentralization to Local Government Organization Act, B.E. 2542 (1999) which grants local administrative organizations (LAOs) the authority to manage public services in their own locality, including public health services, family health and hygiene, medical care and prevention and control of communicable diseases. The LAOs were also transferred the operations of health stations, and sub-district health promotion hospitals.

In addition, the distribution of public health personnel has increased. In 2019, the government had a policy to develop and educate as many as 1,041,839 village health volunteers (VHVs), covering all villages across the country to become local medical volunteers, in conjunction with the use of medical technology and increased efficiency of the public health service system in communities through the development of the telemedicine system to ensure that people were able to take care of their health and that communities were self-reliant in a sustainable manner. The VHVs were another mechanism essential to the primary health system of Thailand and they were closest to and had the best access to the local people. They acted as implementers of policies in a tangible manner, whose important role was to be transformation leaders in health behavior and public health; provide primary health care and health information to the people; and collect health data from communities, families, patient groups, risk groups, and vulnerable people in their responsible areas. They acted

as a link between villages and public health officers and were at the forefront in handling and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in an efficient manner. They played a role in providing information, knowledge about self-care and guidelines for observing symptoms, and in inquiring and screening patients as well as in following up and coordinating with public health officers.

The challenges facing Thailand are the number of deaths caused by road accidents and stopping tuberculosis transmission. In 2021, the mortality rate caused by road traffic injuries and road accidents was 25.92 deaths per 100,000 people as per the population and the incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000 people in Thailand was reported at 143 patients. Furthermore, Thailand has been facing air pollution and PM2.5 problems, which threatened people's health especially for those living in urban areas.

In order to solve road accident problems, Thailand has established the Local Administration Organization Road Safety Directing Center, which aims to halve the number of deaths and injuries from road accidents, and has implemented the Community-based Management for Road Safety project with the objective to encourage communities to participate in road safety management by means of a bottom-up approach, namely, involving the people in determining policy directions and development processes.

Goal

4

Quality Education

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



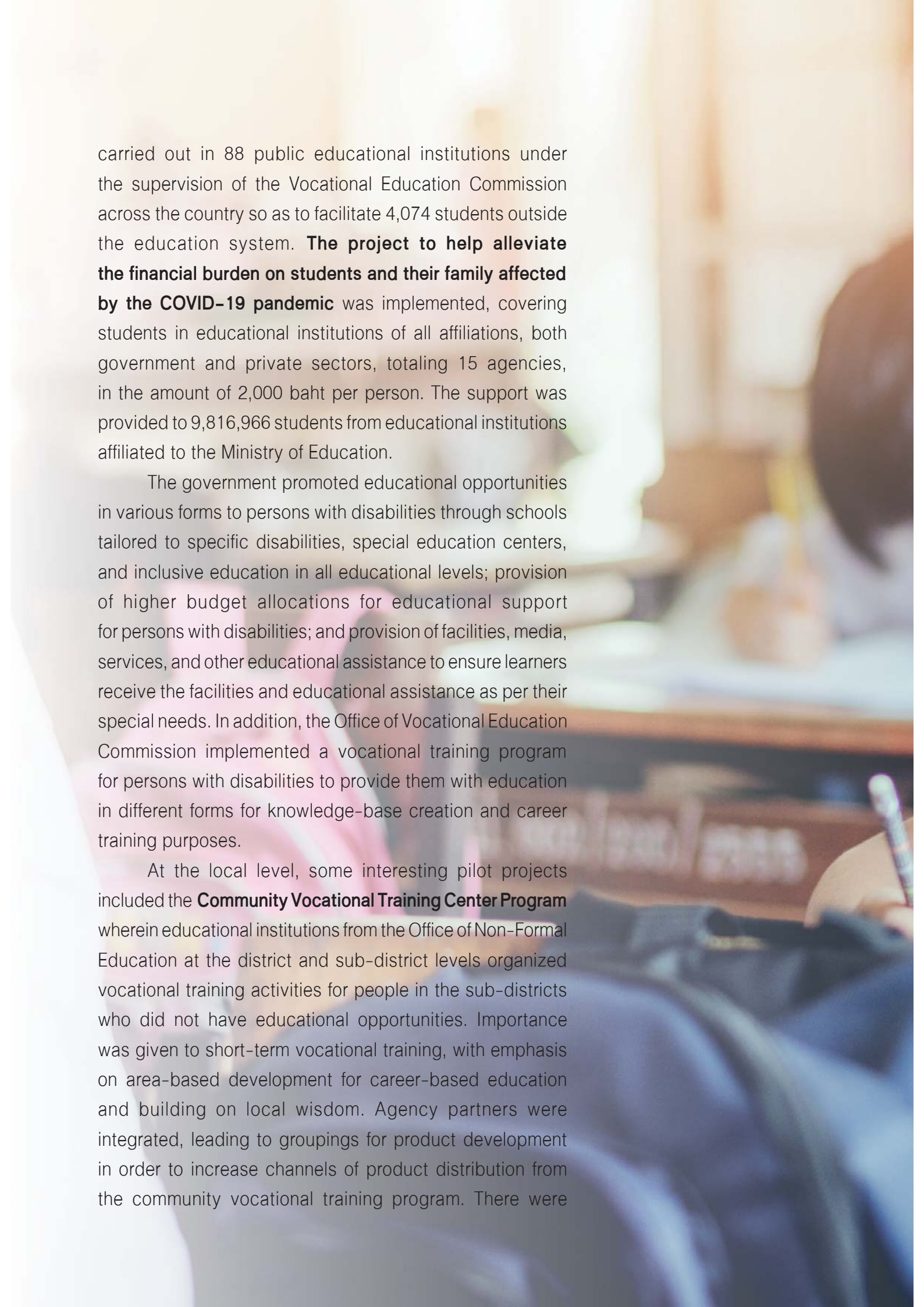
In the past years, the rate of access to education and graduation among Thai people has increased. The government encouraged Thais of all ages to receive quality education on an equal basis. Emphasis was placed on children at risk of not having access to education suitable for their ages due to their family's financial situation. The Ministry of Education implemented the project to prepare a database and a monitoring & evaluation system to support the driving of SDGs in education both in the central and local areas by having the **Steering Committee for Sustainable Development Goal 4** to determine operational guidelines and goals as well as to direct, monitor and report operational performance, and to solve operational challenges. A roadmap was prepared to drive the SDG on education at the national, regional, and provincial levels.



Thailand provided financial support for expenditures on education from kindergarten to compulsory education for students in formal and non-formal education under the basic education curriculum, i.e. tuition and learning fees, textbook fees, cost of learning materials, cost of school uniform, and activity fees for student development. In this regard, 854,572 persons of working age² who did not finish their basic education were able to receive non-formal education in an inclusive and equal manner, thus allowing the people to further their education and improve their quality of life. In the 2020 fiscal year, the Thai government allocated an education budget in the amount of 493,822 million baht, accounting for 15.4% of the whole government expenditure budget. The first priority was given to the allocation of budgets for basic education expenditure (pre-school, primary and secondary education) at 69.27% of the country's budget for education. Moreover, Thailand has implemented a project for promoting skills development for Thai children and youths to life in the 21st century by driving implementation through the Children and Youth Council of Thailand with the provision of supportive budget to children and youth councils at all levels.

The Thai government had several projects to provide educational opportunities, such as the **“Bring the Kids Back to School”** project which was a collaboration between 12 organizations and the Ministry of Education's own agencies to search for and bring students who were outside the education system back to the education system. To track students who have dropped out, the application “Bring the Kids Back to School” was developed to ensure the work is carried out conveniently and quickly, and details of the students and problem causes could be kept as a database. There were 121,050 students, college students, students with disabilities and persons with disabilities who returned to schools, out of the total number of 121,642 persons, with only 592 persons who had not returned to school. **The project “Free Boarding TVET”** was established to increase educational opportunities for poor people who lacked educational opportunities or those who lived in remote areas, including students who were left out of the education system. In the 2022 fiscal year, the project was

² Registration information for the first semester of the academic year 2022 from the Office of Non-formal and Informal Education.



carried out in 88 public educational institutions under the supervision of the Vocational Education Commission across the country so as to facilitate 4,074 students outside the education system. **The project to help alleviate the financial burden on students and their family affected by the COVID-19 pandemic** was implemented, covering students in educational institutions of all affiliations, both government and private sectors, totaling 15 agencies, in the amount of 2,000 baht per person. The support was provided to 9,816,966 students from educational institutions affiliated to the Ministry of Education.

The government promoted educational opportunities in various forms to persons with disabilities through schools tailored to specific disabilities, special education centers, and inclusive education in all educational levels; provision of higher budget allocations for educational support for persons with disabilities; and provision of facilities, media, services, and other educational assistance to ensure learners receive the facilities and educational assistance as per their special needs. In addition, the Office of Vocational Education Commission implemented a vocational training program for persons with disabilities to provide them with education in different forms for knowledge-base creation and career training purposes.

At the local level, some interesting pilot projects included the **Community Vocational Training Center Program** wherein educational institutions from the Office of Non-Formal Education at the district and sub-district levels organized vocational training activities for people in the sub-districts who did not have educational opportunities. Importance was given to short-term vocational training, with emphasis on area-based development for career-based education and building on local wisdom. Agency partners were integrated, leading to groupings for product development in order to increase channels of product distribution from the community vocational training program. There were



414,501 persons from target groups who passed the vocational and basic skills training from the project.

Furthermore, **educational scholarships were granted to children living in difficult conditions in the northern region's highlands** who were studying in schools affiliated to the Office of Non-Formal Education. In the 2022 fiscal year, the Office of Non-Formal Education granted scholarships to 6,385 underprivileged children in 8 provinces in the northern region. **Another**

project was the Phra Dabos School which provided vocational training in various fields for the poor and disadvantaged youths and youths who have been affected by the incidents in the 5 southern border provinces to ensure they receive educational opportunities for career development through the courses available, such as motorcycle repair, automobile repair, agricultural machinery repair, electrician and welder courses.





Gender Equality



Thailand has the Plan of Action on Women's Development (2023 - 2027) and the 4th National Human Rights Plan (2019 - 2023) that specifically stipulated human rights for women. Furthermore, Thailand has produced the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) handbook to serve as guideline for relevant agencies in making budget proposals that take gender issues into consideration. Courses on good governance and the promotion of gender equality for executives, training courses for lecturers on gender equality, activities to enhance the potential of local leaders, and workshops to raise awareness of Thailand's Gender Equality Act B.E. 2558 (2015) were also organized.

Thailand's gender inequality index has been improving continuously, from 0.408% in 2016 to 0.333% in 2021. Furthermore, **the Thai female population received equal educational opportunity as the male population at all levels**, and had greater likelihood of owning land and playing a role in politics and the economy. According to statistics in 2020, women played a greater role in the economic system. In Thailand, women held 32% of chief executive positions, higher than the global average and the Asia Pacific average, and the ratio of women with access to information and communication technology has also increased.



However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, women faced more economic effects and violence in the family. The government therefore provided financial relief measures for women who had lost income, built shelters for unemployed and homeless women including single mothers, and provided free vocational training. In 2021, Thailand established the service centers for single mothers and families currently covering 12 provinces in all regions, namely, Chiang Rai, Lamphun, Lampang, Si Sa Ket, Khon Kaen, Chon Buri, Nonthaburi, Songkhla, Phitsanulok, Nakhon Ratchasima, Surat Thani, and Bangkok. There were 5,947 single mothers who have received services from these centers.

Thailand is preparing the Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women (2023 - 2027) and has provided skills training and raised awareness of self-protection for women in violent situations through workshops and online public relations. The application Family Line was developed in 2021 to publicize knowledge and provide consultation to family members having such problems through www.เพื่อนครอบครัว.com and Line application. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with 27 agency partners to prevent and resolve family violence. A project to exchange knowledge about gender and the elimination of gender-based violence was also implemented in various organizations.

As for implementation at the local level, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) provided training to promote knowledge and understanding about politics to women at the community level. An example was the promotion of female social development and human security volunteers (SDHSV) in 21 provinces in the central,





northern, and southern regions and Bangkok so that they would have the knowledge, understanding, skills, self-confidence, and ability to be involved in decision-making. This should be an important mechanism to create an equitable society and promote women's participation in the preparation of government policies and measures, and in driving the development of the community and country. Vocational training was provided on-site and online for young women, vulnerable groups, and the general public, on subjects such as Thai massage, hairdressing, hair cutting for men, dressmaking, basic electrical appliance repairs, cooking and bakery through 8 learning centers for empowering women and families and 4 occupational protection and development centers, covering all provinces in Thailand. **The gathering of occupational groups in the digital age was supported** to enable goods/products of the occupational groups to be sold online, elevate community products and reduce economic inequality. Competencies in E-commerce were developed through a pilot project called Thailand E-Commerce Sustainability to develop a model E-commerce community. Public relations and promotion of products from women and family occupational groups in the digital era were conducted with the cooperation of the Electronic Transactions Development Agency and Shopee under the brand "Dream weaving by MSDHS."

Moreover, the Community Development Department, Ministry of Interior, focused on empowering women's strength by providing knowledge about information and communication technology and promoting the women's role development fund as a source of low-interest working capital to ensure women had access to a source of capital for making investments to improve their professions, create jobs, generate income and improve women's quality of life.



An underwater photograph showing a large school of fish swimming near a coral reef. The water is clear and blue, and the coral is visible at the bottom. The fish are of various species, including some with yellow and black stripes.

Dimension

2

Earth and environment (Planet)

The environment plays a vital role in sustainable development. Thailand prioritizes the protection and preservation of natural resources and climate conditions, and promotes responsible and sustainable production and consumption for current and future generations. **The environmental dimension focused on goals of the SDGs namely Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, Goal 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production, Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 14: Marine Resources, and Goal 15: Terrestrial Ecosystem.**

Goal



Clean Water and Sanitation



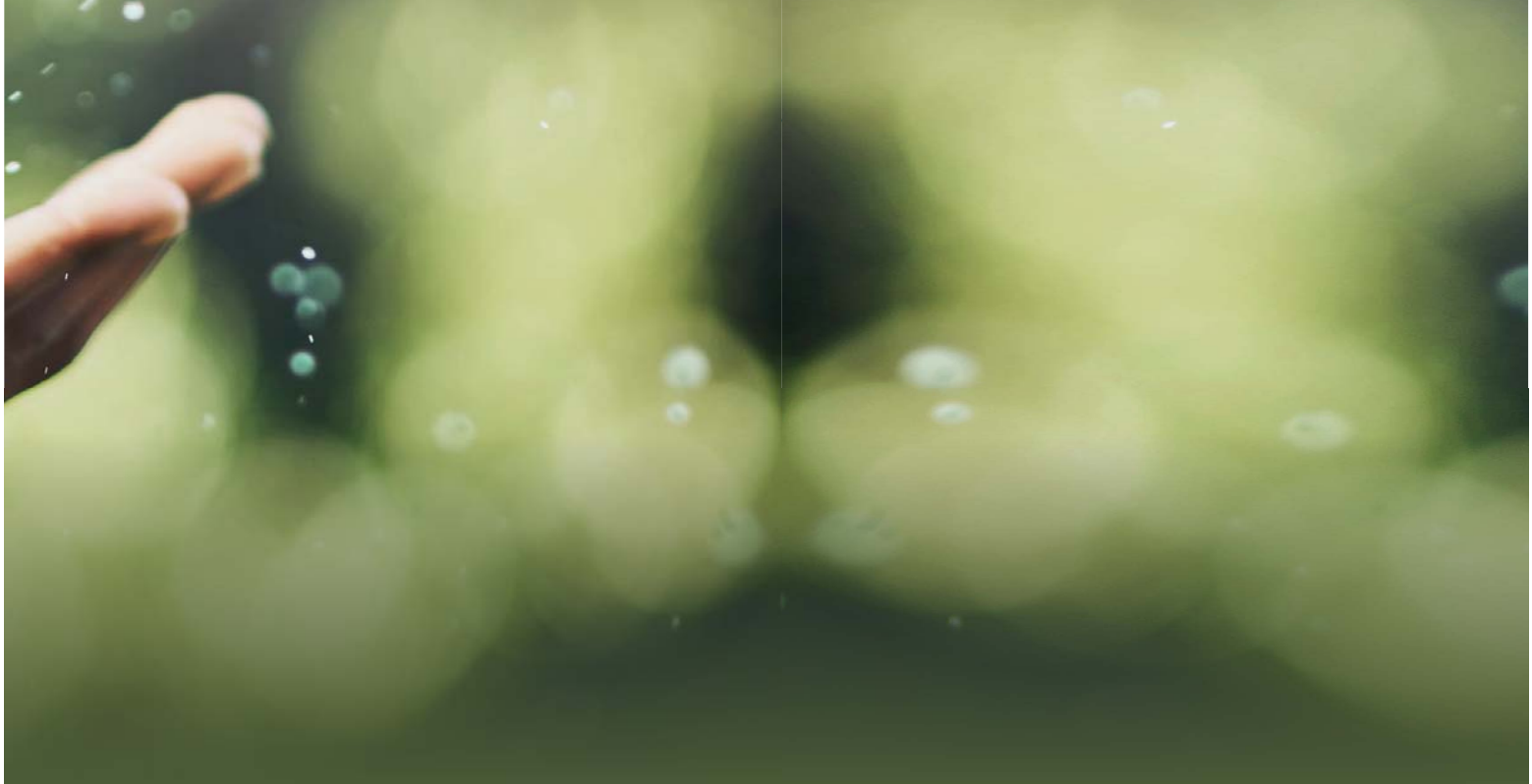
The National Water Resources Office is the main regulating body for water management, working alongside over 40 related agencies. Additionally, there is active participation from various sectors. Thailand also collaborates with four countries in the Mekong River basin under the Mekong River Commission (MRC) to sustainably manage and develop water resources. Thailand's water governance score was at 53, which was a moderate to high level.

Currently, 98% of Thailand's population has access to water for use and consumption, and the proportion of households with access to clean drinking water has increased. In terms of water quality, 100% from the metropolitan waterworks, 78% from the provincial waterworks, and 32% from village water systems met the quality standards.

In terms of sanitation, 85% of Thai households had dedicated places for hand washing facilities with water and soap or other cleaning agents. 99.8% of households had regular in-house restrooms, 98% of which were hygienic, and 72% of public toilets met the Health Accessibility and Safety (HAS) standards.

However, water quality remains a significant challenge. Only 26% of wastewater in Thailand underwent treatment. This was relatively low in comparison to the global average





of 56%. However, 42% of surface water sources were of good or excellent quality, an improvement from previous years. Coastal and marine water quality remained stable since 2020, with 50% rated good or excellent. Thailand's water stress level was at 12.64%, below the global average. Water usage efficiency increased to \$7.49 USD/cubic meter from \$7.16 USD/cubic meter in 2018. However, the efficiency remained lower than the global average.

At the local level, the Water Resources Act of 2018 established mechanisms for water management. These included the National Water Resources Committee and 22 River Basin Committees responsible for setting directions for water management, optimizing water resources, formulating master plans for the river basins, drafting plans to address flooding and drought, and proposing area-specific budgets and projects. They also conducted area-specific studies and proposed systematic solutions by engaging public participation to ensure

that the needs of the local population were met. This approach empowered local governing bodies to address water-related needs in their areas efficiently, with emphasis on accessible water for use and consumption, comprehensive sanitation, wastewater management from the source, expansion of wastewater treatment facilities, and wastewater recycling. The development of various water storage systems aims to reduce water use stress. Additionally, efforts are being accelerated to restore natural water sources, while taking into account the entire ecological system from source to end, to address the impacts of climate change. Water User Associations were established in various sectors, including agriculture, industry, commerce, central and local administration, experts from academic institutions and local scholars, to manage and conserve water resources in line with socio-cultural and ecological systems, while conserving the lifestyles of local communities.

In this regard, the Department of Local Administration, evaluated the performance of local government organizations through the Local Performance Assessment (LPA) with indicators related to water for use and consumption. This required local government organizations to inspect the quality of drinking water comprehensively at the sources of water production and distribution within each local government organization. From the total of 7,774 local government organizations, 6,152 local government organizations or 79.13 percent conducted water quality inspections. Furthermore, guidelines were established to improve the quality of tap water to meet the standards. Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority and Provincial Waterworks Authority have expanded water supply services extensively, with the goal of extending the service area to cover the responsible areas. Additionally, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) supervised the operation of water vending machines in the Bangkok area, and provided tools and operational guidance for district offices, such as manuals, brochures, and simple drinking water quality test kits (Or 11), to assess the quality and issue licenses for business operation and to educate entrepreneurs about hygiene requirements.

Thailand has specific measures in place to prepare for droughts. These include scaling up water storage in all reservoirs, identifying water reserve in risk-prone areas, replenishing water in agricultural reservoirs, crop planning for dry season, preparing water reserves for low-lying areas, monitoring and evaluating of water situations and water quality in the rivers, and raising public awareness. For the rainy season, measures include identifying flood-prone areas, managing water in low-lying regions to accommodate runoff, improving criteria for large reservoir management, repairing and upgrading hydrology buildings and drainage systems, removing waterway obstructions, dredging canals and removing water hyacinth, preparing for flood-prone areas, enhancing water use efficiency, inspecting the integrity and safety of water structures, organizing evacuation zones and disaster drills, increasing public awareness, and monitoring and evaluating the situation.





Goal 12

Responsible Consumption and Production



Thailand has implemented the Sustainable Consumption and Production Roadmap (2017 – 2037), with the aim to transform Thai society towards efficient, value-optimizing, and balanced natural resources usage.

Progress indicators for Goal 12 included Material Footprint (MF) which Thailand measured at 8.91 tons per capita and 2.30 tons per US dollar in 2015, and Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) measured at 8.85 tons per capita and 1.78 tons per US dollar in 2020. Based on the national assessment of agricultural and food product losses, a baseline for loss reduction throughout the value chain was established. The Department of Agriculture also expects to accomplish a national food waste baseline in 2023. Furthermore, Thailand is formulating a plan to reduce food waste throughout the production chain. The plan is set to be announced in 2024. At the same time, Thailand is also developing the “Thailand Food Waste Management Roadmap.” Based on a study conducted in 2021, food waste, including both edible and inedible parts, accounted for 38.76% of the country’s total waste. It is calculated that Thailand was producing approximately 9.68 million tons of food waste in 2021 or about 146 kilograms per person annually. The roadmap targets a 25% reduction to 36.5



kilograms per person annually by 2025, and a 50% reduction to 73 kilograms per person annually by 2030.

Having continued from and in line with the National Waste Management Master Plan (2016 - 2021), Thailand has developed the country's Second National Action Plan on Waste Management (2022 - 2027). This holistic blueprint aims to promote continuity in waste management efforts, engaging with all sectors and key organizations to achieve the nation's waste management targets. The primary objectives are: (1) to ensure that 80% of community solid waste is managed correctly. This involves increasing household waste separation and recycling by 36%, improving waste-to-energy incineration to reduce landfill use and improper burning, and decreasing the amount of landfill waste, (2) to boost the proportion of recycled materials in production, including plastic and packaging types such as paper, glass, and aluminum, with the goal of recycling rates ranging from 74% to 100%, (3) to decrease food waste to 28% to mitigate the odor from waste piles and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, (4) to properly

manage at least 50% of hazardous community waste, and (5) to ensure 100% proper handling of infectious waste and hazardous industrial by-products. The vision behind these goals is to transition waste to be recognized as valuable resources that can be repurposed, and that waste disposal methods should not adversely impact the public or the environment. The vision statement embodies the principle: "A new approach to waste management for a clean environment, progressing towards sustainable economic and social development." The plan also emphasizes the need for provincial and local governmental agencies to manage hazardous waste in communities properly. Regarding electronic waste management, initiatives have been undertaken to monitor and provide solutions for the environmental contamination arising from e-waste segregation in provinces like Buri Ram, Kalasin, and Ubon Ratchathani. Additionally, the "Thais Without E-Waste" project, with collaboration from Advance Info Service Public Company Limited, seeks to promote and drive these efforts.





To drive the SDGs, specifically Goal 12, the Thai Government has collaborated effectively with the private sector. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is the main responsible entity. **There is a continued increase in certification for the “Green Industry Label.”** In 2022, 9,388 factories were certified as Green Industries out of a target of 35,718 factories, which equates to 26.28%. **Additionally, there have been initiatives to develop and upgrade environmentally-friendly industrial cities to sustainable environmental cities** in 18 areas across 15 provinces, while pursuing the implementation of various conventions and protocols on chemical and waste, with 4 conventions and 1 protocol being adhered to.³

³ Agreements and protocols concerning various chemicals consist of 4 agreements and 1 protocol including: 1) Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 2) Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, 3) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 4) Minamata Convention on Mercury, and 5) Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The enterprises regulation and implementation of measures to protect the environment

included the revision of laws on air pollution to facilitate a comprehensive nationwide monitoring and inspection of factory emissions that might cause air pollution. This enabled the public to track the results of the control measures on air pollution released by factories to ensure that the emissions, especially particulate matter from power plants, were at the level appropriate to social, economic, technological, and environmental conditions. Additionally, efforts were made to control the emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), which could react chemically in the atmosphere and release fine particulate matters that directly affect public health. Moreover, there were initiatives to analyze the potential of industrial estate zones for sustainable development. These efforts involved the development of Geographic Information System (GIS) to monitor factories within industrial zones, coupled with the development of a GIS Application linked to the factory database of the Department of Industrial Works to assist in studying and developing areas in industrial zones to promote a circular economy and sustainable development. There were also endeavors to foster innovation and establish facilitating technological mechanisms to reduce industrial pollution and drive measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the industrial processes, product usage, and industrial wastewater sectors.



REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

Projects have been implemented to create a framework to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns and continuously encourage enterprises to adopt environmentally-friendly and sustainable management practices. For instance, the “Zero Waste to Landfill” project for the industrial sector based on international standards aimed to reduce waste disposal costs by 43.3%, representing a value of 37,565,115 baht per year. Another initiative

aimed to enhance the efficiency of hazardous industrial waste management through implementing the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) principle and KAIZEN, which has led to a decrease of 480 tons of landfill waste per year, or 20% compared to the amount prior to joining the program.

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand promoted the BCG policy through the development of environmentally-focused industrial cities systematically to gain recognition as Eco-Champion Industrial Estate, Eco-Excellence Industrial Estate, and Eco-World Class Industrial Estate. In collaboration with the Industrial Estate Council of Thailand, they developed environmental industrial standards (Eco Factory) which meant zero or minimal waste emissions, efficient use of raw materials and energy (Resources and Energy Efficiency), an excellent and standardized Environment Management System, reliable production activities, and a symbiosis with the community. Furthermore, they encouraged and developed recycling technologies to turn waste into alternative mineral and metal resources for the country and supported the circular economy through projects promoting green mining standards and enhancing the mining and base industries to have standards and social responsibility (CSR-DPIM). Officials and relevant businesses were invited to attend training sessions on the social responsibility standards of industrial operators.

Bio Economy

B



Circular Economy

C



Green Economy

G







Climate Action



Thailand has actively cooperated with the international community in addressing climate change. At the 26th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP 26) held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, the Prime Minister (General Prayut Chan-o-cha) stated in the World Leaders Summit that Thailand is committed to addressing climate change comprehensively and by all means. **The goal is for Thailand to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2065**, in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 from the baseline scenario, with adequate and enhanced access to technology development and transfer, financial resources and capacity building support. Thailand has revised its Long-Term Low GHG Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to align with the said goals, and subsequently submitted it to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2022.

Thailand has successfully implemented the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) by the year 2020. As a result, Thailand reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by a total of 56.54 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂eq), or 15.40%, in line with Thailand's NAMA target of 7 - 20%.



Additionally, there is a directive for the agricultural sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1 MtCO₂eq by 2030. This will be achieved through the application of modern agricultural innovations and technologies (AgriTech) to increase productivity, reduce costs, and utilize resources efficiently. Currently, there are pilot projects for alternative low-greenhouse gas emissions rice cultivation methods, such as the Thai Rice NAMA project, which uses laser land leveling, alternate wetting and drying (AWD) rice cultivation, and adjusted fertilizer to suit soil conditions. The Government needs to provide appropriate supporting mechanisms to ensure that farmers can access these technologies at a reasonable cost.

Thailand places importance on raising awareness about climate change

by integrating climate change knowledge into the 2008 Basic Education Core Curriculum and learning standards and content indicators (revised edition 2017) totaling 3 groups including (1) Mathematics, Science, and Geography, (2) Social Studies, Religion, and Culture, and (3) Health Education and Physical Education. Furthermore, the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion has developed an educational activity manual on climate change and environment. This manual contains essential information about climate change that can be used for teaching by teachers, professors, or any interested general public. The Department has distributed it to related agencies and schools within its network.

Thailand is actively pursuing climate change policies and operationalizing them across sectors and local areas. The Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) in collaboration with the German International Cooperation (GIZ) initiated the Climate Policy Project to support the localization of climate change policies under the Thai-German Climate Program (TGCP). This project, continuing from its Phase 1 (2014 - 2017) completed in (2021), aimed at strengthening the capacities of related central and provincial agencies in 60 provinces to integrate climate change policies into provincial development planning. Moreover, efforts were made to establish networks among related agencies for effective collaboration. Among such initiatives were the province-focused “Province Steps Up, Battle Climate Change” to provide both technical and academic supports for integrating climate change strategies within area specific contexts. The 10 provinces participated in this initiative, namely Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Chon Buri, Chanthaburi, Chumphon, Tak, Maha Sarakham, Ranong, Yasothon, and Suphan Buri, all have successfully integrated climate change considerations into their provincial development plans.

The Ministry of Interior of Thailand has initiated a project “wet waste bins to reduce global warming” in various provinces. These efforts were verified for their greenhouse gas reduction impacts. An external assessment by the Validation and Verification Body (VVB) including the review of documentation and

field visits by external evaluators in various provinces was conducted to verify the monthly data of wet waste bins as collected and recorded in the information system of local government waste management agencies. Additionally, random household inspections were conducted. From the results of the evaluation in December 2022, it was found that Lamphun Province was accredited for 806.64 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂eq) carbon credits; Samut Songkhram Province was accredited for 247.92 tCO₂eq carbon credits; Amnat Charoen Province was accredited for 532.44 tCO₂eq carbon credits; Loei Province was accredited for 1,513.88 tCO₂eq carbon credits. In total, these four provinces were accredited with 3,140.88 tCO₂eq carbon credits.

In the area of disaster risk management, Thailand has been implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030 to mitigate existing risks and prevent new ones by employing economic, structural, legal, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, and political measures in an inclusive and comprehensive manner. It aimed to enhance preparedness and quick recovery in the event of disasters. The National Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan for the years 2021 - 2027 was developed as a tool to manage the country's disaster risk and ensure safety for life and property. Under this plan, national and regional agencies collaborated to formulate strategies, projects, and activities

for disaster risk management at the policy level. At the regional level, provincial disaster prevention and mitigation plans were created to align with the national plan and serve as comprehensive action plans for all local agencies. Currently, all 76 provinces have completed their provincial disaster prevention and mitigation plans.

Furthermore, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation under the Ministry of Interior of Thailand has implemented the Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) approach to enhance community resilience and disaster preparedness. This strategy involved empowering local communities and leaders to reduce disaster risks and strengthen their capacity to respond to natural hazards, including weather-related disasters. Additionally, they initiated the CBDRM Plus F project, which was a pioneering effort to address and mitigate floods and droughts at the community level. This project involved the integration of local agencies and organizations across 10 target provinces, covering 186 target villages. As part of this initiative, they have developed the "THAI DISASTER ALERT" mobile application to provide disaster alerts and warnings for various areas across the country.



THAI DISASTER ALERT Application



Goal

14

Marine Resources (Life Below Water)



With a coastline spanning approximately 3,151 kilometers, encompassing 23 provinces, the advancement of Goal 14 is of great importance to Thailand. Thus, the marine spatial planning manual was formulated based on ecosystem-center management principles. Thailand has collaborated with all stakeholders to address the issues of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. **Furthermore, the Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Center (MECC), the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, was established to tackle these**

issues which have yielded tangible results in provinces such as Samut Sakhon, Pattani, and Satun. Thailand also extended academic assistance and collaboration to other developing countries in areas such as countering IUU Fishing, transferring aquaculture knowledge, and promoting the ASEAN network to combat IUU Fishing. However, challenges remain in sustainable use and management of marine and coastal resources, particularly in preventing and reducing marine pollution, as well as in conserving marine and coastal areas to protect biodiversity and marine ecosystems. Thailand has introduced measures, for instance, both the public and private sectors initiated the discontinuation of single-use plastics such as PVC cap seals for bottled water since 2018.

In addition, the “30 by 30” goal has been announced, aiming to reduce threats to biodiversity by increasing protected areas on land, freshwater sources, seas, coasts, and other conservation areas through legal measures and other methods to at least 30% by 2030. This aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for conserving 30% of each country’s conservation area by 2030.

Goal



Terrestrial Ecosystem (Life on Land)

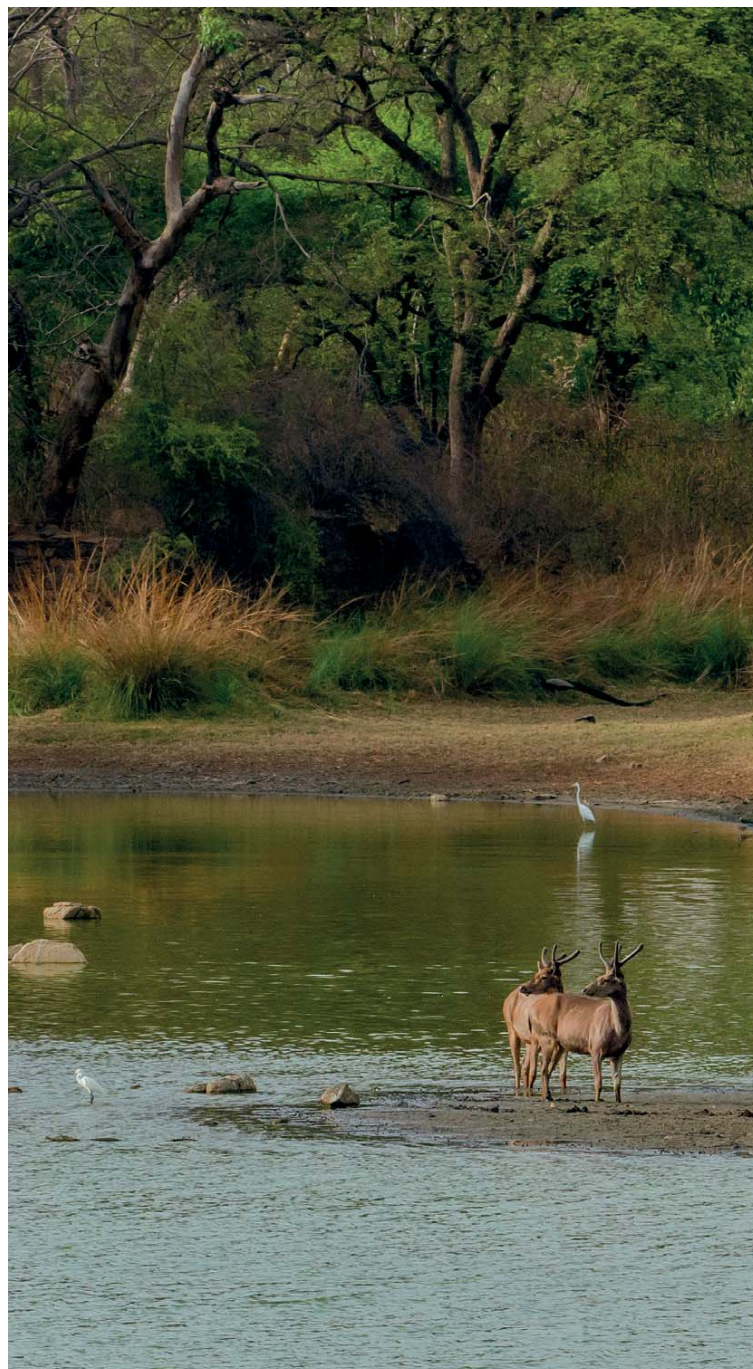


Thailand has seen a decrease in its natural habitats, including forested areas and coastal ecosystems. However, in 2018, forested areas accounted for 102.49 million rais (about 40 million acres) or 31.68% of the country's total area, showing a slight increase from 2017. Mangrove areas in 2018 covered a total of 2.86 million rais (about 1.13 million acres), marking an impressive 86.37% increase since 2014. Grassland areas generally showed stability and improvement. Thailand's coral reefs covered an area of 149,025 rais (about 59,000 acres), a 0.05% increase since 2015. Between

2017 - 2018, there were approximately 3.6 million rais of wetlands (about 1.4 million acres), a 5.06% increase from the period of 2015 - 2016. Furthermore, biodiversity has been integrated into both national and local development plans, in line with Thailand's Master Plan for Biodiversity Conservation (2015 - 2021) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2017 - 2022). Several key biodiversity projects are underway, such as research on assessing plant species' status as part of the national natural flora project to prioritize endangered or threatened species; "The Millennium Seed Bank Project" aimed at conserving genetic seeds of local beneficial plants, unique Thai species, and those at risk of extinction; projects to evaluate and update the status of endangered animal species in Thailand; biodiversity surveys in protected forest areas; research on the quality of primary prey habitat for Indochinese tigers in the World Heritage forests of Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai; studies on endangered mangrove plant species; wildlife research in conservation areas; and a protection plan for 13 endangered and protected wildlife species.

Moreover, the **National Biobank of Thailand (NBT)** serves as the country's key infrastructure for ex-situ biodiversity conservation. Its primary mission is the long-term preservation of biological resources. This includes biomaterial encompassing both plants and microorganisms, and biodata. On the international front, Thailand has collaborated in the project to develop targets and indicators for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), aiming to define measures to counteract soil degradation. This pioneering initiative supports the country's commitment to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). To this end, baseline data is developed to assess degradation and environmental factors driving it. Additionally, appropriate goals and measures have been set for conservation, mitigation, and land rehabilitation. This information is being disseminated to relevant stakeholders, with performance results monitored. Indicators related to soil degradation, such as land-use changes, soil productivity, and soil carbon content, are utilized to establish database for baseline and monitor progress between 2015 - 2030.

The National Land Policy Council Act 2019 sets out policies and plans for the management of land and soil resources in the country for the benefits of the economy, society, culture, environment, and security, with emphasis on public and communities' participation. Furthermore, the adoption



of the policy and plan for managing land and soil resources of the country (2023 - 2037) is a significant development to ensure that land and soil resources management is most beneficial, balanced, fair and sustainable, covering various issues, including fair land ownership distribution, to improve the quality of life for the people.



Dimension

3

Economic growth and prosperity (Prosperity)

Thailand adheres to the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) as its guiding principle for economic growth, with a focus on people-centered development. This is further enhanced by the BCG economic model, which emphasizes three pillars of the economy: Bio Economy, Circular Economy, and Green Economy, all working together. This approach leverages the country's rich biological and cultural diversity to build sustainable and balanced development. **Progress was made in driving the SDGs in the prosperity dimension namely Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities, and Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.**





Goal



Affordable and Clean Energy

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



Thailand recognizes that the promotion of renewable energy and increase in energy efficiency are key mechanisms which can help the country reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, as pledged by the Thai Prime Minister at the 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP26). Directions for the country's energy policy have since been laid down to be aligned with SDG7 through 3 substantial sub-targets as follows:

1. Ensuring access to modern energy services become more affordable and reliable within 2030 by expanding the electricity grid and increasing power generation in remote areas. Statistics in 2022 showed that 99.98% of the Thai population had access to electricity, since the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) was able to expand the electricity grid to reach an additional 153,987 households, 117.67% of the initial target of 141,960 households, between 2018 and 2022. At the same time, the Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA) was able to supply 100% of its electricity to all service areas in 2022, providing uninterrupted electricity to the local citizens.

2. Increasing the proportion of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. This involves increasing investments in various renewable energy power generation projects, promoting the use of renewable energy as fuel in



industrial manufacturing processes and the use of biofuels, such as biodiesel and ethanol, in the transport sector. An initiative was also established to enhance energy management comprehensively at the community and village levels. Over the past 16 years, 2,298 officials from the Department of Local Administration (DLA) participated in such projects, with the most notable progress being that in 2021, in which 110 out of 120 participating local administration offices were able to integrate their energy plans into their local development plans. The DLA reported that 5,918 from the 6,000 model households were able to reduce their energy expenses, saving a total of over 38 million baht annually. Local communities were also able to save up to more than 17.5 million baht per year by using energy-efficient technologies.

In the energy sector, from 2020, the Ministry of Energy had a renewable energy production capacity per capita of 171.795 watts per person, an increase from 2019 and 2018, which stood at 170.296 and 163.822 watts per person, respectively. This reflects Thailand's growing trend towards accessing clean energy services. Meanwhile, fossil fuel subsidies in 2020 amounted to 0.42 billion US dollars, decreasing from 0.431, 1.05, and 0.84 billion US dollars in 2019, 2018, and 2017, respectively. This follows the same direction as the ratio of fossil fuel subsidies to GDP, which decreased from 0.19% in 2017 to 0.09% in 2020.

3. Doubling the improvement rate of global energy efficiency by 2030 through

the implementation of various energy conservation measures, including those which were mandatory and via supportive financial and technical means, such as enacting new regulations, applying the Building Energy Code (BEC), as well as providing funding for equipment upgrades to improve energy efficiency. In line with this, two major initiatives have been erected under the Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency (DEDE): (1) **Regulated Energy Conservation Program for controlled buildings and factories.** Currently, there are 3,232 controlled buildings and 6,307 controlled factories and, in 2021 the program was successful in conserving 533.54 ktoe, equal to the reduction of GHG emissions of approximately 1.6 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually; and (2) **Energy performance standards enacted for buildings.** The criteria stipulated that new or modified buildings, under the 9-building-type⁴ categorization with the size of at least 2,000 square meters, must be designed to meet the required minimum energy efficiency criteria, including for air conditioning, lighting, hot water generation, and the use of renewable energy. Between 2012 and 2021, 688 buildings (60:40) from both government and private agencies had voluntarily implemented the criteria, resulting in electricity conservation of 570 million units annually. This translates into energy saving of 49 ktoe, or up to 2.2 billion baht, and a reduction of GHG emissions by 300 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year.

⁴ 1) Office 2) Hotel 3) Hospital 4) Shopping center 5) Cinema 6) Service station 7) High occupancy building 8) Condominium and 9) Educational institution.

Goal



Decent Work and Economic Growth



The spread of COVID-19 has negatively impacted the economy, society, and employment, especially workers in the informal sector who are vulnerable and lack welfare and social security. The Thai economy was directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with actual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declining by 6% in 2020, compared to a growth rate of 2.3% in 2019 (based on data from the World Bank). The main reason for this decline was the interruption or the slowdown of exports and economic activities, especially in the tourism sector. However, **in 2022, the Thai economy began showing signs of recovery**. Data from the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) indicated that the growth of real GDP per capita in Thailand for the first quarter of 2022 increased to 2.2% from 1.8% in the fourth quarter of 2021. Meanwhile, the GDP for the second quarter of 2022 increased by 2.5% compared to the same period the previous year. This continuous GDP expansion in the first half of 2022 accounted for a 2.4% growth, with the agriculture sector improving and the service sector expanding due to government economic stimulus measures, the relaxation of COVID-19 control measures, and domestic and international travel. However, the industrial sector decelerated. With regards to the stability



of the economy, the unemployment rate for Thailand in the first quarter of 2022 was 1.53%, which was lower than that of the previous quarter of 1.64%, and the same quarter of the previous year which was 1.96%.

For the labor situation in Thailand, from the survey conducted in the first quarter of 2022, it was found that the development of Thailand's labor productivity was at an appropriate level. Overall employment totaled 38.7 million, an increase of 3% from the same period of the previous year (increased both in and outside the agricultural sector). Meanwhile, the unemployment rate has improved, with a total of 610,000 unemployed people, down from 760,000 in the same period of the previous year. Working hours have also adjusted positively, both in the public sector (40.8 hours/week) and the private sector (43.8 hours/week), which increased from the same period of the previous year but still lower than before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The situation regarding the promotion of decent jobs for everyone has improved accordingly. Employment data for women in Thailand in the year 2021 revealed that the labor force participation rate for women remained unchanged from the previous year (in 2021, the labor force participation rate for women was 58.3%). However, women still had a lower labor force participation rate than men, which stood at 74.3% for the same year. Looking at unemployment rates by gender, the rates for both men and women were very close, and the hourly wage rates for

both men and women were also comparable. This shows that Thailand's gender gap in the economy has reduced. Additionally, there was a continuous decline in illegal labor practices and ratio of child labor in the country. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security promotes comprehensive vocational skill development in line with the needs of target groups, including women, vulnerable groups, single mothers, people facing social issues, and the general public or family members. This was conducted both on-site and online, offering both short-term and long-term courses. Efforts were made to promote the employment of people with disabilities, conducted in collaboration with various stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, through enhancing existing skills (upskilling), adding new vocational skills (reskilling), and supporting the formation of professional groups for people with disabilities and their caregivers.



The government provided financial support for these professional groups with a budget of 50,000 baht per group, to be used for professional training, study tours, and procurement of equipment for professional work for people with disabilities throughout the country.

For children and youth, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has launched programs to enhance the skills of young people to promote employment for young people. These included: (1) the “Post-COVID New Career Creation” program (Reskill - Upskill - New skill) which involved activities such as: 1) the “Seniors Teach Juniors Business Mastery” initiative, aiming to develop 200 children and youths into young entrepreneurs who either establish their own businesses, or expand existing ones to potentially develop these ventures into their future careers. In addition, the activity “YEN-D, Seniors Teach Juniors Business Mastery” has been organized for 400 young people who lacked opportunities outside the education system or who were poor or in welfare institutions to be a new generation of entrepreneurs. This was a collaboration with the YEN-D (Young Entrepreneur Network Development) network; 2) the “Panyapiwat, Development towards Career” which provided educational and vocational opportunities for children and youths in care facilities under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. This program, in partnership with the private sector, offered educational scholarships, living allowances, other benefits, as well as vocational training and job placements for 200 children and youths; and 3) “Stronger (Teen) Mom” focusing on developing vocational skills for 1,669 teenage mothers in collaboration with the private sector. Additionally,



vocational skills tailored to local contexts were provided to 3,652 target individuals.

On the aspect of entrepreneurship promotion, it was found that the proportion of the GDP of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises or MSMEs GDP to total GDP in 2021 was 34.63%, an increase of 0.474% from the previous year. However, the per capita consumption of raw materials was still on the rise, suggesting inefficiencies in production and consumption of resources, as well as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council, which is the primary agency responsible for SDG Goal 8, expects **Thailand's efforts to achieve this goal to keep progressing positively**. This optimistic outlook stems from the improving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, decreasing unemployment rates, and a growing tourism sector as Thailand started to reopen its borders for international tourists and with the relaxation of travel restrictions by many countries worldwide. Additionally, Thailand should prioritize enhancing its technological capabilities and developing workforce skills that align with the labor market demands of the 21st century. Data from 2021 indicated that Thailand had the lowest number of workers in the informal sector in the last five years (from 2017 to 2021), tallying at 19.6 million people. This decrease signified a significant advancement for Thailand in safeguarding its workforce according to social protection measures.

The Thai government has implemented economic measures to stimulate continuous economic growth.

For instance, projects like “50-50 co-payment scheme” and “We Win” (or “Rao Chana”) were introduced, along with relief measures for various groups of citizens. These initiatives were aligned with efforts to upskill the workforce, such as the “Enhancing Labor Productivity to SME 4.0” project. Concurrently, efforts have been made to combat human trafficking, unfair employment, and child labor. Moreover, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the government introduced measures to support and provide relief to workers, temporary employees, and freelancers who were not covered by the social security system. Assistance was also extended to employers by reducing employer and self-insured contribution rates, deferring contribution payments, expanding benefits for those unemployed due to unforeseen circumstances, and mandating that employers temporarily halting operations must pay their employees at least 75% of their wages during the suspension of work.

One of the challenges to be closely monitored is the global instability, for example, the impacts from international conflicts which cause public concern about the cost of living. This has led to a decrease in Consumer Confidence Index towards the overall economic situation in the first quarter of 2022, adjusting down from 38.9% to 37.3%. This could pose a challenge for the Thai economy at a later stage.



Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure



Thailand is transitioning its economic and social development approach by adopting **the Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model (BCG)** to drive development from beginning to end. The model utilizes knowledge in science, technology, and innovation to create added value from the diverse biological resources and culture while aiming to reduce waste from production processes to maximize resource utilization. Some notable achievements include

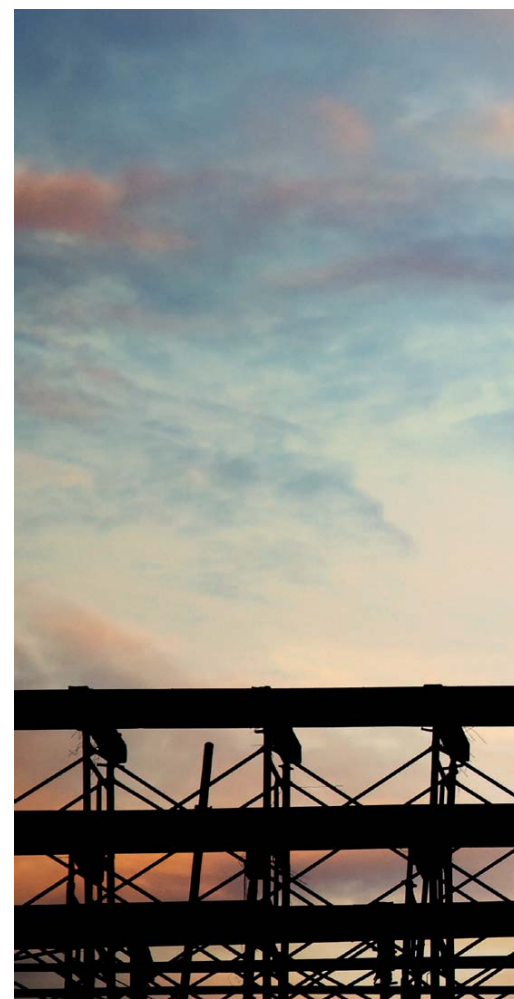
Focusing on the development of inclusive and sustainable industries. Thailand has implemented the Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP) for the industrial sector. This includes creating a Life Cycle Inventory database for various industrial sectors for evaluation based on the Green GDP indicators, updating the website to offer knowledge on the Green GDP, and developing promotional media and manuals to provide a better understanding of the Green GDP indicators for the industrial sector. Furthermore, academic seminars were organized for the private sector and related agencies to disseminate research findings on Green GDP indicators for the industrial sector. Moreover, a memorandum of understanding has been established between the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Industry. This collaboration aimed



at enhancing the competitive edge of the industrial sector by leveraging technology and innovation. A pilot project called “Second Life for Better Life” demonstrated the use of decommissioned solar cells from solar farms for community benefits. This project was showcased at the BCG Business Forum when Thailand hosted the APEC meeting in November 2022.

The development of capabilities by industrial sectors, for instance, developing the potential of the bio-industry by creating awareness about its significance among people in the industry, providing advice to businesses that are interested in developing prototypes for the bio-industry, and helping businesses adapt to the Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG) model. Furthermore, businesses were offered advice in developing products that align with the bio-industry by connecting them with the bio-industry network and the network of entrepreneurs and businesses within the bio-industry. This was conducted to bolster an ecosystem within the bio-industry that is competent in production, transportation, management, and marketing.

Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and elevating SME entrepreneurs for product quality certification (TISI) for each sector was achieved through organizing seminars aimed at providing knowledge about industrial standards and certification (TISI standards) for the development of SME entrepreneurs in collaboration with the SME Bank. There were also training sessions and consultations related to production processes and product quality control. Technical assistance was provided to entrepreneurs participating in the program to prepare them for the product quality certification process according to TISI standards. Furthermore, promotion and driving of the Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG) model were undertaken through announcements of sectors and criteria for certification of work systems based on national inspection and certification standards, and the circular economy management system for organizations. There was also a project that promoted the application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy to the industrial sector. Domestic work process certification was improved to accommodate the “Next Normal” (Single Platform), and procedures for setting of inspection



and certification standards were digitized to support the BCG policy of the government, and endorsement of the accreditation system for industrial development.

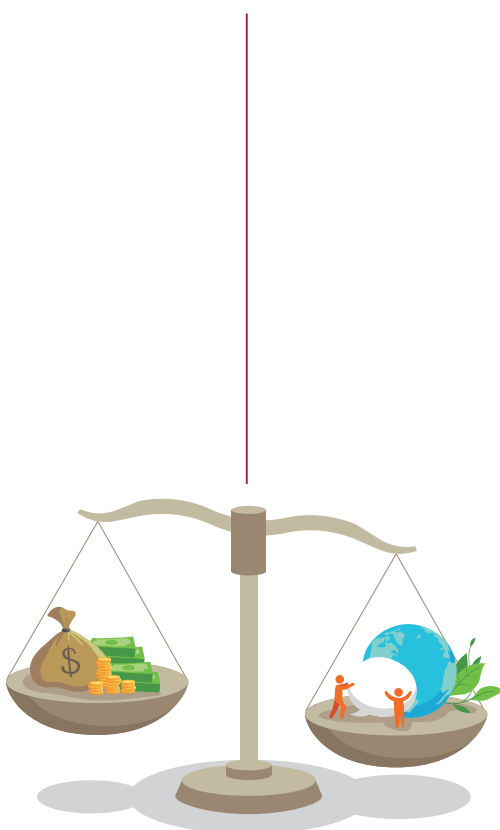
At the local level, there was a plan to drive the development of the industry based on the Circular Economy concept at the regional level in provincial clusters. This included defining measures for developing the Thai bio-industry for the years 2018 - 2027 through the addition of bio-chemical/bio-plastic industry types, which would enhance the clarity and efficiency in overseeing main factory operations related to the bio-industry.

Standard-setting related to bio-products to align with the current market situation was also conducted. Additionally, certification for bio-degradable plastics would be issued to converters so that the initial product buyers could use this certification as evidence when applying for tax deductions, at the rate of 1.25 times the product purchase cost. This would stimulate greater demands for bio-plastic products. Furthermore, a bio-industry promotion center would be established at the Bang Phra Sub-district, Sri Racha District, Chon Buri Province, to connect research works with the industrial sector.





Although the situation of **income inequality** in Thailand is improving, with the income per capita of the bottom 40% of the population (Bottom 40) in 2019 showing an increase of 9.2% from 2018, expenditure factors were also on the rise. The Gini Coefficient related to consumption expenditure in 2020 stood at 0.350 (increased from 0.348), due to higher daily living costs, while the economically disadvantaged population saw a decrease in their consumption expenditure. This resulted in a slightly wider gap in consumption expenditure among population groups, increasing to 8.62 times in 2020 (from 8.42 times in 2019). Furthermore, the economically well-off population continued to hold a relatively high proportion and level of asset ownership, reflecting a disparity in asset ownership that remained at a high level.



Regarding inequality in other dimensions, it was found that, **in education**, the opportunity for students to access education based on age group has increased at nearly all levels over the past 10 years, except for the kindergarten level where the enrollment rate in 2020 decreased continuously from 2019. However, the educational survey results from teachers and educational staff of the Equal Education Fund (EEF), based on data from Thailand's social conditions in the first quarter of 2022 from the Office

of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), revealed that early primary school students faced the highest educational regression, accounting for 60.5%. This was due to a lack of equipment, inability to focus on online learning, and poverty. Moreover, the COVID-19 situation has reduced the chances for children from impoverished households to access education and increased the likelihood of them dropping out of the educational system.

With regards to public health, in 2020, while the proportion of the population with access to health coverage stood at 99.98%, there still existed a disparity in the quality of services across regions due to the concentration of medical professionals in the capital and major cities. On **the welfare** front, things have improved, with an increase in the number of newborns in impoverished households or households at risk of poverty receiving care. Low-income individuals received assistance with household expenses through the state welfare card. Similarly, the elderly and those with disabilities received continuously increased living allowances. **As for access to basic infrastructure**, 99.29% and 89.92% of

impoverished households had access to electricity and tap water respectively. **In terms of access to justice**, it was found that challenges remain, such as the duration of case consideration which impacted costs and missed opportunities, especially for the low-income group. However, in the first quarter of 2022, it was found that overall criminal cases decreased. A total of 105,473 criminal cases were reported, a decrease of 26.9% from the same quarter of the previous year.



Regarding land ownership, in 2022, farmers had decreased land ownership and did not have sufficient land for their livelihood. Compared to 2019, data from 2021 showed the proportion of farmers according to size of land ownership as follows: farmers who owned less than 10 rais (about 4 acres) of land accounted for 28.03%, a decrease from 30.53%, farmers who owned between 10 to 19 rais (about 4 - 8 acres) of land represented 32.74%, down from 32.84%, and those with more than 20 rais (about 8 acres) made up 39.26%, up from 36.64%. The cause of this trend stemmed from the concentration of land ownership that was not utilized beneficially, leading to encroachment on state lands and conflicts between the state and citizens.

To address inequality, the Thai government emphasized measures to promote equal access to opportunities and protection of vulnerable groups, along with building social security. Examples included the State Welfare Card program, the National Health Security Fund, projects to enhance and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, and the expansion of health coverage under Section 40 of the Social Security Act which has improved health coverage for workers in the informal sector. Moreover, there were initiatives to boost the capabilities of grassroots entrepreneurs, providing knowledge and developing technological skills to enable them to become business operators, such as the projects aimed at transforming farmers

into “Smart Farmers” and utilizing social networks to work holistically in creating an ecosystem that mitigates inequality in every dimension. This included efforts by the Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Human Development Centers, Community Organization Councils, Community Welfare Fund, and support provided to citizens so they could access and utilize technology to enhance the potential of their economic and social activities. Moreover, improvements in terms of institutional mechanisms and amendments to laws and regulations were made to align with international obligations and cooperation frameworks.

In efforts to address land ownership inequality, the Thai government has adopted a policy of allocating “community farming lands.” These lands do not confer ownership rights but allow communities to collectively benefit from state-owned lands. The usage criteria and conditions are set by the National Land Policy Committee. Communities are encouraged to manage these lands collectively, either through cooperatives or other suitable formats, to ensure sustainable land management. Additionally, the government promotes and develops occupation opportunities in line with the area’s potential. Currently, the government has permitted citizens to utilize approximately 1,500,000 rai (593,000 acres) of state-owned land for such purposes.



Goal

11

Sustainable Cities and Communities

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Thailand emphasizes the need to make urban areas and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, prepared to mitigate disaster risks according to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030, and ensure that everyone can access public spaces and green areas as per the New Urban Agenda (NUA). There were improvements in several areas such as the accessibility of housing for everyone, the enhancement of residential living quality for all target groups covering all aspects. Collaboration was carried out with relevant sectors under the vision of “Housing for all Thais and a good quality of life by 2036.” Thailand has implemented residential development projects totaling 747,234 units (from 1976 - 30 September 2022). This included 280,567 units from the Baan Eua-Arthon Project (Government Housing Development Project), 233,964 units from the project for addressing the problem of congested communities, 176,428 community housing units, 335 units from city recovery projects, 1,756 units from rental building projects (during 2016 - 2017), 50,708 government official housing units, and 3,477 units from other projects.

The number of low-income households in congested communities facing housing difficulties has decreased. Crime rates related to life, physical assault, and sexual







assault have also reduced, as well as the number of people affected by disasters. Meanwhile, the volume of recycled and properly disposed waste has increased. In 2021, 9.68 million tons of waste were disposed correctly, a 6% increase from 2020, and 8.61 million tons of waste were recycled, a 3% increase from 2020. One of the reasons for the reduction in solid waste was the COVID-19 pandemic, which restricted international tourist travels. However, the “Work from Home” measure has led to an increase in food delivery, resulting in a rise in single-use plastics. The efficiency of urban land utilization has slightly improved, but there are still challenges in accessing public transport, and the proportion of public spaces in urban areas is relatively low, especially green areas.

For local project implementation, Thailand continues to carry out the “Stable Home Project” to address housing problems for low-income individuals in urban and rural areas. This project aims to provide stability in land and residence ownership, develop public utilities and community environments, and renovate homes to be sturdy, appropriate, and aligned with the community’s lifestyle. The project also improves the quality of life for low-income people through community-based management, supported by government agencies and local entities. Furthermore, there is a project to develop housing communities along the canals, specifically targeting congested communities

along the Lat Phrao Canal. Currently, efforts have been made in 35 communities, encompassing 3,536 households, and a total of 3,065 homes have been completed.

“The Sukpracha Housing Project” is a rental housing project for low-income individuals. This project is conducted in parallel with the community economic development model called “Sukpracha Economy,” inspired by the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy which serves as a model for project implementation. The project incorporates technological innovations and sustainable agricultural practices such as organic farming and animal husbandry to holistically find diverse solutions. Currently, there are two pilot projects in Bangkok, comprising a total of 572 units, namely 302 units in the Sukpracha Chalong Krung Housing Project and 270 units in the Sukpracha Romklao Housing Project. There is also the Sukkasem Housing project, a long-term rental facility designed specifically for retirees. Embracing the Universal Design architectural concept and taking into account an environment conducive for residents, these five-storey buildings (each equipped with an elevator) include recreational/exercise areas, geriatric clinics, healthcare centers and public gardens. For the years 2022 - 2028, there is a target to execute operations for a total of 4,089 units, with the target group to include government officials, state employees, and retirees who do not own any residence of their own.

There have been projects to enhance the quality of life for low-income individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 288 urban projects across 64 provinces and 1,528 rural projects across 76 provinces which received financial support. The projects emphasized community involvement in addressing issues and driving initiatives from surveying and planning to project implementation, with the support of state officials and local agencies. The projects were divided into short-term activities such as surveying households in distress and establishing community centers for food distribution; and medium-term activities such as vocational skill development, community product processing, community fund restoration, community welfare organization, and linking products between urban and rural communities. Community development focused on three aspects: community leadership and management, economy, and quality of life and environment. It conducted activities in four areas: social participation, environment, economy, and health by applying the BCG (Bio, Circular, Green) economy model. In connection with Bio economy, it brought in new technologies to add value to community products development. The Circular economy concept was applied by maximizing the reuse of community waste and emphasizing environmental management under the Green economy, aiming to maintain a balance between economic development and the improvement of quality of life and environment protection. Community residents were

encouraged to participate in their community management and also to integrate their work with various sectors, both public and private.

“The Stable, Prosperous, and Sustainable Village Project” in the southern border provinces supported efforts to address poverty, disparity, and lack of opportunities in the southern border provinces. This project was an integrated cooperation between various agencies including the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC), the Ministry of Interior, local government organizations, sub-district peace councils, the Department of Social Development and Welfare, and the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center. The project consisted of housing renovations for vulnerable groups and the strengthening of villages in specific areas in the provinces of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and some districts in Songkhla Province namely Chana, Na Thawi, Saba Yoi, and Thepha districts, by supporting housing renovation materials at 20,000 baht per house, in order to ensure secure and standard quality housing for the residents.

In addition, the urban planning is correlated from the national level to regional, provincial, city/community, and specific-area levels, comprising of (1) Land Use Policy Plans with 1 national policy plan, 6 regional policy plans and 76 provincial policy plans being drafted and (2) Land Use Plans which included 332 general city plans already in force and 346 plans and 5 specific city plans being drafted. This urban planning complies with the Urban Planning Act 2019 which takes

into account the capability to accommodate changes or development in the areas to achieve a balanced and sustainable development.

At the community level, there are projects to develop and coordinate between sub-district development plans as well as projects to support and develop village community funds, aiming to create a protective environment against drug problems. There are also projects to enhance the potential of new-generation farmers and local entrepreneurs in producing local products, projects to develop community products to build the capacity of local entrepreneurs in agricultural goods and OTOP goods production, projects to promote mechanisms and infrastructures development to absorb economic value and redistribute

income to localities in order to promote and develop marketing channels and develop grassroots economy with network partners, projects to promote marketing channels for organic agricultural network and safe agricultural network aiming to enhance and exchange knowledge on agricultural product development, projects to promote creative and cultural tourism, and projects to build sustainable development networks in villages affected by wild elephants in five eastern provinces (Chanthaburi, Chachoengsao, Chon Buri, Rayong, and Sa Kaeo) which help to strengthen communities by focusing on development according to the community's potentials, create jobs, and generate income to replace farming activities affected by wild elephants.



Dimension

4

Peace and justice (Peace)





Goal

16

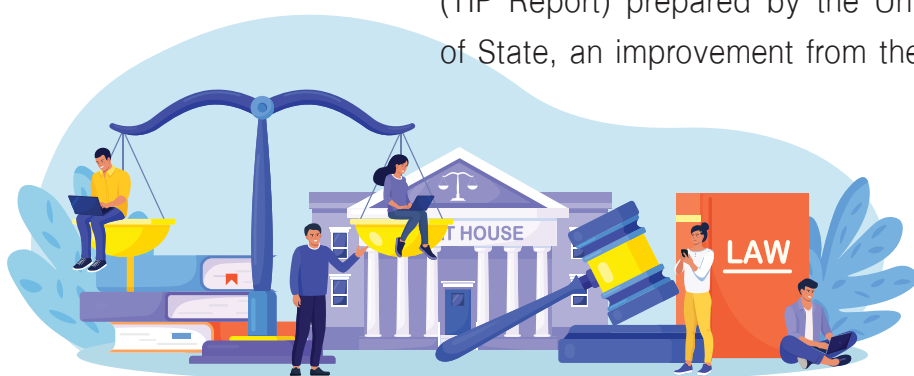
Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Thailand is the first country in the Asia-Pacific region to **develop a national action plan on business and human rights**, in line with the United Nations framework on business and human rights since 2019. Thailand has consistently been an active participant in global governance institutions and mechanisms. For instance, Thailand was elected to serve as a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the term 2020 - 2022 and as a member of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) for the term 2022 - 2024. Furthermore, Thailand has been a signatory to numerous international treaties related to non-discrimination and the promotion of equality.

Thailand is committed to eradicating human trafficking completely (Zero Tolerance). In 2022, Thailand was assessed and categorized in Tier 2 in the Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) prepared by the United States Department of State, an improvement from the previous Tier 2 Watch



List. However, Thailand still faces challenges related to reducing homicide rate and corruption.⁵

Thailand plays a prominent role in relevant international efforts, particularly in improving and enhancing the quality of life for female prisoners as per the Bangkok Rules⁶. This has been achieved through the “Kamlangjai (Inspire) Project” which targets specific groups such as female inmates, children accompanying inmates, juvenile offenders, and other disadvantaged groups within the justice system. The objective is to provide everyone with the opportunity to start anew.

Moreover, Thailand **plays a constructive role in international peacekeeping efforts**, deploying military and police personnel to join peacekeeping operations in various regions worldwide. Beyond their primary duties of patrolling and maintaining order in operational areas, Thai officials also contributed to developmental assistance including technical work, infrastructure construction, organizing medical teams to provide care for locals, and introducing innovative agricultural practices aligned with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

For domestic operations, the Thai government is committed to institutional development, especially in promoting equal access for Thais to basic rights and the justice system. Currently, the birth registration rate to ensure legal identity covers 99.5% of the population. Thailand aims that everyone

possesses a legal identity, including birth registration, by 2030. This is achieved by streamlining local procedures, enhancing public access to clear information and procedure via official websites, and public handbooks based on the Licensing Facilitation Act, B.E. 2558 (2015). Technology is applied to facilitate public services, such as the DOPA-Digital ID project, which aims to develop a standard digital identity verification method. Other initiatives include an application to schedule and book appointments for national ID cards issuance or to request house number registration online, a Linkage Center system to verify personal data stored in governmental agencies, an online platform for voter registration and for providing reasons for inability to vote, an online platform to request home registration transfer and other requests have been developed to cater to the people nationwide. There is also a Face Verification System to enhance public access to governmental services and a complaint center to report errors which will be used to improve working processes. Services are also offered via the Bangkok Mobile Service and mobile registration clinics to assist and advise the public.

The government is developing various channels to enhance access to the justice system and to provide services in a more diverse and efficient manner, utilizing technology such as Thailand’s Digital Court or D-Court, establishing a justice assistance

⁵ Sustainable Development Report 2023 (SD Report 2023).

⁶ United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders

fund for financial aid to low-income individuals, introducing a Justice Hotline 1111 by pressing 77 through the Justice Care application, offering services through Government Smart Kiosks as a digital means to access comprehensive government information and services, which saves costs, streamlines processes, and provides round-the-clock access to information. This improves data storage efficiency, reduces paper storage, and helps preserve the environment. Additionally, the administrative court is enhancing case management system and case statistics for citizens to track the status of each case, including electronic courtrooms, to expedite certain stages of the justice process.

At the community level, there is the “Ethical and Virtuous Schools Project” aimed at students in secondary, primary, and vocational education levels. Its goal is to create a socially resilient environment for children and youth in schools, preventing them from becoming victims of crimes or engaging in wrongdoing. This is achieved by providing knowledge about the law and the justice process, instilling a sense of justice and discipline, and promoting a safe and disciplined life within society. The project consists of four components: self-protection from social dangers, fostering self-awareness and discipline, staying informed of and away from drugs abuse, and combating corruption. Currently 1,029 schools have participated in the project, and activities have been adapted to online or hybrid formats during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice, through the Office of Justice Affairs, is in the process of developing an online learning system



for legal knowledge and the justice process. This system aims to serve as a central platform for learning about law and the justice system, including serving as an online database for learning materials. This system will enable broader access for users.

Thailand is actively driving crime prevention by conducting surveys, analysis, and establishing sustainable model communities for crime prevention in five different community contexts: urban, agricultural, industrial, tourist, and frontier communities. These initiatives utilize community resources and mechanisms, along with regional networks, to analyze crime issues, extract lessons, and develop suitable approaches, formats, and plans tailored to the specific context of each area. In future, these initiatives will be expanded to cover neighboring areas or to those with similar contexts.

In promoting access to the justice process and legal assistance, the Provincial Office of Justice Affairs and Community Justice Centers, totaling 7,788 units nationwide, are responsible for facilitating access to justice at the regional or provincial level. This has resulted in timely access to justice and a reduction in disparities for the public, making it easier for them to access the justice process efficiently nationwide.

In the area of resolving civil disputes among the general public, in 2022, the Public Sector Dispute Mediation Center and the Community-based Mediation Center handled a total of 6,343 cases that entered the dispute settlement process. Out of these, 5,200 cases were successfully resolved, representing an impressive success rate of 81.98%. The value of resolving civil disputes through this process has led to savings cost for the government and reduced public expenditures, totaling over 672 million baht. These efforts reduced the caseload in the court of justice, lessened conflicts, fostered harmony in society, and contributed to fiscal savings. Additionally, the Justice Care program, aimed at providing rapid assistance to victims, those harmed by crimes, or those in need of justice, was established. This program ensured access to assistance within 24 hours, with the Provincial Justice Centers (Provincial Office of Justice Affairs) playing a central role in coordinating assistance at the local level. The Rights and Liberties Protection Department is responsible for this program in the Bangkok metropolitan area, following standardized procedures and guidelines.



Dimension

5

Partnership
(Partnership)

Thailand aims to promote partnership on development cooperation with other countries. This includes strengthening the implementation mechanisms and expanding the drive towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achievement across all sectors and levels, including youth and volunteers.



Strengthening the implementation mechanism and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development (Partnerships for the Goals)



Thailand attaches importance to operations to promote cooperation for sustainable development in all forms and to cooperate with both domestic and international partners in the form of South-South and trilateral cooperation.

At the national level, Thailand has undertaken efforts to maintain economic stability, promote policy coherence for sustainable development, and foster the participation of all sectors in driving SDGs consistently. Currently, Thailand’s capacity to mobilize development funding is at an appropriate level, evident from the proportion of net income to GDP and the allocation of domestic tax revenues, which surpasses the target indicator. The ratio of foreign currency debt to income from exports of goods and services has consistently decreased and remains below the established threshold.

Thailand’s collaboration with the United Nations to advance SDGs in the country falls within the scope of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022 – 2026. This framework represents the work plan of the United Nations team in Thailand for driving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supporting Thailand’s aspiration to become a high-income, inclusive, resilient, and advanced country with people at the center. It also aligns with Thailand’s goal



to transform into a green, sustainable and low-carbon economy through the BCG economy model efficiently. Furthermore, it aims to address current challenges and adapt to future changes. The strategic outcomes of the UNSDCF are based on the principles of leaving no one behind, human rights, gender equality, sustainability, and resilience.

Additionally, the government aims to raise awareness of the SDGs to encourage greater public participation in sustainable development efforts. Currently, Thailand has over 13 million domestic volunteers, which accounts for approximately 1 in 7 of the total population. These volunteers actively contribute to advancing sustainable development in various aspects, particularly through the localization of SDGs at the grassroots level.

The trend among the Thai private sector is to prioritize sustainable business practices. Members of the Global Compact Network Thailand (GCNT) are encouraged to conduct their businesses with respect to human rights principles and the SDGs.

They have also announced investment goals in sustainable projects, totaling over 1.2 trillion baht (approximately 43 billion US dollars) by 2030.

Moreover, the Securities and Exchange Commission Thailand (SEC) requires all registered companies to disclose information about their sustainability efforts and develop sustainable development plans annually.

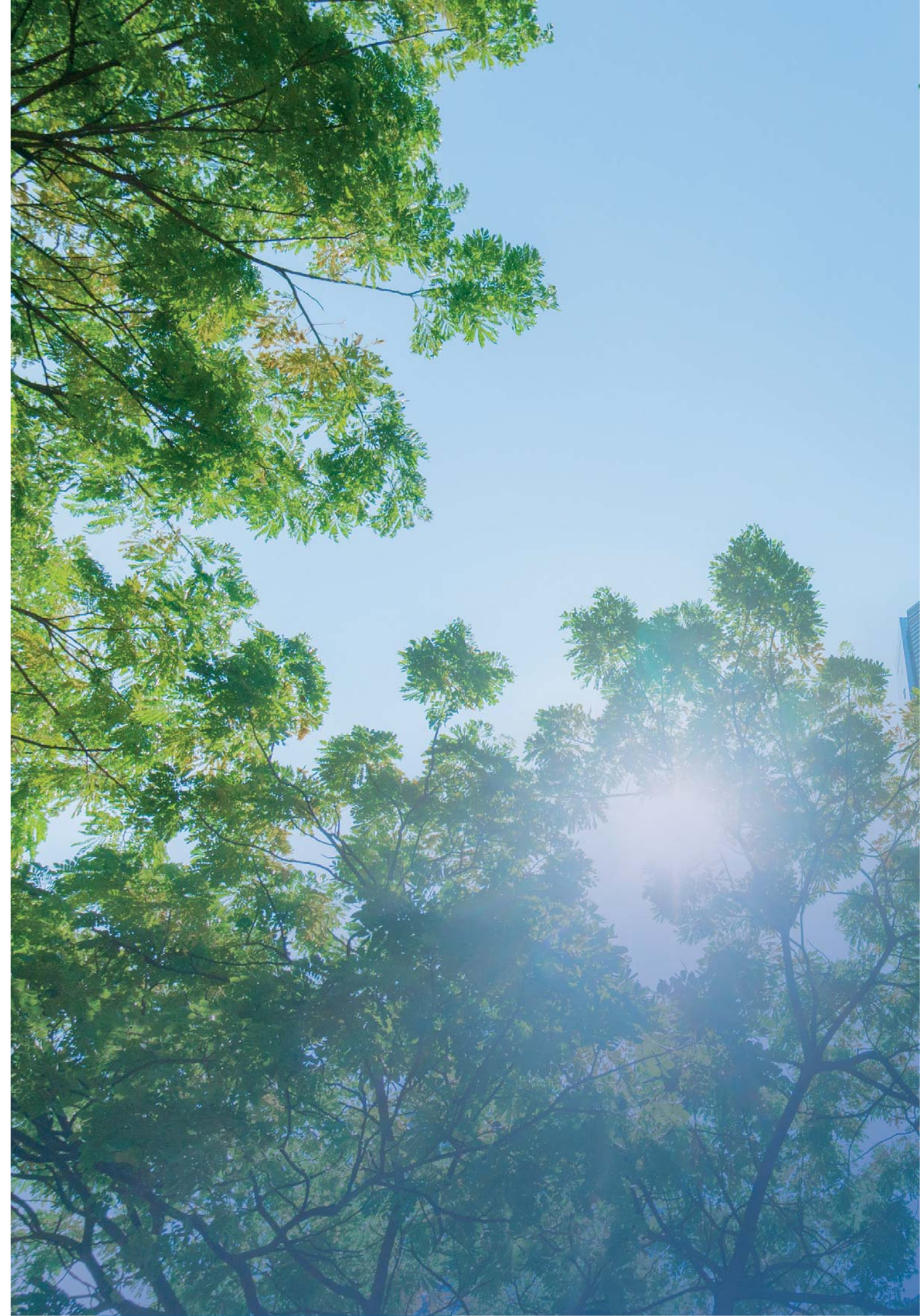
The strong commitment of Thai businesses to sustainability is reflected in their rankings by the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI). In 2021, 13 registered Thai companies were selected to be part of the global DJSI, and 25 Thai registered companies were chosen for the DJSI Emerging Markets Index, which is the highest number in the ASEAN region for eight consecutive years. Furthermore, the Sustainability Yearbook 2021, compiled by S&P Global, recognized 11 Thai companies with Gold Class awards, making Thailand the country with the highest number of Gold Class awards globally.



In implementing development cooperation, the Thai government by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one of the key implementing agencies, has bilateral, trilateral, and regional technical cooperation with development partners. Their primary focus is on projects that adopt and apply the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) to promote sustainable development and drive the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), often referred to as SEP for SDGs. This initiative has been implemented in 26 countries spanning the regions of Asia-Pacific, South America, and the Pacific Islands. Areas of cooperation include education, public health, agriculture, quality of life improvement, and natural resources and environment. In addition, Thailand has initiated the “Friends From Thailand Project,” where Thai volunteers are dispatched to work on development projects abroad. This initiative aims to enhance the capabilities of Thai volunteers by providing them with field experience. Many of these volunteers play significant roles in assisting various countries in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, further strengthening people-to-people cooperation.

In September 2022, Thailand International Cooperation Agency, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), hosted the Global South-South Development Expo 2022 (GSSD Expo 2022) in Bangkok. The event’s main theme was “Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future.” This marked the first time the GSSD Expo was held in the Asia-Pacific region. The Expo facilitated the exchange of knowledge and best practices in development cooperation and also provided a platform for discussions on sustainable and resilient recovery strategies from the COVID-19 pandemic.







Chapter

03

Driving SDGs at the local level

Thailand's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Roadmap has outlined strategies for sustainable development and its objectives, covering six key areas: 1) raising awareness and understanding of SDGs across all sectors, 2) linking the SDGs with the country's three-tiered development plans, 3) establishing mechanisms to drive sustainable development at both policy level and at implementation level with all societal sectors, leading to concrete actions, 4) undertaking projects essential for the achievement of the SDGs and the national strategy, expanding to sustainable development at the local level (SDG Localization), 5) supporting international development partners, both at the national and developmental partner levels, and 6) monitoring and evaluating SDG progress, with a focus on local implementation, which is crucial for accelerating SDG achievement in the country over the next decade. This local focus is also essential for addressing the goals and objectives of the SDGs and promoting inclusive development, ensuring no one is left behind.

Thailand's localization of the SDGs has a longstanding history, guided by the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) which has been incorporated into the 9th National Economic and Social Development Plan onwards. The SEP, which emphasizes strengthening communities from within, has been a significant strategy for Thailand's development, and has also served as a development model that Thailand has shared with other nations and various development partners, thus presenting Thailand's unique approach to the global community. This underscores Thailand's essential role in driving the SDGs at the local level, taking into account specific contexts and challenges of each area in its development efforts.

Mechanisms for driving SDGs at the local level

The implementation of SDG Localization in Thailand emphasizes awareness raising among local agencies and various sectors about the importance of driving SDG achievement to accelerate the country's development. Over the past years, tangible actions have been taken to promote the SDGs at various levels by related agencies. This includes the Statement of Commitment to Sustainable Thailand, jointly signed by the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, and the governors of all 76 provinces, in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and other UN agencies in Thailand. The Commitment, signed on 6 June 2022, serves as a collaboration framework to drive Thailand's sustainable development goals in various dimensions, encompassing all 17 goals. This partnership emphasizes key strategic areas of cooperation with the United Nations in Thailand, focusing on five main points, namely: (1) technology transfer for carbon dioxide emission reduction, (2) conservation and protection of biodiversity and promotion of sustainable eco-tourism, (3) efficient waste management in accordance with the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model, solving biomass burning by a nature-based approach, and reducing air and plastic pollution, (4) creating a sustainable food system and reducing food loss, developing sustainable agriculture and smart farming, and (5) strengthening community and marine ecosystem resilience through adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The objectives are: 1) to elevate awareness and capacity of provincial and local agencies who undertake activities conducive to achieving the SDGs, and to drive these goals at the regional and local levels, 2) to facilitate cooperation between provincial and local agencies and the UN Country Team in Thailand, including other relevant partners, 3) to create a conducive environment for actions in all provinces, and to appropriately allocate

resources for sustainable economic and social development, and 4) to have periodic consultations for reviewing plans, actions, and progress towards the SDGs. This reflects the increasing significance of capacity-building for local agencies as a crucial component in achieving the SDGs, and all of these efforts align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022 - 2026.

In furtherance of the signing of the Statement of Commitment to Sustainable Thailand, the Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with the UNCT Thailand, organized a workshop “76 Provinces, 17 Sustainable Development Goals for Sustainable Thailand,” to enhance the competencies and awareness of SDGs implementation for Ministry of Interior officials. Participants included representatives from departments and state enterprises under the Ministry of Interior, central units affiliated with the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, and representatives from all 76 provinces and Bangkok. There were brainstorming sessions on provincial plans; the transition to sustainable food and agriculture systems and the promotion of digital agriculture; the concept of circular economy on community waste management; the creation and promotion of sustainable tourism; the presentation of international frameworks and declarations and integrating them with the National Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan to ensure coordination in disaster prevention and mitigation at both

the national and local levels; as well as knowledge on disaster risk management and resilient city building capable of recovering from various disasters. The workshop also featured the exchange of information, work plans and the implementation of the BCG Model at the provincial and local levels.

In addition, local agencies in Thailand have been promoting the achievement of SDGs in various forms, such as reporting on SDG implementation plan for the fiscal year 2023 at the provincial level, which consists of four components: **1) Establishment of committees/working groups at the provincial level** to drive SDGs in various areas such as economy, biosphere, and society, as well as undertaking significant ‘Quick Win’ projects, **2) the 2023 Framework for promoting SDGs at the provincial level,** **3) the 2023 SDGs Action Plan,** and **4) projects in line with the 2023 SDGs implementation plan.**

The Ministry of Interior’s framework for driving SDGs consists of three levels: 1) promoting SDGs in collaboration with global development partners where the Ministry of Interior, together with the UN, work with central agencies, provinces, and local authorities in driving the SDGs, 2) promoting SDGs at the regional level by establishing mechanisms/committees/working groups at the provincial level and preparing/revising development plans of the province/provincial clusters in accordance with all SDG dimensions, and 3) SDG Localization by coordinating with local



development partners and other sectors in driving the ministry's key initiatives, including The New Theory Agriculture ("Khok Nong Na Model"), the "Sustainable Village" project, the National Food Waste Management Campaign, and the Change Agent Strategies Transformation: CAST project.

The Ministry of Interior's Action Plan for driving the SDGs:

1) **Awareness raising on the SDGs** through organizing workshops to build understanding and driving the SDGs in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team in Thailand.

2) **Process adjustment** through modification of linkages for indicators/goals by provinces/agencies, creation of central/regional database, and formulation of SDGs Action Plan

3) **Implementation** by establishing partnerships for implementing the SDGs Action Plan and reporting on progress.

4) **Monitoring and evaluation** in order to learn from the experience and using them to improve SDGs implementation in future.



Table showing reporting on the provincial SDGs driving plan for fiscal year 2023

Region	Number of projects according to the plan
Northern region (17 provinces)	287
Southern region (14 provinces)	131
Northeastern region (20 provinces)	122
Central region (14 provinces)	86
Eastern region (7 provinces)	67
Western region (4 provinces)	49
Number of projects according to the plan	742

The 3 SDGs with the highest number of projects in the Action Plan:

Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) – 106 projects.

Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) – 96 projects.

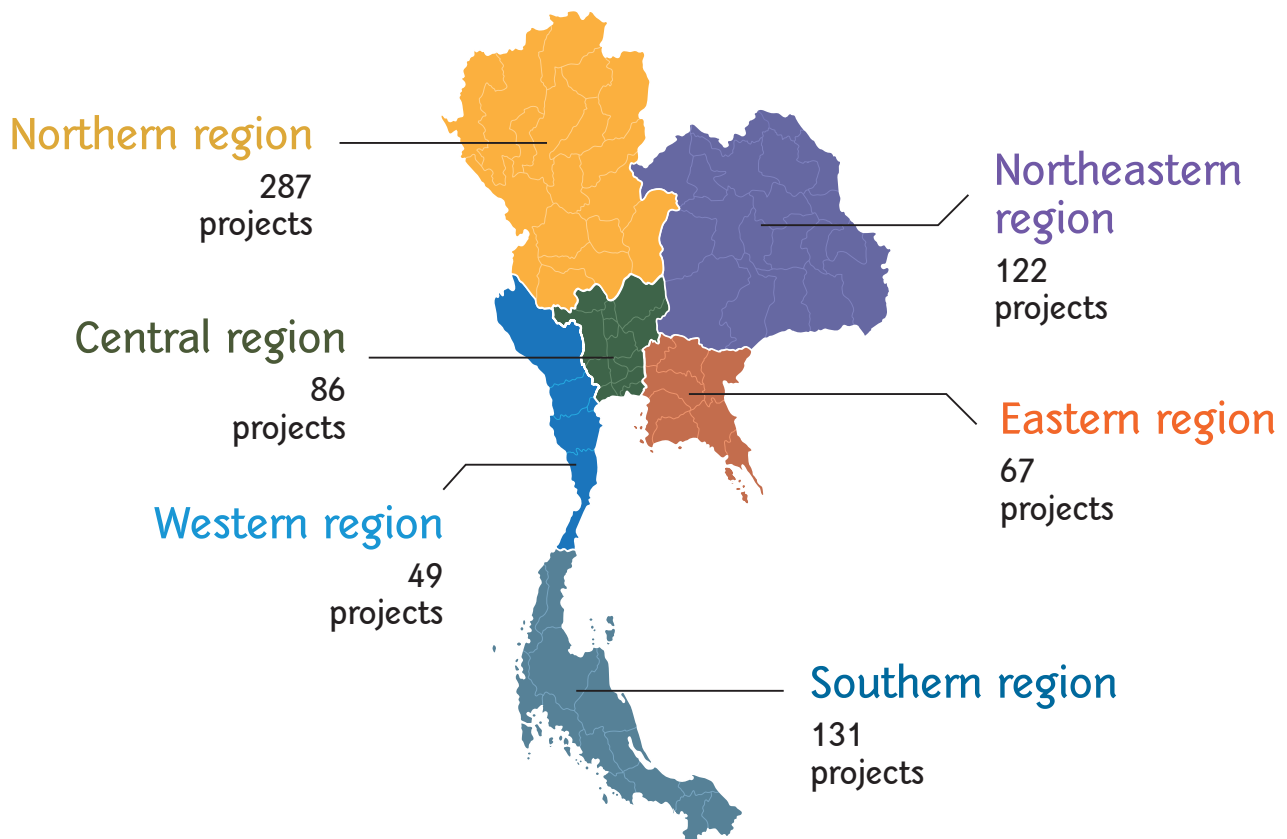
Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) – 68 projects.

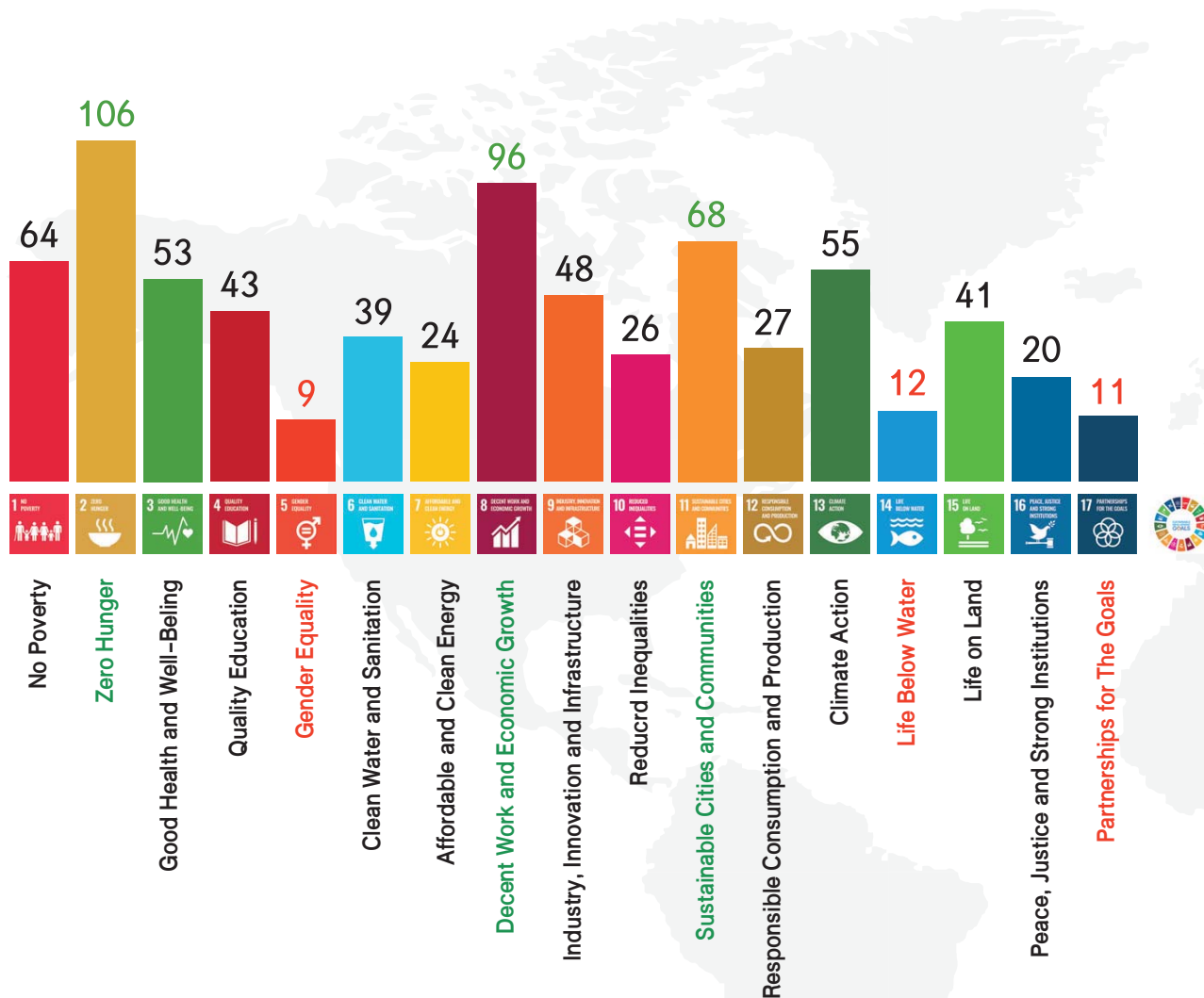
The 3 SDGs with the least number of projects in the Action Plan:

Goal 14 (Marine Resources) – 12 projects.

Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) – 11 projects.

Goal 5 (Gender Equality) – 9 projects.



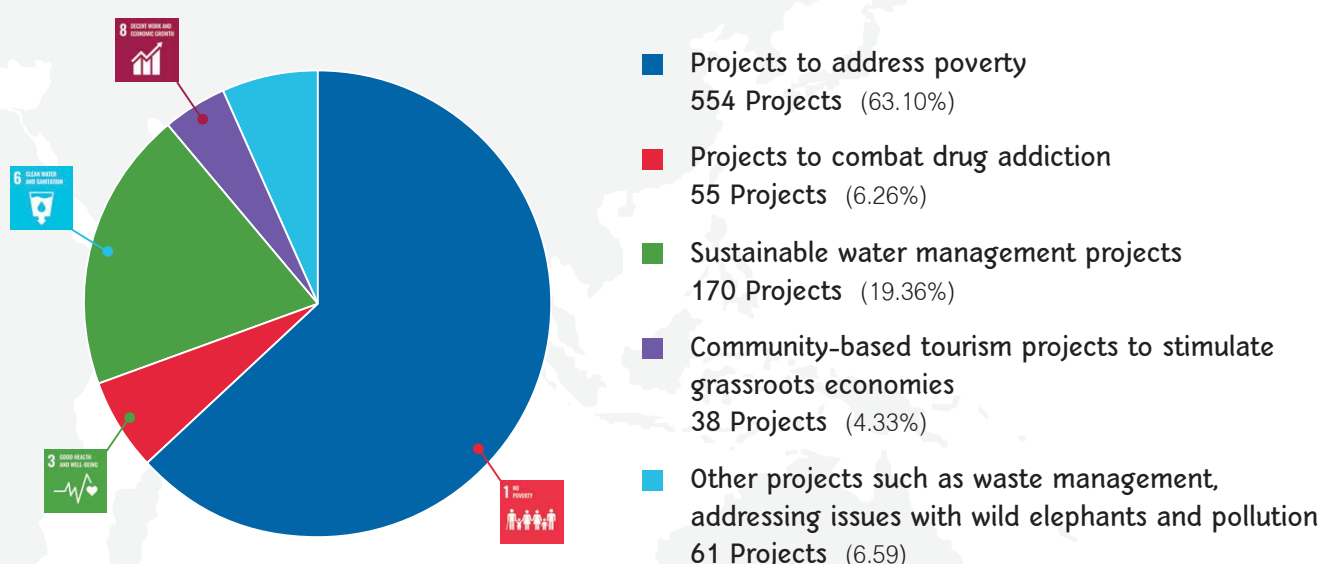


One example of SDG Localization by regional agencies is the “Change Agent Strategies Transformation (CAST)” project, implemented by the Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior of Thailand. The project aims to raise awareness and promote collaborative efforts with all 7 regional partners at the local level. This collaboration aims to encourage participation in developmental activities, community services, in order to foster resilient societies by the provision of training to targeted groups from 878 districts, encompassing 5 types of projects: 1) projects related to poverty eradication, accounting for 63.10%, 2) projects related to sustainable water management, accounting for 19.36%, 3) projects related to other issues including waste management, wild elephants, and pollution, accounting for 6.59%, 4) projects related to drug combating, accounting for 6.26%, and 5) projects related to community-based tourism to stimulate grassroots economies, accounting for 4.33%.

Integrated Sustainable District Wellness and Well-being Project

5 types of projects (878 districts)

Projects arising from the analysis on problems and the needs of the areas by 7 regional partners



The Implementation of SDGs at the Local Level: Example of Cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

On February 7, 2023, the Ministry of Interior of Thailand and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly agreed to **identify 15 pilot provinces for SDG Localization: Bangkok, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, Tak, Udon Thani, Nakhon Ratchasima, Ubon Ratchathani, Phetchaburi, Surat Thani, Phuket, Songkhla, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat.** The framework for the implementation involves:

(1) **Creating an SDGs Profile database** to analyze the progress of provincial activities and the alignment of provincial strategies with Global Indicators.

(2) **Providing recommendations for addressing various issues by collecting public opinions from the pilot provinces through social media** in such areas as education, healthcare, water management, employment, and the environment. Sample questions in easy-to-understand language encompassing 17 SDGs included asking the public's opinion on priority areas requiring development and their opinion on development at the provincial level in various areas.

(3) Processing data to analyze and find solutions in line with local preferences by utilizing collaborative efforts through partners and budget management plans where UNDP tailors projects and activities appropriate for each region. Some projects may be extensive, while others may be smaller but require multi-stakeholder participation to address issues in each area.

Furthermore, the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) has implemented the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan at the sub-district level, with an emphasis on creating networks for collaborative development with all sectors, including government agencies, local authorities, civil society, private sector, educational institutions, and international organizations. In 2023, implementation have been initiated in six pilot areas, covering four development issues: 1) Koh Yao Yai Sub-district, Phang Nga Province, focusing on sustainable tourism which is beneficial to the community, 2) Na Kham Sub-district, Nakhon Sawan Province, emphasizing grassroots economic development and elevating occupational groups into social enterprises, 3) Ban Ton Sub-district, Khon Kaen Province, emphasizing grassroots economic development and elevating occupational groups into social enterprises, 4) Pong Sa Sub-district, Mae Hong Son Province, focusing on the promotion of agriculture and income generation while conserving the environment and reducing the number of illegal burning of forests, 5) Na Phu Sub-district, Udon Thani Province, focusing on poverty eradication and development of individuals at all life stages, and 6) Na Kha Sub-district, Udon Thani Province, focusing on poverty eradication and development of individuals at all life stages. At the same time, there is collaboration with Kalasin Province and Kalasin Municipality to drive the SDGs in a concrete manner, by leveraging the synergy of cooperation across all development sectors. This effort began by addressing urgent challenges in the area, including poverty, public health, and education.







An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, a dense, green mangrove forest covers the land, with a winding river or lagoon cutting through it. A small boat is visible in the water. In the background, a large, reddish-brown rock formation (likely a limestone karst) rises from the water. Other smaller rock formations are visible further back. The sky is a clear, light blue.

Chapter

04

Preparation of Voluntary Local Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The preparation of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR)

The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) on the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as a tool, at the provincial and local levels, to monitor progress and reflect opportunities to accelerate efforts towards the goals and objectives of the SDGs. This is because raising awareness, fostering participation, and supporting initiatives at the local level helps to align local strategies with national and global agendas and to make the follow-up and review mechanism an integral part of implementation efforts. Conducting VLRs promotes the city's image at the international level in the sustainable development dimension, fosters participation, and raises the local community's awareness about the development of the city, leading to collaboration in SDG implementation in all sectors of the society.

Unlike the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), VLRs do not have formal reporting mechanisms. The United Nations has encouraged cities around the world to conduct VLRs at the community and local levels in order to support national implementation, and corresponds with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where member states are encouraged to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels, which are country-led and country-driven.” Since 2014, over 70 cities worldwide have conducted and published VLRs on the United Nations' official website.

In various provinces of Thailand, there is a growing recognition of the importance of conducting VLRs in order to advance the SDGs. Recently, Nakhon Si Thammarat Municipality has become the first local administration organization in Thailand to take the initiative



**conduct regular and inclusive reviews
of progress at the national
and subnational levels,
which are country-led
and country-driven**



in preparing the 2022 VLR, marking the first VLR of Thailand.

Preparation of VLRs is flexible and does not need to follow any fixed reporting template. The Guiding Elements for VLRs allow cities to tailor them to their specific contexts, without the requirement to address all SDG indicators. Rather, the cities can choose to highlight only certain priority areas in their VLRs.



Example of VLR preparation in Thailand

Many Local Administration Organizations in Thailand are aware of the SDGs and the importance of SDG Localization, and some areas have initiated the process of preparing VLRs to link the implementation of the SDGs at both the local and national levels.

Nakhon Si Thammarat Municipality was the first Local Administration Organization in Thailand to pioneer the preparation of the VLR. The 2022 VLR focused on SDG progress reviews, analysis of strengths and weaknesses as well as opportunities and challenges for the Nakhon Si Thammarat Municipality. The VLR also identified the SDGs of review focus, representing both Nakhon Si Thammarat Municipality's strengths and weaknesses – SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). This was because Nakhon Si Thammarat Municipality had strengths in education (SDG 4) and had decision-making and budget administration power to be able to improve infrastructure in its jurisdiction (SDG 9). On the other hand, its weaknesses remained in the access to water sources (SDG 6), waste management and surface water management (SDG 11), and had opportunities in job creation and economic growth (Goal 8) from the tourism industry.

The VLR of Nakhon Si Thammarat Municipality identified the methodology, ranging from budget, technology, data collection, and multi-stakeholder participation. It concluded with directions for the development/improvement of such methodology and prioritization of different SDGs to facilitate sustainable development implementation in a more efficient manner.

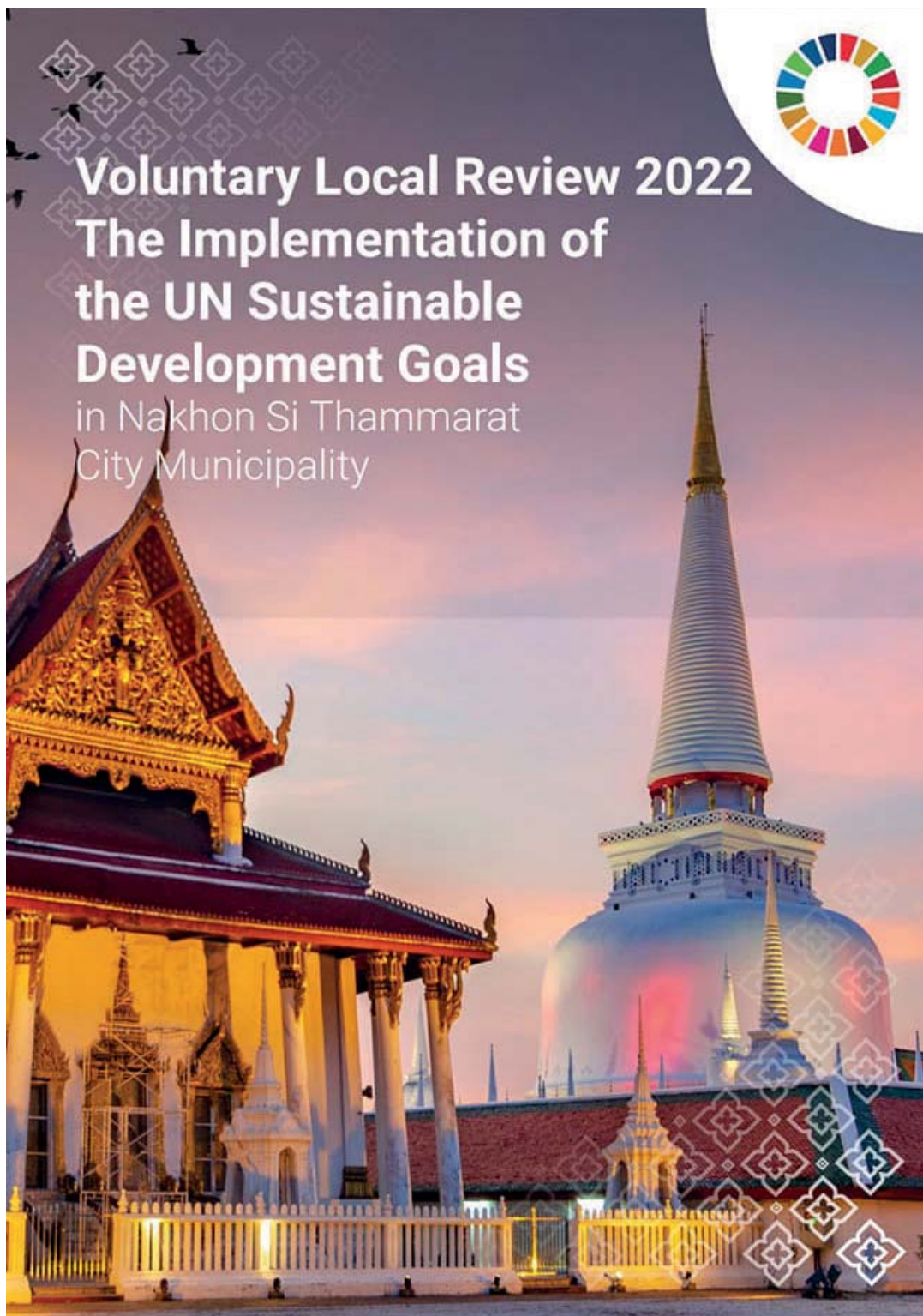
In addition, there are other significant collaborative projects, such as the collaboration with the UN-Habitat for SDG Localization by Udon Thani City Municipality with the goal to develop the Municipality into a model area for Thailand. This allows Municipalities and agencies to implement the SDGs at the local level to achieve the status of SDG Cities. Such collaborative projects will also support SDG Localization.



Voluntary Local Review 2022

The Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

in Nakhon Si Thammarat
City Municipality







Chapter

05

Conclusion and next steps

Thailand is committed to empowering communities through forging domestic and international partnerships, with the application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) as Thailand's development approach to guide Thailand's SDG attainment. Building on the SEP is the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model which emphasizes all stakeholders' engagement in driving development in a balanced, environmentally-friendly and human-centered manner, which is in line with international development perspectives.

Although there is progressive growth in SDGs implementation, numerous obstacles and challenges remain, particularly in the context of the country's recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and various environmental crises, including the impacts of climate change. Therefore, there is an urgent need to accelerate the implementation of all the SDGs to ensure the attainment of sustainable development in all dimensions – economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

At the heart of the acceleration of the SDG implementation lies the essential task of raising awareness and promoting participation of all sectors in the development process – not only the government sector but also the private sector, civil society, youth, and social enterprises. This collaborative effort ensures that every sector of society works in an integrated manner. Considering that many areas of implementation are cross-cutting and fall within the responsibility of various agencies and sectors, unified efforts of all stakeholders in society are of paramount importance in moving the nation towards sustainable development, and a crucial step towards global sustainable development for current and future generations. After all, we only have one world.

