



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
10 December 2021

Original: English  
English, French and Spanish only

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## United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

**First regular session 2022**

8–11 February 2022

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### Country programme document

#### Thailand

##### *Summary*

The country programme document (CPD) for Thailand is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$4,250,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$66,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period March 2022 to December 2026.

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\* [E/ICEF/2022/1](#).



## Programme rationale

1. Thailand made an impressive transition from low-income to upper-middle-income country status in less than a generation. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line decreased from 67 per cent in 1986 to 6 per cent in 2019,<sup>1</sup> and primary education enrolment and child health care became nearly universal. Economic growth has slowed since 2018, however, as Thailand faces productivity challenges. The National Strategy 2018–2037 proposes reforms to strengthen human capital, competitiveness, equal economic opportunities, economic stability and environmental sustainability.

2. Thailand is one of the world's most rapidly ageing societies. In 2018, only 21 per cent of its population of 69.4 million were children, and by 2030, 19.6 per cent of the population is projected to be 65 years or older.<sup>2</sup> This reinforces the importance of investing in human capital development, starting with the development and well-being of children and young people, which is a flagship priority in the Twelfth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017–2021). Under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2022–2026, UNICEF is uniquely positioned to provide expert technical assistance on human capital development using a human rights-based approach.

3. Although Thailand has made significant progress towards eradicating poverty and improving basic services, some disparities persist, and predictions show a mixed trajectory towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The incidence of multidimensional child poverty, at 21.5 per cent nationally,<sup>3</sup> is higher in rural areas, among children living in the northern (23.2 per cent) and north-eastern (25.6 per cent) regions, and among non-Thai-speaking families (36 per cent). The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has reversed gains and is estimated to have plunged an additional 1.5 million people into poverty in 2020.<sup>4</sup>

4. Child health care coverage is high and child mortality rates relatively low at 9 per 1,000 live births,<sup>5</sup> while immunization coverage is nearly universal. The birth registration rate is at 99.8 per cent, except among migrant and stateless populations.<sup>6</sup> Gaps remain in service provision, particularly for the most vulnerable. Only 14 per cent of children aged 0–6 months are exclusively breastfed. Indicators of stunting, wasting and overweight have worsened over the past five years.<sup>7</sup>

5. The Government recognizes that investing in early childhood development (ECD) is of strategic importance for achieving child rights with equity. While 9 out of 10 children aged 3–4 years are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, only 60 per cent are developmentally on track in literacy and numeracy. This decreases to 41 per cent for non-Thai-speaking children. Around 58 per cent of children aged 0–14 years (and 64 per cent of those in the southern provinces) experience violent discipline. Almost one in five children aged 0–4 years

<sup>1</sup> National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), “Poverty and Inequity Report 2019”, Bangkok, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects 2019*, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council, United Nations Children's Fund and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, University of Oxford, *Child Multidimensional Poverty in Thailand*, Bangkok, 2019.

<sup>4</sup> World Bank Group, *Thailand Economic Monitor: Restoring Incomes; Recovering Jobs*, Bangkok, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, *Levels & Trends in Child Mortality*, New York, 2020.

<sup>6</sup> Data are from the multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS), 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

live with one parent and are often cared for by extended family members. Bottlenecks include the weak implementation of policies on nurturing care; uneven access by disadvantaged families to quality ECD services; disparities in the quality of these services and consequent school readiness; insufficient support to inclusive ECD services for children with disabilities; and fragmented responsibilities and uncoordinated support for ECD services. While the coverage of early childhood care services is high, other family-friendly policies, including for parental leave, are limited.

6. Over the past decade, access to education expanded across all levels and socioeconomic groups, with 9 out of 10 children completing at least one year of pre-primary education. Primary school enrolment is nearly universal; lower and upper secondary enrolment is 86 and 69 per cent, respectively. Upper secondary school-aged adolescents represent nearly 85 per cent<sup>8</sup> of out-of-school children, with boys and poor children being most affected. Educational authorities often lack early warning systems to identify children at risk of dropping out. Migrant children and children with disabilities suffer from discrimination, while the lack of data and insufficient infrastructure and support are key bottlenecks to inclusive education.

7. Low learning outcomes, marked by socioeconomic inequalities, are a concern, especially with regard to developing twenty-first century skills. It is estimated that school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic have decreased learning outcomes and exacerbated unequal learning opportunities. In 2018, 60 per cent of students scored below the minimum proficiency level in reading, 53 per cent did so in mathematics and 44 per cent in science.<sup>9</sup> Challenges include insufficient teacher capacities to adapt to children's needs, fragmented management of assessment data, unsafe school environments and gender prejudices that decrease girls' representation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). School curricula are insufficiently adapted to education and labour trends, causing a skills mismatch, such as a lack of green skills needed to accelerate the country's transition towards a resilient green economy.

8. Thailand is home to 7.1 million adolescents aged 10–18 years.<sup>10</sup> More quality alternative pathways and second-chance opportunities are needed for the 1.4 million youth aged 15–24 years who are not in education, employment or training.<sup>11</sup> Mental health challenges, exacerbated by high rates of bullying and discrimination, are a significant public health concern, while mental health services insufficiently respond to young people's needs. Thailand has the highest number of suicides among countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). More than 7 out of 10 young people feel that the COVID-19 pandemic and related measures have affected their mental health. Young people are also increasingly at risk of eating disorders and obesity.

9. Young people need more opportunities for participation within their families and communities. Existing youth participation mechanisms should be more inclusive of diverse groups, including girls. Challenges include insufficient disaggregated data related to youth representation; limited availability, accessibility and quality of platforms and mechanisms for meaningful participation at all levels; limited

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Programme for International Student Assessment, 2018.

<sup>10</sup> Royal Thai Government, Department of Provincial Administration, Official Statistics Registration System, 2020.

<sup>11</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO), COVID-19 employment and labour market impact in Thailand, ILO Brief, June 2020.

capacities among policymakers and civil society to facilitate participation; and negative social norms and perceptions about young people's roles.

10. Thailand has made progress towards developing a comprehensive child protection system and ensuring justice for children. The development of an effective system for upholding children's right to protection continues to require UNICEF engagement and expertise. The upcoming National Child Protection Strategy (2023–2027) will create opportunities in this area.

11. Many children still suffer from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. While 7,670 children, including 6,686 girls, received support from One Stop Crisis Centers in 2019, most cases go unreported. Pandemic-related lockdowns increased risks of violence, neglect and mental health issues at home. Thailand is home to more than 200,000 stateless children and 300,000 migrant children, many of whom are undocumented.

12. Digitization has been a government priority in recent years. In 2019, around 60 per cent of multiple indicator cluster survey respondents reported having access to the Internet. Recent evidence suggests that sexual exploitation, child abuse and bullying have increasingly moved online, a trend likely exacerbated by the pandemic.<sup>12</sup>

13. Child protection challenges include limited policy coherence and implementation capacity, insufficient monitoring and enforcement, constrained resources and persistent negative social norms, including tolerance of domestic violence and corporal punishment. A lack of regular reliable data related to child protection hampers strategic planning and budgeting. The social service workforce for child protection is inadequate. Detection and referral rates for online and offline child protection cases remain low.

14. The quality and accessibility of child protection response services is undermined by weak operational coordination on case management. Social norms and poverty exacerbate high levels of institutionalization of children in alternative care services. Thailand remains a source and destination country for human trafficking for both sexual and labour exploitation. Despite progress, the detention of children remains an issue. Particularly vulnerable groups include the following: migrant and stateless children, who face discrimination and barriers to accessing protective services; children living along the southern border, which is affected by armed violence; children with disabilities; and children at risk of online sexual exploitation. Thailand has played a leading role within ASEAN in efforts to protect children from online exploitation and abuse, and in the context of migration.

15. While the adolescent birth rate for females aged 15–19 years has decreased from 39.6 per 1,000 in 2017 to 31.3 per 1,000 in 2019,<sup>13</sup> it remains high among girls living in poverty (49 per 1,000), those with only primary education (130 per 1,000) and those girls living in the northern region (42 per 1,000).<sup>14</sup> Further progress on gender equality is needed to end child marriage, adolescent pregnancy and gender-based violence and discrimination, and to provide girls and boys with equitable and inclusive learning and employment opportunities. The pandemic increased vulnerabilities of women and girls, including their risk of gender-based violence.

16. There is concern that climate change will impact children's rights, particularly within marginalized and excluded groups. Although Thailand is addressing environmental issues under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

<sup>12</sup> UNICEF, *Keeping children safe online during the COVID-19 pandemic: Guidance for mobile operators and online content providers*, Bangkok, 2020.

<sup>13</sup> Royal Thai Government, Ministry of Public Health, *Public Health Statistics*, 2019.

<sup>14</sup> UNICEF, *multiple indicator cluster survey*, 2019.

Change, national climate, energy and environment analyses have lacked focus on children.

17. Given the vulnerability of Thailand to environmental and economic shocks, shock-responsive social protection, including, for example, the child support grant, has been core to national development strategies in reducing poverty. The social protection system remains fragmented, which limits the efficiency and impact of the schemes. The lack of a coherent national strategy for social protection, weak coordination, limited organizational capacity and the lack of an integrated information management system are the main bottlenecks.

18. The COVID-19 pandemic, which hit the poorest 20 per cent of the population and migrants hardest, exacerbated existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities. Thailand adopted stimulus relief policies to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. Ensuring an inclusive recovery from the pandemic is key, particularly for women and girls, who are overrepresented in the informal work sector.

19. In 2020, social protection measures linked to the pandemic amounted to 2.2 per cent of the gross domestic product.<sup>15</sup> Thailand is generally one of the lowest spenders on social assistance in the region, particularly on non-contributory social protection. The absence of a robust national evaluation system hinders the optimum allocation of scarce resources to programmes and services with proven efficiency and effectiveness. Some line ministries and subnational entities have limited capacity in planning and budgeting. Improved public finance management for children is a critical area that needs development.

20. The systematic use of evidence in policymaking is limited due to gaps in data quality, integration and decision makers' capacity to analyse and use data. The potential of innovative use of administrative and big data for analysing social issues is largely untapped.

21. The country programme evaluation underscored the need for a more integrated approach to partnerships whereby partners, including from the private sector, use a comprehensive approach to advancing child rights and join in advocacy, resource mobilization and implementation within their spheres of influence. Another lesson learned was that, for successful scale-up, models developed for children must be accompanied by rigorous costing, documentation, policy analysis and budget allocations. Various sectoral evaluations have underlined the UNICEF comparative advantage in working across sectors and in helping to bridge the gap between national and subnational governance levels.

22. The country programme focuses on:

- (a) Early childhood development;
- (b) Education;
- (c) Young people's resilience, connectedness and empowerment;
- (d) Child protection;
- (e) Social policy.

## **Programme priorities and partnerships**

23. Consistent with government priorities, the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 and the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025, the country programme has the overarching goal of contributing to national efforts to progressively fulfil the rights

<sup>15</sup> Work Bank Group, Thailand Economic Monitor, July 2021.

of all children and adolescents in Thailand, especially the most disadvantaged and excluded, to develop to their full potential in an inclusive and protective society.

24. The programme focuses on cross-sectoral engagement, sustainable at-scale programming and cultivation of strong partnerships, including by promoting better business for children. It also explores emerging areas that have significant impacts on children, including climate change and online protection for children. It builds on the country's drive to be a regional and global leader and an innovation hub, and to foster South-South cooperation.

25. The programme prioritizes thematic areas around key child deprivations. It adopts an integrated approach to ensure alignment between programme components, using cross-sectoral programming arrangements to address remaining challenges and reach those left behind, while developing innovative solutions to face emerging challenges and opportunities. Disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response are mainstreamed throughout the programme, supporting the existing capacities of the Government.

26. The programme was elaborated in partnership with the Government, the United Nations country team, key stakeholders and young people. It reflects the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and outlines how UNICEF will enhance its joint and complementary work within the United Nations to advance long-term national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals, contributing to the following outcomes of the UNSDCF: 2. Human capital needed for social and inclusive development is improved through strengthening of institutions, partnerships and the empowerment of people; and 3. People living in Thailand, especially those at risk of being left furthest behind, are able to participate in and benefit from development, free from all forms of discrimination.

27. Cross-cutting strategies include systems strengthening; data generation, research, evaluation and knowledge management; gender-transformative programming; partnerships and engagement with public, private and civil society stakeholders; engaging with businesses to achieve better results for children; fostering digital transformation and innovation; implementing integrated communication and public advocacy strategies; and engaging communities to promote social and behaviour change.

28. The programme's theory of change is that if more children, especially the most disadvantaged, are developmentally on track, complete inclusive and equitable education with improved learning outcomes, are protected from violence and other rights violations, and benefit from shock-responsive and inclusive social protection measures; and if young people are engaged, connected and empowered to co-create solutions towards building resilient, greener and inclusive societies; then children and young people will have greater opportunities to develop to their full potential and the country will have a stronger, more resilient and more productive human capital.

### **Early childhood development**

29. Contributing to UNSDCF outcome 2, this programme component prioritizes: (a) further strengthening a coordinated intersectoral framework to support holistic, inclusive, gender-responsive and rights-based ECD; (b) improving the integration across sectors of nurturing and responsive caregiving practices, with a focus on parents and service providers; and (c) improving access to quality and affordable non-family-based childcare, early-learning opportunities and pre-primary education to ensure school readiness, especially among the most vulnerable.

30. UNICEF will provide support to the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Interior to increase institutional capacity to engage parents

and provide inclusive, integrated and affordable ECD services for children aged 0–3 years. The programme focuses on integrating inclusive ECD and nurturing care within existing health and nutrition services. UNICEF will conduct comprehensive analyses of childcare services, explore public-private partnerships and convene an alliance of ECD champions. It will also model ECD services in underserved settings.

31. To increase the capacity of early childhood education agencies to engage parents and to plan, implement and monitor inclusive and equitable quality preschool services for children aged 3–5 years, UNICEF will work to strengthen gender-transformative parental engagement and positive parenting, and develop standards and tools to strengthen teachers' capacities and the quality of learning in ECD centres. UNICEF will support partners to improve disability-inclusive education in preschools, developing packages of inclusive education interventions in ECD centres and kindergartens. One focus will be generating evidence on existing ECD services, and UNICEF will support a risk-informed and standard-based public preschool education system that develops school readiness.

32. UNICEF will work with the ECD Secretariat, civil society and academia to improve policy coordination, evidence-informed frameworks and enabling partnerships to facilitate ECD service delivery for children aged 0–6 years. Priorities will include institutional capacity-building and development of a framework for ECD financing, a comprehensive parenting strategy and a communication toolkit to increase awareness of holistic ECD.

### **Education**

33. In partnership with the Ministry of Education and in line with UNSDCF outcome 2, UNICEF will support the country in equipping learners of all ages and capacities to develop foundational and transferable skills that enable their successful participation in a changing world.

34. To support system-wide improvements in quality education and skills development, UNICEF will work under the leadership of the Government to render the new curriculum framework and assessment modalities more disability-inclusive, climate-smart, gender-transformative and technology-enabled. Work will help to ensure they are progressively implemented at scale and supported by a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning approach. This includes reviewing curricula; conducting feasibility assessments to digitize curriculum delivery; developing policy advice on increasing technical and vocational training; and convening stakeholders to jointly diagnose and develop change management strategies, including those related to teacher professional development, early grade reading acceleration and gender-transformative STEM learning strategies.

35. Efforts will continue to improve schools' capacities to promote safe and inclusive learning environments and to promote equity in basic education, focusing on the poorest and most disadvantaged children and those at risk of dropping out. UNICEF will help to generate evidence, particularly on gender-based and school-related violence, discrimination and mental health. It will support the development and implementation of a national school safety and student well-being framework and assist the Ministry of Education in improving monitoring mechanisms, focusing on at-risk children.

36. Under government leadership, UNICEF will work to strengthen the capacity of the education system for evidence-informed, pro-equity and resilient service delivery to support twenty-first century learning, and to address knowledge gaps, including on climate-smart education and inequity. With the Ministry of Education, UNICEF will work towards establishing a national knowledge and innovation exchange initiative

and integrating administrative education data systems. Another priority will be strengthening good practices in public finance for children in the education sector.

### **Young people's resilience, connectedness and empowerment**

37. This programme component contributes to UNSDCF outcome 2 and is aimed at tackling existing challenges faced by young people. At the same time, it will invest in opportunities to strengthen their well-being and empowerment to contribute towards more resilient, inclusive, greener and prosperous societies.

38. To strengthen national and local capacities to equitably provide integrated packages of health and well-being services for young people, UNICEF will support the Ministry of Public Health and partners in generating evidence on young people's mental health and nutrition to inform age-appropriate health policies and services. It will support efforts to develop legislation on preventing overweight; strengthen welfare support services for pregnant adolescents; improve the outreach and youth-friendliness of health platforms, mobilizing private sector action to expand digital platforms; and develop social and behaviour change strategies promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing stigma against vulnerable groups, including adolescents of all sexual orientations.

39. In partnership with the Government, another priority will be building capacities to provide alternative pathways and second-chance opportunities for youth not in employment, education or training. UNICEF will work with the United Nations and the Government to generate evidence in this area and on the drivers of exclusion; develop a package of equitable, inclusive and gender-transformative employability measures, including on STEM learning; and strengthen outreach to young people through innovation and the digitization of employment platforms. It will engage with the private sector to increase alternative, and flexible learning, social entrepreneurship opportunities and career guidance.

40. To expand opportunities for young people to meaningfully participate and influence decision-making, UNICEF will help to generate evidence; build capacity of policymakers, youth workers and youth networks; improve the information management system of child and youth councils; and strengthen coordination among national and subnational authorities. Another priority will be developing public awareness of and the capacity of authorities and young people to participate in national and subnational governance spaces. Finally, UNICEF will help to develop positive parenting programmes for parents of vulnerable adolescents.

### **Child protection**

41. Supporting UNSDCF outcomes 2 and 3, this programme component focuses on strengthening the child protection system at the strategic level, improving violence prevention and detection and supporting quality response services. Under the leadership of the Government, UNICEF will work with partners on building a cohesive child protection system and advocate prioritizing child protection in public sector reforms, national strategies and legislative frameworks. It will support efforts to strengthen the social service workforce for child protection using data and evidence and provide technical support to strengthen the child protection information management system.

42. To enhance the prevention and detection of violence, abuse and exploitation, UNICEF will leverage data and evidence and advocate family strengthening and positive parenting for at-risk families. Working with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education and the private sector, UNICEF will support the development of child protection safeguarding policies in institutions that accommodate children, including



within the education system. An online child protection model will be piloted, and UNICEF will engage with the private sector to promote prevention of violence, digital literacy and resilience. Advocacy and capacity-building efforts will strengthen the prevention, detection and referral capacities of caregivers, children and communities, in collaboration with subdistrict authorities. UNICEF will collaborate with other United Nations entities, faith-based organizations and the private sector to implement social and behaviour change strategies to address harmful gender and social norms and practices that promote or tolerate violence.

43. To contribute to improving the quality of response to protection cases, UNICEF will help to strengthen case management, supervision and information systems in child protective services. These services will be bolstered to provide care and prevent recurrence. Efforts will focus on strengthening family-based alternative care services; reinforcing policy and practice for protecting migrant children; and enhancing child-friendly services in the justice system, coupled with alternatives to detention.

### **Social policy**

44. This programme component, which has strong linkages across other components and supports UNSDCF outcome 3, is aimed at strengthening institutions and mechanisms to effectively address the multiple vulnerabilities of the most disadvantaged children. It focuses on the generation and use of evidence in policymaking; integrated social protection; public finance for children; and the national evaluation system.

45. UNICEF will provide technical support to key government actors, including the National Statistical Office, on the generation, dissemination and use of policy-relevant evidence on child well-being and deprivations. Awareness-raising and advocacy efforts will sensitize public and private actors on these deprivations and their causes. UNICEF will support the strengthening of capacities and skills of government actors at the national and subnational levels to use data for policymaking as well as the integration of data systems to optimize data potential and cross-sectoral collaboration.

46. To support the Government in strengthening the design and implementation of integrated, inclusive and child-sensitive social protection, UNICEF will work with United Nations partners to strengthen the national social protection strategy. It will work with relevant ministries to improve existing social protection schemes, including the child support grant, and ministries' coordination mechanisms to optimize coverage and ensure that they focus on and effectively reach vulnerable children, including those with disabilities. To enhance shock-responsiveness, UNICEF will support the analysis of multiple risks and vulnerabilities and strengthen information systems and operations to allow expansions during emergencies.

47. With other United Nations entities and international financial institutions, UNICEF will support the Government to strengthen capacities in child-focused public finance management and the evaluation of social policies and programmes. This includes developing knowledge and skills among national and subnational actors in results-based and child-sensitive planning and budgeting; leveraging partnerships for periodic child-focused expenditure reviews; developing multisectoral budgetary frameworks for cross-sectoral priorities like early childhood development, mental health and climate change; costing innovative models; and conducting evaluations of child-focused programmes.

### **Programme effectiveness**

48. UNICEF will support effective overall programme delivery, including managing for results, research and evaluation in support to UNSDCF outcomes 2 and 3. It will

coordinate cross-cutting programming, including community engagement and strategic behaviour change communication, digital transformation and innovation and systems strengthening. It will oversee the integrated approach to cross-cutting priorities, namely positive parenting, the inclusion of children with disabilities, violence prevention and young people's participation.

49. This programme component will also encompass efforts in the emerging priority areas of nutrition and climate change. Interventions will mainly focus on analysing underlying elements driving challenges and how these impact children. UNICEF will assess the role it could play within the broader United Nations support to the country in these areas.

50. UNICEF will coordinate communication and public advocacy efforts, supporter engagement and brand-building. It will manage partnerships and engage with the private sector to unlock the transformative potential of this sector to accelerate progress towards inclusive and equitable achievement of child rights and promote better business for children. To reinforce broader partnership development, UNICEF will support resource mobilization efforts that are coordinated with communication priorities.

51. Member States, international financial institutions and other United Nations entities will remain strategic partners. UNICEF will explore South-South and triangular cooperation, partnerships and innovative financing to take results and modelled approaches to scale, foster sustainability and leverage new resources. UNICEF will continue to engage with the Thai public, the private sector and the Government to mobilize resources and innovation for child rights.

## Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Early childhood development	0	8 000	8 000
Education	0	8 500	8 500
Young people's resilience, connectedness and empowerment	1 258	9 747	11 005
Child protection	1 258	8 497	9 755
Social policy	1 258	8 497	9 755
Programme effectiveness	476	22 759	23 235
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 250</b>	<b>66 000</b>	<b>70 250</b>

## Programme and risk management

52. This CPD summarizes the contributions of UNICEF to national results and is the principal mechanism for accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. The responsibilities and accountabilities of managers at all levels are defined in the policies and procedures regarding the organization's programmes and operations.

53. The feasibility of the country programme relies on key assumptions, including political stability, political will to advance reforms, strengthened accountability

frameworks, availability of adequate resources for implementation and modelling of innovations.

54. Critical risks include: the stagnation of reforms, environmental emergencies and reduced fiscal space from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Risk-mitigation measures will include effective and optimal management of financial resources, leveraging partner resources for children and well-developed early warning and response mechanisms to enable a high degree of flexibility to respond to emergencies.

55. Early warning mechanisms will be used to anticipate situations that could necessitate adjustments to programme implementation. UNICEF will hold regular reviews with the United Nations country team, the Government and partners to assess strategic, programmatic, operational and financial risks; define appropriate mitigation measures; and monitor the effectiveness of governance and management systems.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

56. The joint monitoring of results with the Government and implementing partners will inform annual workplanning. Progress towards planned results will be monitored based on the results and resources framework and annual workplans.

57. UNICEF will work with partners to strengthen national monitoring based on child-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators and evaluation capacity. Emphasis will be on implementing subnational planning processes, improving programme performance monitoring and enhancing feedback mechanisms.

58. UNICEF will contribute to and monitor progress towards the common UNSDCF outcomes. UNICEF will also facilitate the generation of the information needed to monitor national and international commitments and compliance with the observations made by the committees of the main international human rights instruments.

## Annex

### Results and resources framework

#### Thailand – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, March 2022–December 2026

<p><b>Convention on the Rights of the Child:</b> Articles 2–40</p> <p><b>National Strategy 2018–2037:</b> Strategies 3 (developing and strengthening human capital); 4 (social cohesion and equity); and 6 (public rebalancing and development)</p> <p><b>Thirteenth National Economic and Social Development Plan:</b> Priorities 2 (high-opportunity society) and 4 (key enablers for transformation of Thailand)</p> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals:</b> 1-6, 8, 10, 13, 16–17</p>
<p><b>United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022–2026 outcomes involving UNICEF:</b> 2–3</p>
<p><b>Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas:</b> 1–5</p>

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR), and total (in thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
Outcome 2	1. By 2026, more children aged 0–6 years, especially the most disadvantaged, are developmentally on track and ready to start school.	<p>Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being (total, non-Thai-speaking)</p> <p>B: 93%, 85% T: 95%, 90%</p> <p>Percentage of children aged 3–5 years attending early childhood education programmes (total, non-Thai-speaking)</p> <p>B: 86.3%, 79.8%</p>	Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS)	<p>By 2026:</p> <p>1.1 National and subnational institutions have increased capacity to engage parents and provide quality, inclusive and integrated early childhood development (ECD) services and affordable quality childcare for children aged 0–3 years.</p> <p>1.2 Early childhood education agencies have improved capacity to engage</p>	National Statistical Office (NSO), Office of the Education Council, National ECD Policy Committee		8 000	8 000

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR), and total (in thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		<p>T: 90%, 85%</p> <p>Percentage of children aged 0–5 years experiencing positive and stimulating home learning environments (any adult, father, mother)</p> <p>B: 92%, 40%, 62%</p> <p>T: 97%, 50%, 67%</p>		<p>parents and plan, implement and monitor inclusive and equitable quality pre-school services for children aged 3–5 years.</p> <p>1.3 Improved coordination, enabling frameworks and empowered partnerships facilitate ECD service delivery.</p>				
Outcome 2	2. By 2026, more boys and girls complete inclusive and equitable quality basic education with improved and relevant learning outcomes.	<p>Lower secondary education completion rate (total, male, female)</p> <p>B: 87%, 83%, 92%</p> <p>T: 90%, 88%, 92%</p>	MICS; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	<p>By 2026:</p> <p>2.1 System-wide improvements in quality of instruction, curriculum and assessment are progressively implemented across the basic education learning continuum.</p> <p>2.2 Schools have improved capacity to promote safe and inclusive learning environments and equity in basic education, targeting the poorest and most disadvantaged children.</p> <p>2.3 The national education system has improved capacity for evidence-informed, pro-equity and resilient service</p>	NSO, The Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology, Ministry of Education (MoE)		8 500	8 500
	<p>Proportion of children aged 7–14 years achieving proficiency in reading (grade 2–3, non-Thai-speaking)</p> <p>B: 57.1%, 43%</p> <p>T: 65%, 50%</p>	MICS						
	<p>Average score on Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) (mathematics/science/reading)</p> <p>B: 419/426/393</p> <p>T: 425/430/400 (2024)</p>	PISA						

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR), and total (in thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				delivery to support twenty-first century learning.				
Outcomes 2–3	3. By 2026, more young people, including the most marginalized, are provided with equitable integrated health and employability services and are empowered to influence decision-making at national and local levels to build a greener, more resilient and inclusive society.	Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 females B: 31.3 T: 25	NSO, U-Report data	By 2026:  3.1 National and local capacities are strengthened for the equitable provision of integrated packages of health and well-being services for young people.  3.2 National and local capacities are strengthened for the equitable provision of alternative pathways and second-chance opportunities for youth not in education, employment or training and other vulnerable groups.  3.3 Young people, particularly the most marginalized, benefit from increased knowledge, skills, platforms and opportunities to influence decision-making, amplify their voices at all levels and co-create solutions to unmet social needs.	Ministry of Labour, Thailand Professional Qualification Institute, Thai Health Promotion Foundation, Children and Youth Council of Thailand, private sector	1 258	9 747	11 005
		Percentage of adolescents not in education, employment or training B: 15% T: 13.9%						
		Number of adolescents and young people participating in or leading civic engagement initiatives B: 732 T: 102,000						

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR), and total (in thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
Outcomes 2–3	4. By 2026, more children, especially the most vulnerable, are better protected from violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse.	<p>Number of girls and boys who have experienced violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services</p> <p>B: 40,682 T: 48,800</p> <p>Rate of children in residential care per 100,000 children</p> <p>B: 180.88 T: 155</p> <p>Number of children in juvenile justice detention per 100,000 child population</p> <p>B: 44.1 T: To forecast with partners</p>	Statistics report of One Stop Crisis Centers, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), provincial MSDHS shelters	<p>By 2026:</p> <p>4.1 Duty-bearers have increased capacity to plan based on evidence, to enact adequate budgets and resources and to carry out legislative and policy reforms to strengthen an equitable, gender-responsive and evidence-oriented child protection system.</p> <p>4.2 Communities, families, children, young people, front-line workers, schools and residential care institutions have improved capacity, knowledge and attitudes to prevent violence, detect risks and report and refer cases; and at-risk children and families are more effectively identified and supported.</p> <p>4.3 Duty-bearers have increased capacity to deliver quality, equitable and gender-responsive child protection services at national and subnational levels</p>	MSDHS, MoJ, Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), MoE, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Ministry of Interior (MoI), Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, Royal Thai Police; Office of the Judiciary; Office of National Security	1 258	8 497	9 755

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR), and total (in thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				across the social welfare, justice, public health sectors and to provide inclusive civil registration services.				
Outcome 3	5. By 2026, children, especially the most disadvantaged, benefit from enhanced evidence-based, shock-responsive, integrated and inclusive social protection and poverty reduction policies and programmes.	<p>Evidence or policy advice leading to policies and programmes to reduce child poverty</p> <p>B: Evidence available and used for advocacy T: Evidence directly leads to policies and programmes to reduce child poverty</p>	<p>Cabinet resolutions, government reports and minutes, MoE, Ministry of Finance (MoF), MSDHS, Equitable Education Fund (EEF)</p>	<p>By 2026, national and subnational capacities are strengthened for:</p> <p>5.1 The generation and use of quality, integrated and equity-focused data and evidence, including routine monitoring of child poverty.</p> <p>5.2 Designing and implementing integrated, inclusive, shock-responsive and child-sensitive social protection.</p> <p>5.3 Child-focused public finance management and evaluation of social policies and programmes.</p>	MoF, MSDHS, NSO, MoE, National Economic and Social Development Council	1 258	8 497	9 755
		<p>Proportion of child population covered by government cash transfer programmes (non-contributory)</p> <p>B: 30% T: 50%</p>	Child support grant, EEF, MoE					
	6. Programme effectiveness					476	22 759	23 235
	<b>Total resources</b>					<b>4 250</b>	<b>66 000</b>	<b>70 250</b>