

Review of Thailand's Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

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Report

Review of Thailand's Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Chapter 1: Overview of Thailand's Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Thailand endorsed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on 15 September 1995, demonstrating its commitment to promoting women's rights, gender equality, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women¹. Between 2020 and 2024, Thailand has continued to promote the advancement and empowerment of women in accordance with the Beijing Declaration through policies, strategies and plans particularly the Women's Development Strategy (2017-2021) and the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027). These plans outline six key pillars for the promotion of women empowerment and gender equality namely (1) human capital development for women; (2) the elimination of violence against women (3) women's participation in decision-making; (4) public communication to change societal attitudes, values, and beliefs towards gender equality; (5) the development of management tools to empower women and promote gender equality; and (6) enhancing the core competencies of national women's empowerment and advancement mechanisms. These six pillars align with Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5), which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Between 2020 and 2024, Thailand has made significant progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in four key areas namely (1) integrating gender equality into national mechanisms at all levels; (2) developing and amending laws and action plans to promote gender equality; (3) establishing mechanisms to drive strategies that promote equality and eliminate gender discrimination; and (4) implementing Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB). However, Thailand continues to face challenges related to poverty and inequality, which impact the promotion of gender equality, as well as the participation of women in decision-making roles and the political sector.

Additionally, Thailand has been revising and developing laws and policies, such as the Act Amending the Civil and Commercial Code (No. 23) B.E. 2565 (2022) or the Act on Equal Marriage, which has been published in the Royal Gazette on 24 September 2024 and will take effect on 22 January 2025. Thailand is the first country in Southeast Asia to recognize the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals to form families. Revisions have also been made to the Gender Equality Act, B.E. 2558 (2015) and the Victims of Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act, B.E. 2550 (2007) to further strengthen the right of women and girls. Furthermore, Thailand has implemented Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) across all sectors, ensuring that gender considerations are integrated into budgeting processes.

¹ https://apwld.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Thai-Briefer_Beijing-Declaration-and-Platform-for-Action-BPFA-and-the-Beijing-25-review-process.pdf

To ensure that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action aligns with its intended goals, Thailand has utilized the Targeted Development Management System, known as the Thai People Map and Analytics Platform (TPMAP). This system enables more effective and targeted solutions by focusing on specific groups, enhancing access to health services, livelihoods, education, income opportunity, and government services. This approach is in line with Thailand's commitment expressed at the SDGs Summit 2023, in New York, USA, which Thailand pledged to advance sustainable development without leaving anyone behind through the principle of reaching and assisting those furthest behind first, reduce poverty across all age groups by 2027.

Chapter 2: Priorities, Achievements, Challenges, and Setbacks

Q1. Over the past five years, what have been the most important achievements, challenges and setbacks in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women?

Thailand is one of the 189 countries that endorsed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on September 15, 1995, demonstrating its commitment to promoting women's rights, gender equality, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women². Between 2020 and 2024, Thailand has enhanced women's empowerment and advancement in accordance with the Beijing Declaration through integrated implementation of the Women's Development Strategy (2017-2021) and the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027). Progress reports have been submitted on various issues. During this period, Thailand has made notable progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, while also faced various challenges as outlined below.

1.1 Progress

1) Integration of Gender Equality into National Mechanisms at All Levels and access sectors

Thailand prioritizes promoting gender equality and eliminating gender discrimination through legal and policy integration. Gender equality issues are embedded in national policies and mechanisms at multiple levels, including the National Strategy 2018-2037. Strategy 4, focused on Social Cohesion and Equity, aims to foster cooperation among the private sector, the public, and local communities, promoting decentralization and empowering independent local governance. It emphasizes creating a supportive environment for quality citizens to contribute to society. The government is committed to ensuring equitable and inclusive access to quality public services and welfare, including empowering women, shifting societal attitudes, and fostering acceptance of gender diversity.

² https://apwld.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Thai-Briefer_-Beijing-Declaration-and-Platform-for-Action-BPfA-and-the-Beijing-25-review-process.pdf

Additionally, the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2021) outlined two strategies related to promoting gender equality: (1) the Strategy for Strengthening and Realizing the Potential of Human Capital, and (2) the Strategy for Creating a Just Society and Reducing Inequality. In the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2023-2027), the strategy for creating a society of opportunities and fairness is incorporated into Strategy 3, which focuses on fostering a society of opportunities and equity³. Furthermore, women have been removed from the disadvantaged groups category in this development plan.

The Women's Development Action Plan (2020-2022) served as a framework for advancing gender equality and aligning with international commitments related to women. Currently, Thailand continues to promote women's human rights and gender equality under the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027). This plan focuses on ensuring that women and girls have opportunities for self-development, equal and fair treatment are safe from all forms of violence, and meaningfully contribute to a just society and equal.⁴

Thailand has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework for guiding its development in the areas of economy, society, and the environment, with the aim of addressing global challenges and supporting the principle of "leaving no one behind" over the 15-year period from 2015 to 2030. In advancing the SDGs, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) has been designated as the lead agency responsible for driving Goal 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

Thailand has developed the Gender Equality Promotion Action Plan (2023-2027) as a guideline to shift mindsets, attitudes, and raise awareness on gender equality issues. The plan also aims to encourage all organizations to adopt policies, rules, and regulations that support gender equality. This action plan aligns with Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which focuses on promoting gender equality and empowering all women and girls. In 2022, a total of 154 projects were implemented under this action plan across 141 government agencies.⁵

Another key mechanism is the drafting of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2023-2027, which serves as a framework for driving efforts to eliminate violence against women in line with the national context and situation. This plan is currently under development.

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) prioritizes the development of human capital across all target groups in all dimensions. It has pushed forward the "5x5 Policy to Overcome the Population Crisis," which was approved by the Cabinet on 2 April 2024. The 5x5 Policy includes 5 strategies, and corresponding measures, as follows:

- 1) Empowering the Working-Age Population: This policy aims to enable both men and women of working age to establish themselves and support their families.
- 2) Enhancing the Quality and Productivity of Children and Youth: This policy focuses on strengthening family institutions and educational institutions to improve the quality and productivity of young people.

³ https://www.nesdc.go.th/download/Plan13/Doc/Plan13_Final.pdf

⁴ [https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/55671/แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี-\(พ.ศ.๒๕๖๖-๒๕๗๐\).pdf](https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/55671/แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี-(พ.ศ.๒๕๖๖-๒๕๗๐).pdf)

⁵ <https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/77426/8578a762-a59f-4ddd-87af-042ae46de8c5-document-6084.pdf>

- 3) Empowering the Elderly: This policy promotes greater and continued access for the elderly to employment opportunities and the potential to work.
- 4) Increasing Opportunities and Enhancing the Value of Persons with Disabilities: This policy supports increasing educational opportunities according to potential and enhancing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities across all sectors.
- 5) Creating an Ecosystem Conducive to Family Security: This policy involves developing an appropriate and inclusive welfare system provided by the state, ensuring housing for all age groups and target populations, and promoting household economic stability.

Particularly in Policy One, Empowering the Working-Age Population, the focus is on supporting vulnerable women in the workforce to achieve economic security. This includes developing skills and enhancing capabilities through reskilling and upskilling initiatives to increase employment opportunities and income. The policy aims to help these women establish themselves and build strong families, while also promoting the roles of both men and women in sharing responsibilities in taking care of their families.

2) Development and Amendment of Laws and Action Plans to Promote Gender Equality

A significant legal development in promoting gender equality was made when the Senate approved the draft amendment to the Civil and Commercial Code Act (...), also known as the Marriage Equality Act on 18 June 2024, On 24 September 2024, the Marriage Equality Act was published in the Royal Gazette, making Thailand the first country in Southeast Asia to have legislation that recognizes the marriage rights of people with diverse sexual orientations. The Act will take effect 120 days after its publication. In addition, Thailand is drafting the Gender Recognition Act, aims will provide legal recognition of gender identity, leading to protection and elimination of discrimination based on gender identity.

Amendments to the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act, B.E. 2550 (2007), were proposed to the Committee on Amendments to the Family Development and Protection Act, B.E. 2562 (2019), on 18 March 2024, and are scheduled for public consultation in May and June 2024. The draft Act will then be submitted to the Cabinet and Parliament for consideration.

In 2021, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Gender Equality Act of 2015 was conducted to identify necessary legal adjustments to align with international principles of gender equality. Following this evaluation, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development will appoint a committee to amend and improve the Gender Equality Act of 2015 based on the evaluation results.

Measures and guidelines for Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) for the period 2017-2024 were developed to align with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. Additionally, a draft Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Way of Life of Ethnic Groups was prepared, focusing on eliminating discrimination and promoting equality based on cultural diversity. This draft legislation aims to establish policy guidelines and practices that emphasize mechanisms for systematic participation in protecting ethnic groups and enhancing their capacity for self-reliance, consistent with their

lifestyles, needs, social situations, and specific challenges. The draft Act is currently under parliamentary consideration.⁶

Amendments to women's employment and labor rights include improvements such as extended maternity leave. Under the new labor law B.E. 2562 (2019), maternity leave was increased from 90 days to 98 days. Similarly, in the public sector, the Cabinet approved the principle of extending maternity leave to 98 days on January 11, 2022. Promoting women's rights in the role of mothers in the workplace is also encouraged, such as establishing childcare centers at workplaces, encouraging paternity leave for men to assist with childbirth, and creating friendly and safe environments for everyone (Safe and Fair Workplace for All).

3) Establishment of Mechanisms to Drive Strategies for Promoting Gender Equality and Eliminating Gender Discrimination

Government mechanisms at the ministry and department levels that drive efforts in women's affairs and gender equality include the Chief Gender Equality Officer (CGEO) and the Gender Focal Point (GFP). On 31 July 2001, the Cabinet approved a directive for all ministries, departments, and agencies to appoint one senior executive at the level of Deputy Permanent Secretary or Deputy Director-General to serve as a CGEO, and to designate a bureau or division to function as a GFP. Currently, there are 141 CGEOs and GFPs across various agencies, including the Ministry of Defense, which established its own CGEO and GFP in 2022.

In 2022, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, in collaboration with the King Prajadhikok's Institute, developed and piloted a governance and gender equality curriculum for executives. This initiative aims to foster understanding, awareness, and acceptance of gender equality, leading to the implementation of organizational policies and strategies, and promoting a positive attitude towards gender equality and coexistence in society. The core curriculum includes at least 60 hours of training.⁷

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, between 2020 and 2023, provided assistance to 8,702 victims of domestic violence in 76 provinces.⁸ Additionally, the Coordination Center for the Preventive and corrective measures of sexual harassment in the workplace was established. This center comprises 134 government agencies at the ministry and department levels, as well as state enterprises, which have expressed their commitment to preventing and addressing sexual harassment in the workplace. It also developed guidelines for prevention, corrective measures, and internal complaint mechanisms. From 2020 to 2023, there were 20 reported cases related to sexual harassment or misconduct in the workplace.

The Sub-district Operational Center for Preventing Domestic Violence functions as a community-based organization at the local or sub-district level, involving multidisciplinary teams and community representatives from all sectors. Their role includes protecting and assisting victims of domestic violence, with responsibilities in monitoring, prevention, intervention, rehabilitation, development, and reporting

⁶ <https://policywatch.thaipbs.or.th/policy/legal-3>

⁷ <https://www.kpi.ac.th/uploads/pdf/wPVtTwybDNI2iRn8WWqbWNKZh5I8aHKqdRugw3DR.pdf>

⁸ ข้อมูลเปรียบเทียบความรุนแรงในครอบครัวปีงบประมาณ 2562-2566 โดยกรมกิจการสตรีและสถาบันครอบครัว

incidents of domestic violence. The center emphasizes community involvement in managing domestic violence issues.

The Community Family Development Centers serve as mechanisms for monitoring, preventing, and addressing family-related issues, providing guidance, and promoting learning for families. These centers are managed through working groups focused on surveillance activities. As of 2024, a total of 7,255 centers have been established across 76 provinces. The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development continues to enhance the capacity and strength of these centers through various initiatives, such as workshops aimed at advancing the centers towards becoming public benefit organizations and improving their operational efficiency. These efforts help implement family policies through projects and activities that align with the local context and situations. In the fiscal year 2023, funding was provided to support 1,038 projects and activities aligned with key issues (8 projects at the central level and 1,030 projects at the regional level).

4) Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development published a manual for Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) based on the findings from international organizations, such as UN Women and the European Union, as well as domestic institutions like the King Prajadhipok's Institute, considering also the context in Thailand.

The Gender Responsive Budgeting guide was approved by the Cabinet on 7 December 2021 and led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on advancing GRB among eight entities: the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Secretariat of the Senate, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives, the Budget Bureau, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the King Prajadhipok's Institute, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Stock Exchange of Thailand, on 15 December 2021.

In 2023, there were six pilot agencies across five provinces implementing GRB, and in the 2024 fiscal year, efforts were made to promote GRB knowledge among 127 local administrative organizations including in Suphan Buri Province.

5) Changing Discriminatory Social Norms and Gender Stereotypes

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, in collaboration with the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), implemented the project "Eliminating Gender Bias and Negative Language in Primary and Secondary Education in ASEAN Member States" from 2020 to 2021. The project produced modern media, including infographics, animations, and short films, with English subtitles, to raise awareness about gender equality issues, such as stereotypes and biases against girls and women in families, schools, and workplaces, as well as issues of sexual harassment and assault.

Additionally, a sourcebook titled "Gender Equality in Education: An ASEAN Sourcebook" was developed for ASEAN member states to provide knowledge on gender inequality, particularly in schools. This sourcebook serves as a guide for teachers, educational administrators, parents, and other school community groups, including civil society organizations working in education and gender equality. The

content presents research findings on gender inequality and sexual violence in schools affecting girls and women and includes tools to help address these issues.

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, in collaboration with the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, and the Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the "Curriculum for Ending Violence, Reducing Stigma, and Discrimination Based on Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation" on 18 December 2023. The curriculum was developed to promote understanding of diversity and inclusion in society within the framework of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017) and the Gender Equality Act B.E. 2558 (2015). The target groups include individuals with diverse gender identities, intersecting identities of vulnerable groups such as children and youth, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, people living with HIV, and substance users, as well as public sector organizations, private sector entities, NGOs, civil society organizations and communities. Participants who complete the training receive a certificate of completion. The curriculum has been actively promoted including through workshops. The "Workshop on Ending Violence, Reducing Stigma, and Discrimination Based on Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation," held for 60 individuals with hearing or communication disabilities from 7 to 9, June 2024.

1.2 Challenges

1) Poverty and Inequality Affecting Gender Equality Promotion

In addition to challenges related to gender norms, poverty and lack of access to essential resources for economic and social opportunities lead to gender inequality and disparities. Thailand is committed to addressing poverty and reducing economic and social inequality, as outlined in Milestone 9 of the Thirteenth National Economic and Social Development Plan 2023-2027, which focuses on breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty and promoting equitable social protection for all citizens⁹. The Poverty Eradication and Life Cycle Development Center (PELCD) was established in 2020. A survey of basic needs in 2022 found that there were 3,438,515 people living in poverty, with 1,025,782 individuals requiring urgent assistance registered for state welfare.¹⁰

2) Women's Participation in Decision-Making and Political Spheres

Thailand continues to face challenges in increasing women's participation in decision-making and politics. The Women's Development Strategy 2017-2021 focused on enhancing women's capacities to promote their involvement in political and decision-making processes at both national and local levels. This is reflected in Strategy 2, which emphasizes empowerment and increasing participation to improve social conditions and quality of life for women of all groups and levels. However, the representation of women in politics remains lower than that of men; in the current Cabinet, women constitute 14.70%.¹¹ Despite this, Thailand continues to address these challenges through practical policy and mechanisms,

⁹ <https://stopcorruption.moph.go.th/application/editors/userfiles/files/Mission%20to%20Transform%2013%20หมุดหมาย%20พลิกโฉมประเทศไทย.pdf> และ <https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/56014/f8dc43b1-0564-4c8b-8202-d98f491abcd9-document-5882.pdf>

¹⁰ 4ปีกับผลงานในภาพรวมของ พม. (ช่วงปี 2562-2566)

¹¹ สถานการณ์สตรีไทย 2567

incorporating women's participation in decision-making into the Women's Development Action Plan 2023-2027.

Q2. Over the past five years, what have been the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country through laws, policies and/or programs?

2.1 Equality and Non-Discrimination under the Law and Access to Justice

Equality and Non-Discrimination under the Law

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017), Articles 4, 27, and 71, clearly stipulate gender equality and the right to equal protection under the Constitution and other laws without discrimination, especially Article 71, which emphasizes protection against violence or unfair treatment towards women and includes provisions for state budgeting that considers the different needs and conditions of individuals based on gender, age, and other factors to ensure equality and fairness.

The Gender Equality Act B.E. 2558 (2015), remains a key law affirming gender equality and rights and is currently undergoing amendments to better align with international principles of gender equality. Notably, Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Act, which permits exceptions for gender discrimination under certain circumstances, is being reviewed and revised to redefine 'unfair gender discrimination' in accordance with international standards.

In 2024, the Senate approved the draft amendment to the Civil and Commercial Code Act (...), also known as the Marriage Equality Act, a significant legal development to recognize the right to form a family as a fundamental human right. On 24 September 2024, the law has been published in the Royal Gazette, and will take effect on 22 January 2025. This law supports the rights of individuals with diverse sexual orientations, aligning with the principles of the Constitution of B.E. 2560 (2017).

Access to Justice

Under the Gender Equality Act B.E. 2558 (2015), the Committee on Consideration of Unfair Gender Discrimination serves as a mechanism for filing complaints. Individuals who believe they have suffered or are at risk of being affected from unfair gender discrimination can file a complaint or request a relevant organization to file on their behalf to the Committee. Complaints can be made orally to the receiving officer or submitted directly, by mail, or electronically to the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development. For those outside Bangkok, complaints can be submitted to one of the eight Women's and Family Development Learning Centers or to the Provincial Offices of Social Development and Human Security in all 76 provinces.

Upon receiving and considering complaints of unfair gender discrimination, the Committee on Consideration of Unfair Gender Discrimination has the authority to issue orders to public and private entities to provide remedies, and it can refer cases to the Ombudsman to forward to the Constitutional Court for adjudication. The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development supports the

Committee administratively, providing compensation and remedies to victims when the Committee determines that unfair gender discrimination has occurred. Victims are entitled to compensation or assistance, including financial aid such as compensation for lost income during periods when they are unable to work.

Additionally, the Justice Fund Committee's Regulation on the Criteria, Procedures, and Conditions for Assisting the Public in Legal Proceedings B.E. 2559 (2016), Article 8, mandates that services be provided with special convenience and speed to children, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. Citizens can access these services through the Ministry of Justice's integrated service centers (Justice Care), provincial justice offices nationwide, community justice centers, the website <http://jfo.moj.go.th>, or the Facebook page of the Justice Fund, Ministry of Justice. Services are also available via the Justice Fund's operational system, the Justice Care mobile application, and the Ministry of Justice hotline at 1111, press 77. In 2022, the Justice Fund Office provided assistance to 4,463 individuals, totaling 293,405,274.54 baht.

Moreover, in 2021, Thailand revised the Justice Fund Committee's Regulation on Criteria, Methods, and Conditions for Assisting Individuals Whose Human Rights Have Been Violated, or Those Affected by Human Rights Violations, to improve access to justice for those suffering from violations by state officials.¹²

2.2 Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls

Education Policies and Life-long Learning for Women and Girls

Thailand implements the policy of universal access to education, or "Education for All," through a 15-year free education policy for all children without discrimination. The literacy rate for women has been increasing, with a rate of 94.6% in 2022, up from 93.7% in 2019.¹³ Additionally, a Cabinet resolution on 26 July 2022 mandated an increase in per capita education subsidies for 15 years of basic education, from kindergarten through secondary and vocational education (Diploma of Vocational Education). This adjustment is being implemented progressively over four fiscal years, from 2023 to 2026. In the 2024 academic year, the government increased the per capita subsidy for teaching and learning activities by 8%.¹⁴

In the 2023 academic year, there were 6,549,976 students from kindergarten to upper secondary and vocational education levels, with 3,298,677 female students and 3,251,299 male students.¹⁵ The statistics for the 2023 academic year included 301,235 students with disabilities in inclusive education, 3,625,567 disadvantaged children, 2,705 minority children, 35 children affected by AIDS, and 81,866 students without a national identification number, of which 40,020 were female and 41,846 were male. In higher education for the 2022 academic year, there were 1,077,169 female students compared to 817,536 male students.¹⁶

¹² <https://www.nhrc.or.th/getattachment/2bae96ae-b097-428d-bf72-ba693d4b0596/Situation2021.aspx>

¹³ สถานการณ์สตรีไทยปี 2567

¹⁴ <https://www.obec.go.th/archives/997163>

¹⁵ http://www.bopp.go.th/?page_id=3544

¹⁶ <https://www.nesdc.go.th/main.php?filename=social#>

The National Education Plan B.E. 2560-2579 (2017-2036) envisions quality education and lifelong learning for all Thais, promoting well-being in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and adapting to 21st-century changes. The plan aims to develop essential 21st-century skills, including literacy, numeracy, critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and proficiency in computers and information and communication technologies, with the goal of reducing national inequality.¹⁷

In the fiscal years 2021-2022, the Ministry of Education allocated funds for lifelong learning for people of all ages, ensuring access to education that meets needs, standards, and individual potential, which is considered an urgent policy of the Ministry.¹⁸

Currently, the Ministry of Education is in the process of revising the draft National Education Act B.E. ... and the draft Learning Promotion Act B.E. ..., following the Cabinet's approval of these two educational bills on 1 June 2021.¹⁹ Additionally, the Student Loan Fund (SLF) was established based on Cabinet resolutions dated 28 March 1995, and 16 January 1996, to operate as a revolving fund. Its objective is to provide loans to financially disadvantaged students to cover tuition fees, education-related expenses, and essential living costs during their studies. The Student Loan Fund Act (No. 2) B.E. 2566 (2023) has amended the Student Loan Fund Act B.E. 2560 (2017) to further expand access to student loans, supporting lifelong learning by providing scholarships in fields of study that require special promotion to align with future careers. The amendments also introduce mechanisms allowing borrowers to repay the fund based on their income-earning capacity, promoting repayment discipline to ensure the fund's sustainability.²⁰

Under the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027), aimed at enhancing opportunities for women and girls to access education and develop their potential, Pillar 1 focuses on the Women's Human Capital Development. Within this pillar, Measure 3 specifically promotes education and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) for women. The key initiatives include: (1) Organizing activities to encourage girls to pursue STEM fields; (2) Enhancing the capacity of educators to attract and develop the potential of girls in STEM; (3) Creating role models of women in STEM fields; and (4) Supporting scholarships and research grants for women in STEM.

The Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Act, B.E. 2559 (2016), is a law aimed at prevent and address adolescent pregnancy in an integrated manner, based on the rights of adolescents. Key legal measures for the integrated prevention and resolution of adolescent pregnancy include:

1. **Educational Institutions:** Schools are required to provide age-appropriate sex education, recruit and train qualified teachers, offer counseling and support, protect pregnant adolescents, and ensure they can continue their education appropriately. There should be a referral system to reproductive health services and social welfare.

¹⁷ <http://backoffice.onec.go.th/uploaded/Outstand/2017-EdPlan60-79.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://moe360.blog/2021/06/30/education-management-policy/>

¹⁹ <https://moe360.blog/2021/06/01/cabinet-resolution-010664/>

²⁰ <https://www.studentloan.or.th/th/aboutus>

2. **Workplaces:** Employers must provide accurate and sufficient information on pregnancy prevention to employees, promote access to counseling and reproductive health services, and ensure a referral system to social welfare.
3. **Health Services:** Healthcare providers are required to offer complete and accurate information on prevention, provide standard reproductive health counseling and services, and have a referral system to social welfare.
4. **Social Welfare Agencies:** These agencies are responsible for providing vocational training and job placements for pregnant adolescents, arranging substitute families for those unable to care for their children, establishing youth leaders at the provincial and district levels to monitor issues, and supporting public and private organizations in assisting pregnant adolescents and their families.

Capacity Development

Promoting the empowerment and capacity development of women is a key objective under Strategy 2, which focuses on empowerment and increasing participation for the social development and quality of life for women of all groups and levels, as outlined in the Women's Development Strategy 2017-2022. Funding has been allocated to support the empowerment and increased participation of women at all levels, including career skills development. According to reports on the promotion of gender equality by government agencies, between 2020 and 2023, Thailand implemented 15,639 projects to promote, support, and develop leadership and career skills for youth aged 18-25, involving a total of 875,439 participants.²¹

Additionally, projects were implemented to drive the Women and Family Development Learning Centers under the supervision of the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, aiming to protect and develop the careers of individuals facing social challenges through processes of protection, intervention, rehabilitation, and welfare provision for women and families experiencing social issues.²²

Thailand also has programs aimed at developing sustainable vocational skills for vulnerable households, providing training and career advancement for young women, women lacking educational opportunities, unemployed women or women in the informal workforce, single mothers, and women and families facing social problems.

Efforts were also made to promote new careers and increase income for persons with disabilities and their caregivers by enhancing existing skills and adding new skills through Upskilling and Reskilling initiatives, creating job opportunities for persons with disabilities. A total of 76,518 persons with disabilities participated in these programs, which included digital technology skills development to enhance digital literacy, marketing, online writing, and advanced digital skills for data analysis, among other areas.

Capacity development programs were also implemented to empower women in the southern border provinces through workshops that raised awareness among women's networks and community

²¹ 4 ปี กับผลงานของ ทม. ช่วงปี 2562-2566

²² <https://chachoengsao.m-society.go.th/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/คู่มือศูนย์บริการแม่เลี้ยงเดี่ยว.pdf>

women leaders about the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in promoting peace and security initiatives in the southern border provinces. Additionally, they provided knowledge on rights and laws related to sexual offenses and violence against women, aiding women, children, and those affected by violence in communities through systematic support and referral processes. This has fostered collaboration between women's networks, community leaders, and other stakeholders in preventing and addressing conflicts in the area.

2.3 Eliminating violence against women and girls

The Women's Development Action Plan 2023-2027 emphasizes changing attitudes, values, and belief systems, and addressing gender stereotypes to reduce violence against women and girls. Thailand is currently in the process of amending the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act B.E. 2550 (2007) and drafting the five-year Action Plan for Preventing and Addressing Violence against Children, Women, and Family Members (2023-2027), which is being developed by the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development.

Thailand also has mechanisms in place to prevent, protect, and provide remedies for individuals experiencing violence at all levels, from the family unit to national agencies. These include Community Family Development Centers, which focus on monitoring, preventing, and addressing domestic violence; the operation Center of the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development; the Coordination Center for the Preventive and corrective measures of sexual harassment in the workplace and Subdistrict Social Assistance Centers. Additionally, women's consultation centers have been established in the Islamic Offices of Narathiwat and Yala provinces to support female leaders and women's groups in managing and assisting women seeking advice on family issues. These centers operate in collaboration with government agencies, religious organizations, and the private sector. Between 2021 and 2023, the women's consultation center in the Islamic Office of Narathiwat provided legal protection and support to 875 individuals who sought counseling for violence-related issues.

The Safe Spaces for Women project, initiated in 2017, aims to build capacity and enhance knowledge among community leaders on the prevention and resolution of violence against women. As of now, the project has been implemented in 14 communities in the Dusit district of Bangkok. In 2020, a guidebook was developed for creating and enhancing safe social spaces in rural, urban, and industrial labor communities. This guidebook serves as a tool for developing safe spaces for women, with the goal of protecting the welfare of individuals within families.

The Social Assistance Hotline 1300 of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and the One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC) of the Ministry of Public Health have revamped the 1300 hotline service since 2020, expanding to 60 lines to handle increased demand during the COVID-19 pandemic. From 2020 to 2023, efforts were made to integrate operations between internal and external agencies of the ministry using technology to improve efficiency, including an e-tracking system for monitoring assistance outcomes.

In 2021, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development established the Family Line system, a central platform for counseling and learning for families, aiming to build resilience in family life and comprehensively address issues such as family relationships, domestic violence, and gender-based discrimination.

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, in collaboration with the Royal Thai Police, the Office of the National Digital Economy and Society Commission, and the Equitable Education Fund, developed a new social incident reporting system called ESS Help Me (Emergency Social Services) in 2023. Accessible via the LINE application 24 hours a day, it allows users to report incidents by sharing their location, enabling precise and immediate assistance from authorities.

Additionally, Thailand has implemented the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for Case Management and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking and Forced Labor or Services B.E. 2565 (2022). This mechanism aims to enhance operations and provide victim-centered support to victims of human trafficking.²³

2.4 Right to work and rights at work

In promoting Equality and Improving the Quality of Life for Women Workers in Formal and Informal Sectors Thailand ensures equal and non-discriminatory protection for all workers through the Labor Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (1998), and its amendments. This law sets the minimum standards that employers must follow to protect employees, including vulnerable groups, women, and child workers. Female migrant workers from four nationalities—Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos—who are registered and in formal sector have access to basic labour and rights protections similar to those of Thai workers. They are also entitled to social security benefits, healthcare, maternity leave, and the minimum wage.

Moreover, Section 53 of the Labor Protection Act (No. 7) B.E. 2562 (2019) emphasizes gender equality in the workplace, stipulating that employers must pay wages, overtime, holiday pay, and holiday overtime pay equally for employees performing the same work, regardless of gender. The Act also promotes awareness of decent work.²⁴ Special measures to protect female workers include prohibiting employers from terminating pregnant female employees and preventing employers, supervisors, foremen, or inspectors from engaging in harassment or sexual misconduct against female employees.²⁵

The Department of Labor Protection and Welfare is currently in the process of revising and amending Ministerial Regulation No. 14 (B.E. 2555), issued under the Labor Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (1998), to enhance the standards of protection for domestic workers not involved in business operations. The aim is to align these standards with international norms and comply with ILO Convention No. 189, which sets minimum standards for domestic work. A working group has been appointed to review Ministerial Regulation No. 14 (B.E. 2555) and to conduct research and gather academic information to support the revision process.

²³ <https://ccpl.mol.go.th/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/07/แผนปฏิบัติการว่าด้วยกลไกการส่งต่อระดับชาติ-มติ-ปกค.-8-เม.ย.-65.pdf>

²⁴ <https://www.labour.go.th/index.php/labour-law/category/5-laws-labour-37?download=61:2019-07-12-02-58-22>

²⁵ <https://www.labour.go.th/index.php/hm7/60-2011-06-02-03-47-12>

For informal workers, in Thailand developed the Strategic Plan for the Protection of Informal Workers (2018-2022) to address issues and improve the quality of life for informal workers in line with the current labor market condition. This plan particularly focuses on domestic workers, agricultural laborers, and home-based workers. The Informal Labor Protection Division has established networks of informal workers to monitor work-related issues, such as safety and working conditions.

Additionally, the Ministry of Labor has developed the Action Plan on the Management of Informal Workers B.E. 2566-2570 (2023-2027), focusing on promoting gender equality and raising awareness of decent work through the development of social welfare guarantees for workers and expanding the social protection base. The plan includes establishing systems and mechanisms to provide assistance to women, children, and the elderly within the labor system, covering both formal and informal sectors.²⁶

2.5 Gender Responsive Budgeting – GRB

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development published a handbook on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), which was approved by the Cabinet on 7 December 2021. This led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote the implementation of Gender Responsive Budgeting among eight organizations, including the Secretariat of the Senate, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives, the Bureau of the Budget, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the King Prajadhipok's Institute, and the Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission. This initiative aligns with Article 71, Paragraph 4 of the Constitution of B.E. 2560 (2017), which emphasizes the equitable and appropriate distribution and use of resources among the population. In 2022, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development established a mechanism to drive the implementation of the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) MOU in collaboration with the relevant agencies. Plans are also in place to work jointly with the Securities and Exchange Commission and UN Women to integrate GRB as a core principle in business operations. This includes providing education and sharing practices on GRB, with a focus on incorporating GRB principles in the procurement processes for the private sector.

Q3. Over the past five years, what specific actions have you taken to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of marginalized groups of women and

3.1 Ethnic Women and Girls

Thailand has parliamentary mechanisms, including the Committee on Children, Youth, Women, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, and LGBT Persons (House of Representatives Committee) and the Senate Committee on Social, Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, the Disabled and the Underprivileged Affairs (Senate Committee). These committees are key drivers in promoting equality and protecting right of ethnic women and girls. A survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Development

²⁶ Ibis

and Human Security, which created a directory of highland communities across 20 northern provinces in Thailand, found that Thailand has around 13 ethnic groups, totaling 1,441,135 people, consisting of 724,257 males and 716,878 females.

Thailand is currently drafting the Act on Protection of Rights and Promotion of the Way of Life of Ethnic Groups B.E. ..., which aims to eliminate discrimination and promote equality based on cultural diversity. This draft legislation sets policy directions and practices that establish mechanisms for systematic participation in protecting ethnic groups and enhancing their capacity for self-reliance, aligning with the way of life, needs, social situations, and challenges faced by ethnic groups. The draft is currently under parliamentary review.²⁷

Additionally, a project has been implemented to improve access to health services for ethnic groups, marginalized populations, and migrant workers by establishing the Health Center for Ethnic Groups, Marginal People, and Migrant Workers under the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health. This center serves as the main agency promoting access to health rights and environmental health for ethnic populations. According to a report from the Department of Health in March 2023, it is estimated that there are 1,125,525 ethnic group members residing in highland areas across 20 provinces. Among them, the proportion of pregnant ethnic women who had their first prenatal visit at or before 12 weeks is 76.74%, and the proportion of postpartum women who received care three times according to the standard is 52.27%.²⁸

3.2 Women and Girls with Disabilities

On December 28, 2021, the Cabinet approved the Draft Act on Promoting the Quality of Life and Protection of Informal Workers, B.E. ..., aims at updating laws related to informal workers, elderly workers, and workers with disabilities with a view to align with international standards.²⁹ As of 2024, there are 1,076,088 women with disabilities in Thailand, representing 48.03% of all individuals with disability identification cards.³⁰ Thailand provides welfare support for vulnerable groups, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and women affected by HIV, through financial assistance and career development initiatives. As of July 31, 2023, the Department of Employment has facilitated the employment of 1,119 persons with disabilities, comprising 657 men and 462 women.

In the field of education, Thailand promotes inclusive education for children with disabilities. According to the 2023 academic year statistics, there are 301,235 students with disabilities participating in inclusive education out of a total of 6,549,976 students.³¹ Additionally, Thailand supports new career opportunities and income enhancement for persons with disabilities and their caregivers by developing existing skills and adding new skills through upskilling and reskilling initiatives. A total of 76,518 persons with disabilities have participated in these programs, which include developing digital technology skills, digital marketing, online writing, and advanced digital skills for product data analysis, among others.

²⁷ <https://policywatch.thaipbs.or.th/policy/legal-3>

²⁸ https://hhdc.anamai.moph.go.th/th/pa2566-3-25/download?id=98421&mid=36854&mkey=m_document&lang=th&did=35180

²⁹ <https://std.mol.go.th/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2022/09/แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการบริหารจัดการแรงงานนอกระบบ.pdf>

³⁰ รายงานสถานการณ์สตรีไทย พ.ศ. 2567

³¹ http://www.bopp.go.th/?page_id=3544

Thailand also promotes welfare for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, by supporting the provision of quality sign language interpreters throughout all provinces. In 2023, there were 679 sign language interpreters, and from 2019 to 2023, 1,740 persons with disabilities received sign language interpretation services. Additionally, 2,160 personal assistants provided services to 4,919 persons with disabilities nationwide. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security also provides financial aid and rehabilitation allowances for registered persons with disabilities to alleviate their hardship, with each payment not exceeding 3,000 baht and limited to three times per year. From 2019 to 2023, a total of 44,052 persons with disabilities received aid, amounting to 130,576,500 baht.³²

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities developed the Second Plan for the Development of Women with Disabilities (2017-2021) to ensure equal access to rights and protection against discrimination in a harmonious and sustainable society. The plan outlines four strategic directions: (1) Empowering women and girls with disabilities to access and benefit from rights, welfare, and equal opportunities in mainstream development; (2) Enhancing the health, reproductive health, and healthcare of women and girls with disabilities; (3) Protecting women and girls with disabilities from violence, abuse, and exploitation in all forms; and (4) Strengthening the capacity, participation, and organization of women and girls with disabilities.

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security implemented the 5x5 Population Crisis Strategy, with Strategy 4 focusing on increasing opportunities and enhancing the value of persons with disabilities through five measures: (1) Expanding educational opportunities, including promoting employment of persons with disabilities in all sectors; (2) Promoting access to benefits for persons with disabilities; (3) Preventing congenital disabilities and disabilities across all ages, as well as providing physical and mental rehabilitation; (4) Promoting environments that enable persons with disabilities to live independently through technology and innovation, such as Universal Design and Assistive Technology (AT); and (5) Developing databases and applications to facilitate job search and employment.

From the 5x5 Population Crisis Strategy, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has concretely driven missions to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities. This includes creating educational opportunities, enhancing the capacity of persons with disabilities, expanding higher education networks for career development through training/internship models, and improving access to rights through projects that provide 72,000 assistive devices for persons with disabilities. Additionally, the One Stop Service (OSS) model, under the concept of "One Stop, All Access)" also help address barriers to access welfare for persons with disabilities. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has developed databases and applications to facilitate registration, divided into two phases:

Phase 1: Developing a platform for electronic disability assessment and certification, linked to the disability identification card application system.

Phase 2: "One Stop, All Access" involves linking the disability identification card system with applications for disability allowances. The Ministry will collaborate with relevant agencies to develop a system for submitting disability allowance applications, enhancing convenience and accessibility to welfare.

³² รายงานผลงานภาพรวมของ พม. 4 ปี ช่วงปี 2562-2566

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) has launched the "Empowering Women with Disabilities for Equal Quality of Life" project. This initiative aims to raise awareness in society, families, and communities about the violence faced by women and girls with disabilities, as well as other vulnerable groups. The project has target to significantly reduce violence in society by promoting safe spaces free from all forms of violence. It encourages women and girls with disabilities to participate in social activities, showcasing their potential and innovations related to disability. The initiative also fosters collaboration among various networks and partners to develop society and enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities.

3.3 Older Women

According to 2024 statistics on Thai women, there are 7,316,360 elderly women, representing 56% of the total elderly population. Thailand places significant emphasis on promoting access to rights and social protection for the elderly through welfare programs, ensuring access to basic rights as prescribed by law, particularly for economically disadvantaged elderly individuals. Between 2019 and 2023, assistance was provided to 65,416 elderly people to alleviate economic challenges and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022 alone, 10,946,646 elderly individuals affected by COVID-19 received special financial assistance. Additionally, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has implemented a Caregiver training program, with 33,998 individuals completing the course to provide care for the elderly.

Additionally, innovations and technologies have been developed to improve access to welfare services, such as notifying rights through government applications and providing online access to career development loans. This enables elderly individuals to access welfare services anytime and anywhere. Furthermore, the DOP (Department of Old Persons) Center, a centralized database system for elderly individuals, has been developed to provide support for elderly people in difficult circumstances.³³ Under the Action Plan for Informal Labor Management (2023-2027), it was found that in the 2023 fiscal year, the Department of Employment provided job placement services for 10 elderly individuals in the public sector. Additionally, the Pracharat Power Project facilitated employment for 997 elderly individuals, comprising 578 men and 419 women.³⁴

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has implemented the "5 x 5 Strategy to Overcome the Population Crisis," which includes a specific focus on empowering the elderly under Strategy 3: Empowering the Elderly. This strategy addresses urgent issues that require immediate action and has been approved by the Cabinet. There are five key measures to empower the elderly: (1) Prioritizing disease prevention over treatment by promoting desirable behaviors among the elderly; (2) Expanding economic opportunities for the elderly, including raising the retirement age, promoting employment, developing essential skills, and enhancing digital literacy; (3) Developing community based infrastructure for elderly care; (4) Promoting an environment that supports daily activities and social participation of the elderly,

³³ lbis

³⁴ lbis

while adapting to changes in the environmental climate; and (5) Enhancing the integration and exchange of data related to the elderly across all dimensions.

Efforts have been made to develop a community-based elderly care system that allows the elderly to remain in their communities for as long as possible. This has been implemented through the Elderly Care and Rights Protection Project in Communities, which, in 2024, was piloted in 19 areas across 12 provinces, providing care to 73,642 elderly individuals, with plans to expand nationwide. Additionally, concrete projects that align with the five key measures to empower the elderly include the establishment of the Human Security Emergency Management Center (HuSEC), accessible via the 24-hour Ministry of Social Development and Human Security hotline at 1300, which began operations on 1 November 2023. To date, the center has provided assistance in over 42,120 cases, including 5,371 cases involving the elderly.

Other initiatives include partnering with Lazada Thailand and True-Dtac to enhance the digital skills of the elderly for online trading, promoting digital literacy through the "Elderly Media Literacy Course" to protect them from becoming victims of scams, and offering the "Safe Cyber" online learning course. Furthermore, the program includes adapting safe environments for all ages by training "Community Technicians" who help improve the homes of the elderly, with 37,974 homes renovated from 2015 to 2024. Public spaces have also been upgraded according to universal design principles to ensure safety for the elderly.

Q4. Over the past five years, how has the confluence of different crises affected the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) in your country, and what measures have you taken to prevent their negative impact on progress for women and girls?

4.1 COVID-19 and Other Epidemics

The COVID-19 pandemic has had multifaceted impacts, particularly on the economic and social aspects, including access to healthcare services and social protection for vulnerable groups. Thailand faced challenges similar to those in other countries in reaching vulnerable populations, such as preventing the spread of the virus among the elderly and providing healthcare assistance to persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the closure of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in children and youth being forced out of the education system.³⁵

In April 2020, the Thai government issued an Emergency Decree to borrow 1 trillion baht to address public health, social issues, and economic recovery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the World Bank, 44 million Thai people benefited from social assistance programs during the pandemic.³⁶ The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security identified three target groups for assistance and relief for those affected by the COVID-19 situation and those at risk of hardship: (1) Children receiving child support grants for newborns; (2) Elderly individuals receiving old age allowances; and (3) Persons with disabilities holding disability identification cards.

³⁵ <https://ddc.moph.go.th/uploads/publish/1177420210915075055.pdf>

³⁶ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/th/eastasiapacific/phlkrathbkhxngokhwid-19-bkhraweruuxninpraethsithy>

According to the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, as of March 2021, 6,663,401 eligible individuals, or 98.26% of those eligible, received financial assistance from the government, totaling 19,990,203,000 baht. This assistance was provided through various programs, including a 1,000-baht monthly allowance for three months for vulnerable groups, a 3,000-baht allowance for State Welfare Cardholders, and 5,000 baht in assistance for employees and business owners.³⁷ Additionally, Thailand has implemented skill and career development programs for women and families, particularly for vulnerable groups affected by COVID-19, to provide alternative livelihood opportunities. These programs have benefited a total of 57,072 individuals, enabling them to pursue occupations and improve their quality of life and that of their families.

The Equitable Education Fund approved a budget of 2 billion baht to support food expenses for the children of low-income workers, totaling 750,000 baht.³⁸ The Elderly Fund provided loans for career development to 22,889 older persons. Between 2019 and 2023, assistance was provided to 65,416 older persons to alleviate economic challenges and the impacts of COVID-19. In 2022, 10,946,646 older persons affected by COVID-19 received special financial aid. Additional measures included the 1479 Disability Hotline and vaccine provision for 862,750 persons with disabilities aged 18-59.³⁹

In terms of legal protection during the COVID-19 pandemic, the President of the Supreme Court issued the Regulation on Electronic Procedures, B.E. 2563 (2020), and the Judicial Administration Regulation on Criminal Case Proceedings during the COVID-19 Pandemic, which came into effect in October 2021. These measures enabled the judiciary to address the backlog of cases, resulting in the adjudication of 236 out of 384 pending cases during 2021-2022.⁴⁰

Thailand has made concerted efforts to address and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic through continuous public communication and outreach. Academic materials were disseminated, and the Department of Disease Control established a hotline (1422) available in six languages. The public health response mechanisms included coordination at national, regional, provincial, sub-district, and local levels, involving Village Health Volunteers (VHVs), doctors, nurses, and other public health supporters, such as cleaners and food preparers, most of whom are women. These groups have played a crucial role in the primary healthcare system by providing health information to prevent the spread of the virus among the population nationwide.

Thailand has a health care system that extends to the family level, with over 1,040,000 Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) and an additional 15,000 Bangkok Health Volunteers, 80% of whom are women. These volunteers visit households to identify at-risk groups for screening, facilitate access to medical care, and provide education on self-protection measures, such as wearing masks, handwashing, eating hot food, and using personal utensils, as well as reinforcing the importance of social distancing, medication use, and monitoring for COVID-19 outbreaks. They also report their findings to relevant authorities. Following the

³⁷ <https://ddc.moph.go.th/uploads/publish/1177420210915075055.pdf>

³⁸ Ibis

³⁹ ดัชนีผลงานในภาพรวมของ พม. (ช่วงปี 2562-2566)

⁴⁰ <https://www.e-aht.com/startup/gotoinformationAll?informationType=3&generalInformationType=3>

COVID-19 pandemic, female VHVs have further developed their skills by training in caregiver courses, currently totaling 102,893 individuals, to provide care for homebound and bedridden elderly persons.

The Thai government introduced relief and assistance measures for those affected by COVID-19, including:

Healthcare: The government implemented a policy of free healthcare access without discrimination, with rights treatment determined based on the health needs of individuals of all genders and ages, within the framework of the benefits package.

Education: Learning processes were adjusted by encouraging teachers to design learning activities using media, technology, and Internet networks. Schools collaborate with parents to provide education through ON-AIR (home-based learning) or ONLINE (Internet and application-based learning).

Labor: Employers were advised to allow pregnant female employees to work from home or assign tasks that minimize exposure and reduce contact with large numbers of people. Employers could also grant paid leave to pregnant female employees without counting it as a vacation or leave day, ensuring continuity of employment tenure. Financial assistance was provided to those within the social security system, including reduced social security contributions and enhanced unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific measures like targeted containment ("Bubble & Seal") and the "Factory Sandbox" project were also implemented.

Legal: Communication channels with the public were expanded to seven platforms to accommodate people of all ages and genders across the country: (1) the Office of the Attorney General's website, (2) email, (3) the LINE application, (4) FaceTime for iOS users, (5) Facebook, (6) Cisco Webex Meeting, and (7) the 1157 hotline.

Social Welfare: Assistance included financial aid for vulnerable groups, emergency loans from the Fund for Empowerment and Development of the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities, distribution of survival kits, food provisions from various agencies, formula milk for children, hotline services, housing support, debt moratoriums/reduced interest from various funds, and the establishment of shelters for vulnerable groups. These shelters provide assistance and protection for those living in public spaces, the homeless, those without shelter, and individuals in distress. Online self-employment was promoted through YouTube channels like "DOE Easy Job" and "Career Information Center."

Energy: Measures included assistance with electricity costs, reducing net electricity tariffs inclusive of VAT for all users, refunding electricity use deposits, lowering NGV prices for public transport vehicles, reducing statutory crude oil reserves, and extending the LPG reserve rate of 1% for an additional six months.

4.2 Gender Dimension of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Thailand ranks 9th among countries most affected by climate change over the past 20 years (2000–2019), according to the 2024 Global Climate Risk Index (CRI). The variability in weather conditions has been linked to issues in various sectors, such as agriculture, where crop damage from droughts and floods leads to loss of income for women in agriculture. When disasters occur, women are disproportionately affected and have less capacity to adapt compared to men, facing not only health crises but also economic and social crises.

As a result, efforts have been made to integrate gender perspectives into climate change actions. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment approved the National Climate Change Action Plan on November 19, 2018, which includes principles emphasizing the consideration of human rights and gender, fundamental human rights and freedoms, justice, and non-discrimination. The state is expected to play a role in maintaining the basic conditions necessary for the survival of populations, particularly those at high risk from climate threats, such as extreme weather or displacement due to climatic factors and their impacts. These vulnerable groups often include low-income individuals, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities or illnesses, and women.

The principles of human rights and gender considerations are crucial in climate adaptation efforts. In some cases, such as the provision of resources or backup infrastructure in emergencies due to disasters, there may be in conflict with other principles used in the management of natural resources and the environment, such as a focus on efficiency and cost-effectiveness in resource use.

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Foundation, has organized meetings to enhance knowledge and understanding of gender perspectives in relation to climate change. These efforts aim to build awareness of gender equality as it intersects with climate change, natural resource management, and natural disasters, and to empower women's groups with skills in communication to highlight gender equality issues in natural resource management and climate change. A manual on disaster risk management from a gender perspective is currently being developed.

Efforts also include promoting female leaders and provincial women's networks to participate in discussions at the National Women's Assembly on empowering women and advancing gender equality in the context of global warming. Topics include disaster risk management from a gender perspective, the development of forecasting and disaster warning systems, and the enactment and enforcement of laws related to waste management.

Q5. Over the next five years, what are the priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country through laws, policies, and/or programs?

5.1 Equality and Non-Discrimination under the Law and Access to Justice

Thailand's Gender Inequality Index for 2022 shows a decrease of 0.003 from 2021, ranking the country 74th globally.⁴¹ To align with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) and the 20-year National Strategic Plan on creating opportunities and social equity, as well as ensuring protection against unfair gender-based discrimination, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has developed the Action Plan for Gender Equality Promotion (2023-2027). This plan provides a framework to advance gender equality in Thailand, with three main objectives: (1) Promoting societal shifts in understanding and awareness of gender equality, (2) Encouraging all organizations to establish policies, regulations, and mechanisms that support gender equality, and (3) Promoting research and development to foster innovations in gender equality, through amending and improving regulations and laws that facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan for Gender Equality Promotion.

The Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027) envisions that women and girls will have the opportunity to develop their full potential, be treated equally and fairly, and be safe from all forms of

⁴¹ <https://hdr.undp.org/data-centre/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indicies/GII>

violence in a society that Embrace gender equality. The plan emphasizes the promotion of gender equality under Pillar 1: Women's Human Capital Development. This includes measures to create learning processes on gender and gender equality, promote the appreciation of contribution of women in the workplace, encourage education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), strengthen women entrepreneurs, and enhance access to human capital development opportunities for specific target groups of women, such as ethnic minorities, women in remote rural areas, women from low-income families, women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, women in the Southern Border Provinces, women with disabilities, and elderly women.

In terms of legal reform and development, Thailand has established a committee to amend and improve the Gender Equality Act of 2015 in line with the outcomes of legal performance evaluations.

5.2 Poverty Eradication, Agricultural Productivity, and Food Security

Milestone 9 of the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan focuses on eradicating intergenerational poverty and enhancing social protection, with the aim of achieving two key goals: (1) Increasing opportunities for intergenerational poor households to sustainably escape poverty by 2027, and (2) Providing adequate social protection to ensure a decent standard of living for people of all ages. Thailand has outlined five strategies to achieve Milestone 9:

1. **Targeted Poverty Reduction:** Using data from the Thai People Map and Analytics Platform (TPMAP) to address broader issues, such as newborns, education, and the elderly, and to identify poverty at individual, household, community, local, provincial, and national levels. This enables more targeted interventions and policy designs tailored to specific groups and issues.⁴²
2. **Equitable Opportunities for Children from Intergenerationally Poor Households:** Increasing the rate of children from intergenerationally poor families who complete higher education or achieve equivalent skills by 50%.
3. **Enhancing Social Protection for All Ages:** Including increasing the number of workers in the social security system to at least 60% and reducing the proportion of poor elderly to no more than 4%.
4. **Improving Social Protection Systems:** Making social protection systems more efficient.
5. **Integrating Data to Reduce Intergenerational Poverty and Enhance Social Protection:** The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has developed an electronic family wallet system as a tool for collecting data on vulnerable populations and addressing inequality sustainably. As of 31 May 2023, data for 725,435 households had been recorded in the system, with 600,709 households receiving assistance and quality of life improvements.

Thailand will continue to pursue Milestone 9 of the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan to sustainably reduce economic and social inequality, according to indicators that aim to decrease the disparity in living standards between the top 10% and the bottom 40% of the population and achieve a per capita income of USD 8,800 per year by 2027.⁴³

⁴² <https://www.tpmaph.in.th/about>

⁴³ <https://stopcorruption.moph.go.th/application/editors/userfiles/files/Mission%20to%20Transform%2013%20ทศวรรษ%20พลิกโฉมประเทศไทย.pdf>

5.3 Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls

The elimination of violence against women and girls has been integrated into the country's legal and policy mechanisms. The Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027) includes the elimination of violence against women under Pillar 2, which comprises measures such as creating learning processes to eliminate the root causes of violence, establishing safe spaces for women, promoting access to justice for women, and proposing laws to protect women from violence and ensure justice for victims. This also includes the revision of the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act, B.E. 2550 (2007), which will be submitted to the Cabinet.

Thailand is currently developing the National Action Plan to Eliminate Violence against Women (2023-2027), incorporating feedback and recommendations from the Committee for Promoting the Improvement of the Status of Women (CPSW) and experts from UN Women. The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, in collaboration with UN Women, is revising the draft action plan according to the suggestions from CPSW and UN Women experts. They also plan to compile a Gender Situation Report to gather more comprehensive data on the issue of violence against women. The revised draft action plan will be presented to the Committee for Promoting the Improvement of the Status of Women (CPSW) and the National Committee on the Policy and Strategy for the Advancement of Women (NCPSAW) for further consideration.

5.4 Political Participation and Representation

Thailand recognizes the importance of enhancing women's participation at decision-making levels and in political representation. This priority is reflected in Pillar 3 of the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027), which includes measures such as ensuring that at least one-third of decision-making positions at all levels are occupied by women, encouraging political parties to promote female candidates equally alongside male candidates, and ensuring that at least one-third of the Cabinet members are women. The plan also emphasizes increasing women's participation across all levels, fostering understanding of the importance of women's participation in decision-making, and increasing women's skills and leadership for involvement in executive-level decision-making.

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, 2017, under Sections 90 and 128, guarantees women's participation in politics. Section 90, paragraph 3, provides that in preparing party-list candidates, political parties must ensure participation from party members and consider candidates from various regions, ensuring gender equality. Section 128 stipulates that the composition of special parliamentary committees considering bills related to children, youth, women, the elderly, or persons with disabilities must include representatives of these groups or NGOs working directly with these populations, constituting at least one-third of the committee members.

In 2023, women in Thai politics include:

- 1) 96 female Members of Parliament (19.2%);
- 2) 26 female Senators (10.4%);
- 3) 13 female Provincial Administrative Organization Presidents (17.10%);

- 4) 258 female Mayors (11.70%); and
- 5) 451 female Subdistrict Administrative Organization Presidents (9.31%).

Efforts will need to be made to further increase the participation and representation of women in politics in the country at all levels.

5.5 Gender Responsive Budgeting - GRB

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development (DWF) serves as the central coordinating body for promoting gender equality and empowering women in Thailand. It has set a goal to establish pilot organizations for implementing GRB to create concrete examples. The strategy for driving GRB is being implemented at both methods and local levels, as follows:

1. Enhancing the Capacity of Relevant Agencies

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development (DWF) conducts training for relevant officials to raise awareness and understanding of gender equality among central government agencies. This training enables them to use the GRB Handbook and checklist to integrate gender considerations into budgeting processes, programs, and activities, leading to policy and operational changes within the agencies. DWF collaborates with the King Prajadhipok's Institute to train local agencies on applying the GRB manual and checklist in their budgeting and activity planning.

Additionally, in the private sector, DWF, in collaboration with the Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission and UN Women, integrates GRB as a core business principle. It also provides education and shares best practices on GRB, including incorporating GRB-related procurement strategies within private businesses. This also contribute to the efforts in promoting business and human right in Thailand

2. Establishing Pilot Organizations

Pilot organizations for Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) are those that have gained knowledge about GRB processes and methodologies through various learning formats, such as training sessions, workshops, electronic media, or the use of GRB Handbook. The focus is on local administrative organizations to enable them to put GRB concepts into practice. This includes analyzing gender equality issues, developing projects or activities with a gender perspective, using GRB checklists to evaluate existing projects, and integrating gender perspectives into organizational operations. There is also a plan to invite organizations that prioritize the promotion of gender equality and social justice to share experience and help build capacity in our efforts to drive the implementation of GRB.

Chapter 3: Progress on the 12 Critical Areas of Concern as Outlined in the Declaration

3.1 Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity, and Decent Work

Q6. Over the past five years, what actions has your country taken to advance gender equality in the world of work (including informal and non-standard employment as well as entrepreneurship)?

6.1 Strengthened implementation of the laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, promotion of women is right in the public and private sectors, and supporting equal pay

Thailand has been committed to protecting labor rights through equitable and non-discriminatory measures, guided by the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998) and its subsequent amendments. These laws establish minimum standards for employers, offering protection to vulnerable groups including women, children, and migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos, who are in the formal employment system. These workers are entitled to the same fundamental protections and employment rights as Thai workers, such as social security, healthcare, maternity leave, and minimum wage guarantees.

Additionally, Section 53 of the Labor Protection Act (No. 7) B.E. 2562 (2019) mandates gender equality in the workplace, requiring employers to provide equal pay, overtime, holiday pay, and overtime on holidays for employees performing similar work, regardless of gender. It also includes special provisions prohibiting the dismissal of pregnant women, thus safeguarding their employment rights.⁴⁴

Thailand has implemented the Strategic Plan for the Protection of Informal Workers (2018-2022) to address the challenges faced by informal workers and enhance their quality of life in line with current labor market conditions. The plan particularly focuses on domestic workers, agricultural laborers, and home-based workers. On 28 December 2021, the Cabinet approved the Draft Act on the Promotion of the Quality of Life of Informal Workers, which aims to revise relevant laws pertaining to informal, elderly, and disabled workers to better align with international standards.⁴⁵

According to the Ministry of Labor statistics for 2023, there are 18.74 million women in the formal labor sector, representing 46.52% of the total workforce. Additionally, 1,116,595 female migrant workers have been registered under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as per Section 64 of the Labor Protection Act, following the Cabinet resolution on 7 February 2023.⁴⁶ As of 31 July 2023, the Department of Employment facilitated job placements for 143,580 women.

Efforts to promote employment among vulnerable groups include:

⁴⁴ <https://www.labour.go.th/index.php/labour-law/category/5-laws-labour-3?download=61:2019-07-12-02-58-22>

⁴⁵ <https://std.mol.go.th/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2022/09/แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการบริหารจัดการแรงงานนอกระบบ.pdf>

⁴⁶ https://www.doe.go.th/prd/assets/upload/files/alien_th/e82ce3112167e110bbb14884af4df848.pdf

- 1) Employment promotion for persons with disabilities, totaling 1,119 individuals (657 men and 462 women).
- 2) Employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector, totaling 88 individuals (40 men and 48 women).
- 3) Employment of older persons in the public sector, totaling 20 individuals (10 men and 10 women).
- 4) The "Pracharath Employment Promotion for Older Persons" project, which facilitated employment for 997 individuals (578 men and 419 women).⁴⁷

The Department of Labor Protection and Welfare has overseen and promoted employer compliance with labor protection laws and related regulations, emphasizing equality and fairness as key preventive and enforcement measures. This has been achieved through workplace inspections and the promotion of awareness regarding the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees, thereby ensuring that employees receive their legal entitlements fairly and without discrimination. In the fiscal year 2022, advisory services were provided to 104,775 individuals, including employers, employees, the general public, government agencies, and other stakeholders through various channels. Between 2015 and 2021, the Department conducted inspections of female workers across 267,950 establishments nationwide, covering 4,550,856 female employees.

Regarding the protection of informal workers, the Thai government has also advanced policies specifically aimed at protecting female informal workers. The Strategic Plan for the Protection of Informal Workers (2018-2022) was developed to address challenges and enhance the quality of life for informal workers, in line with the current labor market conditions. This plan particularly focuses on domestic workers, agricultural laborers, and home-based workers. The Informal Labor Protection Division has established networks of informal workers to monitor work-related issues, such as safety and working conditions.

The Labor Protection Act (No. 7) B.E. 2562 (2019), Section 53, stipulates that employers must provide equal pay, including wages, overtime, holiday pay, and overtime on holidays, for employees performing work of similar nature, quality, and quantity, regardless of gender. Section 59 mandates that employers pay wages to female employees on maternity leave, as stipulated in Section 41, equivalent to their regular wages for up to 45 days. Furthermore, pregnant employees are entitled to prenatal check-ups as part of their maternity leave, and total maternity leave per pregnancy cannot exceed 98 days. If an employer dismisses an employee due to pregnancy, it constitutes a violation of Section 43 of the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998), which prohibits dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy. In such cases, a labor inspector may order the employer to pay wages, notice pay, and severance compensation within 30 days of receiving the order.

The Thai government has enacted special measures to protect female workers, including prohibiting the dismissal of pregnant employees and forbidding any acts of harassment, sexual misconduct, or causing distress to female employees by employers, supervisors, foremen, or inspectors.

⁴⁷ รายงาน CEDAW ฉบับที่ 8

It is also prohibited to employ women in hazardous work, such as mining, working on scaffolds over 10 meters high, or handling explosives or flammable materials. Additionally, pregnant employees are prohibited from working between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Thailand has laws that prescribe penalties for sexual harassment and assault in the workplace, including:

1. **The Act amending the Criminal Code (No. 22), B.E. 2558 (2015), Section 397:** Addresses offenses related to sexual harassment.
2. **The Civil Service Act, B.E. 2551 (2008), and the Office of the Civil Service Commission (OCSC) Regulation on Sexual Harassment, B.E. 2553 (2010):** These laws set standards for addressing sexual harassment within the civil service.
3. **The Notification of the State Enterprise Labor Relations Committee regarding the Minimum Standards of Conditions of Employment in State Enterprises, B.E. 2549 (2006):** Prohibits employers, supervisors, controllers, or inspectors from committing acts of sexual harassment or causing sexual distress to employees.
4. **The Labor Protection Act (No. 2), B.E. 2551 (2008), Section 16:** Specifies provisions related to the protection of employees from sexual harassment in the workplace.

In addition, on April 21, 2020, the Cabinet also approved the Preventive and corrective measures of sexual harassment in the workplace, which include:

1. A written declaration of intent by executives and agencies.
2. The development of guidelines for prevention and problem resolution.
3. Initiatives to raise awareness of gender equality among personnel.
4. Creating a safe working environment.
5. Establishing an internal grievance mechanism within the organization.
6. Implementing both formal and informal processes for problem resolution within the organization.
7. Taking serious and prompt action in cases of sexual harassment or assault.
8. Ensuring confidentiality during investigations and procedures.
9. Protecting complainants and witnesses, along with providing remedies.
10. Ensuring fair treatment of the accused.
11. Reporting on the implementation of these measures within the organization.
12. Establishing the Coordination Center for the Preventive and corrective measures of sexual harassment in the workplace, under the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. This center is responsible for raising awareness and ensuring the proper and comprehensive implementation of the measures among government agencies, state entities, and the private sector, and for monitoring and reporting the progress of these measures to the Gender Equality Promotion Committee annually.

The Department of Labor Protection and Welfare is primarily responsible for safeguarding workers' rights, upholding principles of equality and non-discrimination, and ensuring compliance with the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998) and its amendments. This act sets minimum standards for employers' treatment of employees, covering vulnerable groups, including women and extending to foreign workers from Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos, who are permitted to work under Section 9. As of 2019, there are 1,853,603 authorized migrant workers, with 825,613 being women. Female migrant workers in the system are entitled to the same basic protections and employment rights as Thai workers, including access to social security, healthcare, maternity leave, minimum wage, and labor law protections.

Between 2015 and 2021, the Department conducted inspections across 21,440 establishments employing 719,626 female migrant workers nationwide. Additionally, they received and adjudicated complaints from 5,401 female migrant workers during this period.

The Convention on the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work, 2019 (No. 190), underlines the providing protection for all individuals in the world of work, including employers, employees, trainees, dismissed workers, volunteers, and job seekers, from violence and harassment of physical, psychological, sexual, and economic nature. This protection is not limited to incidents occurring in the workplace but also extends to accommodation, during commutes, and through communication channels related to work. Therefore, the scope of the Convention is broader than that of general labor laws. The consideration of ratifying the Convention requires extensive consultation and awareness-raising. Currently, the International Labor Organization (ILO) is conducting a comparative study of the Convention against national laws at the request of the Ministry of Labor to provide relevant information for consideration by the concerned agencies.

Support measures for women entrepreneurs under the Women's Development Action Plan (2017-2027) are outlined in Measure 4, which focuses on strengthening women entrepreneurs. The measures aim to develop the entrepreneurial potential of young girls and further enhance the capabilities of women entrepreneurs.⁴⁸ Additionally, there are programs to support the development of business skills for women's occupational groups, offered both on-site and online, to align with current occupational trends and improve organizational and product standards for competitiveness in the digital era. In 2023, 365 women participated in these skill development programs.

Moreover, the Digital Entrepreneurs for Ethnic Communities Project in Thailand, implemented by the Highland People Development Center in Chiang Rai in collaboration with private sector partners and Chiang Mai University, also promotes and supports SMEs within the Karen ethnic community in Chiang Rai, involving 20 participants.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ [https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/55671/แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี-\(พ.ศ.๒๕๖๖-๒๕๗๐\).pdf](https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/55671/แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี-(พ.ศ.๒๕๖๖-๒๕๗๐).pdf)

⁴⁹ รายงานผลการดำเนินงานรอบเดือนตุลาคม 2565-กันยายน 2566 กระทรวงการพัฒนาสังคมและความมั่นคงของมนุษย์

6.2 Measures to Prevent Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

The Labor Protection Act, B.E. 2541 (1998), specifies special measures to protect female workers from sexual harassment by prohibiting employers, supervisors, foremen, or inspectors from engaging in acts of harassment, assault, or sexual nuisance towards female employees.⁵⁰ For state enterprise employees, the Notification of the State Enterprise Labor Relations Committee regarding the Minimum Standards of Conditions of Employment in State Enterprises, B.E. 2549 (2006)⁵¹, provides similar protections. For civil servants, the Civil Service Act, B.E. 2551 (2008), and the Office of the Civil Service Commission (OCSC) Regulation on Sexual Harassment, B.E. 2553 (2010), serve as mechanisms to prevent sexual harassment and assault.

On April 21, 2020, the Cabinet approved 12 measures to prevent and address sexual harassment and assault in the workplace. These measures range from declaring a commitment to promoting gender equality to establishing measures and mechanisms for preventing and reporting sexual harassment and assault in the workplace. A Coordination Center for the Preventive and corrective measures of sexual harassment in the workplace was established to oversee these efforts.⁵²

According to the performance report for the fiscal year 2022, based on the Cabinet's resolution of April 21, 2020, a total of 2,371 agencies submitted reports, with 51 agencies reporting incidents of sexual harassment, the majority of which were public sector entities. Most of these agencies conducted investigations and took disciplinary action against offenders in accordance with their respective regulations.⁵³

Q7. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, promote work-life and family balance and strengthen the rights of paid care workers?

7.1 Expanded Childcare Services or Made Existing Services More Affordable

The Cabinet approved the principles of measures to support women as a key economic force, aiming to protect, support, and facilitate women's active participation in the economy, while also encouraging greater male involvement in childcare. On January 11, 2022, the Cabinet endorsed these measures, resulting in an extension of maternity leave for female civil servants from 90 to 98 days. Additionally, male civil servants are now allowed to take up to 15 days of intermittent leave to assist their spouses. Furthermore, the services of early childhood development centers or daycare facilities have been expanded to accept children aged 0-3 years, and their operating hours have been extended to align with the working lives of parents, tailored to the local context.

7.2 Promoted Decent Work for Paid Care Workers, Including Migrant Workers

⁵⁰ <https://infocentre.doe.go.th/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/มาตรการป้องกันล่วงละเมิด.pdf>

⁵¹ <http://www.bmta.co.th/sites/default/files/files/about-us/announce2549.pdf>

⁵² https://www.soc.go.th/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/v63_184.pdf

⁵³ กองส่งเสริมความเสมอภาคระหว่างเพศ

Measure 2 of the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027) focuses on promoting the contribution and approach of women in the workforce, including both formal and informal sectors. This involves raising awareness of the value of their work, enhancing access to social protection, and ensuring fair wages. Additionally, the Ministry of Labor has developed the Action Plan on the Management of Informal Workers (2023-2027) to promote gender equality and raise awareness of decent work through the development of welfare guarantees for workers and the expansion of social protection coverage. This includes establishing systems and mechanisms to support women, children, and the elderly within the workforce, covering both formal and informal sectors.

Furthermore, the Department of Labor Protection and Welfare has incorporated projects aimed at enhancing the capacity of female workers to promote equality and decent work into its operational plan.⁵⁴

Thailand is currently in the process of amending Ministerial Regulation No. 14 (2012), issued under the Labor Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1998), to enhance the protection standards for domestic workers who are not involved in business activities. The amendments aim to align with international standards, specifically ILO Convention No. 189, to ensure that domestic workers receive equitable protection and access to labor welfare on par with other worker groups. This is particularly crucial for female domestic workers, who currently do not have the rights to maternity leave or under protection against dismissal due to pregnancy.⁵⁵

Q8. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to reduce the gender digital divide?

8.1 Mainstreamed Gender Perspective in National Digital Policies

The concept of promoting gender equality in the digital world has been incorporated into Measure 3 of the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027). This measure focuses on developing digital skills for women, which are essential in the 21st century, through various initiatives such as the "Girls in ICT Days 2023: Digital Skills for Girls" training program under the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society. Between 2023 and 2027, this initiative aims to develop specialized skills for women, supported by a budget allocation of 786,000 baht.⁵⁶

The 2024 Report on the Situation of Thai Women indicates that 87.5% of women have access to the internet, slightly lower than the 89.6% of men. Additionally, 94.8% of women have access to mobile phones, compared to 95.5% of men. Regarding women's participation in communication technology jobs, there has been an increase, with the proportion rising to 43.8% in 2022, up from 41.6% in 2021.⁵⁷

8.2 Measures to Promote Gender-Responsive STEM Education

⁵⁴ <https://www.labour.go.th/attachments/article/66700/251.4.pdf>

⁵⁵ <https://tdri.or.th/2019/06/domestic-worker/#:~:text=ในประเทศไทย%20คนทำงานรับ,แรงงาน%20ข้ามชาติอย่างเท่าเทียม>

⁵⁶ [https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/55671/แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี-\(พ.ศ.๒๕๖๖-๒๕๗๐\).pdf](https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/55671/แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี-(พ.ศ.๒๕๖๖-๒๕๗๐).pdf)

⁵⁷ ibis

Thailand has made reducing gender inequality in the digital space a priority, embedding this objective in Measure 2 of the Women's Development Action Plan, Phase 1 (2020-2022). This measure focuses on promoting and incentivizing female students to pursue education in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and provides scholarships or research grants to talented women, enabling them to develop their skills and potential. From 2020 to 2022, the government allocated 62.4 million baht to the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation to implement these efforts, funding eight projects, including initiatives such as "Advancing Information Technology for Public Social Equality" and "Educational Opportunity Programs."⁵⁸

Promoting gender equality in STEM education remains an ongoing effort and is embedded in Measure 3 of the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027), which focuses on advancing women's education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This includes measures to increase girls' enrollment and support in STEM fields, enhance the capacity of educators to engage and develop the potential of girls in STEM, create female role models in STEM, and provide research and education scholarships for women in STEM fields.⁵⁹ In 2023, the Women's Assembly was held under the theme "Empowering Women and Girls through Innovation, Education, and Digital Technology towards a Gender-Equal Society," with representatives from 76 provinces participating.⁶⁰

According to the 2022 education statistics, 23,297 women (46.29%) graduated with bachelor's degrees in fields such as science, mathematics, statistics, engineering, manufacturing, and construction. This number is lower than that of men, with 26,983 male graduates (53.71%) in these fields.

Thailand has established the National Digital Economy and Society Development Plan, which serves as the key framework for the country's digital economic and social transformation over a 20-year period (2018-2037). This plan outlines the path for sustainable national development through the integration of digital technology, aligning with the National Strategy and the Twelfth National Economic and Social Development Plan.

A core component of the plan, Strategy 3, aims to create a high-quality Digital Society by fostering inclusivity and equity through digital technology. This strategy seeks to reduce disparities in access to opportunities resulting from inadequate infrastructure, low digital literacy, and the high costs of digital access. It prioritizes providing all citizens—especially farmers, residents in remote areas, the elderly, disadvantaged groups, and persons with disabilities—with the ability to access and benefit from government services via digital platforms.

The plan also emphasizes digitizing the nation's knowledge resources at both national and local levels to make information widely accessible and usable. A critical element of Strategy 3 is the promotion of digital literacy among the population, aiming to develop smart, informed, and responsible citizens who can use digital technology creatively and safely. Ultimately, with robust digital infrastructure and a digitally skilled populace, digital technology will become a powerful tool for enhancing the quality of life across all segments of society through diverse digital services.

⁵⁸ <https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/27881/แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี 2ทศ63.pdf>

⁵⁹ รายงานสถานการณ์สตรีไทย 2567

⁶⁰ รายงานกองส่งเสริมความเสมอภาคระหว่างเพศ

Q9. In the past five years, how has the macroeconomic and fiscal policy environment affected the implementation of the BPfA in your country, and what macroeconomic policies has your country implemented in support of a more gender-equal economy?

Thailand has implemented several macroeconomic policies to promote a gender-equal economy, including:

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) signed a declaration of intent to "Promote Equality and Eliminate Unfair Gender Discrimination," led by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to advance Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB). As part of these efforts, letters were sent to listed companies encouraging them to adopt the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) within their organizations, as outlined in the "Building Pathways to Gender Equality and Sustainability through the Women's Empowerment Principles: Thailand Policy Brief" (March 2022).

The WEPs, developed by UN Global Compact in 2010, aim to involve the private sector in closing gender gaps across seven key areas:

1. Ensuring that all genders have equal opportunities to hold leadership positions within organizations;
2. Treating women and men fairly in the workplace, with respect for human rights and non-discrimination;
3. Protecting the health, safety, and well-being of all employees, regardless of gender;
4. Promoting education, training, and professional development to advance gender equality;
5. Supporting enterprise development, supply chain practices, and marketing strategies that empower women;
6. Promoting gender equality through community initiatives and advocacy; and
7. Measuring and publicly reporting on progress to achieve gender equality.

The Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion (OSMEP) has engaged with relevant stakeholders to agree on a definition for women-owned or women-led businesses. This is an initial step towards collecting gender-disaggregated data on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Thailand, aiming to promote gender equality among entrepreneurs in accessing and benefiting from both government procurement and corporate procurement systems. (Source: Building Pathways to Gender Equality and Sustainability through the Women's Empowerment Principles: Thailand Policy Brief, March 2022)

The Ministry of Industry, through the Department of Industrial Promotion, launched the "New Generation Women Entrepreneurs Development Program" in 2021 and 2022. This program focuses on enhancing the capabilities of women in digital technology to empower them economically and enable them to compete globally in e-commerce and digital marketing. It integrates innovation, information technology, and communication to monitor, evaluate, and forecast progress in women's status, providing evidence for gender-responsive policy formulation.

3.2 Poverty Eradication, Social Protection and Social Services

Q10. In the last five years, what actions has your country taken to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?

Recognizing that inequality and poverty can be passed based on through generations, Thailand is committed to eradicating poverty and reducing economic and social inequality, as outlined in the Ninth Milestone of the Thirteenth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2023-2027). This milestone focuses on addressing intergenerational poverty and promoting equal access to social protection for all citizens. The plan includes five key strategies:

1. Targeted interventions to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty;
2. Creating equal opportunities for children from intergenerationally poor households;
3. Enhancing social protection for individuals across all age groups;
4. Improving the efficiency of the social protection system; and
5. Integrating data systems to reduce intergenerational poverty and provide comprehensive social protection.⁶¹

These strategies are implemented through coordinated efforts at all levels of government. Over the past five years, Thailand has also employed various following measures to alleviate poverty among women and girls.

10.1 Promoted women in poverty's access to decent work through active labor market policies (e.g., job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures

The eight Women and Family Development Learning Centers and the four Protection and Occupational Development Centers under the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, provide essential services, including basic needs, vocational skills training, and job placement after completing training courses. Between 2022 and 2023, a total of 5,397 individuals accessed these services, most of whom were facing social challenges. Notably, 28% of the beneficiaries received vocational training and employment grants.⁶²

The Rattanapha Women's and Family Development Learning Center in Khon Kaen Province serves as a model for comprehensive women's and family development. Its five core missions are:

1. Serving as a learning center for vocational skills and women's and family development;
2. Promoting and enhancing the capabilities of women, family members, individuals facing social challenges, and the general public;
3. Establishing measures and mechanisms to promote, develop, address issues, and protect the family institution;
4. Developing expertise, databases, and innovations in women's and family development, in collaboration with relevant partners, to align with current and future situations; and

⁶¹ <https://stopcorruption.moph.go.th/application/editors/userfiles/files/Mission%20to%20Transform%2013%20หมุดหมาย%20พลิกโฉมประเทศไทย.pdf> และ <https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/56014/f8dc43b1-0564-4c8b-8202-d98f491abcd9-document-5882.pdf>

⁶² <https://chachoengsao.m-society.go.th/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/คู่มือศูนย์บริการแม่เลี้ยงเดี่ยว.pdf>

5. Promoting, developing, and coordinating efforts with organizations and networks to advance missions at all levels.⁶³

10.2 Introduced or strengthened social protection programs for women and girls (e.g. cash transfers for women with children, public works/employment guarantee schemes for women of working-age, pensions for older women)

Thailand has allocated welfare budgets for women and families through Single Parent and Family Service Centers, established in 2022 within the eight Women's and Family Development Learning Centers. These centers offer vocational training, job placement services upon course completion, and childcare support for single parents. In the fiscal year 2023, a total of 2,536 single parents received services, including 2,125 single mothers, 313 single fathers, and 98 single-parent families without specified gender.⁶⁴

Additionally, there are policies providing cash assistance and essential household items to alleviate immediate hardship through the One Home team, a provincial-level mechanism to support vulnerable women and families. As of 2023, assistance was provided to 24,366 women, totaling 46,693,000 baht.⁶⁵ The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security also offers financial aid and rehabilitation support for registered persons with disabilities, providing up to 3,000 baht per instance and no more than three times per year. Between 2019 and 2023, 44,052 persons with disabilities received aid, amounting to 130,576,500 baht.⁶⁶

Q11. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to improve access to social protection for women and girls?

11.1 Introduced or strengthened cash transfers for families with children that prioritize women as recipients (e.g. child benefits, family allowances, conditional or unconditional cash transfers)

Thailand has prioritized social protection for all groups, including those in vulnerable situations, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, ensuring they are treated with dignity and provided with employment and income, opportunities and improved quality of life through state welfare. This approach aims to enhance the welfare system and improve citizens' quality of life through various initiatives such as the old-age allowance, disability allowance, and the Child Support Grant for newborns.

Thailand provides financial assistance to women or families with low income and those facing hardship, identified through the Social Map system developed by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. This includes victims of unforeseen disasters and individuals experiencing severe difficulties in their livelihoods. Assistance is provided through social welfare processes, including home visits, fact-finding, and tailored support based on the specific needs and challenges of each family, in accordance with the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development regulations on assistance for

⁶³ รายงาน CEDAW ฉบับที่ 8

⁶⁴ ผลงานในภาพรวมของ พม. ช่วงปี 2562-2566

⁶⁵ ผลงานในภาพรวมของ พม. ช่วงปี 2562-2566

⁶⁶ รายงานผลงานภาพรวมของ พม. 4 ปี ช่วงปี 2562-2566

women and families facing social issues (2017). The assistance amount is capped at 3,000 baht per incident and can be provided up to twice a year. From 2020 to 2024, a total of 47,851 individuals received assistance, with a budget allocation of 99,890,900 baht (as of 18 July 2024).

The Child Support Grant for newborns is a key national policy under the integrated life-long human development plan, establishing a social protection system that provides cash assistance to newborns in low-income or at-risk households. This initiative encourages parents or guardians to engage with government services, ensuring early childhood development so that children can receive appropriate care, a good quality of life, and age-appropriate development. The grant aligns with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 20-Year National Strategy on Human Capital Development and Strengthening (2018-2037), the Human Capital Development Strategy of the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2023-2027), and the Third National Child and Youth Development Plan (2023-2027). The government provides support to households with an average income of no more than 100,000 baht per person per year, offering 600 baht per month per child from birth until the age of six.

Old Age Allowance: This state welfare program requires annual registration and provides a tiered allowance based on age:

- Age 60-69: 600 baht per month
- Age 70-79: 700 baht per month
- Age 80-89: 800 baht per month
- Age 90 and above: 1,000 baht per month

Disability Allowance: Payments are based on age, with individuals aged 18 and above receiving 800 baht per month, and those under 18 receiving 1,000 baht per month.

Support and Rehabilitation Grants for Persons with Disabilities: This program promotes sustainable development for persons with disabilities, ensuring they live with dignity and equality in society. The program aims to provide medical, educational, vocational, and social rehabilitation opportunities for registered persons with disabilities under the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act B.E. 2534 (1991).

Benefits include:

- 1) Assistance for individuals with disabilities living alone without caregivers;
- 2) Support for families of persons with disabilities facing economic hardship, affecting their ability to care for disabled family members; and
- 3) Provision of cash or essential goods worth up to 3,000 baht per instance, up to three times per year.

On 7 November 2019, the Cabinet resolved to extend the period for the Child Support Grant, increasing eligibility from newborns to age 3, to newborns to age 6, with a benefit of 600 baht per child per month. Additionally, the income threshold for eligible families was raised to not exceed 100,000 baht per person per year. From 2019 to 2023, a total of 2,279,043 children received the grant, with 445,474 children benefiting in 2023 alone.⁶⁷

⁶⁷ https://www.dcy.go.th/public/mainWeb/file_download/1714458446776-366761792.pdf

11.2 Introduced or strengthened social protection for women of working age (e.g. unemployment benefits, public works programs, social assistance)

Thailand has undertaken initiatives to promote employment and enhance the capacity of women and their families through eight Women and Family Development Learning Centers and four Protection and Occupational Development Centers under the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development. These centers function as local mechanisms to address labor mobility challenges and improve women's access to employment opportunities. They offer short-term vocational training courses to help women earn income through self-employment or small-scale entrepreneurship. Additionally, community-based vocational training is provided to women, with data showing that 50% of women who completed these training programs in 2023 experienced an increase in income.

Under the Social Security Act B.E. 2533 (1990), as amended by the second amendment B.E. 2537 (1994) and the third amendment B.E. 2542 (1999), along with the Royal Decree on the commencement of contribution collection for unemployment benefits B.E. 2546 (2003), Thailand provides unemployment benefits to insured persons. In 2022, the total number of insured individuals under Sections 33, 39, and 40 was 24,398,835, with women comprising 12,487,243 of these totals.

The benefits under the social security system for unemployment are as follows:

- In case of dismissal: Insured persons are entitled to unemployment benefits for up to 180 days per year at a rate of 50% of the average wage, calculated based on a minimum contribution base of 1,650 baht per month and a maximum contribution base of 15,000 baht. For example, if an insured person earns an average monthly salary of 10,000 baht, they will receive 5,000 baht per month in unemployment benefits.
- In case of resignation or end of employment contract: Insured persons are entitled to unemployment benefits for up to 90 days per year at a rate of 30% of the average wage, calculated based on the same contribution bases as dismissal cases. For instance, if an insured person earns an average monthly salary of 10,000 baht, they will receive 3,000 baht per month in unemployment benefits.
- For multiple claims within a calendar year: If an insured person submits claims for unemployment benefits due to dismissal, resignation, or end of employment contract more than once within a calendar year, they are entitled to receive benefits for all claims combined for a maximum of 180 days. However, if claims are solely due to resignation or end of contract, the combined entitlement is capped at 90 days per calendar year.

11.3 Extended social protection to women in informal employment (e.g. subsidies for participation in contributory schemes; inclusion in non-contributory schemes)

Protection for Informal Workers: The Thai government has developed policies to protect female informal workers through the Strategic Plan for the Protection of Informal Workers (2018-2022). This plan aims to address issues and enhance the quality of life for informal workers, particularly domestic workers, agricultural laborers, and home-based workers, in line with current labor market conditions. The

Informal Labor Protection Division has established networks to monitor work-related problems, including safety and environmental conditions.

Informal workers can access social security on a voluntary basis by enrolling as insured persons under Section 40 of the Social Security Act, B.E. 2533 (1990), as amended in B.E. 2558 (2015). The Royal Decree on Rules, Rate of Contribution, Contingencies and Eligibilities to receive benefits of Insured Persons under Section 40 (B.E. 2561) has been revised to better meet the needs of informal workers, expanding protection and benefits. In 2020, the Social Security Office provided a total of 1,519 million baht in benefits from the Social Security Fund and the Compensation Fund, including 1,082.01 million baht for migrant workers from Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, representing 71.25% of the total benefits received by migrant workers.

1 1 .4 The COVID-19 pandemic spurred significant social protection innovations. From a gender perspective, which of the following statements applies best to the COVID-19 response in your country?

The pandemic spurred gender-responsive innovations as well as longer-term transformations of social protection to strengthen women's income security.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Thailand's healthcare system extended its reach to the household level through the deployment of more than 1,040,000 Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) and an additional 15,000 Bangkok Health Volunteers, with approximately 80% of them being women. These volunteers played a crucial role in conducting home visits to identify high-risk groups, facilitate screenings, and integrate individuals into the healthcare system. They also educated communities on preventive measures, such as wearing masks, hand washing, using personal utensils, and adhering to social distancing guidelines. Additionally, they monitored medication use and reported on the spread of COVID-19 to relevant authorities. Health services and consultations had also been provided through certain on-line or mobile application channels, embarking on the more utilization of digital health.

Following the pandemic, female VHVs have further enhanced their skills by completing caregiver training programs, with 102,893 volunteers now trained to care for bedridden elderly individuals. This initiative reflects Thailand's commitment to gender-responsive social protection, ensuring that women's roles in community health and caregiving are both recognized and supported, contributing to the broader goal of enhancing women's income security and social protection in the long term.

Q12. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country?

12.1 Promoted women's access to health services through expansion of universal health coverage or public health services

Constitution of 2017: Emphasis on Access to Public Health Services

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2560 (2017), emphasizes the right of citizens to access public health services under Section 4 and Section 55, which mandate the state to ensure that all

citizens have universal access to public health services. Furthermore, Section 48 provides for the protection of the rights of mothers both before and after childbirth.

According to the Ministry of Public Health's data as of May 2024, there are 47,023,576 individuals covered under the Universal Health Coverage system, including 23,646,135 women and 23,377,441 men.⁶⁸

For migrant workers who are not covered under the Social Security system, Thailand has implemented policies in line with the Ministry of Public Health's 2019 Notification on Health Examinations and Health Insurance for Migrant Workers. This policy allows migrant workers outside the Social Security system and their dependents to access annual health insurance.⁶⁹ In 2024, 501,830 migrant workers and their dependents aged 7 years and above were registered under the Ministry of Public Health's health insurance scheme, along with 41,761 dependents under the age of 7.⁷⁰

To further promote access to health services for ethnic, marginalized, and migrant populations, the Ministry of Public Health has established the Health Center for Ethnic groups, Marginal people and Migrant workers under the Department of Health. This center serves as the principal agency in promoting access to health rights and environmental health for ethnic populations. According to a March 2023 report by the Department of Health, it is estimated that 1,125,525 ethnic individuals reside in highland areas across 20 provinces. Of the pregnant ethnic women, 76.74% had their first prenatal care visit at or before 12 weeks of pregnancy, and 52.27% of postpartum women received three standard postpartum care visits.⁷¹

12.2 Expanded specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, maternal health and HIV services

Thailand has implemented the National Strategy on the Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy (2017-2026) in accordance with the Act for Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem B.E. 2559 (2016). The strategy aims to reduce the live birth rate among girls aged 10-14 to 0.5 per 1,000 population and among girls aged 15-19 to 25 per 1,000 population by 2026. Between 2018 and 2021, the live birth rate among girls aged 10-14 consistently declined, with rates of 1.3, 1.2, 1.1, and 0.9 per 1,000 population, respectively. Similarly, the live birth rate among girls aged 15-19 decreased during the same period, with rates of 39.6, 35.0, 31.3, and 28.7 per 1,000 population.⁷²

Additionally, Thailand has implemented the Second National Reproductive Health Development Policy and Strategy (2017-2026), which provides a framework for enhancing and promoting reproductive health across the population, beginning from pre-reproductive age. This strategy aims to reduce early marriages and adolescent pregnancies, particularly by encouraging delayed childbearing among girls under 18 and promoting the use of semi-permanent contraception to delay subsequent pregnancies until at least age 20. In fiscal year 2022, funding was allocated for 10 projects under the Second National Reproductive

⁶⁸ <https://ucinfo.nhso.go.th/ucinfo/RptRegisPop-2>

⁶⁹ http://www.ayph.in.th/finance/file_upload/subblocks/ประกาศกระทรวงสาธารณสุข-เรื่องการตรวจสุขภาพและประกันสุขภาพแรงงานต่างด้าว2562.pdf

⁷⁰ <https://dhes.moph.go.th/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/รายงานประจำปี-พ.ศ.-2566-ฉบับสมบูรณ์.pdf>

⁷¹ https://hhdc.anamai.moph.go.th/th/pa2566-3-25/download?id=98421&mid=36854&mkey=m_document&lang=th&did=35180

⁷² <http://203.157.159.10/teenage/02/1.pdf>

Health Development Policy and Strategy (2017-2026), specifically aimed at promoting quality births and growth.⁷³

To standardize and ensure equitable access to maternal and child health services, Thailand has driven the enhancement of prenatal care through the National Maternal and Child Health Development Committee at central, regional, provincial, and district levels. Key measures include promoting maternal health during pregnancy. As of September 2022, data from the Ministry of Public Health indicated that 159,961 women, or 80.72% of all pregnant women, received their first prenatal care visit at or before 12 weeks of gestation. Additionally, 144,271 women, or 73.74% of all pregnant women, received the recommended five prenatal care visits.

Additionally, Thailand has amended its abortion laws under the Amendment to the Criminal Code Act (No. 28), B.E. 2564 (2021). According to the revised law, Section 301 states that any woman who causes herself to have an abortion or consents to another person procuring an abortion for her, when the pregnancy is beyond 12 weeks, shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding six months, a fine not exceeding 10,000 Baht, or both. Section 305 provides that if the actions under Section 301 or Section 302 are carried out by a licensed medical practitioner according to the guidelines set by the Medical Council of Thailand in the following circumstances, the practitioner shall not be guilty:

1. If it is necessary because continuing the pregnancy may pose a life-threatening risk to the woman, and terminating the pregnancy could alleviate this risk.
2. When there is a significant risk or a medical reason to believe that if the fetus is carried to term, it would be born with severe disabilities.
3. If the woman confirms to the medical practitioner that her pregnancy is the result of a sexual offense.
4. If the woman, with a pregnancy not exceeding 12 weeks, confirms her decision to terminate the pregnancy.
5. If the woman with a pregnancy exceeding 12 weeks, but not more than 20 weeks, confirms her decision to terminate the pregnancy after an assessment and consultation with a medical practitioner and other health professionals, in accordance with the criteria and procedures set by the Minister of Public Health, following recommendations from the Medical Council and relevant agencies under the law on prevention and resolution of adolescent pregnancy issues.⁷⁴

According to statistics from the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, as of 2022, there were 110 registered service units nationwide providing medical abortion services, primarily for pregnancies under 12 weeks. Additionally, data from the 1663 helpline, which offers counseling for unintended pregnancies, revealed that from September 2021 to August 2022, there were 30,766 calls seeking advice on abortion.⁷⁵

The government has revised its policies on HIV treatment to ensure access to antiretroviral drugs periodically, allowing people living with HIV to receive treatment without any cost under all

⁷³ https://rh.anamai.moph.go.th/th/download-03/download?id=39711&mid=31985&mkey=m_document&lang=th&did=13759

⁷⁴ https://www.parliament.go.th/ewtdadmin/ewtd/parliament_parcy/ewtd_dl_link.php?nid=80660&filename=house2558

⁷⁵ <https://www.thaihealth.or.th/312725-2/>

healthcare rights. Following this, the Thai government announced the National Strategy to End AIDS (2017-2023), which is based on principles of promoting justice, reducing social disparities, respecting human dignity, and being sensitive to gender issues, with a focus on sustainable prevention, treatment, and protection of patients' rights.

Q13. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls, including in sectors where they are underrepresented?

13.1 Measures to increase girls' access to, retention in, and completion of primary and secondary education

Thailand's education policy emphasizes promoting lifelong learning for people of all ages. According to the Ministry of Education's Policy for the Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025, the objective is to develop learners of all ages in all dimensions equally through learner-center strategies and learning accessible anytime and anywhere.⁷⁶

Thailand recognizes various factors that affect students' continuation of education, such as the impact of COVID-19, family obligations, and unfavorable environments, leading to high dropout rates. According to 2021 statistics from the Ministry of Education, 238,707 students dropped out of the education system. To address this, the Ministry of Education has launched the proactive "Bring Children Back to School" project, which aims to identify and support students returning to school. Additionally, a vocational training program has been implemented to provide employment opportunities. This initiative involves collaboration between the Ministry of Education and its three key agencies: the Office of the Permanent Secretary, the Office of the Basic Education Commission, and the Office of the Vocational Education Commission, along with 11 external agencies, including the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Royal Thai Police, the National Office of Buddhism, Internal Security Operations Command, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and the Equitable Education Fund.⁷⁷

As of April 2022, the project successfully reintegrated 21,992 children into the education system, including 19,732 students in compulsory education. The Office of the Basic Education Commission has also established a Special Center for Individual Protection and Assistance for Students to prevent dropouts and ensure the completion of compulsory education.⁷⁸

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education's Policy and priority for Fiscal Year 2024 are to develop diverse educational information and options for special target groups and vulnerable youth aged 15-24 who

⁷⁶ <https://moe360.blog/2023/12/06/p55122/>

⁷⁷ <https://ops.moe.go.th/360bring-students-back-to-school-3/>

⁷⁸ <http://www.bopp.go.th/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/สรุปรายงานผลโครงการพาน้องกลับมาเรียน-สพฐ.pdf>

are not in formal education.⁷⁹ For the fiscal year 2024, the Ministry has set a target to increase educational access for disadvantaged children, dropouts, vulnerable children, and children who are not in education, employment, or training (NEETs) across all 77 provinces, with a budget allocation of 27,906.3 million Baht.⁸⁰

13.2 Promoted safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls

Pillar 1 of the National Strategy addresses education for national and social security, aiming to enhance the security of individuals across all age groups, including protection against crimes, various forms of violence, and cyber threats. The Ministry of Education's 2024 policy and focus areas emphasize the importance of education for safety, with intensive measures to protect the lives of students, teachers, and school staff from all forms of threats.⁸¹ This includes the "3 Ps" measures: Prevention, Promote, and Prohibit, such as creating safe school environments and developing school safety plans.⁸²

Additionally, the Office of the Basic Education Commission's (OBEC) Student Protection Center has developed guidelines for protecting and assisting students for all schools under the Ministry of Education. These guidelines focus on preventing and supporting students against sexual abuse, various forms of violence, and injustices within the educational system, as well as protecting other vulnerable groups such as neglected children, pregnant students, and children with mental health issues.⁸³

13.3 Strengthened measures to prevent adolescent pregnancies and to enable adolescent girls to continue their education in the case of pregnancy and/or motherhood

Thailand enacted the Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Act, B.E. 2559 (2016) to address and mitigate adolescent pregnancy. Additionally, the Ministry of Education issued a regulation specifying the types of educational institutions and their responsibilities in preventing and addressing adolescent pregnancy, as outlined in the Ministerial Regulation on the Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Act, B.E. 2561 (2018). Notably, Article 7 emphasizes that institutions must not expel pregnant students, unless the student wishes to transfer to another institution. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established between the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Health, and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to support pregnant students in continuing their education.

Prevention Measures:

1. Establish policies, measures, and school regulations that align with the Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Act, B.E. 2559 (2016) and the Ministerial Regulation on the Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Act, B.E. 2561 (2018).
2. Implement sexuality education and life skills lessons appropriate to the students' age.
3. Organize activities that integrate sexuality education and life skills for students.
4. Provide and develop teachers with the knowledge, positive attitudes, and skills to teach appropriate sexuality education and offer counseling to students.

⁷⁹ https://www.bic.moe.go.th/images/stories/pdf/นโยบายและจุดเน้น_2567.pdf

⁸⁰ <https://www.moe.go.th/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/เล่มแผนการขับเคลื่อนงานของ-สพ.-ตามนโยบายและจุดเน้นของกระทรวงศึกษาธิการ.pdf>

⁸¹ lbis

⁸² https://web.trat-edu.go.th/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MS-Book1_03102564.pdf

⁸³ <https://spcspb3.thai.ac/client-upload/spcspb3/download/2.pdf>

5. Promote knowledge, understanding, and positive attitudes among teachers, parents, guardians, or those responsible for the students to facilitate communication on adolescent sexuality.
6. Offer diverse communication channels to educate students on sexual health.
7. Establish cooperation networks within and outside the school, including multidisciplinary professionals, to prevent and address adolescent pregnancy.
8. Continuously supervise, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of these measures.

Remedial and Support Measures:

1. Schools with pregnant students must not expel them, unless the student voluntarily chooses to transfer.
2. Establish systems to support, assist, and protect pregnant students, ensuring they receive education through flexible and individualized teaching methods.
3. Allow students to take leave from their studies during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum to care for their child, as appropriate, if desired by the student.
4. Provide counselors for pregnant students in collaboration with parents, guardians, or those responsible for the students to offer support and foster understanding for social integration.
5. Implement diverse methods and channels to care for, assist, and protect pregnant students, in cooperation with parents, guardians, and multidisciplinary professionals.
6. Set up referral systems by coordinating with public or private health services or relevant agencies to ensure pregnant students receive appropriate reproductive health services and social welfare.
7. Schools must manage the care, assistance, and protection of the rights of pregnant students with caution, maintaining the students' confidentiality and privacy.

Q14. What actions has your country taken to ensure that economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic closes gender gaps in poverty, employment, social protection, education, and/or health that the pandemic has exacerbated?

Thailand has implemented economic recovery measures from the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing public health and social issues through the Emergency Decree Authorising the Ministry of Finance to Raise Loans to Solve Problems, to Remedy and Restore the Economy and Society as Affected by the Coronavirus Disease Pandemic, B.E. 2563 (2020). This decree authorized a loan of up to one trillion baht and initiated policies for urgent economic and social recovery to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on citizens and businesses. The recovery measures were implemented in three phases:⁸⁴

- **Phase 1:** Immediate measures to alleviate and compensate for the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19, such as reducing household water and electricity bills, refunding electricity usage deposits, and lowering social security contributions for employers and employees.
- **Phase 2:** Measures to support and compensate affected workers, including employees, temporary workers, and freelancers outside the social security system, through direct financial support of

⁸⁴ <https://so02.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/JRKSA/article/download/250385/170036/926282>

5,000 baht per person for three months, unemployment compensation at 50% of wages, emergency loans, and special credit schemes.

- **Phase 3:** Economic stimulus measures to further alleviate the impact of COVID-19, including programs such as increasing purchasing power for state welfare cardholders with a subsidy of 1,200 baht per person, benefiting 13,350,159 individuals; extending purchasing power to special-needs groups, including those without access to the internet or smartphones and those unable to help themselves, with a subsidy of 200 baht per person for up to six months, benefiting an estimated 2.5 million people; and the third phase of the "Khon La Khrueng" co-payment subsidy scheme for essential sounds, providing 3,000 baht per person, benefiting approximately 31 million people, along with "The more you use, the more you get" program.⁸⁵

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has identified three target groups for assistance and relief from the impacts of COVID-19, as well as for those at risk of hardship:

1. Children receiving newborn child support grants
2. Elderly individuals receiving old-age allowances
3. Persons with disabilities holding disability identification cards

As of March 2021, data from the Ministry indicated that 6,663,401 eligible individuals, or 98.26% of those entitled, received financial assistance from the government. This included 1,394,333 eligible children receiving newborn child support grants, 3,979,029 elderly individuals, and 1,276,852 persons with disabilities. The total budget allocated for this assistance was 19,990,203,000 baht.⁸⁶

Additionally, Thailand has implemented programs to develop skills and careers for women and families, particularly for vulnerable groups impacted by COVID-19. These initiatives aim to provide alternative employment opportunities, allowing the target groups to engage in occupations and improve the quality of life for themselves and their families, benefiting a total of 57,072 individuals.

Furthermore, the Equitable Education Fund approved a budget of 2,000 million baht to support meal expenses for children of low-income workers, amounting to 750,000 baht.⁸⁷ The Elderly Fund has also provided loans to 22,889 elderly individuals for vocational purposes. Between 2019 and 2023, the fund supported 65,416 elderly people to alleviate economic difficulties and the impacts of COVID-19. In 2022 alone, 10,946,646 elderly individuals affected by COVID-19 received special financial assistance.⁸⁸

3.3 Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

Q15. Over the past five years, which forms of gender-based violence, and in which specific contexts or settings, has your country prioritized for action?

⁸⁵ <https://www.pdmo.go.th/pdmomedia/documents/2021/Jun/มาตรการกระตุ้นเศรษฐกิจ.pdf>

⁸⁶ <https://ddc.moph.go.th/uploads/publish/1177420210915075055.pdf>

⁸⁷ พม.ถอดบทเรียนเยียวยาโควิด 19

⁸⁸ 4ปีกับผลงานในภาพรวมของ พม. (ช่วงปี 2562-2566)

The 1st Phase of the Women's Development Action Plan (2020–2022) and the Women's Development Action Plan (2023–2027) have focused on promoting and supporting government agencies, educational institutions, communities, and civil society in creating a society conducive to gender equality and women's advancement. These plans aim to eliminate violence against women and shift attitudes, values, and societal beliefs that perpetuate gender stereotypes.

The Women's Development Action Plan (2023–2027) emphasizes these goals under its Pillar 2 on eliminating violence against women, specifically through Measure 6. This measure targets the establishment of learning processes to address the root causes of violence against women, involving the study of the issues and the development of educational tools and capacity-building programs for women to combat violence. Additionally, Pillar 4 focuses on public communication to transform societal attitudes, values, and beliefs, fostering gender equality. Under this pillar, Measure 13 promotes public awareness of gender equality and women's rights, and Measure 14 advances media engagement to promote gender equality and the status of women.

In the past five years, Thailand has implemented various measures to reduce and eliminate violence against women and girls, including through enforcement of relevant laws such as the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act B.E. 2550 (2007), the Gender Equality Act B.E. 2558 (2015), the Criminal Code, the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008), and the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act B.E. 2539 (1996). Furthermore, Thailand has developed policy-driven initiatives through various projects to address these issues systematically.

15.1 Intimate partner violence, including sexual violence and marital rape

Thailand has prioritized the elimination of domestic violence, most of which occurs between intimate partners or spouses. According to statistics from the Domestic Violence Protection Act B.E. 2550 (2007), under Section 17, reported by 16 relevant agencies, cases of domestic violence showed a decreasing trend from 16,676 cases in 2020 to 15,707 cases in 2022.⁸⁹ Most victims were women, and the primary causes were problems in family relationships, substance abuse, and alcohol, with the majority of incidents occurring at home.

The enforcement of the laws in order to addressing sexual violence against family members includes the prosecution and punishment of offenders under the Criminal Code. For example, Section 276 specifies that anyone who rapes another person by coercion, use of force, or making the victim unable to resist, or by making the victim believe that the offender is another person, shall be subject to imprisonment for four to twenty years and a fine ranging from 80,000 to 400,000 Baht. Additionally, the fourth paragraph of the same section states, "If the offense under the first paragraph is committed between spouses who still wish to live together as husband and wife, the court may impose a lesser penalty than prescribed by law or set conditions for behavior control instead of punishment. If a prison

⁸⁹ <https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/55535/6b6cea1f-1b4d-4ec5-9e78-c584e9e434a1-document-5873.pdf> and <https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/77313/2dc3ce63-ad87-446fb8c5-015f145c7905-document-6066.pdf>

sentence is imposed and one spouse does not wish to continue the marital relationship, the court shall notify the public prosecutor to proceed with divorce proceedings.”

Furthermore, Section 277 stipulates that any person who has sexual intercourse with a child under fifteen years of age, who is not their spouse, whether or not the child consents, shall be subject to imprisonment for five to twenty years and a fine ranging from 100,000 to 400,000 Baht. Additional penalties apply for incest, such as rape involving descendants, where the penalty is increased by one-third. Section 285 imposes harsher penalties for sexual offenses against parents, descendants, siblings, blood relatives, students under care, individuals under official guardianship, or those in protective custody, increasing the penalty by one-third of the prescribed sentence.

Over the past five years, Thailand has implemented various measures and mechanisms to reduce and eliminate domestic violence, including policies and strategies such as the Family Institution Development Strategy (2017–2021), which focuses on promoting positive family relationships and strengthening family units. Programs include the Family School Curriculum across four regions at eight Women and Family Development Learning Centers, campaigns to end violence against children, women, and family members, and initiatives to build a system for developing strong family capacities.⁹⁰

Additionally, data from the 1300 Hotline of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security indicate that between 2020 and 2023, there were 12,490 reported cases of violence, with 9,493 female and 2,997 male victims. Of these, 5,148 were children, predominantly experiencing violence within the family.⁹¹

15.2 Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and workplaces

Thailand has implemented policies to eliminate violence in all settings. According to the Criminal Code, Section 397 (Amendment No. 22), acts of bullying, harassment, or causing embarrassment or annoyance in public places or in the presence of others, including acts by supervisors, employers, or those in positions of authority, are punishable by imprisonment, fines, or both. This provision specifically addresses conduct that suggests sexual harassment.⁹²

In educational settings, the Ministry of Education issued guidelines on August 13, 2020, for the prevention and resolution of sexual harassment or violence in workplaces, aimed at providing a framework for preventing sexual harassment at work and establishing reporting systems within and outside related organizations.⁹³ Additionally, the National Education Plan B.E. 2560–2579 (2017–2036) emphasizes promoting a safe environment in schools and educational institutions. The Ministry of Education's policy and focus for the fiscal year 2024 also prioritizes educational safety, and intensively protecting students, teachers, and staff from all forms of risks and threats of sexual violence

In workplaces and establishments, several laws and policies have been enacted to prevent and address sexual harassment and violence. The Labor Protection Act (No. 2) B.E. 2551 (2008) specifies in

⁹⁰ รายงานความผิดมาตรา 17 พ.ศ. 2563-2565

⁹¹ <https://1300thailand.m-society.go.th/statyearly>

⁹² <https://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2558/A/010/43.PDF>

⁹³ <https://moe360.blog/2020/08/19/sexual-harassment/>

Section 16 that female employees are protected from sexual harassment, prohibiting employers, supervisors, foremen, or inspectors from committing acts of harassment or causing sexual annoyance to female employees.⁹⁴ The Notification of the State Enterprise Labor Relations Committee regarding the Minimum Standards of Conditions of Employment in State Enterprises (B.E. 2549 (2006)),⁹⁵ the Civil Service Act B.E. 2551 (2008), and the 2010 Civil Service Commission Regulations on Acts of Sexual Harassment or Abuse also provide mechanisms to prevent harassment and abuse.

Moreover, Thailand has established 141 Gender Focal Points (GFP) in various agencies to coordinate gender equality efforts, and the Coordination Center for the Preventive and corrective measures of sexual harassment in the workplace, following the Cabinet resolution on 21 April 2020, to address and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace effectively.

15.3 Gender-based violence in conflict-affected settings

Thailand places great emphasis on protecting women and girls from all forms of violence in every context. In 2019, the country established the Coordination Center for Women and Children (CCWC) in the southern border provinces to facilitate coordination and mobilization of resources, handle complaints, and address issues related to women and children that may lead to human rights violations. This initiative also involved developing legal mechanisms, regulations, protection measures, and strategies to improve the quality of life for women and children in these regions.⁹⁶

Over the past five years, various projects have been driven under the CCWC, including drafting a five-year plan (2023–2027) to promote and develop children, youth, women, and vulnerable groups to address issues in the southern border provinces. Additionally, a working group was established to drive forward child protection in the region.

Moreover, Women's Consultation Centers have been set up in the Islamic Offices of Narathiwat and Yala provinces. These centers operate in collaboration with government agencies, religious organizations, and the private sector, supporting female leaders and groups in providing comprehensive assistance to women seeking advice on family matters. In Narathiwat, the Women's Consultation Center assisted 427 Muslim women, while in Yala, 593 Muslim women received consultations. These centers also coordinate with justice agencies to ensure women receive legal protection. From 2021 to 2023, the Women's Consultation Center in Narathiwat facilitated legal protection for 30 women who sought help after experiencing violence.

From 2017 to 2023, a total of 1,106 female victims sought compensation and reimbursement for damages under the Compensation for Victims and Defendants in Criminal Cases Act, B.E. 2544 (2001), in the three southern border provinces, filing their requests with the Provincial Justice Offices and the Rights and Liberties Protection Department.⁹⁷

⁹⁴ <https://infocentre.doe.go.th/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/มาตรการป้องกันล่วงละเมิด.pdf>

⁹⁵ <http://www.bmta.co.th/sites/default/files/files/about-us/announce2549.pdf>

⁹⁶ รายงานผลการดำเนินงานศูนย์ ศป.ดส. 2566

⁹⁷ รายงาน CEDAW ฉบับที่ 8

15.4 Trafficking in Women and Girls

Based on statistics from the Anti-Trafficking Division of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, between 2020 and 2024, there were 1,518 victims of human trafficking across 1,034 cases. Of these, 854 were women who received protection and assistance from agencies under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.⁹⁸ Thailand acknowledges the multifaceted nature of human trafficking issues, which require integrated efforts from multiple agencies. In 2021, the Coordination Center for Trafficking Victims (CCTV) was established to coordinate victim protection, legal consultation, and provide support for human trafficking victims.

In 2022, Thailand implemented the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to enhance the effectiveness of victim protection and assistance for trafficking and forced labor victims, ensuring that all efforts are victim-centered and services are friendly to the victims. The NRM was first used to screen 59 foreign nationals who had entered the country illegally by sea. The screening process, conducted in line with humanitarian principles, concluded that these individuals were not victims of human trafficking.

Additionally, on July 27, 2022, the Anti-Money Laundering Board issued revised regulations under the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2016, expanding the definition of victims entitled to protection and compensation to include those affected by human trafficking or forced labor. Following the enforcement of these regulations, asset seizures related to human trafficking cases increased, with 11 cases resulting in asset seizures, including two cases involving protection for victims—one related to a "boat people" case and another involving Cambodian labor.

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security is currently revising the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act, B.E. 2539 (1996) and is proposing a draft of the Sex Workers Protection Act. Recognizing that the current law is outdated and not reflective of the modern socio-economic landscape, the proposed legislation seeks to decriminalize voluntary sex work for individuals aged 20 and above. This shift acknowledges calls for sex work to be recognized as a matter of personal freedom and bodily autonomy, allowing individuals to choose their ways of earning income and livelihood.

The proposed Sex Workers Protection Act would establish a legal framework for the registration and regulation of sex work businesses, aiming to protect the dignity, rights, and freedoms of sex workers. It includes measures to prevent discrimination and exploitation and ensures that sex workers have access to labor rights, social welfare, and health protections equivalent to those available to other occupations. By legalizing sex work, the draft law intends to create safer working conditions, provide sex workers with the ability to report abuse without fear of legal repercussions, and address the systemic exploitation often associated with the industry. Additionally, it aims to eliminate discriminatory practices in employment, affirm the right to choose one's occupation freely, and uphold safety and health standards across all working environments.

⁹⁸ <https://www.e-aht.com/startup/gotoPowerBIBoard>

15.5 Gender-based violence against women in politics, including women's human rights defenders

Thailand has taken significant steps to protect women in politics and women human rights defenders (HRDs) from gender-based violence. In 2019, amendments were made to the Criminal Procedure Code to protect HRDs from Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), which are often used to intimidate or burden those who criticize actions perceived as human rights violations. The addition, Section 161/1 allows courts to dismiss cases if it is determined that the lawsuit was filed in bad faith or to harass the defendant, while Section 165/2 permits defendants to present evidence and facts to demonstrate that the case has no merit, thereby reducing the financial burden on HRD who seek to defend themselves.

The Fourth National Human Rights Plan (2019–2022) serves as a comprehensive framework for human rights policies, guiding national efforts across various sectors. HRDs are highlighted as one of the key focus groups within this plan, with notable achievements including the promotion of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act B.E. 2565 (2022) and amendments to the Witness Protection Act (No. 2) B.E. 2565 (2022). The expanded definition of "witness" now encompasses individuals who provide factual information,

Efforts have also been made to align domestic laws with international standards, including the enactment of the Supreme Court President's Regulation on the Examination of Criminal Witnesses through Video Conference B.E. 2566 (2023). Activities have been organized to allow women HRDs to voice their concerns and highlight their work, fostering greater understanding and awareness among government agencies regarding HRD issues. Capacity-building training sessions have been conducted to support the implementation of the National Human Rights Plan.

To ensure the continued promotion and protection of HRDs, the Fifth National Human Rights Plan (2023–2027) identifies HRDs as one of the priority target groups. Key recommendations include the systematic documentation of violations against HRDs, expediting the development and enforcement of laws to prevent SLAPPs and protect whistleblowers, and accelerating efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. These measures aim to enhance the protection of women in politics and HRDs, ensuring that they can operate in an enabling environment without fear of violence or intimidation.

The National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights Phase I (2019-2022) serves as a national policy framework aligned with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). This plan provides guidelines for the government, state enterprises, and the business sector to regulate, oversee, and conduct business operations responsibly and with respect for human rights. Key achievements of the government's implementation of the action plan include the development of laws to prevent Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) in cases of corruption and misconduct, the enactment of the Witness Protection Act B.E. 2546 (2003) and its amendment (No. 2) B.E. 2565 (2022) to extend protection to whistleblowers and individuals providing information on criminal activities, the establishment of protective measures for human rights defenders (HRDs), and studies on enhancing legal frameworks and measures to prevent strategic litigation aimed at suppressing public participation.

To ensure continuity in advancing these issues, the protection of HRDs has been designated as a key focus in the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights Phase II (2023-2027). This phase emphasizes Thailand's accession to international conventions on the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance (Thailand ratified the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) on 14 May 2024), the revision of laws, regulations, and policies concerning HRDs to align with international standards, and the promotion of awareness regarding the role of HRDs. It also includes the establishment of complaint and grievance mechanisms, as well as mediation and remedies related to HRD issues. This comprehensive approach aims to strengthen the protection and recognition of HRDs in line with global best practices.

Q16. In the past five years, what actions has your country prioritized to address gender-based violence?

In the past five years, Thailand has prioritized significant actions to address gender-based violence under Pillar 2 of the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027). This pillar aims to eliminate or reduce violence against women by raising awareness of the issue, promoting education that values human rights and human dignity, creating safe spaces for women and girls, supporting women affected by violence, and enhancing women's access to justice.

16.1 Strengthening Laws and Enforcement Against Violence Towards Women

Thailand is in the process of amending the Victims of Domestic Violence Protection Act, B.E. 2550 (2007). The draft amendment is currently undergoing consultations with relevant agencies, scheduled for May and June 2024, before being submitted to the Cabinet and Parliament for consideration. Additionally, Thailand is drafting a 5-year National Action Plan to Eliminate Violence Against Women (2023-2027), aimed at coordinating efforts among various agencies to combat violence against women in the country.

The government has also initiated programs to enhance the capacity of law enforcement personnel, such as training for investigators and multidisciplinary teams. In 2024, Thailand allocated a budget of 4,014,000 THB for the development and design of manuals and educational materials focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women, tailored for specific target groups. Furthermore, for the period 2023-2024, a budget of 5,925,800 THB has been allocated for projects to enhance the capacity of personnel, equipping them with knowledge and understanding of gender and gender equality issues.⁹⁹

16.2 Expanding and Updating National Action Plans to End Violence Against Women and Girls

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development is currently revising the draft National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women in Thailand, incorporating recommendations from the Committee on the Promotion of the Status of Women (CPSW) and experts from UN Women. The department is also planning to develop a comprehensive Gender Situation Analysis to better capture

⁹⁹ แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี พ.ศ. 2566-2570

the scope of violence against women in the country. The revised draft of the National Action Plan will be presented to the CPSW for further consideration.

Thailand is undertaking a review and update of policies, regulations, and operational guidelines to support the empowerment of women and promote gender equality through Gender Focal Points within government agencies. Additionally, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development has developed the Action Plan to Prevent and Address Rape and Sexual Assault, which serves as a framework for integrating efforts across government, private sector, and civil society to tackle these issues.

The Action Plan focuses on three main goals:

1. Changing societal attitudes to not ignore rape and sexual assault and reducing related social prejudice.
2. Establishing high-quality preventive mechanisms and monitoring sexual violence, including rape and sexual assault.
3. Creating safe public spaces.

On 17 March 2023, a meeting was held with 13 relevant agencies to discuss strategies for implementing the Action Plan to Prevent and Address Rape and Sexual Assault. Currently, coordination is underway with 140 agencies to submit reports on their projects and activities under the Action Plan, which will be used for analysis and evaluation of the implementation progress.¹⁰⁰

16.3 Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice (e.g., establishment of specialist courts, training for the judiciary and police, protection orders, redress and reparations, including for femicide cases)

The Gender Equality Act, B.E. 2558 (2015), was enacted with the main objective to provide protection against and prevent unfair gender discrimination. A key mechanism for the implementation of this Act is the Committee on Consideration of Unfair Gender Discrimination, which is responsible for receiving and adjudicating complaints of unfair gender discrimination. The Committee on Consideration of Unfair Gender Discrimination has the authority to issue orders to both public and private entities to provide redress for damages and can escalate matters to the Ombudsman, who may then refer the cases to the Constitutional Court for further adjudication. The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development provides administrative support to the CCUGD. From 2015 to 2023, the CCUGD received a total of 67 complaints.

Additionally, the Women's Development Action Plan, 2023-2027, specifically Measures 8 and 9, aims to enhance women's access to justice. These measures include plans to disseminate knowledge on accessing justice, increasing sensitivity among justice sector personnel regarding gender-related issues, and establishing support mechanisms for women who have experienced violence in all its forms. These initiatives are designed to enable women to access the justice system, receive appropriate redress, and be protected from repeat victimization.

¹⁰⁰ เอกสารจากกองส่งเสริมความเสมอภาคระหว่างเพศ

For the fiscal years 2023-2024, the government allocated approximately 12 million THB for projects aimed at raising awareness and improving understanding among justice personnel on gender issues and best practices in handling cases involving women affected by violence. These efforts reflect Thailand's ongoing commitment to creating a more inclusive and responsive justice system that adequately addresses the specific needs of women, upholds their rights to fair treatment, and ensures their protection under the law.

Furthermore, the Act on Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance B.E. 2565 (2022) has been enacted which also contribute to efforts in addressing gender-based violence and providing comprehensive support for victims, aligning with international human rights standards. This Act, along with the ongoing efforts to update and expand national action plans, demonstrates the Government's commitment to further improving access to justice for women and other vulnerable groups in Thailand.¹⁰¹

16.4 Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence (e.g., shelters, helplines, dedicated health services, legal, justice services, counselling, housing, socioeconomic rehabilitation)

Thailand has made continuous progress in addressing violence against women and promoting gender equality through collaboration between government and private sectors. These efforts focus on legal measures, prevention, protection, assistance, and rehabilitation services, aiming to eliminate gender-based violence and discriminatory attitudes. Key measures include:

Legal Measures:

Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand (2017): Articles 4, 27, 71, and 128 provide for the protection of Thai people from violence. Article 71, paragraph 3, specifically mandates the state to assist vulnerable groups such as children, youth, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the poor, and the underprivileged, ensuring they live a quality life free from violence and unfair treatment. The Constitution also mandates the state to provide rehabilitation and support to those affected by violence.

Gender Equality Act, B.E. 2558 (2015): This act aims to prevent and address unfair gender discrimination through three key mechanisms:

1. The Gender Equality Promotion Committee: Responsible for formulating policies and measures to eliminate discrimination and setting guidelines for appointing the Committee on the Determination of Unfair Gender Discrimination.
2. The Committee on Consideration of Unfair Gender Discrimination: This committee addresses complaints of unfair gender discrimination, with the authority to issue orders to both public and private entities to provide redress. It can also refer cases to the Ombudsman for submission to the Constitutional Court for adjudication, supported administratively by the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development.
3. The Gender Equality Promotion Fund: Provides compensation and remedies to individuals who have been unfairly discriminated against on the basis of gender, as determined by the CCUGD, and supports projects that promote, protect, and prevent gender discrimination.

¹⁰¹ เอกสารกองส่งเสริมความเสมอภาคระหว่างเพศ

Victim of Domestic Violence Protection Act, B.E. 2550 (2007): This act provides guarantees for the protection and support of individuals who are victims of domestic violence, covering all family members comprehensively. It includes provisions allowing designated officers to issue temporary relief measures for victims.

Juvenile and Family Court and Procedure Act, B.E. 2553 (2010): Establishes specialized courts and procedures for juvenile and family cases, allowing victims of domestic violence or public prosecutors to request court orders to protect the welfare of violence survivors.

Preventive Measures Against Recidivism in Sexual or Violent Offenses Act, B.E. 2565 (2022): This act introduces measures to prevent recidivism in cases of sexual or violent offenses, including rehabilitation for offenders and monitoring of high-risk individuals after release. Courts may impose post-release confinement or emergency detention orders on high-risk offenders.

Prevention, Protection, and Support Measures:

Community Family Development Centers: Focused on monitoring, preventing, and addressing family violence, there are 7,194 CFDCs across 878 districts nationwide. These centers are crucial at the local level for strengthening families and reducing violence. The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development continuously enhances the capacity and resilience of these centers through initiatives like workshops and operational meetings to push CFDCs towards becoming public benefit organizations. This effort aims to improve CFDCs' effectiveness in implementing family policies through various activities and projects aligned with local contexts.

Subdistrict Operational Centers for the Prevention of Domestic Violence: These are community-level organizations comprising multidisciplinary teams and community representatives from various sectors. They play a significant role in protecting and supporting victims of domestic violence by conducting surveillance, prevention, intervention, rehabilitation, and development activities, including receiving reports of domestic violence incidents. Emphasis is placed on community participation in addressing domestic violence.

Community-Based Mechanisms: These include community mechanisms to prevent, monitor, and address violence against women, such as projects creating safe spaces for women. This proactive approach involves community outreach to families with histories or risks of violence, supported by collaboration between communities, multidisciplinary teams, private organizations, and families.

Office for Rights Protection and Legal Aid (OAG): Under the Office of the Attorney General, OAG operates in every provincial prosecutor's office across 117 locations. It focuses on providing knowledge on rights protection to prevent and address violence against children and women.

Rehabilitation and Support Measures:

One-Stop Crisis Centers (OSCCs): Operated by the Ministry of Public Health, these centers assist women and children in crisis due to violence by coordinating multidisciplinary teams within and outside hospitals. OSCCs provide immediate and holistic support, including receiving reports, screening, diagnosis, medical treatment, disease prevention, safety care, psychological assessment for crisis intervention, legal advice, and referrals to relevant agencies for social welfare support. They also offer counseling, psychological rehabilitation, home visits, and outcome evaluations.

Social Assistance Centers (Hotline 1300): Managed by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, these centers provide 24-hour services by reporting incidents and providing support to those who seek assistance.

Provincial or Community Multidisciplinary Teams: These teams conduct assessments in physical, psychological, and social welfare domains to facilitate rehabilitation, psychological recovery, home visits, outcome evaluations, and essential services. They ensure that women affected by gender-based violence receive appropriate medical and therapeutic care, such as emotional support, empowerment, skills training for emotional management, problem-solving, and maintaining social environments. This includes fostering family relationships and facilitating physical and mental health treatments for families involved.

16.5 Introduced or strengthened strategies and interventions to prevent violence against women and girls (e.g., in the education sector, in the media, community mobilization, work with men and boys)

Thailand has enhanced strategies and interventions to prevent violence against women and girls, particularly within the education sector. The Ministry of Education has implemented the following measures:

- 1) **Review and Revise Core Curriculum Indicators and Content on Sexuality Education:** The Ministry has reviewed and identified key issues in the core curriculum related to sexuality education. This serves as a guideline for revising textbooks to ensure alignment with current standards and practices.
- 2) **Development of Framework Documents for Sexuality Education:** The Ministry has developed framework documents to guide publishers and content creators in revising and improving materials related to sexuality education. These frameworks ensure that all educational content aligns with national guidelines and is consistent across different media.
- 3) **Revision of Sexuality Content in Core Health and Physical Education Textbooks:** The Ministry has reviewed, revised, and updated sexuality-related content in textbooks for core health and physical education subjects from primary grade 1 through secondary grade 6. This applies to both government-issued textbooks and those from private publishers, in compliance with the Gender Equality Act B.E. 2558 (2015) and the Act for Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem B.E. 2559 (2016), specifically Sections 6 and 4.
- 4) **Notification to Schools on Updated Sexuality Education Content:** The Ministry has instructed schools at all levels to adopt the revised sexuality education content in the core health and physical education textbooks starting from the academic year 2019 onwards.

Additionally, the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with partner organizations, has developed a guidebook for sexuality education. This guide outlines age-appropriate teaching content and strategies, ensuring that the education provided is suitable for each age group and promotes gender equality and the prevention of violence against women and girls.

Q17. In the past five years, what strategies has your country used to prevent gender-based violence?

17.1 Working with women, men, and couples to improve their skills in interpersonal communication, conflict management, and shared decision-making

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development has implemented projects under the "Strong Family Standards" initiative. A survey conducted in 2022, which assessed 51,825 families, found that 90.94% met the strong family criteria. However, communication issues were identified as a primary challenge within these families. In response, the Department has launched projects to encourage quality time spent together, aimed at fostering positive family relationships. This includes developing learning spaces for families through online channels and community learning centers, facilitated by Community Family Development Centers (CFDCs).

The **Community Family Development Centers** focus on monitoring, preventing, and addressing family violence. Currently, there are 7,194 CFDCs across 878 districts nationwide. These centers serve as key local mechanisms to strengthen families and reduce violence. The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development continues to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of CFDCs through initiatives such as workshops to drive CFDCs towards becoming public benefit organizations, thereby improving their ability to implement family policies through various projects tailored to local contexts. As of April 2023, the Department had allocated grants for 3,273 projects operated by CFDCs, involving 453,465 participants.¹⁰²

Additionally, **Subdistrict Operational Centers for the Prevention of Domestic Violence** function as local community organizations that involve public participation in monitoring, preventing, resolving, rehabilitating, and developing responses to domestic violence. These centers work at the grassroots level, engaging local communities in managing domestic violence issues effectively.¹⁰³

17.2 Creating Safe Environments in Schools, Workplaces, and Public Spaces

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, in collaboration with the Women and Men Progressive Movement Foundation, has been implementing the "Safe Spaces for Women" project since 2017. This initiative aims to enhance capacity, knowledge, and skills in monitoring, preventing, and addressing violence against women and family members among community leaders. The project operates in 14 communities within Bangkok and is part of the action plan under Article 7 of the Women's Development Action Plan (2023–2027). A guide on creating and developing socially safe spaces, tailored for rural communities, urban areas, and industrial labor zones, has also been produced to help community leaders and the general public apply these strategies in their local contexts.¹⁰⁴

In the fiscal year 2023, three workshops were conducted with women and female leaders from targeted communities to develop approaches for creating safe social spaces, preventing and monitoring violence at the community level, and coordinating support for victims of violence.¹⁰⁵ Furthermore,

¹⁰² 4 ปีกับผลงานของ พม. ช่วงปี 2562-2566

¹⁰³ <https://www.dwf.go.th/uploads/Downloads/3ad0d5cd-a4cb-420d-ba13-5b0a6788928803%20ศปค.ด..pdf>

¹⁰⁴ เอกสารกองส่งเสริมความเสมอภาคระหว่างเพศ

¹⁰⁵ สรุปผลการดำเนินงานพื้นที่ปลอดภัยสำหรับสตรี ประจำปีงบประมาณ 2566

campaigns have been launched to promote awareness and zero tolerance towards sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace among government and private sector entities. These efforts are driven by the mechanisms of the Chief Gender Equality Officers (CGEO) and Gender Focal Points (GFP) within these organizations, aiming to establish government offices as safe work environments for women.¹⁰⁶

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, serving as the Coordination Center for the Preventive and corrective measures of sexual harassment in the workplace, plays a pivotal role in providing knowledge support and disseminating resources. These include guidelines on measures to prevent and address sexual harassment or assault in the workplace, as well as educational materials in cartoon format to enhance understanding of sexual harassment and skills for self-protection.

In educational institutions, efforts have been made to implement the Ministry of Education's 2024 announcement, which focuses on creating safe spaces within schools for students and staff. This initiative aims to foster a safe and supportive environment in educational settings, ensuring that both students and personnel are protected from harassment and assault.

17.3 Raising Public Awareness to Change Attitudes and Behaviors

Thailand has consistently campaigned to raise public awareness on gender equality and the elimination of violence against women and girls. Over the past five years, Thailand has organized the Women's Assembly as a mechanism to promote gender equality and issues concerning women and girls, aiming to inform the public and highlight the importance of women's and girls' rights. In 2022–2023, the Women's Assembly focused on empowering women and promoting gender equality, with an emphasis on raising awareness among media professionals to report on women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and families accurately and constructively. The campaigns also sought to encourage societal recognition and acceptance of the roles of women and LGBTQ+ individuals in an appropriate and accurate manner.

The country conducts annual campaigns in November to end violence against children, women, and individuals within families, promoting the acceptance and respect of equality. These initiatives also include campaigns to encourage men to be more involved in domestic responsibilities and child-rearing, as well as the development of advocacy materials to end sexual exploitation in the workplace.¹⁰⁷ Thailand continues to emphasize these efforts, recognizing the challenges in shifting attitudes and behaviors regarding gender equality.

To promote gender equality, Thailand has worked on raising awareness and shifting societal attitudes from a binary gender perspective to one that values gender diversity, acknowledging and respecting the existence and rights of individuals beyond male and female categories. Policies that encompass all genders are being developed, emphasizing respect for human dignity and non-discrimination based on gender. Financial support is provided through the Gender Equality Promotion Fund and women's subsidies to enable organizations to carry out activities that promote equality and eliminate gender-based discrimination.

Key activities include:

¹⁰⁶ แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี พ.ศ. 2566-2570

¹⁰⁷ 4ปี กับผลงาน พม. ช่วงปี 2562-2566

1. Production of Educational Materials: This includes leaflets, a brief summary for general on public the Gender Equality Act B.E. 2 5 5 8 (2 0 1 5), educational books on gender identity and sexual orientation (such as narratives about gay, transgender, tomboys, lesbians, men who love men, women who love women, and transgender individuals), guidelines for preventing and addressing sexual harassment in the workplace, and guides for gender-responsive budgeting (GRB).
2. Online Media Campaigns: Initiatives include video clips such as "Inspiring Models for Gender Equality" to promote gender equality in families, educational institutions, agencies, and local administrative organizations. Another series, "Save Wan Thong," a story about is disseminated through social media platforms of celebrities, actors, influencers, and widely followed Facebook fan pages.
3. Creative Media Competitions: Competitions are organized to produce and promote creative media that raise societal awareness about gender equality, including advertisements, short documentaries, and online posters.

Q18. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to prevent and respond to technology-facilitated gender-based violence (e.g. online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images)?

18.1 Implemented Awareness-Raising Initiatives Targeting the General Public and Education Settings to Sensitize Young People, Caregivers, and Educators to Ethical and Responsible Online Behavior

Thailand has established the Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children (TICAC) Task Force, under the Royal Thai Police, to combat online sexual exploitation of children. In 2 0 2 2, TICAC launched a dedicated website to assist and guide children and parents in reporting online sexual abuse of children. The website, www.คลิปหลุดทำไง.com or www.help.ticac.org, serves as a platform to address and manage the issue of online sexual abuse of children by facilitating reports, coordinating with multi-disciplinary teams, and providing training for those who receive such reports. Additionally, TICAC has developed educational materials such as the guidebook "Xposed" to help children and parents navigate situations involving leaked intimate content. This initiative reflects a collaborative effort among government and civil society organizations to establish a model "website" that serves as an initial point of contact, communication, and consultation for children, parents, or officials, and as a channel for disseminating appropriate information.

The Thai government's policy gives importance to addressing online child pornography issues. The Criminal Code has been amended with Sections 287/1 and 287/2, which provide tools to tackle the possession and distribution of child pornography. The computer-Related Crime Act, B.E. 2 5 5 0 (2 0 0 7), specifically under Section 14(1), addresses the introduction of wholly or partially false computer data into a computer system in a manner likely to cause damage to the general public, while Section 14(4) deals with the entry of obscene data into a computer system that could be accessed by the general public. Both sections are designed to regulate and address misuse of computer data and to mitigate the potential harm from such acts.

According to the Women's Development Action Plan (2023 – 2027), Measure 15: Collecting gender-disaggregated data and studying the situation to enhance the status and promote the advancement of women. In the fiscal year 2023 - 2024, the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society planned to implement the project, with a total budget of 20,890,400 baht, to develop and improve the efficiency of relevant agencies in assisting the people in cases of online crimes, according to the Computer-Related Crime Act B.E. 2550 (2007), as well as a project for training, organizing seminars, and building networks to raise awareness on online crimes and promoting knowledge in accordance with the Computer-Related Crime Act B.E. 2550 (2007) and its amendments.

"In 2024, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society established the Anti-Online Scam Operation Center (AOC 1441), which is a one-stop service center to assist the public in handling online crime cases. This center collaborates with various agencies, such as the Royal Thai Police, the Bank of Thailand, the Thai Bankers' Association, the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO), the Department of Special Investigation (DSI), and the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC). Its goal is to swiftly prevent damage from online scams by coordinating with relevant agencies to freeze or seize the accounts of criminals. The AOC 1441 center operates 24/7, and the public can report technology-related crimes through the Royal Thai Police's online reporting system, which is connected to the AOC 1441 center at the website www.thaipoliceonline.go.th. Currently, AOC 1441 has only one contact channel: the hotline 1441. It does not have a Facebook page or an official LINE account as contact channels."

Q19. In the past five years, what measures has your country taken to resource women's organizations working to prevent and respond to GBV?

Thailand has established key mechanisms to support women's organizations through the Promotion of Gender Equality Fund, created under the Gender Equality Act, B.E. 2558 (2015). This fund aims to provide assistance, compensation, and remedies to individuals who have been victims of unfair gender discrimination and to support projects that align with the objectives of the Gender Equality Act. During 2022–2023, Thailand allocated funding through the Promotion of Gender Equality Fund to agencies and organizations that submitted budget proposals, resulting in the implementation of 51 projects aimed at promoting gender equality.¹⁰⁸

Additionally, the Thai Women Empowerment Fund plays a significant role in supporting organizations or groups of women who are socially disadvantaged or affected by discrimination. According to data from the Community Development Department in 2021, the Fund had 96,004 member organizations classified as women's organizations. In the fiscal year 2020, 763,392 individuals benefited from the Fund's initiatives.¹⁰⁹ The Community Development Department has developed a five-year action plan (2023–2027) for the Thai Women Empowerment Fund, with the primary goal of enhancing income security and quality of life for women. This includes providing revolving funds to women and women's organizations to facilitate job creation and entrepreneurship. The plan also aims to empower women's

¹⁰⁸ 4 ปี กับผลงานของ พณ. ช่วงปี 2562-2566

¹⁰⁹ <https://library.parliament.go.th/th/radioscript-rr2564-dec4>

organizations to take leadership roles in protecting and addressing women's issues, with a target to support 1,000 women's organizations annually during 2023–2024.¹¹⁰

Q20. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media, including social media?

Thailand has implemented various measures to address gender discrimination and bias in media, including social media, over the past five years. Under the Women's Development Action Plan Phase 1 (2020-2022), Measure 1 focused on changing societal attitudes towards gender equality. This included promoting gender-equitable representation in media, ensuring the dissemination of information, news, and content free from gender bias. These efforts have been ongoing, and the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027) continues to prioritize public communication to transform societal attitudes, values, and belief systems towards gender equality under Pillar 4.

Measure 14 of the current plan emphasizes advancing media practices to promote gender equality and elevate the status of women. This is achieved through initiatives such as encouraging the production and dissemination of positive and valuable representations of women that do not perpetuate traditional stereotypes and gender biases. Additionally, the plan includes monitoring media content that reinforces gender stereotypes and incorrect attitudes towards women, such as television programs that use sexually suggestive or abusive language, portray sexual violence, or use derogatory language towards women.

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has established a working group to monitor and review media content across all types of media to ensure appropriate promotion of gender equality. The group has developed guidelines for monitoring media to encourage the correct attitudes toward gender equality. Moreover, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Ministry of Culture, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, the Moral Promotion Center, and the Siam Society under Royal Patronage. This MOU on Academic Cooperation Subject: Supervision of Content Presentation Based on Fundamental Rights of Children and Youth, Women, Persons with Disabilities, the Elderly, Disadvantaged Persons, and LGBTQ+ Individuals in Broadcasting and Television Businesses) concerns the regulation of broadcast content based on the fundamental rights of children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, the underprivileged, and people with diverse gender identities in broadcasting and television services.

Q21. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken specifically tailored to address violence against marginalized groups of women and girls?

¹¹⁰ http://womenfund.in.th/images/Announce/STRATEGY/2565/17-06-2565/5___26-05-6555_.pdf

Thailand has implemented specific measures to prevent and address violence against women and girls from marginalized groups who might be at risk of violence and discrimination due to their cultural, religious beliefs, and traditional practices. These protective measures have been incorporated into Thailand's Women's Development Plans across both phases. Specifically, the Women's Development Plan 2023-2027 under Measure 5 aims to promote access to human capital development opportunities for targeted women, including ethnic groups, women in remote rural areas, women from low-income families, women affected by COVID-19, women in the southern border provinces, women with disabilities, and elderly women.

Additionally, a specific parliamentary mechanism exists in the House of Representatives', which is the Committee on the Affairs of Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, and LGBTQ+ individuals. Over the past five years, Thailand has prioritized the work to address vulnerable women and girls as follows:

21.1 Women in Ethnic Groups

Thailand has drafted the "Protection and Promotion of Ethnic Groups' Ways of Life Act," which focuses on eliminating discrimination and promoting equality based on cultural diversity. The Act aims to protect fundamental rights and affirm the rights of ethnic groups, including the right to be protected from hate, contempt, or unfair discrimination. This draft law is crucial in establishing policies and mechanisms that systematically encourage the participation of ethnic groups in their protection, while also enhancing their ability to be self-reliant corresponding to their lifestyles, needs, social conditions, and problems. The draft Act is currently under parliamentary review.¹¹¹

21.2 Women Marginalized on Account of Race, Ethnicity, and/or Caste

Thailand has developed measures and guidelines related to women, peace, and security for 2017-2024, aligning with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). The key framework addresses the situation of women and children through the principles of human security and human rights, emphasizing human dignity, safety from violence, and freedom from all forms of discrimination. This approach provides a guideline for integrating gender dimensions into peace and security policies, eliminating violence against women and children in conflict situations, and promoting women's participation in conflict resolution.

Moreover, Thailand has enhanced capacity-building initiatives for women to prevent violence and empower women. For example, in 2020, training was provided to 274 staff and women in the three southern border provinces. In 2021, budgetary support was provided for hiring staff to work at two locations: the Child and Women Coordination Center in the southern border provinces and the Women's Counseling Center at the Narathiwat Provincial Islamic Committee Office, with 37 women seeking counseling for domestic violence, and mediation assistance provided to four cases. In 2022, a workshop was conducted to empower 42 women in the southern border provinces, and the Women's Entrepreneurs

¹¹¹ <https://policywatch.thaipbs.or.th/policy/legal-3>

Capacity Development Project was launched to enhance economic self-reliance and security for 31 women from the three southern border provinces.¹¹² There are plans to expand this initiative to other marginalized women across various regions beyond the southern provinces.

Additionally, in 2022, the Child and Women Coordination Center in the southern border provinces collaborated with UN Women to train Muslim women leaders in the southern border provinces on recognizing online hate speech, expanding networks to civil society and women in the community.¹¹³

21.3 Women with Disabilities

The Second Strategic Plan for Women with Disabilities 2017-2021 includes Strategy 2, which focuses on enhancing reproductive health and equitable healthcare for women and girls with disabilities. Key initiatives include: (1) promoting knowledge and positive attitudes about sexual and reproductive health, sex education, and sexual orientation for women and girls with disabilities, their caregivers, parents, and related agencies; (2) ensuring access to physical and mental health services for women and girls with disabilities; (3) supporting equal access to assistive devices and medical services; and (4) promoting family planning and child health among women with disabilities.

The approach to addressing this issue involves changing attitudes among caregivers and society, promoting access to reproductive health services and contraception for women with disabilities, and protecting their rights. The Ministry of Public Health provides the most appropriate family planning services, which include diverse contraceptive options for persons with disabilities. These services emphasize consulting with parents, guardians, or caregivers to ensure the best interests of the service users, respecting their reproductive rights, and ensuring that contraception does not violate their rights and human dignity.

3.4 Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

Q22. In the past five years, what actions and measures has your country taken to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making?

2.2.1 Provided opportunities for capacity building and skills development, such as mentorship, training in leadership, decision-making, public speaking, self-assertion, and/or political campaigning for women candidates, elected or appointed politicians, parliamentary caucuses, and/or gender equality advocates

The Women's Development Strategy 2017-2021 focused on enhancing the capacities of women to promote their participation in politics and decision-making processes at both national and local levels, under Strategy 2 on Empowerment Measures. This strategy emphasized increasing women's participation

¹¹² รายงานผลการดำเนินงานตามแผนปฏิบัติการเพื่อการพัฒนาสตรี ระยะที่ 1 พ.ศ. 2563-2565

¹¹³ รายงานการประชุมคณะกรรมการขับเคลื่อนและติดตามการดำเนินงานตามมาตรการและแนวทางปฏิบัติด้านสตรีกับการส่งเสริมสันติภาพและความมั่นคง ครั้งที่ ๑/๒๕๖๕

and involvement in decision-making as a key area of importance, which continues into the Women's Development Action Plan 2023-2027, under Pillar 3, focusing on women's participation in decision-making.

Promoting women's involvement and decision-making encourages women to recognize their roles and engage in societal decision-making, acting as a crucial mechanism for fostering equality and integrating women's contributions into policy-making and governmental measures. This community and national approach are instrumental in driving sustainable development at both.

In 2020, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development organized a series of five workshops for female leaders in villages or communities interested in politics or aspiring to work in politics across northern, central, northeastern, and southern regions, with a total of 328 participants covering all 76 provinces. The participants were encouraged to use the knowledge gained when running for elections at both local and national levels.

In 2021, a capacity development project for women in the Social Development and Human Security Volunteer (SDHSV) Network was conducted, aimed at enhancing leadership skills and engagement in community decision-making across 12 workshops, involving a total of 637 participants.

In 2022, five workshops were held to further promote women's participation and decision-making, with a total of 242 attendees. In 2023, an additional workshop was conducted with 90 participants.¹¹⁴

2.2.2 Collected and analyzed data on women's political participation, including in appointed and elected positions

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017), specifically Sections 90 and 128, guarantees the participation of women in the political sector. Section 90 stipulates that "...in the preparation of a list of candidates, members of the political party shall participate in the deliberations, considering candidates from different regions and ensuring gender equality between men and women." Section 128 mandates the inclusion of women in ad hoc committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, stating that "in the part concerning the appointment of an ad hoc committee for the consideration of bills, the President of the House of Representatives shall include representatives such as children, youths, women, the elderly, the disabled, or handicapped, or representatives from private organizations directly concerned with these groups, making up no less than one-third of the total ad hoc committee members."

Thailand recognizes the importance of increasing the representation of women in the political sphere by supporting their roles in policy-making and governmental measures. The country continuously collects and analyzes data on the number of women in politics. During the 2022 Women's Assembly, proposals were submitted to the government, emphasizing the need to set quotas for political positions to increase the involvement of women and gender-diverse individuals in all levels of politics.¹¹⁵

As of 2024, women in political roles include: 1) 5 women in the Cabinet, making up 14.70%; 2) 96 female Members of Parliament, representing 19.20%; 3) 26 female Senators, accounting for 10.4%; and 4)

¹¹⁴ <https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/41966/31ae749a-393d-466f-932e-b204491ba506-document-5700.pdf>

¹¹⁵ เอกสารกองส่งเสริมความเสมอภาคระหว่างเพศ

930 female local executives, making up 11.86%. The number of female Members of Parliament increased by approximately 4% from 2023, and the number of female local executives increased by about 2%.¹¹⁶

Furthermore, Measure 10 of the Women's Development Action Plan 2023-2027 aims to ensure that women hold at least one-third of decision-making positions at all levels. This goal is supported by three key strategies: (1) encouraging all political parties to promote female candidates in equal proportion to male candidates; (2) ensuring that the Cabinet comprises at least one-third women; and (3) enacting a Cabinet resolution requiring that at least one-third of all senior government positions be held by women.

Q23. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to increase women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICT)?

23.1 Strengthened the provision of formal and technical vocational education and training (TVET) in media and ICTs, including in areas of management and leadership

The Ministry of Digital Economy and Society has implemented the 'Girls in ICT Day' training program, aimed at encouraging girls and young women to study and develop skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), enhance digital skills, and raise awareness about the meaningful and safe use of ICT. This project is included in the first phase of the Women's Development Action Plan (2020–2022) and the Women's Development Action Plan (2023–2027).

In 2024, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, in collaboration with the Knowledge Management, Communication, and Development Research Center (CCDKM), the Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), and the Asia-Pacific Regional Office of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), co-organized the 'Girls in ICT Day 2024' training program under the theme 'Leveraging AI for Life' on July 8, 2024. The program aimed to raise awareness and develop digital and ICT skills for girls, young women, and youth. Approximately 140 students participated in the training.

The training aimed to raise awareness and teach youth how to apply AI technology in everyday life, as well as provide an introduction to AI as a personal assistant for information retrieval, summarizing data, discussing ideas, creating basic business plans, searching for products using images with summaries, using AI to write emails in English, summarizing content from PDFs, websites, and videos, creating articles, generating images, editing product photos, and changing product background images. It also covered creating music with AI, video editing, converting text to voice narration, generating income by publishing media on platforms like TikTok, Reels, and YouTube, and understanding the ethics of AI. The program featured speakers from both the public and private sectors who are experienced and knowledgeable in the ICT field"

¹¹⁶ สถานการณ์สตรีไทยปี 2567

Q24. Please describe your country's current national women's machinery government entity exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and describe the measures that your country taken over the past five years to establish and/or strengthen it.

Thailand has integrated gender equality into mechanisms at all levels, from national to community, as follows:

Parliamentary Mechanisms: This includes the Committee on Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, and Gender Diversity (House of Representatives) and the Senate Committee on Social Development, Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, and Disadvantaged Persons.

National Mechanisms: At the national level, the National Commission on Policy and Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Women was established under the Prime Minister's Regulation on the Promotion and Coordination of Women's Affairs, B.E. 2551 (2008). Additionally, the Committee to Promote Gender Equality was established under the Gender Equality Act, B.E. 2558 (2015). The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development (DWF) acts as the central coordinating agency at the national level, responsible for formulating policies, developing measures, mechanisms, and guidelines to promote and support gender equality, women's empowerment, and protection of women's rights. The DWF also coordinates with relevant government and non-governmental agencies to implement gender equality promotion and women's empowerment in line with international obligations.

Central Level Mechanisms: At the ministerial and departmental levels, mechanisms such as Chief Gender Equality Officers (CGEOs) and Gender Focal Points (GFPs) are established to drive women's advancement and gender equality. On July 31, 2001, the Cabinet approved the appointment of one CGEO at the level of Deputy Permanent Secretary or Deputy Director-General in every ministry and department and designated relevant divisions as GFPs. Currently, there are 141 CGEOs and GFPs. One of their key missions is to promote gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) within their agencies. GRB serves as a crucial tool for integrating gender perspectives into budgeting processes to ensure equitable and appropriate allocation of resources, addressing the needs and specific requirements of all citizens, thereby reducing inequality and promoting gender equality.

Local Mechanisms: At the community level, mechanisms include Community Family Development Centers, which are civil society organizations focused on family development and protection of family welfare, totaling 7,194 centers nationwide. Additionally, there are Women's Assemblies networks across 77 provinces, which bring together women and civil society groups to gather opinions, share knowledge, and participate in shaping national women's policies.

Q25. In the past five years, what other mechanisms and tools has your country used to mainstream gender equality across sectors? (e.g. gender focal points in the Executive, Legislature or Judiciary; inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms; gender audits, consultations with women's organizations)

Thailand has mainstreamed gender equality across all sectors, as stipulated in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand and integrated into national development plans at all levels. The 20-Year National Strategy (2018–2037) serves as the framework for formulating national policies and plans, emphasizing the importance of women in all dimensions. The key focuses include:

1. Developing and enhancing the capacity of women as a national human resource by providing opportunities for women to access developmental opportunities;
2. Creating opportunities and social equality, ensuring that women are not subject to discrimination or violence in any form;
3. Promoting and supporting the involvement of all sectors—government, private, and civil society—in the advancement and elevation of women's status;
4. Changing societal attitudes to promote awareness of gender equality as a desirable value for development and coexistence in a quality society;
5. Supporting women as leaders and strong partners in development at all levels.

The National Economic and Social Development Plans, specifically the 12th (2017–2021) and 13th (2023–2027) Plans, focus on strengthening women's human capital, ensuring that women have equitable and equal access to the economy and resources. They aim to empower women to participate more in decision-making and management roles, recognizing women leaders and broadening opportunities for women's leadership. This requires shifting societal attitudes towards gender equality and creating conducive conditions and mechanisms to build women's capacity.

The Women's Development Action Plans Phase 1 (2020–2022) and Phase 2 (2023–2027) translate the strategy into action, making gender issues a primary focus in all government agencies. The vision includes women and girls being able to develop to their full potential, being treated equally and fairly, and being free from all forms of violence in a society that recognizes and understands gender equality. The plans comprise six pillars:

1. Women's human capital development;
2. Elimination of violence against women;
3. Women's participation in decision-making;
4. Public communication to shift societal attitudes, values, and belief systems towards gender equality;
5. Development of management tools to empower women and promote gender equality; and
6. Strengthening the core competencies of national women's advancement and empowerment mechanisms.

At the ministerial and governmental levels, mechanisms include Chief Gender Equality Officers (CGEOs) and Gender Focal Points (GFPs). The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development (DWF) serves as the main agency responsible for monitoring the activities of government ministries, coordinating efforts within each agency's jurisdiction. In fiscal year 2022, 2,371 agencies reported on their activities.

Since 2022, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development has implemented the E-Mergis online system to track and evaluate the implementation of the Women's Development Action Plans. This system monitors and evaluates measures to prevent and address sexual harassment in workplaces across public, state enterprise, and private sectors. The department has been compiling results into annual reports, including progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality).

Q26. If there is a national human rights institution in your country, what measures has it taken to address violations of women's rights and promote gender equality?

The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) plays a key role in receiving complaints related to human rights violations and conducting investigations or examinations of these complaints. Additionally, the NHRCT is responsible for raising public awareness about human rights and publishing annual human rights situation reports.¹¹⁷ The Commission has expressed concerns regarding the protection of the rights of various groups of women in Thailand, including issues such as access to legal protection under the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act, B.E. 2550 (2007), where the definitions do not adequately cover all individuals within a family, and the mechanisms for mediation in court.

There are also concerns regarding the limited number of female investigators, some of whom lack sensitivity and understanding of gender-specific issues. Moreover, the NHRCT has shown concern towards measures addressing specific vulnerable groups, such as ethnic women, women with disabilities, refugee women, transgender women, and women human rights defenders, who face compounded violence due to attitudes and gender disparities. The Commission continues to advocate for better protections and equality for these groups, recognizing the need for improved measures and sensitivity in addressing their unique challenges.

In the 2023 Human Rights Situation Assessment Report of Thailand, conducted by the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT), several actions were highlighted to address violations of women's rights. These include prioritizing the issue of domestic violence as a key focus in the 2023 Human Rights Assembly, and developing media campaigns, such as the “เรื่องผิวเมียยุ่งได้” (loosely translated as “Interfering in Spousal Matters is Allowed”), to raise awareness about domestic violence. The report also recommended that responsible agencies implement policies against all forms of sexual harassment and abuse in educational institutions.¹¹⁸

The NHRCT proposed several key measures, including:

1. Enhancing the knowledge and understanding of law enforcement personnel and those in the judicial process regarding gender equality and women's human rights, in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by the United Nations.
2. Guaranteeing access to justice for women and girls, with the judicial process being gender-sensitive and supportive of women.

¹¹⁷ <https://www.oic.go.th/ginfo/@dmin.asp?l=&g=822&i=5223272%26i>

¹¹⁸ รายงานผลการประเมินสถานการณ์ด้านสิทธิมนุษยชนของประเทศไทย ปี พ.ศ. 2566

3. Endorsing measures to increase the representation of women in decision-making roles and political participation at all levels.¹¹⁹

3.5 Peaceful and inclusive societies

Q27. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?

27.1 Adoption and Implementation of a National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

Currently, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development is working to finalize the draft National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security for 2024–2027, aligning with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. Thailand has been implementing measures and guidelines on women, peace, and security for 2017–2027 to comply with UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). The approach emphasizes human security and human rights principles, focusing on the dignity of women and children, protection from violence, and freedom from discrimination in all forms. The guidelines encourage relevant agencies to integrate gender perspectives into peace and security policies, eradicate violence against women and children in conflict situations, and promote women's participation in conflict resolution.

Over the past five years, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development has driven initiatives under the WPS agenda and Thailand's guidelines on promoting peace and security for women. This has been accomplished through capacity-building workshops and empowerment programs involving government agencies, the private sector, civil society, and international women's organizations like UN Women. Key initiatives include:¹²⁰

- In 2023, a Sub-Committee on the Implementation and Monitoring of Women, Peace, and Security Measures was established to enhance the oversight and coordination of these efforts.
- Promoting knowledge of human rights and gender equality among female paramilitary personnel in the three southern border provinces and female investigators from Provincial Police Regions 8 and 9.
- Providing gender sensitivity training and understanding of peace and security definitions, including negotiation techniques, to women officials working in the southern border provinces. This training was also extended to village leaders, assistant village leaders, and women leaders in Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat provinces.
- Establishing the Women and Children Coordination Centers in the southern border provinces, which serves as a hub for receiving complaints and addressing issues related to violations of women's and

¹¹⁹ <https://static.nhrc.or.th/file/content/document/15676/24-11-59--1711622338.pdf>

¹²⁰ เอกสารกองส่งเสริมความเสมอภาคระหว่างเพศ

children's rights. Additionally, a Women's Counseling Center was established in the Office of the Islamic Committee of Narathiwat Province, providing advice on women's rights under Islamic and Thai laws, and coordinating with government agencies to ensure protection, rights defense, and rehabilitation for those affected.

2 7 .2 Integration of Women, Peace, and Security Commitments into Key National and Inter-Ministerial Policy, Planning, and Monitoring Frameworks

Thailand has demonstrated its commitment to fostering peace and safety in the southern border provinces within its security strategy under the 20-Year National Strategy (2018–2037). The strategy emphasizes creating lasting peace and security in the southern border provinces, ensuring that security issues in the region are resolved, leading to sustainable peace and security. It aims to ensure the safety of life and property for people in the region, fostering peaceful coexistence in a multicultural society, and providing equitable development comparable to other regions.¹²¹

Additionally, Pillar 2 of the Women's Development Action Plan (2024–2027) emphasizes eliminating all forms of violence against women throughout Thailand through various projects, such as initiatives on women, peace, and security, and capacity-building for women in the southern border provinces, aiming to enhance knowledge and understanding of violence, basic human rights, and laws related to violence against women. In the fiscal year of 2023, leadership training according to such initiatives was provided to 39 women leaders.¹²²

Currently, Thailand is also drafting a five-year plan (2024–2028) to promote and develop programs for children, youth, women, and vulnerable groups to address challenges that exist in the southern border provinces.¹²³

27.3 Use of Communication Strategies, Including Social Media, to Raise Awareness of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda

Thailand has committed to fostering peace and security for the people in the southern border provinces as outlined in its 20-Year National Strategy (2018–2037) under the security pillar. The strategy emphasizes establishing permanent safety and peace in the southern border provinces, aiming to resolve security issues sustainably. It envisions a multicultural society where residents live safely and harmoniously, with life and property secure, and development on par with other regions.¹²⁴

In 2022, the Women and Children Coordination Centers in the southern border provinces collaborated with UN Women to train Muslim women leaders in the southern border provinces on recognizing and addressing online hate speech. This initiative extended its network to civil society and women in the community.¹²⁵ Additionally, the project aimed to enhance women's capacity in the southern

¹²¹ [https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/27844/ยุทธศาสตร์ชาติ-20-ปี-\(ฉบับราชกิจจานุเบกษา\).PDF](https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/27844/ยุทธศาสตร์ชาติ-20-ปี-(ฉบับราชกิจจานุเบกษา).PDF)

¹²² รายงานผลการดำเนินงานรอบเดือนตุลาคม 2565 - กันยายน 2566 กระทรวง พม.

¹²³ รายงานการดำเนินงานศูนย์ประสานงานด้านเด็กและสตรีในจังหวัดชายแดนภาคใต้ (ศป.ดส.) 2566

¹²⁴ [https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/27844/ยุทธศาสตร์ชาติ-20-ปี-\(ฉบับราชกิจจานุเบกษา\).PDF](https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/27844/ยุทธศาสตร์ชาติ-20-ปี-(ฉบับราชกิจจานุเบกษา).PDF)

¹²⁵ รายงานการประชุมคณะอนุกรรมการขับเคลื่อนและติดตามการดำเนินงานตามมาตรการและแนวทางปฏิบัติด้านสตรีกับการส่งเสริมสันติภาพและความมั่นคง ครั้งที่ ๑/๒๕๖๕

border provinces through public communication initiatives, including workshops to promote women's roles at the village level as networks for protecting vulnerable women and children affected by law enforcement. Communications were also conducted through the National Human Rights Assembly, focusing on eliminating violence against women and promoting dignity, freedom, equality, and justice.¹²⁶

The Action Plan for the Administration and Development of the Southern Border Provinces (2023–2027) serves as a key tool to drive policy into practice. It is divided into three dimensions with eight supporting plans. The Department of Public Relations leads the plan to enhance understanding and cooperation under the development dimension, aiming to address various issues concretely through state communication efforts. This plan will continue through ongoing initiatives to foster understanding and cooperation domestically and internationally, as well as strengthen communication mechanisms.

In 2024, efforts will focus on enhancing the Southern Border Provinces Information Center (SBIC) to establish proactive and responsive communication strategies with various target groups and define expected engagement behaviors across all dimensions and plans. Communication will be conducted bilaterally through various media, including television, radio, digital platforms, and public activities. It will also target international audiences by fostering understanding and cooperation with international organizations, NGOs, and civil society groups both domestically and abroad. Emphasis will be placed on promoting interactions between local residents and those outside the southern border provinces, including international communities, to foster mutual respect for differences and positive attitudes for coexistence in a multicultural society.

Q28. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings?

28.1 Promotion and Support for Women's Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes and Peace Agreement Implementation at All Levels

Thailand has continuously sent a number of female personals to participate and contribute in the UN Peace keeping missions including in South Sudan.

Thailand has consistently dispatched a considerable number of female personnel to actively participate and contribute to the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions, particularly in South Sudan. Within the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), specifically in the cities of Juba and Rumbek, there exists an engineering company composed of a total of 273 personnel, including 263 male soldiers and 10 esteemed female soldiers. Furthermore, at the individual level, there are:

1. 13 personnel serving in UNMISS, comprising 3 male soldiers, 4 honorable female soldiers, and 1 distinguished male police officer.

¹²⁶ Ibis

2. 5 personnel deployed to the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), including 3 male soldiers and 2 esteemed female soldiers.

3. 2 male soldiers contributing to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), with no female soldiers currently assigned.

4. At the United Nations Headquarters in New York, there is 1 esteemed female police officer and 1 honorable female soldier diligently serving.

Women have increasingly played a role in addressing the situation in the southern border provinces of Thailand. They have engaged in security, political, and civil society sectors to drive change across various dimensions. The National Security Policy and Plan 2015-2019 and 2019-2025 have facilitated women's participation in peace processes, including post-conflict rehabilitation in the southern border provinces. The Cabinet appointed a female Deputy Spokesperson of the Office of the Prime Minister as a Special Representative of the Government for Southern Border Province Affairs, tasked with coordinating participation and supporting collaboration with all sectors. This role is particularly focused on promoting the participation of women in the peacebuilding and security efforts in the southern border provinces. In 2022, a capacity-building workshop for 42 women in the region was held to enhance their empowerment.¹²⁷

28.2 Protection of Civil Society and Women Human Rights Defenders

Thailand's Fourth National Human Rights Plan (2019–2022) served as a comprehensive master plan that encompasses human rights policies, providing a unified direction for all implementing agencies. Human rights defenders are one of the key target group under this plan. One of the significant achievements under this plan was the enactment of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act B.E. 2565 (2022). The Act, which came into effect on 22 February 2023, establishes the Committee on the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance, comprising state officials and six members appointed by the Minister of Justice, who also serves as the committee chair.¹²⁸ This mechanism aims to protect human rights defenders from unlawful violence.

Additionally, amendments were made to the Witness Protection Act (No. 2) B.E. 2565 (2022) to expand the definition of “witness” to include individuals providing or expected to provide information, which benefits human rights defenders. Activities have also been organized to allow female human rights defenders to voice their concerns and discuss their work, ensuring that government agencies better understand and recognize the issues faced by human rights defenders. Training sessions have been held to enhance the capacity of those involved in implementing the National Human Rights Plan.

To ensure the continued promotion and protection of human rights defenders, this group has been designated as one of the key focuses in the Fifth National Human Rights Plan (2023–2027). Key recommendations include the systematic reporting of human rights violations against human rights defenders, expediting the drafting and enforcement of laws to prevent strategic lawsuits against public

¹²⁷ รายงานแผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี พ.ศ. 2563-2566

¹²⁸ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iVJhAdCZXWjSqlclzcRig855Px0l78-/view>

participation (SLAPPs) or gag lawsuits, protecting whistleblowers, and accelerating efforts for Thailand to become a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED). With regard to (Thailand ratified the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) on 14 May 2024, Thailand has deposited Instrument of Ratification to ICPPED, which has subsequently come into effect since 13 June 2024.¹²⁹

Q29. In the last five years, what actions has your country taken to enhance judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response?

Establishment of a Subcommittee on Women, Peace, and Security: A subcommittee has been set up to drive and monitor the implementation of measures and practices related to women, peace, and security. This subcommittee consists of representatives from central and regional government agencies, as well as experts, and is tasked with formulating policies and guidelines to promote, protect, and assist women affected by conflict situations. It aims to integrate gender perspectives and empower women in peace processes.

Training and Awareness for Field Personnel: Efforts have been made to raise awareness among field personnel working in conflict-affected areas about human rights violations, with a focus on avoiding further violations during their interactions with women and children. This initiative aligns with the concerns raised by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) regarding the impact of violent incidents on women and children in Thailand's southern border provinces. Additionally, training on basic human rights has been provided to strengthen the capacity of women affected by violent incidents in the area, offering guidance on accessing support and protection services to help them achieve a better quality of life and self-reliance.

Budget Support for Staffing: Budget allocations have been made to support staffing in two key locations:

1. The Coordination Center for Women and Children in the Southern Border Provinces (CCWC-SBP): This center serves as a hub for coordinating and addressing complaints and issues related to children and women that lead to human rights violations. It has been operational since the 2020 fiscal year.
2. Women's Consultation Center at the Islamic Committee Office of Narathiwat Province: Established in the 2021 fiscal year, this center provides assistance to women experiencing violence, offering consultations on women's rights under both Islamic and Thai law.

Southern Women's and Family Development Learning Center, Songkhla Province: This center provides vocational training, including in-person, community-based, and online programs. It also offers

¹²⁹ รายงาน CEDAW ฉบับที่ 8

support services such as assistance for single mothers and financial aid for low-income families and those in need.

29.1 Strengthened Capacity of Security Sector Institutions on Human Rights and Prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development has enhanced the capacity of women in conflict situations by equipping them with knowledge about rights, laws related to sexual offenses, and violence. In 2022, a workshop was organized in Pattani province, in cooperation with UN Women, focusing on sexual offenses and violence. This initiative empowered women affected by the situation in the southern border provinces, enabling them to understand their rights, access government services, and find pathways to protection and assistance, ultimately improving their quality of life and self-reliance.

Efforts have been made to train personnel working in areas with violent incidents to foster attitudes that support their work, with a heightened awareness of gender issues and the impacts on women in conflict situations. Training programs have been conducted for field officers to increase their understanding of human rights violations and encourage gender sensitivity in their operations, particularly when working with women and children, to prevent further violations by state officials.

At the local level, integration efforts include collaboration with the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center to establish the Coordination Center for Women and Children in the Southern Border Provinces (CCWC-SBP). This center serves as a hub for coordinating and addressing complaints and issues related to children and women that lead to human rights violations. It operates under seven key frameworks: (1) access to justice and redress, (2) violence against children and women, (3) women, children, peace, and security, (4) health and well-being of children and women, (5) access to government services, (6) participation in decision-making at all levels, and (7) gender acceptance and equality. Recent achievements include providing assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting livelihood activities for women's groups, and advancing proposals related to DNA testing for children and women in the southern border provinces. Additionally, training on sexual harassment and exploitation has been provided to officers at observation centers for individuals returning from abroad in the southern border provinces.

Further, the CCWC-SBP has established collaborative mechanisms with civil society, such as the CCWC-SBP committee, comprising registered associations or foundations within the civil society network. This committee acts as a local-level mechanism for receiving complaints, providing initial assistance, and coordinating with CCWC-SBP offices to connect with relevant state agencies to ensure that support is tailored to the needs of the target groups.

Moreover, the initiative has strengthened local mechanisms to provide support to women facing challenges in the southern border provinces, such as funding the appointment of officers to assist women experiencing violence at the Women's Consultation Center at the Islamic Committee Office of Narathiwat Province. This center provides advice on women's rights under Islamic and Thai laws, and coordinates with state agencies to ensure protection, rights defense, and recovery support.

Q30. In the last five years, what actions has your country taken to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of girl children, including adolescent girls?

30.1 Implemented Policies and Programs to Reduce and Eradicate Child, Early, and Forced Marriage

In 2018, the Central Islamic Council of Thailand issued a regulation titled "Regulation of the Central Islamic Council of Thailand on the Marriage (Nikah) of Persons Under 17 Years of Age B.E. 2561," which came into effect on November 29, 2018. The regulation stipulates that any marriage involving minors must be evaluated by the Provincial Islamic Committee or the Islamic Committee of the mosque. Exceptions may be granted in cases of necessity, allowing the marriage of individuals under 17, provided there is certification from the court or the Justice Dato', or a written consent from the parents. Additionally, the regulation mandates that the Islamic Committee appoint a sub-committee to consider rights and benefits under Islamic law, which must include at least one female member who is knowledgeable in Islamic teachings, specifically to handle cases involving female petitioners.¹³⁰

The Civil and Commercial Code Amendment Act (No. 24) of 2024 of the "Equal Marriage Act" has raised the minimum age of marriage and engagement in Thailand from 17 to 18 years old. The law has already been published in the Royal Gazette on 24 September 2024 and will come into force on 22 January 2025.

Furthermore, the practice of child abduction for forced marriage, a customary tradition among certain ethnic groups, is considered illegal under Section 317 of the Thai Criminal Code. This section prohibits the unlawful removal of a child under 15 years old from their parents, guardians, or caretakers without justifiable reasons. Violators are subject to imprisonment for a term of three to fifteen years and fines ranging from 60,000 to 300,000 Thai Baht. Women and families can refuse such marriages and pursue legal action against offenders.

30.2 Strengthened Girls' Access to Quality Education, Skills Development, and Training

Thailand continues to uphold its policy of universal access to education and a 15-year free education policy for all children without discrimination. In response to the impact of COVID-19, which resulted in a significant number of students dropping out, Thailand implemented the "Bringing Children Back to School" initiative. This initiative included measures to track and encourage students to re-enter the education system and provided vocational training to help them secure employment. In 2022, the initiative successfully brought 20,053 students back into the education system.

To maintain student enrollment at all education levels, the Ministry of Education has set guidelines for student admission to educational welfare schools, aligning with policies and practices under the Office of the Basic Education Commission. The principles guiding these policies include:

1. Participation
2. Fair Opportunity
3. Efficient Management

¹³⁰ สถานการณ์เด็ก เยาวชนและผู้หญิงในจังหวัดชายแดนภาคใต้ 2564

4. Effective Communication

These policies target ten categories of disadvantaged children:

1. Child labor or forced labor
2. Street children
3. Children in the sex trade or child prostitution
4. Abandoned or orphaned children
5. Abused children
6. Poor children (those from families with an average annual income not exceeding 20,000 THB)
7. Children from ethnic minorities
8. Children with drug-related problems
9. Children affected by AIDS or other severe communicable diseases stigmatized by society
10. Children in juvenile detention and protection centers

The Office of Non-Formal and Informal Education has promoted and supported education for individuals without official registration documents or Thai nationality (ages 6-15). In 2019, 1,039 such individuals were reached, and in 2020, 1,022. For migrant workers, the figures were 4,043 in 2019 and 2,857 in 2020. Ethnic minorities (Sea Gypsies) accounted for 104 in 2019 and 91 in 2020. Homeless individuals numbered 1,613 in 2019 and 1,126 in 2020. Persons with disabilities totaled 18,478 in 2019 and 12,077 in 2020. Data on out-of-school children were collected to facilitate their reintegration into the education system.

3.6 Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation

Q31. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and land degradation?

3.1.1 Supported Women's Participation and Leadership in Environmental and Natural Resource Management and Governance

Over the past five years, Thailand has promoted women's participation in environmental and natural resource management as part of broader efforts to address climate change and reduce disaster risks. The government, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, has established the Protected Area Committee (PAC) across 155 locations nationwide, encouraging community involvement in natural resource conservation. This initiative ensures that women have roles as leaders in managing and supervising natural resources and the environment, thereby fostering a deeper community understanding of conservation efforts. Women are actively encouraged and supported to lead in environmental management, with platforms for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and addressing the barriers women face in these sectors.

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development has collaborated with the Department of Climate Change and Environment to integrate gender perspectives into climate change

actions using tools such as the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) framework. In the 2021 fiscal year, the Department developed resources on climate change and gender, including a “Report on Climate Change Action from Gender Perspective” that compiles data to guide gender-responsive climate change mitigation strategies. This report aims to provide foundational information for developing equitable climate change responses, focusing on women as the primary stakeholders.

In the 2022 fiscal year, initiatives to empower women included a workshop titled "Empowering Women for Gender Equality in Climate Change" and the production of multimedia and exhibitions, such as a PHOTO BOOK themed “Let Images and Voices Change the World,” highlighting women, natural resources, and climate crises. This project involved creating an online photo book that captures women's perspectives and experiences concerning climate change, reflecting their critical roles in managing natural resources and the environment for sustainable development.

Additionally, the Department of Women’s Affairs and Family Development under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security recognizes and promotes women’s participation and leadership annually by presenting awards to outstanding women in various fields, including environmental conservation, on International Women's Day. This recognition includes accolades for women leaders who have made significant, ethical contributions to the conservation of natural resources and the environment, with tangible benefits to their communities and society at large. These awards highlight the vital role women play in addressing community-level environmental challenges, sharing knowledge, and advocating for natural resource conservation.

3 1 .2 Strengthened Evidence and/or Raised Awareness about Gender-Specific Environmental and Health Hazards (e.g. consumer products, technologies, industrial pollution)

In 2021, Thailand developed knowledge resources on climate change and gender perspectives, including the "Report on Climate Change Action from Gender Perspective." This report serves as a foundational resource for managing climate change impacts with a gender-sensitive approach, promoting equality and fairness by focusing on women as the primary target group. The report aims to guide the formulation of climate change actions that incorporate gender perspectives, ensuring that climate policies and strategies address the specific needs and challenges faced by women.

To further integrate gender and social inclusion into climate change initiatives, the "Inclusive, Gender-responsive Climate Change Benefit Analysis" (iCCBA) task force was established. This task force is responsible for drafting the "Handbook for Integrating Climate Change (CC), Gender, and Social Inclusion (GSI) Into Planning and Budgeting in Thailand." This handbook aims to provide guidelines for incorporating climate change considerations, gender equity, and social inclusion into national planning and budgeting processes.¹³¹

In the fiscal year 2024, the Department of Women’s Affairs and Family Development, in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Foundation, the Sai Buri Watershed Association, and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus, developed the

“Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction Handbook.” The purpose of the handbook is to enhance understanding of the differing needs and necessities of target groups in disaster management, facilitating preparedness, adaptation, and the reduction of loss of life and property. It addresses disaster management arising from climate change or other situations and emphasizes swift disaster response that effectively meets the diverse needs, requirements, and access opportunities of the population, ensuring timely and efficient actions.

31.3 Steps Taken to Ensure Equal Benefits for Women from Decent Jobs in the Green Economy

Thailand has initiated the implementation of the Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG Economy) model, which emphasizes the integration of biological, circular, and green economic principles into practice. This model was highlighted as a central agenda during Thailand's hosting of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 2022. It serves as a national economic drive using policies aimed at addressing climate change issues. The outcomes of the APEC meeting included the promotion of the Implementation of the Bangkok Goals, which prioritize balancing sustainable growth with environmental conservation. A particular focus was placed on enhancing the role of women in addressing climate change through the gender-climate nexus, aiming to ensure that women equally benefit from decent jobs in the green economy.¹³²

Q32. In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programs for disaster risk reduction and building environmental and climate resilience?

3 2 .1 Supported Women's Participation and Leadership, Including Those Affected by Disaster, in Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate and Environmental Resilience Policies, Programs, and Projects

In 2023, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development conducted a capacity-building workshop to empower women and promote gender equality in the context of climate change, in collaboration with the Foundation for Sustainable Development and UN Women in Pattani Province. The workshop aimed to enhance the knowledge and understanding of women and relevant stakeholders on climate change, including the roles and impacts on women. The workshop also facilitated the joint development of strategies to address the impacts of climate change through the participation of local leaders from both government and non-governmental organizations. Women and stakeholders were actively involved in formulating gender-responsive approaches to managing the impacts of climate-related disasters, ensuring access to necessary resources.

In the fiscal year 2023, an inter-agency working group was established to study gender-responsive climate benefits analysis. Additionally, a capacity-building workshop was held to empower women and promote gender equality in climate change adaptation, again in collaboration with the Foundation for Sustainable Development and UN Women. A draft guide for gender-responsive disaster risk reduction was developed, with stakeholder consultations conducted in partnership with the Southern Border Provinces

¹³² <https://www.apec2022.go.th/exhibition-thailand-bcg-eng/>

Administrative Center, the Foundation for Sustainable Development, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus, and UN Women.

In the fiscal year 2024, the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, in cooperation with the Foundation for Sustainable Development, the Saibury River Basin Association, and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus, developed a "Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction Handbook." This initiative aims to build understanding of the specific needs and requirements of different target groups in disaster management, enabling proactive and adaptive measures to minimize loss of life and property. The handbook addresses rapid disaster response tailored to the diverse needs of affected populations, ensuring effective and timely management of climate-related and other disasters.

Moreover, a workshop was held to promote gender equality and climate change adaptation in the three southern border provinces (Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat), in partnership with the Foundation for Sustainable Development. The initiative aimed to strengthen women's networks to support local disaster prevention and response, and empower women to support themselves, their families, and communities in emergency situations resulting from climate change.

In 2022, the Women's Assembly convened a workshop focused on empowering women and promoting gender equality in the context of global warming. The key policy recommendations concerning environmental changes included:

1. The government must enhance understanding of gender-responsive disaster management by integrating or adapting lessons within the educational system from the primary level upwards, aligning with current circumstances. This aims to raise awareness that disasters are a pervasive issue affecting everyone.
2. The government should promote the development of community-level evacuation plans to mitigate disaster risks and improve forecasting and early warning systems from the national to the local level. This would enable communities and society to quickly access information during disasters. The government should ensure transparency and make all relevant information accessible to the public.
3. The government must expand channels for advice and assistance in disaster situations, such as user-friendly applications, and support the establishment of community networks to collaborate on preventing and addressing disaster-related issues promptly.
4. The government should allocate budgets for disaster prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation, and reduce the financial burden on those affected by disasters. This could include supporting communication devices for students participating in online learning or providing compensation and aid for vulnerable groups.
5. The government must campaign to raise awareness among all sectors of society about environmental issues and natural resource management, promoting the responsible use of natural resources and the adoption of alternative energy sources.

Chapter 4. National institutions and processes

Q33. Please describe your country's national strategy or action plan for gender equality, including its name, the period it covers, its priority, funding and alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the targets under SDG 5.

Thailand has integrated gender equality into various levels of national strategies and action plans as follows:

- **20-Year National Strategy (2018-2037):** This strategy serves as a framework for national policy and planning, emphasizing the following:
 1. **Development and Capacity Building of Women:** Recognizing women as national human resources and ensuring their access to development opportunities.
 2. **Social Equality and Opportunity Creation:** Ensuring fairness for women to prevent discrimination and violence in all forms.
 3. **Promotion and Support Across All Sectors:** Encouraging participation from the public, private, and civil society sectors to uplift and enhance the status of women.
 4. **Shifting Societal Attitudes:** Raising awareness about gender equality, establishing it as a desirable value for development and coexistence in a quality society.
 5. **Empowering Women as Leaders and Partners:** Supporting women to become strong leaders and partners in development at all levels.
- **13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2023-2027):** This plan emphasizes equity and the reduction of inequalities under Strategy 3, focusing on a society of opportunity and fairness.¹³³ Women have been removed from the disadvantaged group classification in this plan, aligning with the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2021), which included two key strategies related to gender equality:
 1. **Strategy for Human Capital Development and Enhancement**
 2. **Strategy for Creating Fairness and Reducing Social Inequality**
- **Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027):** Building upon the first phase (2020-2022), this plan aims to ensure that women and girls have opportunities for self-development, receive equitable and fair treatment, and are protected from all forms of violence, fostering a society of equality. The action plan identifies six strategic pillars, aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5:¹³⁴
 - **Pillar 1: Human Capital Development for Women:** Focuses on shifting societal attitudes to support the development of women's human capital, creating opportunities for income and education, especially in STEM fields. This aligns with SDG 5 and its targets, including:
 - Target 5.1:** End all forms of discrimination against women and girls.
 - Target 5.4:** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work.
 - Target 5.5:** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.
 - Target 5.a:** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources.

¹³³ https://www.nesdc.go.th/download/Plan13/Doc/Plan13_Final.pdf

¹³⁴ [https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/55671/แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี\(พ.ศ.๒๕๖๖-๒๕๗๐\).pdf](https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/55671/แผนปฏิบัติการด้านการพัฒนาสตรี(พ.ศ.๒๕๖๖-๒๕๗๐).pdf)

- Target 5.b:** Enhance the use of technology to promote the empowerment of women and girls.
- **Pillar 2: Elimination of Violence Against Women:** This aligns with:
 - Target 5.2:** Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.
 - Target 5.c:** Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.
 - **Pillar 3: Women's Participation in Decision-Making:** This pillar aligns with:
 - Target 5.1:** End all forms of discrimination against women and girls.
 - Target 5.5:** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership in political, economic, and public life.
 - **Pillar 4: Public Communication to Change Attitudes, Values, and Beliefs:** Aims to create a societal environment conducive to gender equality, aligning with:
 - Target 5.1:** End all forms of discrimination against women and girls.
 - **Pillar 5: Development of Management Tools to Empower Women and Promote Gender Equality:** This aligns with:
 - Target 5.c:** Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.
 - **Pillar 6: Core Competency Development of National Women's Development Mechanisms:** This aligns with:
 - Target 5.c:** Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

34. Please describe your country's system for tracking the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting), including the approximate proportion of the national budget that is invested in this area.

Thailand's national budget allocation aligns primarily with the objectives of the National Strategy and government policies. Seven key agencies oversee budget monitoring and evaluation:

1. Bureau of the Budget
2. Office of the Auditor General and internal audit units of budget-receiving agencies
3. Comptroller General's Department
4. Office of the Civil Service Commission (OCSC)
5. Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC)
6. Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC)
7. Parliamentary Budget Office¹³⁵

In 2022, Thailand established a working group to advance gender-responsive budgeting, chaired by the Director-General of the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development. This group includes experts from the Committee on the Promotion of Women's Status and representatives from relevant agencies such as the Bureau of the Budget and the NESDC.

¹³⁵ <https://www.parliament.go.th/ewtadmin/ewt/parbudget/download/article/3follow.pdf>

To support GRB, the Cabinet approved the distribution of a gender-responsive budgeting handbook to government agencies and other stakeholders in 2021. Subsequently, in December 2021, eight agencies signed a memorandum of understanding to promote GRB. Between 2022 and 2024, 11 pilot agencies implemented GRB using a designated checklist.

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development will continue to coordinate the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting. This will involve identifying challenges, addressing obstacles, and integrating lessons learned to improve the GRB process.¹³⁶

Q35. What formal mechanisms are in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?¹³⁷

Thailand employs several formal mechanisms to engage various stakeholders, including the private sector, academia, civil society, and international development organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These mechanisms include workshops, training sessions, and the annual Women's Assembly, which serves as a platform for stakeholders to express their views, share challenges affecting women's rights in different sectors, and discuss obstacles to promoting gender equality. For instance, the 2023 Women's Assembly recommended that the government enhance women's participation in decision-making at the policy level, while the 2022 Assembly emphasized promoting gender equality in the context of climate change.

Thailand's action plan to advance Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) encompasses six key areas:

1. **Raising Awareness:** Focusing on gender issues, gender equality, integrating gender perspectives in operations, and understanding relevant laws and international agreements on women's rights.
2. **Analyzing Linkages:** Examining connections between the SDGs and the sub-goals of the master plans under the National Strategy.
3. **Establishing Coordination Mechanisms:** Setting up various driving mechanisms, such as the National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD), the National Policy and Strategy Committee on the Advancement of Women's Status, and the Gender Equality Promotion Committee.
4. **Operational Implementation:** Employing value chain analysis principles to achieve the SDGs.
5. **Building Development Networks:** Forming partnerships across the private sector, academia, civil society, and international development organizations to drive the 2030 SDGs.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Developing a tracking system to monitor the annual progress of the relevant sectors in achieving the SDGs.

¹³⁶ เอกสารกองส่งเสริมความเสมอภาคระหว่างเพศ และการขับเคลื่อนการจัดทำงบประมาณที่คำนึงถึงเพศภาวะ ของกระทรวง พม.

¹³⁷ <https://www.dwf.go.th/storage/28675/e1b2b580-b9aa-40a0-b199-fe1bef4979c1-document-5684.pdf>

In 2015, Thailand established the National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD) under the Prime Minister's Office Regulations on the National Committee for Sustainable Development (No. 2), B.E. 2558 (2015), to formulate national policies and strategies for sustainable development in alignment with international agreements and cooperation.¹³⁸ The NCSD meets at least once a year, with the most recent meeting held on March 8, 2023. The focus of these meetings includes fostering the participation of networks from the private sector, academia, civil society, children and youth, and international development partners to align strategic plans with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.¹³⁹

Q36. Please describe how stakeholders have contributed to the preparation of the present national report

The Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development (DWF), under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, serves as the lead agency responsible for compiling and preparing the national report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. While the DWF plays a central role in coordinating the report, it does not independently drive all the relevant activities, as the strategic plans for advancing women's status involve multiple agencies. Therefore, the participation of various stakeholders in preparing this report is facilitated through cooperation from stakeholders, including government agencies, the private sector, and civil society organizations that actively promote women's status in other areas. These stakeholders are requested to report on their respective activities, and the DWF compiles these inputs to prepare the comprehensive national report in alignment with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Q37. Please describe your country's action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women.

Thailand submitted its 8th periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to the Committee on the Convention in January 2024. The report comprehensively addresses all recommendations and concerns raised by the Committee regarding the status of women in Thailand. It outlines progress made in amending laws, policies, and action plans aimed at promoting gender equality and eliminating all forms of violence against women. Additionally, the report highlights the challenges and obstacles encountered in implementing the Convention, along with proposed solutions to address these issues.

¹³⁸ <https://sdgs.nesdc.go.th/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/การประชุมทศวรรษที่-1-2558.pdf>

¹³⁹ https://sdgs.nesdc.go.th/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/20230512-รายงานการประชุมทศวรรษที่-1-66_Final.pdf

Chapter 5 Data and statistics

Q38. What are the most important areas in which your country has made most progress over the past five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level?

38.1 Promulgated laws, regulations, or statistical program/strategy setting out the development of gender statistics

Over the past five years, Thailand has made significant progress in developing data systems to promote gender equality and reduce inequalities. One of the key developments is the implementation of the Thai People Map and Analytics Platform (TPMAP), which aims to create data-driven policies tailored to the specific needs of target groups. TPMAP collects data to support and develop vulnerable populations across all genders and ages in five dimensions: (1) Health, (2) Education, (3) Living conditions, (4) Income, and (5) Access to government welfare.

Additionally, Thailand has developed other systems to support women, such as the E-AHT system for managing data related to legal proceedings and assistance for victims of human trafficking, the violence data platform (www.violence.in.th), and data systems addressing violence against children, women, and domestic violence.

Moreover, Thailand has introduced the MSO-LogBook, an electronic family record system, as a tool for managing data to address inequality sustainably and ensure equitable access to rights and social welfare. In fiscal year 2022, 497,496 households were registered in the MSO-LogBook to assist vulnerable groups in accessing their rights and welfare.¹⁴⁰ As of June 2023, the system recorded data for 768,304 households, with 637,081 families having received support and quality of life improvements.

Thailand has also developed innovations and technologies to facilitate access to welfare services through government applications and online loan facilities for small businesses, enabling elderly citizens to access welfare services anywhere, anytime. The country has also established the DOP (Department of Older Persons) Center, a central database system for supporting elderly individuals in difficult circumstances.¹⁴¹

Another significant achievement is the establishment of a database aligned with Objective 8, which focuses on strengthening gender equality mechanisms under the Promotion of Equality framework of the Women's Development Action Plan Phase 1 (2020-2022). This plan included strategies for government agencies to develop gender equality databases. In 2022, 27 agencies initiated the development of gender equality databases. These databases, disaggregated by gender, include:¹⁴²

1. **Personnel Database:** Compiled data disaggregated by gender to inform training and development plans for personnel.
2. **Target Group Data Collection:** Collected gender-disaggregated data to inform policies, projects, and activities, such as:

¹⁴⁰ รายงานผลการทำงานของ พม. ช่วงปี 2562-2566

¹⁴¹ Ibis

¹⁴² รายงานตามแผนปฏิบัติการพัฒนาสตรี ระยะที่ 1 พ.ศ. 2563-2565

- The Department of Social Development and Welfare collects gender-disaggregated data within its social service systems.
- The Social Security Office gathers data on insured persons under Article 33 and Article 39, categorized by gender.
- The Office of the Attorney General maintains gender-disaggregated data on individuals seeking legal assistance and consultation, as well as on victims, witnesses, and suspects interviewed by prosecutors.
- The Department of Skill Development compiles gender-disaggregated data in areas related to workforce skill development.

Q39. Over the next five years, what are your country's priorities for strengthening national gender statistics?

39.1 Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programs and projects

As highlighted in question 38, Thailand has developed the Thai People Map and Analytics Platform (TPMAP), a targeted data management system designed to inform policy-making that specifically addresses the issues faced by vulnerable groups of all genders. Additionally, the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027) outlines key pillars, measures, and strategies aimed at enhancing human resources, creating opportunities, ensuring social equity, and fostering gender equality awareness. It also focuses on reducing disparities and promoting justice for women affected by violence through gender-disaggregated data systems.

One significant initiative within this framework is the collection of gender-disaggregated data on decision-makers in both the public and private sectors, as specified in Measure 15 of the Women's Development Action Plan (2023 - 2027).

Measure 15 focuses on collecting gender-disaggregated data and studying situations to elevate the status and promote the advancement of women. This measure falls under Pillar 5, which emphasizes developing management tools to empower women and promote gender equality. Notable projects include the establishment of a central database on violence against women, which aims to provide comprehensive, current, and accurate reflections of the violence situation.¹⁴³

Q40. What gender-specific indicators has your country prioritized for monitoring progress on the SDGs?

According to Thailand's 2023 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Status Report, the country has prioritized monitoring progress on all 14 indicators under Goal 5, which focuses on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Thailand collects comparative statistical data to analyze and

¹⁴³ แผนปฏิบัติการด้านพัฒนาสตรี พ.ศ. 2566-2570

design name targeted and focused policies and programs aimed at addressing gender inequalities. For example, indicators 5.5.1 and 5.5.2, which track the proportion of women in political and managerial positions, as well as in decision-making roles, highlight the lower representation of women compared to men. These insights have been integrated into the Women's Development Action Plan to reduce the gender gap in political participation and leadership.¹⁴⁴

Additionally, Thailand emphasizes the importance of monitoring, follow up and evaluating progress on gender equality and the elimination of violence against women through the involvement of various stakeholders, including government agencies, the private sector, civil society, and international development organizations. This inclusive approach aims to enhance the progress of indicators under Goal 5 of the SDGs, promoting sustained advancement toward gender equality.

Q41. Which data disaggregation's are routinely provided by major surveys in your country?

The primary tool currently used by Thailand for population data collection is the Thai People Map and Analytics Platform (TPMAP) managed by the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council. This platform gathers data across five key areas: health, living conditions, education, income, and access to public services.¹⁴⁵ Additionally, the Electronic Family Logbook (MSO-LOGBOOK) system is utilized, which serves as both a service innovation and a policy-driven tool to address poverty and inequality in the aforementioned five areas, with a targeted approach. It is used for the provision of assistance, protection of welfare, and social services to children, youth, and individuals facing social issues, as well as for rehabilitation of physical and mental health.¹⁴⁶

Data collection is conducted at the household, family, and individual levels under the project aimed at improving the quality of life for vulnerable groups on a household basis. The disaggregated data collected aligns with the recommendations for the preparation of this report and includes categories such as physical characteristics, income, gender, age, education level, marital status, ethnicity and nationality, disability, region, and community.¹⁴⁷

Chapter 6: Conclusion and Next Steps

Over the past five years, Thailand has demonstrated significant progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Key achievements include the development of comprehensive strategies for women's advancement, the enhancement and reform of laws to promote gender equality and eliminate discrimination, and the empowerment and advancement of women's roles in economic, social, and political sectors. This has been accomplished through mechanisms such as

¹⁴⁴ https://www.nso.go.th/public/e-book/Indicators-SDG/Thai_SDGs_2566/62/

¹⁴⁵ <https://www.tpmaph.in.th/about>

¹⁴⁶ 4 ปี กับผลงาน พม. ช่วงปี 2562-2566

¹⁴⁷ http://nscr.nesdc.go.th/nesdc_uat/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/8.-เอกสารคู่มือระบบ-TPMAP_TPMAP-Logbook.pdf

capacity-building initiatives, education and training programs, platforms for women's participation in addressing problems, and support through Women's Development Funds at various levels. Thailand has emphasized the importance of promoting and supporting all women and girls.

Furthermore, Thailand has undertaken measures to integrate policies for women empowerment and gender equality across all sectors through structural integration mechanisms, such as the Chief Gender Equality Officers (CGEO) and Gender Focal Points (GFP). Additionally, the promotion of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) has been expanded to multiple areas, with plans to implement GRB initiatives with 127 agencies in Suphanburi Province in the fiscal year 2024.¹⁴⁸

The use of data systems and digital technology has driven efforts to address inequalities and inequities in access to public services, with the development of individual-level data collection systems contributing to sustainable solutions for gender inequality and disparities. Efforts are being made to advance the implementation of the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027), ensuring that relevant agencies are well-informed and equipped to promote gender equality and report progress through the Information System for Monitoring and Evaluating the Operational Performance in Reducing Gender Inequality in Society (E-MERGIS), which was launched in 2023.

Despite such advancements, Thailand still faces some challenges, particularly in addressing societal attitudes towards gender equality, which impact the ongoing efforts to promote women's and girls' rights. Moving forward, Thailand remains committed to implement the Women's Development Action Plan (2023-2027), aligned with the 20-year National Strategy and the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan, in order to continue our efforts in promoting equality and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls. Additionally, the monitoring and evaluation systems for the action plan will be further strengthened to ensure that its implementation is aligned with international standards and yields concrete results benefiting all women and girls in the country and beyond.

¹⁴⁸ เอกสารกองส่งเสริมความเสมอภาคระหว่างเพศ