



The National Child and Youth Development Plan B.E. 2555 - 2559 (2012 - 2016)

(Integrating the National Policy and Strategic Plan on Child Development
in accordance with the “World Fit for Children” of B.E. 2550 - 2559 (2007 - 2016)
and Provincial Strategic Plans on Child and Youth - Friendly Cities)



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National Commission on the Promotion of Child and Youth Development

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Foreword

The National Child and Youth Development Plan of B.E. 2555 - 2559 (2012 - 2016) was formulated in accordance with the National Child and Youth Development Promotion Act B.E. 2550 (2007). It aims to provide a framework for the development of programmes and activities for children and youth in consistent with the Eleventh National Economic and Social Development Plan. The main goal of the plan is to ensure that children and youth lead secured lives; have physically and mentally healthy; have ethic and morality and a sense of civic mind; be able to express themselves creatively; and be fundamentally happy.

The plan was formulated with participation from all sectors of society involved in the development of children and youth. Public assemblies were organized to gauge views and opinions concerning child and youth development, on the basis of existing laws and regulations, international instruments and obligations, and related plans. Workshops were also held to collect data on the

situation of children and youth and to listen to views and recommendations on the national plan from child and youth development experts and practitioners.

This national plan was approved by the National Commission on the Promotion of Child and Youth Development on 19 January 2011 and approved in principle by the Cabinet on 3 May 2011. The Government hopes that it will guide the efforts of both the public and private sectors and contribute to effective and efficient protection and development of children and youth, as well as provide guidelines for monitoring and evaluation of actions to ensure achievement of the goal.

Abhisit Vejjajiva
Prime Minister

Chair of the National Commission on
the Promotion of Child and Youth Development

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Introduction

Thailand has been developing its national plans for child and youth development to coincide with the National Economic and Social Development Plan. The First National Child and Youth Development Plan was developed during the cycle of the Fifth National Economic and Social Development Plan B.E. 2525 - 2529 (1982 - 1986). The direction of the policy and plans for child and youth development has been consistent with the focus of each National Economic and Social Development Plan. The focus of the National Child and Youth Development Plan has been on the development of children and youth and prevention of problems, as well as response to the needs of specific target groups. The focus has shifted and been redefined according to the situation. For instance, the Eighth Economic and Social Development Plan put an emphasis on human centered development, the national child and youth development plan during that cycle also emphasised on children and youth as a focus point for development.

The long-term National Child and Youth Development Plan B.E. 2545 - 2554 (2002 - 2011) plan

focused on three main aspects: the development of desirable characteristics in children and youth; the development of family and community; and the development of management and administration systems. Child and Youth, according to the plan, are modified into 2 groups on the basis of;

1) living conditions

- children with difficult circumstances, gifted children, children with special needs and normal children

2) Age group

- 5 years and below : focusing on public health services, pre-school readiness, and child welfare.
- 6 - 14 years : focusing on school education to develop basic intellect and capabilities.
- 15 - 25 years : focusing on education, short - term vocational training, constructive use of time for own, family and community benefits.

In 2007, Thailand developed National Policy and Strategic Plan for “World Fit for Children” (2007 - 2016) focusing on children below 18 years of age. The United Nation General Assembly Special Session on Children

(UNGASS) culminated in the adoption of an outcome document known as “A World Fit for Children”. Member states have obligations to develop national plans of action in pursuant to the goals and targets of the document, focusing on four main aspects: 1) quality of life; 2) quality education; 3) protection of children from abuse, exploitation and violence; and 4) prevention of HIV/AIDS. Thailand’s National Plans of Action for a World Fit for Children (2007 - 2016) consist of 11 strategies and urgent measures as follows:

1. Family Strengthen family’s ability to take care of children; promote enabling environment both economic and social opportunities for family development; and promote services for families with difficulties;

2. Physical and mental health Promote knowledge and skills development, and good health; promote understanding of reproductive health, family education and sex education; improve access to services for children; and promote post - natal care;

3. Safety and prevention of injuries Disseminate knowledge to parents, teachers, communities and organizations on safety promotion and prevention of injuries;

4. Children and HIV/AIDS Ensure that those concerned with children have correct understanding of problems associated with HIV/AIDS and do not have inhibition against people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly children;

5. Education and children Campaign to ensure children in every locality receive age - appropriate education;

6. Children and recreation Promote knowledge on recreation among parents, child - related professionals, community and society in general;

7. Children and culture and religion Instill correct understanding of the true meaning of “national culture”; inculcate positive cultural values and adherence to religious principles;

8. Media and children Promote the knowledge and understanding of child rights principles among the media and improve access for children to creative media;

9. Child and youth participation Promote participation of children in the learning and decision - making of any matter concerning themselves; promote child and youth association and child organizations;

10. Special protection for children in need of special protection Ensure that they receive all necessary services and promote specialized knowledge and skills for child minders and professionals involved with these children;

11. Law and regulations Revise, amend and introduce legislation, regulations and rules to improve protection for children and ensure effective enforcement.

In addition, in 2007 the Government declared issue of children and youth as national agenda to stimulate the implementation of related plan, focusing on five issues, namely: 1) creative media for children, youth and family; 2) creative activities for children and youth; 3) quality day care, child development center and kindergarten; 4) child-friendly cities; and 5) family law. The Ministry of Interior has been designated as the main authority to ensure the implementation of child - friendly city promotion scheme and the main mechanism to translate child and youth agenda into practice. A National Committee for the Promotion of Child-friendly Cities was established along with a Committee for the Development of Strategy for the Promotion of Child - friendly Cities at the provincial level.

The latter is responsible for formulating a plan of action and annual plan for the province. The plan of action for child - friendly cities of 2007 - 2010 focused on the following aspects: safety; health; family; learning; child - protection; child and youth participation; risk-aversion; and other contingent matters depending on the situation of each city. The National Child and Youth Development Plan B.E. 2555 - 2559 (2012 - 2016) was developed, to capitalize on these two main plans. The National Commission on the Promotion of Child and Youth Development, chaired by the Prime Minister, passed a resolution on 19 January 2011 calling for an integration of the National Policy and Strategic Plan of Action for “World Fit for Children” (2007 - 2016) and the Provincial Strategic Plans on Child and Youth - Friendly Cities, to consolidate efforts and ensure consistency at the national, provincial and local levels.

The formulation process for the National Child and Youth Development Plan of 2012 - 2016 involved participation from all sectors. Public assemblies were organized around the country to gather opinions and recommendations. Based on the opinions collected, the goal of the plan was established, that is to ensure security,

health, happiness and creativity among children and youth. The plan was drafted, taking into account international obligations of Thailand and related plans and the principle of participation from relevant sectors, including the private sector, business community and central and local governments. Workshops were organized to collect data on the situation of children and youth and challenges they faced, the outcome of which was used to determine the scope of the plan. The draft plan was put forward to child and youth development experts at workshops and seminars and subsequently approved by the National Commission on the Promotion of Child and Youth Development and the Cabinet.

The National Child and Youth Development Plan of B.E. 2555 - 2559 (2012 - 2016) focuses on age-appropriate development of children and youth; protection and development of children in need of special protection measures; strengthening of Child and Youth Councils; establishment of alliance for the promotion of child and youth; and improvement of administrative systems for child and youth protection and development.

The National Plan will provide a framework for the development of the plan of action and for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation to ensure achievement of the goal and vision therein.

Definition

Child means any person below 18 years of age.

Youth means any person from 18 years - 25 years of age.

Children in need of special protection measures means children who face social problems or have difficulties in living that need special interventions. These consist of three groups of children, namely:

1) Children with problems related to family, such as orphans, foster children, abandoned children, street children, abused children;

2) Children with problems related to state, such as displaced children, children of immigrants, hill tribe children, stateless children and children with no birth certificates;

3) Children with combined problems related to family, society and state, such as victims of human trafficking, child labour, children in the juvenile justice system, children living in slums, economically deprived children, children of wage labourers, children with substance abuse problems, and children engaged in violence.

Special need children refers to gifted children and children with physical or intellectual impairs (visual, hearing, communication, physical, motor, emotional, behavioural, learning), children with autism and double disabilities, who need special care, development and rehabilitation.

Security means the abilities to lead a safety life in family, community and society, to have good relationships, to be aware of and understand responsibilities towards families, to make a living and earn sufficient income and to receive appropriate welfare services.

Healthy refers to physical, mental, emotional, intellectual and social conditions and conditions of being bodily and mentally free of illness.

To be good means to have a sense of ethics and morality and good citizenship in accordance with Thai culture and Thai way of life and democratic principles under the constitutional monarchy.

To be happy refers to happiness at the individual level which is not in conflict with the happiness of Thai people in general. The plan envisages instilling a sense of happiness and adaptability in the face of change and a sense of self - sufficiency, knowledge of one's ability and inclination and a sense of self - worth.

To be creative means to have positive abilities with a focus on morality, participation and self - expression under the principles of democracy, and to create space for such activities and expressions.

Part 1

Situation and Concept of Children and Youth Development

1. Changes affecting the development of children and youth

1.1 Demographic structure According to demographic data of the Department of Provincial Administration, the Ministry of Interior as of December 2009, the total population of Thailand was 63.5 million. Of this number, 22.95 million were children and youth (aged under 25 years old) or 36.85 per cent of total population (2.3 million were children 0 - 2 years; 2.4 million were children 3 - 5 years; 5.91 million were children 6 - 12 years; 4.85 million were children 13 - 17 years; and 7.46 million were youth aged 18 - 25 years). In addition, there were 200,000 children aged below 15 who were born in Thailand to immigrant parents and registered with the Ministry of Labour. It is projected that child and youth population in Thailand is likely to drop continuously judging from a survey of demographic change over the past five years (2001 - 2005). The survey showed that during that period there were 0.75 - 0.81

million newborns per year. This was due largely to the tendency of women in reproductive age getting married later than before and effective birth control methods. Working age population remains stable, while senior population has been continuously on the rise, projecting to reach 14.7 per cent of total population by 2016 (Population prospects, 2000 - 2033). This situation presents a good rationale to focus on child and youth quality development, on building skills and knowledge of the next generation preparing for effective replacement of declining number of current workforce.

1.2 Family structure and environment The number of households in Thailand is 21.14 million, averaging 3.0 people per one household (source: the Department of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior, December 2009). Registration of marriage is decreasing, while divorce rate is increasing. In 2007, 1 in 3 marriages ended with divorce. This trend is consistent with the surveying of the National Institute for Child and Family Development, Mahidol University, which pointed out that the divorce rates doubled from 50,000 couples in 1993 to 100,000 couples in 2007.

The number of nucleus family has grown, changing the traditional structure of Thai family, from extended family to smaller, more individualistic family units. There are more variety of family structure, ranging from single - parent families to adolescent parent families, non - relative families, skipped generation (grandparents and children), and families with same - sex parents. Child and youth population survey in 2009 by the National Statistical Office found that 61.8 per cent of children lived with parents while 20.1 per cent live with single parent. Bigger number of children not living with parents was found outside municipality areas. Changing way of life which often requires both parents to work has resulted in reduced time spent with children, depriving them of appropriate care and attention and leading to children being drawn to social vices, such as computer game addiction, substance abuse and premature sexual relations.

1.3 Technological advance The fast pace advance in technology and communication in the form of high speed internet, 3G mobile network has contributed to the blurring of geographical borders and facilitated

easy and fast communication across the globe. This situation presents an excellent opportunity for initiating new channels for learning and knowledge finding and creative expression. On the other side, technological advance has had a negative impact of technology addiction and over consumption and widening the gaps between people with resources and those without.

1.4 Socio - cultural change Adoption of western values has resulted in a number of changes, notably:

1) Imitation of western way of life focusing on freedom of expression and individualistic values. Happiness is defined by individual needs. Children and youth with emotional immaturity are easily influenced, having impact on their attitudes on family and society in general.

2) Instant information and fast pace connection via a virtual world contribute to increased knowledge and connectivity. Virtual network has become an increasingly important part of people's lives. This has, in turn, reduced face - to - face and personal interaction. Children and youth are able to obtain information and

learn through modern communication technology whenever or wherever they are. Those without enough discretion and maturity in using the technology may fall into a risk group. Some parents may not understand the benefits of new channel of learning via virtual and only see the on-line world in a negative light. This may contribute to widening generation gap and discrepancy in accessing technology.

3) The hectic pace of today's reality is prompting many Thais to look back to the old and peaceful way of life. This presents a good opportunity to encourage children and youth to learn to appreciate the concept of self - sufficiency. The Reform Thailand Plan of 2011 promotes new generation of farmers, focusing on vocational skills training together with access to land and capital. It also promotes vocational training in workplaces and small enterprises, as well as community as learning space.

4) Movement of labour across regional and national borders has exposed children and youth to multiculturalism. It is important that they understand how to live harmoniously in a multicultural society.

5) Sub - regional Cooperation, particularly when the region becomes ASEAN Community in 2015 These would cause an impact on human resource development, due to the free movement of labour and services. In 2015, seven professional fields will be liberalized, including engineering, nursing, architecture, medicine, dentistry, accountancy and surveying. To prepare children and youth to compete successfully in the new job market, it is important to focus on specialized knowledge and skills, ability to apply new technology, foreign language proficiency, and multicultural awareness.

2. Situation and trends

2.1 Security Security remains a problem for Thai children and youth, due to societal changes, parenting approaches, imbalanced economy and insufficient discretion to be selective of positive values.

1) Safety in society According to a survey conducted by Rajanagarindra Institute of Child Development in 2009, the use of violence among Thai children and youth increased more than 10 per cent compared to the year 2004 and 2007. Children also

tend to be involved in violence at a younger age, mostly between 12-18 years. Violence in children is most commonly found in the conflict between institutes, domestic violence and violence seen from the media, particularly television and the internet. Violence in children also has a correlation with the living environment. It was found that children who have witnessed illegal acts committed by people in their own communities are 1.7 times more likely to be violent themselves than children who have not. The ABAC poll (1 - 8 February 2008) showed that generally children are able to walk to a bar within 7 minutes, to game and gambling parlor within 15 minutes and to inappropriate entertaining places within 30 minutes from where they live. These findings are consistent with the findings from the provincial survey of child and youth situation (2008 - 2009) which showed that there are 2 - 3 times more entertainment places that are inappropriate for children and youth than there are creative spaces in many provinces. The Center of Disadvantaged Children Studies of Chulalongkorn University also found similar trend of riskier spaces outnumbering creative spaces for children by 3 to 1.

2) The role of family has a big impact on the security of children and youth According to the opinions gauged from the Child and Youth Assemblies organized in 2009, there is not much interaction within the family. Family members do not spend time talking to each other, prompting children to turn more to seek temporary comfort and pleasure from social vices and to behave inappropriately to seek attention. One of the major problems is that parents cannot themselves be good role models for their children, lack parenting skill and have too high demand and expectation of their children's academic performances. The latter has resulted in children becoming stressful and unhappy at schools. The increasing trend of nucleus families and single parent families and economic demand which requires both parents to work have impacts upon the security of children and youth. There are a large number of families in the rural areas where parents have left to work in the cities, leaving children in the care of grandparents. Given this situation, quality day - care centers can be a viable option to reduce pressures on parents and contribute to a full development of children. An evaluation of child development centres carried out in 2009 found that

early childhood development centres are still lacking in many localities and many centres still lack appropriate resources in administration, technical expertise and human resources. Problems found in the centres are related to the lack of specialized knowledge of child minders and low importance given to pre - school development by the local authority (Office of the Economic and Social Development Board, 2010). Much needs to be done to improve this situation and to give more attention to the standards and quality of early childhood development centers, in line with the human development strategy of the Eleventh National Economic and Social Plan.

3) Employment There are a number of children who have entered the labour market at a young age without enough maturity and capacities, resulting in being deceived and unfairly exploited. According to the data from the National Statistical Office, child labour is on a decline in the age group of 15 - 18 years. The structure of the labour market and demand which depends on low - skilled labour, most often with only lower or higher secondary school education, and unemployment of university graduates reflect an imbalance between

labour need and human resource production. The data from the National Statistical Office showed that in 2008, workplaces had a recruitment demand of 46,553 university graduates but were still 29,372 short of recruits with 91,192 unemployed. Graduates of higher secondary schools and vocational schools, averaging 300,000 and 400,000 per year, also enter the job market at a low rate, due to aspiration to continue further studies to earn higher incomes. This trend obliges workplaces to look for labour with lower education.

2.2 Physical and mental well - being

1) Physical well - being The survival rate of newborns has improved. Infants with birth weight below 2,500 grams drop continuously. Immunization has been successful. Risks of Thalassemia and HIV/AIDS have declined. Exclusive breastfeeding rate remains low at 7.6 per cent. Infants in the rural area have higher tendency to be breastfed than infants in the urban areas. The use of breast - milk substitutes has increased. One in four children have over - nutrition or obesity problem. Prevalence of obesity is expected to increase to one in five of children in pre - school age and one in 10 of

children in school age. The overall increase of obese children is 20 per cent. Report of the Situation of Children and Youth 2008 - 2009 from the provincial child and youth monitoring project pointed out that consumption of snacks and carbonated drinks was on the rise, while time spent on physical exercise declined. Children engaged in sexual relationship younger, from 18 - 19 years old on average in 1996 to 15 - 16 years old in 2009. Use of condoms for contraception was only 56.9 per cent, pointing to the likelihood of a rise in sexually transmitted diseases (STD). In 2003, the rate of STD per 100,000 population was 2.58 per cent, while in 2004 - 2007 the rates climbed to 4.12, 3.29 and 3.51 per cent respectively. The data from the Department of Disease Control showed that there were 198 AIDS - infected children and youth aged between 0 - 24 years in 2010. Teenage pregnancy has risen from 12.5 per cent in 1996 to 16.8 per cent in 2010. Undesired pregnancy led to high rates of abortion, with 29.3 per cent of abortion in 2009 done by young girls below 20 years of age. Reproductive rates in women and girls below 20 years old increased from 13.9 per cent in 2004 to 16.0 in 2009 (source: the Department of Health, Ministry

of Public Health). According to UNICEF, teenage mothers number as high as 150,000, the highest in Asia.

2) Psychological well - being Children and youth face stress and pressures from various sources, including academic competition and violence. Data of out - patient visits at the Rajanagarindra Institute showed that there were 5,388 children and youth receiving consultations in 2008 and 5,609 in 2009. According to the Ministry of Public Health, the suicide rate in 2007 was higher among boys and young men aged 15 - 29 years compared to girls and young women of the same age group, at 10 : 2.2 per 100,000 population.

3) Intellectual development and Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) It was found that 60 per cent of pregnant women suffered from IDD measured by urinary iodine excretion. Acute IDD increases risks of infant born with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The majority of infants with IDD were found in the Northeastern region (source: Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, 2010). The Ministry of Public Health Notice issued on 1 October 2010 stipulated the amount of iodine intake requirement for Thai people. The notice became effective on 31 December 2010 and

has been implemented in conjunction with other complementary measures. Parents are encouraged to read to their children regularly to stimulate intellectual and psychological development of children as well as strengthen familial bond (Book for Children Foundation, 2010). According to a survey of pre - school children in Thailand, it was found that 95.9 per cent of children were cared for by members of the families and do at least four activities together, including reading, looking at picture books, story - telling, singing, outdoor playing, counting, and drawing. About 40 per cent of these children live in households with at least three children books in possession and 60 per cent live in households with at least three non-children books. Regardless of whether the books at home are children or non - children books, being exposed to books and reading together in general will develop the minds of children and create bonding in the families. Intellectual stimulation has an impact on academic performance and intellectual quotients (IQ) of children. It was found that 73 per cent of children aged 3 - 4 years receive some form of education and development activities. Of children living in the municipal areas, 56.2 per cent go to kindergartens.

Of children living outside the municipal areas, 66.2 per cent go to child development centers. The highest school attendance rate was found in children aged 6 - 11 years old, at 99.4 per cent. Overall, academic achievement of children and youth in Thailand is quite low. The average result of the O - NET (Ordinary Educational Test) in 2007 - 2009 of students in Mathayom 3 and Mathayom 6 was below 50 per cent in all subjects. They also had below average literacy and mathematics scores at 7.2 per cent (reading), 17.7 per cent (writing) and 22.3 per cent (mathematics). Thai children in general also lack basic life skills such as swimming, bicycling, and foreign language proficiency. School drop - outs numbered 119,626 or 1.4 per cent of all students. The most common reason for not continuing schooling was no desire to continue further after completion of each tier (61.1 per cent), followed by financial difficulties (21.7 per cent) (Sources: Office of Welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups and Faculty of Social Welfare, Thammasart University, 2010). The management of lifelong learning, formal and informal education still lack of appropriate specialised content and approaches and involves rules

and regulations that hinder true development of lifelong learning practice and habit. The teaching profession fails to attract competent and talented human resources. The curriculum and process for producing teachers are substandard and not up - to - date. It needs more depth and consistency in instilling ethical values and pride in the profession to make education reform a reality (source: Ministry of Education, 2010). Also lacking are professionals who can provide guidance and counsels to children and families on both school and life matters. However, the national policy and strategy for education reform (Ministry of Education, 2010) focuses on revising curriculum to focus on specialized fields that are responsive to national needs in preparation for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and promote greater career options.

2.3 Ethics, morality and good citizenship

According to a survey on life capitals of Thai children and youth (Suriyadeo Tripathi, 2009), children and youth in Thailand have many weaknesses, notably honesty. Even top students academically score low on this point. Children rarely participate in religious

activities, lacking spiritual guidance, ethics and morality. They also place low importance on good citizenship and community work. Meanwhile the provincial survey on the situation of children and youth (2010) found positive trends of ethical behaviors in children, such as social and community volunteering which increased from 57 per cent in 2008 to 62 per cent in 2009. Similar trend was found in religion - related activities. The number of children visiting temples regularly increased from 9 per cent in 2008 to 13 per cent in 2009. The number of children giving alms regularly to monks increased from 11 per cent to 16 per cent and the number of children saying prayers before bed also increased from 24 per cent to 27 per cent in the same period. The number of children doing meditation regularly also increased from 8 per cent to 13 per cent.

The results of the first and second child and youth assemblies (in 2009 and 2010) showed that children and youth want to be involved in the process of organizing child and youth activities and to have creative spaces to do activities with adults. More efforts are needed to encourage children to learn to find their own

paths, appreciate how to be good citizens and care for their country and community. The children who volunteer and participate in social and community work should receive extra support and special consideration in accessing university education.

2.4 Happiness It was found that children and youth today face increasing stress. They also display increased materialistic values, such as using luxury products, and spend more time on computer and communication technology. The adoption of western idea on sexual freedom has led to an increase in teenage pregnancy and abortion. There has been an increased trend in group association to fulfill individual and collective needs and demonstrate group identities, sometime with negative results, such as car racing on highways. However, positive group association can also be found, such as those engaged in volunteering work to help victims of natural disaster and for national reconciliation.

2.5 Creative abilities There is a limited space for creative expression, despite the creation of Child and Youth Councils at the national, provincial and local levels. They need support, financially and technically, in order to function effectively. More is needed to create true leadership and spirit of unity. Standards are needed to enable the councils to become meaningful mechanisms to drive activities for children and youth in the communities. They need to receive support from local authority, such as local administrative organizations, as well as private organizations, business community and community organizations. One of the issues arising from the assemblies concerns the development of local child and youth development plan and corresponding budget to be allocated and executed by the local administrative organizations on a continuous basis. According to a report by Sompong Chitradap and team in 2010, 80 per cent of local administrative organizations pay more attention to infrastructure and material development than creative development of children and youth plans. The National Child and Youth Development Promotion Act of 2007 provided for the promotion of

the roles of private organization and community organizations in the development of children and youth by giving incentives to organizations that organize activities or have done work to promote child and youth development to register as child and youth organizations and are eligible to apply for subsidies and support from the government. The child and youth assemblies also expressed their wishes to have a more engagement from media sectors who portray more positive image of children and youth and help society to realise the positive contributions made by children and youth, instead of focusing only on the negative and vulnerable images, for example the portrait of victims or perpetrators of violence. Children and youth involved in volunteer and charitable work should be given due recognition and supported with appropriate technical guidance.

Situation of children in need of special protection measures and special need children

Due to considerable change of the structure and composition of families in Thailand, notably the skipped generation households consisting of senior members and children, about 2 per cent of these children as well as 7 per cent of orphaned children are identified as at risk of being neglected, deprived, abused or exploited. The number of children facing difficulties increases annually. For example, during 2007 - 2009, the number of children in institutional care and half - way homes, children who were victims of trafficking and abuse, and children in conflict with the law increased across the board.

Children and violence Violence exists at home and in school. Conflict between institutes sometimes resulted in death (source: Assist. Prof. Sombat Tapunya). The survey on bullying in schools showed that 60 per cent of teachers felt corporal punishment is acceptable and necessary. Bullying sometimes goes unnoticed and victims keep silent, making the problem difficult to

solve. A number of agencies have organized activities to address the issue of bullying and conflict between institutes through various means, such as surveillance programme and conflict resolution skills development. However, these activities have not been very effective due to the attitude of responsible authority and lack of specialized resources to address the problems.

Children with disabilities The national survey conducted by the National Statistical Office in 2007 found that there were 1.83 million people with disabilities country-wide, or 2.9 per cent of the total population. Of this number, 74,502 were children below 18 years, divided into 43,057 boys and 31,445 girls. Registration of person with disabilities was introduced in 1991 to improve the opportunity for capacity building. Challenge exists in regard to facilities for people with disabilities and access to welfare services, including education, employment and living condition.

Children affected by HIV/AIDS As of January 2008, there were a total of 345,196 people living with AIDS. Of this number, 93,034 have died. There has

been a decline in the number of people living with AIDS and people who died of AIDS. The treatment of anti - viral drugs has contributed to prolong the lives of AIDS patients. Most people living with AIDS were women aged 15 - 29 years (27.8 per cent), raising a concern over transmission to children. In teenagers aged 15 - 19, the ration of girls to boys is 2:1. In children aged 0 - 14 years, 3.97 per cent were infected. Of this number, 3.13 per cent were below school-age. The most common risk factors include: sexual relations (84.01 per cent); intravenous drug use (4.6 per cent); mother - to - child transmission (3.82 per cent); blood transfusion (0.03 per cent); other (7.55 per cent). The Ministry of Public Health has implemented its prevention measures and continued its efforts to address the problem consistently. However, challenges remain.

Economically deprived children Efforts have been made to improve the lives of deprived population by improving access to basic social services, education, healthcare and living arrangements. Budget has been allocated especially to assist children and families in need in the North, Northeast and three southernmost

provinces through education fund. The fund is divided into education loans for university students which have to be paid back upon finding employment with salary threshold and grants for deprived students with no requirement for repayment. Other measures include the creation of labour protection network and educational assistance to workers. Cooperation from the private sector has been in the form of scholarship and schools in deprived areas. However, there remains a pocket of deprived population who are not able to access those services.

Stateless children, children in refugee camps and children of migrant workers Efforts to address the problem of stateless children include the registration of personal data and birth registration of children born in Thailand; implementation of strategy to address the problem of status and rights of person of 2005; provision of educational services to those without house registration or nationality in compliance with the Cabinet resolution dated 5 July 2005; and relevant legislation amendments over the period of 2007 - 2008, including Act concerning the Status of Persons, Nationality and Civil Registration;

Act concerning the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking; Labour Protection Act; Penal Code concerning the protection of children in the justice system; act concerning equal protection for girls and boys against sexual abuse; and Criminal Procedures Code relating to the interrogation of children and witness in court proceedings. On 21 September 2010, Thailand finally withdrew its reservation to Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning nationality, opening up opportunities for stateless children to receive nationality (not necessarily Thai). Gaps exist, nonetheless, in the understanding and interpretation of these policies and enforcement.

Children in refugee camps Thailand observes the principle of non - refoulement (protection against forced repatriation). Special camps have been set up in nine areas in four northern provinces and along the western Thai - Myanmar borders. Thailand has permitted displaced persons fleeing armed conflicts to reside temporarily on Thai soil based on the humanitarian principles until it is considered safe for them to return. However, a large number have stayed many generations

and still are not able to return due to security reason at the countries of origin. Some have stayed over 30 years. Education programmes have been provided with cooperation from over ten development agencies at three educational levels (Grade 1 - 10). Subjects include Thai, Burmese, Karenese language, science, mathematics, history, geography, hygiene, etc. There are three assessments per year and certificates are given upon completion by the camp education committee and the organizers. Those who graduated Grade 10 may enter vocational training programmes organized by the Ministry of Interior, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and non - governmental organizations. The curriculum has been adapted and improve in consistent with Thai school standards. Certificates can also be used for continuing their education upon returning to the home countries or upon resettlement in a third country.

Children of migrant workers Thailand has made some serious efforts to address the issue of migrant workers through legislative change in 2004 to give temporary permission for employers to hire migrants legally and for migrant workers and accompanied persons

aged above one year old to register with the authority. As a result, the number of registered migrants increased from 1.3 million in 2004 to 1.52 in 2006. These migrants were allowed extension of their stay in 2007 based on the bilateral agreements between Thailand and Lao PDR, and with Myanmar and Cambodia. Registration is made with the Ministry of Labour and the registered workers receive civil identification card (Tor Ror 38 Kor) with 13 digit - identification number and allowed to work in specifically designated areas. The Ministry of Public Health has been providing outreach welfare services, health check - up, health insurance against serious communicable diseases, such as TB, leprosy and elephantiasis, and preventive care against HIV. Non-governmental organizations in the areas also coordinate to provide AZT to pregnant women with HIV. Mobile health units visit the areas together with international health volunteers to provide training on midwifery, distribute birth delivery kits, and organize relevant activities in areas where there are risk behaviours. Other assistance include mother and child health services, birth control programme, issuance of birth certificate for babies born in hospitals, immunization, health survey,

training for employers, training for international health volunteers, development of healthcare manual in Burmese, and educational services.

Child labour Based on a number of researches and studies, foreign child labour is estimated at 100,000 spreading across 43 provinces where foreign labour employment allowed. Survey conducted jointly between the government of Thailand and International Labour Organization found that 35 per cent were children aged below 15 years and 63 per cent had to work more than eight hours per day. Some who migrate cannot access healthcare and education.

Street children Data from various sources show that there are 20,000 street children, the majority of which are beggars and child labour. Of this number, 5,000 received assistance from the public and private sectors.

Sexual exploitation and child trafficking Article 276 - 285 of the Penal Code provides protection for children who are victims of sexual abuse. The Prevention

and Suppression of Trafficking in Human of 2008 contains provisions concerning assistance to victims and increase the penalty for offences against children aged 15 - 18 years. The penalty terms will be doubled if the victims are below 15 years. Thailand also developed an MOU on common operational guidelines for government and non - government agencies engaged in addressing trafficking in women and children in 1999. National Policy and Plan for the Prevention and Resolution of Domestic and Cross - Border Trafficking in Women and Children was approved in 2003 and expanded to bilateral agreements with neighboring countries, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. Thailand also cooperated with ILO IPEC in the form of Mekong Sub - regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children, promoting employment as a means to prevent trafficking. There are other projects and programmes with collaboration from international organizations. However, challenges remain.

Children in the criminal justice system In 2010, there were 44,000 children who were in custody on criminal charges. Of this number, about 40,400 were boys and 3,600 were girls. These children were assisted by the Juvenile Observation and Protection Centres. However, these children need continuing monitoring and support after they leave the centres to ensure they will not fall into repeat offences.

Children in the border provinces in the south.

The number of violence cases in southern part of Thailand during 2004 and 2005 have increased to 1,843 and 1,703 respectively from about 68 cases in a decade earlier. Death toll arised to more than 2,460 of which 1,792 became widows and children who lost their parents were about 3,482 Psychological affect to children and youth in the areas has become the great concern.

Gifted children

There are also a number of children who are gifted. Extrapolation based on statistics of 7 - 800,000 children born per year reveals the likelihood of 1 - 3

per cent of highly capable children per professional field. If given appropriate support, they would have the potential to contribute substantially to the country, economically and socially. Many governments around the world set aside the budget to support this group of children (Usanee Anuruthawongse, 2007). Thailand still lacks of screening and diagnostic procedures to identify traits that should be picked up for appropriate interventions. Inaccurate assessments make lost the opportunities for these children to develop to the fullest of their potentials.

There are a number of organizations in Thailand that are involved in the development and capacity building of children and youth. Equipments used by these organizations sometimes are substandard or are imported from abroad and not suited to the Thai context. There is also a lack of experts, practitioners and professionals who can effectively utilize the equipment and screen children efficiently. Consolidation of expertise and cooperation across sectors and practices are needed to provide appropriate care and support to these children, both short and long term.

3. Laws, policies and plans on child and youth development

Concept of child and youth development

The philosophy of sufficiency economy is founded on the concepts of balance, rationality and resiliency. It provides a foundation for development of children and youth in the 21st century. Legislative and practical framework on child and youth development consists of the followings:

3.1 The 2007 Constitution of Thailand guarantees every Thai person's rights and equality based on the principle of non - discrimination. Under Article 80 of the Constitution, the state must take appropriate actions to ensure protection and development of children and youth, basic education, gender equality, integrity of family institution and community, and welfare assistance to the elderly, the deprived and disabled, as well as those in difficult circumstances to enable them to help themselves and improve their lives.

3.2 The Labour Protection Act of 1998 and its amendment of 2008

Section 4 of the Act deals specifically with child labour. It prohibits employment of children aged below 15 years. In case of children aged between 15 - 18 are employed, the employers must notify the labour inspector of the employment and its termination and provide employment terms and conditions. Children are prohibited to work between 10 pm - 6 am (except when permission is given or the work performed is entertainment in nature). Children are not permitted to perform overtime work, work on weekends and dangerous work, including: the smelting, blowing, casting or rolling of metals; metal stamping; work connected with heat, cold, vibration, noise and light the levels of which are different from normal levels; work connected with hazardous chemicals; work connected with micro organisms; work connected with poisonous materials, explosives or inflammable materials; work which must be done underground, and work which must be performed on a scaffold; and work performed in certain places such as gambling parlor (Articles 47 - 50). The Act also provides for the rights of child workers to take leaves to attend seminars, training and other activities that are beneficial to their development.

3.3 The Social Welfare Act of 2003 In consistence with the fundamental policy of the state to provide protection and development for children and youth; to promote gender equality and unity in family institution and community; and to provide welfare assistance to the elderly, disabled and the deprived, the Act provides for the provisions of social welfare by both government and non - governmental organizations with participation from families, local administrative organizations, community organizations and people's organizations to ensure maximum efficiency. It also envisages the development of community network for welfare management to strengthen self - sufficiency and fairness. Non - governmental organizations may register to become charitable organizations. A welfare promotion fund has been established to support the implementation of this policy.

3.4 Child Protection Act of 2003 The Act's primary objective is to set forth the procedures, treatment and practices toward children in terms of welfare assistance, safety protection, care and behavioral development to ensure that children are able to develop

appropriately and to their full potential and are protected from abuse and exploitation. Participation from all sectors of society is required, making it a duty for all to report or notify authority if witness unlawful practices towards children and youth.

3.5 National Child and Youth Development Promotion Act of 2007 The act takes the principle of the best interests of the child as a basis and covers the rights of children in such areas as birth registration, participation, non - discrimination, education with particular emphasis on children with disabilities or gifted children, health care services, rest and recreation, art and culture, family life, development and responsibility toward themselves and others, good citizenship, self - expression and association, such as child and youth councils.

3.6 Act for the Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence of 2007 The act requires any person who witnesses an act of domestic violence to notify authority. The act also prescribes penalties for perpetrators and assistance for victims, as well as

rehabilitation measures for both perpetrators and victims. The act contains a provision to prohibit publicity of domestic violence.

3.7 The Act for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human of 2008 The Act requires the establishment of systems to provide protection for victims of human trafficking, focusing on basic assistance and physical and psychological rehabilitation through a multi-disciplinary team. The Act also provides for mechanisms to be established at various levels to support effective implementation. A National Committee for the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking was established, chaired by the Prime Minister. The committee is responsible for formulating policy and measures to prevent and suppress trafficking in human and their enforcement. There is also a National Coordination and Supervision Committee to ensure the policy and measures are complied with, with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security acting as the central coordinating body. A fund was established to support implementations in this regard and to assist victims in returning to Thailand.

3.8 Act for the Protection of Home - based Workers of 2010 Section 4 deals with safety. Under Article 120, pregnant women and children under 15 years of age are prohibited from performing home - based work that is dangerous for their health and safety.

3.9 The ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour Thailand ratified this convention on 16 February 2001. The convention focuses on the immediate action to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour, defining as all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children employed in armed conflict; the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances; the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs; and work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. Member states have obligations to take all

appropriate measures to eliminate the problem with a specific timeframe, including rescue, recovery and rehabilitation of victims. Attention is given to special circumstances of girls.

3.10 The Convention on the Rights of the Child The convention is based on four basic principles: 1) non-discrimination; 2) the best interests of children; 3) the rights to survival and development, physically, psychologically, emotionally and socially; and 4) the right to participation and self expression.

3.11 The Eleventh National Economic and Social Development Plan of 2012 - 2016 The plan focuses on the development of human capital and resiliency based on the principle of sufficiency economy. It gives priority to developing desirable characteristics in Thai people, consisting of 1) the desire for lifelong learning; 2) analytical and innovative mind; 3) creative mind; 4) respect and open - mindedness; and 5) morally sound mind.

3.12 National Policy and Strategic Plan for World Fit for Children (2007 - 2016) The plan consists of three main phases (2007 - 2009 / 2010 - 2013 / 2014 - 2016) and focuses on four aspects of child and youth development, namely quality of life improvement, quality of education, protection of children from abuse and exploitation, and combating HIV/AIDS. The plan sets forth common and specific strategies focusing on 11 areas: 1) family and children 2) physical and psychological development 3) safety promotion and protection against injury 4) children and impacts of HIV/AIDS 5) religion and children 6) children and recreation 7) media and children 8) culture and religion 9) participation of children 10) children in need of special protection measure and 11) laws, rules and regulations concerning children.

There should be integrated implementations of the Child Protection Act of 2003, the Act on the Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence of 2007 and the National Child and Youth Development Promotion Act of 2007 to achieve maximum outcomes.

4. Desirable characteristics of children and youth

The National Child and Youth Development Promotion Act of 2007 envisages the development of the following characteristics:

1) A sense of family unity and pride in being Thai; understanding of the democratic principles; respect for other people's rights, rules and regulations;

2) Knowledge of how to protect oneself from diseases and narcotics;

3) Emotional maturity in keeping with age, ethics and morality;

4) Positive attitudes toward work and integrity;

5) Rationality and self - motivation;

6) Helpfulness and willingness to contribute to society and community; and

7) Sense of responsibility towards oneself and others.

5. Needs of children and youth

At the National Child and Youth Assembly (2009), child and youth participants proposed the following list to the Prime Minister, identifying what they wish to have:

1) Safety, happiness, protection and care from the state

2) Equal access to healthcare services, particularly for children and youth in remote areas

3) Activities that can be done together as a family to deepen relationship and communication within the family

4) Equal access to education of good quality

5) Community centres that promote life - long learning and mechanisms to make use of folk wisdoms and expand access to education of disadvantaged children

6) Professionals involved in child and youth development that really understand children and youth

7) Participation in the organisational process of child and youth activities

8) Child and youth development is adopted as one of the agenda in the Local Administrative Organizations development plan, with necessary budget, resources and facilities and enabling environment

9) Portrayal of positive images and publicity of creative activities carried out by children and youth to increase better awareness in society and provide role models for youth

10) Independent organization devoted to children and operation fund

Part 2

Direction of Child and Youth Development of 2012 - 2016

Every child and youth should receive holistic care that is appropriate to his or her age, from parents, community leaders and society in general based on multi-disciplinary approach. Children and youth should be treated with the right attitude and respect indiscriminately. The National Child and Youth Development Plan B.E. 2555 - 2559 (2012 - 2016) sets out a direction in this regard to provide a framework of cooperation among the government agencies, NGOs, and the people's organization. The plan envisages the following:

1. Vision

Children and youth lead secured, healthy, happy and creative lives.

2. Missions

2.1 Develop children physically, mentally, emotionally, socially and behaviourally.

2.2 Strengthen partnership with all sectors at all levels of society.

2.3 Develop efficient management systems for child and youth development.

3. Objectives

3.1 To enable children and youth to develop physically, mentally, intellectually and socially to the fullest of their potential.

3.2 To build a strong partnership in child and youth development with all sectors of society.

3.3 To enhance the efficiency and unity of interventions and measures.

4. Goal

To enable children and youth to lead a secured life; to have physical and mental well - being; to develop morality, ethical awareness, civic mind; to express themselves creatively and with no inhibitions in accordance with the democratic way of life.

5. Indicators

1) Strong and secure family with good relationships among family members and domestic violence has dropped.

2) Children 0 - 5 years have proper and age - appropriate development.

3) Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) continues to be monitored and addressed through quality control of iodized salt and condiments.

4) Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) in pregnant women and children has dropped.

5) 80 per cent of early child development centers meet acceptable standards.

6) Rates of teenagers below 15 years and youth below 18 years giving birth have dropped.

7) 50 per cent of children finishing secondary school education have basic skills.

8) Children dropping out of schools have dropped.

9) Children in non - formal schooling are able to access employment (vocational training, skills development, job placement and labour protection) better than before.

10) Volunteering activities are integral parts of school curriculum.

11) Risk behaviours, such as substance abuse, inertia and computer game - addiction have dropped.

12) Improved moral awareness and sense of good citizenship.

13) The number of children in conflict with the law have dropped.

14) The level of stress in children and youth has dropped.

15) Measurement of the number of children who can access self and life skills development information.

16) Children and youth are able to access life security equally.

17) 80% of child and youth councils function according to the standard set.

6. Strategies

Strategy 1: Increase life immunity in children and youth

Objective: to enable children and youth to develop physically, mentally, intellectually, emotionally and behaviorally in accordance with their age and maturity.

Measures:

1.1 Measures to promote children and youth development : perform by different age group with specific needs

1.1.1 Children 0 - 2 years

1) Promote appropriate nutrition in pregnant women and young children through consistent communication on complementary foods and good nutrition habits, as well as systematic surveillance of nutritional status of pregnant women and children;

Primary responsible agency: Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)

2) Step up efforts to ensure universal coverage of appropriate iodine intake in pregnant women and young children, through consumption of iodized salt and condiments. Putting emphasis on the quality of iodized salt and condiments and their production and packaging, including research on Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) for monitoring and evaluation activities.

Primary responsible agency: MOPH

Secondary responsible agencies: Ministry of Industry, National Institute for Child and Family Development

3) Promoting interactions between mother and child through such programmes as Book Start Program, breast - feeding corner project, etc.

Primary responsible agencies: MOPH, Ministry of Labour (MOL)

Second responsible agencies: Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS), National Institute for Child and Family Development

1.1.2 Children 3 - 5 years old

1) Encourage early childhood development centers to improve quality of child minders, promoting the establishment of such centers in workplaces, factories and construction sites.

2) Encourage Local Administrative Organizations to improve service delivery system and quality of services.

3) Monitor and evaluate private day care centers to ensure they are of acceptable standards.

4) Promote the adoption of common standards for early childhood development centers for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

5) Promote holistic development through interdisciplinary approach and coordination among relevant agencies.

Primary responsible agencies: Ministry of Interior (MOI), MSDHS, MOL, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Education (MOE), Local Administrative Organizations (LAOs)

Secondary responsible agencies: MOPH, National Institute for Child and Family Development

1.1.3 Children 6 - 12 years

1) Promote good health and self-care among children, youth and families in consistent with the policy of the MOH to encourage exercise activities, happy thoughts and good diet as key elements of staying healthy. Discouraging consumption of sugary snacks, as well as promote nutrition surveillance and regular exercise.

Primary responsible agency: MOPH

Secondary responsible agencies: MOE, LAOs

2) Promote rehabilitation process, such as remedial teaching, for children in need to special learning support such as in literacy.

Primary responsible agencies: MOE, LAOs

3) Improve the quality of teachers.

Primary responsible agencies: MOE

4) Integrate E.Q. and emotional resiliency in teaching and learning curriculum.

Primary responsible agencies: MOE, LAOs

Secondary responsible agency: MOPH

5) Promote age - appropriate knowledge and life-skills concerning sex education and family education.

Primary responsible agencies: MOE and MOPH

1.1.4 Children 13 - 17 years

1) Promote appropriate knowledge and life-skills on sexual relationship, reproductive health, family life and sexual health, as well as preparedness for parenting and child rearing.

Primary responsible agencies: MOE, MOPH

Secondary responsible agencies: LAOs, Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MTS)

2) Promote recruitment of professional counselors in every educational district to provide assistance on school and non-school matters to children and youth.

Primary responsible agency: MOE

3) Focus on the management of data of children in non - formal education system (drop - out children) in every area, in conjunction with providing necessary assistance to the children as needed, including education support, vocational training, skills development, job placement, labour protection and freelancing opportunities.

Primary responsible agencies: MOE, MOL

Secondary responsible agency: LAOs

4) Determine basic requirements for children completing lower secondary education nation-wide in such areas as: literacy, maths, swimming, bicycling, computer skills, musical skills, sporting skills, foreign language skills, career readiness, environmental awareness, awareness of human biological and sexual nature.

Primary responsible agency: MOE

Secondary responsible agency: LAOs

1.1.5 Youth 18 - 25 years

1) Promote alternative education at all levels, including formal, non - formal and vocational streams, in response to social and economic needs; and promote the love of life - long learning.

Primary responsible agencies: MOE, MOL

Secondary responsible agency: LAOs

2) Promote agricultural professions with commercial and industrial linkages, and instill in children plant and livestock conservation values.

Primary responsible agency: Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOA)

3) Develop university entrance examination process to give consideration to charitable activities and volunteerism.

Primary responsible agency: MOE

Overall child and youth development measures

1.1.6 Promote desirable values, including familial bond, pride in being Thai, conscience and morality, religious values, self - sufficiency, good citizenship, democratic understanding, respectfulness and tolerance, rationality, civic mind and desire to participate in community and national development.

Primary responsible agencies: Ministry of Culture (MOC), MOE, MOL, Ministry of Interior (MOI), MOA, LAOs, Children and Youth Council.

Secondary responsible agency: MTS

1.1.7 Encourage and facilitate children to explore and express themselves, to know their own strengths and capabilities.

Primary responsible agencies: MOE, MOL, National Institute for Child and Family Development, Children and Youth Council.

1.1.8 Develop the learning process to focus on lifelong development, positive attitude toward work, dignity and integrity in leading an honest life, focus on the participation of learners in the process to promote empirical learning and ability to manage own knowledge holistically.

Primary responsible agency: MOE

Secondary responsible agency: MOL

1.1.9 Prepare children and youth for competition and opportunities when ASEAN turns to ASEAN Community, by promoting higher education, indigenous culture, contemporary culture, understanding of world culture, with a particular focus on language proficiency and specialised skills.

Primary responsible agencies: MOE, MOC

Secondary responsible agencies: MOL, LAOs

1.1.10 Build knowledge and understanding of children and youth to enable them to use their discretion and be selective in applying technology for the benefits of their own development and knowledge enhancement and interaction within the family and with outside world creatively.

Primary responsible agencies: MOC, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), MOE, MSDHS, Children and Youth Council.

1.2 Measures to promote understanding of needs and problems of children and youth

1.2.1 Encourage parents, guardians and child minders in both the public and private sector to have knowledge and understanding of child development and receive training to develop necessary skills and attitude to respond positively and appropriately to the needs and problems at hand.

Primary responsible agencies: MOPH, LAOs

1.2.2 Encourage communities, society and alliances to develop better understanding of problems and needs of children and youth to make better interventions that are responsive to the reality and

situation of children, including keeping alert of early warning signs.

Primary responsible agencies: all sectors

1.3 Measures to create enabling environment for child and youth development

1.3.1 Capacity building of families to have knowledge of roles and responsibilities within the families, life-skills, communication skills, positive relationships; to avoid domestic violence and to provide good role models for children.

Primary responsible agency: MSDHS

Secondary responsible agencies: all sectors

1.3.2 Promote ‘thought leaders’ and ‘community role model’

Primary responsible agencies: all sectors.

1.3.3 Promote youth leaders and volunteer facilitators for child and youth activities and mentors.

Primary responsible agencies: National Institute for Child and Family Development, National Council for Child and Youth Development, MOI, MOE, MSDHS, LAOs

1.3.4 Promote life - long learning at the national, local and community levels in various forms such as libraries, museums, learning centers, IT centers, sports and art centers.

Primary responsible agency: LAOs

Secondary responsible agencies: MOE, MOC, MTS, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT)

1.3.5 Promote social and cultural surveillance and early - warning systems to protect children and youth from at - risk situations.

Primary responsible agencies: LAOs, MOC, MSDHS

1.3.6 Increase role and responsibilities of local administrative organizations in providing space and activities for children and youth to use their times constructively and express themselves creatively and appropriately in accordance with their maturity.

Primary responsible agency: LAOs

Secondary responsible agencies: MTS, MSDHS

1.3.7 Promote and develop safe and creative media and media role in child and youth development to create knowledge society and lifelong learning value. Promote creative media content, such as mental health improvement, cultural heritage, creative activities performed by children and youth. Promote participation of children in the production and dissemination of creative media.

Primary responsible agencies: MOC, MICT, Office of The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, Public Relations Department

1.3.8 Promote security in daily living, focusing on reduction of crimes, accidents and violence.

Primary responsible agencies: MOE, MOC, Ministry of Transport (MOT), MOI, MSDHS

1.4 Measures to promote participation of children and youth

1.4.1 Promote the development of civic mind among children and youth and its integration into school curriculum .

Primary responsible agencies: MOE, MOC, MSDHS, LAOs

1.4.2 Promote child and youth association and creative activities to encourage contributions to society and a sense of self - worth.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOE, MOC, LAOs

Secondary responsible agency: MTS

1.4.3 Develop communication process among child and youth organisations to facilitate knowledge sharing.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOE, MOC, MTS, LAOs

1.4.4 Promote consistent recognition of children and youth who have made contributions to society and achievements in various fields, such as academic, sports, arts and culture, civic work, religious practices.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOE, MOC, LAOs

Second responsible agency: MTS

Strategy 2: Protection and development of children in need of special protection measures

Goal: children in need of special protection measures receive appropriate protection and development according to their potentials.

Measures

2.1 Family strengthening

2.1.1 Improve knowledge and skills in parenting for families with special needs children to provide appropriate care and development for the children.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOPH, National Institute for Child and Family Development

2.1.2 Promote welfare system management and pro-active service delivery to reach into all families, particularly those at - risk, including providing immediate interventions and ensuring the quality and sufficiency of foster families.

Primary responsible agencies: LAOs, MSDHS

Secondary responsible agency: MOPH

2.2 Accessibility and quality of basic services

2.1.2 Develop systematic pro - active protection mechanisms at local level, providing counselling , treatment and rehabilitation services for victims and abusers, and providing half - way homes through multi-disciplinary approach and with participation of family and community.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOPH, MOE, Ministry of Justice (MOJ) , LAOs

2.2.2 Ensure the provision of quality education to children with special needs and children in need of special protection to help them develop to the fullest.

Primary responsible agency: MOE

Secondary responsible agency: LAOs

2.3 Improvement of quality of child development professionals

2.3.1 Increase the number and quality of professionals involved in providing assistance to children in need of special protection, such as social workers, psychologists, doctors, nurses, attorneys, judges, police officers, teachers, child minders and volunteers. Encourage the recruitment of case managers to oversee specific cases.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOE, MOPH, MOJ, Royal Thai Police (RTP), LAOs, National Institute for Child and Family Development

2.3.2 Promote regular experience sharing and training among child development practitioners, both before and after interventions, including promoting correct mindset and attitudes of practitioners with respect to child rights, human dignity and ethical standards in their practice.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOE, MOPH, MOJ, RTP, LAOs, National Institute for Child and Family Development

2.4 Legislative improvement and enforcement for children in need of special protection

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOE, MOPH, MOJ, RTP, LAOs, National Institute for Child and Family Development

2.5 Data system, knowledge, mechanisms and community

2.5.1 Develop data - collection system focusing on children in need of special protection

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOI, MOL, MOJ, MOE, RTP, National Statistical Office

2.5.2 Develop quality standards in services with periodical evaluation

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOE, MOPH, MOJ, RTP, LAOs, National Institute for Child and Family Development

2.6 Social mobilisation for children in need of special protection

2.6.1 Ensure clear policy and corresponding budget allocation for efforts in this regard.

Primary responsible agency: National Committee on the Promotion of Child and Youth Development

2.6.2 Mobilise the media to pay attention to the problem and mobilise members of the public to be engaged in providing protection to these children, while calling for the private sector, international organisations to give technical and personnel support.

Primary responsible agencies: MOC, media, public, private sector, business community, international organizations

2.6.3 Encourage children and youth to participate and play a role in providing protection to these children.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOE, MOJ, Children and Youth Council.

2.7 Specifically - targeted measures

2.7.1 Children with family - related problems, including orphaned children, adopted children, abandoned children, abused children, etc.

1) Improve the efficiency and quality of adoption procedures, starting from initial screening, finding foster families and follow - up.

Primary responsible agency: MSDHS

2) Develop systems for prevention of repeated abuses, such as expediency of court proceedings, separation of children from families, rehabilitation of offenders.

Primary responsible agencies: MOJ, RTP

2.7.2 Children affected by state - related problems, such as displaced children, children of migrant workers, hill - tribe children, ethnic children, stateless children and children without birth certificates.

1) Registration of birth and issuance of birth certificates for stateless children and children who have no birth certificates, to provide proof of identity and give opportunity for the children to access basic services.

2) Registration of children of migrant workers, and issuance of birth certificates similar with 1).

3) Provide solutions on nationality issue and consider granting Thai nationality to ethnic children of families whose ancestors have been residing in Thailand for a generation, and to children of Thai father or mother who neglect to register their births and provide similar services as 1).

4) Review the state's roles and practices toward various groups of children and ensure they are in compliance with child rights principles.

Primary responsible agency: MOI

Secondary responsible agencies: MOE, MOPH, LAOs

2.7.3 Children affected by a combination of family, state and social factors, such as victims of human trafficking, child labour, children in juvenile justice system, children in slums, economically deprived children, children of construction workers, children affected by substance abuse and children involved in violence.

1) Develop a set of procedures to address the problems of these children comprehensively and efficiently, including identification of children in need of assistance, locations and offenders; rescue, recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration; and occupational training. Children and families are encouraged to be involved in every stage.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOJ, MOE, MOI, MOL, RPT, LAOs

2) Develop data collection and tracking systems for child labour, and develop a set of regulations to deal with protection of child labour during summer holidays.

Primary responsible agencies: MOL, MOE

3) Initiate community - centred programmes for assistance and reintegration of child offenders, with participation from children and youth in the planning process.

Primary responsible agencies: MOJ, LAOs, Children and Youth Council.

2.7.4 Children with special needs, such as gifted children and children with physical or mental impairs (visual, hearing, movement, emotional, learning, and

developmental) who are in need of special support and rehabilitation.

1) Provide necessary resources and ensure integration across implementing agencies and mechanisms, including in screening, diagnosis, rehabilitation and development programmes.

2) Ensure enforcement of laws in connection with facilities for people with disabilities in buildings, public transportation and public spaces.

3) Build a correct attitude toward people with disabilities and encourage society to recognize capacities, dignity and rights of people with disabilities.

Primary responsible agencies; MOPH, MOE, MSDHS

Secondary responsible agency: MOI

Strategy 3: Capacity - buliding of alliances for child and youth development

Goal: Alliances in all sectors and at all levels of society are empowered and engaged in child and youth development.

Measures

3.1 Strengthening of Child and Youth Councils

3.1.1 Develop a set of standards for evaluation of activities and outcomes.

3.1.2 Improve capacities of the Child and Youth Councils teams; develop the councils as centres for learning and encourage organization of educational, sports and cultural activities for children in their localities; and provide opportunities to participate in policy making.

3.1.3 Support resources, knowledge and implementation of the Child and Youth Councils.

3.1.4 Improve laws and regulations to facilitate activities and efforts of the councils to act as the central mechanism for mobilization of child and youth groups in school and outside school, as well as relevant agencies in the public and private sectors.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOE, Children and Youth Council.

Secondary responsible agencies: MOC, MTS, MOI, LAOs, private sector, business community

3.2 Capacity - building of alliances for child and youth development

3.2.1 Support the implementation of corporate social responsibility among the private sector and business community.

3.2.2 Encourage the public and private sectors to increase their quotas for recruiting children and youth to gain working experience.

3.2.3 Create incentives for all sectors to participate in child and youth development, including supporting the role of volunteers.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOI, MOC, MOE, MOL, MTS, Public Relations Department

Secondary responsible agencies: Thai Health Promotion Foundation, private sector, business community

3.2.4 Encourage every province to include child - friendly city agenda in its development plan, addressing various aspects of the concept, including safety, health and well - being, protection of rights, participation, etc.

Primary responsible agencies: MOI, MSDHS, MOPH, MOE, MOC, MICT

Secondary responsible agencies: the private sector, business community, the people's sector

3.2.5 Improve knowledge and understanding of TAOs on the importance of child and youth development, particularly the organization and functions of local child and youth councils.

3.2.6 Promote the establishment of child and family division in the organizational structure of the TAOs and promote cooperation with counterpart agencies from the public and private sectors, and academic institutes.

Primary responsible agencies: MOI, LAOs

Secondary responsible agency: MSDHS

3.2.7 Promote systematic integration of activities of child and youth alliances from local up to national levels.

Primary responsible agency: MSDHS

Strategy 4: Improvement of the administration and management system for child and youth protection and development

Goal: To have an integrated system of child and youth protection and development.

Measures

4.1 Improvement of the administration and management system for child and youth protection and development

4.1.1 Ensure integration of national mechanisms relating to the protection and development of children and youth and their compliance with the national policy.

4.1.2 Ensure that laws and regulations concerning children and families are consistent and supportive of each other, particularly the Child Protection Act of 2003, the Victims of Domestic Violence Protection Act of 2007 and the National Child and Youth Development Promotion Act of 2007, and that they are enforced strictly and effectively.

Primary responsible agency: MSDHS

4.1.3 Develop a body of knowledge, research and data on children and youth at every level, from local to national, particularly those concerning their situations, life capitals, services provided, human and technical resources, to improve and evaluate programmes and activities in this regard.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOI, MOL, MOE, MOPH, MOC, MICT, National Statistical Office, LAOs

4.1.4 Capacity - building of child and youth development practitioners to become professionals in their areas, including child minders and child protection officers. Incentives will be given in the form of career advancement and job security. Provide technical support to child protection officers through cooperation with experts and multi - disciplinary team and standard supervision.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOI, MOE, MOJ, RTP, local administrative organisations

4.1.5 Establish a central body to coordinate, manage, supervise and develop mechanisms for enforcement of relevant laws to ensure tangible outcome.

Primary responsible agency: MSDHS

4.2 Access to social welfare, services and protection systems. Ensure children and youth everywhere in Thailand, particularly those in the remote areas, are able to access the said services, including health care, education, employment, and social participation.

Primary responsible agencies: all sectors

4.3 Development of systems and mechanisms to safeguard children and youth from risk factors, such as substance abuse, unsafe sexual behaviours, inappropriate living arrangements, etc.

Primary responsible agencies: MSDHS, MOI, MOC, MOE, MOPH, MOJ, MOL, RTP

Secondary responsible agency: LAOs

Part 3

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure that the goals set forth under the National Child and Youth Development Plan 2012 - 2016 are met, mechanisms and guidelines have been established as follows:

Management mechanisms for the National Plan consist of two levels:

1. Policy Level

1.1 The National Commission on the Promotion of Child and Youth Development is responsible for setting the agenda and mobilize support from all sectors of society.

1.2 The Provincial Child Protection Committee is tasked with supporting and promoting the implementation of the provincial child and youth development plan that is in line with the national plan.

1.3 Child - friendly City concept is integrated into the provincial development plan.

2. Implementation Level

2.1 Responsible agencies for each measure of the national plan are required to produce an annual report which will indicate corresponding programmes and projects, according to indicators specified.

2.2 Office of Welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security is required to coordinate and cooperate with the local administrative organizations and related agencies in order to prepare the local child and youth development plan in line with the national plan. Local Administrative Organizations are required to set aside budget for child and youth development projects at the local level.

2.3 The public sectors, private sectors, civil society, local organizations, academic institutes are encouraged to join hands to form alliance, manage knowledge and innovations, and develop participation

process in the form of child and youth assembly at all levels.

2.4 Child and Youth Councils at all levels act as learning centers to disseminate knowledge and organize constructive activities for the benefits of child and youth development in line with the local development plan and the national plan of 2012 - 2016.

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms

1. Develop common understanding with child and youth development alliances to ensure efficient participation in the planning process of projects and activities in line with the national plan.

2. Support the development of social mapping at the local level that is linked to the regional and national level to identify social capital, risk factors and life capital.

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are under the supervision of the National Commission on the Promotion of Child and Youth Development and the National Child Protection Committee.

Central to these mechanisms are the National Statistical Office, representatives from key government agencies, and child development experts. The Provincial Child Protection Committee provides a linkage through which policy and plan at the national level are translated into practice at the local level.

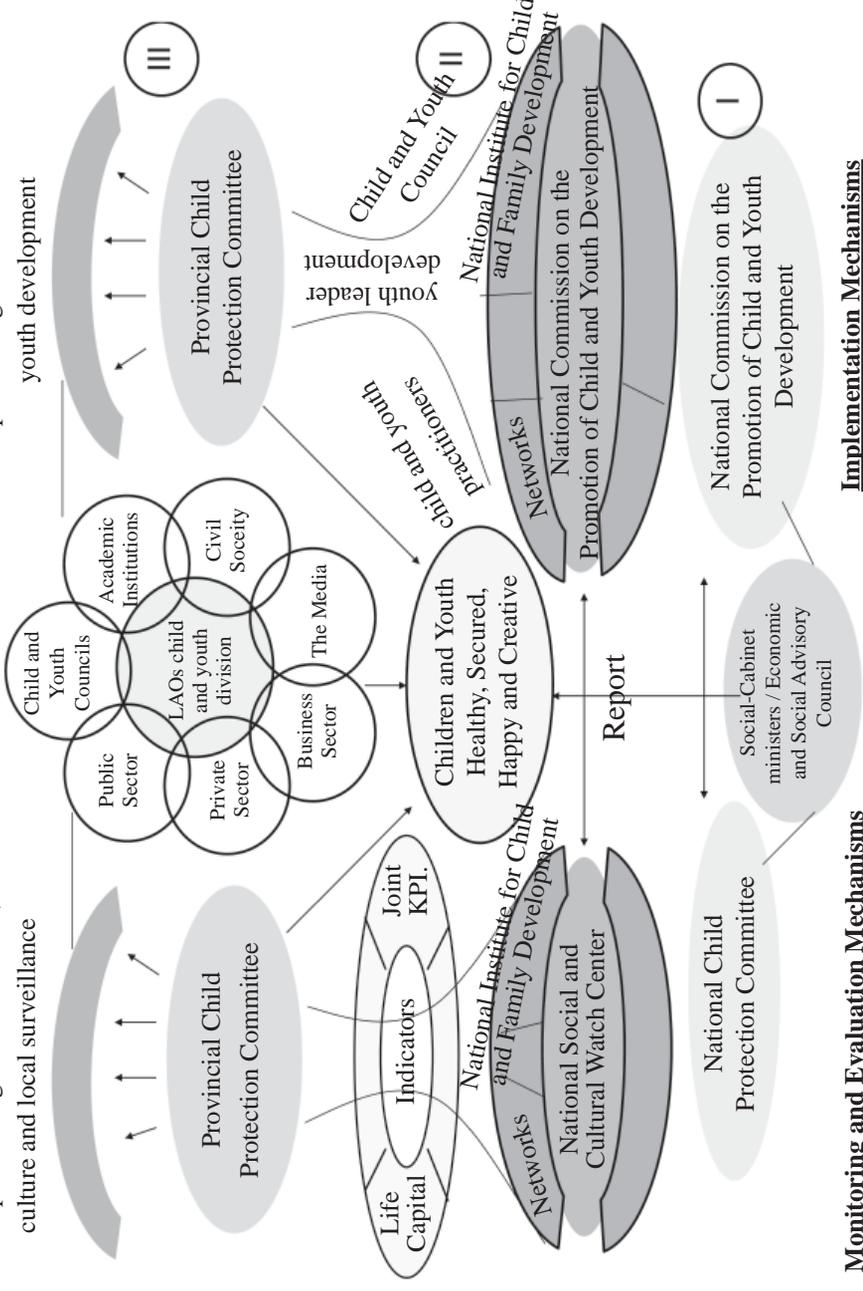
Monitoring and evaluation of the national plan to determine progress and efficiency of the management mechanisms, at the policy and implementation level, consists of:

1. Evaluation of goals based on key indicators;
2. Monitoring and evaluation of the strategic issues;
3. Monitoring and evaluation of action plans, projects and activities through self - assessment by responsible agencies;
4. Half - term evaluation and full - term evaluation, highlighting progress made and outcomes by the National Statistical Office.

The National Commission on the Promotion of Child and Youth Development and the National Child Protection Committee shall intergrate closely for the monitoring and supervision of policies and plans as well as the evaluation in cooperation with Bangkok and Provincial Child Protection Committee. National and local information center for evaluation outcomes shall be established together with the driving - force center at national and provincial level under supervision and support from Social - cabinet ministers and Economic and Social Advisory Council.

Responsible agencies for social, culture and local surveillance

Responsible agencies for child and youth development



Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

Implementation Mechanisms

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms for the National Child and Youth Development Plan Chart



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