



PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND  
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No. 52101/605

The Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honour to refer to the latter's Note dated 14 August 2014 requesting information on the mobilization, allocation and utilization of public resources for the realization of children's rights in Thailand, for inclusion in the report on "Towards a better investment in the rights of the child," to be presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, and for dissemination on the Office's website.

In this connection, the Permanent Mission has further the honour to forward herewith the requested information as received from Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Board and the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, and prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. The same information in electronic format has also been sent to [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org).

The Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the highest assurance of its consideration.

Permanent Mission of Thailand,  
Geneva.  
7 October B.E. 2557 (2014)



**OHCHR REGISTRY**

08 OCT 2014

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Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,  
GENEVA.

**Towards a better Investment in the Rights of the Child**  
**Thailand's Response to the Survey**

- 1. Please provide information on the main challenges related to the mobilization, allocation and spending of resources for children. Please provide examples of good practices undertaken to prioritize resource mobilization, allocation and spending towards child-focused sectors, such as health, education, social protection, child protection and child rights, in your national policy and/or overseas development assistance strategy.**

The mobilization and allocation of budget in Thailand for the promotion and protection of child rights are based on the overview of national, local and implementing agencies' work plan. The mobilization and allocation of the government's budget for child rights are through strategies for education, public health, ethics and morale, living standards. Strategic goals include universal and quality education.

However, the main challenge for budgeting does not lie within the amount of the budget allocated. Challenges are rather the effectiveness of how the budget is spent. The effectiveness of the budget allocated to education is measured by ratio of the amount of the budget spent (18 percent of total national budget) and the average exam result of high school students, which is still lower than anticipated. In addition, budget has also been allocated to universal public health coverage, which covers all children in Thailand. Still there are some children, who are physically and mentally underdeveloped as compared to the average of children of their age.

- 2. Please indicate how national laws and policies provide opportunities for children to access budget information and participate in budgeting and fiscal processes. Please specify the extent to which resources spent on children are visible, and whether budget data is disaggregated by child rights related programmes, and/or age (0-18), in budget documents. Are any child friendly versions of budget information produced?**

The right to official information of all persons is guaranteed by the law. Children are therefore able to access to information relating to government budgeting, especially through the budgeting book and website which is designed to be user-friendly. A presentation of budget information that is easy for use of children of younger age (below 15) is yet to be produced.

Children in Thailand have the opportunity to participate in the budgeting and fiscal process, especially when such budget is related to activities that aim to protect and promote child rights. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) initiated a project to promote Children and Youth Assembly at all levels to act as the centre of the mechanism to develop activities for children and youth development including planning and presenting their ideas at national and local level.

Regarding specific child rights related programme, the National Child Rights Committee has pushed for specific national budget (*disaggregated data is available*) to support its work in the protection of children aged 0 – 18, which focuses on protection and assistance given to child victims of domestic and social violence as well as sexual exploitation.

- 3. What are the mechanisms in place to ensure transparent, effective and efficient utilization of public resources for the realization of children's rights in line with Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?**

There are a number of government agencies working for the promotion and protection of child rights. For example, Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, Office of Promotion and Protection of Children, Youth, the Elderly and Vulnerable Groups and Bureau of Youth Promotion and Protection. These organizations contribute greatly to the strengthening of children protection and guarantee of the rights of the child as enshrined in Article 4 of the CRC. Transparency in utilization of

public resources is monitored by the Office of the Civil Service Commission which has introduced “transparency indicator”, an indicator specifically designed for each government agency in line with their mandate i.e. transparency indicator in conducting work related to children for those who work in the field of children and youth.

**4. What mechanisms are in place to assess the impacts of fiscal policies and budgets on children? Are human rights and child rights impact assessments conducted in relation to budget planning and execution? Please indicate measures in place to identify the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable children, and formulate targets that assess the impact of public spending on these groups.**

Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) and relevant agencies have set a strategic goal for a life-long human development, which include marginalized and vulnerable children. The discussion in preparation for measures in order to achieve such goal is based on basic concept of human rights that children need for their fundamental growth and development. NESDB has come up with indicators for children development in two dimensions – poverty and human development.

In Southern border provinces, specific health programmes including mobile medical services are put in place for children in the area. In addition, the Ministry of Public Health occasionally organizes special medical units for health check-up in public schools in the Southern border provinces to ensure that health services are well delivered to all children.

The relevant Thai government agencies also work closely with related international organizations namely the OHCHR and the UNICEF in various projects to ensure children’s rights including those of the most marginalized and vulnerable ones are duly promoted and protected in Thailand. For example, the National Statistical Office of Thailand and UNICEF Thailand Office will conduct a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which will provide data to monitor the situation of children and women in Thailand.

**5. What systems or mechanisms are in place to ensure that the private sector contributes, rather than undermine, state efforts to improve public spending on children? Please also indicate if systems or mechanisms are in place to ensure that public resources are spent well also when government funded children’s rights programmes/ projects are outsourced to the private sector.**

MSDHS has established a Child Protection Fund available for both private and public sector to apply for financial support of not exceeding 100,000 Thai Baht for each project which needs to be implemented urgently for the protection of child rights. Moreover, the Government has come up with tax initiatives for business operators that conduct corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities or any activities that contribute to the well-being of people in the community such as setting up a child care in industrial estate, breastfeeding corner in the business establishment. In addition, when public resources are spent to outsource private operator for any government funded children’s rights programmes or projects, such expenses are subject to governmental rules and procedures of public expenditure, in order to ensure the transparency of the expense and effective outcome.

According to the records of overall annual financial contribution to UNICEF from Thailand, the donation from private sector category has also been accounted for as the largest in the past years. UNICEF-Thailand Fundraising Consultative Committee has played an active role in campaigning for financial support for UNICEF projects worldwide including for emergency situations.

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