



Country card
Thailand 2023





HI Team and intervention areas

HI Thailand has 40 office-based staff and 120 camp-based staff members.

Thailand





General data of the country

a. General Data

Country ¹	Thailand	Neighboring country (Myanmar)	France
Population	69.950.844	54.806.014	67.499.343
IHDI	0.646	0.581	0.90
Maternal mortality	24	244	4
Gender Development Index	1.007	0.953	0.987
Population under HCR mandate	662.912	1.271.011	580.898
INFORM index	4.1	6.2	2.3
Fragile State Index	70	100	30.9
GINI Index	35	30.7	32.4
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	68	6.3	100

b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
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¹ https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour



Mine Ban Treaty	Ratified in 1998
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Not signed
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified in 2008

c. Geopolitical analysis

Thailand is a unitary state, the only Southeast Asia country never colonized by a European power. The majority of the population is Buddhist. Religion is of a great influence in Thai's everyday life. The Thai culture is a mix of Indian influences, Chinese traditions and elements that are uniquely Thai. Despite a strong unity of the Thai culture, each of the four regions composing Thailand has its own unique cultural and geographic features (Thailand is a country of some 70 ethnic groups). Thailand is the 51st largest country in the world and the 20th most populated country, with half of its population living in urban areas.

In March 2019, Thailand held its first general election since the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) took power in a May 2014 coup. King Bhumibol Adulyadej passed away in October 2016 after 70 years on the throne. In May 2019, King Maha Vajiralongkorn was formally crowned in a coronation ceremony. NCPO Head General Prayut Chan-O-Cha was elected prime minister in June. In July, a new cabinet was sworn in and the NCPO was dissolved. Several demonstrations, mainly run by students in Bangkok, were held in 2019 and 2020 against the government and the Thai royalist establishment at large. The protests have been continually occurring until present (2022).

Since March 2020, the Government has enacted the draconian Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situation nationwide to control the spread of Covid-19, grant powers to impose curfews and other restrictions, and manage inter-agency response².

In September 2022, the Constitutional Court of Thailand has suspended the current Primer Minister while looking into allegations that the PM has exceeded Thailand's term limits.

With a well-developed infrastructure, a free-enterprise economy, and generally pro-investment policies, Thailand historically has had a strong economy, but experienced slow growth in 2013-15 as a result of domestic political turmoil and sluggish global demand. Thailand's economic fundamentals are sound, with low inflation, low unemployment, and reasonable public and external debt levels. Tourism and government spending - mostly on infrastructure and short-term stimulus measures - have helped to boost the economy, and the Bank of Thailand has been supportive, with several interest rate reductions. Economic growth is projected to expand in the range 2.7 - 3.2% in 2022, as inflation is expected. The inflation rate has seen the steepest increase since 2008, and in August 2022 reached 7.86%.

Thailand faces labour shortages and has attracted an estimated 3.2 million migrant workers from neighbouring countries, including Myanmar⁴. The Thai Government in 2013 implemented a nationwide 300 baht (roughly \$10) per day minimum wage policy and deployed new tax reforms designed to lower rates on middle-income earners. Earlier in 2022 it was announced that from October minimum wage will be increased by 5.02%, which will raise the minimum wage to 328 THB.

Myanmar refugees and recent development

Thailand has been a major destination country for asylum seekers and refugees from Myanmar for the past decades. However, Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a formal national asylum framework.

² <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/thailand>



Conflicts

Thailand experienced violence associated with the ethno-religious separatist insurgency in the southernmost provinces of Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and part of Songkhla. Since the conflict escalated in 2004, more than 7,000 people are thought to have died, mostly civilians during attacks on public markets, temples, using both weapons and improvised explosive devices. Martial law and a 2005 Emergency Decree remained in place in the 3 provinces (Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat).

Summary of HI presence in the country

HI Operations in Thailand started in 1982 and operates along the border with Myanmar since 1984. The main activities since then have been: fitting refugees with locally-produced prostheses, community-based rehabilitation³, empowerment of people with disabilities and their inclusion in local communities (villages, neighbourhoods, etc.), and the prevention of mine and explosive ordnance accidents through risk education activities.

Since January 2016, the site is managed within the MyTh program (created in January 2016 with its regional office in Yangon), in line with the refugees' repatriation process, and aims at strengthening the coordination between HI activities in Myanmar and in Thailand around refugees' reintegration. MyTh Regional Strategy 2018-2020 has been developed and reviewed in 2019.

³ Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) consists in involving and training the friends and family of disabled people in rehabilitation exercises and care to ensure their self-reliance.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Main sectors of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project	Donors
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistive technology workshops producing orthoses, prostheses and technical devices.• Rehabilitation centres providing physiotherapy and occupational therapy to people with disabilities and advice to their families/caregivers;• Community volunteers supplying occupational therapy and physiotherapy at home;• Promotion of early detection of disabilities in children in partnership with other NGOs• Chronic pain support for elderly	People with disabilities (adults and children, including landmine survivors) Caregivers / family members Refugee health workers from partner INGOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Malteser International;•International Rescue Committee;•Siridhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre and School;•Mae Sot General Hospital;• Mae Tao Clinic;•Phrae Hospital;• Karen Women Organization KWO;•Rangsit University• Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW)	Mae La, Umpiem Mai, Nu Po, Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon Refugees Camps	30/12/2015 -31/12/2025	EU UNHCR



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensibilization in schools about the delay of development • Capacity building trainings for NGOs, CBOs and Community Leaders on disabilities, early detection and referral mechanism. • Provision of rehabilitation services, assistive devices and prosthetics to the people displaced from Myanmar in Thailand (2022). 					
Disability Social Inclusion* (including MHPSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advising Persons with Disabilities and their caregivers to access VolRep and facilitated return • Support and empower DPO/Self-Help Groups • Peer support and psychological support to PwD and their caregivers. • Vocational Training • Training of mainstream agencies and camp management structures on disability inclusion • Awareness raising on disability inclusion 	Persons with disabilities and their caregivers Self Help Groups Mainstream INGOs/Agencies Camp management Structures Community	UNHCR COERR TBC IRC Foundation of Empowerment of Persons with Disability Thailand	Mae La, Umpiem Mai, Nu Po, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Mae La Oon, Ban Nai Soi and Ban Mae Surin Refugee Camps	31/12/2015 14/09/2024	UNHCR PRM



Explosive Ordnance (EO) Risk Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of RE trainings, briefings and sessions to the vulnerable target groups• Mass awareness raising• Integration of RE into KnED school' curricula• Pre-departure mine awareness refresher sessions in the 9 temporary shelters in the framework of UNHCR facilitated Voluntary Repatriation process (on hold in 2022).• Capacity building for the community response groups to the influx of displaced people from Myanmar to Thailand in 2022 (post-coup), accompanied with the provision of EORE materials.	All camp population with focus on most at risk groups (children, travellers, boarding students and refugees willing to return)	UNHCR KnED FilmAid	Ban Nai Soi, Ban Mae Surin, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Mae La, Umpiem Mai, Nu Po, Ban Don Yong and Tham Hin Refugees Camps	31/12/2015 14/09/2024	UNHCR PRM
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Donors

United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees



US Department of State Bureau of
Population, Refugees and Migration
(PRM)



European Union

