

## Country strategic plan summary for 2006 – 2010

*This document describes how Plan Thailand and its partners will mobilise the different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2006 – 2010.*

This is a result of detailed analysis and consultations with community members, children in the communities where Plan works, as well as Plan staff. The country strategic plan describes the key issues that prevent children from realising their full potential and how Plan Thailand will work to address the issues over the next five years.

### About Thailand

Located within tropical Southeast Asia, Thailand occupies an area of around 500,000 square kilometers and has a total population of over 60 million, with over half living in rural areas. Agriculture is the main source of income. Migration from rural to urban areas is a common phenomenon. Those under 15 years of age comprise 24% of the population.

### Plan Thailand's Programs

Plan started its program operations in Thailand in 1981. From the 1990s to the present, it has been gradually phasing out from selected districts of Chiangmai, Mahasarakam, Khon Kaen and Udonthani provinces due to improved family and community situations. The results of various evaluations and studies have shown the improvements in the areas of access to education, health care, and livelihood opportunities which lead to better quality of lives of children and families. Today, Plan continues to work in over 500 villages in seven provinces to address issues related to unrealised child rights and the unmet needs of marginalised children, while phasing out from communities that are more self-reliant.



*'Stop Violence against Children Campaign'... many children are facing different forms of abuse and exploitation...' says a community leader from Maefaluang district of Chiangrai*

### Key issues affecting Thai children

Surveys and consultations done by Plan revealed several issues that prevent children from realising their full potential. Below is a list of key issues that affect Thai children:

- Poor quality of education, particularly at the primary level, resulting in children's inability to acquire appropriate developmental and learning competencies and life skills.
- Lack of skills of parents and caregivers for early childhood care and development leading to impeded growth and development of children less than four years old.



*Akha girl children in Chiangrai: "The lack of birth certificates is one of the basic rights many hill tribe children are denied."*

resources and lack of awareness and attention to form effective internal and external relationships resulting in poor leverage and management of available resources.

- Denied basic rights of ethnic minority, migrant and rural children leading to more vulnerability to all forms of abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation.
- Inadequate access to public health care and services to poor families and children living with HIV and AIDS.
- Inadequate household income of ethnic minority, migrant and rural poor families resulting in unsustainable livelihood and inability to meet children's basic needs.
- Inadequate institutional and policy support for child participation in community development.
- Degradation of natural resources, lack of proper natural resource management and weak government policy support resulting in a faster rate of degradation.
- Lack of capacity and organisational skills to mobilise

## Plan Thailand's response to key issues

From 2006 – 2010, Plan will seek ways to improve the participation of children, families, and civil society in development programs focusing on;

- **Improving children and adolescent well-being** by facilitating home-based and center-based early childhood care and development programs, supporting the development of more relevant education curricular, community-managed education and child-centered learning, promoting the realisation of child rights and child protection at national, provincial, district and community levels.
- **Strengthening the family and community response to HIV and AIDS** by supporting the livelihood programs for people living with HIV and AIDS, strengthening the groups of people living with HIV and AIDS to have better access to health services, and supporting the implementation of sex education curricula for both children and youth in and out of school.
- **Improving family and community economic well-being** by providing training and start-up capital for off-farm activities and marketable vocational skill training, expanding livelihood options and supporting community groups to improve their management skills and strengthen networks.
- **Strengthening community capacity** by promoting the transformation of community-based organisations into larger networks at sub-district, district and provincial levels, enhancing child participation and child clubs in community development and building community networks.
- **Ensuring environmental care and protection** by promoting the sustainable and appropriate natural resource and management practices, facilitating the integration of community-managed natural resources and environmental education in schools, and linking with relevant government departments.



*"We enjoy the storybooks. We like the pictures too..."*  
children from Srisaket province attend a class, a part of early childhood care and development programme.

programs for their own development, which ensures the four basic rights of children; survival, development, participation and protection. This promotes the program ownership for sustainable improvements in the children's quality of life. Plan is also committed to advocating with the national government to ensure that policy reforms address the issues affecting Thai children.



*"We are proud to learn about 'child rights' and the adults have listened to us more",* says a youth leader from the Youth Council in Udonthani province

- **Strengthening mutual relationship** by improving the capacity of children and their communities to communicate and build strong relationship with sponsors and other development partners.

## Program approach

Plan Thailand's fundamental program approach is defined by 'child-centered community development'. This is an approach in which children, families and communities play active roles in making decisions and implementing

*This document was reviewed and edited by Plan staff.*