



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 11/14/2023 | Report No: ESRSC03812



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Thailand	EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC	P181465	
Project Name	Enhancing Psychosocial Services For Traumatized Persons In Conflict-affected Areas In Thailand's Deep South		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Sustainability and Inclusion	Investment Project Financing		11/22/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Concept Review Date	Total Project Cost
			0

Proposed Development Objective

The Project Development Objective is to strengthen the capacity of providers to deliver psychosocial services in the three conflict-affected provinces of the Deep South of Thailand and design modalities for integrating these services with livelihoods support for the sustained socio-economic well-being of the victims of trauma.

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

Protracted subnational conflict between the Thai state and Malay Muslim insurgent groups since 2004 has resulted in more than 7,000 deaths and 13,000 injuries. Over 3,000 women have been widowed and more than 9,000 children orphaned. The conflict has led to a decline in socio-economic well-being (e.g., adverse health outcomes, domestic violence, economic hardship), the erosion of trust and relationships among people, and increased fragility of institutions. Poverty in the southernmost provinces is chronic with rates among the highest in the country. Many groups in the Deep South feel a sense of social and economic exclusion, discrimination, and marginalization.

World Bank research and experience on the ground reveals that many conflict-affected groups, which include ex-combatants, ex-detainees, orphans and widows, have been traumatized by violence. Only limited numbers, however, receive treatment. This gap is mainly because many of the victims of violence do not trust the government and its services. Some of the non-governmental organizations that provide support to these victims have limited working



relations with the government and thus lack sustained funding. Building trust in service providers is a crucial step toward providing effective treatments for affected people. Access to services is further hindered by security-related issues, cultural preferences of local communities, and perceptions that services are not responsive to needs. Lack of access reflects in part the very limited capacity of both government and non-governmental organizations to diagnose trauma and provide effective treatment. Key constraints to the provision of services include the lack of specific curriculums tailored for different types of trauma and impacts experienced by different target populations, the quality of trainers and training, and limited human resources, program coverage, and referral mechanisms.

The objective of the proposed project is to strengthen the capacity of providers to deliver psychosocial services in the three conflict-affected provinces of the Deep South of Thailand and design modalities for integrating these services with livelihood support for the sustained socio-economic well-being of victims of trauma.

These technical assistance activities (training, meetings, and workshop) will be conducted in Bangkok and in the three southernmost provinces, Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat. Specific areas for the training and for other project activities will be discussed and selected during the implementation.

The project is comprised of three components. This AIN includes Component 1 and part of Component 3 (Recipient Executed). Components 2 and the remainder of Component 3 (Bank Executed) are covered under a separate AIN.

Component I (Recipient Executed Grant) will be administered by the Thai Health Academy, an organization designated by the Mental Health Department, Ministry of Public Health. This component will enhance the capacity of the network of frontline practitioners to extend coverage of psychosocial services to key traumatized groups, namely ex-combatants, children, widows, and conflict-affected communities. These frontline practitioners, an intentional combination of government and CSO employees, will continue to provide these improved services in their ongoing work.

Component II (Bank Executed Grant): This component will provide technical support to explore approaches to integrating psychosocial services and livelihood support to promote economic, mental health, and psychosocial well-being.

Component III: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation and International Knowledge Sharing. (Recipient Executed)

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

The project will help the government of Thailand in developing psychosocial curriculum and providing training to frontline service providers across the three southern provinces in Thailand namely, Narathiwat, Pattani, and Yala. The three provinces are adjacent to each other and borders Malaysia to its south. The provinces feature a range of natural



resources including forest, peat swamp forest and mangrove, rivers, coastal resources and are relatively fertile. The region is characterized by chronic poverty, lack of access to basic services, and continuing protracted conflict.

The majority of the population across the three provinces is considered Malay Muslims (96%). Project activities such as training will be conducted in major cities within the three provinces, while psychosocial services will be delivered by the trainees in their respective communities or sectors such as in schools, field offices, and at the homes of the victims-survivors.

D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The Mental Health Department, Ministry of Public Health has designated the Thai Health Academy (THA), an experienced organization, to execute the project on their behalf. Being a new partner of the Bank, THA does not have experience with the Bank's ESF. During the appraisal, the Bank will evaluate THA's existing environmental and social guidelines, including risks identification and mitigation systems; and practices relevant to the Project and will come up with a capacity-building plan to enable THA to effectively manage and undertake the ESS activities. THA will hire a consultant to manage potential risks and implement mitigation measures.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The environmental risk rating is low. Environmental risk and impact from the Project is expected to be negligible. The Project will provide technical assistance that focus on developing mental health curricula for specific vulnerable groups and delivering face-to-face training. Activities will be conducted indoors and will not involve any civil works. Therefore, adverse impact on biodiversity and other environmental resources are not anticipated. Aspects covered under the recipient executed technical assistance will be related to psychosocial issues with the aim to strengthen the capacity of the identifies groups.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Low

The social risk is classified as Low. The project will finance activities related to development of curriculum for psychosocial interventions for different victim-survivor groups, training of psychosocial counselors and providing field experience and use the skills and knowledge gained from the training. In addition, an international learning workshop will be organized to gather international best practices, and a learning dissemination. The project will not finance construction works. Whilst the project aims to deliver a range of benefits, project activities have the potential to generate minimal, predictable, mitigatable social risks and impacts, that are low in magnitude. Social risks and impacts anticipated for this project include: (a) risks of exclusion of some beneficiary groups/institutions and therefore related to limited stakeholder engagement; (b) risks related to the labor and working conditions of project workers and (c) risk of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) in relation to training and working conditions. These risks and impacts are low, and they are for the most part predictable and possible to mitigate during the lifetime of the project. This risk rating takes into consideration the lack or minimal familiarity and



ES capacity of THA, which will be assessed during preparation. The anticipated risks can be mitigated through appropriate actions/risk management plans.

B. RELEVANCE OF STANDARDS AND POLICIES AT CONCEPT STAGE

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

The project by its nature and design is service-oriented i.e. providing training, and will not involve any civil works. Thus is classified as having low environmental and social risks and impacts related to physical, geographical, biodiversity, land access, and cultural heritage. The project areas and beneficiaries are also not categorized to be an area of or having Indigenous People. However, it is important to note that the three provinces in Southern Thailand 97% of Malay majority populace. The project however recognized the following standards as relevant: ESS1; ESS2 and ESS10. The project will require the preparation of an ESCP, SEP, and Project Operations Manual that will include Labor Management Procedure. Environmental risks and impacts from project activities are expected to be low and do not require the preparation of environmental instruments. THA will set up a project advisory committee to provide overall guidance to the project including criteria for training participants.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

THA will employ direct project workers who will follow normal working hours. The size of the project team/workforce is yet to be determined during the concept note stage. The project will not involve primary supply workers and community workers. THA will develop and implement a simplified occupational health and safety (OHS) that is appropriate and contextual, this will be integrated into the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) including details of a grievance redress mechanism specific to handle labor concerns. The LMP will be included in the Project Operations Manual (POM) and will outline the practices, systems, and tools to manage the project workers in accordance with the national laws and policies and this ESS. The LMP will be implemented and closely monitored to ensure that anticipated OHS issues are mitigated, grievance issues addressed, and adherence to codes of conduct is observed. Child labor is not identified as a significant risk for this type of activity.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Not Currently Relevant

This standard is not relevant. Training, workshops or meetings may generate small volume of domestic waste which risks and impacts are expected to be negligible and can be managed through normal waste management practice typically applied in Thailand including in the project provinces.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

Not Currently Relevant

This standard is not relevant as of this time. However, since the activities will involve face-to-face interactions such as international forums and training, when necessary, measures to mitigate community health and safety risks originating from communicable diseases will be put in place. This shall conform to applicable international and national health



standards and protocols set in place by the relevant authorities. This standard will be assessed continuously over the project's timeframe. If applicable, relevant standards shall be included in the Project Operation Manual.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

Not relevant. All activities will not require any land acquisition or will lead to any economic displacement or resettlement.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not Currently Relevant

Not relevant. All project activities will be taking place indoors and will not involve any civil works or activities that will impact biodiversity conservation and or living natural resources.

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

Not Currently Relevant

Not relevant. While this standard is not relevant, it is acknowledged that the three southernmost provinces where this project will be implemented are home to the majority Malay Muslim population to the extent of 96%. With this, the project will take into account the project's strategies, activities and policies are attuned with the distinct socio-cultural background of the region and shall ensure that these are taken into consideration, especially in the SEP.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

This standard is not relevant. No civil works is expected or any intangible cultural heritage to be affected by the project activities.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

The primary stakeholders for this project are Thailand Mental Health Department-Ministry of Public Health, psychosocial school counselors, NGOs working to support ex-combatants, ex-detainees, and NGOs working to support orphans and widows, and communities affected by the conflict. Meaningful and differentiated engagement with the stakeholders will be undertaken to help inform the strategy and timing of the project's implementation. More importantly, stakeholders' participation will also help ensure that risks, impacts, and mitigating measures are culture-sensitive and responsive. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will be developed during the appraisal. The SEP shall identify the project stakeholders and proposed information dissemination and communication activities. It will also include a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that builds on existing systems. Culture-sensitive strategies include e.g. women and young people separate discussions and confidentiality of information.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply



OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework No

Use of Common Approach No

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by Appraisal?

To be undertaken, prepared, disclosed and consulted upon prior to appraisal:

1. Stand alone Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including Stakeholder Analysis and Grievance Redress Mechanism
2. Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
3. Final Draft of the Project Operation Manual integrating Labor Management Procedures and Grievance Redress Mechanism for labor and ESF Capacity Strengthening Plan. (POM) to be approved within one month of the project's effectiveness date.

Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower's Environmental and Social Commitment Plan:

- Effective implementation and monitoring of the project's E&S commitments and instruments
- Effective operationalization of the GRMs
- Meaningful and timely conduct of the stakeholder engagement throughout the project's implementation timeframe
- Allocation of adequate resources (human and financial resources) for the implementation of risk management measures and monitoring activities
- ESF Capacity Strengthening Plan to equip THA with the necessary and relevant skills and knowledge to implement and monitor E&S standards under the ESF
- A responsive security and safety plan for staff and community partners as part of the POM.

III. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank



The World Bank

Enhancing Psychosocial Services for Traumatized Persons in Conflict-Affected Areas in Thailand's Deep South (P181465)

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V. APPROVAL

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Public Disclosure