

Thailand: Taking Action for Sustainable Development



Adolescent pregnancy remains a major contributor to maternal and child mortality, and to the cycle of ill-health and poverty. Contributing to Goal 3, Thailand has enacted law to prevent and solve this situation to ensure every girl is entitled to sexual and reproductive health and rights, ensuring that their potential is fulfilled. © UNFPA Thailand

What are the bold actions being taken by the Government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Thailand?

Good sexual and reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system.

Thailand demonstrated its commitment to preventing unintended pregnancy and halving adolescent childbearing by enacting the [Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Act A.D. 2016](#) (in effect since July 2016). The Act guarantees five sexual and reproductive health rights for young people: the right to make

a decision by oneself; the right to information and knowledge; the right to reproductive health service; the right to confidentiality and privacy; and the right to social welfare provision, that are equal and non-discriminative.

Under the Act, the 10-year national strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy is scheduled to pass the Cabinet's approval within 2017. With the strategy, the implementation requires integrated and cross-cutting work by all stakeholders in the

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Thailand aims to halve teenage pregnancy by 2026. The most importance is given to understanding young people and what they want. Then we need to raise awareness among parents and adults to open space to discuss on sexuality so young people are able to prevent themselves from unintended pregnancy.

Piyasakol Sakonsattayadorn
Public Health Minister

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UNFPA's workshop for youth on the Act to prevent and solve the teenage pregnancy problem empowered us. We learned what the sexual and reproductive health and rights are. Teen mothers have rights to continue education, social protection and referral service.

Wilasinee Sareenak
Member of the National Youth Council, Patumwan District, Bangkok



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Under Goal 3, preventing unintended pregnancy and reducing adolescent childbearing through universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services are critical to further advances in the health of women, children and adolescents. © UNFPA Thailand

society—authorities at all levels across five implementing ministries, policy makers, civil society, parents, young people and the private sector.

Why do the above actions matter to people in Thailand?

Thailand faces a demographic change into an ageing society with low fertility, yet with the presence of high unintended adolescent pregnancies. The proportion of the population aged over 60 years has increased while that of young people has dropped. However, a high number of them become

teen mothers. This has become a significant national social and economic development concern.

An increasing trend of adolescent births happened during 2000-2012: a 73 per cent increase from 31 to 54 births per 1,000 adolescents aged 15-19. It came down to 44 per 1,000 in 2015. In number, about 100,000 to 130,000 of women aged 15 to 19 years old become mothers each year. Therefore, over one million babies were born to teen mothers since 2000.

Many researches find that adolescent pregnancy is a major

contributor to social and economic exclusion and poverty.

What SDGs have been particularly advanced through the enactment of the Act?

The Act focuses on Goal 3 on good health and well-being with Indicator 3.7.1: Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods, and Indicator 3.7.2: Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group.

It also contributes to Goal 5 on gender equality with Indicator 5.6.1: Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care, and Indicator 5.6.2: Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education.



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