



BIANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



UNFPA Thailand



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FOREWORD



UNFPA



For a sustainable future,
**let us make rights and
choices a reality for all**

by Najib Assifi, Country Director a.i. for UNFPA Thailand

The year 2019 marked 25 years since Thailand and another 178 countries adopted the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Even before the adoption of the Programme of Action, Thailand had taken measures to ensure that the whole population, especially women and girls, had rights and choices, including in relation to reproductive health. Since the 1960s, Thailand has been a global model for expanding support for family planning and providing access to modern contraception. In 2002, the country took a bold step by adopting universal health coverage before it had achieved upper-middle-income country status (which was granted in 2011). This demonstrates Thailand's commitment to making the well-being of individuals a top priority. As a result of this support for health care, Thailand has the second lowest maternal mortality ratio among countries in the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

However, some gaps in achieving the unmet need for family planning remain among some population groups, which have resulted in increasing numbers of adolescent pregnancies. Given the effect of early pregnancy on the adolescent population, Thailand enacted the Act for the

Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy in 2016 as a legal measure to ensure concerted efforts from all relevant ministries to provide adolescents with rights and choices in relation to their reproductive health. As a trusted partner, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) worked alongside the Royal Thai Government before, during and after the enactment of the law, particularly in relation to ensuring that the voices of young people are heard and collecting evidence on how to meet adolescents' needs and demands with regard to their reproductive health.

Thailand faces a number of challenges as a result of its ageing population and low birth rate, and the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in which vulnerable population groups—older persons, youth with disability and teen mothers—are more affected. Thailand could turn these challenges into opportunities for demographic dividend through a commitment to taking tangible action in response to this changing population structure. There is a need to empower every group of the population, but particularly young people, to gain the right skills to enable them to make informed decisions to achieve their potential. UNFPA stands ready to work with the public and private sectors, civil society organisations (CSOs), academia and young people themselves to achieve the society that Thai people want, that is,

'An empowered population, a sustainable future for all, leaving no one behind'.

UNFPA: Ensuring rights and choices for all

The commitment of UNFPA to ensuring rights and choices for all is reflected in the 11th programme cycle (2017–2021) through outputs that focus on youth empowerment in an ageing population and data-driven advocacy for evidence-based population and development policy. In 2018, UNFPA committed to achieving three zeros by 2030: zero unmet need for contraception; zero preventable maternal deaths; and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as child marriage. Our work and our targets support the UNFPA vision to see a world where all young persons, especially adolescent girls, are entitled to sexual and reproductive health rights and are able to make informed choices. This will enable young persons to develop and fulfil their potential.





Ensuring rights and choices for every young person (output 1)

Thailand has achieved a great deal of success through its family planning initiatives that were introduced in the 1970s, including making modern contraceptives highly accessible for the reproductive-aged population. Up to 79 per cent of married couples use modern contraceptives. However, a number of adolescent girls aged 15–19 years do not have access to modern contraceptives. This has led to high rates of adolescent pregnancy: 53.4 per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years in 2011. Although the rate decreased to 35 per 1,000 women in 2018, it is still high for an upper-middle-income country where resources and access to contraception are available. UNFPA contributed to the enactment of the Act of the Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy in 2016. The cornerstone of the Act is to ensure that young persons, including those with disabilities, are entitled to and enjoy rights to sexual and reproductive health as stipulated under the Act and as outlined in the ICPD. UNFPA works alongside partners to encourage young persons, including those with disabilities, to become youth advocates for rights and choices for all. This supports the United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of leaving no one behind.

Promoting the voices of young persons in policymaking (output 2)

Promoting the voices of young persons through meaningful participation is key to the work of UNFPA. UNFPA supports young persons to develop the skills, knowledge and support needed to make informed decisions about their bodies, lives, families, communities, countries and the world.

UNFPA engages young people in its work and advocates for youth engagement in the policies affecting young people's lives. To empower young advocates to campaign for policies and measures that will improve their lives, UNFPA works alongside young people to develop evidence-based recommendations on issues advocated for with policymakers. Just as importantly, UNFPA provides financial and technical support to adolescents and youth who are in the process of building networks and organisations to advocate for their human rights. The inclusion of youth from diverse backgrounds and identities, particularly disadvantaged and marginalised groups, is prioritised.

UNFPA also promotes the meaningful participation of young people in international settings where issues relating to them will be discussed. Many of the youth networks that UNFPA supports have been effective advocates for youth issues in international and regional forums.

Showcasing Thailand as a champion of knowledge sharing and partnerships (output 3)

As one of the champions for population and development committed to the ICPD, Thailand has played a key role in 'ending maternal mortality' through sharing its knowledge, expertise and success in maternal health

initiatives and through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) to assist countries that need this capacity. In addition, this knowledge sharing contributes to reducing preventable maternal deaths, which can affect mothers of any age.

To date, Thailand has been working with UNFPA on knowledge sharing in various formats, including through triangular cooperation and the establishment of the South-South Cooperation (SSC) Solution Network. Many countries throughout Asia benefit from this network.



Achievements

The year 2018

Achievement 1: Empowering young people in their rights and choices

Approximately **1,000 young people** in Chiang Mai were empowered as Youth Reproductive Right Advocates through the I Design project. The lessons learnt from using the **I Design** curriculum will be documented and shared with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to enable it to be modified and introduced as the national curriculum for members of the Children and Youth Council of Thailand.



Achievement 2: Evidence for policy recommendations

UNFPA supports the implementation of important national policies for young persons by advocating for a rights-based approach and utilising the joint UNFPA–Department of Health reproductive health database, study and evidence including youth-friendly health survey with mysterious-client method. This database provides evidence for policymakers to ensure that a quality reproductive health service is provided to the approximately 12.6 million young people in Thailand.

A National Adolescent Pregnancy Policy and National Reproductive Health Policy are being implemented to ensure that all young girls can access sexual and reproductive health care and services to prevent adolescent pregnancy and to provide assistance when it does occur, including through the right to education and to make decision-based rights to reproductive health.

In addition, UNFPA has worked with the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) to produce data and evidence to ensure a life-long rights-based approach for the population in the upcoming National Population Policy. The approach will ensure the rights of every population group to a sustainable future in an ageing society.

Achievement 3:

Thailand champions safe motherhood through South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Thailand as a champion for safe motherhood provides technical assistance to neighbouring countries through SSTC. Through various SSTC initiatives, approximately 150 midwives and health personnel from countries with high maternal mortality ratios have gained knowledge and experience from Thailand to ensure quality practices for safe motherhood in their home countries.

The year 2019

Achievement 1:

Voices of young people supporting policymaking

More than **5,000 young persons** nationwide and especially in Chiang Mai advocate for the rights and skills they need. Their voices have been used to identify hotspots of teen mothers in Thailand and this information has been presented to national policymakers. More than **8,000 national youth council members** benefit from these **hotspots of teen mothers** data in their hometowns.

In addition, more than **3,000 young people nationwide**, including vulnerable youth, advocate for essential skills and sexual and reproductive health rights. Their opinions have been synthesised into **three recommendations** on adolescents' sexual and reproductive health rights,

which have been presented to the national committee on implementing the Act for Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem, chaired by the Minister of Public Health. These voices are gathered through the partnership between UNFPA, the Children and Youth Council of Thailand and the Thai Public Broadcasting Service (Thai PBS).





Achievement 2: Thailand's accomplishments and commitments on population and development

The year 2019 marked 25 years since 179 governments endorsed the Programme of Action of the ICPD. UNFPA, in partnership with the Office of the NESDC, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Thailand Science Research and Innovation TSRI), issued the publication *Population and Development for a Sustainable Future in Thailand: 25 Years after the ICPD*. It outlined Thailand's achievements in population and development: 75.5 per cent of women now have access to modern contraception; fewer than 20 in 100,000 women face preventable maternal death and there is almost 100 per cent coverage of the universal health coverage system.

To restate its firm commitments, Thailand pledged to advance the unfinished agenda of the ICPD at the Nairobi Summit in November 2019:

- Thailand's universal health coverage system ensures that 'Everyone on the Thai soil has access to all essential health services including sexual and reproductive health, without financial barrier'.
- Multi-sectoral actions through national coordination mechanisms ensure rights-based equitable access to quality, comprehensive, gender-based violence prevention, care and information services, and empower female adolescents through continued schooling and effective enforcement of relevant legal frameworks to ensure reductions in teen pregnancy.
- A life-course and inclusive approach to healthy lifestyles, including an active and healthy ageing population, will be implemented.

Achievement 3: Partnership for e-learning – 'My Body, My Right, My Choice'

It is estimated that more than **100,000 young persons** in and out of the education system will benefit from the e-learning tool 'My Body, My Right, My Choice', developed under the partnership between UNFPA and Dek-D.com (<https://www.dek-d.com/unfpa/>).

Achievement 4:

Multi-sector partnerships for sustainability

Thailand, as a champion for safe motherhood, supports the establishment of the **Thailand-based Solution Network on Safe Motherhood** through SSTC. Through the network, knowledge and experiences relating to ending preventable maternal deaths are shared and exchanged with 12 other countries in Asia. The countries in the network are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

In light of demographic change, the Thai private sector should increase its engagement in contributing to sustainability in Thailand. UNFPA and Magnolia Quality Development Corporation Limited (MQDC) signed a **memorandum of understanding** on an initiative called 'Be the Change', which empowers young entrepreneurs to achieve a better society through taking a **life-course approach to sustainability**.

Achievement 5:

Social return on investment for South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Safe Motherhood

Social return on investment (SROI) analyses confirmed that the social value of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation – Safe Motherhood initiative is four times the value of the investment that Thailand made to the initiative. The report could advocate for the importance of Cooperation.

**My Body
My Right
My Choice**



THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THAILAND-UNFPA SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRILATERAL COOPERATION

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT ANALYSIS



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Strategic partnerships



Population and development

The report 25 Years after the ICPD: Population and Development for a Sustainable Future in Thailand

UNFPA works with Thai governmental partners to leverage the commitment to the three zeros and to address the changing population dynamics through the report 25 Years after the ICPD: Population and Development for a Sustainable Future in Thailand, jointly published by NESDC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and TSRI.

Reduce adolescent pregnancy

UNFPA is a member of the Independent Adolescent Pregnancy Advisory Committee Sub-committee, which advises on family planning policy and monitors and follows up the policy implementation stipulated in the Act to Prevent and Solve the Problem of the Adolescent Pregnancy 2016.

Hotspot of teen mothers in Thailand

UNFPA, in partnership with Thai governmental and academic partners, harmonises available data on teen mothers from various departments into geographic information system data to locate hotspots of teen mothers in Thailand. The hotspot data assist policy planners and implementers to respond proactively to reducing teen pregnancy in Thailand. This is a joint activity by the Department of Health and Strategy and the Planning Division of the Ministry of Public Health; the Bureau of Registration Administration of the Ministry of Interior; the National Statistical Office; the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, and UNFPA.



Youth

There are a number of stakeholders involved in advocating for the rights of young persons

- the Child and Youth Council of Thailand, under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
- CSOs that advocate for the rights of young persons, including youth with disabilities, include RaksThai, the Thailand Research and Development Institution for People with Disability (TRIP), the Planned Parenthood Association Thailand (PPAT) and Ratchasuda College, Mahidol University
- young people with disabilities
- academia: Chulalongkorn University
- media: Thai PBS
- private sector: MQDC, Dek-D.com
- high net worth individuals

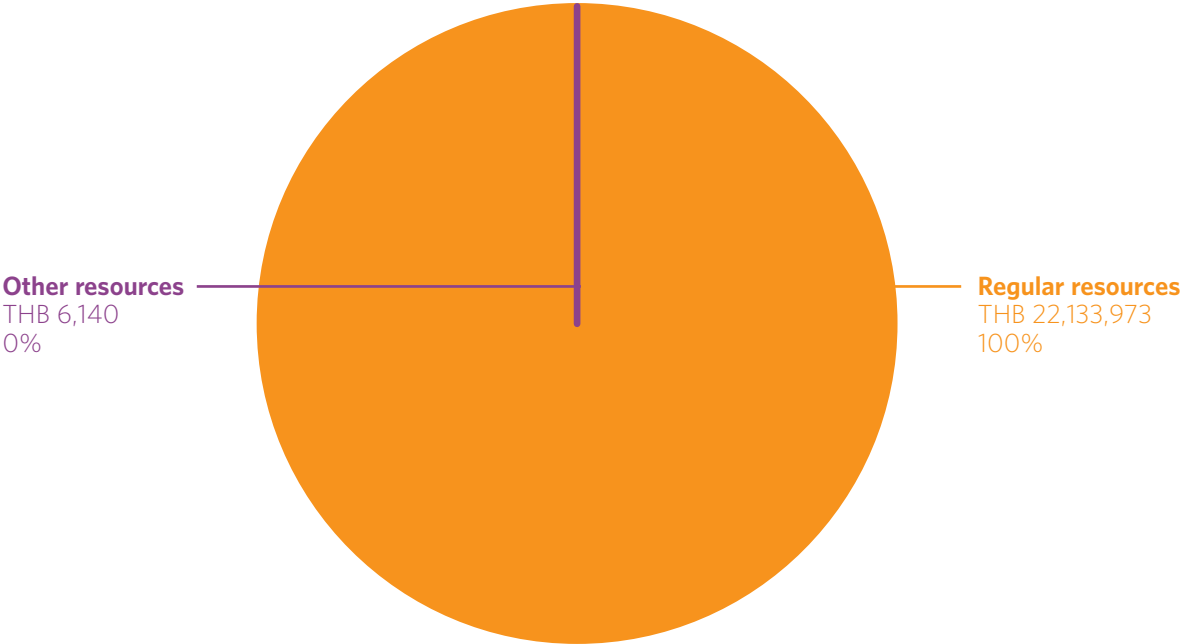
South-South and Triangular Cooperation for regional and global safe motherhood

- Faculty of Nursing, Khon Kaen University
- Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University
- Faculties of Nursing of Prince of Songkla University and Mahidol University
- Thailand Nurse and Midwifery Association
- Thailand International Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Resource and spending

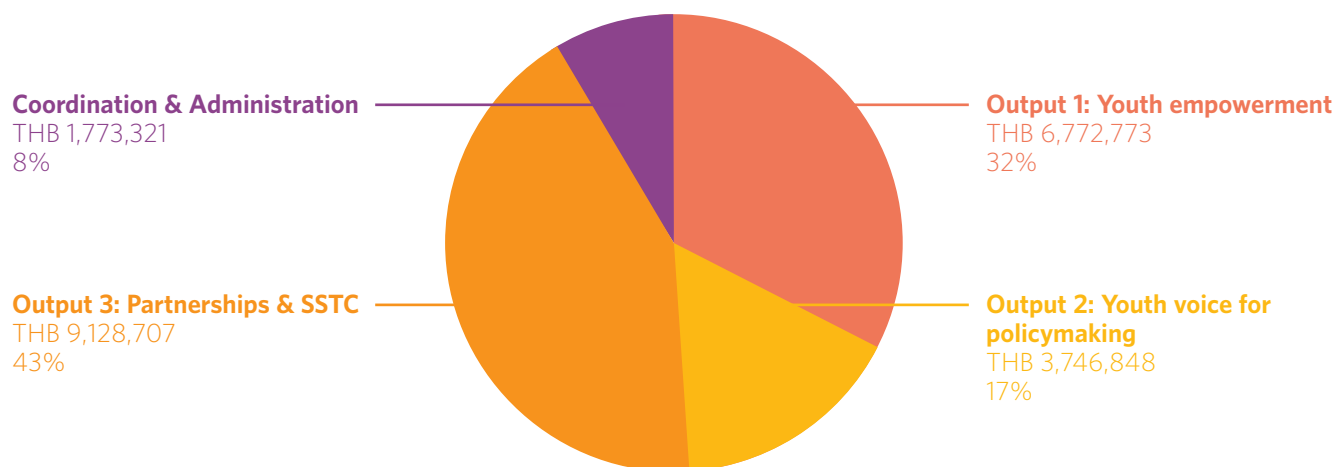
2018 budget resources	
Regular resource	THB 22,133,973
Other resources	THB 6,140

2018 BUDGET RESOURCES



2018 budget spending	
SDGs 3.7 and 5.6: Meaningful youth engagement in making policy UNFPA transformative result: End unmet need for family planning	
Output 1: Youth empowerment	THB 6,772,773
SDGz 1, 3 and 5: Population and data to support policymaking UNFPA transformative result: End maternal death and unmet need for family planning	
Output 2: Youth voice for policymaking	THB 3,746,848
SDG 17: SSC for safe motherhood UNFPA transformative result: End maternal death	
Output 3: Partnerships and SSTC	THB 9,128,707
Coordination and administration	THB 1,773,321

2018 BUDGET RESOURCES

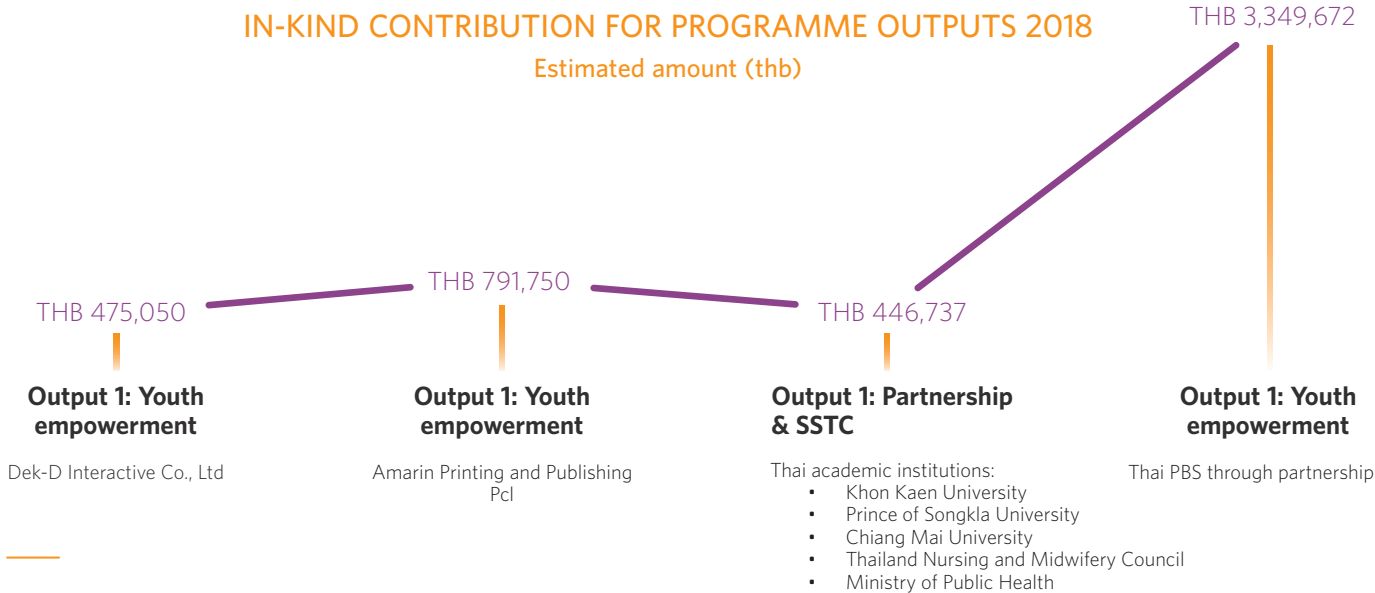


In-kind contribution for programme outputs 2018

Contributing organisation/company	Programme output benefiting from in-kind contribution	Estimated amount
Dek-D Interactive Co., Ltd	Output 1: Youth empowerment	THB 475,050
Amarin Printing and Publishing Pcl	Output 1: Youth empowerment	THB 791,750
Thai academic institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Khon Kaen University▪ Prince of Songkla University▪ Chiang Mai University▪ Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council▪ Ministry of Public Health	Output 3: SSTC	THB 446,737
Thai PBS through partnership	Output 1: Youth empowerment	THB 3,349,672

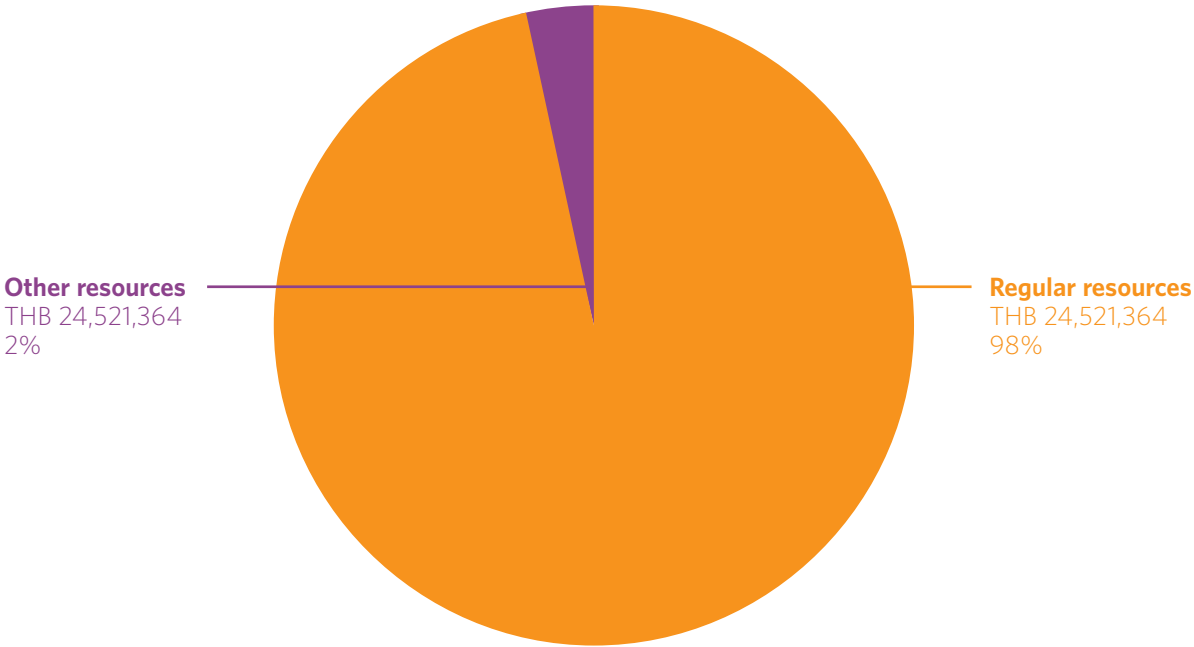
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION FOR PROGRAMME OUTPUTS 2018

Estimated amount (thb)



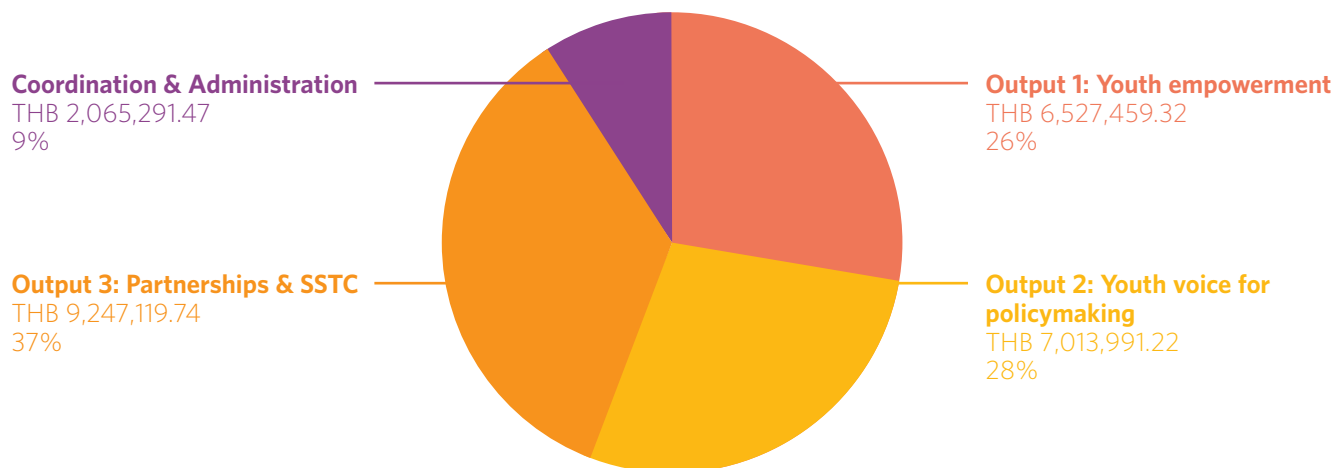
2019 budget resources	
Regular resource	THB 24,521,364
Other resources	THB 619,909

2019 BUDGET RESOURCES



2019 budget spending	
SDGs 3.7 and 5.6: Meaningful youth engagement in making policy UNFPA transformative result: End unmet need for family planning	
Output 1: Youth empowerment	THB 6,527,459.32
SDGs 1, 3 and 5: Population and data to support policymaking UNFPA transformative result: End maternal death and unmet need for family planning	
Output 2: Youth voice for policymaking	THB 7,013,991.22
SDG 17: SSC for safe motherhood UNFPA transformative result: End maternal death	
Output 3: Partnerships and SSTC	THB 9,247,119.74
Coordination and administration	THB 2,065,291.47

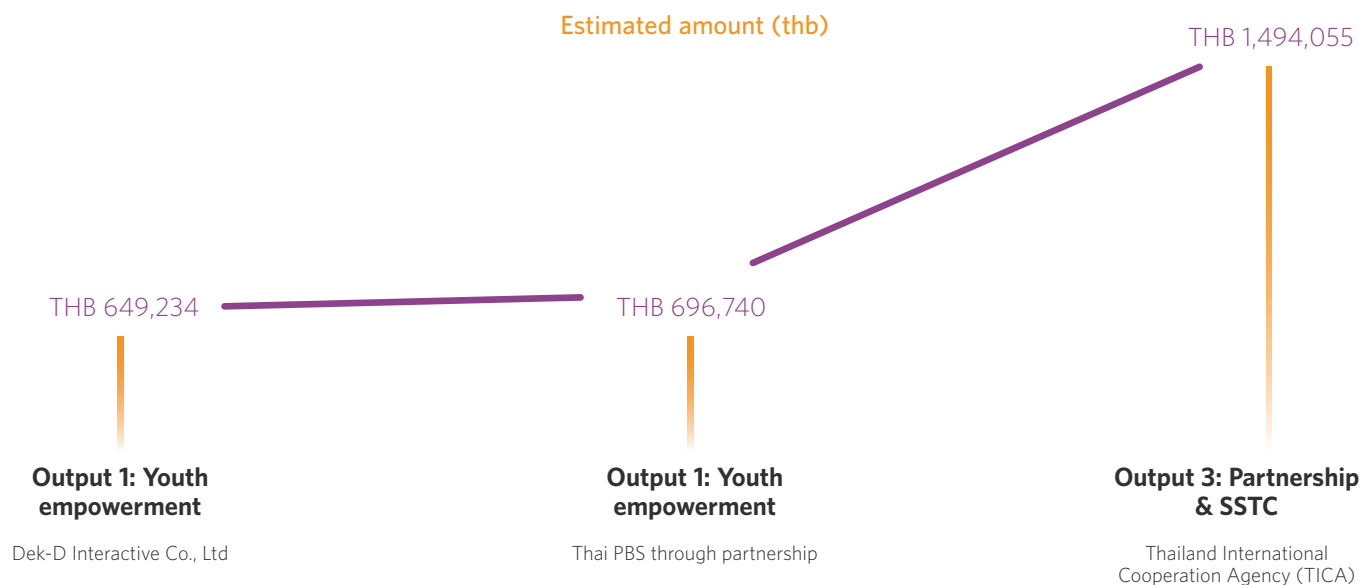
2018 BUDGET SPENDING



In-kind contribution for programme outputs 2019

Contributing organisation/company	Programme output benefiting from in-kind contribution	Estimated amount
Dek-D Interactive Co., Ltd	Output 1: Youth empowerment	THB 649,235
Thai PBS through partnership	Output 1: Youth empowerment	THB 696,740
TSRI (Study of the economic cost of teen pregnancy in Thailand) ¹	Output 2: Population and data	THB 3,000,000
Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)	Output 3: SSTC	THB 1,494,055

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION FOR PROGRAMME OUTPUTS 2019



¹ Consultancy fee paid to TDRI to conduct the study that UNFPA convenes for technical support



<https://thailand.unfpa.org/en/biannual-report-2018-2019>



Ensuring rights and choices for all **since 1969**

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