

# Joint SDG Fund

## Joint Programme Final Narrative Report

### PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED POLICY AND LNOB

## Cover page

**Date of Report:** 31 August 2022

#### *Programme title, Number and Country*

**Country:** Thailand  
**Joint Programme (JP) title:** Accelerating progress towards an integrated and modernized Social Protection System for All in Thailand  
**MPTF Office Project Reference Number<sup>1</sup>:** 00118554

#### *Programme Duration*

**Start date<sup>2</sup>** (day/month/year): 1 January 2020  
**Original End date<sup>3</sup>** (day/month/year): 31 December 2021  
**Actual End date<sup>4</sup>** (day/month/year): 30 June 2022  
**Have agencies operationally closed the Programme in its system?** Yes  
**Expected financial closure date<sup>5</sup>:** 31 August 2022

#### *Participating Organizations / Partners*

**RC** (name and email): Gita Sabharwal, [gita.sabharwal@un.org](mailto:gita.sabharwal@un.org)  
**Government Focal Point** (ministry/agency, focal point name and email): Patcharee Arayakul, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security  
**RCO Focal Point** (focal point name and email): Iwona Spytkowski, [Iwona.spytkowski@un.org](mailto:Iwona.spytkowski@un.org)  
**Lead PUNO Focal Point** (focal point name and email): Nuno Cunha, [Cunhan@ilo.org](mailto:Cunhan@ilo.org)  
**Other PUNO Focal Points** (focal point names and emails): Sarah Shahyar, [sshahyar@unicef.org](mailto:sshahyar@unicef.org); Jitradee Singhakowin, [jsinghakowin@iom.int](mailto:jsinghakowin@iom.int); Naruedee Janthasing, [naruedee.janthasing@unwomen.org](mailto:naruedee.janthasing@unwomen.org)

<sup>1</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

<sup>2</sup> The start date is the date inserted in the original ProDoc submitted and approved by the Joint SDG Fund.

<sup>3</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

<sup>4</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

<sup>5</sup> Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

**Programme Budget (US\$)**

**Total Budget** (as per Programme Document, without co-funding): USD 1,999,816

**Agency/Other Contributions/Co-funding** (if applicable): USD 662,000

**Estimated number of individuals that were reached through JP efforts:** 17.5 million (2.3 million children, 13 million older persons, 2 million people with disabilities, and 0.2 million domestic workers)

**Joint SDG Fund Contribution<sup>6</sup> and co-funding breakdown, by recipient organization:**

Agency/others	Joint SDG Fund contribution	Co-funding	Total
PUNO1 ILO	USD 660,565	USD 240,000	USD 900,565
PUNO2 UNICEF	USD 829,250	USD 230,000	USD 1,059,250
PUNO3 UN Women	USD 238,947	USD 100,000	USD 338,947
PUNO4 IOM	USD 271,054	USD 92,000	USD 363,054
<b>Total</b>	<b>USD 1,999,816</b>	<b>USD 662,000</b>	<b>USD 2,661,815</b>

<sup>6</sup> Joint SDG Fund Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

## Executive summary

### Outcome 1: Integrated policy solutions developed following a review of the social protection system

Despite the implementation challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2020-2021, the Joint Programme (JP) had been able to adapt its approach and make significant progress. Between November 2020 and May 2022, the JP convened nine consultations with various stakeholders from government agencies, employers' and workers' organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions to discuss challenges and recommendations for a more inclusive social protection system in Thailand based on five dimensions: need; coverage; effectiveness; sustainability; and coherence. As a result of the consultations, the Social Protection Diagnosis Review (SPDR), a comprehensive review of the social protection system in Thailand, has been developed along with its six thematic background papers on social protection mapping and vulnerability analysis, children, gender, informal economy, pension, and migrant workers to provide detailed analysis and recommendations for each area of focus and one technical note on sustainable financing of social protection to assess the implications of different economic and revenue scenarios for investment in social protection and to quantify returns on investment in social protection.

The JP collaborated with the ILO International Training Centre (ITC) to conduct a Social Budgeting Course to examine the short- and long-term quantitative aspects of the social protection system. The course consisted of tailor-made hybrid sessions commenced for 12 weeks from October to December 2020. It was participated by 15 representatives from different partnered government agencies to create social budgeting projections and forecasts that will be used to support the development of the SPDR.

From the various activities and engagements with the JP's government counterparts, the Royal Thai Government's 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan, which has already been approved and endorsed by the Cabinet and outlined the country's five-year strategy for national development (2023-2027), has for the first time incorporated a national direction on social protection, with key messages and ideas from the JP's workshops and reports clearly reflected in the national plan. This includes strategies to enhance social protection coverage for all age groups, integration of the social protection systems and database, evaluation of all social protection schemes to ensure effectiveness and efficiency, and to increase the adequacy of benefits in all schemes. This national plan will act as a blueprint that outlines the direction for all related government agencies to abide by and achieve within the five-year period. Before the project end, high-level bi-lateral meetings were arranged with the Minister of Social Development and Human Security and the Secretary-General of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) to present the JP's policy recommendations and received full endorsements and support.

To address the concern on financial resources available for social protection, the JP commissioned the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) in November 2021 to develop a Technical Note on Sustainable Financing Social Protection in Thailand to discuss possible scenarios in terms of the economic growth and resources available for the country to invest in social protection, as well as the implications of different investment options in the medium- and long-term on the country's productivity, growth and poverty reduction. It is also equally important to understand the impact of investment in social protection on the government's revenues in the medium and long-term – as investing in social protection can indeed contribute to government revenues through a number of channels, including through an expanded tax-base and formalization of the workforce, as well as higher productivity of the workforce and saving on a number of social and health costs. The preliminary findings were presented in February 2022 in a high-level technical roundtable where an expert panel from the Bank of Thailand, NESDC and Ministry of Finance shared their comments and critiques of the Technical Note. The roundtable was attended by a number of senior level government officials, as well as prominent economists and experts from academia and thinktanks. The Technical Note has been revised based on the inputs received during and after the technical roundtable and was finalized in June 2022. The results will be used as key evidence in further advocacy with the government and related stakeholders for increased budget allocation on social protection.

### Outcome 2: Scale up coverage of Child Support Grant from 700,000 children to 2 million children

The Royal Thai Government has taken a giant leap forward in the expansion of Child Support Grant (CSG) towards the realization of a universal approach. Following continued advocacy by the JP for universalization of the CSG at the highest levels and a commitment taken by the National Child and Youth Committee (NCYC) in September 2020, the proposal is now before the Cabinet but approval has been delayed due to continued focus on government COVID-19 response efforts. Once the proposal is approved by the Cabinet, the number of eligible children (under 6 years old) who will benefit from the CSG will expand from the current target of 2 million to over 4 million children and will contribute to addressing the exclusion of vulnerable children caused by current income-based targeting.

In June 2022 the JP continued its advocacy efforts in support of the MSDHS (DCY) proposal alongside the CSO Coalition on Universal Child Support Grant (with a public event co-organised by UNICEF and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Children, Youth, Women, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, and LGBTQs and the CSO Coalition on the Universal CSG at Parliament House. This strategic event aimed to influence the budget allocation of the CSG during the 2023 Budget Hearing, and it received high media coverage during that week<sup>7</sup>. The JP will continue to promote this proposal with a focus on the upcoming national election campaigns.

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<sup>7</sup> [UNICEF calls for universal Child Support Grant to ensure no child left behind in Thailand's COVID-19 recovery](#)

Alongside this development, the Royal Thai Government decided in February 2021 to mobilize financial support of THB 13 million (approximately USD \$433,800) for the development of an enhanced Child Support Grant's Management Information System (CSG MIS), now fully financed by the Government. The enhanced CSG MIS, which will be launched in September 2022, improves the implementation of the scheme for the 2.3 million children who are current beneficiaries and will ensure a greater number of future beneficiaries. Combined with the technical support to improve the M&E framework of the CSG, the improved MIS will also contribute to an enhanced programme reporting and accountability. The decision followed a 2020 assessment report of the CSG MIS and continued JP advocacy efforts. The JP commissioned consultants to support the DCY throughout the MIS development process, transferring technical knowhow to DCY staff. A technical note was developed in June 2021 to identify the remaining gaps of the enhanced CSG MIS not covered by the Government budget for which the JP agreed to provide further support. The enhanced CSG MIS – which is a collaboration between the Government (MSDHS-DCY) and the JP - was completed in June 2022. To ensure effective communication on the enhanced CSG MIS at all levels, The JP supported the development of communication materials regarding the new system which will be distributed nationwide after its launch.

To support the improvement of key design features of the CSG, the JP partnered with Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) to generate a number of assessments, including a review of benefits adequacy, a feasibility study on the expansion of CSG to pregnant women, an assessment of the CSG targeting strategy and practices, and a study on linkages of the CSG to other social services. The preliminary findings of these studies have been used to inform on-going discussions with government partners. The reports were finalized in June 2022. The JP and the Government will continue to use these assessments to improve the design features of the CSG in the upcoming months.

In addition, in the partnership with TDRI, the following studies were conducted in response to the request and priorities of the Government regarding disabilities issues; a feasibility study to improve the eligible criteria and its implementation, a review of benefits adequacy and a situation analysis of social services for children with disabilities. The studies are being finalized and, the key findings and recommendations were fed to the final SPDR report as well as being presented and discussed with the Government and stakeholders.

For policy and public communication, following two assessments to review both internal and external communication of the Child Support Grant and the Disability Grant, and the development of communication strategies of the two social protection schemes in 2021, the JP provided support to the implementation of the communication strategies. The finalization of the rules and regulations of the CSG was delayed, so the plan to produce communication materials on it will be carried over by UNICEF. On the Disability Grant, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) adopted the key recommendations from communication strategies and developed communication materials and a chatbot system to support their online communication on the Disability Grant and the government services for persons with disabilities.

The JP also supported capacity building of Government staff. A capacity building workshop was held in January 2021 for DCY and DEP officials, CSG implementing staff in provinces, and Disabled People Organisations aiming at enhancing DCY and DEP's understanding of the implications of developing an effective communication strategy and to support the identification of different knowledge products required for the different stages of implementation. This was a preparation to rollout a comprehensive communication strategy to promote the CSG and Disability Grant. In June 2022, training was organized to enhance knowledge and skills on the creation of online platform content for 10 DCY officials.

Promoting disability inclusion, the JP also supported the Government in raising awareness on the rights for Persons with Disabilities. As part of a national initiative, training for frontline workers working on disabilities from the DEP and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration was organized in June 2022. Further upcoming trainings will be financed from the Government budget.

### **Outcome 3: Policy options to ensure effective coverage for domestic workers, including migrants, within the existing social security schemes are designed and tested.**

On 16 June 2021, as an initial step to commence a social dialogue on the issue of social protection for domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers, and to mark the 10th anniversary of the International Domestic Workers' Day, the JP presented the "Technical Brief: Opportunities for extending social security protection to domestic workers in Thailand" to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour (MOL). This technical brief outlines the current policy, legal, and administrative barriers to the provision of social security coverage for domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers, and introduces preliminary policy recommendations.

Building on the preliminary results and recommendations of the technical brief, the JP commissioned two consultants, one national and one international, to develop a follow-up study entitled "The Policy Review on Social Security and Social Protection for Domestic Workers in Thailand". This policy review provides an in-depth and comprehensive picture of domestic workers in Thailand, including those hired by households, through third-party agencies and platform, and self-employment, as well as their needs for social protection interventions and the feasibility of extending coverage of such policies to the domestic work sector. On 24 June 2022, the JP has presented the findings from the policy review to stakeholders including the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and CSOs to highlight and point out the critical findings for policy recommendations. With delays in the data collection process due to COVID-19, the policy review is being finalized with the PUNOs continuing the work to finalize the study and develop a concrete action plan to provide implementation milestones for the proposed recommendations. The JP aims to submit the finalized study and action plan to the Ministry of Labour within Q4 2022.

Furthermore, to sensitize and advocate for the inclusion of Thai and migrant domestic workers into the existing social security schemes in Thailand, the JP implemented a strategic communications campaign targeting different stakeholders, including Thai and migrant domestic workers, employers, and the government. For example, to commemorate the International Domestic Workers Day on 16 June 2021, the JP produced its first communications material with the human story, "[Towards a Better Life: Enhancing Social Protection for Migrant Domestic Workers in Thailand](#)". The story introduces a migrant domestic worker from Myanmar, her life working in Thailand, the lack of access to basic social protection, and her aspiration for a better future. The story was shared online and through multiple social media channels. Two Op-Eds from heads of PUNOs were also published on the local online new media to call for inclusive social protection: one on [Migrants key to pandemic rebuilt](#) published on International Migrants Day on 18 December 2021 and another one on [Domestic workers have rights too](#). Two short-advocacy videos on [Why do domestic workers need social protection?](#) and [Thai families need social protection for their domestic workers too](#) were also published to raise awareness on the social and economic value of domestic workers and the necessity and benefits in providing them with inclusive social protection.

The JP also collaborated with the Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion (HomeNet Thailand), a local NGO that supports a network of more than 6,000 domestic workers across the country, to produce Information, Education, and Communications (IEC) materials targeting domestic workers, both Thais and migrants, and Thai employers to raise awareness on their existing rights and obligations in relation to social protection for domestic workers in Thailand and to advocate for a more inclusive coverage.

On gender-related aspects, on 15 December 2021, the JP supported the launch of the Royal Thai Government's Practical Handbook on Gender Responsive Budgeting which was endorsed by the Cabinet on 7 December 2021. On this occasion, key government agencies and the private sector have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Joint Cooperation to Advance Gender Responsive Budgeting with UN Women. This demonstrates a critical government commitment to gender equality and ensures an effective, appropriate, and fair gender budgeting based on the needs of diverse groups of the population.

**Result 1: Integrated policy solutions developed following a review of the social protection system**

Estimated rate of completion as of 30 June 2022: 90%

**Result 2: Scale up coverage of Child Support Grant from 700,000 children to 2 million children by end 2021 as a result of strengthened integrated social protection systems**

Estimated rate of completion as of 30 June 2022: 100%

**Result 3: Policy options to ensure effective coverage for domestic workers, including migrants, within the existing social security schemes are designed and tested**

Estimated rate of completion as of 30 June 2022: 90%

## I. Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues

### I.1 Context and the overall approach

#### *Ensuring an adaptive and strategic JP*

- The Royal Thai Government's priorities had moved to emergency and short-term responses due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. This shift in policy priorities presented considerable challenges for the JP in carrying out the planned activities and delivering expected results, leading to delays and challenges to conduct work on the ground, especially to organize workshops and meetings in person due to physical meeting restrictions and required social distancing measures.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the JP focused on activities that did not require travel or face-to-face interactions, and also worked to promote the social protection reforms and to advocate for those vulnerable groups who were most affected by the pandemic – especially children, the elderly, those working in the informal sector, migrant workers, and low-income families with children. In 2021, with the resurgence of the COVID-19 cases, the JP further adapted its approach by implementing the rest of the SPDR consultative workshops online and for the first time of the programme implementation, used innovative meeting methods and utilized a virtual meeting platform to encourage interactions and dialogue between participants to ensure engagements and opportunities for all participants to share feedback and access to different technical inputs of the SPDR.
- As most events have been delayed or postponed, the JP moved around 15 per cent of the overall budget – mainly on communication activities under all Outcomes – to 2022 and conducted meetings and workshops in person only when possible.

#### *Link with UNDAF/ UNSD Cooperation Framework*

##### **Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Outputs:**

- The JP's work is aligned and interlinked with the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) from 2022 – 2025, especially on Outcome 2 to improve human capital needed for social and inclusive development through strengthening institutions, partnerships and the empowerment of people, and on Outcome 3 to enable people living in Thailand, especially those at risk of being left furthest behind, to participate in and benefit from development, free from all forms of discrimination. Some of the Outputs linked to these two UNSDCF Outcomes are as follows:
- The JP's interventions, reports, and engagements contributed to the development of strategies and targets on social protection in the newly drafted 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2023-2027) which for the first time included national development plans specifically on social protection as one of the country's priorities.
- In the process of conducting the SPDR, the JP had developed a comprehensive social protection database that consolidated data from the different Ministries and government sources, and once finalized, government officials will have access to this social protection database that can be used for future development of a social protection dashboard and monitoring tool.
- The JP collaborated with the ILO International Training Centre (ITC) to develop a virtual tailor-made Social Budgeting Course to instruct 15 technical-level government officials on how to use real-time data consolidated from each agency to create social budgeting forecasts and projections according to international standards. Participants included representatives from the MSDHS, SSO, Fiscal Policy Office, Office of National Economic and Social Development Council, and the Bank of Thailand.
- The JP's close collaboration and technical support with the related government agencies and consistent advocacy for the expansion of the Child Support Grant (CSG) to all children contributed to the National Child and Youth Committee fully endorsing the Universal CSG proposal and the Royal Thai Government incrementally moving towards a universal CSG approach.
- The JP's technical work with the Ministry of Labour (MOL) and Social Security Office (SSO) and the strategic communications campaign on extending social security coverage to domestic workers, including Thai and migrants, contributed to the change of mindsets of MOL and SSO officials and increase public support towards the possibility of extending social security coverage and adequacy to this group of workers.
- In collaboration with the ILO/SSO Project, the JP organized two workshops on the extension of coverage with the SSO to share international experiences, discuss the current challenges in expanding social security coverage to workers in the informal economy and together worked on recommendations for potential policy options.
- The JP also provided support to capacity building of key government agencies towards inclusive social protection policy design and implementation. Three technical government officials from the Department of the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) and the Fiscal Policy Office attended a training course on Social Protection and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities organized by UNICEF, ILO and Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Science.
- The capacity-building training was held for the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) staff on public and CSG programme communication. The JP also organized a series of trainings for DCY staff on data processing of the CSG MIS and user acceptance testing to prep the DCY in order to be able to properly test the CSG MIS during the handover from the vendor.
- A capacity-building training was organized for frontline workers of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to raise awareness and increase the understanding of the rights and services for persons with disabilities.
- The JP also supported the Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion (HomeNet Thailand), a local NGO with a network of domestic workers more than 6,000 people across the country, to develop awareness raising materials and knowledge outreach to educate domestic workers on their existing rights in relation to social protection and the importance of having an inclusive coverage.

- The JP's technical support provided to the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development on the advancement of Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment in all levels and aspects of policy framework development, especially the application and integration of GRB into social protection for domestic workers. In addition, in June the JP, led by UN Women, has partnered with the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) to equip the national and local government authorities of other critical line ministries with knowledge about gender-responsive budgeting after the JP supported the launch of the RTG's first gender-responsive budgeting manual in December 2021.

### *COVID-19 impact*

- The COVID-19 pandemic has created a substantial socio-economic impact in Thailand with slow and uneven recovery. The most vulnerable groups – especially children, informal workers, and migrant workers – are more likely to continue to bear the brunt of the pandemic's impact. Considering this situation, the JP has taken a proactive approach and jointly continued to provide technical advice and advocacy to address the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable.
- In March 2020, the JP produced the Joint Technical Note on "Protecting the Most Vulnerable from the Impact of COVID-19". This technical note contains several recommendations, among others, to top-up existing cash transfer programmes as a short-term emergency relief, to expand eligibility criteria to increase the coverage of the existing programmes, especially the Child Support Grant (CSG), and to provide measures to safeguard rights and protection of migrant workers in a moment of crisis. The JP mobilized advocacy at the highest level to drive the adoption of the technical note, including a meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) for endorsement, and submission of the recommendations directly to the Prime Minister's Office and other relevant Ministers in April 2020. Following the recommendations from the technical note, the Royal Thai Government approved a new range of social protection measures to further protect the most vulnerable families against the economic fallout from COVID-19, including the decision to top-up existing cash transfers to defined vulnerable groups (families benefitting from CSG, Disability Grant, Old Age Allowance and Welfare Card) with a supplementary cash grant at the value of THB 1,000 (USD 33) per month for three months, reaching approximately 8 million people, contributing to the sustained survival of the country's most vulnerable groups in this very difficult situation.
- In July 2020, the JP supported the development of the UN Country Team (UNCT) Social Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Thailand by providing technical inputs specifically on the sectoral analysis of social protection to ensure sufficient coverage of the most vulnerable groups, including children, women, migrant workers, the elderly, and people with disability.
- In response to the government stimulus package endorsed on 5 May 2021 and to further mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the Thai economy, the JP proposed recommendations on additional relief measures to consider the vulnerabilities of the most affected communities, families with children, people with disabilities, older adults, and migrant workers who were left out or have difficulties in accessing the proposed stimulus package. The Technical Note on "Protecting the most vulnerable from socio-economic impacts of COVID-19" recommended four measures to complement the existing relief packages: 1) A cash payment providing emergency support to households in communities most affected by COVID-19; 2) A top-up to the "We Win" scheme for beneficiaries with children to account for their additional burden of care; 3) Additional cash transfers to people with disabilities and older adults through a temporary top-up of the Disability Grant and Old Age Allowance; and 4) Integration of migrant workers who have contributed to the Social Security Fund, Section 33, into the existing relief measure – "Rao Rak Kan" scheme. The technical note was submitted, together with a joint cover letter signed by heads of all four PUNOS in Thailand, to the Labour Minister, Finance Minister, Social Development and Human Security Minister, and the Secretary-General of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) on 24 May 2021.

## **I.2 Update on priority cross-cutting issues**

### *UN Development System reform - UN coherence at the country level*

- The strong partnership among the PUNOs had made a significant impact to the success of the JP with consistent communication to agree on strategies. In the initial stages, UNICEF, with strong relationships with MSDHS, Fiscal Policy Office, and NESDC, arranged and facilitated initial bi-lateral meetings to introduce the JP and its objectives to the different stakeholders which resulted in strong working relationships between the PUNOs and the government agencies. The ILO also arranged meetings with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security Office where the JP and its researchers presented and validated the findings and made follow-up inquiries directly with the officials met during these meetings. IOM and UN Women also leveraged their contacts, especially with migrant- and gender-oriented stakeholders and CSOs, to include them in the social dialogues and activities. The JP capitalized on connections made from these meetings and solidified a strong partnership with its government counterparts, especially with the director- and technical-level officials, which opened both formal and informal communication channels between the PUNOs and the government agencies that help facilitated the JP's work and activities, including better cooperation for data, input and comments for the JP reports and participation in workshops and meetings.
- The Resident Coordinator (RC) had also played a leading role in moving forward the work of the JP, especially in leading the political and advocacy dialogue at the higher level to ensure that social protection for all remains visible on the political agenda, and to ensure the JP delivering a harmonized advocacy message as one UN. From 2020-2021, the JP had engaged the RC to co-chair the Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings with the Permanent Secretary of the MSDHS in August 2020 and in August 2021 to inform the JP's progress and achievements with the PSC members. In 2022, the RC also represented the JP team in presenting the SPDR's recommendations at the meeting with the Minister of MSDHS. The RC led the JP delegation in the high-level meetings with the Minister of SDHS and the Secretary-General of NESDC, and also presided over the opening of

the virtual consultation workshops and provided valuable guidance and inputs on every strategic activity and report. With the RC in the lead, the JP had leveraged the support from the RCO in coordinating activities with other UN agencies through UNCT meetings to ensure a consistent approach and prevent possible duplication of work, while ensuring the alignment of JP's activities with the UNPAF as well as the new UNSDCF.

### *Going beyond "business as usual" to produce catalytic results at scale*

- In early 2021, there was a political agenda to push forward the establishment of a National Pension Fund (NPF) which will duplicate the main purpose of the social security system and require compulsory contributions on top of the current social security contributions putting an additional financial burden on workers and employers with minimum pension return. The NPF was quickly approved by the Cabinet and sent to the Office of Council of State (OCS) for public hearings and legislative review before the final process of parliamentary approval into law. The NPF had minimal opposition, although the Social Security Office and the Bank of Thailand's PIER researchers tried to explain the complexity if the NPF was established by referencing recommendations and data from the JP's Background Paper on Pension and from involved ILO Social Protection Specialists. The OCS Chairperson, curious to learn more, invited the ILO Specialists to present to the Office of Council of State's committee on 20 August 2021, in which the specialists explained the importance of reforming the Thai pension system before establishing any new pension schemes, especially the NPF, which will complicate any future social security reforms and will not solve the adequacy problem until the fund matures in 25-30 years. The presentation and provided data created serious doubts amongst the committee members about the establishment of the NPF. To reemphasize the message, on 27 September 2021, a letter signed by the ILO Country Director was sent to the Office of Council of State, alongside the "Policy Brief: Towards better retirement benefits in Thailand" (a concise version of the Pension Report), which were all attached with the OCS' report and recommendations back to the Cabinet.

### *SDG acceleration*

- By the end of the project implementation period in June 2022, the Cabinet approved the 13<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan, with the JP's SPDR and background papers providing inputs to the plan with a clearer direction to move towards an integrated social protection system that ensures coherence, effectiveness and efficiency, and inclusion, and scaled up its social protection system to cover groups that were being left behind, improving the income of the bottom 40 percent of the population (SDG 10.1).
- After the finalization of the SPDR and its recommendations adopted by the Royal Thai Government, the policies on social protection will be revised and harmonized to ensure full coverage along the life cycle, ensuring that the social protection system functions in an effective and efficient manner, contributing to the acceleration of achievement of indicators under SDG 1.3.
- The enhanced CSG MIS contributes to SDG 1.3 since once the MIS is functional, the targeted population will be able to register and receive the grant on time. The expansion of the CSG, if approved by the Cabinet in 2022, will directly contribute to the expansion of social protection under SDG target 1.3. Strengthened linkages of the CSG to other social services will contribute to acceleration of child-related SDGs, including on nutrition (target 2.2), early childhood development (target 4.2) and gender equality (target 5.4).

### *Policy integration and systems change*

- The JP's activities directly influenced the stakeholders' understanding of the importance of social protection and coverage for all, leading to incremental changes in the policy directions, strategies, and implementations. One of the results is the 13<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan, which reflects key messages and ideas from the JP's workshops and reports. The strategies include enhancement of social protection coverage for all age groups, integration of the social protection systems and database, evaluation of all social protection schemes to ensure effectiveness and efficiency, and to increase adequacy of benefits in all schemes.
- The Social Budgeting Course, for the first time, provided an opportunity for specialists and technical-level officials from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Social Security Office, Fiscal Policy Office, Office of National Economic and Social Development Council, and Bank of Thailand to share data, connect and work together on a consolidated social budgeting projection for Thailand, breaking down the silos and contributing to a better knowledge and understanding of each agency's data and a more integrated social protection database in the future.

### *Contribution to improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups*

- In 2020-2021, as part of the development and finalization process of the SPDR and Background Papers on Migrant Workers, Gender, Informal Economy, Children, and Pension, the JP has directly engaged with an estimate of over 350 key stakeholders through the SPDR inception workshop (40), social budgeting course (15), Child Support Grant MIS assessment workshop (35), consultation and progress update meetings (60), key informant interviews (KIIs) and data collection (50), Validation Workshops on Pension (60) and Migrant Workers (57), and the virtual consultation webinars (200). The stakeholders include high-level and technical-level government officials, representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, civil society organizations'

- representatives, migrant workers, and several leading experts and academics. The JP's activities directly influence the stakeholders' understanding of the importance of social protection and coverage for all, leading to incremental changes in the policy directions, strategies, and implementations.
- The JP's joint policy note recommending top-up to the existing cash transfer programmes as a short-term economic emergency relief for COVID-19 directly reached over 8 million people who were in dire financial situation and the most vulnerable groups, including children, elderly, people with disabilities, and those with very low-income (those under the State Welfare Card programme). The cash transfer programmes, and top-up relief indirectly raise awareness amongst all Thais of the importance of the social protection system and the benefits of joining the social security schemes.
  - Child Support Grant now reaches 2.3 million vulnerable children under the age of six. Following the UN and the JP's advocacy, technical support and partnerships, Royal Thai Government is incrementally working to extend coverage to over 4 million children if approved by the Cabinet (expected in 2022), with the National Child and Youth Committee (NCYC) endorsing a Universal Child Support Grant proposal in September 2020. In 2021, UNJP continued providing technical supports and mobilize advocacy efforts. A revised proposal was developed which includes options for a phased expansion to address the concern regarding the on-going COVID-19 crisis and the limited available fiscal space. The revised proposal was submitted directly to the Minister of Social Development and Human Security, and subsequently presented to the Ministry of Finance but pending the Cabinet's approval. The JP's study on linkages of the CSG to other services serves also provides evidence to identify prioritized social services that are necessary for young children and mothers' needs and vulnerability.
  - To support the inclusion of domestic workers in social protection, the JP also conducted three consultative workshops with over 80 key stakeholders, including the government agencies, social partners, and domestic workers. A qualitative survey and quantitative interview with 220 domestic workers and 200 Thai employers were also carried out to ensure that domestic workers' needs and barriers are adequately reflected in the policy review and its proposed recommendations. A validation workshop was also organized to present the policy recommendations to over 30 officials from the MSDHS, MOL and SSO.
  - The JP also supported HomeNet Thailand in producing advocacy T-shirts for 220 domestic workers in the event to celebrate the International Domestic Workers' Day in 2022.
  - **Estimated number of individuals that were reached through JP efforts:** 17.5 million (2.3 million children, 13 million older persons, 2 million people with disabilities, and 0.2 million domestic workers)
  - Percentage of women and girls: 60%

### Mainstreaming Gender equality and women empowerment

- Gender had been mainstreamed in all parts of the JP Outcomes. **Of all beneficiaries of the Joint Programmes efforts, 60% were women and girls.** Under Outcome 1, the JP developed a Background Paper on Gender Impact Assessment of the Social Protection System in Thailand which is a gender impact analysis of the Thai social protection system that assesses the effectiveness of and accessibility to social protection for women and girls. The paper also identifies barriers to promoting gender equality and women/girls' empowerment through social protection and provides recommendations to improve the gender-sensitive and gender-responsive social protection policies in Thailand. Understanding that gender is an important element of the SPDR, other background studies also incorporate gender dimensions and aspects to support the analysis. The Background Paper on Migrant Workers includes a gender analytical lens as part of its methodology and with this, the paper provides insightful analysis and findings on gender impact on migrant workers in relation to their social protection coverage and access to benefits.
- The JP arranged a virtual consultative workshop with Academics, Civil Society and Social Partners on 22 September 2022 to present the findings and familiarize academics, civil society and social partners (employers and employees' representatives and trade unions) with the social protection mapping and to identify areas and ideas for reform. Many CSO representatives and gender-focused specialists attended the workshop and provided gender-related inputs.
- The JP engaged with the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) to undertake several studies on the Child Support Grant (CSG), including the linkages of CSG to other social services, adequacy and expansion to pregnant women.
- Under Outcome 3, as the majority of domestic workers in Thailand are women, including women migrant workers, the Policy Review of Domestic Workers in Thailand is among the most important pieces of JP's work that contributes to promoting gender equality and women empowerment for domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers in Thailand. This policy review discusses access and coverage of social security and social protection schemes of both Thai and migrant domestic workers, identify challenges and barriers, and design policy options and innovation to enhance gender-responsive and migrant-inclusive social protection schemes. The assessment will also lay the foundations and framework for evidence-based policy discussion to extend social protection eligibility and coverage to other occupations. The JP also worked closely with HomeNet to develop communication tools to educate domestic workers and advocate for better social protection.
- The JP supported the launch of the Royal Thai Government's Practical Handbook on Gender Responsive Budgeting, which was endorsed by the Cabinet on 7 December 2021. Through a signed Memorandum of Understanding on the Joint Cooperation to Advance Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), UN Women in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security together with other key potential partners including the Secretariat of the Senate, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives, the Budget Bureau, the Department of Local Administration, King Prajadhipok's Institute and the Securities and Exchange Commission, have committed to mainstreaming gender equality and women empowerment. The JP will continue its support to this multi-partnership on advancing GRB as it is an important strategy to promote gender equality and women's empowerment goals and an innovative public policy tool for assessing the impact of policies and budgets from a gendered perspective to ensure that policies and their budgets do not perpetuate gender inequalities but contribute to a more equal society for all, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized.
- Estimated percentage of overall disbursed funds spent on gender equality and women empowerment by the end of JP: 70%

### Human rights

- The SPDR and the background papers are developed in line with the human rights standard, including the ILO International Labour Standards and Recommendations such as ILO C102 – Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), R202 - Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) and the ILO Decent Work Agenda and its strategic objectives on employment, social security, social dialogue and fundamental principles and rights at work.
- The Background Paper on Migrant Workers are also developed based on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), in particular Objective 15 to provide access to basic services for migrants, objective 16 to empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion, and Objective 22 to assist migrant workers at all skills levels to have access to social protection in countries of destination and profit from the portability of applicable social security entitlements and earned benefits in their countries of origin or when they decide to take up work in another country.
- The JP’s advocacy for the social protection coverage for domestic workers, including migrants, and the push for universal Child Support Grant are underpinned by the human rights and child-rights principles, to realize the universal rights to social protection and income security. The JP’s support on advancement of Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) will ensure the Royal Thai Government’s contribution to fulfilling international gender and human rights commitments.

### Partnerships

- The JP established a strong partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS), the Royal Thai Government’s main focal point for the implementation of the programme and ensured regular consultation with the working team to advance the programme’s activities and implementation. To promote integrated policy solutions for the SPDR and background papers, the JP also engaged with various key stakeholders, including ministries, departments and governmental organizations responsible for Thailand’s social protection schemes, through consultation meetings, data collection, information exchange, and KIIs. Through the activities and meetings implemented throughout the project’s implementation period, the JP also engaged with employers’ organizations, trade unions, NGOs and CSOs, as well as academics to ensure that the policy solutions derived from the SPDR and background papers fully reflect realities on the ground.
- The JP collaborated with the World Bank and Bank of Thailand’s research institute – The Puey Ungphakorn Institute for Economic Research (PIER), to organize the “Thailand Pension Reform Forum: Towards an Inclusive, Adequate and Sustainable Pension System” at the Bank of Thailand with over 60 participants from government agencies, employers and employees’ organizations, and academic institutions.
- The JP developed strong partnership with the Department of Child and Youth (DCY) to enable steady progress on the universal CSG, commitment to upgrade the CSG’s MIS, and development of the communication strategy to improve access to the CSG. Key partnership established with Thailand Development Research Institute has been the basis for delivering Outcome 2, including the expansion of the CSG and the study of the CSG links to other services.
- The JP developed a strong partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability to enable the progress and improvement of the Disability Grant and the disability assessment, and development of communication materials to improve access to the Disability Grant and other services for persons with disabilities.
- The JP developed a strong partnership with the Social Security Office through the collaboration and joint work with the ILO/SSO Project, including the organization of two Extension of Coverage Workshops, the advisory work on pension (and in the opposition of the National Pension Fund), and the continued work on extending coverage to domestic workers, among others.
- The JP also developed a new partnership with members of parliament in particular with the Standing Committee on Children, Youth, Women, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, and LGBTQs. The JP co-organized a public forum with the Standing Committee and the CSO Coalition on the Universal CSG to influence the budget allocation of the CSG during the 2023 Budget Hearing at the Parliament.

### Mobilizing additional funding and/or financing

- The JP’s assessment report and engagements with the MSDHS, especially with the DYC, influenced and eventually led to the Royal Thai Government mobilizing full financial support of THB 13 million (approximately USD 433,800 in February 2021) for the development of the CSG MIS, while the JP continued providing the necessary technical support to the CSG MIS development. The JP developed a technical note to identify the remaining gaps in the development of the CSG MIS that cannot be covered by the national budget to provide further support, including the development of grievance modules and capacity building and training of DCY staff and implementing partners.

### Strategic meetings

- Indicate if you organized any of the events below and provide description/comments.

Type of event	Yes	No	Description/Comments
Annual JP development partners’/donors’ event*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An event did not take place due to implementation delay as a result of COVID-19
Final JP event (closing)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An event did not take place due to implementation delay as a result of COVID-19

Other strategic events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting with the Minister of SDHS to present the SPDR's results and recommendations</li> <li>- High-level bi-lateral meetings with Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and the Ministry of Labour, and with Secretary-General of Office of National Economic and Social Development Council.</li> <li>- Consultation Workshops arranged: SPDR Inception Report Workshop; SPDR Kick-off Webinar; Pension Forum; Workshop on Migrant; Children Webinar; Active Working Age Webinar; Academic, Social Partners, and Civil Society Webinar; and Domestic Worker Validation Workshop.</li> <li>- A technical roundtable on Sustainable Financing on Social Protection was organized in February 2022 to discuss available financial resources for social protection under different scenarios as well as to present the impact of investment in social protection. The roundtable was attended by a number of senior level government officials, as well as prominent economists and experts from academia and thinktanks.</li> <li>- A public forum to influence the budget allocation of the Child Support Grant was held during the 2023 Budget Hearing at the Parliament in June 2022. This event was attended by members of parliament, academia as well as CSOs.</li> </ul>
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*\* This refers to any event that included representatives of the Joint SDG Fund's global development partners/donors (Denmark, European Union, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.) Please note that this event can be held together with a launch event or other partners' event.*

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### *Innovation, learning and sharing*

- Social Budgeting Course – Organized during October-December 2020, where officials from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Social Security Office, Fiscal Policy Office, Office of National Economic and Social Development Council, and Bank of Thailand were trained on conducting social protection budgeting and projections according to international standards. It was the first time technical-level participants from different government agencies had an opportunity to shared data, connect and work together on a consolidated social budgeting projection for Thailand, breaking down the silos and creating a better understanding of each agency's data, leading to a more integrated social protection database.
- Enhanced CSG MIS – one of the new features of the CSG MIS is a mobile application which allows potential beneficiaries to register and current beneficiaries to receive updates regarding their information and payments. This platform can be strengthened through modification to include additional features to enhance the experience of beneficiaries, such as messages related to child-care, parenting, nutrition etc.
- Knowledge transfer during the development of the enhanced CSG MIS – the JP commissioned an international and national consultant to work closely with the DCY in the past two years throughout the process, starting from the selection of vendor, the requirement gathering and design phase, development, system testing and quality assurance phase, the user-training and handover phase. Government officials expressed in feedback that their capacity has been strengthened and that they are now able to use the acquired skills from this project in other MIS development projects.

## **II. Final Results**

### *Overall progress*

- All expected results achieved
  - Majority of expected results achieved
  - Only some expected results achieved
- Please, explain briefly:

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of having an effective social protection at the national level. In this regard, despite the implementation challenges from the pandemic, the JP was able to adapt its approach and make significant progress with the majority of expected results achieved. These include the development of seven comprehensive reports with policy recommendations following the completion of the SPDR, the Mapping and Vulnerability Analysis Report, Technical Note of the Sustainability Financing of Social Protection, and the Background Papers on Children, Informal Economy, Migrant Workers, and Pension under Outcome 1, the strategic JP activities and campaigns to support the expansion of the Child Support Grant under Outcome 2, and the validation of the Policy Review on Social Security for Domestic Workers in Thailand and the strategic communications campaign to promote the inclusion of Thai and migrant domestic workers into the existing social protection programmes in Thailand that contributes to the change of mindsets of SSO officials and increase public support towards the possibility of extending social security coverage and adequacy to this group of worker under Outcome 3.

## Contribution to Fund's global results

### **Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale:**

- The Royal Thai Government has approved and endorsed its 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan and have a clear direction and target to move towards an integrated social protection system that ensures coherence, effectiveness and efficiency, and inclusion, and scaled up its social protection system to cover groups that were being left behind, improving the income of the bottom 40 percent of the population (SDG 10.1).
- Once the SPDR is completed and recommendations adopted by the Royal Thai Government, the policies on social protection will be revised and harmonized to ensure full coverage along the life cycle, ensuring that the social protection system functions in an effective and efficient manner and contribute to the acceleration of achievement of indicators under SDG 1.3.
- The enhanced CSG MIS contributes to SDG 1.3. Once the MIS is functional, the targeted population will be able to register and receive the grant on time. The expansion of the CSG will directly contribute to the expansion of social protection under SDG target 1.3. Strengthened linkages of the CSG to other social services will contribute to acceleration of child-related SDGs, including on nutrition (target 2.2), early childhood development (target 4.2) and gender equality (target 5.4).

### **Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented:**

- The policy review on social security and social protection for domestic workers discuss access and coverage of social security and social protection schemes of both Thai and migrant domestic workers, identify challenges and barriers and design policy options and innovation to enhance gender-responsive and migrant-inclusive social protection schemes.

## JP Outputs and Outcomes

### **Outcome 1: Integrated policy solutions developed following a review of the social protection system**

**Achievements:** A key achievement under Outcome 1 is to support the Royal Thai Government in carrying out the Social Protection Diagnostic Review (SPDR), a comprehensive review of the social protection system in Thailand, along with the development of six thematic Background Papers on the Mapping and Vulnerability Analysis, Pension, Children, Migrant Workers, Gender, and Informal Economy and one Technical Note on Sustainability Financing of Social Protection. Between November 2020 and May 2022, nine consultative workshops and seven technical focus-group discussions were held to discuss proposed policy options of the SPDR. As a result, seven recommendations have been developed and will be submitted to the Royal Thai Government for consideration in 2022. Once submitted and considered for adoption by the Royal Thai Government, the policies on social protection will be revised and harmonized to ensure full coverage along the life cycle for all as well as contribute to addressing the exclusions of the most vulnerable groups, such as children, elderly, informal workers, women, and migrant workers.

- **Output 1.1: Policy and seminars held to foster dialogue on strategic directions for SP in Thailand**
  - o As part of the development and finalization process of the SPDR and its thematic background papers, the JP had successfully organized nine workshops throughout 2020-2022 (one in 2020, six in 2021, and two in 2022) as well as seven technical focus group meetings in 2022 with representatives from relevant government agencies, social partners, and academic institutions to discuss proposed policy solutions based on the results of the background studies and the way forward for implementation of the proposed solutions for policy change.
  - o In November 2020, the JP organized a first consultation workshop to discuss and validate the SPDR Inception Report with 40 participants from several government agencies and other relevant organizations, including the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS), Ministry of Labour (MOL), Social Security Office, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), Fiscal Policy Office, Bank of Thailand, and academics. At the workshop, the draft social protection mapping of Thailand was presented for input and feedback; some critical preliminary findings were also validated.
  - o Following the completion of KIIs and the data collection process at the end of 2020 as well as the draft report in early 2021, the JP – in collaboration with the Puey Ungphakorn Institute for Economic Research (PIER) and the World Bank – decided to organize a collaborative forum to create a partnership with one voice and enhance advocacy towards pension reforms. On 10 March 2021, the workshop on “Thailand Pension Reform: Towards an Inclusive, Adequate and Sustainable Pension System” was organized at the Bank of Thailand with presenters from the World Bank and several universities, and with over 60 participants from several related government agencies, employers and workers’ organizations, and academics. The JP presented the preliminary findings from the Background Paper on Pension and received a lot of interest and inquiries from the participants.
  - o On 31 March 2021, the JP organized another “Validation Workshop for the Background Paper on Social Protection for Migrant Workers and their Families in Thailand”, to present, review, and validate the preliminary findings and recommendations derived from the background paper. The workshop also included a session on international standards and good practices on social protection for migrant workers, with a focus on international standards by an ILO representative, the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on migrant workers by an IOM representative, as well as on the access to social protection for migrant workers in ASEAN region and in Thailand by representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) – Migrant Forum in Asia and Human Rights and Development Foundation. The workshop was attended by 57 representatives (36 women and 21 men) from government agencies as well as employers and workers’ organizations, CSOs, and academia. As a result of the workshop, the findings and recommendations have been validated and key critical feedback from the participants, including some factual errors, has been fully addressed and incorporated into the finalization of the background paper.
  - o In response to the resurgence of COVID-19 in early April 2021, the JP adapted its approach by organizing the rest of the consultation workshops virtually in 2021. In September 2021, the JP hosted four virtual consultative workshops, including 1)

the SPDR Kick-Off Webinar to introduce the SPDR and the critical findings from all the reports, 2) Webinar on Child-sensitive Social Protection to present and validate key findings and recommendations from the Background Paper on Children, 3) Webinar on Active Working Age to present and validate key findings and recommendations from the Background Paper on Informal Economy, and 4) Webinar for Academia, Civil Society and Social Partners to present the preliminary findings of the Mapping and Vulnerability Analysis Report and to identify prioritized areas and ideas for policy reform.

- In February 2022, the JP organized a Technical Roundtable Discussion on Sustainability of Financing Social Protection to present preliminary findings and recommendations from the Technical Note on Sustainability Financing of Social Protection.
  - In March 2022, the Visioning Exercise Workshop was organized to discuss the future of social protection in Thailand as well as identify and prioritize policy solutions with key line Ministries on social protection (Social Security Office, MOL, NESDC, MSDHS, and Fiscal Policy Office), Bank of Thailand, academic institutions, and World Bank. The Workshop also included a session where a representative from the NESDC presented the draft 13<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan, especially on Milestone 9 on social protection to ensure relevance and alignment of the proposed policy solutions with the government plan and priorities.
  - Following the Visioning Exercise Workshop, seven technical focus-group meetings were conducted in April 2022 with representatives from relevant government agencies, social partners, and academic institutions to discuss proposed policy solutions based on the results of the background studies and previous workshops and the way forward for implementation of the proposed solutions. These included focus-group meetings with NESDC, MSDHS, academics and experts, representatives from NGOs/CSOs, and employers and workers' organizations.
  - As a result of the workshops and technical focus-group discussions, seven policy recommendations were developed for the SPDR. This includes to 1) scale up benefits under the Child, Elderly and Disability grants to keep pace with the cost of living, 2) universalize the Child Support Grant scheme, 3) consider moving domestic workers to Section 33 of the Social Security Act, making coverage mandatory and making employers and workers responsible for contributions, 4) to create an entry-level package as a pilot to formalize those working in micro and small enterprises, in sectors such as commerce, transport, and tourism, 5) integrate contributory and non-contributory benefits through a tiered approach, 6) integrate the social protection data and payments infrastructure, and 7) to establish a coordination body to drive the process forward.
  - The JP also held two Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the MSDHS and the UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand. The PSC members comprised high-level representatives of relevant ministries and government agencies (i.e., MSDHS, MOL, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Public Health, NESDC, etc.) as well as members of the academia. The meeting objective is to ensure that all related government agencies were aware of the project's objectives and implementation and to review the programme's progress and activities.
  - In the anticipation of concerns regarding the fiscal space and investments on social protection, the JP is developing a technical note on sustainable financing social protection in order to assess the implications of different economic and revenue scenarios for investment in social protection, and to quantify returns on investment in social protection. The findings of this exercise were presented and discussed in a high-level technical meeting with representatives from the key stakeholders in February 2022. The technical note was finalised in June 2022 and its results will be used as key evidence for further advocacy with the government and related stakeholders.
- **Output 1.2: Public Advocacy on the importance of Social Protection is increased, including among the public opinion and decision makers**
- Not implemented due to COVID-19 and delays of SPDR development.
- **Output 1.3: A comprehensive review of the social protection system followed by policy recommendations towards a more inclusive, integrated, and coherent system.**
- To begin the Social Protection Diagnosis Review (SPDR), the JP contracted an international consultant to develop a Concept Note for the SPDR, through a participatory approach that included a series of consultative meetings with key Ministries and Departments involved in social protection such as MSDHS, NESDC, and MOL. The "Debriefing Workshop on the Discussions on Social Protection System in Thailand" was subsequently held on 30 January 2020 to present and validate the Concept Note, outlining a foundation for the SPDR development process, including the methodology and key principles, defined scope of the review, institutional mechanisms, expected results and workplan.
  - Following the validation of the Concept Note, the JP commissioned Oxford Policy Management (OPM) to undertake the SPDR and five supplementary studies to provide thematic and technical information supporting the SPDR: 1) The Mapping and Vulnerability Analysis Report; 2) the Background Papers on Children; 3) the Background Paper on Informal Economy; 4) the Background Paper on Migrant Workers and Their Families in Thailand; and 5) the Background Paper on Gender Impact Assessment. Mr. Charles Knox-Vydmanov, an external consultant, conducted the sixth report, Background Paper on Pension.
  - In the anticipation of concerns regarding the fiscal space and investments on social protection, the JP also commissioned the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) to carry out a Technical Note on Sustainability Financing of Social Protection in order to assess the implications of different economic and revenue scenarios for investment in social protection, and to quantify returns on investment in social protection.
  - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SPDR process took longer than anticipated, but by the end of 2020, the JP was able to complete the KIIs and data collection process. Overall, more than 200 stakeholders from various sectors, including key government agencies, employers' and workers' organizations, NGOs and CSOs, were approached and engaged to share knowledge and information to inform the evidence-based findings and recommendations of the SPDR and background papers.
  - In Q4 2021, the Background Papers on Pension and Migrant Workers have been validated and finalized for publication in early 2022. For other studies, including the Mapping and Vulnerability Analysis Report and the Background Papers on Children and

Informal Workers were validated at the webinars in September 2021. The Technical Note on Sustainability Financing of Social Protection was validated in 2022.

- **Output 1.4: National Social Protection Policy Framework and a National Social Protection Monitoring Framework are developed and adopted**
- o With the JP's technical inputs and advocacy efforts, the 13<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan has incorporated Social Protection in the plan for the first time. The JP organized several meetings with the Office of National Economic and Social Development Council to discuss and provide the final recommendations to the national development plan.

**Outcome 2: Scale up of coverage of the Child Support Grant from 700,000 children to 2 million by end 2021 as a result of strengthened integrated social protection system.**

**Achievements:** The JP has continued to advocate and provide technical support for better integration and improved design and implementation of the Child Support Grant (CSG) through investing in management information systems, communication strategies and its rollout, and quality evidence generation on inclusivity, adequacy and linking the CSG to other social services. As a result, 2.3 million children are benefitting from the CSG every month despite the fact that the proposal for the expansion of the CSG is pending for the cabinet's approval. If approved, more than 4 million children will benefit from the CSG.

- **Output 2.1: Improved capacity of the national identification system to register and monitor through the MIS the registration of new beneficiaries**
- o The JP has continued supporting the enhancement of the CSG Management Information System which improves the implementation of the scheme for the current beneficiaries of 2.3 million children and a for a greater number of future beneficiaries. Combined with technical support to improve the M&E framework of the CSG, the improved MIS will also contribute to enhanced programme reporting and accountability.
- o Building on the results of the JP's technical review of the CSG MIS in 2020, the Royal Thai Government mobilized THB 13 million to finance the development of an enhanced CSG MIS. The review served as key evidence when designing the enhanced CSG MIS. The JP continued its technical support throughout the design and development of the enhanced CSG MIS including defining the scope of the development, system design, system requirements (including hardware), implementation of enhancement (including the development of a grievance module), quality assurance, handover from the vendor, and capacity building of relevant staff at the central and provincial levels. The enhanced CSG MIS - which is a collaboration between the Government (MSDHS-DCY) and the JP - was tested between April and June 2022 and completed in June 2022. To ensure effective communication on the enhanced CSG MIS at all levels, the JP supported the DCY to develop communication materials which included two video clips and a set of infographics which will be distributed nationwide after the launch of the enhanced CSG MIS in September 2022 for which the Minister of SDHS will give an opening remark.
- **Output 2.2: National policy consultations on integration of the cash/non-cash under the Child support grant with transformative programs for ECD in place for maximizing the potential of the grant to all children.**
- o A study on linkages of the CSG to other social services have been conducted in partnership with the TDRI. The study comprises several parts, including a review of international experience which provided elements for consideration in identifying the needs of the CSG beneficiaries, defining the most relevant services to be linked to the CSG programme and understanding the operational mechanisms to bring together the different services. The second part is consisted of desk review of available social services for children and women as well as analysis of administrative data of the CSG as well as other sources to understand vulnerabilities that young children and mothers are facing. The last part examines needs of the current CSG beneficiaries. With some delays during data collection process due to COVID-19, a draft report is in place. All findings have been synthesized.
- o A consultation meeting was held in December 2021 to gather additional information from key stakeholders. Final report will be ready in Q1 2022 with clear implementation roadmap of selected interventions. A validation workshop will be organized in 2022.
- **Output 2.3: Evidence generation for the impact of the grant on young children in Thailand to inform further policy expansions towards UCSG**
- o Given the Royal Thai Government's priorities to improve the policy design and implementation of the CSG, the JP had decided to prioritize its efforts to focus on several studies including a review of the benefit adequacy, a feasibility study on the expansion of CSG to pregnant women, and an assessment of the CSG targeting strategy and practice during the first phase of the JP. The JP has commissioned the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) to undertake these studies given their expertise on social protection especially on the CSG. The studies are expected to be finalized in June 2022.
- o The JP also continued its technical support and advocacy on expansion of the CSG to all children under six. In 2021, UNJP continued providing technical support and mobilize advocacy efforts. A revised proposal was developed which includes options for a phased expansion to address the concern regarding the on-going COVID-19 crisis and the limited available fiscal space. The revised proposal was submitted directly to the Minister of Social Development and Human Security Finance, and subsequently presented to the Ministry of Finance. The proposal is pending the Cabinet's approval, as it was deprioritized after the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic hit the country.
- o In 2022, the JP continued its advocacy effort by supporting the MSDHS (DCY) as well as the CSO Coalition on Universal Child Support Grant, established before this JP following engagement by UNICEF. In addition to continued technical support to the DCY on the revision of technical proposals to be submitted to the Cabinet, the JP also looked for other strategic moments to

influence progress towards the goal of universalization of the CSG. The JP co-organized a strategic public event, aimed at influencing the 2023 Budget Hearing, with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Children, Youth, Women, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, and LGBTQs and the CSO Coalition on the Universal CSG at Parliament House in June 2022. The event received high media coverage during that week<sup>8</sup>. The JP will continue to promote the proposal during upcoming national election campaigns. Once the proposal is approved by the Cabinet, the number of eligible children (under 6 years old) who will benefit from the CSG will extend from the current target of 2 million to over 4 million children and will contribute to addressing the exclusions of vulnerable children caused by current income-based targeting.

- Initial discussions with the DCY, TDRI and the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (THPF) on the next round of impact evaluation revealed that another round of impact evaluation would be beyond the means of the DCY. The JP proposed instead a periodic assessment to be sustainably financed by the Government and conducted on regular basis. The assessment is currently pending following a change to key personnel at the CSG Operational Centre. The assessment will be funded by the JP budget (UNICEF) once the scope is agreed.
- **Output 2.4: Improved public and programme communication**
- Two assessments to review both internal and external communication of the Child Support Grant and the Disability Grant were conducted, and the findings were presented to the responsible governmental departments – DCY and DEPD in December 2020. Based on these assessments, two communication strategies for the two schemes were developed and finalized in 2021.
- In 2022, the JP provided support to the implementation of the communication strategies. On the CSG, it was planned to produce a material related to the revised rules and regulations; however, due to some delays in finalization this work will be taken over by UNICEF. On the Disability Grant and services for persons with disabilities, the DEP adopted the key recommendations and developed communication materials and a chatbot system to support their online communication. A capacity building workshop for Government staff was held in January 2021 to enhance DCY and DEP’s understanding of the implications for developing an effective communication strategy and to support the identification of different knowledge products required for the different stages of implementation. In June 2022, JP supported a training for 10 DCY officials to enhance knowledge and skills to create online platform content.

**Outcome 3: Policy options to ensure a more effective coverage of domestic workers, including migrants, within the existing social security schemes, are designed and tested**

**Achievements:** Policy recommendations from the Policy Review on Social Security and Social Protection for Domestic Workers in Thailand had been developed and validated by key stakeholders at the Validation Workshops on 24 June 2022. Working in parallel, a strategic communications campaign had been carried out to support the inclusion of Thai and migrant domestic workers, into the existing social security and social protection in Thailand. However, with some delays in the data collection process due to COVID-19, the policy review cannot be finalized within the project’s timeframe. Yet, the JP will continue working closely to finalize the study and develop a concrete action plan to provide implementation milestones for the proposed recommendations. The JP aims to submit the finalized study and action plan to the Ministry of Labour in 2022 for consideration.

- **Output 3.1 – Policy assessment and design of innovative program solutions to eliminate the barriers for the coverage of domestic workers developed and discussed**
- On 16 June 2021, to serve as an initial step to commence a social dialogue on the issue of social protection for domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers, and to mark the International Domestic Workers’ Day, the JP presented the “Technical Brief: Opportunities for extending social security protection to domestic workers in Thailand” to the Permanent Secretary of the MOL. This technical brief outlines the current policy, legal, and administrative barriers to the provision of social security protection to domestic workers and introduces some preliminary policy recommendations.
- Building on the preliminary results and recommendations of the technical brief, the JP commissioned two consultants, one national and one international, to develop a following up study entitled “the Policy review on social security for domestic workers in Thailand”. This policy review provides a more in-dept and comprehensive picture of domestic workers in Thailand, including those hired by households, through third-party agencies and platform, and self-employment, as well as their needs for social protection interventions and the feasibility of extending coverage of such policies to the domestic work sector. The study comprises several key information and analysis, including a conceptual framework of domestic workers, a desk review of the existing policy and legislation related to social protection for domestic workers in Thailand, as well as other official administrative data on the profile of domestic workers and their social protection coverage in Thailand. This is to identify current gaps and barriers in access to social protection of domestic workers and propose a set of recommendations for policy change.
- The policy review is also built on key informant interviews with key line Ministries in social protection, including Ministry of Labour (Social Security Office, Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, Department of Employment) and Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council, social partners (HomeNet Thailand and Sodality Center), and UN Agencies (ILO, IOM, and UN Women). It is also drawn upon the qualitative interviews with 20 women domestic workers in 2021 and quantitative survey with 200 domestic workers (267 Thais and 138 migrants; 139 men and 266 women) and 200 Thai employers (40 men and 160 women), conducted in April 2022 by the Rapid Asia, a specialized social research consulting firm, in six provinces in Thailand: Bangkok; Nakhon Pathom; Nonthaburi; Pathum Thani; Samut Prakan; and Samut Sakhon.
- In addition, three consultative workshops were organized with key stakeholders to discuss policy solutions. On 16 December 2020 and 11 November 2021, the JP collaborated with the ILO/SSO Project in organizing two workshops on the extension of

<sup>8</sup> [UNICEF calls for universal Child Support Grant to ensure no child left behind in Thailand’s COVID-19 recovery](#)

coverage with executives and managers from the Social Security Office (SSO) in attendance. The workshops were conducted to share the findings from the background paper on the informal economy and the implications for the SSO as well as the next steps in extending social security coverage to the informal workers in different sectors, including domestic work. The workshops received very positive feedback and a commitment from the SSO to address the coverage gaps for domestic workers and informal workers in different sectors (i.e., transport sector, micro and small enterprises, and wholesale and retail sectors). On 4 April 2022, the JP, in collaboration with HomeNet Thailand, organized a roundtable discussion with women domestic workers (10 Thais and 7 migrants), where they shared perceptions and experiences in relation to social protection and identified a set of recommendations to be incorporated into the policy review.

- On 24 June 2022, the JP organized a “Validation workshop of the policy review on social security for domestic workers in Thailand” to present, review, and validate the findings and recommendations derived from the study. The workshop also included a session on international standards and good practices on social protection for domestic workers, a presentation of the quantitative survey’s results from the Rapid Asia, as well as a panel discussion on the topic of challenges and potential solutions to increase social protection coverage to domestic workers with representatives from the Social Security Office, Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour, HomeNet Thailand, and the ILO/SSO Project attending as the panelists. The workshop was attended by 45 representatives from government agencies as well as employers and workers’ organizations, CSOs, and UN agencies.
- As a result of the workshop, the findings and recommendations have been assessed by key stakeholders. However, with delays during the data collection process due to COVID-19, the JP will continue working closely to incorporate the feedback from the validation workshop and finalize the policy review for a submission to the Ministry of Labour by 2022.

- **Output 3.2 – Pre-test of suggested policy options with targeted domestic workers completed, and assessed**

- In parallel with the development of the Policy Review on Domestic Workers in Thailand, the JP had implemented a strategic communication campaign to support the inclusion of domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers, into the existing social security and social protection in Thailand. The campaign included one human interest story, two Op-Eds, two videos and three infographics on the rights and obligations related to social protection for domestic workers in Thailand.
- To commemorate the International Domestic Workers Day on 16 June 2021, the JP produced its first advocacy communications material with the human story “[Towards a Better Life: Enhancing Social Protection for Migrant Domestic Workers in Thailand](#)”. The story introduces a migrant domestic worker from Myanmar, her life working in Thailand, the lack of access to basic social protection, and her aspiration for a better future. The story was shared online and through multiple social media channels, including IOM Thailand Website, Facebook and Twitter.
- Two op-eds were produced to raise awareness and advocate for a more inclusive social protection to domestic workers. To mark the International Migrants Day on 18 December 2021, the JP published the Op-Ed article “[Migrants key to pandemic rebuilt](#)” to not only recognize the contributions made by migrant workers, including migrant domestic workers to Thai society, but also to emphasize the importance of having inclusive social protection for migrants, including migrant domestic workers, to build back better from the pandemic and beyond. This Op-Ed also presents key data and critical findings from the Background Paper on Social Protection for Migrant Workers and Their Families in Thailand. To commemorate the International Domestic Workers Day in 2022 and to pave the way for the official launch of the policy review, the JP published another Op-Ed article on [Domestic workers have rights too](#) to call for public support in advocating for greater access to social protection for domestic workers in Thailand. This Op-Ed also includes key statistical findings from the policy review, such as the level of coverage and from the quantitative survey’s results, such as that finding that the majority of Thai employers surveyed increasingly open to the idea of contributing to social security for their domestic workers.
- Two videos were also developed to raise awareness and advocate for inclusive social protection for domestic workers. On 3 March 2022, the JP launched the first video on [Why do domestic workers need social protection?](#). This video highlights the positive contributions of domestic workers, both Thais and migrants, to Thai families and the society, their current working and living conditions, and their lack or limited access to social protection. The video also demonstrates a win-win situation of extending social protection coverage to domestic workers for all, including for domestic workers, their employers, and society. On 30 June 2022, the JP launched the second advocacy video on [Thai families need social protection for their domestic workers too](#). In this video, three Thai families shared their personal relationships with their domestic workers, why they think domestic workers need social protection, and how the extension of social protection to domestic workers will benefit them as employers.
- The JP also collaborated with HomeNet Thailand, a local NGO that supports a network of more than 6,000 domestic workers across the country, to produce three sets of infographics targeting domestic workers, both Thais and migrants, and Thai employers to raise awareness on their existing rights and obligations in relation to social protection for domestic workers in Thailand. On 16 June 2022, the JP also supported HomeNet in organizing an event with more than 300 domestic workers to celebrate International Domestic Workers’ Day, by producing promotional T-shirts and disseminating the produced infographics to domestic workers. The event also included a session on knowledge rally where domestic workers were asked questions about social security, the Domestic Workers’ Convention (no.189), and Ministerial Regulation No. 14, a key labour for domestic workers in Thailand.

### III. JP finalization and evaluation

#### *Final JP evaluation and lessons learned*

The date when the evaluation was launched (month/year): March 2022

The date when the evaluation report was approved (month/year): June 2022

### Main findings

- The final evaluation was conducted based on seven evaluation criteria, namely, relevance, validity of design, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.
- The final evaluation found that the JP is **highly relevant** to the needs of key stakeholders. It is particularly relevant to the priorities of the Royal Thai Government, in particular with the new 13<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan (Milestone 9), and with the policies of the MSDHS (including DCY) and the MOL (including SSO). Yet, alignment is much less clear in the case of the Employers' and Workers' Organizations in Thailand. It further found that the JP is clearly relevant to the country programmes of the four PUNOs, for example, IOM's new country strategy for Thailand (2022-2026), as well as for the UN as a whole in Thailand, through its UNSDCF (2022-2026).
- In terms of the **validity of the design**, it found that the program's logic included in the Theory of Change and the Outcome Statement with three Outcomes and 10 Outputs are straightforward and logical. Although the three Outcomes themselves are quite diverse, the logic behind them is rationalized by aiming for an enhanced evidence-base needed for a system review (Outcome 1) as well as targeting certain gaps in the system, in particular those left behind (Outcome 2 on the CSG and Outcome 3 on domestic workers). The Programmatic Results Framework of the JP is also clear and measurable. However, the original timeframe of just two years (2020-2021) is not realistic to push for a complete social protection system reform, nor to complete all the deliverables identified, especially also due to the delays caused by the pandemic.
- With respect to **Coherence**, it found that the cooperation between the four PUNOs, with ILO as the lead agency, is effective to achieve the expected results, including the support from the RCO. By its very nature, the JP implemented by four PUNOs also contributes to UN reforms, including UN Country Team (UNCT) coherence by acting as a kind of platform within the UN to advocate for social protection which demonstrates how the UN can offer integrated policy advice to the government.
- In terms of **effectiveness**, the final evaluation found that there are many success factors that contribute to the effectiveness of the JP, including the management arrangement, solid engagement from the government counterparts, especially MSDHS, MOL, and SSO, strong networking activities, as well as the combined legitimacy and credibility of the four PUNOs. Yet, it also identified implementation challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the particularly large number of stakeholders to be coordinated, the great diversity in types of workers, perceptions on migrant workers, and some minor coordination issues among PUNOs.
- The **efficiency of resource use** is satisfactory to achieve the results of the JP. However, the original project period of two years is relatively short for the intended outcomes. The resources from the Joint SDG Fund to be divided over four UN agencies are also relatively modest with a total of almost USD 2 million and with the largest amount of the original budget allocated to the activities per se (contractual services and transfers/grants to counterparts) at almost 50%, followed by staff costs (35%), leading to a limited number of full-time staff in the JP. Most stakeholders also underlined about the human resource issue that it would have been more efficient to have a larger dedicated project team.
- With respect to **impact**, it found that in order to change the entire social protection system of a country, it would take many more years and principally depends on the government to approve the extension of changed schemes, but the JP is able to take several important steps into such a direction. This includes substantial work on background studies and the SPDR that create a solid evidence-base for potential policy reforms, or concerning Outcome 3, the JP work on the advocacy and communication activities that provides a kind of positive impact on the perception of domestic and migrant domestic workers among parts of the Thai population, leading to the increased public support for the extension of coverage.
- On **sustainability**, it found that there are some activities, results, and effects that are expected to continue after the programme ended, especially as social protection is now included in the 13<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan and therefore it will be prioritized by the Royal Thai Government for implementation in the coming years. In addition, networks and informal groupings among key national stakeholders and among individual staff members have been established and have the potential to sustain. It is foreseen that the four PUNOs in Bangkok will continue to work with the relevant Government Organizations, considering that the next implementation steps do not require heavy funding but especially the time of the experts involved. The evaluation further found that ownership differs per outcome and among the key stakeholders involved in the JP. The MSDHS has clearly taken ownership of parts of the JP. Yet, ownership of the JP has not developed as much in the MOL while NESDC has engaged increasingly over the course of the implementation period of the JP. Ownership among CSOs and employers' and workers' organizations has not developed as they generally attended workshops as informants.
- With respect to the cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, it cut across the three Outcomes of the JP and was included in all reports and notes produced. However, several stakeholders indicated that attention to gender inequality could have been more systematic, for example, through a comprehensive gender strategy with dedicated resources developed at the outset of the programme. The project has also contributed sufficiently to non-discrimination, especially to migrants and people with disability.

### Recommendations

- Based on the findings, the final evaluation proposed nine recommendations. These include to 1) establish a pathway to keep the momentum of the JP ongoing, 2) set up an Independent Coordination Body or mechanism for social protection, 3) extend coverage to workers in all sectors, 4) raise awareness of and educate the workers on social protection, 5) involve Workers' and Employers' Organizations and CSOs more systematically in future interventions, possibly including a CSO Coalition and arrange capacity building for staff from such organizations on social protection, 6) develop a Gender Equality Strategy, 7) conduct the launch of the SPDR once ready for publication, 8) discuss with the Joint SDG Fund on the possibility for a new JP on social protection in Thailand, considering the catalytic nature of the present programme,, and 9) the UNCT should consider a separate

Working Group on social protection co-led by ILO and UNICEF, whereby this JP can serve as an example, as it has operated as a de facto Working Group, and has cooperated well with the Thai Government.

#### **Lessons learned and good practices**

- The final evaluation found two lessons learned and two good practices. **Two lessons learned** include that the potential for impact and sustainability of an intervention can be substantially enhanced if they are developed and implemented simultaneously with the development of national or sectoral economic and/or social development plans, such as the 13<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan. Another lesson learned is the extensive networking through workshops, meetings, trainings, advocacy, and informal app groups, that helps lead to incremental changes in mindsets of the stakeholders.
- **Two good practices** include the implementation of the JP by four PUNOs, in particular, because the JP could build upon the long-standing partnerships between PUNOs and the Government and other national stakeholders and because the combined legitimacy and credibility of these PUNOs convince the national stakeholders to be involved actively in social protection. Another good practice is the comprehensive process of the SPDR that results in a comprehensive set of recommendations for social protection reform.

#### *After the JP: follow-up and possibilities for sustainability of the impact and further scaling*

- JP will continue working closely together and with the government and national stakeholders, and to present the SPDR and its policy recommendations to the Royal Thai Government at the highest level
- Following the validation workshop of the policy review on social security for domestic workers in June 2022, ILO, IOM, and UN Women will continue working to finalize the findings and recommendations of the policy review based on the results and feedback from the workshop. The three agencies will also collaborate to develop a concrete action plan to provide a roadmap for the implementation of proposed recommendations of the policy review. Once finalized, the policy review and action plan will be submitted to the Ministry of Labour for consideration.
- The policy review will also contribute and serve as an evidence-based advocacy ground for IOM in other relevant initiatives. In particular, as IOM is now a member of the Working Group on Domestic Work and Agricultural Workers under the Ministry of Labour, the JP's work on social protection and specifically on domestic workers will contribute to IOM's role and provide evidence to support points of advocacy in this working group.

## Annex 1: Consolidated Final Results

### 1. JP contribution to global Fund's programmatic results

- Provide data for the Joint SDG Fund global results (as per targets defined in the JP document).

#### Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

Select up to 3 SDG *indicators* that your Joint Programme primarily contributed to (in relation to SDG targets listed in your JP ProDoc)

SDG: 1.3

SDG: 10.1

SDG: 2.2

#### Global Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Outcome indicators	Expected final target	Final result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)
1.1: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope <sup>9</sup> <i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan</li> </ul>	1	1	
1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale <sup>10</sup> <i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancement of the CSG MIS and the expansion of the CSG.</li> </ul>	1	0	Pending for the Cabinet to approve the proposal for gradual expansion of CSG

#### Global Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement

Outcome indicators	Expected final target	Final result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)
2.1: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scope (disaggregated by source)	1	1	The expansion of the CSG is pending for the cabinet's approval
2.2: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scale (disaggregated by source)	1	1	The Royal Thai Government mobilized THB 13 million to finance the development of an enhanced CSG MIS in 2020.

<sup>9</sup>Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

<sup>10</sup>Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

**Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented**

Output indicators	Expected final target	Final result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)
3.1 Number of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	1	0	Delay due to COVID19.
3.2: Number of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	1	0	Proposed policy solutions need more time for adoption, legislation procedures, and implementation.

**Global output 4: Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented**

Output indicators	Expected final target	Final result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)
4.1: # of integrated financing strategies that were tested (disaggregated by % successful / unsuccessful)	1	0	The technical note on financing social protection has been validated. However, it has not been tested or implemented as it needs more time to involve relevant stakeholders for adoption and implementation.
4.2: # of integrated financing strategies that have been implemented with partners in lead	1	0	The technical note on financing social protection has been validated. However, it has not been tested or implemented as it needs more time to involve relevant stakeholders for adoption and implementation.
4.3: # of functioning partnership frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate progress on SDGs made operational	1	0	The technical note on financing social protection has been validated. However, it has not been tested or implemented as it needs more time to involve relevant stakeholders for adoption and implementation.

## 2. Results as per JP Programmatic Results Framework

- Present final JP results in the following template as per JP's Programmatic Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected final target	Final Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)
<b>Outcome 1 Integrated policy solutions developed following a review of the Social Protection System</b>				
Outcome 1 indicator – The Royal Thai Government has a National Social Protection Policy with cross-sectoral relevance	No	Yes	Yes	The 13 <sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan with strategies and targets for Social Protection was approved and endorsed by the Cabinet in May 2022. It is now pending submission to the Parliament for an acknowledgment before submission to the Prime Minister for Royal endorsement and enforcement.
Output 1.1 indicator - # of high-level policy dialogue events	0	2	2	High-level bi-lateral meetings with Minister of Social Development and Human Security (SDHS) and Secretary-General of the Office of National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC).
Output 1.1 indicator - # of technical seminars associated with the development of a social protection review	0	6	16	Consultative workshop on the SPDR Inception Report in 2020.  Validation and consultative workshops on the background papers on pension, migrant workers, SPDR Kick-Off webinar, children, active working age, and webinar for academia, civil society, and social partners in 2021.  Technical roundtable discussion on the sustainability of financing social protection, visioning exercise workshop, and seven technical focus-group meetings in 2022
Output 1.1. indicator - # of policy recommendations resulting from the high-level policy dialogue events and technical seminars	0	8	7	1) Scale up benefits under the Child, Elderly and Disability grants. 2) Universalize the Child Support Grant scheme. 3) Consider moving domestic workers to Section 33 of the Social Security Act, making coverage mandatory, and making employers and workers responsible for contributions.

				<p>4) Create an entry-level package as a pilot to formalize those working in micro and small enterprises, in sectors such as commerce, transport, and tourism.</p> <p>5) Integrate contributory and non-contributory benefits through a tiered approach.</p> <p>6) Integrate the social protection data and payments infrastructure.</p> <p>7) Establish a coordination body to drive the process forward</p>
Output 1.2 Public Advocacy on the importance of Social Protection is increased, including among the public opinion and decision makers				
Output 1.2 indicator - A media campaign to promote social protection is being implemented	No	Yes	Yes	
Output 1.2 indicator - Level of public awareness on Social Protection	Low	High	Medium	
Output 1.2 indicator - Number of policy advocacy events to be run by the National Civil Society Coalition	No	Yes	No	Due to delay in finalization of the SPDR, advocacy events run by Civil Society Coalition could not be held within the project timeframe
Output 1.2 indicator - # of meetings with key policy makers, parliamentarians and political parties	0	6	1	Due to delay in finalization of the SPDR, one meeting was organized with the Minister of SDHS
Output 1.2 indicator - Thailand is a member of the Global Universal Social Protection Coalition	No	Yes	No	Delay due to COVID-19
Output 1.4 - National Social Protection Policy Framework and a National Social Protection Monitoring Framework				
Output 1.3 indicator - A Mapping of Welfare Schemes exists and is available for discussions by senior stakeholders	No	Yes	Yes	The report has been published for a limited circulation for a validation purpose. The finalized publication will be publicly available in 2022.
Output 1.3 indicator - # of background papers supporting the SP Review ready and available for discussion by National Welfare Committee or Cabinet	0	4	7	<p>Six background Papers on Mapping and Vulnerability Analysis, Children, Informal Economy, Migrant Workers, Pension, and Gender.</p> <p>One technical note on sustainability financing of social protection.</p>
Output 1.3 indicator - A background paper on Social Protection and Gender is available	0	Yes	Yes	The report has been circulated with limited stakeholders for a validation purpose

Output 1.3 indicator – Background paper on Social Protection and Migrant workers are available	0	Yes	Yes	<a href="#">Social protection for migrant workers and their families in Thailand</a>
Output 1.3 indicator – Background paper on Social Protection and Persons with disabilities is available	0	Yes	No	Disability is included in the SPDR
Output 1.3 indicator – A Comprehensive Review of the SP System in Thailand is finalized and includes policy recommendations for the National Welfare Committee or Cabinet	0	Yes	Yes	
Output 1.3 – A Budget Forecasting tool is developed and available for use by MSDHS/FPO and BB	0	Yes	No	The tool is under the development process. It will be finalized in 2022
<b>Output 1.4 - National Social Protection Policy Framework and a National Social Protection Monitoring Framework</b>				
Output 1.4 indicator – A draft of the National Social Protection Policy/Strategy is finalized before adoption by Cabinet	No	Yes	Yes	The 13 <sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan with strategies and target for national development on social protection was approved and endorsed by the Cabinet in May 2022.
<b>Outcome 2: Scale up of coverage of the CSG from 700,000 children to 2 million by end 2021 as a result of strengthened integrated SP systems</b>				
Outcome 2 indicator - Coverage of the Child Support Grant	700,000	2 million	2.3 million (as of June 2022)	New policy expanding CSG to 4 million eligible children pending cabinet approval.
<b>Output 2.1 Improved capacity of the national identification system to register and monitor through the MIS the registration of new beneficiaries</b>				
Output 2.1 indicator - Technical assessment of the MIS system in place with recommendations for technical upgrade of the system, including resources (financial and human) required for its operation	No	Yes	Yes	The technical report was conducted in 2020 and key recommendations were implemented in 2021 and completed in 2022.
Output 2.1 indicator – Revised MIS upgraded	No	Yes	Yes	The enhanced MIS and additional module on grievances were completed and handed over to the Government in May 2022. The launch event is

				scheduled for September 2022 and the Minister of SDHS has accepted the invitation to attend the event.
Output 2.2 indicator - Number of consultation meetings organized that resulted in policy proposals	0	4	1	One consultation meeting organized in December 2021. This was due to Government prioritization of the enhanced CSG MIS, advocacy to expand the CSG to all children under 6 as well as studies to improve CSG design features. However, UNICEF will make an assessment and carry out the consultations as needed.
Output 2.2 indicator – Draft of revised integrated policy available for adoption by NCYDC	0	2	0	A proposal has been drafted but pending for the adoption by the NCYDC.
<b>Output 2.3: Evidence generation for the impact of the grant on young children in Thailand to inform further policy expansions towards UCSG</b>				
Output 2.3 indicator – MoU in place for the research partnership for evidence generation	No	Yes	Yes	<p>In discussion with the Government, it was realized that the total cost of the impact evaluation would be high and take quite a long time to complete. So it was agreed that the three assessments (adequacy, expansion to pregnant women and targeting assessment) would be conducted which is complete now in partnership with TDRI, instead of the impact evaluation. The Government also realized the importance of regular monitoring, so it was agreed that the periodic assessment of the Child Support Grant will be conducted further with funding from UNICEF</p> <p>Moreover, the Government has prioritized the development of the proposal on the universal CSG and it was drafted and submitted to the NCYDC in September 2020 but it is pending for Cabinet's approval.</p>
Output 2.3 indicator - Research design adopted for a longitudinal evaluation and implementation	No	Yes	No	<p>In discussion with the Government, it was realized that the total cost of the impact evaluation would be high and take quite a long time to complete. So it was agreed that the three assessments (adequacy, expansion to pregnant women and targeting assessment) would be conducted which is complete now in partnership with TDRI, instead of the impact evaluation. The Government also realized the importance of regular monitoring, so it was agreed</p>

				<p>that the periodic assessment of the Child Support Grant will be conducted further with funding from UNICEF</p> <p>Moreover, the Government has prioritized the development of the proposal on the universal CSG and it was drafted and submitted to the NCYDC in September 2020 but it is pending for Cabinet's approval.</p>
Output 2.3 indicator – Research is being implemented	No	Yes	No	<p>In discussion with the Government, it was realized that the total cost of the impact evaluation would be high and take quite a long time to complete. So it was agreed that the three assessments (adequacy, expansion to pregnant women and targeting assessment) would be conducted which is complete now in partnership with TDRI, instead of the impact evaluation. The Government also realized the importance of regular monitoring, so it was agreed that the periodic assessment of the Child Support Grant will be conducted further with funding from UNICEF</p> <p>Moreover, the Government has prioritized the development of the proposal on the universal CSG and it was drafted and submitted to the NCYDC in September 2020 but it is pending for Cabinet's approval.</p>
<b>Output 2.4: Improved public and programme communication</b>				
Output 2.4 indicator - Public communication strategy finalized and adopted by the MSDHS	No	Yes	Yes	The communications strategy of the CSG was in place in 2021. The Government with support from the UNJP has implemented the prioritized recommendations in the strategy and finalised it in June 2022.
Output 2.4 indicator - Program communication strategy in place on the revised CSG	No	Yes	Yes	The communications strategy of the CSG was in place in 2021. The Government with support from the UNJP has implemented the prioritized recommendations in the strategy and finalised it in June 2022.
Output 2.4 indicator - # of visits of the bilingual website on the GSC	N/A	3.3 million	3.7 million	3.7 million is based on the CSG website, <a href="http://dcy.go.th">CSG (dcy.go.th)</a>

				In addition, there are 195,000 likes on the CSG Facebook, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CSGProjectOfficial/">https://www.facebook.com/CSGProjectOfficial/</a>
Output 2.4 indicator – # of staff trained on the new integrated policy design	0	100	393	
Outcome 3 Policy options to ensure a more effective coverage of domestic workers, including migrants, within the existing social security schemes, are designed and tested				
Outcome 3 indicator - Reform proposals for the inclusion and increased registration of domestic workers approved	No	Yes	Yes	The recommendations from the policy review were validated by key line ministries at the validation workshop.
Output 3.1 Policy assessment and design of innovative program solutions to eliminate the barriers for the coverage of domestic workers developed and discussed				
Output 3.1 indicator# Report reviewing the existing policy, schemes and barriers and proposing solutions to reduce barriers and increase access to domestic workers to social protection is available	0	2	2	Technical Brief on Opportunities for extending social security protection to domestic workers in Thailand was finalized and shared with Ministry of Labour in 2020.  The draft policy is available. However, with some delays in the data collection process due to COVID-19, the final report will be ready after the UNJP's closure. The report is aimed to be finalized and ready for dissemination by 2022.
Output 3.1 indicator# No. of workshops organized to discuss design solutions	0	4	4	Two workshops with the SSO on the extension of coverage on 16 December 2020 and 11 November 2021.  One workshop with domestic workers on 4 April 2022.  One validation workshop on 24 June 2022.
Output 3.1 indicator# Technical note detailing final scheme design proposal, including administrative elements, is available	0	1	1	Technical Brief on Domestic Workers in Thailand was submitted to the Ministry of Labour in 2020
Output 3.1 indicator# of female domestic workers attending dialogue sessions on the design of the scheme	0	300	303	Qualitative interviews with 20 female domestic workers.

				Quantitative survey with 266 female domestic workers.  Roundtable discussion with 17 female domestic workers.
<b>Output 3.2 Pre-test of suggested policy options with targeted domestic workers completed and assessed</b>				
Output 3.2 indicator# A campaign is being implemented to promote the extension of coverage to domestic workers	0	2	1	Due to delay in data collection and finalization of the policy review, one campaign was produced, including one human story, two Op-Eds, two videos, and three IEC materials
Output 3.2 indicator# Level of awareness of DWs and SS benefits and regulations	Low	High	High	
Output 3.2 indicator# Policy options assessed	0	3	7	Seven recommendations from the policy review were presented and validated by key line Ministries at the validation workshop on 24 June 2022. An action plan will be further developed by the JP to provide a concrete implementation roadmap for the proposed recommendations.

## Annex 2: Strategic documents

### 2.1. Contribution to social protection strategies, policies and legal frameworks

#### Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

<b>Title of the document</b>	<b>Date when finalized (MM/YY)</b>	<b>Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)</b>	<i>If published, provide the hyperlink</i>
Thailand Social Protection Diagnostic Review	09/22	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Report on Child-sensitive Social	09/22	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A

Protection in Thailand							
Expanding Access to Social Security for All Workers in Thailand	09/22	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Review of the Pension System in Thailand	02/22	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<a href="https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/labour-markets/WCMS_836733/language--en/index.htm">https://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/labour-markets/WCMS_836733/language--en/index.htm</a>
Access to Social Protection for Migrant Workers and their Families in Thailand	06/21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<a href="#">Social protection for migrant workers and their families in Thailand</a>
Gender-impact Assessment for Social Protection in Thailand	09/22	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Thailand Social Protection Mapping and Vulnerability Analysis	06/21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Published for limited circulation
Technical Note on Protecting the Most Vulnerable from the Impact of COVID-19	03/20	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Published for limited circulation
The Technical Note on Protecting the most vulnerable from socio-economic impacts of COVID-19	05/21	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Published for limited circulation
Technical Brief: Opportunities for extending social security protection to	06/21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Published for limited circulation

domestic workers in Thailand							
Policy review on social security for domestic workers in Thailand	To be finalized in 2022	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

### Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
UNCT Social Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Thailand	07/20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<a href="#">UNCT Social Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Thailand</a>
Letter to the Office of Council of State, and Policy Brief: Towards better retirement benefits in Thailand, 27 September 2021.	09/21	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Published for limited circulation

## 2.2. Focus on vulnerable populations

### Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
Thailand Social Protection Diagnostic Review	09/22	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, active working age, older persons, persons with	Yes	No

						disabilities, migrant workers.		
Report on Child-sensitive Social Protection in Thailand	09/22	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, pregnant women, mothers	No	No
Expanding Access to Social Security for All Workers in Thailand	09/22	No	No	No	Yes	Yes, informal workers	No	No
Review of the Pension System in Thailand	02/22	No	No	No	Yes	Older persons, informal workers	No	No
Technical Note on Protecting the Most Vulnerable from the Impact of COVID-19	03/20	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Migrant Workers	Yes	No
Technical Note on Protecting the Most Vulnerable from the Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19	05/21	No	Yes	No	Yes	Communities affected by COVID-19, families with children, people with disabilities, elderlies, and migrant workers	Yes	No
Technical Brief: Opportunities for extending social security protection to domestic workers in Thailand'	06/21	Yes	No	No	No	Domestic Workers and Migrant Domestic Workers	No	No
Access to Social Protection for Migrant Workers and their Families in Thailand	06/21	Yes	No	No	No	Migrant Workers	No	No
Policy review on social security for domestic workers in Thailand	To be finalized in 2022	Yes	No	No	No	Domestic and Migrant Domestic workers	No	No

**Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)**

<b>Title of the document</b>	<b>Date when finalized</b> (MM/YY)	<b>Focus on gender equality and women empowerment</b> (Yes/No)	<b>Focus on children</b> (Yes/No)	<b>Focus on youth</b> (Yes/No)	<b>Focus on older persons</b> (Yes/No)	<b>Focus on other group/s</b> (List the group/s)	<b>Focus on PwDs</b> (Yes/No)	<b>Included disaggregated data by disability</b> - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability
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								(Yes/No)
UNCT Social Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Thailand	07/20	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Migrant workers	Yes	No

### Annex 3: Results questionnaire

- Complete online using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/DfvPvaGfsg>.

### Annex 4: Final report on JP evaluation

- Provide separately.