



HI in Thailand started in 1982. The Myanmar and Thailand Program was created the 1st of January 2016, and its regional office is located in Yangon. This country factsheet reports data on Thailand.

General data of the country

a. Data

Country	Kingdom of Thailand			
Population (2019) ¹	69,2 million (Myanmar: 54.2 million, Malaysia: 32.3 million)			
HDI (2017) ²	0.755 (rank 83) (Myanmar: rank 148, Malaysia: rank 57)			
IHDI (2017)	0.636			
Child mortality (2017)	9.49 for 1000 births ³ (Myanmar: 48.6/1000, Malaysia: 7.9/1000)			
Gender-related Development Index	0.996 (Myanmar: 0.959, Malaysia: 0.976)			
GINI (2015)	36 (Myanmar: 38.10, Malaysia: 41)			
Population within UNHCR mandate (2018)	599,459			
INFORM Index (2018)		Value		Value
	Inform Risk	4,1	Vulnerability	3,3
	Hazard & Exposure	5,4	Lack of Coping Capacity	4
Fragile State index 2018	Rank: 75			
	Demographic Pressure	6.5	Legitimacy of the State	7.6
	Refugees and IDPs	5.6	Public Services	4.1
	Group Grievance	8.2	Human Rights	8.0
	Human Flight	5	Security Apparatus	8.7
	Uneven Development	5	Factionalized Elites	9.4
	Poverty and Economic Decline	3.4	External Intervention	3.5
Number of all land mine casualties known by 2018	0			
Net official development assistance received	228 million USD (2018) (Myanmar: \$1.534 million, Malaysia: \$ -52)			

¹ <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/thailand-population/>

² <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>

³ <https://data.unicef.org/country/tha/>

Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

→ Mine Ban Treaty / Status:	Ratified in 1998
→ Convention on Cluster Munitions / Status:	Not signed
→ UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities / Status:	Ratified in 2008

b. Geopolitical analysis

1. Social/cultural/demographic elements

Thailand is a unitary state, the only Southeast Asia country never colonized by an European power. The majority of the population is Buddhist and religion is of a great influence in Thai's everyday life⁴. The Thai culture is a mix of Indian influences, Chinese traditions and elements that are uniquely Thai. Despite a strong unity of the Thai culture, each of the four regions composing Thailand has its own unique cultural and geographic features (Thailand is a country of some 70 ethnic groups). Thailand is the 50th largest country in the world and the 20th most populated country, with half of its population living in urban areas.

2. Economic elements⁵

With a well-developed infrastructure, a free-enterprise economy, and generally pro-investment policies, Thailand historically has had a strong economy, but experienced slow growth in 2013-15 as a result of domestic political turmoil and sluggish global demand. Thailand's economic fundamentals are sound, with low inflation, low unemployment, and reasonable public and external debt levels. Tourism and government spending - mostly on infrastructure and short-term stimulus measures – have helped to boost the economy, and the Bank of Thailand has been supportive, with several interest rate reductions. Economic growth is projected to reach 4.3% in 2019, as inflation is expected to reach 1.4%.

Thailand faces labour shortages and has attracted an estimated 3.2 million migrant workers from neighbouring countries, including Myanmar⁶. The Thai Government in 2013 implemented a nationwide 300 baht (roughly \$10) per day minimum wage policy and deployed new tax reforms designed to lower rates on middle-income earners.

Presence of HI in the country

HI operations in Thailand started in 1982 and operates along the border with Myanmar since 1984. The main activities since then have been: fitting refugees with locally-produced prostheses, community-based rehabilitation⁷, the empowerment of people with disabilities and their inclusion in local communities (villages, neighbourhoods, etc.), and the prevention of mine accidents through risk education activities. Since January 2016, the site is managed within the MyTh program (created in January 2016 with its regional office in Yangon), in line with the refugees' repatriation process, and aims at strengthening the

⁴ <https://www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com/guides/thailand/culture-in-thailand/>

⁵ The CIA factbook


⁶ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/genericdocument/wcms_614383.pdf

⁷ Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) consists in involving and training the friends and family of disabled people in rehabilitation exercises and care to ensure their self-reliance.

coordination between HI activities in Myanmar and in Thailand around refugees' reintegration. MyTh Regional Strategy 2018-2020 has been developed and approved in November 2017.

Projects

Title of Action	Domain	Donors	Location	Duration
BRPM11 Supporting the inclusive and sustainable humanitarian assistance to Burmese refugees towards their resilience and safe voluntary repatriation	Inclusion (livelihood) + mine risk education	BPRM	3 Thai Burmese border refugee camps (Umpiem Mai, Nu Po and Mae La), located in Tak province MRE: All camps	15/09/18 – 14/09/19
(AUP3) Health and WASH services, return preparedness and capacity strengthening for refugees in the Thai-Myanmar border temporary shelters	Rehabilitation	EU (AUP) in consortium with Malteser International	5 refugee camps: Mae Ra Ma Luang, Mae La Oon refugee camps in Mae Hong Son province, and Mae La, Nu Po, Umpiem refugee camps in Tak province	15/05/19 – 14/05/21
Growing Together (GT)	Inclusion	IKEA FOUNDATION	5 refugee camps: Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon camps and surrounding villages in Mae Sariang district, Mae Hong Son Province, and Mae La, Nu Po, Umpiem camps in Tak province	01/06/16 – 30/05/20
Rehabilitation and social inclusion for refugees with disabilities and mine risk education refresher session for returnees	Rehabilitation, inclusion + mine risk education	UNHCR	Rehabilitation and DSI: 2 refugee camps in Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon temporary shelters and surrounding villages in Mae Sariang district, Mae Hong Son Province; MRE: all 9 camps	01/01/2019 – 31/12/19

<p>Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration</p>  	<p>European Union</p> 	<p>IKEA Foundation</p> 
<p>UNHCR</p> 		



HI team in Thailand

Thailand



In February 2018, the program employs 47 staff in Thailand (2 international), and 164 camp based staff. 1 AVI volunteer is sharing his time between Myanmar and Thailand (1 week in Thailand per month). Mae Sot site also hosts the Regional GT team of 4 international staff.

Projects ongoing

Sector	Objectives	Type of intervention	Target Beneficiaries	Partners	Place
 <p>Rehabilitation</p>	<p>Improve access to physical rehabilitation and assistive technology services</p>	<p>Assistive technology workshops producing orthoses, prostheses and technical devices; Rehabilitation centres providing physiotherapy and occupational therapy to people with disabilities and advice to their families/caregivers; Community volunteers supplying occupational therapy and physiotherapy at home; Development of rehabilitation return kits (consumables and tools) Promotion of early detection of disabilities in children in partnership with other NGOs Promotion of delay development among education system</p>	<p>People with disabilities (adults and children, including landmine survivors) Caregivers Refugee health workers from partner INGOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Malteser International; •International Rescue Committee; •Siridohorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre and School; •Mae Sot General Hospital; • Mae Tao Clinic; •Phrae Hospital; • Karen Women Organization KWO; • Rangsit University 	<p>Mae La, Umpiem Mai, Nu Po, Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon Refugees Camps</p>
 <p>Social Inclusion*</p>	<p>* Promote and improve inclusive local development at refugee camp level to facilitate access for PwD to services provided to refugees (including care, vocational training and preparation for Voluntary Repatriation) and foster their self-reliance and involvement in the social life of refugee camps * Create opportunities for children with disabilities and other vulnerable children, in particular children at risk of developmental delays and psychological distress (0-12 years old) in displacement contexts, to learn and develop safely while having fun.</p>	<p>Advising PwD and their caregivers to access VolRep and facilitated return Support and empower DPO/Self-Help Groups Peer-to-peer support to PwD Vocational Training Training of mainstream agencies and camp management structures on disability inclusion Awareness raising on disability inclusion <i>Develop the opportunity to play, learn and develop safely in playgroups and parenting crèches</i> <i>Promote equal participation, safety, protection and well-being of children of primary school age</i> Ensure child-development service providers are more inclusive, accessible and responsive to the needs</p>	<p>PwD and children with disabilities and their caregivers Self Help Groups Mainstream INGOs/Agencies Camp management Structures Community</p>	<p>UNHCR COERR ADRA TBC Foundation of Empowerment of Persons with Disability Thailand KWO, KRCEE, KRC</p>	<p>Mae La, Umpiem Mai, Nu Po, Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon, Ban Nai Soi, Ban Mae Surin Refugee Camps</p>

HI – Thailand Country Card – 2019 09 - EN

<p>Mine Education</p>	<p>Risk</p>	<p>Encouraging safe mine/ERW practices along the Thai Burma border</p>	<p>Provision of RE trainings, briefings and sessions to the vulnerable target groups Mass awareness raising Integration of RE into KRCEE/ KnED school' curricula pre-departure mine awareness refresher sessions in the 9 temporary shelters in the framework of UNHCR Voluntary Repatriation process</p>	<p>Refugees, potential returnees, travellers, students and teachers Refugees who signed for facilitated return</p>	<p>UNHCR Save the Children KRCEE/ OCEE FilmAid Foundation</p>	<p>Ban Nai Soi, Ban Mae Surin, Mae La Oon, Mae Ra Ma Luang, Mae La, Umpiem Mai, Nu Po, Ban Don Yong and Tham Hin Refugees Camps</p>
------------------------------	--------------------	--	--	---	--	--

