South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SS&TrC) Background Paper for UNCT-Thailand

A. Background and Rationale

At the Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) conference in Buenos Aires in March 2019, the heads of 161 country delegations and other officials cited significant changes in international politics and economic relations which create conditions conducive to promoting South-South and triangular cooperation (SS&TrC), pursuing sustained economic growth and building national and collective self-reliance. Stressing the need to reinvigorate the UN development system in supporting and promoting SS&TrC, aiming at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they called "upon all UN entities to improve the effectiveness, the coherence and coordination and complementarity of operational activities in support of SS&TrC, in accordance with national development plans, UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and their respective mandates" (A/RES/73/291, para. 27).

The UN Secretary-General, thus, requested the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) to coordinate, in consultation with the UN entities, preparation of a UN System-wide SS&TrC Strategy to "achieve more coherent and coordinated support by the UN system" (A/72/297, para. 94). The Strategy was successfully completed in 2020 and an action plan on the strategy subsequently compiled and issued in January 2021.

This is not the first time that systemwide guidelines have been developed for SS&TrC. An example is the "[Revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures Concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (2003)](#)". After the First United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Nairobi, Kenya, UNOSSC prepared the "Framework of Operational Guidelines on United Nations Support to South-South Cooperation (2016)". Most UN entities have developed SS&TrC strategies at the global level, particularly after the 2016 guidelines. These have been translated to action plans at the regional and national levels. However, since March 2019, a number of changes have led to the imperative to review the SS&TrC strategies and action plans at the country level. These are discussed in the following paragraphs.

The first reason is the transformation of the UN at the country level under the leadership of a UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) which directly answers to the call for a "coherent and coordinated support by the UN System". In 2019, the UNCT and the RTG commissioned a study to compile an inventory of UNCT activities in SS&TrC in Thailand. The inventory provided a valuable overview of the activities that agencies have supported the RTG in implementing South-South and triangular cooperation. However, it also showed that there were many initiatives whose impact could be scaled up through collaboration on large and impact-oriented projects. This SS&TrC background paper will focus on a more targeted approach which would lead to better initiatives and transformative development outcomes with measurable results. Moreover, at the same time, under the UN reforms, Thailand will be preparing its first United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) -the successor to the UNDAF. Thus, it is a timely opportunity to mainstream SS&TrC in the UNSDCF.

The second reason pertains to the transformation of priorities in national development plans resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has impacted national health, social and economic sectors, and exacerbated existing development challenges in each country. The resulting negative aspects have arrested and sometimes reversed trends towards achieving the sustainable development goals. The pandemic has also transformed the nature of work with digital transformation driving the trends in the

future of work. Consequently, a number of countries, acting individually or in groups, have come up with plans for a response and recovery from the pandemic.

In the context laid out above, the UNRC Office, in collaboration with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and UNOSSC, intends to develop a SS&TrC approach for the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Thailand. The UNCT in Thailand consists of 19 entities.

B. Overview of SS&TrC Activities in Thailand

Thailand has been a major practitioner and thought-leader on SS&TrC. In the 1990s, Thailand was one of the "pivotal countries"[1] in Asia-Pacific. Thereafter, Thailand emerged as a development partner in the Global South with increasing geographical reach and expanding modalities. Its international development cooperation policies are mainly under the purview of the MFA, while its implementing agencies are TICA and the Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA)- a public organization under the Ministry of Finance. At present, development cooperation remains one of the pillars of Thailand's foreign policy as stated in the government's 20-year National Strategy (2018-2037), as well as in the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan. The main goal of Thailand's development cooperation is to reduce the poverty gap between countries in the Mekong sub-region and ASEAN as a whole.

As Thailand's SS&TrC exchanges take place within the subregion and Asia-Pacific, its activities are compared to other major South-South Providers in the Asia-Pacific region as in Table 1.

Table 1

Country	Dedicated Agencies /Programme for SS&TrC / Year of Inception	Highlights on countries and the UNCT in respective countries on SS&TrC
Bangladesh	Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance	- Bangladesh has included SSC in its National Policy for Development Cooperation and laid out its vision to utilize SSC in implementing the SDGs. Fourteen years ago, the Government initiated the Access to Information (A2I) programme supported by UNDP. Today the project continues as the main means of interface with the UN in Bangladesh. Now renamed, a2i, the project takes leadership in the Government's public services innovations and transformation by groundbreaking insights supported by examples. Their work is driven by an innovation fund and focuses on the SDG tracker, empathy training, digital financial services, employment and skills development and South-South Cooperation. The a2i and UNOSSC co-convene the South-South Network for Public Service Innovation (SSN4PSI)

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[1] Pivotal countries are developing countries that, by virtue of their capacities and experience in promoting South-South cooperation, are positioned to play a lead role in the promotion and application of South-South cooperation, mainly by sharing their capacities and experience with other developing countries in their region or in other regions. The other pivotal countries in Asia-Pacific are China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea.

| China | China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) under the State Council of the People's Republic of China / 2018 | - As indicated in the recently issued white paper on "China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era", SSC is identified as the main focus for China's development cooperation with Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) as an overarching, driving force for SS&TrC.
- Main areas center around supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through poverty reduction efforts, supporting agricultural productivity to address food security, improving health care systems, supporting education, promoting gender equality, building infrastructure, advancing sustainable and innovation-driven economic growth and protecting eco-environment.
- UNCT in China has been extensively working with the Government in promoting SS&TrC. UNDP implements projects to promote the practice of experience-sharing focusing on five key areas: (1) Triangular/Trilateral Cooperation; (2) Experience Sharing on Foreign Aid Systems; (3) Global and Regional Issues; (4) Private Sector Engagement and South-South Cooperation; and (5) Sharing Development Experiences and Lessons through South-South Dialogue. UNEP-International Ecosystems Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP), a joint venture between UNEP and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, supported by the Government, is the first UNEP collaborating SSC centre with the focus on Africa. FAO also works with China in promoting agricultural technology transfer in 9 African countries and Mongolia.

The Chinese Government also provides grants, concessional loans, and also funding for SS&TrC, including China-Africa Development Fund (CADF fund), South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, China- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility |
| India | Development Partnership Administration (DPA) under Ministry of External Affairs / 2012 | - DPA applies multiple instruments including grant-in-aid, line of credit and capacity building and technical assistance in its cooperation projects ranging from commerce to culture, energy to engineering, health to housing, IT to infrastructure, sports to science, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance to restoration and preservation of cultural and heritage assets

- Existing SS&TrC projects between UNCT and the Indian Government include agro-processing and providing energy, healthcare, and e-learning platform. UNDP facilitates several technical exchanges between the Global South and India; for example, to exchange expertise and strengthen local electoral processes in Nigeria, to share experiences with participating Asian and arab countries on electoral reform and management; to support Uganda to explore approaches to addressing MDGs through decentralised planning; and to exchange expertise with Brazil on sustainable use of medicinal and aromatic plant biodiversity and promoting traditional knowledge.

- India supports several funds for the Global South. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund supports projects on climate resilience, |

		environmental sustainability, gender equality, renewable energy, improving women's and maternal health, education, livelihoods, natural disasters, and agricultural development, while India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA) Fund focuses on poverty reduction, food security and access to safe drinking water. The funds are managed by UNOSSC and UN entities are implementors.
Indonesia	- Directorate for Technical Cooperation (DTC), MFA / 2006 - Indonesian Agency for International Development (Indo-AID), MFA / 2019	- DTC formulates and implements policies in the field of implementing technical cooperation, while Indo-AID focuses on providing aid during times of natural disasters and for humanitarian crises. - Existing projects between the UNCT and the Indonesian Government emphasis climate change, renewable energy, agriculture, forestry, disaster management, fisheries, micro-credit, women's empowerment and democracy and good governance. UNDP, in cooperation with the Government of Norway, leads several projects to speed up the establishment of Indonesia's integrated and consolidated SSTC governance enhance its role in SS&TrC through supporting Indonesian-led platforms (e.g Bali Democracy Forum) - UNOSSC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Villages of Indonesia, established the South-South Centre of Excellence on Village Innovation (SSCEVI) aiming to leverage Indonesia's technical expertise and experience in sustainable village development.
Japan	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) / 1974.	- JICA provides grants, Official Development Assistance (ODA), loans, and technical cooperation in response to partner country's priorities mainly in the form of sending of experts and training programmes called Third Country Training Program (TCTP) hosted by public institutions/universities of the pivotal countries, and from 2017-2021 has focused on infrastructure, economic growth, human-centered development, universal values, peacebuilding, and emerging global issues. - JICA, as a leading agency in TrC, collaborated with UNOSSC on several occasions on knowledge and experience sharing on TrC. - The Japanese Government provided funding for UNDP-managed projects, including South-South initiatives under Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund. A capacity Development in Management of South-South and Triangular Cooperation project, a collaboration between Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and UNOSSC, supported under Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund has completed Phase I and is in progress to start Phase II.
Malaysia	Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), MFA / 1980	- MTCP focuses on human resources development through providing training in areas such as public administration, agriculture, poverty alleviation, investment promotion, ICT, banking, and English language - One of the highlights on projects between the UNCT and the Malaysian Government include Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperation Programme on Enhancing

		South-South Cooperation with the emphasis on SIDS and LDCs in Asia-Pacific and Africa on education policy and reform, education for sustainable development, skills development, disaster risk reduction, sustainability science, enhancing Science, Engineering and Technology Standards, social inclusion, safeguarding documentary heritage, and fostering media capacity, amongst others
Singapore	Technical Cooperation Directorate, MFA with devoted "Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP)" established in 1992	- SCP focuses on sustainable urban planning, effective public services, sanitation and water management. A special Climate Action Package has been set up to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change and also supports Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The largest element of Singapore's SSC is the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) - Remarkable projects between the UNCT and the Singaporean Government include Singapore-UN-Habitat sustainable urbanisation programme for African city leaders and the establishment of Global Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Development (GC-TISD) with UNDP in Singapore
Republic of Korea	Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), MOFA / 1991	- Existing projects from the Korean Government support institutional and human capacity building focused on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ranging from agriculture, digital, and medical skills, renewable energy and climate change initiatives covering both facility installation and capacity building, whereas gender mainstreaming and peace building are new priority areas for collaboration - The Korean Government sponsors and hosts several UN agencies for promoting and facilitating SS&TrC in many areas, particularly on capacity building such as Asian and Pacific Training Center for ICT for Development (APCICT/ESCAP), UNDRR Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), and UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), among others. Also, the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC) was opened in 2011 as a new form of cooperation between the Republic of Korea and UNDP. Co-funded by the MOFA and UNDP, and hosted by Korea University, USPC shares Korea's development experience with other developing countries. - The Government and UNOSSC have also established the Facility /Programme for Capacity Development for Poverty Reduction through SS&TrC in Science and Technology (RoK-UNOSSC Facility) with focus on providing access to development solutions and policy guidance to specific issues through research and knowledge sharing with an integrated pilot project in Cambodia and Indonesia focusing on ICT for business and social development of women, entrepreneurship, agriculture, school health, water management, and energy/environment.

In addition, the role and past contribution of Thailand in SS&TrC is shown in Appendix 1.

C: Key Findings Emerging from the SS&TrC Inventory for UNCT Thailand
The UNCT and the RTG in 2019 commissioned a study to compile an inventory of UNCT activities in SS&TrC in Thailand. The inventory provided a valuable overview of the SS&TrC activities that agencies have supported the RTG in implementing. Please see Appendix 2.

The analysis of the inventory revealed that there was a total of 69 SS&TrC activities with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) topping the list in terms of the number of activities undertaken, i.e. 20. In the activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), there were at least 10 or more partners participating in each project. In terms of number of countries involved, UNEP, UNDP, the United Nations Fund for Populations Activities (UNFPA), IOM and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) each had at least 10 or more countries involved in their activities implemented in support of Thailand's Development Cooperation. It is interesting to note that UNEP had indicated the greatest number of UN agencies (30) engaged in their activities although many of these are regional or global in scope.

Out of the total of 69 activities, there were only 10 activities which were undertaken in partnership with TICA, these were implemented by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDSUNAIDS), UNFPA, UNICEF, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and UN Women. Mutual exchanges and meetings made up half (35) of the activities, followed by other countries' learning experiences from Thailand (29), and then followed by policy advocacy and dialogues, impact analysis and pilot studies (10). Slightly more than a third of the activities (25) contributed to fostering regional cooperation while about 16% (11) have CSO or community engagement and 5 involved private sector participation.

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10 UNCT activities in partnership with TICA

1. Eliminating Mother to Child HIV transmission (UNAIDS)
2. Reducing HIV-related stigma & discrimination in health care setting (UNAIDS)
3. Ending HIV-related Stigma in Health Facilities to Fast-Track 90-90-90 Targets (UNAIDS)
4. Policy Advocacy on SROI of SSTC on Safe Motherhood (UNFPA)
5. Workshops and meetings on Safe motherhood (UNFPA)
6. Capacity building of other countries on EMTCT of HIV (UNICEF)
7. Knowledge sharing on Child Support Grant in Thailand (UNICEF)
8. South-South Knowledge Exchange on Youth Volunteering for SDGs: Sharing SEP and Other Approaches from ASEAN Countries (UNV)
9. Production of publication on SSC including case study on Friend of Thailand Volunteer programme (UNV)
10. Coordinated Quality Services for ending violence against women in Laos and Thailand (UN Women)

This sets out the types of Thai expertise that were utilized in the various SS&TrC activities:

Sector	Number of Activities
Agriculture-related	8
Labor/Migration/Trafficking	21
Health & social-related	11
Natural resources & environment/Cities	15
Good governance/conflict/violence/peace	6
Industry-related	4
Narcotics & border management	2
Youth-related	2

One key takeaway from the analysis through the inventory exercise suggested that most SS&TrC activities were one-off events of an ad hoc nature. They were related to training and only 10 out of 69 activities were undertaken in partnership with TICA. Given that SS&TrC is emerging as an important area of development cooperation and a priority by the Government, it is imperative for the UNCT to consolidate, invest in strengthening a robust partnership with TICA and develop a collaborative approach in this decade of action to advance the sustainable development goals.

The analysis showed that there were many initiatives whose impact could be scaled up through more coordinated and consolidated projects. One of the recommendations from this exercise was the consideration by the UN in Thailand for having an overarching SS&TrC approach and plan of action between the UNCT and the RTG in the next programming cycle. This approach should focus on a more targeted and impactful approach which would lead to better initiatives and transformative development outcomes with measurable results.

D. Proposed SS&TrC Approach for the UNCT Thailand

Most UN entities have developed SS&TrC strategies at the regional and global levels, which do feed into strategies at the national level. However, South-South and triangular cooperation must be demand driven, that means that global and regional UN Agency strategies have to be adapted to the requirements at the country level. The development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework provides the opportunity for the UNCT to invest in developing a comprehensive approach to SS&TrC in partnership with TICA and other relevant Thai counterparts. This would allow the UNCT to move towards a more consolidated as well as coherent approach to advance the SS&TrC agenda. In turn, the work of the UN at the country level would also contribute effectively to relevant global and regional processes on SS&TrC.

To achieve the above, the UNCT needs to address the challenges with its engagement on SS&TrC identified in the above referenced stock-take exercise. The UNCT should be more forward looking in identifying priority themes and projects that have a multi-year orientation, for a coordinated approach. With better collaboration on larger projects and bigger initiatives both among the UNCT and with TICA, UNCT efforts would likely have a greater impact. The UNCT has to take into context that Thailand can be both a provider

and recipient of SS&TrC. Furthermore, the UNCT's engagement on SS&TrC should serve as a transformative means for advancing the sustainable development goals. At the same time, it is important that the UNCT invests in developing a robust "results" assessment framework which would help us track results and provide important feedback for future work.

Thailand's 20-year National Strategy (2018-2037) outlines its vision of becoming "a developed country with security, prosperity and sustainability in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" with the goals aimed "to maintain national security and ensure people's welfare; boost multidimensional national competitiveness to ensure consistent economic growth; empower human capital at each and every stage of life to manifest competent and moral citizenry; broaden opportunities to improve social equality; promote environmentally-friendly growth with improved quality of life; and develop governmental administrative efficiency for greater public benefits"[2] H.E. Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, in his Keynote speech on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the UN Global Compact and the 75th anniversary of the UN, further underscored the importance of sustainable national development through Thailand's "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" as the Government considers policies in line with its vision of security, prosperity and sustainability.

Prime Minister's Keynote Speech on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the UN Global Compact and the 75th anniversary of the UN

To move towards the development of Thailand and to build back better, the Thai government has emphasized "sustainable development in accordance with the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy" and "collaboration from all sectors to improve the country". The Thai Government is implementing a new policy on "Bio-Circular-Green Economy" or "BCG", which consists of bioeconomy, circular economy, and green economy. This policy is guided by "the sufficiency economy toward sustainability", "building strength from within, connecting Thailand to the world" and "moving forward without leaving anyone behind". The BCG economic model focuses on sustainability in 5 main dimensions: food security, health security, energy security, job security, and sustainability of nature and the environment.

It is envisaged that the UN Thailand could develop its SS&TrC approach by aligning it along the three priorities of RTG in the security aspects (food, health, energy and jobs), prosperity and sustainability (sustainability of nature and environment). This would provide the broad framework for the UN and TICA to identify priority themes that are mutually beneficial.

In addition, the SS&TrC approach could consider the following:

1. Enhancing capacity, mechanism, and streamline coordination of TICA to harness the SS&TrC as an enabler for supporting the implementation of the priority areas in the forthcoming UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2022-2026 to help achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in collaboration with its various development partners;

2. Strengthening the role of Thailand as a provider of SS&TrC and supporting how Thailand can benefit as a recipient through the utilization of global and regional platforms; and

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[2] 20 Year National Strategy (2018-2037)

3. Leveraging new and existing partnerships with developing countries and Southern institutions, professionals, academia, private sector and CSOs in delivering SS&TrC.

In connection with the implementation of the SS&TrC approach between the UNCT and Thailand it may be worth considering some of the elements in the Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) analysis in the context of undertaking SS&TrC activities as appear in Appendix 3.

E. Impact Assessment of SS&TrC

As indicated in the previous sections, having a proper assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the SS&TrC activities undertaken is essential to providing an accurate indicator of the success or failure of the implemented actions. Thailand's SS&TrC programme aims to share its experience, with mutual assistance, reciprocity, and partnership as underlying traits. It has aligned its evaluation standards and Cooperation Assistance Evaluation Guidelines based on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Criteria for Evaluating Development Assistance by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). TICA currently utilizes five evaluation criteria developed by the OECD-DAC to evaluate SS&TrC (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability). These five OECD/DAC evaluation criteria serve as the comprehensive evaluation of assistance interventions. However, there are some key issues regarding the OECD-DAC evaluation[3] related to focus (the need to refocus relevance and effectiveness on needs of potential beneficiaries and not on donors' and/or governments' priorities), omissions (need to include quality of process and exportability as part of the criteria) and importance determination (need to establish bars for some key criteria), that should be addressed. Moreover, it is challenging to implement OECD-DAC evaluation for all SS&TrC initiatives due to limited capacities, lack of familiarity with the concepts, shared standards and consistent documentation among SS&TrC partners. It is essential to seek a proper assessment to supplement and fill in the gaps of existing OECD-DAC evaluation, and capture the evidence of the results achieved through SS&TrC activities undertaken in a more comprehensive and cost-effective way.

There are a variety of approaches and methods available for SS&TrC's results assessment. For example, firstly, the organizations' annual reports would usually focus more on administrative data about inputs, activities, missions, and the human resources involved, as well as immediate outputs. However, most evaluations mentioned in the annual reports are qualitative, subjective, and anecdotal and reflect perceptions and political stances with a lesser focus on assessing outcomes[4]. Secondly, the Results-Based Management (RBM) is useful as a framework to assess the impact of development programmes and interventions, but for SS&TrC programmes, it needs to be integrated with the processes of how development cooperation was delivered, that is horizontality (equal partnership) and mutual benefit (both parties have something to gain and to give-two-way rather than one way flow).

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[3] Chianca, Thomaz. The OECD/DAC Criteria for International Development Evaluations: An Assessment and Ideas for Improvement. **Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation**, [S.l.], v. 5, n. 9, p. 41-51, jan. 2008. ISSN 1556-8180. Available at: <https://journals.sfu.ca/jmde/index.php/jmde_1/article/view/167>. Date accessed: 18 Jan. 2021.

[4] Besharati, N. A. (2019, April). Measuring Effectiveness of South-South Cooperation. Retrieved from http://southernvoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/190830-Ocassional-Paper-Series-No.52_final.pdf

Regarding a Comprehensive Impact Assessment, SS&TrC initiatives tend to be relatively small and their effects are challenging to isolate and quantify (attribution) in the context of national development outcomes. There are other interesting methods for SS&TrC evaluations, but they are more complex; they include participatory methods of outcome harvesting, crowdsourcing, randomized controlled trials, quasi-experiments, and econometric approaches. Last but not least, considering the particular characteristics and varying scope of SS&TrC projects, one of the most robust and rigorous methods to assess and capture the best practices and showcases of SS&TrC initiatives is the Social Return on Investment (SROI).

The SROI framework offers a more comprehensive and participatory approach than traditional cost-benefit analysis by applying financial proxies to measure socio-economic and environmental outcomes. SROI is an outcome-based assessment framework that helps stakeholders involved in SS&TrC understand and quantify the investment's social, environmental, and economic values. The SROI process opens up a dialogue with all relevant parties, allowing them to assess the degree to which the interventions meet all their needs and expectations. The SROI assurance and verification processes are also available, which increases its reliability. Therefore, the SROI framework is recommended for strategic management, funding justification, priorities setting, and resource allocation to understand what social value a programme or policy create and it can be a strategic approach to supplement existing DAC's evaluation in showcasing and sharing the best practices of the SS&TrC programme.

Integration of the SROI framework from the planning process to implementation encourages all stakeholders to evaluate and provide feedback on SS&TrC projects directly. Given its capacity to capture social and economic impacts, SROI is useful for reporting various development targets under the SDGs. For example, TICA, UNFPA, and the Government of Lao PDR applied the SROI framework to assess their SS&TrC programme on capacity development for midwifery educators and health institutions. The SROI findings proved that investment in this SS&TrC activity was effective and worthwhile. The case showed that SS&TrC makes efficient use of Thailand's expertise and financial resources and can deliver long-term and sustainable results. However, SROI focuses on the outcomes rather than a process evaluation; thus, it can be time-consuming and requires good data collection. Moreover, SROI requires a skilled practitioner to collect data from all stakeholders, capturing the information into an impact map and computing the ratio.

UNCT can support Thailand in strengthening a more robust monitoring and evaluation system and enhance institutional capacities for SS&TrC partners to provide evidence of progress on SDGs from their SS&TrC programmes. The cooperation can also further provide strategic planning in utilizing the SROI framework to evaluate or share best practices of SS&TrC's initiatives. The SROI reports provide a comprehensive and strong evidence-based results of SS&TrC initiatives to decision-makers and for general public.

Case Study #1 – ***Measuring SS&TrC impact by calculating the social return on investment***

TICA together with UNFPA and the Lao PDR government, have collaborated towards improving human resource skills and systems of the midwifery programme in Lao PDR through SS&TrC during 2015-2017.

The study found that the total investment of US$ 450,000 created a social value of nearly US$1.8 million or represented as the SROI ratio of 1:4, meaning that for every $1 invested in the SS&TrC programme, $4 of social and economic value was created for beneficiaries such as trained participants having increased self-confidence in the midwifery profession, greater capacity to contribute to their institutions, better job prospects, and better abilities to contribute to their community.

Source: UNFPA Thailand. "The effectiveness of Thailand-UNFPA South-South and Trilateral Cooperation: Social Return on Investment Analysis." (2019). https://thailand.unfpa.org/en/SSC-SROI

Case Study #2 – ***Demonstrating that Preparedness Pays Off: A Joint Project by UNICEF and WFP***

In 2013, UK's Department of International Development provided funding to UNICEF and WFP for the multi-agency project on "Strengthening Humanitarian Preparedness in High-Risk Countries." The Return on Investment (ROI) assessment was applied in three project countries (Chad, Madagascar, and Pakistan) to assess the project outcomes in terms of cost and time savings due to prior preparedness. The study found that for $5.6 million invested, future emergency response-related costs have been reduced by $12.0 million, representing $6.4 million in net savings or a return ratio of 2.1. The time savings derived from these same investments ranged from 2 to 50 days, or average of more than one week, when compared to activities without advance preparedness measures. The ROI study also provided insights into humanitarian preparedness, including emergency supply pre-positioning, infrastructure development, staff training, and contingency arrangements for contracting externally. Overall, the multi-agency project has improved emergency readiness and increased greater coherence and efficiency in overall emergency response.

Source: BCG. "UNICEF/WFP return on investment for emergency preparedness study." (2015). https://www.wfp.org/publications/unicefwfp-return-investment-emergency-preparedness-study

<u>**Appendix 1**</u>

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UNOSSC-Royal Thai Government/Private Sector & UN Partnership

(Updated, January 2021)

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Secondment Programme

The UN General Assembly Resolution 71/244 encourages UN system organizations and all states to provide additional support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SS&TrC), including the voluntary secondment of staff to the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). Thailand responded to the resolution and has been a pioneer in seconding a total of six government officials to the UNOSSC office in Bangkok since 2017.

South-South Publications

The Royal Thai Government and UNOSSC jointly launched a publication entitled "Sustainability in Thailand: Experience for Developing Countries" on 12 January 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The publication was the first in the series of South-South in Action (SSiA), which UNOSSC co-publishes with partners. The South-South in Action identified and elaborated on Thailand's main South-Sout Cooperation Outreach programmes implemented in selected countries in the region and as far afield as Southern and West Africa and the Pacific.

A joint seminar on "Pathways to Sustainability: Thailand's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" was organized during the launch of the South-South in Action Publication in New York. The Seminar focused on sharing best practices and experiences on South-South and triangular cooperation, including Thailand's application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals. (More details: http://www.asia-pacific.unsouthsouth.org/2018/02/sustainability-in-thailand-experience-for-developing-countries-2017/)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand- through the Department for ASEAN Affairs, the ASEAN Secretariat and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) jointly researched and launched a publication on ''Mapping South-South Cooperation in ASEAN'' in 2018. Some of the strongest recommendations were on the need for the UN system to support institutionalization of South-South and triangular cooperation including some of the collaboration centres that were poised to rise during Thailand's chairmanship of ASEAN. (More details: http://www.asia-pacific.unsouthsouth.org/2018/10/mapping-south-south-cooperation-in-asean-2018/)

Thailand's South-South strategy includes deploying its young people to deliver cooperation assistance. In commemoration of UN Day for South-South Cooperation on 14 September 2020 in Bangkok, TICA and several joined UNV and other UN entities; UNOSSC, UNESCAP, UNRCO launched the publication on "South-South Volunteering as a Driving Force for Development: Experiences from Asia and the Pacific". The publication was compiled by UNV and three countries with active South-South Volunteer programmes including Cambodia, China and Thailand. (More details: https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SSiA-UNV-FINAL-Web.pdf)

Regional Consultation Meeting

Thailand has also facilitated regional consultations on South-South and triangular cooperation. In June 2018, ESCAP, UNOSSC and the Government of Thailand (through TICA) jointly organized the Regional Consultation Meeting in preparation for the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), which subsequently took place in Buenos Aries in 2019. The chairman's report of the meeting was sent to the co-facilitators who were preparing the outcome document draft for BAPA+40.

Regional Director-Generals Forum on South-South and triangular cooperation

In response to the need for greater collaboration among SSC stakeholders, ESCAP, UNOSSC and TICA also launched the first meeting of the Asia-Pacific Director-Generals' Forum on SS&TrC to discuss issues relevant to the theme and sub-themes of BAPA+40 held in March 2019.

ASEAN DG Forum

Besides the Regional Director-Generals Forum on South-South and triangular cooperation, TICA spearheaded discussions on creating a sub-regional chapter on the theme, "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability". Thailand, as the 2019 Chair of ASEAN, hosted the first Directors-General Forum of ASEAN Countries on Development Cooperation on 22-23 August 2019 in Bangkok. The Forum brought ASEAN development cooperation agencies together to share their development cooperation experiences including SS&TrC within and outside ASEAN. UNOSSC and ESCAP supported the event and introduced the new knowledge sharing platform called South-South Galaxy.

Supporting Inter-regional Cooperation

Thailand has supported ASEAN's exchanges with other regional associations. A side-event on "Shaping the Future of Regional South-South Cooperation: Sharing the ASEAN Experiences and Nurturing Synergies across Regions" was jointly organized by partners including UNOSSC and TICA at BAPA+40 in March 2019, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The purpose was to discuss the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly competitive development cooperation environment and how regional organizations could support development cooperation that maximizes the benefits through public goods.

Thailand in Advocacy for South-South Cooperation

As a hosting country for the Regional Commission and the Regional Office of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, Thailand has consistently supported advocacy for South-South cooperation during the UN Day for South-South Cooperation. On 12 September 2018, Thailand, UNOSSC Regional Office, UNESCAP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand co-organised the event. On 12 September 2019, UNOSSC participated in the 6th TICA Connect "SDGs Goal 17: Partnership for Sustainable Development" and also held an exhibition on South-South and Triangular Cooperation during the event. On the occasion of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation for Asia and Pacific held on 14 September 2020 in Bangkok, TICA and several participating UN agencies including UNOSSC, UNESCAP, UNRCO and UNV held a launch of the publication on "South-South Volunteering as a Driving Force for Development: Experiences from Asia and the Pacific" prepared jointly by UNOSSC and UNV.

Activities by Private Sector

UNOSSC has also worked with some Thai private sector companies. In 2019, Siam Cement Group or SCG compiled and launched a publication entitled ''A Decade of SCG Sustainable Development Symposia''. The document highlighted SCG's journey as an eminent promoter of sustainable development. Link to publication (http://www.asia-pacific.unsouthsouth.org/2019/10/a-decade-of-scg-sustainable-development-symposia-2019/)

Contribution to UN Funds for South-South Cooperation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has made financial contributions for SSC activities such as providing a sum of USD 520,000 to the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) for South-South Cooperation in 2016 when Thailand was the chair of the Group of 77. The fund supports economic and technical cooperation among developing countries through the G-77 and is administered by the G-77 Secretariat, UNOSSC and UNDP. In 2018, Thailand contributed another USD 50,000 to the UN Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) to further create tangible outcomes and more impact on the ground through South-South Cooperation.

Appendix 2 - Inventory of UNCT activities in SS&TrC in Thailand

Inventory of South-South Cooperation Activities by UN Country Team Thailand

A. *Summary of Findings*

The UNPAF 2017-2021 contains numerous references to South-South Cooperation (SSC) both in the Situation Analysis section (3 times) as well as the UN-Thailand Partnership Framework section (5 times) and twice in the Annex I and once in Annex II. It is also noteworthy that the term appears in all four Outcome Strategies and serves as one of the indicators of progress in the current UNPAF as evidenced in the two afore-mentioned Annexes.

This inventory exercise is therefore in response to the need for the UN Country Team (UNCT) to report on their activities pertaining to SSC. In this regard, the UN Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO) circulated a request in October 2019 to all member agencies of the UNCT in Thailand for them to submit their respective inputs, if any, on the SSC activities. The circular is attached herewith as Annex 1. A summary matrix of the responses received as of 15 January 2020 appears as Annex 2.

A preliminary analysis of the information received reveals the following observations: -

1. A total of 69 SSC activities were submitted from 15 UN agencies.
2. IOM tops the list in terms of the number of activities undertaken (20).
3. UNDP, UNEP, FAO and UNIDO all have at least 10 or more partners in their activities.
4. UNEP, UNDP, UNFPA, IOM and UNICEF each have at least 10 or more countries involved in their activities.
5. UNEP has indicated the greatest number of agencies (30) engaged in their activities although many of these are regional or global in scope. Some UN agencies did not clearly identify their partner agencies involved.
6. UNEP seems to have by far the largest budget outlays for their activities (around USD 20 million) although many of its activities are multi-year and multi-country in nature and the portions allocated specifically for or involving just Thailand are not clearly identified. A few agencies did not provide budgetary figures.
7. While most respondents provided a list or indication of their participants and beneficiaries, but no figures were given as to the exact number for these two categories, except for a few cases only.

Since there is a stated preference to have numerical data in the Results Matrix appearing in Annex I and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan in Annex II of the UNPAF, it was earlier thought that perhaps it would be useful for the UNCT members to consider providing more quantifiable information where possible especially on the number of participants and beneficiaries in order to have a better assessment of the impact of such SSC activities. However, based on recent discussions with UNRCO this is no longer pursued for the time being.

A more detailed analysis of each of the SSC activities undertaken by the various UNCT-Thailand agencies are shown in Annex 3. The observations are as follows:-

1. Mutual exchange and meetings make up half or 35 of the activities, followed by other countries learning experiences from Thailand (29), while policy advocacy and dialogue, impact analysis and pilot studies (10), regulatory framework, standards and SOPs (7) and Thailand learning from others' experiences (6) make up the remainder.

2. Slightly more than a third of the activities (25) contributed to fostering regional cooperation while about 16% (11) have CSO or community engagement and 5 of them involved private sector participation.

3. In terms of the activities meeting the priorities as indicated in the four UNPAF Outcome Strategies, practically all are aligned with Strategy 4 focusing on expanding the methodical exchange of expertise and technology available regionally/globally to support social, political and economic development, followed by 11 activities touching on Strategy 2 on expanding civic space and enabling a strong civil society sector, especially inclusive of the most marginalized while with those addressing Strategy 1 on effective, inclusive and sustainable policy-making and implementation as well as Strategy 3 focusing on recognizing and engaging the private sector as a collaborator in national development are in single digit numbers only, i.e. 6 and 5, respectively.

4. There are altogether 10 activities implemented by UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV and UN Women which mentioned TICA's involvement.

Some illustrative diagrams depicting certain characteristics of the SSC activities as described in the preceding sections are shown in Annex 4. Based on the input responses received from the participating UN agencies, the type of Thai expertise that were utilized in the various SSC activities could be categorized as follows:-

Sector	Number of Activities
Agriculture-related	8
Labor/Migration/Trafficking	21
Health & social-related	11
Natural resources & environment/Cities	15
Good governance/conflict/violence/peace	6
Industry-related	4
Narcotics & border management	2
Youth-related	2

Besides the members of the UNCT Thailand there are several cases of SSC activities which were implemented in collaboration with some of the other UN agencies such as UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). An illustrative sample of this for UNOSSC appears in Annex 5.

It is noted that in the Annual Report 2018 of the UNCT-Thailand, SSC activities were mentioned in the writeups for the following agencies – FAO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA and UNV.

In the 2017 report by UNOSSC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, entitled "South-South in Action - Sustainability in Thailand: Experience for Developing Countries", there was reference made to three UN agencies in the publication, namely; UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF. In the 2018 report published jointly by UNOSSC, the Thai Foreign Ministry and ASEAN on "Mapping South-South Cooperation in ASEAN", several UN agencies including UNDP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNODC and UN Women were mentioned in this publication.

During Thailand's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2019, several ASEAN-related centers were established including the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI), ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW), the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) Satellite Warehouse and the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD). These could potentially serve to promote and implement SSC-type of activities in the foreseeable future. Interestingly, SSC including South-South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) has been identified as one of the priority areas of cooperation under the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific issued by the Leaders at the 34th ASEAN Summit held in Bangkok in June 2019. The Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025) between ASEAN and the UN also indicated "promoting South-South cooperation in ASEAN and exchange of best practices with other regions" as one of the potential deliverables.

B.   *Illustrative Examples of Some SSC Activities Undertaken*

This section provides some illustrative examples of SSC activities that have been implemented by selected UN agencies that meets one or more of the current UNPAF's four Outcome Strategies and in particular addresses the stipulations pertaining to SSC referred to under each of the four strategies.

Outcome Strategy 1: Collaborate at national and sub-national levels to build systems, structures and processes for effective, inclusive and sustainable policymaking and implementation

ILO has initiated a Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) project addressing the issues pertaining to skill migration among particularly medium to low skill workers in the ASEAN region. It has focused on Thailand as the lead pilot implementation country working in partnership with counterparts from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar with a focus on developing mutual comparability assessment standards of certain selected occupational skills so that workers from the concerned countries meeting such skill standards can then work comfortably in the countries participating in the scheme with a reasonably decent wage and other benefits without fear of being deported. This would set a precedent for other countries in ASEAN to follow suit and contribute to promoting decent work of migrant workers and realizing the inclusive development as well as decent work agenda within the Southeast Asia region.

Outcome Strategy 2: Collaborate at national and sub-national levels to build systems, structures and processes that expand civic space and enable a strong civil society sector, especially inclusive of the most marginalized

The IOM-sponsored activity of "Supporting CSO representatives to attend the 12th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labor (AFML) Meeting and funding the CSO preparatory meeting held in Bangkok during 25-26 September 2019 is an exemplary case of expanding civic space and encouraging CSO participation in an important regional forum addressing the issues pertaining to migrant workers which represents one of the most vulnerable and marginalized population groups in the region. The AFML is an open platform for the review, discussion and exchange of good practices and ideas between governments, workers' and employers' organization and civil society on key issues facing migrant workers in Southeast Asia. Each year the Forum develops recommendations to advance the implementation of the principles as enunciated in the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

Outcome Strategy 3: Collaborate at national and sub-national levels to build systems, structures and processes that recognize and engage the private sector as a collaborator in national development

A good example of SSC involving the private sector in Thailand is the launch of the publication co-published by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation and the Siam Cement Group (SCG) on 26 August 2019 entitled "A Decade of the SCG Sustainable Development Symposia" during the SD Symposium 10 Years-Circular Economy: Collaboration for Action. SCG is one of the largest corporate entities in the country with interests in the cement and building materials, paper and packaging, and chemicals businesses. SCG has become a leader in the country and the Southeast Asia region in advocating good sustainable development practices in the business sector and has won numerous awards in this regard. It has taken inspiration from the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) of the late King Rama IX in its focus on sustainable development which dovetails well with Thailand's focus on SEP for SDGs approach and one of the Outcome Indicators of the current UNPAF on "Number of South-South and trilateral cooperation initiatives to share Thailand's best practices of SEP application to implement the SDGs.

Outcome Strategy 4: Collaborate at national and sub-national levels to build systems, structures and processes that expand the methodological exchange of expertise and technology available regionally/globally to support social, political and economic development

An interesting case of SSC activity under this category is the Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health program carried out under UNFPA auspices over the past few years. In the view of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), this represents a good model SSC project whereby there is two-way capacity building of both Thai and other collaborating partners from countries in the surrounding region. The program is implemented via a three-prong approach

including 1) establishment of solutions network for safe motherhood with leading academia and their networks specialized in reproductive and maternal health to provide exchange of knowledge and good practices to countries with high rates of maternal deaths; 2) provision of evidence-based policy advocacy on effectiveness and impact of South-South and Trilateral Cooperation initiatives; and 3) facilitation of study visits from other countries on reproductive health-related issues.

C. *Some Take-Away Thoughts*

This inventory exercise has revealed certain interesting trends and information on the nature and characteristics of the way that UN agencies have implemented SSC activities involving Thai counterparts. These are elaborated further below.

1. Building on the long and continued partnership and cooperation in the development sphere between the UN system and relevant Thai counterpart agencies, and in view that SSC has been identified as priority areas for further collaboration between the two sides, as enunciated in the current UNPAF, it would perhaps be useful to move towards a more consolidated as well as coherent approach to advance the SSC agenda by considering the inclusion of an overarching SSC strategy and plan of action between the UNCT and the RTG in the next UNPAF cycle.

2. As described in earlier sections, SSC is also becoming an important area of development cooperation among the international community which dovetails well with the Thailand's role as coordinator for sustainable development cooperation in ASEAN as well as the country's geographical position serving as the regional/-sub-regional hubs particularly in the ASEAN region and Mekong sub-region. The fact that SSC has been identified as priority areas of cooperation in key documents of recent ASEAN and ASEAN-UN frameworks is indicative of such emerging trends which should be capitalized upon for promoting more sustainable and inclusive development for the benefit of the region and beyond.

3. The above two points are premised on the need to develop a more functioning database and information system thereby ensuring good monitoring and evaluation arrangements for tracking progress of SSC activities implementation between the UNCT and Thailand within the country context and also increasingly in the Mekong sub-region as well as ASEAN region. This would assist in providing timely and effective feedback to project implementation personnel as well as policy makers to make the necessary improvements and finding better approaches and solutions to address SSC-related matters in a responsive and cohesive manner.

<u>**Annex 1**</u>

Inventory of South-South Cooperation Activities

UN Country Team Thailand – October 2019

The RCO is conducting an inventory of South-South Cooperation activities for the UN Country Team, in contributing to the UNPAF 2017-21 (see annex for related information in the UNPAF).

We kindly request you to send details of South-South Cooperation activities that your agency has supported over 2017-19, as well as any activities planned. This may be activities that you have directly implemented or supported the Royal Thai Government to implement. For each activity, please detail:

1. Activity Title
2. Activity Summary
3. Planned Outputs/Outcomes
4. Partners
5. Participants
6. Beneficiaries
7. Countries Engaged
8. Agencies Engaged (both government and non-government)
9. Timeframe
10. Budget

Recognising that activities may be at different levels of detail, please also send any further information about the activity, including any: concept notes, photos, and monitoring reports.

Please send your responses by 25 October in order that your activities can be compiled and produced in a collective UNCT report.

Annex: UNPAF Outcome Strategy 4

Collaborate at national and sub-national levels to build systems, structures and processes that expand the methodical exchange of expertise and technology available regionally/ globally to support social, political and economic development

The fourth strategy reflects Thailand's strategic position in ASEAN and the wider Asia-Pacific region, and the country's commitment to contribute to sustainable development of its neighbours, including through experience exchange and mutual learning.

Thailand has accumulated solid expertise and developed a series of good practices in promoting inclusive and people-centered sustainable development, with well-known success stories of universal health coverage, AIDS response and disease outbreak response, Sufficiency Economy Farming and Sufficiency Economy Villages, Occupational Health and Environmental Medicine services, to mention just few.

Thailand plays a prominent role in international and regional platforms and mechanisms, including ASEAN and G77. The country has been effectively playing a key role in convening and promoting international cooperation and building consensus among countries on issues pertinent to sustainable development, e.g., Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-203026 and the Bangkok Principles on the implementation of health aspects of the Sendai Framework. Thailand practices the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy as its key approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and increasingly shares good practices with countries in the region and beyond. The UNCT will support the country in enhancing its institutional capacity for international exchange and learning between Thailand and other countries, in support of rights-based, equitable development, inclusive growth and innovation in line with international norms, standards and agreements. This work will build on past and current South-South Cooperation (SSC) initiatives. The UN, in collaboration with Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), will assist in strengthening volunteer engagement in South-South Cooperation to position Thailand as a key regional actor, as well as in engaging youth as relevant partners for localizing the SDGs through volunteer action.

The UNCT will partner with TICA as a convener of SSC coordinating bodies of other line ministries as well as other international development agencies, and support the strengthening of unified and standardized systems, structures and processes for expanded exchange of expertise and technology available regionally and globally on development priorities.

The UNCT will promote participation in SSC of civil society and community-based organisations as well as the private sector in SSC. The SSC platform will be used to explore options and modalities for cross-border mutual community learning. This outcome strategy contributes to the national development priority numbers 9 and 10 as defined in the 12th NESDP.

Indicators under this outcome are:

- # of South-South cooperation initiatives, led by Thailand as a result of UN advocacy and technical support
- # of regional and global initiatives on SDGs and other post2015 frameworks that Thailand undertake during 2017-2021

Annex 2

Inventory of South-South Cooperation Activities by the UN Country Team Thailand – Summary of Inputs

Draft as of 23 January 2020

UN Agency	# of Activities	# of Partners	# of Participants	# of Beneficiaries	# of Countries Engaged	# of Agencies Engaged	Timeframe	Total Estimated Budget (USD)	Remarks
1. FAO	8	16	Not available	Not quantified	8	16	2018-9	603,673	With in-kind contributions from Thai partners
2. ILO	1	4	Not available	Not quantified	3	4	2017-2021	250,000 expended for Thailand in 2018-19	
3. IOM	20	5 (From 3 activities only)	Not quantified	Not quantified	15	17	2017-19	351,941	
4. UNAIDS	3	4	50 (from 2 activities)	Not quantified	Not available	4	2017-2020	65,000 (from 1 activity)	Financial support from UNICEF &/or TICA. UNAIDS only provided in-kind experts
5. UNDP	10	20	158 (from 6 activities)	Not quantified	20	Not clearly identified	2018-21	863,808	No budget figures for a few activities

UN Agency	# of Activities	# of Partners	# of Participants	# of Beneficiaries	# of Countries Engaged	# of Agencies Engaged	Timeframe	Total Estimated Budget (USD)	Remarks
6. UNEP	9	46	Not quantified	Not quantified	30	30	2015-22	Around 20 million (including all countries & some prior to 2017)	Funding support are often multi-year & multi-country
7. UNESCO	1	7	Not quantified	Not quantified	5	7	2018 onwards	300,000	
8. UNFPA	3	6	Not quantified	Not quantified	16	9	2019	At least 80,000	
9. UN-Habitat	1	2	Not quantified	Not quantified	2	3	2020	10-15,000	
10. UNICEF	3	6	Not quantified	Not quantified	11	6	2017-19	96,148	
11. UNIDO	4	10	20 participants (from 1 activity)	Not quantified	9	8	2017-19	736,148	With in-kind contributions from Thai partners
12. UNODC	2	7	Ranging from 60-160	Not quantified	6	7	2018-19	Not available	
13. UNV	2	1	Not available	Not quantified	Not clearly identified	1	2017-2020	Not available	
14. UN Women	1	6	Not quantified	Not quantified	2	Not clearly identified	2019-20	100,000	
15. WHO	1	1	1	Not quantified	Not available	1	2019	Not available	

Annex 3

Inventory of South-South Cooperation Activities by the UN Country Team Thailand – Detailed Analysis of Inputs

Draft as of 23 January 2020

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
1. FAO	a. Study tour from Colombia on land reform & rural development	X								4		
	b. Study tour from Nepal on nutrition sensitive agriculture	X								4		
	c. Study tour from Bangladesh on statistics	X								4		
	d. Sharing Thailand's experience on food, nutrition and agriculture	X								4		

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	e. Training of Cambodian officials on legal framework related to IUU	X								4		
	f. Survey on Marine Fisheries Resources in Timor Leste	X								4		
	g. Technical support to Afghan animal feed laboratory technicians	X								4		
	h. Technical assistance to combat Fall Army Worm in Indonesia	X								4		
2. ILO	a. Pilot on Labor Mutual Recognition Skills in ASEAN	X			X	X	X		X	1,3,4		

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	for CLM countries											
3. IOM	a. Labor Mobility Skills Good Practices Seminar in ASEAN			X			X	X	X	2,3,4		
	b. Thai-Cambodian Dialogue on Skills Development in Hospitality Sector	X				X			X	3,4		
	c. Supporting CSO reps to attend AFML meeting & CSO prep meeting			X	X		X	X	X	1,2,3,4		
	d. Cross-regional knowledge exchange on Migrant Health			X			X	X		2,4		

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	e. Thai-Lao Case Management meetings			X						4		
	f. Lao delegates visit to Thai shelters	X								4		
	g. Myanmar-Thai Case Management Meetings			X						4		
	h. Myanmar case workers visit to Thai shelters	X								4		
	i. Myanmar-Thai TOT on bilateral case management SOPs			X		X				4		
	j. Cambodia-Thai Case management SOPs meetings			X		X				4		

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	k. Thai-Myanmar anti-trafficking meetings			X						4		
	l. Vietnamese reps visit to Thailand on Migrants in Crisis	X								4		
	m. Malaysia-Thai CB workshop on assisted voluntary return			X						4		
	n. Regional RT on strengthening protection of unaccompanied migrant children			X			X	X		2,4		
	o. Thai-Cambodian workshop on SOPs on			X		X				4		

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	return & reintegration of TIP cases											
	p. Thai-Cambodian workshop on SOPs for law enforcement in TIP cases			X		X				4		
	q. Myanmar-Thai case management meetings			X						4		
	r. Myanmar caseworker visits to Thai shelters	X								4		
	s. Myanmar-Thai border meetings on TIP			X						4		
	t. Regional info sharing workshop in psycho-social support for VOT and VM			X			X	X		2,4		

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
4. UNAIDS	a. Eliminate Mother to Child HIV Transmission	X								4	X	
	b. Reducing HIV-related stigma & discrimination in health care setting	X								4	X	
	c. Ending HIV-related Stigma in Health Facilities to Fast-Track 90-90-90 Targets	X								4	X	
5.UNDP	a. Strengthen capacity of Thailand in supporting WIFOS networks across ASEAN/Asia & Africa		X				X			4		
	b. Wildlife-tourism pilot				X			X		2,4		

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	study in Huai Kha Kaeng Sanctuary											
	c. Regional training on wildlife conservation & protection			X			X			4		
	d. Study visit to Costa Rica on biodiversity-based economic development		X							4		
	e. Study visit by Pakistani officials on Business & Human rights	X								4		
	f. Study visit by Cambodian officials on VNR for SDGs	X								4		
	g. Study visit by Thai officials to		X							4		

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	Philippines on conflict mediation											
	h. Philippines experts share experience on preventing violent extremism		X							4		
	i. Tech Advice from Seoul government on "clean construction system"		X							4		
	j. Knowledge sharing by Bangladesh on conflict monitoring & studies		X							4		
6.UNEP	a. Air Quality Assessments for Health & Environment Policies in			X			X			4		

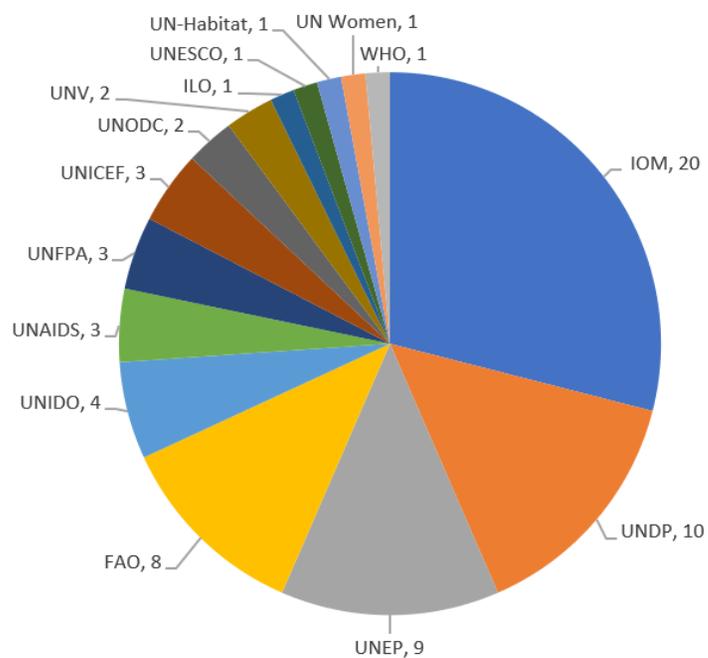| UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	Africa & Asia-Pacific											
	b. Promotion of action against marine plastic litter in India & Southeast Asia			X			X	X		2,4		
	c. Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity for Agri-food system			X			X	X		2,4		
	d. SeaCircular	X					X		X	3,4		
	e. COBSEA			X	X		X			1,4		
	f. APAN			X			X			4		
	g. EANET			X			X			4		
	h. APCAP			X			X			4		
	i. Fisheries Refugia			X			X			4		
7.UNESCO	a. Mekong Mangrove Forum			X			X			4		
8. UNFPA	a. Policy Advocacy on SROI of SSTC				X					1,4	X	

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	on Safe Motherhood											
	b. Workshops and meetings on Safe motherhood			X			X			4	X	
	c. Study visits on RH and related issues	X								4		
9. UN-Habitat	Experience sharing between Thai & Myanmar cities development			X				X		2,4		
10.UNICEF	a. Capacity building of other countries on EMTCT of HIV	X						X		2,4	X	
	b. Knowledge sharing on Child Support Grant in Thailand	X		X						4	X	
	c. Sharing of Thai	X		X						4		

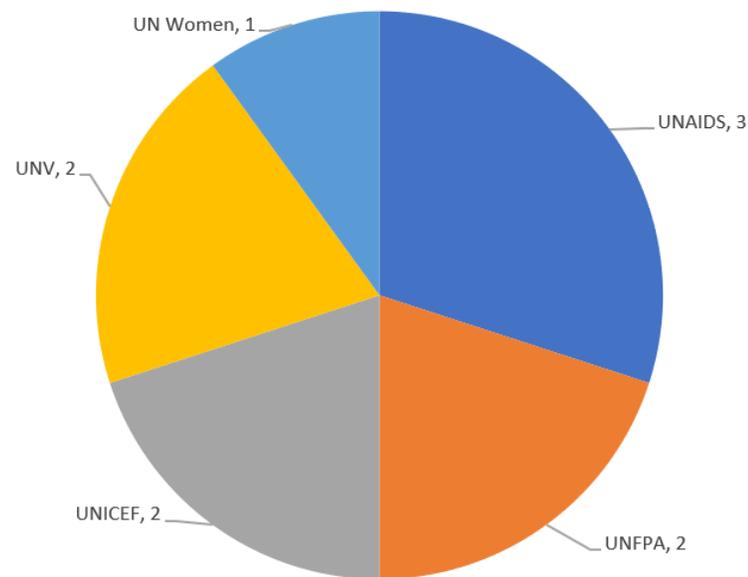| UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	experience in child MPI											
11. UNIDO	a. Pilot study on ethanol production via technological innovation & SS-TT	X			X		X			4		
	b. Int'l workshop on bioethanol & biofuel clean production	X		X	X	X	X			1,4		
	c. Pilot project in Myanmar through establishing green textile supply chain	X			X					4		
	d. Pilot project in sharing knowledge on steel industry to Myanmar	X			X					4		
12.UNODC	a. Mekong MOU senior Official &			X			X			4		

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	Ministerial meetings											
	b. ASEAN Border Management Roadmap meetings			X			X			4		
13. UNV	a. South-South Knowledge Exchange on Youth Volunteering for SDGs: Sharing SEP and Other Approaches from ASEAN Countries			X			X			4	X	
	b. Production of publication on SSC including case study on Friend of Thailand				X		X			4	X	

UN agency	Project Activity	Others learning experience from Thailand	Thailand learning experience from others	Mutual exchange & meetings	Policy Advocacy, Dialogue, Impact Analysis & Pilot Studies	Regulatory framework, standards & SOPs	Foster regional cooperation	CSO & community engage-ment	Private Sector engage-ment	UNPAF Outcome Strategy	TICA involve-ment	Remarks
	Volunteer programme											
14. UN Women	Coordinated Quality Services for ending violence against women in Laos and Thailand			X	X			X		1,2,4	X	
15. WHO	Thai expert sharing of experience the country's multi-sectoral coordination mechanism on NCDs	X		X						4		

Annex 4 Diagrams illustrating particular features of South-South Cooperation Activities implemented by UN Agencies with Thailand

Number of SSC Activities with Thailand Implemented by UN Agencies

UN-Habitat, 1
UN Women, 1
UNESCO, 1
WHO, 1
UNV, 2
ILO, 1
UNODC, 2
UNICEF, 3
UNFPA, 3
UNAIDS, 3
UNIDO, 4
FAO, 8
UNEP, 9
UNDP, 10
IOM, 20

Number of SSC Activities undertaken by UN agencies with active involvement of TICA

UN Women, 1
UNV, 2
UNICEF, 2
UNFPA, 2
UNAIDS, 3

Number of Countries Engaged in SSC Activities Involving Thailand Implemented by UN Agencies
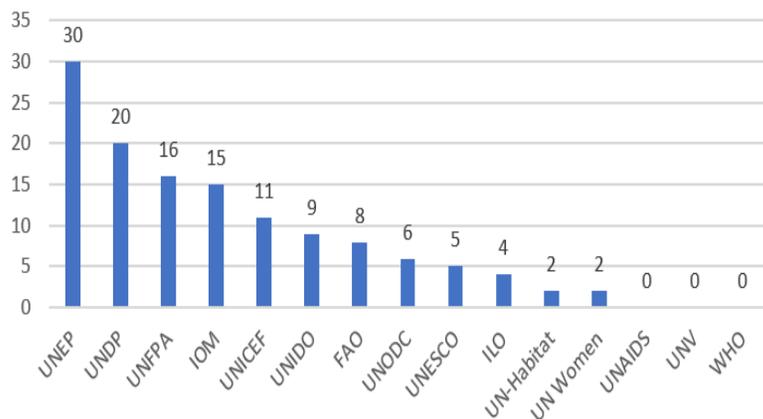
Note: 0 indicates information not clearly identified

Number of Agencies Engaged in SSC Activities Involving Thailand Implemented by UN Agencies
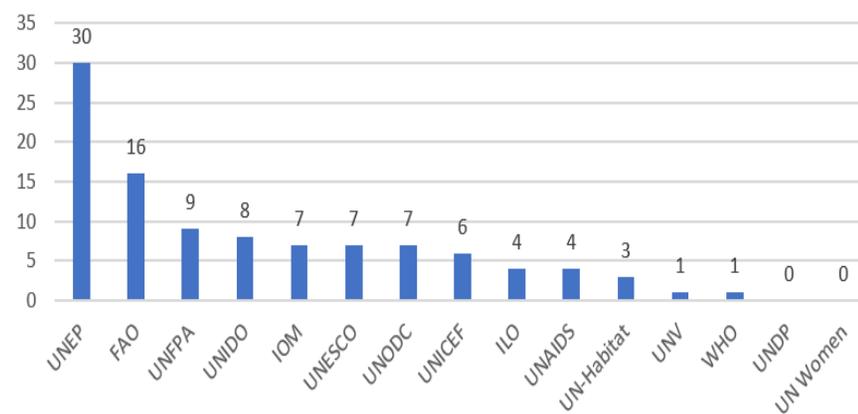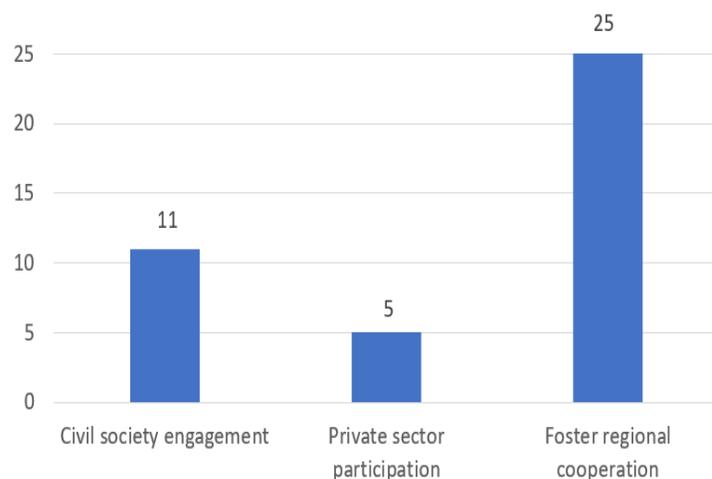

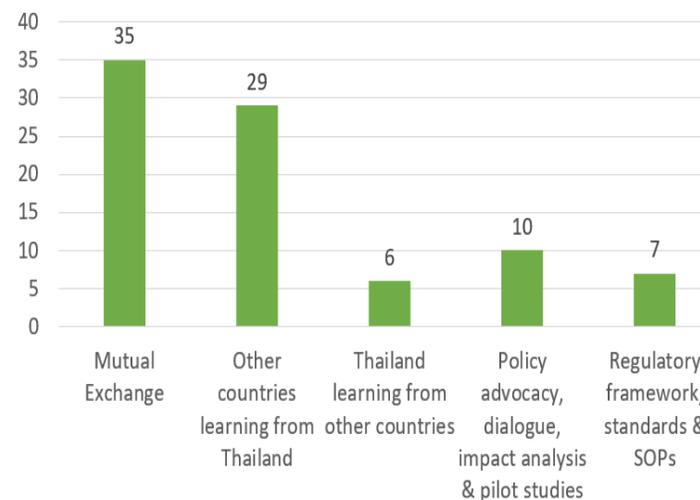
Note: 0 indicates information not clearly identified

Number of Partners in SSC Activities Involving Thailand Implemented by UN Agencies
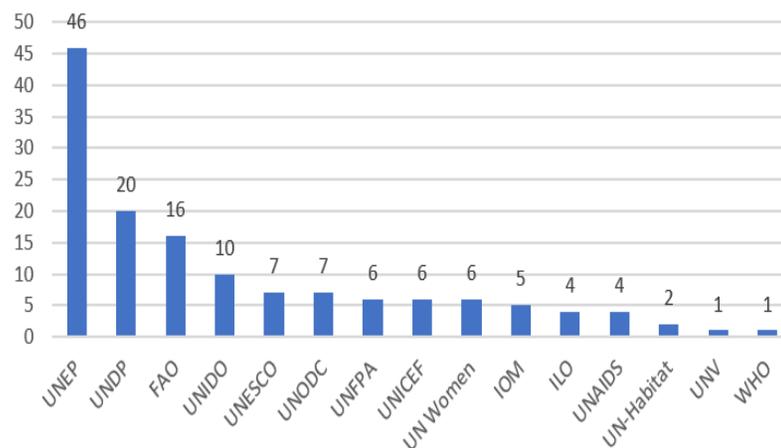
Number of SSC Activities with Thailand by UN agencies in terms of types of Engagements

Types of SSC activities with Thailand by UN agencies in terms of Functions

Areas of Thai Expertise Utilized by UN Agencies in SSC Activities

Sector	Number of Activities
Agriculture-related	8
Labor/Migration/Trafficking	21
Health & social-related	11
Natural resources & environment/Cities	15
Good governance/conflict/violence/peace	6
Industry-related	4
Narcotics & border management	2
Youth-related	2

Annex 5

<p style="text-align: center;">**UNOSSC-Royal Thai Government/Private Sector & UN Partnership**</p>

Secondment Programme

The UN General Assembly Resolution 71/244 encourages UN system organizations and all states to provide additional support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SS and TrC), including the voluntary secondment of staff to the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). Thailand responded to the resolution and has been a pioneer in seconding its officials to UNOSSC since 2017. Mr. Adisak Jantatum, Advocacy advisor, is currently seconded to UN Office for South-South Cooperation.

South-South in Action Publication

The Royal Thai Government and UNOSSC jointly launched a publication entitled Sustainability in Thailand: Experience for Developing Countries on 12 January 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The publication was the first in the series of South-South in Action (SSiA), which UNOSSC co-publishes with partners.

A joint seminar on "Pathways to Sustainability: Thailand's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" was also organized during the launch, sharing best practices and experiences on South-South and triangular cooperation, including Thailand's application of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals. (More details: http://www.asia-pacific.unsouthsouth.org/2018/02/sustainability-in-thailand-experience-for-developing-countries-2017/)

Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, the ASEAN Secretariat and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) jointly launched a publication on ''Mapping South-South Cooperation in ASEAN'' in 2018. (More details; http://www.asia-pacific.unsouthsouth.org/2018/10/mapping-south-south-cooperation-in-asean-2018/)

Regional Consultation Meeting

In June 2018, ESCAP, UNOSSC and the Government of Thailand (through TICA) jointly organized the Regional Consultation Meeting in preparation for the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), which subsequently took place in Buenos Aries in 2019. The chairman's report of the meeting was sent to the co-facilitators who were preparing the outcome document draft for BAPA+40.

In response to the need for greater collaboration among SSC stakeholders, ESCAP, UNOSSC and TICA also launched the first meeting of the Asia-Pacific Director-Generals' Forum on SS and TrC to discuss issues relevant to the theme and sub-themes of BAPA+40 held in March 2019.

BAPA+40 Side Event

A side-event on "Shaping the Future of Regional South-South Cooperation: Sharing the ASEAN Experiences and Nurturing Synergies across Regions" was jointly organized by partners including UNOSSC and TICA at BAPA+40 which was held in March 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The purpose was to discuss the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly competitive development cooperation

environment in the Asia-Pacific region and how regional organizations could support development cooperation that maximizes the benefits through public goods.

ASEAN DG Forum

Under the theme "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability", Thailand, as the 2019 Chair of ASEAN, hosted the first Directors-General Forum of ASEAN Countries on Development Cooperation on 22-23 August 2019 in Bangkok. The Forum brought ASEAN development cooperation agencies together to share their development cooperation experiences including SS and TrC within and outside ASEAN. UNOSSC and ESCAP supported the event and introduced the new knowledge sharing platform called South-South Galaxy.

UN Day for South-South Cooperation

A half-day commemoration of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation was observed at the UN Conference Center in Bangkok on 12 September 2018, co-organized by UNOSSC Regional Office, UNESCAP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. As for the event in on 12 September 2019, UNOSSC participated in the 6th TICA Connect "SDGs Goal 17: Partnership for Sustainable Development" and also held an exhibition on South-South and Triangular Cooperation during the event.

Activities with Private Sector

UNOSSC has also worked with a Thai private sector (Siam Cement Group). In August 2019, a publication entitled ''A Decade of SCG Sustainable Development Symposia'' was launched. The document is its journey as an eminent promoter of sustainable development. Link to publication (http://www.asia-pacific.unsouthsouth.org/2019/10/a-decade-of-scg-sustainable-development-symposia-2019/)

Contribution to UN Fund for South-South Cooperation

In 2018, Thailand contributed USD 50,000 to the UN Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) to further create tangible outcomes and more impact on the ground through South-South Cooperatio

Appendix 3 - SWOT Analysis for Thailand in the Context of SS&TrC

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
1. Well-positioned geographically and politically as a non-ideological partner to neighboring countries and willing partners in other regions.	1. Greater expertise in international coordination is still needed for having civil servants within the concerned line ministries being well-trained on analytical skills and in handling technical cooperation issues and producing the needed documents. Thai officials in general are further hampered by being not so proficient in the English language usage.
2. Offers several areas of expertise which could address the needs of neighboring countries such as agriculture/rural development, health protection and cross-border disease surveillance and outbreak management, income generation and livelihood enhancement including social protection schemes, plus environmental security issues and in particular addressing climate change and air pollution, landscape/biodiversity conservation, integrated water resources, plastics and marine/coastal litter management and bio-circular-green economy models.	2. Lack of a consolidated mechanism for coordinating the collection of SS&TrC data from all line ministries and segmentation among ministerial commitments to SS&TrC means that the full scale of Thailand's South-South Cooperation remains unknown.
3. Currently hosts many international organizations and multilateral/bilateral institutions such as many UN agencies including the UN Regional Commission. Also, location of the country logistically convenient for holding meetings and making field visits with excellent connectivity options and other amenities.	
4. Has a track record, institutional and operational mechanisms as a provider through TICA/NEDA in particular on SS&TrC activities at least among the countries within the ASEAN region and Mekong sub-region.	
5. In 2016 Thailand was designated as the coordinator for Sustainable Development Cooperation in ASEAN, giving it added weight as a trusted party in advancing the SDG agenda within the region. The establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) and several other such similar centers of excellence in Thailand in recent years further enhance such status.	
6. Civil society and private sector have participated in South-South and triangular cooperation, they can be tapped to play important roles in providing expertise, know-how and resources to advancing economic and social development issues within the SS&TrC context.	

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
1. The UN reforms at country level offer the UNCT an opportunity to refocus some of their work towards supporting the government that promotes South-South and triangular cooperation in a more coherent way. 2. Participation of TICA staff in the Regional Office for South-South Cooperation creates gateways for effective support and collaboration. 3. If UN works with Government, some bilateral offices for developing countries are willing to collaborate on scaled up triangular cooperation. 4. Technologies introduced during COVID enable easier collaboration of UN teams and Government without frequent face to face meetings.	1. The world has been diverted from expansion of multilateralism during COVID-19. Remnants of individual isolationist policy may result in Thailand gradually becoming more inward-looking. 2. The expected resources constraints that are likely to result from the response and recovery from COVID-19 may impact on Thailand's resources for development Cooperation with other countries.