POST-PROJECT EVALUATIONS FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS DEMOCRACY FUND

EVALUATION REPORT

UDF-16-721-THA
Empowering Communities Threatened with Displacement in Thailand

Acknowledgements
The evaluators would like to thank all those who made themselves available for interviews, in particular the management and staff of Chumchon Thai Foundation.

Disclaimer
The views expressed in this report are those of the evaluators. They do not represent those of UNDEF nor of any of the institutions referred to in the report.

Authors
This report was written by Adam Sharpe and Karnmanee Thanesvorakul.

Table of Conten ts

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... 1
II. INTRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT 5
(i) The project and evaluation objective.....5
(ii) Evaluation methodology.....5
(iii) Development context 5
III. PROJECT OBJECTIVES, STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION 6
(i) Logical framework 7
(ii) Project approach 9
(iii) Strategic aspects.....9
IV. EVALUATION FINDINGS 10
(i) Relevance.....10
(ii) Effectiveness..... 11
(iii) Efficiency.....12
(iv) Impact..... 13
(v) Sustainability..... 14
(vi) UNDEF value-added.....15
V. CONCLUSIONS 16
VI. RECOMMENDATIONS 18
VII. OVERALL ASSESSMENT AND CLOSING THOUGHTS 19
VIII. LESSONS LEARNED 19
IX. ANNEXES 20
ANNEX 1: EVALUATION QUESTIONS 20
ANNEX 2: DOCUMENTS REVIEWED.....21
ANNEX 3: PEOPLE INTERVIEWED 22
ANNEX 4: ACRONYMS.....23

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

i) The Project

The Chumchonthai Foundation (CTF) project entitled “Empowering Communities Threatened with Displacement in Thailand” ran from 15th January 2018 to 14th January 2020. It was designed to create an enabling environment whereby discriminatory laws and policies targeted at marginalized communities are eliminated, and communities themselves possess both the legal identities and the necessary political and legal knowledge to pursue their rights. The project included a series of multi-stakeholder engagements including capacity-building trainings, regional forums, consultations, and dialogues, taking place across six Andaman provinces in the South of Thailand, namely Krabi, Phang Nga, Phuket, Prachuab Kiri Khan, Ranong, and Satun. The project also supported media and public-advocacy campaigns designed to increase local authorities’ knowledge of laws recognizing the rights of marginalized people. Direct beneficiaries include Sea Gypsies (Chao Lay in Thai), those displaced by the demarcation of the Thai-Myanmar boundary, and those living in forests and mangroves labelled as ‘protected areas’. Additional target groups included government officers, provincial authorities, academics, and media.

(ii) Assessment of the project

- Relevance

The target communities are some of the most marginalized communities in Thailand, living with precarious legal status and receiving little government or NGO support. The implementing partner recognized having spent years working with these communities and with government officials that upstream and downstream efforts were required to achieve project outcomes. Upstream, they successfully inserted the marginalized communities’ agenda into the national strategy plan through the Draft Act of Protection and Preservation of Ethnic Group’s Way of Life. This bill has the potential to benefit not only Chao Lay communities but over 50 ethnic minorities in Thailand, a population of approximately 6-7 million people. This is a big step forward in what will be a long and challenging fight to eliminate the discriminatory laws and policies that target these groups.

Considerable media coverage was achieved through partnership with the Thai Public Broadcasting Services (Thai PBS), by opening up capacity building events to the public allowing for media field visits, and actively publicizing the participation of UN senior staff at particular engagements wherever possible. This created an advocacy platform that garnered 628 news items published in national and social media. However, there was little evidence to be found linking advocacy platform outputs to project outcomes.

Progress has also been made at the policy level with the drafting and advocating for the Act on Promotion and Preservation of Ethnic Groups' Ways of Life. This is a notable achievement. However, a number of project partners emphasized there is still some way to go before an enabling environment is created for marginalized communities in the south. This may reportedly require continuous policy

considerable economic hardship for marginalized communities, community networks launched multiple initiatives to offset the damage. The “Fish for Rice” project established an informal trading network of marginalized community goods, which ensured communities had enough food to live despite the loss of income. One project beneficiary raised money from Amnesty International, using fundraising skills developed during the program, to distribute emergency packages to their community. Savings groups

of fighting for their rights, are perilously low. The project did not adequately address these needs.

(iv) Recommendations for CTF

- Consider ways to leverage community support networks and community leaders to extend project components to other marginalized communities in Thailand. The model appears to be both effective and scalable, and project beneficiaries are reportedly eager to play a leading role.

- When engaging vulnerable communities with low financial means , try to budget for their participation in all program elements. Travel expenses alone will not persuade low daily wage earners to give up a full day of work to take part in project activities. If necessary, consider reducing the scale of the project so that budgets are not spread so thinly and participation is not hindered.

- Consider longer term policy level advocacy strategy to build off the foundations laid during the program. Continued focus is needed on the Act on Promotion and Preservation of Ethnic Groups' Ways of Life, which SAC will need help with from both partners and communities.

- Identify ways to provide ongoing capacity development for government officials in the south of Thailand. With mandatory civil servant rotation in place across the country, project planning should reflect this and establish a long-term plan to ensure the sustainability of project results.

government declares their homes part of protected national park land. Their situation is made even more precarious without the possession of a Thai identification card, unable to claim their land rights, and depriving them of access to other rights and services such as medical care, education, and employment opportunities that Thai nationals enjoy.

It was not until 2012 that Thai lawmakers agreed to amend the Nationality Act, opening channels for displaced populations to verify and regain their nationality. However, at the national and local level, the verification procedure is extremely complicated as it involves cooperation from several state agencies. The Nationality Act's provision on displaced Thais also requires several pieces of evidence while leaving many loopholes to be handled at the discretion of local offices which are often short of staff and lack a detailed understanding of the verification process. Most files do not even get past the district level due to requests being incomplete, incorrect or being rejected by officials. As a result, less than half of applications reach the central committee. Without formal rights of citizenship, they do not qualify for social services, or access to infrastructure for their villages and households.

The government declaration of protected areas or conservation zones threatened the way of living of an estimated 100,000 people who have lived in forest and mangrove area communities for generations. The declared areas also incorporated the historic settlement areas within the wider boundaries. Having no rights to the land, these people now live under threat of eviction without compensation.

Even where laws or policies exist and regulations are in place, there is a lack of clear avenues for processing community claims to services and other civil rights. The Sea Gypsies were the first of the minorities to be addressed at the policy level, with the passing of a Cabinet resolution that recognized their cultural and lifestyle claims. However, it was not enough to help them realize their rights - a resolution still has to be translated into legislation so that rights can be officially pursued. For displaced persons, a law has been in place since 2012 that allows them to file requests for restoring their Thai citizenship but the process is so

III. PROJECT OBJECTIVES, STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

(i) Logical framework

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES			
x Three 2-day interactive training workshops (~60 people each) on community mobilization, civil rights and related policies for community leaders/ representatives from all 52 communities and their support networks in the project targeted provinces	x 180 community leaders/representatives and their support networks equipped with knowledge to mobilize their communities	Increased understanding among community leaders/ representatives and their support networks in the project target provinces.	
x One 2-day training for 20 young adults to build their awareness on rights of marginalized communities and train on effective communication and presentation skills for community advocacy activities	x Selected young adults trained in effective communication and presentation techniques	Awareness and capacity of young adults on effective communications and presentation skills increased	
REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL FORUMS			
x Two 2-day regional forums (~150 people each) to raise ionxó(•			Barriers that prevent marginalized communities from knowing and pursuing their rights are removed. Target communities have the knowledge, skills and partnerships to take action to ensure their rights are enacted.

x Advocate and publicize through main stream journalists, web-based and social media as well as video documentaries, infographics and publications, the cases of the displaced and marginalized communities that emphasizes issues faced and community action taken	x Engagement of journalists in publicizing video documentaries and other media pieces as well as gaining media support for advocacy efforts	Public awareness enhanced, public and media support for displaced and marginalized communities gained
CULTURAL LAND-USE PLAN		
x Two 1-day training workshops (~50 people each) on legal rights of community land-use in target Chao Lay communities	x Target Chao Lay communities trained on legal rights of community land-use	Knowledge on legal rights of community land-use enhanced
x Document historical use and undertake cultural land-use mapping and demarcation of boundaries in two demonstration Chao Lay communities	x Completed cultural land-use mapping and demarcation of boundaries in two demonstration communities	Communities' land ownership and rights recognized
WORKSHOPS ON GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES		
x Two 1-day workshops (~50 people each) to disseminate information to displaced Thai communities in the target areas on their rights as Thai citizens and government procedures to register their rights in accessing social services e.g. education and health care	x 100 selected participants received information and understand government procedures	Knowledge on the rights as Thai citizens and government procedures enhanced
x Two 2-day meetings (~100 people each) to provide legal counsel and facilitate the displaced groups to prepare and submit their application/ registration for Thai citizenship	x 200 selected participants received legal counsel and able to prepare and submit their application	Knowledge on how to prepare and submit application for Thai citizenship among displaced groups enhanced
TRAINING ON RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND USE		
x Two 1-day events (~60 people each) to train marginalized communities on their rights to stay on community land in forest/ mangrove according to the enacted regulation and on environmentally sensitive land management	x 120 selected participants trained on their rights and the enacted regulation as well as land management	Marginalized communities' knowledge on their rights enhanced
x Two demonstration communities to organize two 1-day consultation workshops to discuss and formulate environmentally sensitive land use practices within public spaces	x Completed environmentally sensitive land use plans	Community role in land and forest preservation recognized by relevant government agencies
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUPPORT NETWORKS		
x Two 2-day workshops (~50 people each) to train members of key community support networks to enhance their knowledge on relevant laws/policies and on advocacy actions for policy changes	x 100 selected network leaders received information of laws and public policy advocacy process.	Key community support networks' knowledge on relevant laws and policies and on advocacy actions for policy change enhanced
x Support the community networks to arrange two meetings whereby community leaders and supporting networks can lobby for policy change by meeting key government officials to follow-up on issues and jointly assess results being achieved	x Representatives of community networks in the project target provinces and other networks held a meeting with government officials.	Progress in policy change made

x Legal assistance to the target communities facing ongoing evictions and ownership challenges	x Legal assistance provided to the target communities where rights were being violated or under eviction	Target communities able to solve their land issues	

(ii) Project approach

The project was designed to impact both policy and community levels, advocating for the implementation of laws and regulations to protect marginalized coastal communities of the Andaman region of Thailand, and

.

experience working on land rights issues shared their concern that these marginalized communities had “exhausted their resources” in pursuing their rights over the last two decades, and that a project

Effectiveness of policy advocacy was made possible through CTF's strong partnership networks, particularly close partnership with SAC, the organization assigned by the government to lead on the drafting of the Act of Protection and Preservation of Ethnic Group's Way of Life. In the official document from the Prime Minister's Office notifying the appointment of SAC as the main organization responsible for drafting the act, a leading figure within CTF is included on the working committee alongside legal experts from the National Institute of Development Administration, Rangsit University, Srinakarinwiroj University, Social Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University,

local government officers, like all civil servants in Thailand, were soon after assigned to new posts in different provinces. Some new officials reportedly did not understand the local context, and some harbored a noticeably negative attitude towards the target communities. This could have been built into the project plan.

(iii) Efficiency

All engagements and planned activities were completed, and documents produced. The budget of $200,000 was used in its entirety, with an over-expenditure of $1,232 which was covered by the CTF's own finances. It should also be noted that less funds in THB were received than originally projected due to the falling exchange rate from US$ to THB (less than THB 32/US$) during the period covered by the last disbursement. Despite the over-expenditure, the budget and resources were efficiently used for planned activities considering the scale of the mission and the results.

However, financial limitations appear to have impacted efficiency at points. Some project staff and partners interviewed did not think the budget corresponded with12.3 (ot)-2 Td ( )Tj EMC /3.1 (o)42.2 em4 (pl)-8.9

from Amnesty International. With the monies received, he provided emergency packages including food and protective masks to those affected by COVID-19.

Recognizing the limited financial means of marginalized communities with which to sustain their policy advocacy and quality of life, CTF helped communities set up their own saving groups, and provided capacity building training on fundraising. All 48 target communities established their own savings groups to support and maintain their policy advocacy work, with some funding improvement of their residences and community environment. Despite this, few had confidence that savings groups would be sufficient, with numerous stakeholders voicing their concerns that a lack of financial means would hinder sustainability in the long run.

(vi) UNDEF value-added

The UNDEF logo was included in all printing materials as well as backdrops at conferences and meetings. However, due to the project having so many project partners, the UNDEF logo was reportedly not obviously visible.

CTF, project partners and beneficiaries all cited that the UNDEF value-add lay in the credibility it gave the project. It motivated many organizations and communities to cooperate and provide support. Government officials who may have been hesitant to take part were compelled to by the UNDEF involvement. It was also a motivating factor for the media to provide the project with so much exposure.

V. CONCLUSIONS

(i) The establishment of diverse community support networks that connect marginalized communities with government officials, NGOs, CSOs, and legal experts were essential to program success. The evaluators were reminded repeatedly by project staff and beneficiaries that the network was critical to program design, roll-out and sustainability of project results. Some networks were created anew, and others were strengthened through capacity building. Their effectiveness was in large part due to the implementing partners history of work in the area, the strength of CTF's partnership network, and the collaborative approach taken to program design. UNDEF support also appears to have been a catalyst, providing, credibility, legitimacy and confidence to a project that traditionally may have been seen as risky. Following the program, these networks have launched a number of initiatives, including "Phang Nga of Happiness", "Phuket Community Development Rights Network", "Volunteer Lawyers for Community Development, and the "Love Satun Network", all to continue supporting these causes in the future.

(ii) There is ample evidence that marginalized communities now feel more empowered to take actions to ensure their rights under enacted laws and policies. From Mr Cho-Ice Phrathan obtaining the number 0 card and becoming a group leader of displaced Muslims, to two young community communicator training participants shooting footage for Facebook to the young man who raised money for emergency food packages for his community during the COVID-19 lockdown, the program reportedly inspired a wave of action.

(iii) The project made considerable progress at the policy level, but there is still a long way to go. Project partner SAC took a leading role in drafting and pushing for the Act on Promotion and Preservation of Ethnic Groups' Ways of Life. The feedback and suggestions from the communities will be incorporated into the draft which is expected to be finalized in 2022. This is a notable achievement. However, to eliminate all discriminatory laws and policies that target marginalized communities will take many more years of action.

(iv) A sustainable ongoing capacity development process is needed to change the mindsets of local officials as they rotate in and out of position. Engaging government officials in project outputs led to some positive results, but civil servant rotation meant

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

- For CTF:

(i) Based on conclusions (i) and (ii), consider ways to leverage these networks and community leaders to expand capacity building components to other marginalized communities in Thailand . The capacity development models established during this program are easily scalable

government officials that focuses on building mutual understanding and upholding principles that aim to improve people's quality of life is necessary. She also suggested cultural exchanges and education initiatives that promote the ethnic way of life and their place in Thailand.

(vi) CTF should establish robust risk mitigati on mechanisms to ensure the safety of project partners, staff, and beneficiaries. The operati 291.36 53.g3ees.es.Enment for NGOs in.g3ehe south 3.1 (es.Ef)-1.1 (T)-5.4 (ha)-12.3 (i)3.1 (l)-8.9 (an)-12.3 (d i)3.2 (s)-8.1 (f)-1.2 (r)-6.3 (a)-12.3 (ug)-12.2 how to has.s local authority networ ks to protect pas.icipants fs.m exploitation and has.

x For UNDEF:

(i) To eliminate discrimintory laws and policies targeting marginalized commuities in Thailand, policy advocacy must be sustained beyond 2 years. UNDEF is well placeed to suppos. this effos. by continuing to in/TT2t in os.izationslike CTF who have strong netwos.s both downstream and upstream.

(ii) UNDEF should insist on robust risk mitigation plans in areaswhere ps.ect staff and beneficas.es as. at ris fs.h offical and unofficial influence groups.

(iii) To ens vs133.2 (b)-12.3 (i)3.1 (l)-8.9 (133.2 (t)-1-1 (y)-8.1 (of)-13.1 (t)-1.2 (he)-12.2 (UNDEF)-14.9 (N)-2.9 (D) should insist on primary logo line placement, or an increase in logo size .

VII. OVERALL ASSESSMENT AND CLOSING THOUGHTS

The ps.ect "Empowering Communitieshreatened with Displacement in Thailand" has evdently contr133.1 (bu)-12.3 (t)-1-1 (ed)0.7 (t)-13.1 (o)0.7 (t)-1-1 (he)0.7 (a)-12.3 (ms.ough) 14.9 (ep)-18.4 (ment)-1-1 ( )0.7 (of set of activ tiesncl33.2 (u)-12.3 (d)i)3.1 (g)-12.2 (g)-8 (a)-12.2 (o)-2 al author133.1 (t)-13.2 (i)3.2 (es)-2.1 (i)-8.9 (n d) 133.1 (de)-12.3 (nt)-1-1 (133.2 (f)-13.2 (i)3.1 (c)-8 (at)-13.2 (i)3.2 (on c)-8 (as.)-15b0ds) gesd lesonseas.ed indicate the need to continue advacyforts s)-20 (h on)-12.2 (g3)-12.2 (i)3.1 (ng)-12.3 (t)-1-1 (r)-6.3 (a)-12.3 (i)3.1 (ni)-8.9 (ng)-12.3 (f)-1.1 (or)-6.4 ( )-12.2 (gov)-2-1 (e)-12.2 (s.)-1

VIII. LESSONS LEARNED

Based on the conclusions and recommendations, we have identified the following key lessons from the project that could be applied to other projects either in the same region or on the .4 9thoe.tD

ANNEX 3: PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

Project beneficiaries	
Ms. Supankaew Pakdee	A displaced Thai in Ranong
Mr. Sutin Wongsuwan	A displaced Thai in Prachuap Khiri Khan
Mr. Boonserm Prakorbpran	A displaced Thai in Prachuap Khiri Khan
Mr. Cho-Ice Prathan	A displaced Thai youth in Prachuap Khiri Khan
Mr. Sanya Tinchaipoom	A displaced Thai in Ranong
Ms. Jirapon Chanhom	A displaced Thai youth in Ranong
Mr. Niran Yangpan	A Chao Lay in Rawai, Phuket
Mr. Vistawas Thepsong	A Chao Lay in Tubtawan, Phang Nga
Ms. Orawan Hantalay	A Chao Lay in Tubtawan, Phang Nga
Ms. Sangsom Hantalay	A Chao Lay in Lipe, Satun
Mr. Diew Talayluek	A Chao Lay in Lanta, Krabi
Mr. Songklot Imjit	A Thai (land dispute case), Phuket

ANNEX 4: ACRONYMS

CODI	Community Organizations Development Institute
CTF	Chumchon Thai Foundation
MSDHS	Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
PMOVE	People’s Movement for a Just Society