



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
Delegation of the European Union to  
Thailand



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## Press Release

# European Union launches EU COVID-19 Response and Recovery in Thailand to mitigate impact from outbreak

As part of the **Team Europe** response to the coronavirus pandemic globally, the European Union today launched two projects under the **EU COVID-19 Response and Recovery in Thailand** programme with a total funding of about €2.6 million, or around 90 million baht. The programme aims to increase the capacity and participation of Thai civil society organisations (CSOs) in mitigating the health, social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable populations of the country and will be implemented over the next two years by two CSO consortiums.

The EU COVID-19 Response and Recovery in Thailand programme has three key components: immediate **relief** for households impacted by the outbreak; a sustainable social and economic **recovery** through the improvement of the livelihood of affected communities; and building the communities' **resilience** so that they can thrive and withstand future challenges.

"The COVID-19 pandemic will have profound consequences, in the short, medium and long terms. These range from immediate health and humanitarian challenges to more profound structural socio-economic change, which cannot yet even be fully understood", **said H.E. Pirkka Tapiola, Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand.** "It is clear that concerted efforts to deal with the fallout of the pandemic will be needed by all actors. As a long-standing development partner of the Kingdom of Thailand, the European Union is committed to supporting our CSO partners in their efforts to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, to ensure that no one is left behind. I am very pleased with our co-operating in ensuring effective implementation of a number of new projects, for the benefit of vulnerable communities all around the Kingdom."

The programme's nationwide project will be led by ActionAid Thailand in collaboration with the Chumchon Thai Foundation, the Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion (HOMENET) and the BioThai Foundation. The intervention will cover almost 40 provinces in Thailand and work with affected sectors including migrant and informal workers, marginalised populations and children, about half of whom are women.

"We have come together to assist a range of communities in Thailand and respond to their specific needs, both during and after the crisis. This action is a multi-sector response that includes preparedness for the uncertainty of what's to come, a socioeconomic recovery in the short-to-medium term, and resilience measures for the most vulnerable marginalised communities," **said Mr. Tauhid Ibne Farid, Country Director ActionAid Thailand.**

Save the Children in partnership with Prince of Songkla University and the Prince of Songkla University Alumni Association Volunteer will spearhead the intervention in the three southern border provinces, plus four districts in Songkhla. The project will work with the most vulnerable households, youth groups and migrant returnees with a focus on women.

"A lot of the poorest and most vulnerable families in Thailand are at risk and still struggling to get back on their feet," **added Mr. Prasert Tepanart, Save the Children's National Director in Thailand.** "We must ensure that these communities become resilient and that individuals are

prepared and self-sufficient to withstand, mitigate and prevent the impact of future health, economic and social crises.”

### **About European Union**

The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union of 27 Member States. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedom. In 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the causes of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. The EU is the largest trade block in the world, as well as the world's largest source and destination of foreign direct investment. Collectively, the EU and its Member States are the largest donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA), providing more than half of ODA globally.

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