

**Expert Group Meeting on Effective Data Generation
for the Incheon Strategy Indicators
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Country Brief Template

Country name: **Thailand**

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1. On the availability of national baseline data for the Incheon Strategy Indicators as reported in the ESCAP survey

Recently, Thailand has collected data for 24 indicators out of a total of 51 indicators surveyed by ESCAP.

The main data gaps:

Goal 2 Promote participation in political processes and in decision-making

- proportion of persons with disabilities and women with disabilities who are represented in government decision-making bodies and the proportion of reasonable accommodation to enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in the political process.

Goal 3 Enhance access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information & communication

- Proportion of numbers of students with disabilities who receive reasonable accommodation and accessibility in school

Goal 6 - Ensure gender equality & women's empowerment

- Number of countries that include the promotion of the participation of women and girls with disabilities in their national action plans on gender equality and empowerment of women and number of programs initiated by government and relevant agencies aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls
- Proportion of girls and women with disabilities who access sexual and reproductive health services of government and civil society, compared to women and girls without disabilities

The overall reasons for these gaps are:

- Disability data surveys and dissemination lack coordination between ministries, due to variations on definition of 'disability type' and 'persons with disabilities', resulting in differences in terms of reference, classification, data collection method and numbers of persons with disabilities recorded.

The existing institutional arrangement to collect and validate the data is:

- Individual government departments and private agencies collect disability data and lack joint coordination.

The way forward to fill the gap:

- It is envisaged the way forward to fill the gaps is to invite all related government departments and private agencies to identify data type, collect, and share comprehensive disability data information with statistical experts.

2. Country practices of data collection

Indicator 1.2 Ratio of persons with disabilities in employment to the general population in employment**The policy purpose of data collection**

Thailand disability data is to monitor employment status of persons with disabilities to improve their living standards

The design of data questionnaire

According to Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act (Vol.2) B.E. 2556, employers or entrepreneurs shall employ persons with disabilities in compliance with Sections 33, 34, and 35

Respondents' collaboration

All employers or entrepreneurs must report on employment of persons with disabilities to National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NEP)

The periodicity

Annual Report

The financial support

Government Budget and Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

The institutional arrangement to compile indicators

In order to compile Incheon Strategy indicators, National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities collects data on employment of persons with disabilities from reports of employers and/or entrepreneurs, entitled "Annual Report of Employment of Persons with Disabilities." However, National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities compares proportion of persons with disabilities who are employed to persons without disabilities in general.

Data producer-user dialogue

The Administration Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities makes information available at users' request.

Data dissemination

Website of National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Report

Indicator 8.1

Disability prevalence based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability

and Health (ICF) by age, and sex

The design of data questionnaire

Thai Disability Survey 2012 applied ICF concept to conduct disability data by face-to-face interview. According to this, we are focusing on persons with disabilities identified by both/either activity limitations and/or impairments.

- **Activity limitations:** with 18 domains of activity limitation including movement, seeing, hearing, speech, intellectual capacities and self care.
- **Impairment** divided into 25 cross-disability categories

As a result, National Statistical Office (NSO) will analyse disability data from household responses who determine themselves to have at least one or more activity limitations and impairment

Respondents' collaboration

Response rate is 90.3 percent for the 2012 Disability Survey. Consequently, it is counted from proportion of household responses to total sample household responses who were face-to-face interviewed by officers of National Statistics Office

The periodicity

Every 5 years

The financial support

Government budget

The institutional arrangement to compile indicators

Related Government agencies such as National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities are able to propose their requirement on disability data to National Statistical Office and retrieve disability data from NSO. Moreover, National Statistical Office conducts the Disability Surveys and provides information it has collected data on disability to National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities which provides available disability data of the Incheon Strategy Indicators

Data producer-user dialogue

In 2012, National Statistical Office invited related government agencies consisting of National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Health, Sirinathorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre, and experts from hospitals and universities to attend three meetings with users to collect user's requirements and discuss concept of disability data and questions in the questionnaire before collecting data.

Data dissemination

Report, CD-ROM and Web site of National Statistical Office

3. Achievements and lessons learnt

- Since 2002 the Thai National Statistical Office has carried out the Disability Survey conducted at 5 year intervals.
- NEP has established a disability information center which collects and

disseminates disability information, together with developing a statistical database of registered persons with disabilities throughout Thailand

- The Thai Institution of Health Enhancement for the Disabled continues to collect data and statistics, while gaining new knowledge and conducting research, on persons with disabilities.
- There is an urgent need for all Ministries and private agencies to cooperate and coordinate on disability data.
- Providing disability data, it is not only impairment but also activity limitation to serve various purposes of users. Hence, the disability data is able to be compared across countries.

4. Major challenges to improve the availability and quality of data

- Disability data surveys and dissemination lack coordination between ministries, due to variations on definition of ‘disability type’ and ‘persons with disabilities’, resulting in differences in terms of reference, classification, data collection method and numbers of persons with disabilities recorded.
- Lack of data for the Incheon Strategy Indicators, therefore we need financial and technical support. Assign organizations which should conduct non available indicators.

5. National capacity-building needs

Goal 1: Reduce poverty & enhance work & employment prospects

- Thailand does not have an official indicator for this purpose. However, the data of household with disability people from Household Socio Economic Survey (expenditure side) is available from 2006 to present, which can be used to generate this indicator. It shall be aware of the discrepancy of data between registration and survey sources.
- Thailand’s official poverty line is calculated in Baht term; therefore, the method for converting Thai Baht to US\$ (PPP) is also needed. An informal value conversion is the US\$ 1.25 (PPP) approximates to 1,200 Baht per month (or 40 Baht per day)

Goal 2: Promote participation in political processes & in decision-making

- There is no data on proportion of seats held by persons with disabilities in the parliament or equivalent national legislative body even though Thailand still has one person with blindness who held position in the parliament as a senator. Therefore, Thailand should promote and support awareness on social and political participation of persons with disabilities in society. To be successful in collecting data on this issue, National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities shall coordinate with the parliament or equivalent national legislative body to support and record on participation of persons with disabilities.
- There is no data on proportion of those represented in the national machinery for gender equality and women’s empowerment who are persons with disabilities. However, National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (NEP) is implementing National Action Plan on Empowerment for Women with Disabilities

(2013-2016). Hence, collecting data on women with disabilities should be priority in this action plan.

- Even though there is no data concerning proportion of polling stations in the national capital that are accessible with processes in place that ensure confidentiality of voters with disabilities, Election Commission of Thailand practically provides accommodations and assistances for voters who are persons with disabilities and the elderly at every polling stations in order to facilitate them to directly and confidentially vote by themselves. To ensure data on accessibility of persons with disabilities to facilitate their political participation, Election Commission of Thailand shall specify legislation on providing accommodation for persons with disabilities at polling stations in Thailand. Also, National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities shall coordinate with Election Commission of Thailand to collect data on this.

Goal 3: Enhance access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information & communication

- Even though the 4th National Plan on Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2012-2016 encourages a barrier-free environment, including an understanding on universal design in relation to the enabling environment, and accessibility of data, information and news, including enhanced accessibility to public services and facilities, National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities initiates an action plan on collecting data concerning accessibility including accessible government buildings, information, public services and facilities.
- There is no data on proportion of accessible and usable public documents and websites that meet internationally recognized accessibility standards. Regarding to this, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) have encouraged each government agency to recognize the importance of websites accessibility and ensured government agencies to develop their websites according to the web accessibility guidelines. Then, the follow-up check will be conducted in 2014 to collect the data. As for accessibility of public documents, we intend to review suitable e-publication standards for government agencies first before proceeding in the way similar to website accessibility. Government agencies shall collaborate to provide related data to the focal point on disability issues, National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Goal 4: Strengthen social protection

- Thailand does not have data on a decrease in the unmet need for assistance and support services. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security shall discuss and design the goals of collecting data concerning this issue to describe comparison providing reasonable assistance and services from the past to present.

Goal 5: Expand early intervention & education of children with disabilities

- Ministry of Education faced difficulty to identify the high incident disability at an early age such as specific learning disability and autism; therefore Ministry of Education shall discuss and classify types of disabilities with related government agencies prior to implementation of same classification.
- The data is unavailable for deaf students who receive instruction in sign language, blind students who had educational materials in formats that are readily accessible, and students with special needs who have assistive devices, adapted curricula and appropriate learning materials. Therefore, Ministry of Education should design collecting data on providing accommodation and accessibility for students with disabilities to facilitate and improve their learning at school.

Goal 6: Ensure gender equality & women's empowerment

- There is no proportion of seats held by women with disabilities in the parliament or equivalent national legislative body, girls and women with disabilities who access sexual and reproductive health services of government and civil society, compared to women and girls without disabilities, all related government agencies shall recognize and develop awareness on women and girls with disabilities.
- No programmes initiated by government and relevant agencies aimed at eliminating violence, including sexual abuse and exploitation, perpetrated against girls and women with disabilities and providing care and support, including rehabilitation, for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of any form of violence and abuse, government and relevant agencies shall recognize and develop national plan on women and girls with disabilities' issues. Moreover, National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has launched the first National Plan on Empowerment for Women with Disabilities (2013-2016). Collecting data shall be main concern in this first national plan.

Goal 7: Ensure disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction & management

- Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) collects overall picture of disaster situation and damage as well as relief provision. Data collection especially risk assessment and needs assessment is being developed by Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) with UNDP methodology and standards with UNDP under the 3-year technical project.
- Ministry of Information and Communication Technology offers assistive devices and technologies services to persons with disabilities. Therefore, offering these services in preparing for and responding to disasters is possible in the future.

Goal 8: Improve the reliability & comparability of disability data

- Due to variations on definition of 'disability type' and 'persons with disabilities', resulting in differences in terms of reference, classification, data collection method and numbers of persons with disabilities recorded, related government agencies shall sit together and determine the definition of disability types.
- There is no availability of disaggregated data on women and girls with disabilities in mainstream development programmes and government services, including health, and sexual and reproductive health, programmes. Ministry of Social Development and Human Security should put priority on women and girls with disabilities in mainstream development programmes and government services including data

collecting system.

Goal 9: Accelerate the ratification & implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities & the harmonization of national legislation with the Convention

- In order to eliminate attitudinal barriers that cause marginalization of persons with disabilities, all related government shall conduct national disability media campaigns to raise awareness and understanding on disability generally and on the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities
- National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities shall continue to ensure representative organizations of persons with disabilities themselves, exercise their rights to participate fully on national and provincial committees which set policy guidelines, evaluate the implementation of policies, programs and activities concerning the lives of persons with disabilities.

Goal 10: Advance sub-regional, regional & interregional cooperation

Lack of number of statisticians in the Asia-Pacific region trained in disability data collection statistics, in particular on the ICF approach by ESCAP and other relevant agencies, Thailand related government agencies shall support statisticians in the Asia-Pacific region trained in disability statistics

6. Action plans to improve the availability and quality of disability data

In order to improve the quality and availability of disability data, Thailand shall:

- harmonize Disability definition, standards and methodologies at national level with clear guidelines established in order to correct the current wide variance and to ensure accurate data statistics
- conduct baseline surveys on persons with disabilities focusing on age, sex, race and socio-economic status in addition to include specific focus on women and girls with disabilities in mainstream development programs and in government health/reproductive health services
- Set up an annual global disability and development report based on disability indicators in line with internationally established guidelines, such as a periodic United Nations global report on disability and development for benchmarking progress towards future goals and targets.

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