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EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE AS LEADERS IN LOCAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

A PLAYBOOK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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CHAPTER 1:
INTRODUCTION

Climate Change: A Critical Challenge for Children and Youth

Climate change is an unfolding crisis with profound impacts, from shifting weather patterns that threaten food production to rising sea levels increasing the risk of severe flooding. Thailand is particularly vulnerable to climate change, with nearly every region experiencing increased annual rainfall, leading to sudden floods and other natural disasters, especially flash floods. Rising temperatures and sea levels threaten coastal communities, while the northeastern and southern regions are especially prone to drought. These environmental changes have far-reaching consequences, including nutrient depletion in soil, disruptions to agricultural productivity, and adverse impacts on fishing and livestock breeding.

According to the 2019 Inform Risk Index, Thailand ranks 81st out of 191 countries for natural hazard risk exposure. The situation is especially concerning for children, as Thailand ranks 50th on the global Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI). UNICEF Thailand's 2023 *Impact Assessment on Climate Change and Environmental Degradation* highlights that climate risks are most severe in the Northeastern and Southern regions. While there are ongoing efforts to address these issues, there is a critical need for more comprehensive strategies to protect children from the escalating adverse effects of climate change.

Children and young people are among those most affected by climate change, facing immediate risks to their health, education, and future livelihoods due to environmental degradation and extreme weather events. Yet, despite their vulnerability, they often lack a voice in discussions and decisions about the climate crisis. Too often, their perspectives are overlooked in policymaking and planning processes.

This need for amplifying young voices in climate action is strongly reflected in General Comment No. 26 (GC26), issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2023. GC26 highlights the obligation of states to protect children's right to participate in climate-related decisions that impact their lives. It calls for the creation of meaningful platforms that ensure their voices are not only heard but actively integrated into climate policies

and actions. These platforms not only empower young people but also lead to more comprehensive and effective climate strategies that reflect the lived experiences of those who are most affected. By ensuring their voices are heard, we can foster meaningful, youth-centered climate action that supports their right to a safe, sustainable future.

Empowering Youth in Climate Governance: The Ubon Ratchathani Pilot Programme

In northeastern Thailand, Ubon Ratchathani province faces considerable challenges due to annual flooding, especially during the monsoon season. The region's extensive river networks and low-lying terrain make it highly susceptible to severe flood events that can devastate communities, disrupt infrastructure, and impact agricultural activities. Flooding in Ubon Ratchathani often causes widespread damage to homes, schools, and essential services, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, particularly children.

Addressing these flood-related issues is vital for enhancing the resilience of local communities and ensuring their safety and well-being during high-risk periods each year.

In this context, in 2023 UNICEF Thailand and the Faculty of Political Science at Ubon Ratchathani University launched the pilot programme "Enhancing Meaningful Young People's Participation in Local Climate Governance." This initiative aimed to strengthen collaboration between young people and local governments on climate change and disaster-related issues. The programme involved 99 students and focused on four key areas: climate change impacts, local policies, child rights and participation, and community perspectives.

The programme empowered 99 students from Ubon Ratchathani University aged 18-22 years to understand the environmental challenges in their communities, develop practical solutions, and collaborate with policymakers and community members to drive positive change. By equipping these young individuals with the skills needed to address climate change and disaster-related issues, the initiative sought to enhance their ability to actively participate in local decision-making. Additionally, the programme focused on strengthening mechanisms for youth engagement with local authorities, ensuring that their voices are heard and play a critical role in shaping and implementing policies and initiatives that improve their communities and sustain their involvement in governance processes.

After developing their ideas, young people were given a platform to safely express their concerns and influence decision-making. Students presented eight solutions for addressing flood issues in Ubon Ratchathani to local authorities. The Deputy Mayor of Warin Chamrap Municipality attended the meeting and provided feedback on the students' proposals. One of the solutions developed by students, a vulnerable group assessment focusing on children and young people, was accepted by the Municipality. Specific steps for implementation were identified and agreed upon, with authorities committing to explore or incorporate the proposals into existing policies, while the young people offered additional support to assist with implementation.

Empowering young people in climate governance brings numerous benefits for all stakeholders involved, fostering student leadership and skills as well as creating stronger, more resilient communities equipped to address climate challenges. The benefits for different stakeholder groups are outlined below.

Benefits for Universities: As climate issues become more urgent, universities have a unique opportunity to lead in climate education and community resilience. By joining the "Enhancing Meaningful Young People's Participation in Local Climate Governance" programme, universities can position themselves as leaders in sustainable development, while equipping their students and faculty with skills and experiences that drive long-term, meaningful impact.

This initiative offers substantial benefits across academic, community, and institutional levels. Universities can engage students in solving environmental challenges in collaboration with local governments, bringing valuable, hands-on learning into their academic experience. Universities that take an active role in climate action are seen as forward-thinking, which in turn attracts talented students, distinguished faculty members, and new funding opportunities. The Ministry of Higher Education and Research's climate-focused ranking programme provides an additional incentive, with financial rewards for institutions leading in climate education.

Moreover, participation supports universities' goals in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, it strengthens Goal 17, which emphasizes partnerships for sustainable development. By engaging directly with local communities, universities can showcase tangible impacts through community-focused, engaged teaching, aligning with critical global objectives.

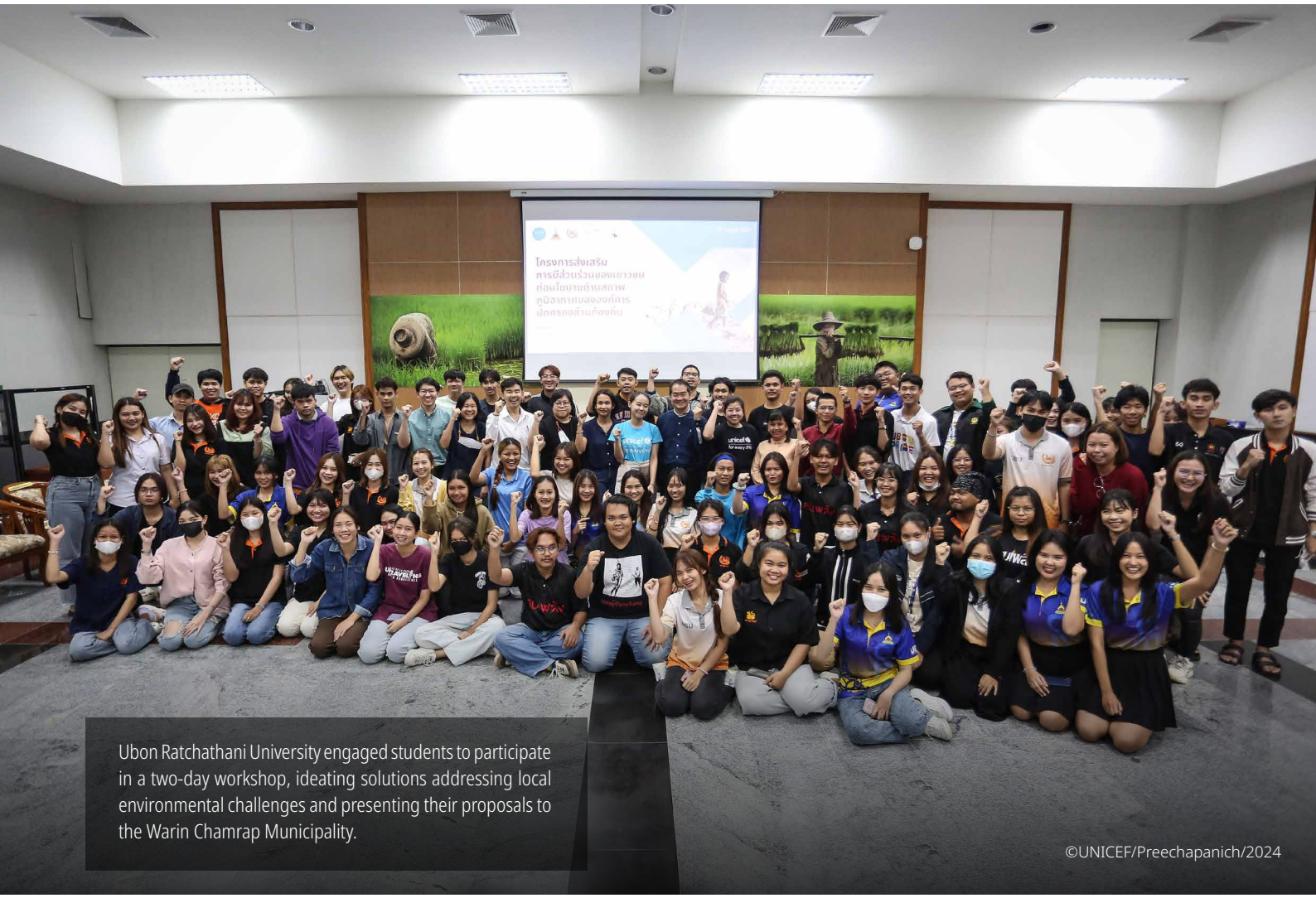
This programme also supports student-centred learning, motivating students to tackle real societal challenges and contribute innovative solutions to their communities. For faculties, it provides an opportunity to refine curricula and develop academic service projects that address local issues, enhancing academic expertise and supporting career growth in academia.

Benefits for Local Government: This programme promotes youth engagement in local governance, aligning closely with a key mission in the Department of Local Administration's 2023-2027 operational plan under the Ministry of Interior. It supports several SDGs, notably Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), which emphasizes making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Additionally, it aligns with Goal 13 (Climate Action) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). By fostering meaningful relationships between local authorities and young citizens, the programme encourages young people to understand and address community challenges by providing recommendations and solutions. It also promotes collaboration between youth and local authorities to jointly implement these solutions, strengthening communities and building resilience.

Benefits for the Community: At the community level, this initiative empowers young people as active problem-solvers, shifting the perception of youth from passive recipients of services to valuable contributors. By fostering intergenerational collaboration and promoting a sense of ownership among young people over local challenges, this approach enhances community resilience and encourages a proactive, inclusive approach to addressing community issues.

Benefits for Young People: This programme offers young people a valuable opportunity to have their perspectives heard and integrated into local decision-making processes. It provides them with the skills and platforms to contribute innovative ideas and solutions to climate challenges directly impacting their communities. By participating, young people can exercise their right to meaningful participation, ensuring that policies and actions align with their aspirations for a sustainable future. Students who have participated in the programme report significant personal and professional growth. As one student shared:

> *"As a young person, I encountered the challenge of understanding the diverse perspectives of other youth. This experience with UNICEF Thailand helped me realize that the voices of rural youth are being acknowledged by local authorities and actively addressed"*
>
> *Ms. Padtamapon Pengsaeng,*
> *Political Science Student from Ubon Ratchathani University.*



Ubon Ratchathani University engaged students to participate in a two-day workshop, ideating solutions addressing local environmental challenges and presenting their proposals to the Warin Chamrap Municipality.

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CHAPTER 2:

PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH

This programme empowers young people to participate in local climate governance through a structured four-step process:

1. **Early Engagement with Local Governments:** Engaging local governments from the start is crucial to establishing strong partnerships and ensuring long-term commitment to youth involvement in climate action. By prioritizing early collaboration, this step lays a solid foundation for sustained and meaningful dialogue between young people and local authorities.

2. **Capacity Building of Young People for Climate Action and Policymaking:** Empowering young people with skills and knowledge is vital, focusing on climate change, policymaking, and design thinking processes. This capacity-building phase equips participants to develop innovative solutions and fosters a deeper understanding of complex climate challenges.

3. **Facilitating Direct Youth Engagement with Policymakers:** Creating platforms and building the capabilities of young people to present their policy recommendations directly to decision-makers is a priority. This includes enhancing their presentation skills and engagement strategies, enabling them to communicate their ideas confidently and professionally to authority figures.

4. **Systematic Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms:** To ensure that accepted proposals translate into tangible outcomes, it is crucial to establish robust monitoring mechanisms with clear guidelines and tools for effective follow-up. This step ensures accountability and allows for ongoing tracking of implementation, thereby measuring the real impact of youth-led initiatives.

A detailed description of each step follows below.

Step 1: Early Engagement with Local Governments

Early Engagement with Local Governments

Finding an academic partner to mobilize and support young people

Gaining insights from young people in the area

Engaging local authorities and keeping them informed about the objectives, plan, and their engagement throughout the process

Engaging stakeholders and local authorities from the outset, identifying their required contributions and the benefits they stand to gain from these initiatives.

Establishing relationships and engaging with key local government stakeholders from the outset is crucial. This includes connecting with the **Mayor of the Municipality,** who oversees local governance, and the **Chiefs of Subdistrict Administrative Organizations (SAOs),** who manage local administrative affairs. Early engagement with these stakeholders fosters local ownership of the initiative and creates opportunities for young people to present policy recommendations and influence decision-making processes.

The engagement process involves:

- **Identifying Contributions and Benefits:** Clearly outline the support required from local authorities while highlighting the benefits they can gain from these initiatives, thereby strengthening the advocacy effort.
- **Introducing the Pilot Programme:** Share comprehensive details about the pilot programme with local government stakeholders, and actively seek their suggestions and insights, particularly regarding current local government efforts related to youth engagement and climate change.
- **Understanding Local Challenges:** Conduct discussions with local governments to gain insights into the specific challenges faced by their communities, especially in relation to climate change. These identified local issues should serve as a framework for engaging young people, encouraging them to develop and propose innovative, community-driven solutions.

Example of Ubon Ratchathani University

As part of the pilot programme, in collaboration with UNICEF, Ubon Ratchathani University initiated a partnership with the Warin Chamrap Municipality to engage local government stakeholders. The university formally issued a letter to the mayor, detailing the project's objectives and outlining the roles and expectations of the municipality, the university, and the participating young people.

The mayor responded positively, designating the relevant municipal divisions to support the initiative. During subsequent meetings, the university clarified the municipality's expected role, which included:

- **Mentoring young participants** as they developed potential solutions.
- **Reviewing all proposed solutions** to assess feasibility and alignment with local needs.
- **Selecting one solution** for potential implementation in the community.

To ensure that the project was grounded in local realities, Ubon Ratchathani University requested detailed information on pressing local challenges. Based on discussions with the municipality, **flooding** was identified as a critical issue, with particular focus on flood-related challenges impacting the municipality. Given the region's history of severe flooding and its substantial impact on local communities, this issue was chosen as the focal point.

The information gathered was then used to frame problem statements, enabling the young participants to develop innovative, context-specific solutions tailored to address the identified local challenges.

Step 2: Capacity Building of Young People for Climate Action and Policymaking

Capacity Building of Young People for Climate Action and Policymaking

Defining problems and brainstorming solutions and recommendations

Mentoring session for feedback and solution validation

Ensuring a safe space for everyone to express their view and discuss

Enabling meaningful participation by providing space for youth voices to be heard, and engaging the right audience to listen and provide feedback.

This stage focuses on engaging universities to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to develop local climate governance solutions. Lecturers and facilitators provide education on climate change and the local governance context. Once young participants have acquired this foundational understanding, capacity-building training guides them through crafting policy recommendations or solutions, following a structured approach that includes:

a. Empathizing Process

To effectively engage young people in local climate governance, it is essential to equip them with a comprehensive knowledge base. This involves covering the following key areas:

- **Understanding Climate Change:** Insights into climate change, its local impacts, and Thailand's national commitments to climate action.
- **Knowledge of Local Governance:** Information on local governance structures, social policies, and existing mechanisms for public participation.
- **Awareness of Child Rights:** A focus on child rights, particularly the right to participation, and principles of meaningful participation, such as the **Lundy Model.**
- **Community Engagement:** Opportunities to engage with community leaders, volunteers, and relevant organizations operating in the area to capture on-the-ground experiences and challenges related to climate change.

This holistic approach ensures that young people are well-prepared to develop innovative, context-specific solutions that align with local needs and policy frameworks.

b. Crafting Solutions and Youth-Led Local Policy Recommendations

A crucial component of engaging young people in local climate governance is facilitating their meaningful participation throughout the problem-solving process. This involves creating platforms where they can voice their perspectives and receive constructive feedback, enabling them to shape their proposed solutions effectively. The participatory approach is structured around two key stages:

- **Problem Analysis and Ideation:** Young people begin by analyzing local climate issues to identify root causes. This stage includes brainstorming potential solutions or enhancements to existing strategies, followed by prioritizing ideas based on factors such as urgency, availability of resources, and community needs.
- **Solution Validation and Refinement:** Once preliminary solutions are developed, young people present their ideas to a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from the municipality, the provincial Children and Youth Council of Thailand (CYCT), university lecturers, mentors, volunteers, and community members. By gathering feedback from these stakeholders, young participants can refine their proposals, improving feasibility and maximizing the impact of their climate governance recommendations.

This iterative process not only enhances the quality of proposed solutions but also empowers young people to engage confidently in local policymaking and advocacy.

The process outlined above leverages **UNICEF's Social Innovation Toolkit,** which offers comprehensive guidance through detailed manual guides and worksheets. These resources provide step-by-step instructions to support the effective implementation of each phase, ensuring that young participants can navigate the process confidently and systematically.

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Step 3: Facilitating Direct Youth Engagement with Policymakers

Facilitating Direct Youth Engagement with Policymakers

Presenting policy recommendations

Deputy Mayor responding to the presentation and providing feedback

All parties agreeing on next steps

Empowering young people to communicate their perspectives effectively to decision-makers.

This stage of the programme focuses on empowering young people to effectively communicate their perspectives to decision-makers. It can be conducted through various formats, including online or onsite meetings, with an emphasis on accessibility, safety, and fostering a positive environment. The process involves the following steps:

1. **Presenting Young People's Policy Recommendations:** This phase is designed to provide young people with a safe platform to present their views. It is crucial that the audience, including decision-makers and other stakeholders, actively listens to these presentations without prejudice or preconceptions. The goal is to create an atmosphere where young participants feel confident and empowered to express their ideas.

2. **Encouraging Feedback and Dialogue:** After the presentation, a dedicated session for feedback and questions allows for meaningful interaction. This exchange provides an opportunity for the audience to gain a deeper understanding of the proposed solutions and enables young people to address any concerns or misconceptions. It is essential that the feedback remains constructive, fostering a two-way dialogue rather than a one-sided conversation.

3. **Defining Next Steps:** Following the discussion, it is important to identify and agree on concrete steps to take the recommendations forward. This includes defining specific actions that authorities will commit to, such as exploring the feasibility of certain proposals with their operational teams or integrating them into existing policies, plans, or initiatives.

4. **Enabling Ongoing Youth Support and Collaboration:** Young people may also agree to provide additional data, research, or support to facilitate the implementation process. Clear timelines and commitments should be established to ensure that both the youth participants and authorities continue collaborating to bring the proposed solutions to life.

Example of Ubon Ratchathani University

As part of the pilot programme, the university engaged young people by equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to develop local climate governance solutions. Following an intensive ideation process, the university provided a lecture hall for the students to present their proposed solutions to address flood challenges in Ubon Ratchathani.

During these presentations, the **Deputy Mayor of Warin Chamrap Municipality** was present to listen and provide constructive feedback on the students' ideas. This direct engagement allowed young people to receive insights from the local authority, enhancing the practicality of their proposals.

Following the presentations, the municipality held discussions and decided to consider two of the solutions proposed by the young participants for further exploration and potential implementation. This demonstrated a tangible outcome of youth-led initiatives influencing local decision-making.

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Step 4: Systematic Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms

Systematic Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms

After the presentation, the municipality invited young people to discuss testing methods for proposed solutions and their integration into the plan, as well as potential collaboration opportunities.

Implementing a comprehensive monitoring framework, extending from initial decision-making stages to the execution of policies.

After the presentation and submission phases, once the local authorities agree to consider young people's perspectives and plans in their decision-making processes, it is essential to establish a robust monitoring mechanism for the implementation phase. The monitoring approach and timeline should be tailored to fit the local context, allowing for a realistic timeframe for policy implementation.

Given that some recommendations may require extensive deliberation and could take years to fully implement, close collaboration with authorities is key. To ensure effective monitoring, this can include:

- **Tailored Follow-Up Mechanisms:** Establishing regular follow-up meetings and communication channels that align with the specific needs and capacities of each locality.
- **Collaborative Tracking:** Engaging all stakeholders, including young people, local authorities, and community members, to actively track progress, address challenges, and adjust strategies as needed.
- **Supportive Oversight:** Providing ongoing support to authorities to facilitate the implementation process, ensuring that youth-led recommendations are not only considered but also effectively actioned over time.

Example of Ubon Ratchathani University

Following the presentations led by young participants, the municipality agreed to implement one of the proposed solutions: a **vulnerable group assessment focusing on children and young people.** The initiative, titled **"A Survey on the Impact of Flooding on the Issues Faced by Children and Youth in Warin Chamrap Municipality, Ubon Ratchathani Province"** was adopted by the municipality to enhance its emergency flood response plans.

This approach involves systematically assessing and documenting the concerns of children and young people regarding their experiences during floods, thereby creating a comprehensive database for the municipality. Previously, the municipality had limited resources and lacked specific information on the situation of children during flooding events.

Through this newly implemented solution, data is now systematically collected to pinpoint where children are most affected and identify the specific impacts they face. This data-driven approach enables local authorities to gain deeper insights into the challenges young people encounter during floods, including:

- **Health concerns:** Addressing health risks that children may encounter during and after flooding.
- **Educational disruptions:** Understanding how floods impact school attendance and learning.
- **Living conditions:** Identifying issues related to housing, safety, and access to basic necessities.

By leveraging these insights, the municipality is better positioned to develop more targeted and effective emergency preparedness policies, ensuring that the needs of children and young people are prioritized in disaster response efforts.

ANNEXES

Annex I: Resources for Engaging Young People in Climate Governance

In addition to the guidance provided in the previous steps, several resources are available to further support the engagement of young people in local climate governance and decision-making processes:

- UNICEF Social Innovation Toolkit: This provides a step-by-step guide for crafting innovative ideas, helping young people develop creative solutions for community challenges.
- UNICEF Adolescent Participation Modules: These comprehensive manuals with activities are designed for youth participation at various levels. The modules include simple, easy-to-follow steps for facilitators to guide young participants in meaningful participation.
- UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide: This guide provides essential knowledge and practical tools focused on developing advocacy skills, empowering young people to effectively champion their causes and influence policy.

Annex II: Understanding Climate Change and Governance

It is crucial for young people to have a solid understanding of climate change, its impacts, and the relevant governance structures. This section will highlight the understanding of climate change and governance.

Understanding Climate Change

Climate change refers to the **variations in global temperatures and weather patterns** that occur over time. While climate variability happens naturally, today's climate change is primarily caused by **human activities** that are altering the composition of the atmosphere, leading to **global warming** (the increase in temperatures recorded over many years).

The burning of fossil fuels for energy and the clearing of land for farming produce greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (**CO2**), which can be stored by marine and land ecosystems. However, **when more greenhouse gases are being released than stored**, it leads to the rise in global temperatures over time.

Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change can have significant impacts on **societies, economies, and ecosystems**. These impacts can include **extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, increased health risks, and the displacement of people.**

Addressing Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation

To tackle the impacts of climate change, two key approaches can be used:

- **Mitigation:** Actions that **reduce greenhouse gas emissions,** such as switching to renewable energy sources like solar power and reducing the use of fossil fuels.
- **Adaptation:** Actions that **manage the risks of climate change impacts,** such as building resilient infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events.

Climate Change Governance

Climate change governance involves the decision-making processes at the **local, national, and international levels.** It is a multi-level process that includes various stakeholders, such as communities, countries, and international organizations.

Since climate change affects different sectors of society in different ways, it is crucial that each sector is represented in the decision-making spaces at these various levels of governance. This ensures that the needs and concerns of diverse groups, including young people, are considered in the development and implementation of climate policies and actions.

Learn about the Impact Assessment of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation on Children in Thailand, authored by the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) with the support of UNICEF Thailand, using this link.

Annex III: International and National Climate Governance

It is also crucial for the young people participants to gain a broader understanding of the international and national climate governance landscape. This section provides the necessary context on the international and national climate governance.

Understanding International Climate Governance

International climate negotiations are the processes developed to create agreements between countries to promote and ensure ambitious action against climate change and its effects. These negotiations within the international framework are important because they set the guidelines to be followed at the global level under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, aimed at ensuring sustainable development.

Key Milestones in International Climate Governance

Date	Milestone	What took place
1988	Establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	The IPCC is a body of scientists and experts from around the world that provides scientific information to countries to strengthen the global response to climate change. It is structured into three working groups: the physical science of climate change, impacts and adaptation, and the mitigation of climate change.
1992	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Signed	The UNFCCC was signed in 1992 and entered into force in 1994. It has near-universal membership and has been ratified by 198 countries, known as Parties to the Convention. The ultimate aim of the UNFCCC is to prevent "dangerous" human interference with the climate system.
1997	COP3 - Kyoto Protocol Adopted	Countries adopted the Kyoto Protocol, which aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The protocol entered into force in 2005.

Date	Milestone	What took place
2007	COP13 - New Text to Replace Kyoto Protocol	Countries agreed to work on a new text to replace the Kyoto Protocol.
2009	COP15 - Targets Not Met, 2°C Limit Agreed	The targets set were not met, but countries agreed to limit the global temperature increase to 2°C, without setting targets to be met by 2050.
2010	COP16 - Cancun Agreements Adopted	Countries adopted the Cancun Agreements, which included the creation of the Green Climate Fund and the Technology Mechanism, as well as the recognition of industrialized countries' mitigation actions and targets, and the introduction of adaptation as an important component of climate action.
2013	COP19 - Warsaw International Mechanism Proposed	Countries proposed the Warsaw International Mechanism as a mechanism to address climate change loss and damage.
2014	COP20 - Lima Call for Climate Action	Countries adopted the Lima Call for Climate Action, which contained the key elements for the Paris Agreement, including the goal of pursuing climate ambition and the launch of the "intended nationally determined contributions."
2015	Paris Agreement Adopted	At COP21, countries adopted the Paris Agreement, which set ambitious targets for climate action, including limiting global temperature increase to no more than 2°C, and pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. The agreement promotes climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and establishes mechanisms for voluntary cooperation among countries.
2021	COP26 - Commitment to Net Zero by 2050	The main objectives of COP26 were to commit to more ambitious targets to become Net Zero by 2050.
2023	COP28 - Loss and Damage Fund and Global Goal on Adaptation	During COP28, discussions on operationalizing the new funding arrangements, including the loss and damage fund, took place. Parties also agreed on targets for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and its framework.

Climate Change Governance in Thailand

Climate change decision-making in Thailand takes place at both the national and sub-national (provincial and local) levels. The creation of programmes, public policies, and regulations are the primary focus of these governance processes.

Key Actors in Climate Governance in Thailand

Sector	Key Actors
Central Government	This includes government ministries, agencies, and other public institutions responsible for developing national and sub-national climate policies, regulations, and decision-making.
Local Government	Local governments at the provincial, district, and municipal levels play a crucial role in implementing climate action plans and decisions that align with national and international objectives, such as the Paris Agreement.
Civil Society	Civil society organizations, including those representing young people, have the right to participate in climate decision-making processes. They contribute local, traditional, and scientific knowledge and experiences to contextualize discussions and influence the decision-making. Civil society organizations also drive local-level climate action and adaptation efforts.
Private Sector	As a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, the private sector is an essential actor in climate action. Their role includes changing production patterns, modifying energy sources, and developing sustainable practices. The private sector's potential to create mitigation and adaptation technologies makes it a key player in Thailand's climate governance.
Academia	Academic institutions provide knowledge, research, and scientific expertise to inform evidence-based decision-making in climate governance. They also play a role in strengthening climate education, increasing capacities, and promoting the understanding of necessary changes, making the climate action process more effective and efficient.

The Climate Change System in Thailand

Thailand has established a comprehensive climate change system that involves coordination and collaboration between these key actors at the national and sub-national levels. This system aims to develop and implement policies, programmes, and actions to address the impacts of climate change and align with international commitments, such as the Paris Agreement.

Annex IV: Review of Climate Policies in Thailand

To effectively engage in local climate governance, it is essential for the young people participants to have a comprehensive understanding of the climate change policies and initiatives currently in place in Thailand.

Introduction of climate policies in Thailand

The Thai government has developed several key policies and plans to guide the country's response to the challenges of a changing climate. This section provides an overview of these policies to understand the current landscape and identify potential gaps.

Analysis of Key Policies

The key climate change policies in Thailand that are reviewed in this section include:

1. National Strategy (2018-2037)
2. Climate Change Master Plan (2015-2050)
3. National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
4. Thailand's Draft Climate Change Act.

Policy	Details
National Strategy (2018-2037)	The fifth strategy under the National Strategy focuses on: • Improving public health management by developing systems for infectious diseases caused by climate change. • Mitigating losses and damages from natural disasters and climate change impacts. • Investing in climate-friendly infrastructure development. Policy Gap: The strategy does not explicitly mention children as a vulnerable group, and lacks specific policies to address the impact of climate change on children.
Climate Change Master Plan (2015-2050)	The Climate Change Master Plan provides a long-term national framework for climate change adaptation and low-carbon growth, consisting of three key strategies: adaptation, mitigation, and enabling environment. The adaptation strategies include measures for six sectors: water resources, agriculture, tourism, public health, natural resource management, and human settlement. It also contains strategies and measures to address the impacts of climate change on children, such as from floods, droughts, heat, and low temperatures.

Policy	Details
National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	Key objectives: • Increase resilience of all sectors by including adaptation frameworks in plans and policies. • Improve awareness, adaptive capacity, and knowledge to cope with climate change impacts. • Develop databases, research, and technology to support adaptation. The adaptation measures cover the six sectors mentioned in the Climate Change Master Plan.
Thailand's Draft Climate Change Act	The draft Climate Change Act was developed by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) in 2018, and aims to be submitted for cabinet approval in 2025. The Act lays out Thailand's plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including emissions reductions, covering key aspects such as citizen rights, government obligations, the National Climate Change Policy Committee, and a national greenhouse gas (GHG) database.

Overview of Legislative Measures

This proposed legislation plays a crucial role in empowering the government to enforce laws and respond to the climate change agenda more effectively and systematically. One of the key aspects of the Climate Change Act is its potential to strengthen the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures across different sectors and levels of government. By streamlining the roles, responsibilities, and obligations of various stakeholders, the Act can help ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing climate change.

Annex V: Sample Agenda for Capacity Building of Young People

Below is the agenda that UNICEF Thailand and Ubon Ratchathani University used to engage with young people, particularly for the design thinking process in Step 2 (Capacity Building of Young People for Climate Action and Policymaking) and Step 3 (Facilitating Direct Youth Engagement with Policymakers). This provides an overview of the sessions included in the training for young people.

Day 1: Empathizing Session (สร้างความเข้าใจ ก่อนร่วมแก้ไข)		
Format: Online (99 Participants)		
Start	**End**	**Session**
08:00	08:10	Moderator welcome and Introduction
08:10	08:15	Welcome by UNICEF Thailand
08:15	08:20	Welcome by Ubon Ratchathani University
08:20	08:25	Welcome by the Deputy Mayor of Warin Chamrap Municipality
08:25	08:40	Energizing activity
08:40	08:50	A small activity to check participants' knowledge
08:50	09:10	"Empower Tomorrow: Unlocking Climate Realities in Thailand - UNICEF's insights on young people's role in climate change"
09:10	09:30	"Government insights on climate change at the local level and young people engagement in policy"
09:30	09:40	Break
09:40	10:00	"Young People, Climate, and Policy: Ubon Ratchathani University's viewpoint on impact and engaging voices for change"
10:00	10:20	The perspective of a local volunteer leader
10:20	10:25	Introduction to the breakout rooms
10:25	10:45	Breakout room brainstorming
10:45	10:55	Sharing session in main room
10:55	11:00	Summary and next step

Day 2: Ideation Process (สร้างสรรค์ข้อเสนอแนะเชิงนโยบายด้วยพลังเยาวชน)			
Format: Onsite (99 Participants)			
Start	**End**	**Session**	**Remarks**
09:00	09:30	Registration	
09:30	09:40	Welcome and Introduction	Explain activity and agenda.
09:40	09:55	Energizing activity	
09:55	10:05	Learning recap	
10:05	10:10	Meaningful Participation Model and elements to consider for young people-led policy recommendation	
10:10	11:10	Problem statement	Define problems, prioritize them on matrix, and identify problem statement.
11:10	11:20	Break	
11:20	12:30	Ideation process	Brainstorming on possible solutions, evaluate their impact and feasibility.
12:30	13:30	Lunch	
13:30	14:00	Stakeholder mapping	Identify who should engage in these recommendations/solutions, and how.
14:00	14:30	Milestone setting and monitoring process	Young people brainstorming on how the recommendation will work in the short term, and long term, as well as what strategy should be applied to monitor the impact and implementation.
14:30	14:45	Break	
14:45	15:45	Mentoring session The mentors: • Deputy Mayor (government) • UNICEF Adolescent Development and Participation Officer (young people's participation) UNICEF Climate Officer (climate change) • Lecturers and university mentors (local governance and policy engagement) • Children and Youth Council of Thailand (CYCT) in Ubon Ratchathani province (local youth network) • Volunteer leader (community view)	Provide 15-minute timeslot for each group to meet the mentors (3 slots maximum per team).
15:45	16:00	Summary and Next Step	

Day 3: Pitching and Presentation			
Format: Onsite (99 Participants)			
Start	**End**	**Session**	**Remarks**
07:30	08:00	Registration	
08:00	08:10	Introduction to Judge Committee	
08:10	08:13	Welcome by Deputy Mayor	
08:13	08:23	1st team presentation	5 mins pitch, 3 mins Q&A
08:23	08:33	2nd team presentation	5 mins pitch, 3 mins Q&A
08:33	08:43	3rd team presentation	5 mins pitch, 3 mins Q&A
08:43	08:53	4th team presentation	5 mins pitch, 3 mins Q&A
08:53	09:03	5th team presentation	5 mins pitch, 3 mins Q&A
09:03	09:18	Break	
09:18	09:28	6th team presentation	5 mins pitch, 5 mins Q&A
09:28	09:38	7th team presentation	5 mins pitch, 5 mins Q&A
09:38	09:48	8th team presentation	5 mins pitch, 5 mins Q&A
09:38	10:03	Judges internal discussion and selection	
10:03	10:23	Judges to provide feedback to young people	
10:23	10:33	Announcement	
10:33	10:43	Summary	

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