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World Vision Foundation of Thailand



Emergency Support Project for Families Affected along the Thai–Cambodian Border

Emergency Support for Families Affected along the Thai–Cambodian Border Report - March 2026

Project Team

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Executive Summary

The volatile situation along the Thai–Cambodian Border has led to the displacement of a large number of people, forcing them into evacuation centers. Many children and families face uncertainty, stress, and limited space for play, learning, and development, which increases risks to their mental well-being and child protection in emergency situations.

In response to this situation, World Vision Foundation of Thailand, in collaboration with Plan International Thailand and UNICEF Thailand, implemented an emergency response project to support children and families affected by displacement in evacuation centers. The project focused on providing essential basic items, establishing Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), and offering Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to mitigate the impacts of the crisis and strengthen the capacity of families and communities to care for children.

The project reached over **71,500** displaced persons, including more than **25,000** children, through the provision of essential items, Child Friendly Spaces, and psychosocial support activities in **75 evacuation centers across 7 border provinces**.

Throughout the project implementation period, the project reached a wide range of affected populations in evacuation centers, providing assistance to a total of 71,537 beneficiaries, comprising 25,030 children (11,188 boys and 13,842 girls) and 46,507 adults (20,044 men and 26,463 women). Additionally, the project supported 25,294 households in 75 evacuation centers across 7 border provinces affected by the volatile situation.

This level of beneficiary reach reflects the crucial role of collaboration among partner organizations in responding to the urgent needs of children and families in emergency situations, encompassing household relief, the creation of safe spaces for children, and support for the mental health recovery of children and families within the shelters.

The project's operations not only alleviated the short-term impacts of the displacement situation but also played a significant role in creating a safe environment for children, promoting psychosocial recovery, and strengthening the capacity of families and communities to care for children and cope with future emergencies.



“I’m glad there are still people caring for us... It’s like we’re not alone; there are kind adults helping us during the most difficult times.”

.....Noknoi

Key Impact

The project's outcomes demonstrate positive results for affected children, families, and communities, as follows:

- **61.75% of beneficiaries reported that the items received were useful and put into practical use**, reflecting the appropriateness of essential item support in meeting the needs of households affected by the crisis (average score of 3.82).
- **75.40% of respondents perceived Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) materials as highly to very highly beneficial**, demonstrating the role of these materials and activities in supporting the psychosocial recovery of children and families.
- **89.68% of children participating in activities reported learning how to keep themselves safe** from the book *“My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen,”* which helped enhance their basic knowledge and skills for self-protection in risky situations.
- **68.46% of respondents perceived an increased readiness of the community to cope with future events**, reflecting the strengthened community capacity for emergency response.
- **69.55% believed that Child-Friendly Spaces provided equal opportunities for all groups of children to participate in activities**, including vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities, ethnic children, and children requiring special care.
- **69.23% assessed Child-Friendly Spaces as safe spaces for children to play, learn, and receive psychosocial support.**

These outcomes indicate that the project not only addressed the urgent needs of affected populations but also strengthened the knowledge, skills, and resilience of families and communities in caring for children during crisis situations.

Key Gaps and Areas for Improvement

Although the project was able to support children and families in shelters to a certain extent, the evaluation results highlight operational gaps that require further improvement, including:

- The level of satisfaction and perceived benefits of some activities remained moderate, reflecting the need to adapt activity formats to better meet the needs of children and families.
- Access to activities for some groups of children remained limited, particularly for children with special needs or those residing in areas far from activity sites.
- Constraints in resources, personnel, and activity materials in emergency situations limited the ability to implement activities that fully cover all target groups.

Way Forward / Recommendations

To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of future operations, the following approaches should be considered:

- Strengthen the capacity of volunteers and community leaders to organize activities for children in emergency situations.
- Develop a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Toolkit for use in shelters.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation system appropriate for the field context, enabling continuous use of data to improve operations.

This project plays a crucial role in responding to the urgent needs of children and families affected by the volatile situation, while also strengthening the capacity of families and communities to protect children and cope with future emergencies. This reflects the value of humanitarian investment in generating positive short-term and long-term impacts on children, families, and communities.

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Project Overview

1.1. Project Information

Item	Details
Project Title	Emergency Support for Families Affected along the Thai–Cambodian Border
Project Code	Programme Code & Title: HPD2022149 - Standby capacity to respond to Humanitarian Situations Project Code & Title: THL/PCA2022110
Project Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To conduct rapid assessment of the needs of displaced populations in evacuation centers along the Thai–Cambodian Border. 2. To provide essential relief items for affected households, particularly children and vulnerable families. 3. To establish Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) to support children's learning, play, and psychosocial recovery. 4. To provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for children, families, and affected communities. 5. To strengthen coordination with government agencies and local partners to ensure effective protection and assistance in evacuation centers.
Project Start Date	July 2025
Project End Date	March 2026
Report Date	15 March 2026

1.2 Context / Situation Overview

World Vision Foundation of Thailand implemented an emergency response project along the Thai–Cambodian Border in border districts across **7 provinces, namely Sisaket, Surin, Buriram, Sa Kaeo, Ubon Ratchathani, Chanthaburi, and Trat**. These areas are situated within a vulnerable border security context, where ongoing military operations in some areas have led to displacement and the establishment of evacuation centers to accommodate affected populations. Furthermore, certain border areas lack clear demarcation and are affected by landmines (mine-affected areas), increasing risks to the safety and livelihoods of residents. Consequently, operations to support and protect affected populations in the border areas are urgently needed.

	Affected Administrative Areas: 45 Districts, 336 Subdistricts, 4,085 Villages		Evacuation Centers: 900 Sites
	Affected Population: 226,620 People		Schools Affected: 1,000 Schools
	Affected Households: 310,831 Households		Students Affected: 23,797 Students

The situation of heightened tension along the border affected areas across 7 provinces, covering **45 districts, 336 sub-districts, and 4,085 villages**, with **approximately 310,831 households affected** and a large number of people forced to evacuate for safety. **Currently, more than 226,620 displaced persons are residing in over 900 evacuation centers in the border provinces.** Additionally, **over 23,797 students** were affected by the temporary closure of **more than 1,000 schools** for the safety of students and educational personnel. Concurrently, 19 health service centers were affected, and 7 hospitals had to temporarily cease operations, significantly reducing access to health services for the population, especially vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and pregnant women. A preliminary assessment revealed significant gaps in humanitarian assistance, particularly in providing essential items for livelihoods, child protection, and psychosocial support for affected populations (situation as of January 2026).

Following the Rapid Assessment conducted in affected shelters, it was found that despite government efforts to establish shelters and provide food, drinking water, and basic services, significant gaps in humanitarian assistance remained, particularly in essential basic items for daily living, Child Friendly Spaces, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

Assessment results from key informant interviews, field observations, and review of data from relevant agencies indicated that some shelters still lacked hygiene kits and essential household items. Many children did not have access to safe spaces for play and learning, while both children and adults experienced significant stress, anxiety, and fear due to the volatile situation.

Therefore, World Vision Foundation of Thailand utilized these assessment results as a basis for emergency response planning to support humanitarian assistance in three key areas: providing essential basic items, establishing Child Friendly Spaces, and offering Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services. The focus was primarily on assisting children and vulnerable groups in shelters, with support concentrated on the following:



Basic Relief Items



Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS)



Psycho-social
Support Materials

- **Essential basic items for daily living**, such as family hygiene kits, clean drinking water, food for vulnerable groups, clothing, and essential items for children.
- **Child-Friendly Space** to provide children with areas for play, learning, and developmental recovery in emergency situations.
- **Support for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) materials and equipment** to enhance psychosocial recovery activities for children and families affected by the volatile situation.

1.3 Project Objectives

- 1 To conduct rapid assessment of the needs of displaced populations in evacuation centers along the Thai–Cambodian Border.
- 2 To support the provision of essential relief items to affected households, especially vulnerable children and families.
- 3 To establish Child-Friendly Spaces to support children's learning, play, and psychosocial recovery in crisis situations.
- 4 To provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services to children, families, and affected communities.
- 5 To strengthen coordination with government agencies and local partners to ensure effective protection and assistance in evacuation centers.

1.4 Affected Populations

The project aims to assist people affected by the volatile situation along the Thai–Cambodian Border, who have been displaced into evacuation centers established by government agencies and local authorities in the border provinces. According to the latest situation data, 603 evacuation centers have been established, accommodating approximately 199,405 people across 7 border provinces: Surin, Sisaket, Buriram, Sa Kaeo, Ubon Ratchathani, Trat, and Chanthaburi. The assessment revealed that many residents in these shelters are vulnerable groups requiring urgent assistance in terms of livelihoods, safety, and psychosocial recovery.

The project's primary target groups include:

- Children and youth affected by displacement and disruption to education.
- Registered Children (RC) supported by World Vision Foundation of Thailand.

- Households affected by displacement and loss of income.
- The elderly.
- Persons with disabilities.
- Pregnant and lactating women.
- Low-income households lacking basic resources.

The project will prioritize vulnerable children and families, focusing on providing essential items, Child Friendly Spaces, and promoting psychosocial activities to mitigate the impacts of the emergency situation in shelters.

1.5 Project Implementation Area

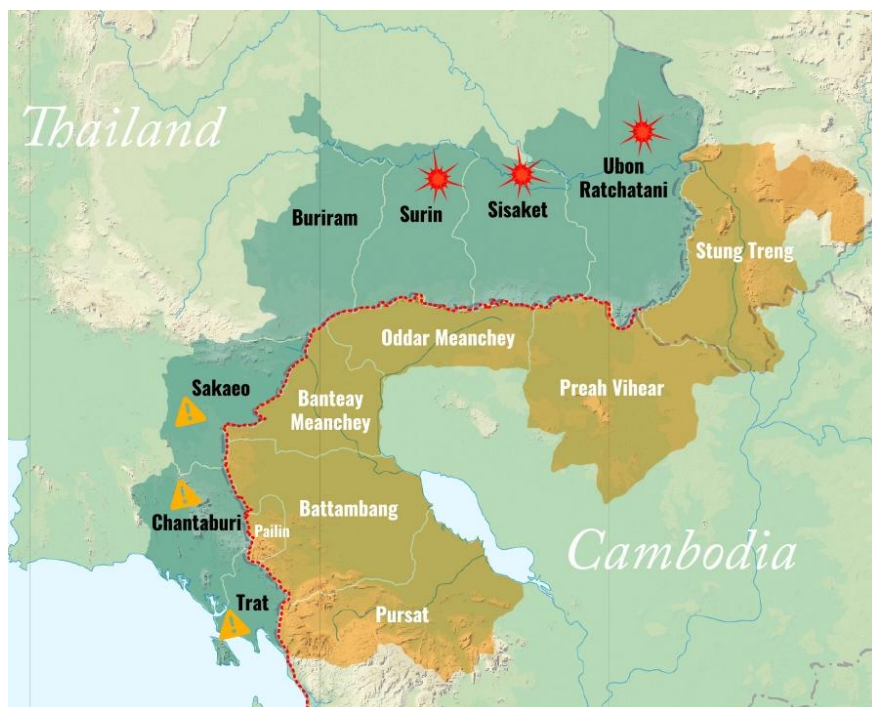


Figure 1 shows the project implementation areas along the Thai–Cambodian Border.

The project will be implemented across border provinces along the Thai–Cambodian Border affected by the volatile situation and population displacement. The target areas include 7 border provinces, namely:

1. Surin Province
2. Sisaket Province
3. Buriram Province
4. Sa Kaeo Province
5. Ubon Ratchathani Province
6. Trat Province
7. Chanthaburi Province

Project implementation will focus on evacuation centers established by government agencies, local administrative organizations, and local partners to accommodate people

affected by the volatile situation and emergency displacement. The selection of target areas will be based on the level of impact of the situation, the number of people residing in the centers, and humanitarian assistance needs, with priority given to evacuation centers with a large number of vulnerable children and families.

1.6 Project Implementation Period

The unrest situation along the Thai–Cambodian Border in 2025 has evolved according to the security context of the area. During July–August 2025, the overall situation was at a monitoring level. Although there were periodic tensions due to border disputes, no severe clashes occurred. This allowed local agencies to continue preparedness activities and community support as usual. However, in December 2025, the situation escalated, and clashes occurred in the border areas. This led to issuance of alert and the displacement of people from risk areas into evacuation centers in several border provinces.

Given the aforementioned situation, the project defined its implementation timeline into two phases: a preparedness phase during the monitoring period, and an emergency response phase following the outbreak of clashes and the displacement of people into evacuation centers. Details of the project's timeline are shown in the table below.

Phase	Period	Situation Context
Phase 1	July – August 2025	Border situation monitoring and community preparedness period
Phase 2	December 2025 – March 2026	Emergency response period following clashes and displacement of populations into evacuation centers

Table 1: Project Phasing Based on the Border Situation

2

Core Interventions (Key Interventions / Activities)

To address the urgent needs of children, families, and communities affected by the unrest, the project focused on implementing core interventions aimed at mitigating impacts on livelihoods, child protection, and psychosocial recovery, through:

- (1) Provision of essential basic items for households
- (2) Establishment of Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS), and
- (3) Provision of materials and equipment for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities to help children and families recover their well-being during the emergency situation.

The following table summarizes the **project's core interventions, operational details, and expected outcomes**, providing an overview of the emergency response approach in the target areas.

Activity	Description	Key Activities	Expected Results
1. Emergency Survival Kit Distribution	Provide essential basic items to households residing in evacuation centers or those affected by unrest, to enable them to live appropriately and safely during the emergency situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the number of households requiring assistance in each evacuation center. - Procure essential items such as family hygiene kits, clean drinking water, food for vulnerable groups, clothing, and essential items for children. - Prepare and pack items in accordance with household relief kit standards. - Plan the transportation and distribution of items to evacuation centers. - Distribute items to registered households. - Collect data on beneficiaries and post-distribution feedback (Post Distribution Monitoring) 	Affected families have food, clean drinking water, and essential items for daily living, enabling them to live appropriately in evacuation centers and have an improved quality of life during the emergency situation.
2. Establishment of Child-Friendly Space (CFS)	Establish Child Friendly Spaces within evacuation centers to provide children with areas for play, learning, and age-appropriate developmental recovery in the emergency situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey and designate suitable and safe areas for establishing CFS within evacuation centers. - Support staff, volunteers, and youth leaders in organizing activities for children, by providing training to leaders and volunteers. - Prepare activity equipment such as toys, books, art supplies, and learning materials. - Design activities appropriate for each age group (0–6 years, 7–12 years, and 13–18 years). - Schedule daily activities for children. - Organize psychosocial recovery activities through play, art, music, and storytelling. 	Children in evacuation centers have safe spaces for play, learning, and expression, helping to reduce stress and fear and promoting their psychosocial recovery and development in the emergency situation.

Activity	Description	Key Activities	Expected Results
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect data and feedback to improve activity implementation. 	
3. Support for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Materials and Equipment	Provide materials, equipment, and tools for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support activities to help restore the mental well-being of children and families affected by unrest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the need for MHPSS materials and equipment in evacuation centers. - Procure equipment for activities such as art supplies, toys, books, creative games, and learning materials for children. - Support activity kits that promote emotional expression, such as drawing, storytelling, and group activities. - Support the distribution of the children's activity book <i>"My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen"</i> to students in target schools. - Monitor and evaluate the use of materials and equipment in activity implementation. 	Affected children and families have opportunities to participate in activities that help reduce stress and anxiety and promote psychosocial recovery, enabling them to adapt better to the situation.

Table 2: Summary of Project Core Interventions, Operational Details, and Expected Outcomes

In response to the emergency situation, the project focused on delivering humanitarian assistance that encompassed both the basic needs of affected families and child protection in accordance with child protection standards in emergencies. Emphasis was placed on reaching vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Immediate response interventions included the provision of essential basic items for daily living, such as family hygiene kits, clean drinking water, food for vulnerable groups, clothing, and essential items for children. This also included the establishment of Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) to provide children with spaces for play, learning, and developmental recovery during the emergency situation. Furthermore, the project supported materials and equipment for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities to strengthen the psychological resilience of children and families affected by the unrest.

All activities prioritized community participation, coordination with local agencies, and adherence to the principle of Accountability to Affected Populations, ensuring that assistance was effective, transparent, and appropriately responsive to community needs. Table: Programme Support Activities

Activity	Description	Key Activities	Expected Results
Rapid Assessment & Planning	Assess the situation and needs of affected populations in evacuation centers, such as population numbers, children, vulnerable groups, available services, and gaps in assistance, to inform appropriate emergency response planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate with local agencies and evacuation center managers to access initial information. - Conduct field surveys of evacuation centers to collect data on population numbers, children, and vulnerable groups. - Interview community leaders, teachers, volunteers, and local officials about urgent needs. - Analyze service gaps, such as food, clean water, child-friendly spaces, and psychosocial services. - Prepare a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) report and prioritize assistance. - Convene operational team meetings to plan emergency response. 	Obtain clear information on the situation and needs of affected populations, which can be used to plan appropriate and timely emergency response.
Community & Partner Engagement	Promote the participation of community leaders, Children and Youth Council, volunteers, and local agencies in caring for children and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize meetings with community leaders, local agencies, and Children and Youth Council. • Introduce 	Communities participate in caring for and protecting children in evacuation centers, fostering cooperation among communities,

Activity	Description	Key Activities	Expected Results
	families in evacuation centers, and support the creation of a safe environment for children.	<p>guidelines for establishing Child-Friendly Space (CFS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the establishment of committees for child and family care in Evacuation Centers. - Create incident reporting mechanisms and a child protection monitoring system in the community. - Promote youth participation in designing and organizing activities for children. - Coordinate with government agencies to ensure assistance adheres to child protection standards. 	government agencies, and partner organizations, ensuring children and families receive appropriate care.
Monitoring, Feedback & Programme Accountability	Continuously monitor and evaluate project implementation, and promote mechanisms for receiving feedback from affected populations to ensure transparency, efficiency, and appropriate adjustments to operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a system for monitoring activity implementation in evacuation centers. - Collect data on beneficiaries of various project activities. - Organize forums for feedback and suggestions from communities and affected populations. - Establish a Complaint and Feedback Mechanism. - Analyze data and incorporate feedback to improve operations. 	Project implementation is transparent, with clear monitoring data, and can be continuously adjusted to meet the needs of affected populations.

Activity	Description	Key Activities	Expected Results
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare a project summary report for learning and future project development. 	

Table 3: Summary of Programme Support Activities, Operational Details, and Expected Outcomes

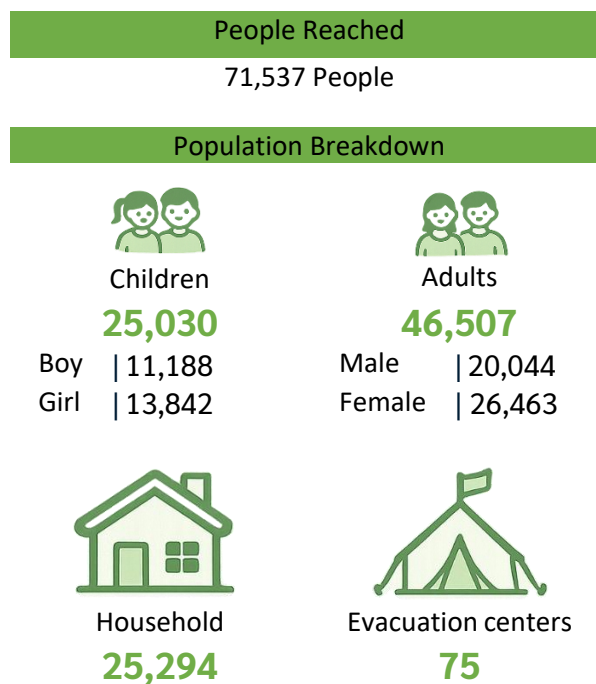
3

Implementation Results and Assessment Findings

3.1

Project Beneficiaries (Project Beneficiaries and Assessment Findings)

3.1 Project Beneficiaries and Assessment Findings



Following the implementation of emergency response activities in evacuation centers, the Foundation provided assistance to affected individuals in various areas, focusing on supporting children, families, and vulnerable groups in evacuation centers affected by the unrest along the Thai–Cambodian Border. Activities included the provision of essential basic items, the establishment of Child Friendly Spaces, and the provision of materials and equipment for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities.

During the project implementation period, a number of people benefited from the support. Details of the number of beneficiaries by activity type and implementation phase are shown in the following table.

Activity	Children		Adults		Total	Number of Households	Number of Evacuation Centers
	Male	Female	Male	Female			
Basic Needs Support Phase 1	4,467	5,744	11,479	17,154	38,844	15,270	33
Basic Needs Support Phase 2	2,587	2,978	8,032	8,702	22,299	8,924	62
Child-Friendly Space Phase 1	703	830	-	-	1,533	-	11
Child-Friendly Space Phase 2	1,364	1,730	-	-	3,094	-	32
MHPSS Materials and Activity Support	2,067	2,560	533	607	5,767	1,100	42
Total	11,188	13,842	20,044	26,463	71,537	25,294	75

Table 4: Number of Beneficiaries by Activity Type and Implementation Phase

3.2

Methodology for Data Collection

3.2 Methodology for Data Collection

Project monitoring and evaluation employed a mixed-methods approach, comprising both quantitative and qualitative data collection to comprehensively reflect both the scope of impacts and the in-depth perspectives of stakeholders in the area.

For quantitative data, the project conducted a household survey of affected individuals in the project areas to gather information on the impacts of the situation, community needs, and an assessment of the support received. The respondents included parents, children, and youth from households affected by the unrest along the Thai–Cambodian border. The survey covered 7 project implementation provinces and involved a total of 723 respondents. The data collected was analyzed to reflect the situation, impacts on households, and access to and benefits from project support.

Key issues covered in the survey included: (1) Impacts and damages to households, children, and communities in terms of livelihoods, education, health, and safety. (2) Support received and benefits from support in each activity type, such as essential item provision, Child Friendly Spaces, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support activities. (3) Assessment of the situation during household and community recovery. (4) Quality of services and programme accountability, including satisfaction and feedback channels. And (5) Challenges faced by affected individuals, including key lessons learned for future project implementation.

For **qualitative data**, the project utilized key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGD) to gather in-depth perspectives from local stakeholders, such as community leaders, teachers, school administrators, staff of organizations working in the area, local government organization executives, as well as children, parents, and communities. This

qualitative data helped enhance understanding of the local context, the impacts, and the experiences of beneficiaries from project implementation.

This qualitative data collection involved a total of 111 respondents, comprising 40 adults and community volunteers, 20 project partners and relevant agencies, and 51 children and youth. The data obtained from interviews and focus group discussions was analyzed in conjunction with quantitative data to help explain the situation, project outcomes, and key lessons learned for future operations.

3.3

Sample Characteristics

3.3 Sample Characteristics

3.3.1 Profile of Respondents

The quantitative survey covered individuals affected by the unrest along the Thai–Cambodian border in 7 project implementation provinces. A total of 723 respondents, including adults, children, and youth, participated. This data is presented to show the basic characteristics of respondents by gender, age group, province of residence, displacement status in evacuation centers, and duration of stay in evacuation centers. This reflects the fundamental characteristics of the sample group participating in this survey.

In addition to quantitative data collection, this assessment also gathered qualitative data from key informants within the community to gain a deeper understanding of the context, situation, and experiences of affected individuals. Respondents included representatives of children's parents, community leaders, volunteers, representatives of relevant government agencies, as well as children and youth in the area. Their input helped reflect perspectives on the unfolding situation, community needs, and impacts on daily household life.

This qualitative data collection received cooperation from various local network partners, including educational agencies such as school administrators, teachers, and childcare providers from schools and early childhood development centers; local government organizations, specifically executives and officials from municipalities and sub-district administrative organizations; as well as public health agencies from sub-district health promoting hospitals, and community leaders such as Kamnan (sub-district chiefs) and Phuyai Ban (village heads). The cooperation from these partners was crucial in supporting access to target groups and ensuring that the collected data comprehensively reflected the local context.

Table 5.1 shows the number of qualitative respondents categorized by target group. It was found that the majority of respondents were children and youth, totaling 49 individuals. This was followed by representatives of children's parents, community leaders, and volunteers, totaling 32 individuals. And representatives of local government agencies and related organizations, totaling 25 individuals. This reflects the diversity of respondents participating in this qualitative data collection.

Target Group Type	Male n (%)	Female n (%)	Total n (%)
Representatives of child guardians, community leaders, and volunteers	5	27	32
Representatives of local government agencies and relevant partners	7	18	25
Children and Youth	17	32	49
Total	29	77	106

Table 5.1: Number of Respondents by Target Group (Qualitative Interviews)

Target Group Type	Male n (%)	Female n (%)	Total n (%)
Adults	133 (18.40)	373 (51.59)	506 (69.99)
Children and Youth	73 (10.10)	144 (19.92)	217 (30.01)
Total	206 (28.49)	517 (71.51)	723 (100)

Table 5.2: Number of Respondents by Target Group (Quantitative Survey)

Age Group	Number (people)	%
Parents of children aged 0–6 years (age not specified)	36	4.98
7–12 years	69	9.54
13–18 years	148	20.47
19–30 years	44	6.09
31–40 years	109	15.08
41–50 years	141	19.50
51–60 years	96	13.28
60 years and above	80	11.07
Total	723	100.00

Table 5.3: Number of Respondents by Age Range

Province	Number (people)	%
Sa Kaeo	139	19.23
Sisaket	139	19.23
Surin	127	17.57
Buriram	97	13.42
Ubon Ratchathani	90	12.45
Chanthaburi	74	10.24
Trat	57	7.88
Total	723	100.00

Table 5.4: Number of Respondents by Province

3.3.2 Displacement Status in Evacuation Centers

The survey results indicate that the majority of respondents, 569 individuals (78.70%), were displaced to evacuation centers. Meanwhile, 21.30% (154 individuals) stated that they were not displaced to evacuation centers during the situation.

Province	Number (people)	%
Evacuated to evacuation centers	569	78.70
Did not evacuate to evacuation centers	154	21.30
Total	723	100.00

Table 6.1: Number of Respondents by Displacement Status in Evacuation Centers

Among the 569 individuals displaced to evacuation centers, the survey found that most of those displaced to evacuation centers stayed for 8–14 days, totaling 272 individuals (47.80%). This was followed by 15–21 days, totaling 162 individuals (28.47%). Meanwhile, those who stayed for a short period of no more than 7 days accounted for approximately 14.59% of all respondents.

Duration of stay in Evacuation Centers	Number (people)	%
1–3 days	47	8.26
4–7 days	36	6.33
8–14 days	272	47.80
15–21 days	162	28.47
22–30 days	48	8.44
Not specified	4	0.70
Total	569	100.00

Table 6.2: Number of Respondents by Duration of Stay in Evacuation Centers

3.3.3 Impacts and Risks Faced by Households, Children, and Communities from the Unrest Situation

The survey collected data on the impacts of the unrest on households, children, and communities, covering damage to housing, safety, livelihoods, education, mental health, and social risks. Respondents were able to report more than one impact affecting their households. The survey results reflect the nature of the impacts and risks in the project implementation areas.

The survey results indicate that most households were affected by the unrest in multiple ways, particularly the inability to access education, **with 97.37% of school-aged children unable to attend school. This was followed by the inability to work (93.50%)** and the inability to remain in their homes or communities during the conflict (90.32%). Furthermore, many respondents reported mental health impacts and anxiety (84.51%), as well as social and safety risks in the community, such as the risk of infectious diseases, environmental hazards, and crime.

Analysis of open-ended responses in the “Other” category revealed additional impacts not covered in the main question options. The most frequently mentioned issue was insecurity due to the border conflict and government-issued evacuation orders. Additionally, mental health impacts, stress and anxiety, loss of income, concerns about property at home, and impacts on children's education and learning were reported. This reflects the multi-dimensional impacts faced by households during the unrest.

Type of Impact	Number (people)	% n=723
School-aged children unable to attend school	704	97.37
Unable to work	676	93.5
Unable to remain in their homes or communities during the conflict	653	90.32
Experiencing anxiety or poor mental health	611	84.51
Risk of infectious diseases	303	41.91
Environmental risks, such as waste accumulation	258	35.69
Gathering of children and youth that may lead to risky behaviors	250	34.58
Risk of crime	245	33.89
Safety risks (e.g., abuse, child labor)	174	24.07
Homes damaged	24	3.32
Household members injured	3	0.41
Household members deceased	2	0.28

Note: Respondents could select more than one option.

Table 7: Number of Respondents by Impacts and Risks Faced by Households and Communities

3.4 Emergency Relief Item Distribution Findings

The project distributed emergency relief items to households affected by the unrest along the Thai–Cambodian border to support basic living needs and alleviate the hardship during the crisis. This support included various essential items such as food, drinking water, hygiene kits, non-food items, and household items for families and children. The activities aimed to:

1. Respond to the urgent needs of affected households by providing essential items that can be practically utilized.
2. Enhance the safety, hygiene, and basic quality of life for households during the emergency situation.
3. Reduce the financial burden on households during the crisis and help them manage basic needs.
4. Support the recovery of households after being affected by the situation, enabling them to gradually return to normal living conditions.

The project also received support from Plan International Thailand. World Vision Foundation of Thailand distributed emergency relief items to households affected by the unrest along the Thai–Cambodian border in the project implementation areas. This support included essential items for household livelihoods and hygiene, such as rice, sanitary pads, and diapers. These were distributed to target areas in 7 provinces: Ubon Ratchathani, Sisaket, Buriram, Surin, Trat, Chanthaburi, and Sa Kaeo. This aimed to alleviate suffering during the emergency situation and support the basic well-being of affected households.



Rice 4,000 sets



Disposable diapers
2,000 sets

2,000 ៥១



Sanitary pads 2,145
sets

Under this support, 4,000 sets of rice, 2,000 sets of disposable diapers, and 2,145 sets of sanitary pads were allocated and distributed to households in the target areas. This resulted in a total of 21,645 beneficiaries from this support, as detailed in the following table.

Beneficiary Type	Male	Female	Total
Children (0-17 years)	3,964	5,584	9,548
Youth (18-24 years)	916	1,582	2,498
Adults (25 years and above)	3,451	6,148	9,599
Total	8,331	13,314	21,645

Table 8.1: Number of Beneficiaries from Emergency Relief Item Distribution Activities Supported by Plan International Thailand

Activity Evaluation Results - Emergency Relief Item Distribution

To assess the usefulness and relevance of the received items to household needs, the project surveyed 630 beneficiaries. The survey results reflect the level of utilization of the received items, as well as areas for improvement to ensure that the support is more appropriate and responsive to the needs of affected individuals.

The survey found that among the 630 beneficiaries of the item distribution activities, the majority of respondents, 449 individuals (71.27%), stated that all received items could be fully utilized. However, some respondents indicated that certain types of items did not match their needs or were utilized to a limited extent. The most frequently mentioned items were food (13.17%), diapers (12.38%), and seasonings (12.22%). This highlights the need to adjust the form of support to better align with the specific needs of households in different contexts.

Type of items Less useful or not meeting needs	Number (people)	% n=630
All items utilized	449	71.27
Others	2	0.32
Rice	48	7.62
Household items	50	7.94
Hygiene kit	53	8.41
Children's items	60	9.52
Sanitary pads	66	10.48
Non-food items	72	11.43
Drinking water	75	11.9
Seasonings	77	12.22
Diapers	78	12.38
Food	83	13.17

Note: Respondents could select more than one option.

Table 8.2: Evaluation Results of the Relevance of Relief Items to Household Needs

The evaluation of beneficiaries' opinions found that the highest-rated issue was the **usefulness and practical application of the received items (average score 3.82)**. **61.75%** of respondents rated this as "high" or "highest". This was followed by the **relevance of items to urgent household needs (average score 3.50)** and **their contribution to enhancing safety and hygiene in daily life (average score 3.49)**. Meanwhile, the issue of **helping households recover faster from impacts** received the lowest average score in the group (average score 3.21). This indicates that material support plays a significant role in short-term relief but further support in other areas is needed to enable sustainable household recovery.

Benefits of received relief items	Level of utilization	
	Average (1–5)	High and highest (%) n=630
Received items were useful and utilized	3.82	61.75
Received items met urgent needs	3.50	46.67
Received items enhanced the safety and hygiene for living conditions	3.49	48.89
Received items reduced household expenses during the crisis	3.46	44.60
Helped households recover faster from the impact	3.21	35.40

Note: Scores ranged from 1 = Very Low to 5 = Very High.

Table 8.3: Evaluation Results of the Utilization of Received Relief Items

Key Achievements of Emergency Relief Item Distribution Activities

Based on the evaluation of 630 beneficiaries of the Emergency Relief Item Distribution activities, key outcomes from the activity implementation were identified as follows:

- The majority of beneficiaries were able to practically utilize the received items, with 71.27% stating that all items could be used in their daily lives.
- The items helped reduce household expenses during the post-displacement period, especially for households that had not yet regained normal income.
- The items helped meet urgent household needs, such as food, drinking water, and essential supplies, thereby enhancing safety and hygiene in daily life.
- Beneficiaries rated the usefulness and practical application highly, with an average score of 3.82 out of 5, and 61.75% rated it as "high" or "highest".

The evaluation also reflects that relief item support plays a crucial role in alleviating short-term household hardship, especially during the period when household income has not yet returned to normal after displacement. However, assistance solely in the form of items may not be sufficient to support long-term household recovery. Therefore, there is still a need to link this assistance with additional support measures. At the same time, the survey also

revealed gaps in the relevance of relief items to the needs of certain household groups, as some types of items may not fully correspond to the specific necessities of each household context. This highlights the importance of adapting support modalities to be more flexible and appropriately tailored to the needs of affected individuals.

The quantitative evaluation results are consistent with qualitative data from beneficiaries and community representatives, which reflect the role of relief items in alleviating hardship and helping households sustain their livelihoods during the post-unrest period, as illustrated in the voices from beneficiaries below:

Voices from Beneficiaries

“The rice and supplies we received helped our family a lot. After returning home, we still don't dare to go back to work as before, and our income has not yet returned to normal. The items we received this time significantly reduced our household expenses.” — A parent from a border community

“These diapers and essential items helped us a lot because we have young children. After leaving the Evacuation Center, many families are still struggling; life hasn't returned to normal.” — A parent of young children

“This assistance is very important for people in the community, especially families with young children or those who rely on daily wages. The items received helped many families get through the difficult period after this incident.” — A community representative



Figures 2-3: Images of relief items being delivered within evacuation centers where World Vision Foundation, along with supporters and both private and public sector agencies, collaborated to assist affected populations.



Figures 4-7: Emergency Relief Item Distribution in evacuation centers / supported by Plan International Thailand.

3.5

Child-Friendly Space Findings

3.5 Child-Friendly Space Findings

During the unrest along the Thai–Cambodian border, many affected households were displaced to evacuation centers for extended periods. This resulted in children and youth facing limitations in their daily lives, including access to learning, play, and age-appropriate developmental activities. They were also exposed to risks of psychological and social impacts, such as stress, anxiety, feelings of insecurity in their surroundings, and a lack of safe spaces for age-appropriate activities and skill development.

To support diverse activities in Child-Friendly Spaces that are appropriate for children's development at each age stage, the project prepared materials and equipment for learning, play, and creative activities. These materials and equipment were supported by UNICEF for use in activities that promote children's physical, emotional, social, and learning development within Child-Friendly Spaces in evacuation center areas.

The activity materials were organized into kits based on their intended use to align with the types of activities implemented in Child-Friendly Spaces, such as learning and creative

activity kits for children, sports and group activity kits for children and youth, and toy and skill development activity kits for children. These kits supported a variety of activities, including (1) creative arts activities and learning through play; (2) sports and recreational activities; and (3) life skills and teamwork enhancement activities. Details of the supported materials and equipment are shown in the table below.

Kit Name	Items	Quantity (Items)
Kit 1 (Plastic box) Learning materials and creative activity kit for children	Blue pens, colored pencils (12 per box), pencil sharpeners, erasers, activity book set, A4 colored paper, Department of Mental Health book, technology usage book, anti-violence poster	230
Kit 2 (Cardboard box) Sports equipment, music, and group activity kit for children and youth	Football, volleyball, basketball, trampoline, jump rope, plastic takraw, badminton rackets, shuttlecocks, ukulele bag, air pump, maracas, "Challenge for Answers" game, "Challenge for Answers" game answers, vinyl board game "Snakes and Ladders" + dice	120
Kit 3 (Plastic box) Toy and skill development activity kit for children	Black and white football, volleyball, plastic frisbee, Bingo game set, Snakes and Ladders game, pencil sharpener, Double A A4 colored paper, Book Set B for older children, children's activity book/notebook, 12-color crayons, dominoes, puzzle/block games, building blocks in a carry bag, play-doh, colored pencils, air pump, pencils, UNO game, erasers, drawing book	450
Total		800

Table 9.1: Child-Friendly Space Kits and Equipment for Activities Supported by UNICEF Thailand

Under the project, Child-Friendly Spaces were established in evacuation centers and affected communities to provide children with opportunities to participate in activities that promote development and psychosocial recovery, such as learning through play, creative arts activities, storytelling, and group activities that help develop social skills and peer interaction.



Participating Children and youth

4,627 people

Participating Evacuation Centers

42 ศูนย์

During the implementation period, a total of 4,627 children and youth participated in activities at Child-Friendly Spaces across 42 evacuation centers, covering children of various age groups residing in evacuation centers. These activities contributed to providing safe spaces for affected children to play and learn, reducing stress and anxiety, and promoting age-

appropriate emotional, social, and life skills development. Details of beneficiaries from these activities are shown in the table below.

Province	Number of Evacuation Centers	Number of children and youth participating in CFS activities		
		Male	Female	Total
Trat Province	3	178	234	412
Sa Kaeo Province	6	348	471	819
Sisaket Province	6	185	219	404
Ubon Ratchathani Province	4	133	150	283
Surin Province	21	1,151	1,380	2,531
Buriram Province	2	72	106	178
Total	42	2,067	2,560	4,627

Table 9.2: Number of Children and Youth Participating in CFS Activities by Province, Gender, and Number of Evacuation Centers

Activities in Child-Friendly Spaces were designed and adapted to suit the developmental stages of children at each age, ensuring that children could participate in an appropriate and safe manner, and gain maximum benefit in terms of psychosocial recovery, learning, and social skill development. Most activities focused on learning through play, creative expression, and interaction with peers in a child-friendly environment.

These activities aimed to mitigate the psychological and social impacts children might face due to displacement, such as stress, anxiety, or feelings of insecurity in their surroundings. They also aimed to continuously promote children's development even while residing in evacuation centers. Activities were tailored to suit children's age groups, as detailed below.

Age Group	Activities organized in evacuation centers	Outcomes that helped address the impacts of staying in evacuation centers
0–6 years (Early Childhood)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing, coloring, and simple art activities • Playing with dolls, developmental toys • Storytelling, singing, and movement activities • Simple games that promote learning through play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced stress and fear in young children from displacement situations • Created a sense of safety and familiarity in new environments • Promoted continuous physical and emotional development
7–12 years (School-aged children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art activities, crafts, and creative work • Educational games and supplementary learning activities • Singing, group games, and recreational activities • Life skills development activities, such as teamwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided children with a safe space to play and express themselves • Reduced tension and anxiety from the situation • Promoted interaction with peers and collaboration

Age Group	Activities organized in evacuation centers	Outcomes that helped address the impacts of staying in evacuation centers
13–18 years (Children and Youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports and recreational activities • Singing, music, and creative activities • Group activities and discussions for sharing ideas • Leadership development and community assistance participation activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped children continue to have learning opportunities even in Evacuation Centers • Helped youth express their feelings and concerns • Reduced stress and conflict issues in Evacuation Centers • Promoted positive roles for youth in helping others • Strengthened psychological resilience and life skills in crises

Table 9.3: Examples of Child-Friendly Space Activities and Outcomes in Mitigating Impacts on Children in Evacuation Centers by Age Group

Capacity Building for Youth Leaders and Facilitators in Child-Friendly Spaces

In addition to organizing activities for children in Child-Friendly Spaces, World Vision Foundation of Thailand prioritized capacity building for youth leaders, volunteers, and local staff to effectively support the operations of Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS). This involved encouraging youth in the community to take on roles as facilitators in co-organizing and supporting activities for children in Child-Friendly Spaces. The capacitybuilding efforts focused on enhancing communication skills, teamwork, and the organization of age-appropriate activities for children, as well as creating a safe and child-friendly environment. These efforts contributed to promoting community participation and strengthening the long-term sustainability of Child-Friendly Space activities.

The training aimed to prepare community leaders, volunteers, and local staff to establish and operate Child-Friendly Spaces in a safe, inclusive, and child protection-focused manner. The training content included the following key topics:

1. Basic Understanding of Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) - Participants learned about the concept and objectives of Child-Friendly Spaces, including the role of CFS as a Child-Friendly Space for children to play, learn, and receive psychosocial support. It also covered protecting children from various risks such as violence, abuse, and exploitation.

2. Child-Friendly Space Setup Process - The training covered key steps in establishing a Child-Friendly Space, including:

- Assessment: Surveying the number of children, vulnerable groups, and risks in the area.
- Planning: Defining target groups, planning activities, and structuring the operational team.
- Site Setup: Arranging a safe space, dividing activity zones by age group, and preparing appropriate equipment.

3. Child Safeguarding System - Participants gained knowledge on child protection policies, the role of caregivers in the center, caregiver-to-child ratios, unsafe incident reporting systems, and referral pathways for children to relevant agencies. This is to ensure that Child-Friendly Spaces are safe for all children.

4. Guidelines for Organizing Activities for Children in CFS - Trainees practiced designing age-appropriate activities for children, such as:

- Psychosocial Support (PSS) activities, such as art, music, and relationship-building games.
- Age-appropriate developmental activities, such as free play, storytelling, and skill-building games.
- Life skills enhancement activities, such as emotional management, relaxation, and violence prevention.

5. Inclusion Principles - CFS operations emphasize providing equal access to activities for all children, taking into account Children with disabilities, ethnic children, migrant children, stateless children, and at-risk children. The spaces and activities are also adapted to suit the diversity of children.

6. Collaboration with Families and Communities - The training promoted collaboration with parents, communities, and local agencies such as Village Health Volunteers (VHV), teachers, religious leaders, and local government organizations. This aimed to build a child protection network and continuously support the operations of Child-Friendly Spaces.

7. Curricula and Tools for Activity Organization - Participants learned to use curricula and tools that support child development, such as the Life Skills Curriculum, Dare to Discover curriculum, Positive Parenting / Happy Family curriculum, and Psychosocial Support (PSS) activities.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation - Trainees gained knowledge about monitoring operational outcomes, such as child and volunteer registration, listening to children's feedback, and reviewing service access. This is to continuously improve the quality of Child-Friendly Spaces.

This training enhanced the knowledge and skills of community leaders, volunteers, and facilitators in establishing and operating Child-Friendly Spaces safely, with appropriate child protection systems, and effectively organizing activities that support children's development and psychological well-being. It also promoted the participation of families and communities in creating an environment conducive to child development during emergency situations.

Activity Evaluation Results - Child Friendly Space (CFS)

To evaluate the performance of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in supporting children's development and well-being, as well as their role within families and communities, the project conducted a survey of activity participants, using questionnaires to assess both the benefits of the activities and the multi-faceted role of Child Friendly Spaces. Data from 312 respondents, who either participated themselves or had children participating in Child Friendly Space (CFS) activities, was analyzed to reflect the level of perception and satisfaction with the activities and services provided by Child Friendly Spaces to children and families in the area. The results

of this data analysis are presented in tabular form, showing average scores and the proportion of respondents who rated “high” and “highest,” to provide an overview of the outcomes from Child Friendly Space activities in various aspects, as detailed below.

Child-Friendly Space Activities and Materials	Satisfaction Level	
	Average (1–5)	High and highest (%) n=312
Creative art activities (drawing, coloring, play-doh, etc.)	3.90	67.31
Recreational and movement activities (singing, games, sports)	3.88	66.67
Learning and life skills activities	3.82	60.58
Vocational skills activities	3.80	59.62
Learning materials Kit 3 (various games)	3.79	64.74
Learning materials Kit 2 (sports, music)	3.77	61.54
Learning materials Kit 1 (drawing supplies, books)	3.76	62.50

Table 9.4: Evaluation Results of Satisfaction with Child Friendly Space Activities and Materials/Equipment

From Table 9.4, which presents the evaluation results of satisfaction with Child Friendly Space activities and materials/equipment, ranked from highest to lowest average score, based on 312 respondents: The evaluation found that **creative arts activities, such as drawing, coloring, and clay modeling, were rated as the most beneficial, with an average score of 3.90, and 67.31% of respondents** indicated that the activities were “highly” or “most” beneficial. This was followed by recreational and movement activities, such as singing and sports games (average score: 3.88, 66.67%).

Furthermore, learning and life skills activities, and vocational skills activities were also rated relatively highly, with average scores of 3.82 and 3.80, respectively. As for the three sets of learning materials, namely Set 3 (various games), Set 2 (sports, music), and Set 1 (drawing equipment, books), they were also rated as similarly beneficial, with average scores ranging from 3.76 to 3.79, and more than 60% of respondents rated them as “highly” or “most” beneficial.

In summary, the evaluation results indicate that all types of activities in Child Friendly Spaces were perceived as highly beneficial, especially those promoting creativity and child participation.



Figures 8-11: Child Friendly Space Activities in Lahan Sai District, Buri Ram Province



Figures 12-15: Child-Friendly Space activities in Surin and Sisaket Provinces

Child-Friendly Space Assessment Issues	Benefit Level	
	Average (1–5)	High and highest (%) n=312
Child-Friendly Space allowed children to participate in activities , such as expressing opinions or choosing activities based on their interests.	3.86	69.55
Child-Friendly Space provided services to all children equally , such as children with disabilities, ethnic children, or vulnerable children.	3.85	69.55
Child-Friendly Space was a safe space for children to learn, play, and receive psychological and social support.	3.83	69.23
Child-Friendly Space helped promote the participation of children, families, and communities .	3.82	68.91
Child-Friendly Space enables children to learn and develop skills suitable for every stage of their growth.	3.81	68.27
Child-Friendly Space helped children relax and reduce stress after participation .	3.79	67.63
Child-Friendly Space helped protect children from risks such as violence, abuse, and exploitation .	3.78	66.67
Child-Friendly Space helped parents have more time to work or run errands .	3.73	64.42

Table 9.5: Evaluation Results of the Role of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and Benefits for Children and Families

Table 9.5 presents the evaluation results of the role of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) for children and families, based on 312 respondents, ranked from highest to lowest average score. The evaluation found that most respondents perceived Child Friendly Spaces as highly beneficial in all aspects, particularly in providing opportunities for children to participate in various activities, such as expressing opinions or choosing activities based on their interests, and in providing equal services to all groups of children, such as children with disabilities, ethnic children, or vulnerable children. These received the highest average scores of 3.86 and 3.85, respectively, with 69.55% of evaluators rating them as “high” or “highest”.

Furthermore, Child Friendly Spaces were rated as being able to provide a Child Friendly Space for children to learn, play, and receive psychological and social support (average score: 3.83). They also helped promote the participation of children, families, and communities (average score: 3.82), as well as supporting age-appropriate learning and skill development for children (average score: 3.81).

At the same time, respondents also perceived that Child Friendly Spaces contributed to children feeling relaxed and reducing stress after participating in activities (average score: 3.79), and helped protect children from risks such as violence, abuse, and exploitation (average score: 3.78). Furthermore, Child Friendly Spaces also supported families by enabling parents to

have more time to work or attend to personal matters (average score: 3.73), although this aspect received a slightly lower average score compared to others.

Overall, the evaluation results indicate that Child Friendly Spaces play a significant role in creating safe spaces, promoting child participation and development, and supporting families and communities in the area.

Key Achievements of Emergency Relief Item Distribution Activities

Based on the evaluation results from 312 respondents, the key outcomes of Child Friendly Space activities can be summarized as follows:

- All types of activities in Child Friendly Spaces were rated as highly beneficial, with average scores ranging from 3.80 to 3.90.
- **Creative arts activities**, such as drawing, coloring, and clay modeling, received the highest rating (average score 3.90), with 67.31% of evaluators rating them as “high” or “highest”.
- **Recreational and movement activities**, such as singing, sports games, and group activities, were rated highly (average score 3.88, 66.67%).
- All three sets of activity materials and equipment (games, sports/music, and drawing equipment/books) were rated as similarly beneficial, with average scores ranging from 3.76 to 3.79, and more than 60% of evaluators rating them as “high” or “highest”.
- Most respondents perceived that Child Friendly Spaces helped provide opportunities for children to participate in activities and receive equal services, including vulnerable children. These received average scores of 3.85 – 3.86, with 69.55% of evaluators rating them as “high” or “highest”.
- Child Friendly Spaces were rated as safe spaces for children to play, learn, and receive psychosocial support, with an average score of 3.83. They also helped children relax and reduce stress from the crisis (average score 3.79).

These evaluation results indicate that **Child Friendly Spaces play a crucial role in creating safe spaces, promoting child development, and supporting families during crises.**

Although the overall evaluation reflects that Child Friendly Space activities were perceived as highly beneficial, some areas indicate opportunities for further improvement, particularly the direct role of Child Friendly Spaces in supporting families, which received a slightly lower average score compared to than other aspects. Furthermore, enhancing activities aimed at long-term life skills development and psychosocial recovery, as well as promoting family and community participation in supporting Child Friendly Space operations, could further increase the effectiveness and sustainability of activities in the area.

However, these quantitative evaluation results are consistent with qualitative data from children participating in activities, which reflect the role of Child Friendly Spaces in helping to create safe spaces, reduce anxiety, and promote children's happiness during crisis situations, as echoed by the following voices from children participating in activities:

Voices from Beneficiaries

“I like coming to the Child Friendly Space because there are toys, facilitators who look after us, and I get to do art activities with my friends. I feel happy, and I wish there were places like this for all children who have to be displaced here.” — 9-year-old girl

“When I had to be displaced from home, I was very scared. I didn't know where I would go. But once I came to play and do activities at the Child Friendly Space, I felt better. I made new friends, and the facilitators encouraged us to draw, play games, and tell stories, which made me smile again.” — 10-year-old girl

“The Child Friendly Space makes me feel safe. At first, I was stressed because I had to move and couldn't go to school. But once I came here, I got to play sports and do activities with my friends. I feel happy and can forget some of my worries.” — 12-year-old boy



Figure 16: “Nong Ming,” one of the youth leaders who served as a Facilitator in the Child Friendly Space.

3.6

MHPSS Materials Support Findings

3.6 MHPSS Materials Support Findings

In addition to supporting activities in Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS), the project also prioritized the mental health and psychosocial recovery of children after emergency situations, particularly during the period when children and families gradually returned from evacuation centers to communities and schools. To support this, UNICEF provided mental health and psychosocial learning materials titled “*My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen*” to help children understand and manage their feelings, stress, and experiences arising from the unrest.



2,075 books
distributed



Covering **48 schools**

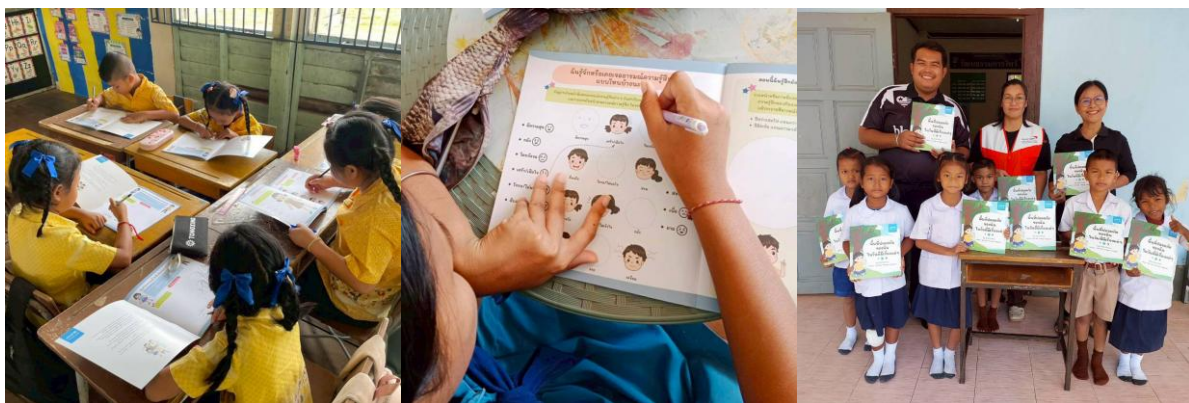


Reaching **10,621 students**

These materials were used as tools to support Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities in schools. **A total of 2,075 books were distributed across 48 schools, reaching 10,621 students.** The use of these learning materials helped children reflect on their feelings, learn how to care for their mental health, and create a safe space for their thoughts and emotions after experiencing the crisis.



Figures 17-18: Sample images of the book “*My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen*,”



Figures 19-22: Delivery of the book “My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen” in affected border area schools.

Activity Evaluation Results – MHPSS Materials Support

To evaluate the access to and utilization of the mental health and psychosocial learning material “My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen” among children and families, the project conducted a survey of parents and caregivers regarding the reading or use of the book. The evaluation results reflect the level of access and daily use of the material by children, as well as providing important insights into the effectiveness of mental health and psychosocial material support after an emergency situation. The survey results on the reading or use status of the book by respondents and their children are shown in Table 10.1.

Book Reading Status	Number (people)	Percentage (%)
Not yet read	4	3.17
Partially read	66	52.38
Read	56	44.44
Total	126	100.00

Table 10.1: Status of Reading or Using the Book “My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen”

The evaluation of respondents' opinions regarding the level of benefit of the book “*My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen*” for children found that the majority perceived the book as highly beneficial for children. **A total of 75.40% of respondents indicated that the book was “highly” or “most” beneficial.** While 16.67% perceived it as “moderately” beneficial. Those who found the book “slightly” or “very slightly” beneficial accounted for only 6.35% combined, and some respondents (1.59%) stated that they did not use it or were unaware of it.

These evaluation results indicate that mental health and psychosocial learning materials play a significant role in supporting children's learning and mental well-being after an emergency situation. Details of the book's benefit level are shown in Table 10.2.

Book Benefit Level	Number (people)	Percentage (%)
Very little benefit	6	4.76
Little benefit	2	1.59
Moderate benefit	21	16.67
Much benefit	59	46.83
Very much benefit	36	28.57
Not used / Unknown	2	1.59
Total	126	100.00

Table 10.2: Level of Benefit of the Book “*My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen*” for Children

The assessment results regarding what children learned from the book “*My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen*” revealed that most children gained knowledge and skills related to self-care and coping with difficult situations. **89.68% of respondents reported that children learned how to keep themselves safe, followed by 69.05% who stated that children gained knowledge on emergency preparedness. Additionally, 50.79% of children felt more confident in handling unexpected situations,** while 50.00% reported that children could better understand and explore their own feelings, and 47.62% observed that children were more confident in expressing and communicating their feelings.

These assessment results suggest that Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) learning materials contribute to strengthening children’s self-care skills, emergency preparedness, and emotional and social development. These are crucial components in supporting children's psychological recovery and resilience building after a crisis. Details of what children learned from the book are shown in Table 10.3.

Book Benefit Level	Number (people)	Percentage (%)
Learned how to keep themselves safe	113	89.68
Had knowledge of emergency preparedness	87	69.05
Felt more confident in handling unexpected situations	64	50.79
Understood and explored their own feelings better	63	50.00
Were more courageous in expressing and communicating their feelings	60	47.62

Table 10.3 shows what children learned from the book *“My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen”* (multiple answers allowed)

Key Achievements of MHPSS Material Support

- **96.82%** of respondents indicated that children had read or used all or part of the book *“My Safe Place When Terrible Things Happen,”* reflecting a high level of media access.
- **75.40%** found the book to be very to extremely beneficial for children, demonstrating the effectiveness of the materials in supporting Mental Health and Psychosocial Support learning.
- **89.68%** of respondents stated that children learned how to keep themselves safe from the book.

These results indicate that Mental Health and Psychosocial Support learning materials play a significant role in helping children develop self-care skills, cope with emergency situations, and understand and manage their emotions. This aligns with feedback from child beneficiaries who reported that the book helped them feel more comfortable and able to express their feelings.

Voices from Beneficiaries

“After reading it, I felt more at ease. It’s like someone understood my feelings.” — A 5th-grade girl

“I feel good. It’s like there’s something that helps me calm down.” — A 5th-grade girl

“At first, I didn’t know who to tell that I was scared, but after reading this book, I realized that others could feel the same way too.” — A 5th-grade boy

“I like this book. It has pictures to color too. When I read it, I feel more at ease and not as scared as before.” — A 3rd-grade girl

3.8

Accountability & Community Participation Findings

In addition to evaluating the outcomes of the project's core interventions, this evaluation also covered aspects transparency, community participation, and accountability to affected populations. This was to examine the extent to which beneficiaries received clear information about the project, had opportunities to participate in activities, and were able to access feedback or complaint channels.

The assessment found that key strengths of the project were information communication and fairness of assistance. Most respondents reported that they received fairly clear to very clear information about the project (82.71%) and perceived the assistance as fair and equitable (86.45% at a fairly fair to very fair level). Furthermore, most communities reported having some opportunity to express opinions or participate in activities (77.87%).

However, a remaining gap in implementation was the awareness and utilization of feedback or complaint channels. Although most respondents were aware of such channels (61.13%), only a small proportion had actually used them. This reflects an opportunity to improve communication and promote greater accessibility and use of feedback mechanisms in the future, as shown in the table below.

Assessment Issue	Number (people)	Percentage (%)
Clarity of information about the project, rights to assistance, and selection criteria		
Not clear at all	10	1.38
Not very clear	115	15.90
Fairly clear	433	59.89
Very clear	165	22.82
Opportunities for the community to express opinions or participate in activity planning		
None at all	60	8.30
Hardly any	100	13.83
Sometimes	406	56.15
Regularly participated	157	21.72
Awareness of channels for feedback or complaints		
Unaware	281	38.87
Aware but never used	359	49.65
Aware and have used	83	11.48
Receipt of response when a complaint or feedback was submitted (Only for those who used the channel) n=83		
Received a response	68	82.93
Received but delayed	15	18.07
Perception of fairness and equity of assistance		
Not fair at all	6	0.83
Not very fair	92	12.72
Fairly fair	467	64.59
Very fair	158	21.86
Total	723	100.00

Table 11 shows the assessment results on transparency, community participation, and fairness in project implementation (n=723)

The evaluation results from 723 respondents indicate that the project satisfactorily met the needs of affected populations and contributed to positive changes at both household and community levels. In particular, the project strengthened community preparedness, enhanced self-care skills among children and families, and developed local cooperation systems.

Key outcomes reflected in the evaluation include:

- 51.59% of beneficiaries were satisfied with the support at a high to very high level.
- 68.46% reported that the community had increased preparedness for future events.
- 51.87% reported that children and families had increased knowledge of self-care.
- 48.13% observed that the community had clearer assistance systems or plans.

These assessment results reflect that the project not only helped alleviate short-term impacts but also contributed to strengthening the community's capacity to cope with future situations and fostered stronger cooperation networks in the area. These are crucial factors for long-term community recovery and resilience development. Details are provided in the table below.

Satisfaction Level	Number (people)	Percentage (%)
Lowest	7	0.97
Low	34	4.70
Moderate	300	41.49
High	199	27.52
Highest	174	24.07
Not specified	9	1.24
Total	723	100.00

Table 12.1 shows the overall satisfaction level of beneficiaries with project support

Changes or lessons learned in the community	Number (people)	Percentage (%) n=723
Improved preparedness for events	495	68.46
Children and families know more about self-care	375	51.87
Clearer planning or assistance systems	348	48.13
Increased community cooperation	322	44.54
Improved coordination among local agencies	309	42.74
No clear changes observed yet	58	8.02

Table 12.2 shows positive changes and lessons learned in the community after the incident (respondents could select more than one answer)

The Day the Warning Sound Became Explosions

Stories of families affected by the unrest along the Thai–Cambodian border, Sa Kaeo Province



Recent clashes along the Thai–Cambodian border have affected populations across seven border provinces of Thailand, home to over 520,000 people. Many families, more than 320,000 individuals, were forced to evacuate to evacuation centers. Among them was the family of “Khun Mae Noknoi,” a resident of Sa Kaeo Province who was directly impacted by this unrest.

A Warning Sound No One Thought Would Lead to Serious Harm

On the morning of January 8, 2026, an alarm sounded on villagers' phones, instructing them to evacuate before 10.00 a.m. Khun Mae Noknoi recounted that, at the time, everything seemed calm, with no signs of severe incidents, especially in Sa Kaeo, which had always been peaceful.

“At first, we were indifferent. We didn’t think it would escalate. Our province had always been peaceful... Villagers were still doing housework and living normally. We didn’t think we had to rush to flee.”

Even when community leaders announced for everyone to move into the bomb shelter for safety, she still believed the situation would not become severe, until around 1:00 p.m. when the sound of explosions began to echo continuously.

“I heard constant booming sounds. At that moment, my heart wasn’t normal anymore. I immediately rushed my children, grandchildren, and elderly parents into the bunker.”

The explosions continued until the evening. When the situation began to stabilize, officials arranged vehicles to transport villagers to evacuation centers.



Image of students in the area participating in a bomb shelter drill to prepare for an emergency situation.



Bomb shelter in a community area, Sa Kaeo, which has become a common sight during periods of unrest.

BM-21 rocket: Multiple Launch Rocket System Fired Across the Border and a Heart-Stopping Image

After evacuating to a relative's house in Tha Kasem District (after leaving the evacuation centers where Khun Mae Noknoi's family stayed for one day), Khun Mae Noknoi received a photo from the village headman on January 22, 2026. It was a picture of her house destroyed by the force of an explosion. Just two days prior, the family had considered returning home, but relatives advised them to wait and monitor the situation.

“The village headman sent me a photo of our house after it was hit by the explosion. I still get goosebumps talking about it. I was both shocked and couldn’t believe it was possible. Tears welled up. Our entire house was destroyed.”

Khun Mae Noknoi's house was hit by a BM-21 rocket fired from the Cambodian military side, landing directly on the house. The force of the explosion severely damaged the wooden house, rendering it uninhabitable. She recounted that if her family had remained in the village that day, they might not have had the chance to escape.

“I didn’t think it would land on our house. If we had still been there that day, I don’t know what would have happened to the six lives in our family. But it’s better that our family had all evacuated.”



Image of the damage to Khun Mae Noknoi's house from the BM-21 rocket explosion on January 22, 2026.

Life After the Incident: Homeless, Living in a “Small Hut Next to the Cow Pen”

After the situation temporarily calmed down, the family of six planned to return home, but their house was severely damaged by the BM-21 rocket and could not be reoccupied until repairs were made using government funds, which were still pending. In the meantime, the family had to stay in a small hut used for guarding cows.

“Now all six of us are at the cow pen. We have to live in a small hut that used to be for guarding cows... It’s not as comfortable as home, but we have to stay here for now.”

At night, they often hear sounds from the Cambodian side, including the glow of forest fires and sounds resembling explosions, leaving everyone feeling wary and unable to sleep soundly.



The cow herder's hut is the temporary shelter where Khun Mae Noknoi's family must reside while awaiting house repairs.

"It's not as comfortable as home, but we have to stay here for now."
Noknoi said.

Affected Livelihoods and Unavoidable Responsibilities

House destroyed, lives changed, but livelihoods must continue. The family owns 10 cows, acquired through the Kho Burapha Project, which are their main source of income. "We can't abandon the cows; they are our livelihood... My husband has to stay and guard the cows every day, even with intermittent explosions."

In addition to raising cows, Khun Mae also farms rice and sells sweet drinks at school to support her family, all of which were affected by the sudden relocation.



Agriculture and livestock farming are the main sources of income for Khun Mae Noknoi's family.

Assistance as a Source of Strength When Everything Was Shaken

After the incident, World Vision Foundation of Thailand, along with its partners, including Plan International Thailand and UNICEF Thailand, provided humanitarian assistance. This included establishing Child Friendly Spaces in evacuation centers, offering psychosocial support, learning opportunities, and child protection, as well as providing relief items and financial aid to families.

Khun Mae Noknoi's family received initial assistance, including educational scholarships to support her children and grandchildren, essential relief items for daily living, and post-incident follow-up visits to ensure continuous support.

"I'm glad there are still people caring for us... It's like we're not alone; there are kind adults helping us during the most difficult times," she said.



World Vision Foundation provided initial relief items.



Khun Mae Noknoi's family received educational scholarships for her children and grandchildren to purchase necessary school supplies and essentials, which were damaged by the situation.

Lessons Learned and Resilience Needed to Move Forward

This experience changed Khun Mae's perspective on emergency preparedness.

“If there’s another warning, I won’t be indifferent like the first time... Now I’ve prepared some clothes, medicine, and important documents. When an emergency occurs, we can evacuate to a safe area immediately.”

Even though their home is damaged, life is difficult, and fear will not disappear anytime soon, this family remains steadfast with the hope that one day, they will return to a safe home again.



“I’m glad there are still people caring for us... It’s like we’re not alone; there are kind adults helping us during the most difficult times.”
.....Noknoi

4

Challenges and Lessons Learned

From this emergency response operation, it was found that key factors contributing to the effective response to the needs of affected populations included community participation, collaboration with partners, and prioritizing the protection and psychosocial recovery of children and families. Key lessons learned include:

1. Community engagement enhances response agility.

The involvement of community leaders, volunteers, and local agencies facilitated rapid access to evacuation centers and coordination, aligning with the needs of affected populations.

2. Child Friendly Spaces are crucial mechanisms for mitigating psychological impact.

Establishing Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) provides children with appropriate areas for play, learning, and expression, thereby reducing stress and fear caused by conflict situations.

3. Psychosocial support should be integrated with material assistance.

Humanitarian response focusing solely on essential items may be insufficient in conflict contexts. Integrating Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities into programs for children and families strengthens psychological resilience and helps affected populations adapt better to the situation.

4. Proactive preparedness enhances response effectiveness.

Having preparedness plans, emergency kits, and clear coordination systems enables rapid initiation of emergency response when an emergency occurs.

5. Developing networks of community volunteers and youth leaders is a vital resource.

Having local volunteers skilled in child protection, child activity facilitation, and psychosocial support allows for more comprehensive expansion of activities to evacuation centers.

6. Inter-agency coordination improves response efficiency.

Collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and local partners plays a crucial role in enhancing the efficiency of emergency response. Close coordination reduces duplication of assistance and ensures resources are utilized appropriately to meet the needs of affected populations.

7. Operational flexibility is essential in rapidly changing situations.

Conflict and displacement situations are dynamic, requiring operational flexibility to adjust activity plans, assistance modalities, and resource allocation to respond promptly to the needs of affected populations.

8. Utilizing data from situation assessments improves decision-making effectiveness.

Conducting a Rapid Assessment enables the team to understand the true needs of affected populations in evacuation centers and use this information for appropriate activity planning and resource allocation.

5 Recommendations

To enhance the effectiveness of future emergency response, the following mechanisms and operational guidelines are recommended for further development:

1) Develop Emergency Child Support Kits

Kits for child activities and psychosocial support should be developed for immediate use in evacuation centers. This approach will facilitate the rapid establishment of Child-Friendly Spaces during emergencies. These may include:

- Art activity kits
- Learning through play equipment
- Psychosocial activity manuals for volunteers

2) Establish a network of Child Protection Community Volunteers

A network of Child Protection Community Volunteers should be strengthened to enable the expansion of activities to multiple evacuation centers simultaneously and to reduce the burden on field teams. Volunteers should receive training in areas. These may include:

- Child activity facilitation
- Psychosocial support
- Child protection in emergency settings

3) Develop a Rapid Community Monitoring system

Simple data collection tools should be developed to enable timely monitoring of the situation and adjustment of assistance plans. These may include:

- Short needs assessment surveys
- Situation reporting system from local volunteers
- Use of digital tools for data monitoring

4) Integrate Conflict-Sensitive Programming approaches

Working in conflict-vulnerable areas requires operational approaches that are sensitive to the conflict context, such as:

- Communication that does not create community tension
- Designing activities that foster community cooperation
- Reducing the risk of conflict in evacuation centers

5) Develop a Preparedness System for emergency response

This approach will ensure future responses are rapid, effective, and minimize impact on the population. A comprehensive preparedness system should be developed, including:

- Preparing emergency response teams
- Stockpiling emergency supplies
- Conducting disaster response drills with local agencies

This emergency response operation highlights the crucial role of collaboration among government agencies, partners, and communities in providing timely humanitarian assistance to affected populations. Simultaneously, lessons learned from the operation underscore the necessity of strengthening preparedness systems, developing the capacity of personnel and community volunteer networks, and developing rapid-response tools and mechanisms for crises. Moving forward, incorporating these recommendations into future work will help strengthen the humanitarian response system and enhance the capacity of agencies and communities to protect children, families, and vulnerable groups, enabling them to cope with emergencies more effectively and sustainably.