

RCC member countries

Thailand



Country Information

Region: Southeast Asia

Population: Approximately 69 million

Capital: Bangkok

GDP (US\$): \$445.221 billion

Geography: Thailand has high mountains in the northern regions, a central plain or low-land areas, and Khorat Plateau In the northeastern part of the country.

General climate: Thailand's climate is tropical, rainy, warm and cloudy. There are three official seasons (monsoon, summer, winter), but the southern isthmus of Thailand always remains hot and humid.

INFORM Risk Rating: 4.1

Risk Summary

- Thailand's location in the Pacific Rim renders it especially prone to natural hazards such as floods, typhoons, landslides, droughts and earthquakes.

- Flooding is the most frequent and serious hazard, with Songkhla and Nakorn Sri Thammarat provinces experiencing flash floods and heavy rainfall year round. Bangkok is occasionally called the “wet city” due to prolonged inundation caused by overflowing of the Chao Phraya River.
- Landslides occur following flash floods generated by continuous heavy downpours. Recently, Thailand has experienced an increase in the intensity and frequency of landslides due to deforestation, cultivation of cash crops in sloping areas, and destruction of land surface.
- High water demands for agricultural and industrial production have increased instances of drought across the country.
- Tsunamis in Thailand are rare but they are capable of making landfall and causing extreme damage (e.g. 2004 tsunami).

Disaster Management System

The Disaster Management System based on the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act 2007 (DPM Act 2007), came into force on 6 November 2007 and implements Thailand’s national Disaster Management (DM) Institutional arrangement. All disaster management activities are directed and controlled by the Commanders/ Directors at three levels; National, Provincial, and Local.

National Level

- **Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM)**

The DDPM is the central state agency for disaster risk management. It is responsible for formulating and monitoring the implementation of the National Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan; undertaking research on disaster prevention and mitigation; carrying out disaster prevention and mitigation activities; coordinating operational efforts with relevant agencies; and providing consultation and training on disaster prevention and mitigation to relevant agencies.

- **National Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Committee (NDPMC)**

The NDPMC, chaired by the Prime Minister, is mandated to formulate policies for the National Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan; ensure the integration of the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation System into the development plans of relevant government agencies; provide advice, consultation and support on disaster management; and stipulate the financial regulations for disaster prevention and mitigation activities.

- **Bureau of the National Safety Council of Thailand (BNSCT)**

The BNSCT helps mitigate traffic accidents, chemical and work-related accidents, accidents in private and public settings, and fires in high-rise buildings.

Sub-National Level

- **Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Committee (DPMC)**

The BMA's DPMC is mandated to formulate the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan for Bangkok; oversee and conduct training for volunteers in Bangkok; maintain equipment; and support local administrations in disaster prevention.

- **Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Committee (PDPMC)**

The PDPMC is responsible for formulating the Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan; overseeing and providing training for volunteers; overseeing and investigating local administrations responsible for equipment; and assisting in disaster response.

Helpful Links and Sources

Thailand country profile:

<https://data.worldbank.org/country/thailand>

Thailand Disaster Management Reference Handbook:

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/disaster-mgmt-ref-hdbk-thailand.pdf>

Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation website:

<http://www.disaster.go.th/en/>

INFORM country risk profile:

<http://www.inform-index.org/countries/country-profiles>