

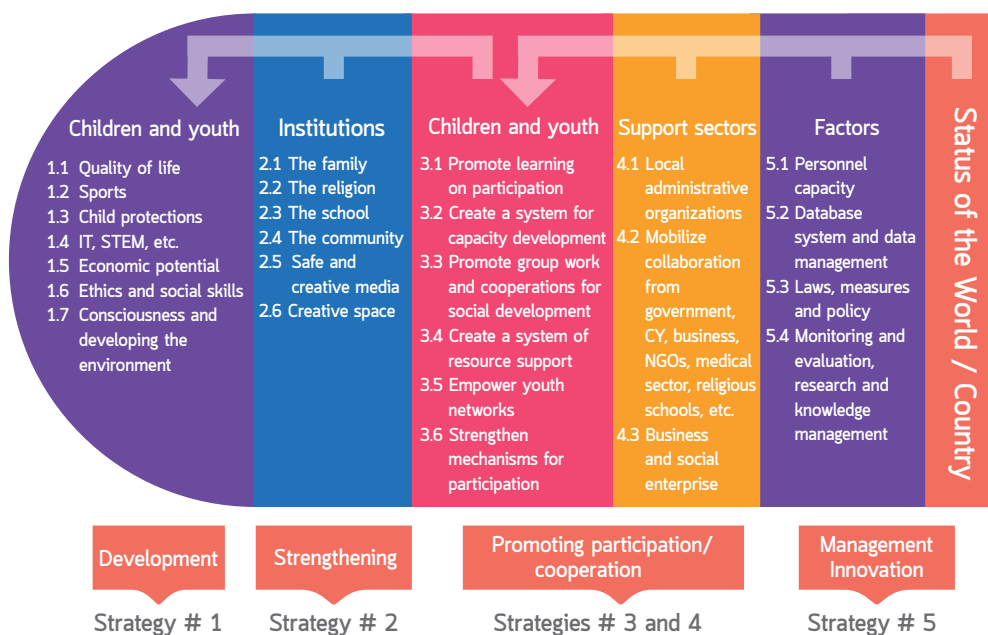
In 2019, Thailand's Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) ranked 40<sup>th</sup> among 141 countries around the world. However, the country ranked only 73<sup>rd</sup> among countries for its score of the human capital's skill competitiveness.

“Building the quality of life and capacity of Thai adolescents and youth so that they have the requisite knowledge and skills to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in good health, with morals, social consciousness, economic potential, social and environmental skills, is a pre-condition for national development as well.”

The policy framework which defines the direction of development of the current generation of Thai adolescents and youth is articulated in 2<sup>nd</sup> National Plan for Children and Youth Development for the period of 2017-2021. The plan has five main strategies to achieve the vision: “Thai children and youth enjoy quality of life, have age-appropriate development, are creative citizens, and are fully engaged as partners in national development.” However, in the context of the present time, there are many challenges to achieving such a lofty vision. The ASEAN Youth Development Index for 2017 shows that Thailand ranked 8<sup>th</sup> among the ten member countries. The two areas that need special attention for Thai youth are “health and well-being”, and “participation and engagement.”

## Vision, Conceptual Framework, and Strategies of 2<sup>nd</sup> National Plan for Children and Youth Development, 2017-2021

**Vision :** Thai children and youth enjoy quality of life, have age-appropriate development, are creative citizens, and are fully engaged as partners in national development.

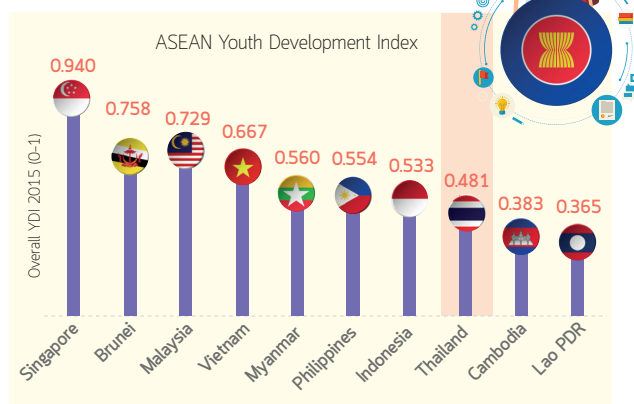


Remarks : “Child” means a person under 18 years, while “youth” means a person age 18 to 25 years

Source : 2<sup>nd</sup> National Plan for Children and Youth Development, 2017-2021 (Including the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Action Plan for Child and Youth Development, 2017-2021)

National Commission for Promotion of the Development of Children and Youth (2018)

## ASEAN Youth Development Index (age 15-35)



Remark : ASEAN Youth Development Index calculated on relevant four indicators, namely education, health and well-being, participation and employment and socio-economic opportunity  
Source : First ASEAN Youth Development Index 2017, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



## Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) of Thailand

Overall Global Competitiveness Index (GCI)			Human Capital: **Skills development	
Year	Score (0-100)	Rank*	Score (0-100)	Rank*
2017	66.3	40	62.8	66
2018	67.5	38	63.0	66
2019	68.1	40	62.3	73

Remarks : \*The ranking is for 135 countries in 2017, 140 countries in 2018, and 141 countries in 2019  
\*\*The score of the GCI is a composite of the scores in four areas: Enabling environment, human capital, markets, innovation ecosystem. Skills development is one sub-component of the human capital dimension  
Source : The Global Competitiveness Report 2019, World Bank

## Objectives of establishing the Equitable Education Fund (EEF)



Source : Summarised from the Equitable Education Act (B.E. 2561), Equitable Education Fund

The Master Plan for Life-long Capacity Development of the 20-year National Strategy (2018-2037) has a sub-plan directed at the development of school-age adolescents and youth. One of the indicators for tracking progress of Plan achievement is the Skills Competiveness Score, which is part of the Global Competiveness Index (GCI) of the World Economic Forum. In any event, the 2019 report on country scores, shows that Thailand is actually declining relative to other countries (from a rank of 66<sup>th</sup> in 2018 to 73<sup>rd</sup> one year later, among 141 countries). This shows how important it is for Thailand to focus on building capacity of its adolescents and youth, most of whom are school age. There must be universal access to quality education and equality in education for all segments of Thai society.

The Equitable Education Fund Act (B.E. 2561) included the creation of a fund to reduce inequality of educational opportunity. The vision is that all school-age Thai children and youth have access to quality education on an equal basis, as that is a key ingredient of human capacity development and achieving a quality population for the long-term.

### "Equitable Education"

means all the people are equally entitled to receive and access education and development; assistance is given to financially deprived persons to alleviate educational inequality and enhance the quality and efficiency of teachers.



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