6.1 million Thai people earn less than $1.30 a day
23% of the Thai population is at risk of being falling below the poverty line
82% of poor people live in rural areas

Over the past three decades Thailand has observed spectacular economic growth that has raised per capita income substantially. But poverty still exists among vulnerable and marginalised people in urban and rural areas. The country has one of the greatest gaps between rich and poor in East Asia, and the gap continues to grow.

We believe that, by promoting equal opportunities for all, poor people can be empowered to participate in and influence government policies, to resolve these ongoing issues.
We work with non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, activists, academics, researchers, government, and civil-society groups to address poverty issues, and to reduce the poverty gap among Thai people.

In the 1960s and ’70s, Oxfam helped refugees from Laos and Cambodia, and helped treat people affected by leprosy. In the 1980s and ’90s, Oxfam funded handicraft-production projects, and sold the products from these groups in UK Oxfam shops.

Oxfam helped coastal communities along the Andaman coast hit by the Asian Tsunami in 2004 by supporting an early warning system for future disasters—a system that has already saved the lives of fishers faced with strong storms at sea.

We help people living with HIV to access free treatment.

Oxfam works with a number of organisations who promote sustainable agriculture. Large scale financial support to develop sustainable agriculture has been launched, and sustainable agriculture has been declared a national agenda. Organic farming—which brings high yields with low financial input—has increased and many organic farmers have increased their income and reduced or paid off their debts. There is strong competition between conventional rice and organic rice, nationally and internationally.

We work with the Federation of Smallscale Fisherfolk to promote using and managing coastal resources sustainably. In seven provinces the coastal conservation zone has expanded from 3 km to 5.4 km. The Fisherfolk network is now empowered for better dialogue with the Government on fishery policies and regulations.

We’re working with Prince of Songkla University to help vulnerable people and promote peace building in the southern border provinces, where conflict between radical ethnic Malay-Muslims and the Thai State obstructs social, economic, civil and political development. We focus on improving socio-economic opportunities for poor women affected by the conflict, and promoting women’s roles in peace building. We also try to improve sustainable natural resources management by communities, particularly in agriculture and fishery, and help the communities prepare for, and minimise the impact of, natural disasters.