Thailand UHPR: Global Peer Review

14 February 2024
Outline:

1. Thailand’s profile
2. UHPR approach
3. Main findings
4. Best practices & challenges
   a. Governance
   b. Systems
   c. Finance
5. Priority areas for cooperation with Member States
6. Remedial actions taken to address the identified challenges
1. Thailand’s Profile

2021

- Population: 71.6 million
- GNI per capita: $US 7,090

Health status:
- U5MR: 8.3/1,000 LBs
- MMR (2020): 29/100,000 LBs
- Life expectancy at birth: 78.7 years

- Physicians (2020): 0.9/1,000 pop
- Nurse + midwives (2019): 3.1/1,000 pop

- UHC in 2002 with comprehensive package and almost no co-payment
- Gov. health spending (2020): 13.2 % GGE (UMIC average = 11.6 % GGE)
- Current Health Expenditure (2020): 4.4 % GDP (UMIC average = 7.5 % GDP)
- Out of pocket payment (2020): 10.5 % CHE (UMIC average = 29.8 % CHE)

Demographic Transitions

- Rapid demographic transitions: significant increase of life expectancy result in **ageing society**.

- NCDs and road injuries were top 10 causes of DALYs loss in 2019.

- The ageing society with high rates of chronic diseases is vulnerable to emerging infectious diseases.

Source: IHME. [https://www.healthdata.org/research-analysis/health-by-location/profiles/thailand](https://www.healthdata.org/research-analysis/health-by-location/profiles/thailand), as of 8 Feb 2024
2. UHPR approaches

Timeline

- 2021 Thailand MOPH committed to participate in pilot UHPR
- 2022
  - Jan-Mar: tele meeting to prepare the activities
  - 4-5 Apr: onsite preparation
  - 21-29 Apr: UHPR week
- July 2022: multi-sectoral meeting of the National Review Phase
Topics for Simulation Exercise

1. Information
2. Risk communication / public communication
3. Essential health services
4. Vaccines
5. Point of entry & Quarantine
6 High-Level Meetings

2 Simulation Exercises

13 Site Visits

29 Interviews
Thailand’s strong commitment
to support global efforts to end the pandemic
and better prepare for future health threats

❑ Universal access to COVID-19 vaccines
❑ Support cooperation to boost production capacity of medical supplies and pharmaceutical products
❑ further strengthen pandemic preparedness and response at all levels, national, regional and global

Statement by His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha,
the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
at the Global COVID-19 Summit: Ending the Pandemic and Building Back Better
on 22 September 2021

https://www.mfa.go.th/en/content/globalcovid2021-2?cate=5d5bcb4e15e39c3060006848
“With close collaboration between the Ministry of Public Health Thailand and WHO, this UHPR pilot will be very beneficial not only to Thailand but also to other WHO member states on its process, methods, and technical content.”

Arun Charnvirakul
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health of Thailand
25 April 2022
Ministry of Labour
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
National Health Security Office
Social Security Office
Thai Health Promotion Foundation
3. Main Findings: Strengths

**Governance:**
- High-level political commitment
- Effective whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, authorize provincial governors leading responses in province
- Agile, use of sciences and evidence informed decision

**Health systems:**
- Resilient health system, based on decades of investment in PHC and UHC, >1000 SRRT, >1M village health volunteers
- Full access to prevention, treatment with zero copayment by all including vaccine, no-fault compensation for moderate and severe AEFIs from COVID-19 vaccination.

**Communities:**
- Strong and meaningful social participation, mobilize social capital and social network
3. Main Findings: Challenges

Governance:
- Cross sectoral integration of data for timely management
- Inadequate and untimely response to misinformation, antivax and politicization of vaccines.

Health systems:
- Inadequate preparedness and PHC capacity in urban areas
- Sustaining capacity and sharing innovations after a pandemic
- Unknown medical waste management in the community

Communities:
- Large size of population in vulnerable situations especially urban congested areas
- Pandemic ‘fatigue’ and public complacency
4. Best practices & challenges: Governance

Best Practices

• High-level Commitment
• Efficient *multisectoral collaboration*
• Effective whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches
• Effective *public communications*
• Community involvement and National Health Assembly Mechanism

Challenges

• Limited engagement with private sectors
• Politicization of covid vaccines by opposition parties
4. Best practices & challenges: Systems

Best Practices

- Robust, agile, and national and inter-country coordination systems for emergency preparedness.
- Well-established functional national and sub-national mechanisms –
  - Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA): National EOC
  - National Communicable Diseases Committee,
  - Provincial Communicable Diseases Committees.
- Resilient health system, UHC, and extensive PHC network

Challenges

- Inadequate multi-sectoral data integration sectors for policy decision by Emergency Operations Centres.
- Suboptimal medical waste management practices
- Insufficient workforce and surge capacity during health emergencies.
- Inadequate measures to counteract fake news, mis-information.
- Urban setting: vulnerable populations, slum dwellers, migrant workers.
- Limited engagement by private sector.
4. Best practices & challenges: Finance

Best Practices

• Total health expenditure for pandemic response*
  • 2020 US$ 328 million, $4.6 per capita
  • 2021 US$ 4,136 million, $58 per capita
  • Source: internal loan US$ 13.94 billion for all sectors: health, welfare, financial aid, economic rehabilitation.

• Balancing health, economic and labour interest: Innovation “bubble and seal’ in factories, continue production line instead of closing-down factories.

Challenges

• Limited domestic production capacity for pandemic response products

• Rigid public financial management hinders
  • rapid timely budget execution
  • Advance market commitment of vaccine

• Inadequate multi-sector coordination in providing financial support to the needy population.

*Source: IHPP National Health Account 2020, 2021
https://doi.org/10.1002/hpm.3464
5. Priority areas for cooperation

Learning and sharing through WHO SEAR, WPR, ASEAN and others:
- SOP on EOC, and pandemic management
- Training of multi-disciplinary workforce on epidemiology and public health
- Public health and social measures
- Risk communication, infodemic management

Regional collaborations
- ACPHEED*: boost capacity to detect, prevent, respond, and mitigate
  - Strengthen IHR core capacity, especially POE, border health collaboration
- Upcoming training in Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM)
- Strengthen genome sequencing capacity and interpretation
- Integrate one health surveillance
- Mapping regional manufacturing capacity of PPE, therapeutics and vaccine
- Epidemiology data sharing

*ACPHEED = ASEAN Center for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases
Thailand’s Key Success Factors of COVID-19 Pandemic Response

- **Technology**
  - Health info & vaccine
  - Surveillance: Disease & virus
  - Applications

- **Leadership**
  - Government CCSA
  - Finance
  - Risk Communication

- **Community**
  - VHV, Migrant HV, Leaders
  - CD committee in local
  - Legislation and guidelines

- **Collaborations**
  - Lab, Treatment, Disease Control
  - Gov., Private, NGO, University
  - Employer & employee

- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**
  - Health Security
  - Health Service System
  - Vaccine management
6. Actions: Ongoing actions to address the challenges
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- Ongoing
  - Multi-disciplinary health workforce strengthening through in-service training.
  - Boost domestic production capacities of diagnostics, PPE, therapeutics, vaccines
  - Strengthen data interoperability, data integration.

- Upcoming document and develop SOP
  - EOC management
  - Prevention, preparedness and response to different phase of pandemic
  - Medical waste management in health care facilities and communities and
  - Business continuity plan to maintain essential health services

- Major challenges
  - Minimize vulnerability in population through strengthening social capital
Thank You