

Piloting the UHPR in Thailand, April 2022

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Country context

- Thailand's long term investments in infrastructure, technology and human resource capacity, providing the robust and well-resourced medical and public health system.
- Experience with SARS-1, H5N1 Avian influenza, pandemic H1N1 influenza and MERS helped Thailand build expertise and understanding that enhanced preparedness.
- “Whole of government” and “whole of society” approach was adopted in Thailand.
- Active and consultation were actively sought from sectors of society, both public and private to mitigate impacts of the outbreak and protect national health security.

Piloting the UHPR in Thailand: process (I)

**UHPR Highlighted multi-sectoral collaboration
Information from various stakeholders provided to experts panel
on the issue of COVID-19 pandemic response:**

Evaluated on 3 pillars

- 1) Governance and leadership
- 2) National health emergency system
- 3) Sustainable financing



Piloting the UHPR in Thailand: process (II)

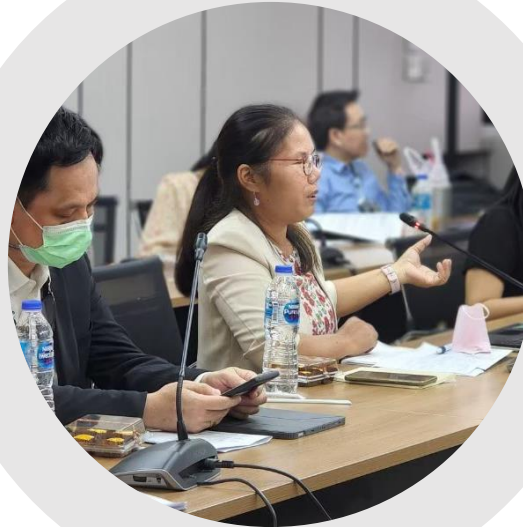
- 13 Site visits
- 6 High Level Meetings
- 29 Sessions of Interview
- 2 Simulation exercises

Thailand selected 12 areas for evaluation

- 1) Research
- 2) Work Force Development
- 3) Medical Waste Management
- 4) Disease Control
- 5) Risk Communication
- 6) Access to Basic Health Services
- 7) Access to Essential Medicine
- 8) Essential Health Services
- 9) Vaccine Management
- 10) EOC
- 11) Health Information
- 12) Laboratory



Key highlights from the UHPR pilot in Thailand



- **Governance and leadership**
- **National Health Emergency System**
- **Sustainable Financing**

Key highlights from the UHPR pilot in Thailand (I)

Governance and leadership

- **There is clear engagement from senior leaders who coordinate with various sectors, including the public, private, social and educational sectors.**
- **Whole-of-government led by PM, whole-of-society approach, agile and adaptive to emerging size of pandemic, use of sciences in decision and transparent communication to public on cases and deaths, public health and social measures**

Key highlights from the UHPR pilot in Thailand (II)

National Health Emergency System

- A good coordinating structure is in place, in particular the operations of the CCSA and the National and Provincial Communicable Disease Committee.
- Public health emergency response systems are flexible and data-driven.
- RRT and a robust lab. network are critical to rapid detection, investigation and response including internationally recognized FETP program.
- Operational cooperation among sectors especially the VHV network has been existing in all parts of the country. It is an important mechanism to support the work of disease prevention and control.
- People can access free COVID-19 treatments and vaccines.
- Advanced Technology and Innovation Includes applied research to identify operational and policy direction.

Key highlights from the UHPR pilot in Thailand (III)

Sustainable Financing

- **A strong public health system and UHC have been in place for a long time. As a result, the country's public health system is sustainable and predictable.**
- **Significant budget approval from Central Fund and internal borrows to address pandemic. All patients Thai and non-Thai access to care with zero copayment including vaccine**

Challenges from the UHPR pilot

- Health emergency response in **urban** and vulnerable population
- **Migrant population** residing in Thailand (2,167,937 registered migrant workers in Thailand, Ministry of Labour, 2022): access to education and health services, relied on mainly NGO operation
- Strategic partnership with **private sector**
- **Data integration** of multi-sectoral for policy decision
- Sustain **innovation** as a result of pandemic response
- Medical **waste management**
- Production capacity of **medical countermeasures** including vaccine and diagnostic tests
- Effective and coordinated **communication** with public and patients who need support
- **Public financial management** has yet to be strengthened for timely disbursement to responses at the front-line



Conclusion

- Method and process of UHPR are in pilot stage and need well advance planning, multi-sectoral coordination, and simplification. Plus, it should be flexible to country context
- UHPR can be a useful tool for evaluation at national and sub - national levels. it engages with highest political level and create accountability for delivery of NAPHS
- Thailand will move forward with action to the useful recommendations



