



Promoting Thailand's
leading role in
global health



Fostering
Health Security



Enhancing capacity
of officials and institutions
and improving the quality
of global health
information



Promoting
policy coherence



Strengthening fair
and equitable
health system

Thailand Global Health Strategic Framework 2016 - 2020



Preface

Thailand Global Health Strategic Framework 2016-2020 was initiated and developed by the Ministry of Public Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and concerned ministries and agencies aiming to promote national policy coherence on global health across sectors. It also aims to enhance Thailand's health security which in turn can help contribute to sustainable economic and social development and to join hands with other countries in the global health policy development process.

The Ministry of Public Health wishes to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Health Commission Office, Global Health advisers to the Ministry of Public Health, health experts and all participants of the 7th National Health Assembly for their contributions to a success of the final draft of this Framework.

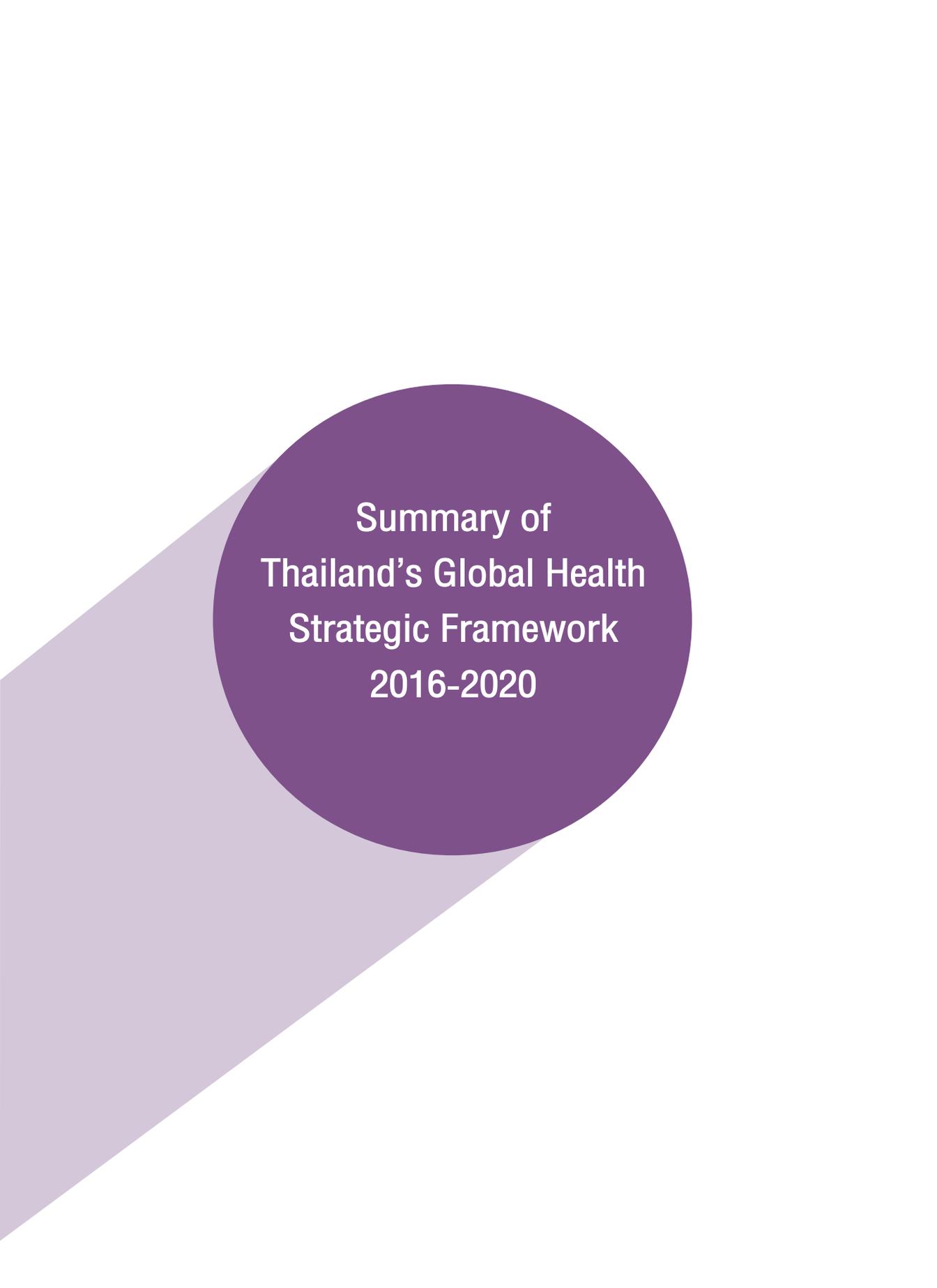
It is hoped that this Framework be useful for all concerned agencies working toward global health development and serve as a source of information on global health for the public.

Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

May 2017

Table of Contents

Preface	1
Summary of Thailand Global Health Strategic Framework 2016-2020	4
Thailand Global Health Strategic Framework 2016-2020	6
1. Regional and Global Health Situation and Movements	6
2. Thailand's Role in Global Health and at the Regional Level	9
3. Past Challenges of Global Health Implementation in Thailand	11
4. The Need for a Thai Global Health Strategic Framework	12
5. Principles of the Global Health Strategic Framework	14
6. SWOT Analysis	14
7. Conceptual Framework	16
8. Goals	17
9. Strategic objectives	17
10. Strategic Actions	18
11. Mechanisms for Monitoring and Evaluation	21
12. Expected Outcomes	21
Appendix 1 Global Health Strategic Framework Development Process	22
Appendix 2 Abbreviations	24



**Summary of
Thailand's Global Health
Strategic Framework
2016-2020**

Summary of Thailand's Global Health Strategic Framework 2016-2020

Scope and purpose

This strategic framework aims at promoting national policy coherence on global health between health and non-health agencies. It can be applied to the implementation of global health works at national level as well as in international cooperation related to socio-economic collaboration, trade negotiations, and Thailand's commitments to international agreements concerning health.

Expected outcomes

1. Health security of people in Thailand.
2. Thailand's contribution to global health agendas setting and leading roles in eight areas:



3. Policy coherence between public policy and global health policy as well as balance of interests between trade/investment and people's health.
4. Resilient, fair and equitable health system.
5. Capable officials and institutions and quality information which can continue supporting global health work.

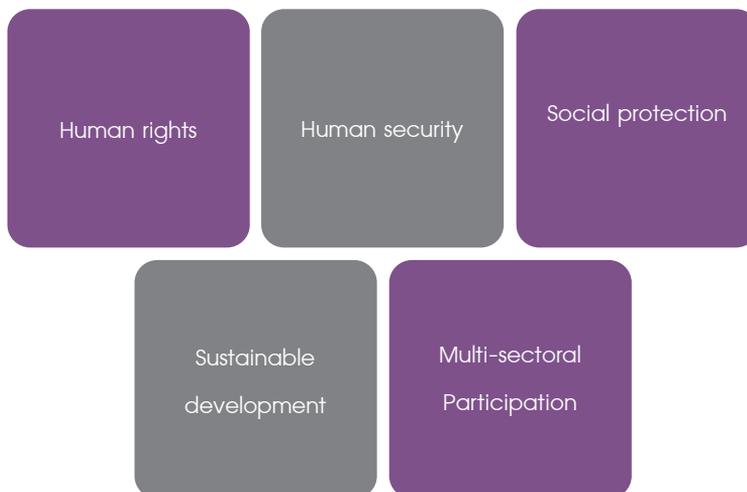
Goal

To ensure national health security and contribute to global health development.

Strategic Objectives



Guiding principles



Definition

“Global Health” covers the issues related to health problems or concerns across the borders or the consequences outside borders exceeding the ability of one single state to handle successfully and requires collaborative mechanisms from all sectors at regional and international levels to address health issues and determinants.

“Global Health System” encompasses the system and mechanism used to address cross border health issues and requires contribution from all sectors including government, private sector, and civil society as well as international cooperation.

1. Regional and Global Health Situation and Movements

1.1 Changes in regional and global health issues

Over the past three decades, globalization has led to rapid changes in global and regional health problems. The problems in the past caused of under-development, including maternal and child health, infectious diseases, malnutrition, and lack of good sanitation are shifted to the current problems including emerging infectious diseases such as avian influenza and Ebola virus disease, the spread of antimicrobial resistance. Besides, chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and disabilities are on the rise. Global warming and free trade agreements also have an impact on health and health system. In addition, countries with more advanced in socioeconomic and technological development would have more demand and higher expectations from their populations in quality health services. These indeed poses the challenges to the health sector as how to increase access to quality health services that are essential, but costly and also how to address the health problems from cross border labours and migrants, stateless persons, and refugees.

These issues cannot be tackled solely by government sectors, to be specific; the Ministry of Public Health or a single international organization alone as these problems are related to missions and duties of several ministries, international organizations, business sectors and civil society.

1.2 Changes in Health System Governance Mechanisms

The governance of the global health system has been significantly changed over the past three decades. The World Health Organization and organizations under the United Nations as well as government agencies, especially, Ministry of Public Health are no longer the sole actors that play a role in global health. Changes in international economy and politics, as well as geopolitics have resulted in increasing number of national regional and international organizations driving the response to health problems, such as the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, and specialized organizations of the United Nations, international philanthropic foundations, international non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations, and development funds established by wealthy nations. Some organizations have implemented activities independently and many form partnership networks focused on global health development such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria which has been able to raise nearly one trillion Baht over the past decades.

In addition, regional integration as communities such as, the European Community, ASEAN Community, and other economic communities, such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), have created positive affect by working together on health issues as well as negative effects by creating agreements which impacted health. These actors and mechanisms have also greatly impacted on the role of traditional global and national organizations like the World Health Organization and Ministries of Public Health. This has resulted in a change in national, regional and global health governance from a single actor driven towards network or diverse actors driven.

1.3 Relationship between Health and Foreign Affairs

Due to the changing health situations and health governance, health has become an important instrument for foreign affairs in building country's good image, protecting national interest in the global arena, and global security and peace

keeping. In recent years, many countries have developed their global health strategies to promote health in coherence with foreign policy, appointing its Health Ambassadors or Health Attaché to embassies. In some countries, personnel responsible for international health issues in the Ministry of Health are from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and global health agencies within the Ministry of Health are established as the departments.

In 2006, Ministers of Foreign Affairs from 7 countries including Brazil, France, Indonesia, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, and Thailand, which pay particular attention on global health, established the “Foreign Policy and Global Health (FPGH) Initiative” to advocate global health issues in the international forum. For example, in 2012, this group was successful in pushing the Global Health and Foreign Policy resolution on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to be endorsed by the UN General Assembly.

Thailand’s capability as well as social and intellectual capital on health have been highly recognised at the regional and global levels. These include the improvement in health services at all levels, development of human resources for health, improvement of health service quality, addressing specific health issues (such as HIV/AIDS, tobacco control) and the success in universal health coverage which become a key instrument in promoting foreign policy and global health.

1.4 Good Health Promotes Development

Health was as such well placed in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) because it has been well recognised that good health of people can contribute to national economic and social development. As MDGs came to the end of their term, the new Sustainable Development Goals, so called “SDGs” adopted at the 70th UN General Assembly in September 2015. Health is one of 17 goals and comprises 13 health targets, including universal health coverage, eliminating AIDS, controlling the spread of tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases, reducing the number of deaths related to non-communicable diseases and promoting maternal and child health care. In this regard, all UN member countries have used them as a foundation in determining their national strategies and long term development plans.

Thailand is located in South East Asia, which is considered as a region with high dynamics in economy, politics and society, and has developed to ASEAN Community in 2015. ASEAN member countries convened several rounds of consultation to develop its regional health agenda in the post 2015 resulted in 20 key priority issues under 4 health development clusters: (1) promoting healthy lifestyle; (2) responding to all hazards and emerging threats; (3) strengthening the health system and access to care; (4) ensuring food safety. To achieve in implementation of important issues aforementioned, capability, readiness and strong cooperation among stakeholders in the country is required.

2. Thailand's Role in Global Health and at the Regional Level

Thailand has played a leadership role in international health through bilateral, sub-regional, regional global cooperation. The leading roles include agenda setting, participating in policy design, exchanging knowledge and experiences in health system development, serving as a location for study visits related to health to develop the capacity of human resources from other countries.

In addition, Thailand has cooperation in health area with neighbouring countries, ASEAN Member States and countries in other regions such as in Africa and the Pacific Islands. The technical assistance is related to various issues such as universal health coverage, epidemiology, disease surveillance and control as well as providing health care to the people living along the borders of neighbouring countries. Thailand has also provided humanitarian aid to countries affected by natural disasters (e.g. Haiti and Nepal) or disease outbreaks (such as Ebola outbreak in Western African).

Thailand has an important role in agenda and global health policy setting, taking the standpoint of solving health problems both domestically and globally which help address health problems in developing countries. Some examples are detailed below.

- **Addressing AIDS:** Thailand has been successful in many aspects such as the 100% Condoms Use project implemented to female sex workers in order to prevent

the spread of HIV/AIDS to the general public, the prevention of maternal to child transmission (MTCT), comprehensive blood donation screening, strategic database for monitoring the HIV situation which can be used in planning and assessing progress. Provision of universal access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) for all AIDS patients, as well as to over 3,000 migrant workers using funding from the GFATM for support of medicines and lab tests, as well as supplemental domestic funding at nearly 90 percent of the overall budget for operations. This makes clear the intent to prevent and solve all aspects related to HIV/AIDS, leading to advancement in work related to AIDS in Thailand, clearly reducing the problems and negative impacts, and widely accepted at the international level.

- **Success in Universal Health Coverage;** UHC is a domestically driven success, regardless of the opposition from international development partners such as the World Bank countering that such policy is risky for a developing country which may lead to the downfall of the economy due to higher health related expenditures. This success has provided equitable access to health services for the Thai people, reduced inequalities and encouraged many countries with similar or lower economic conditions than Thailand to realize that it is possible to be successful. Many countries have started to have goals related to universal health coverage which is an important foundation for the overall health system development. As a result, people will have access to health services and disease prevention, and will receive the appropriate care such as cataract surgery, receiving the appropriate medication for HIV/AIDS patients, dialysis for end-stage renal diseases, angiography, etc. In response to this, Thailand with member countries from the “Foreign Policy and Global Health” network advocated for the UHC policy to be included on the agenda of the UN General Assembly 2015, and for UHC to be included in the Sustainable Development Goal 3.

- **Implementation of Health Promotion;** This success story includes the establishment of the Tobacco and Alcohol Excise Tax Health Promotion Fund and advocating for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which was well implemented in accordance with domestic policy, eventually receiving recognition

and identified as a leading country in successfully controlling tobacco consumption. This is an important component for tackling non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as well as provides a budget for the control of other risk factors and encourages healthy activities in a wider circle. This success story provides a good example in promoting effective policies and interventions in health promotion for other countries.

- **Compulsory Licensing (CL)** providing increased access to essential medicines following the decrease in costs. This also helps to reduce the budget borne by households and the government as well as serve as an example for other countries to implement the TRIPS flexibilities for essential medicines.

- **Advocating for benefit sharing avian influenza viruses;** there were variations in countries' contribution by sending samples for keeping at the laboratory at the WHO Collaborating Centres. Companies producing vaccines can use the samples to produce vaccines and set their own price, while contributing countries not receiving any benefits from sharing those viruses. The argument regarding this issue at the policy level was successful but took more than 9 years with vaccine producing companies agreeing to invest in a Central Fund to develop and prepare for outbreaks in developing countries, which is also an important foundation for controlling influenza outbreaks or pandemic of other infectious diseases in the future.

While implementation of health policies has resulted in economic benefits for the country and the Thai people, implementation of economic policy, in particular free trade agreement (FTA) may have a negative impact on the health of the people. Therefore, efficient coordination between agencies and the public is necessary to minimise this impact and maximise benefits for Thailand.

3. Past Challenges to Global Health Implementation in Thailand

In a situation with the various changes whether they be complex health problems, boundaries that are not limited to the health sector, an evolving global health structure and mechanisms, numerous international organizations involved, global and regional agendas with health as an important factor, as well as international

competition using health as a tool, Thailand has had to take a proactive stance. This means having a vision and position on global health issues as well as adjusting mechanisms to promote health of the population, create national health security for the country which will help drive the economy and society, and support regional and global development. Systematic implementation will benefit the development of international relations, enhance Thailand's roles in the international arena and enhance the ability to compete at the international level. This will result in Thailand receiving full benefits from ASEAN and safeguarding against negative impacts which may result from globalization. Developed countries such as Switzerland, England, Norway, and Japan have global health strategic frameworks as a basis for cross-agency cooperation in a systematic manner to create health security for their populations via the cooperation, assistance and support of improvement of health in other countries. Their GH strategic frameworks cover mechanisms and measures at the bilateral and multilateral levels in promoting foreign policy, health policy and country image.

4. The Need for a Thai Global Health Strategic Framework

This global health strategic framework will serve as direction for cooperation among the public, private and civil society sectors to create health security for Thais and to share Thailand's responsibility in improving health with the global community.

4.1 Health Security for Thais and other Populations in the Region; as there are no borders to the spread of disease and threats to health, working together to improve the health security for the populations in the region, in particular with neighbouring countries, helps safeguard the health security of Thais. An example is the cooperation via the global health fora to prevent the spread of addictive substances, tobacco, alcohol, psychoactive substances, contaminated food and to improve universal health coverage (which will help reducing the health expenditure of migrants and migrant labours).

4.2 Coherence in internal and external public policies; internal and external trade and investment policies of public and private sectors can have both positive and negative impacts on the health of Thais. Therefore, it is important to have platforms to make policy coherence and balance between trade benefits, private and public sector income and the health of citizens.

This strategic framework is therefore the foundation of internal cooperation between the public and private sectors, and is the basis for international cooperation of the health and non-health agencies.

4.3 A Strong Thai Health System Can Benefit Others and Set an Example for Other Countries; WHO and the World Bank have commended Thailand for being a global leader in health systems development as well as continuous health innovations development such as primary health care, AIDS control and treatment, universal health coverage, the national health assembly, Health Promotion Fund, and providing health care to migrants which overall have been successful. This shows the capacity for human rights improvement, health promotion, and participation from all sectors in setting the public policies related to health. These innovations and experiences are valuable and worthy of sharing to other countries to learn and improve their own health systems.

4.4 Strengthening the Reputation and Image of Thailand as a country contributing to global health; the experiences and success of the Thai public health system including academic advancement in medicines and public health, post graduate studies in specialized fields, and private sector health care services has been widely shared as examples in health systems development in many countries. This has resulted in improved health of the people, in particular in neighbouring countries, which has in return helped to control the spread of diseases to Thailand. It can be said that health is an important foreign policy instrument to promote the country's reputation and image. In addition, the public health sector has collaborated with the foreign affairs and diplomatic sector to push forward the global health agendas aiming to achieve in objectives related to health aspect for Thailand and other countries. The evidence of Thailand's responsibility to the global community helps to strengthen a positive image and pride for the country at the global level.

5. Principles of the Global Health Strategic Framework

The global health strategic framework is consistent with the government policy, 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2015-2016), 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2018), 11th National Health Plan (2015-2016), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic Plan (2015-2018), global health policy of the Ministry of Public Health, UN sustainable development goals, and 20 year National Strategic Plan and also underpinned by the following principles:

1. Human rights refer to the basic human rights equally deserved according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of which Thailand ratified in 1938.

2. Human security refers to the public being provided security in terms of protection, rights, safety, responses to basic needs and living in society with dignity including security in health, economic, social, political systems and governance.

3. Social protection refers to the provision of protection or social security including law, regulations, rules, insurance systems and social protection services.

4. Sustainable development refers to the development in response to the current needs by the populations without destroying natural resources, the environment and or creating disparities in society.

5. Multi-sectoral participation from all sectors refers to the participation of stakeholders from the public, private and civil society in developing this global health strategic framework.

6. SWOT Analysis

It has been well recognised that Thailand has strengths and many advantages at the global level, however due to the dynamic internal and external situations, it is necessary to analyse strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to assess the current situation and appropriately determine the Thai global health strategic framework.

Strengths

- 1) Intellectual and social capitals for health such as a success in universal health coverage, training for infectious disease specialist networks, health technology and policy assessment, inclusion of traditional medicine in the universal health coverage system, etc.
- 2) Foreign patients trust the Thai health care services with more than million foreign patients coming to receive healthcare in Thailand annually.
- 3) Located in geographical convenience for traveling with the presence
- 4) A strong and long history of cooperation between the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other ministries and civil society.
- 5) The government has a policies to protect the health of thais and supports the improvement of global health.

Weaknesses

- 1) Inefficient coordinaiton mechanisms to develop coherence between public policy and integration of global health works across sectors
- 2) Limited human resources with high capacity in global healthskills and inadequate support for capacity development in continuous manner.
- 3) Lack of a global health database.
- 4) Lack joint planning on global health between involving agencies.
- 5) Limited research and development related to Thai global health.
- 6) Vulnerable populations have limited access to essential health services.

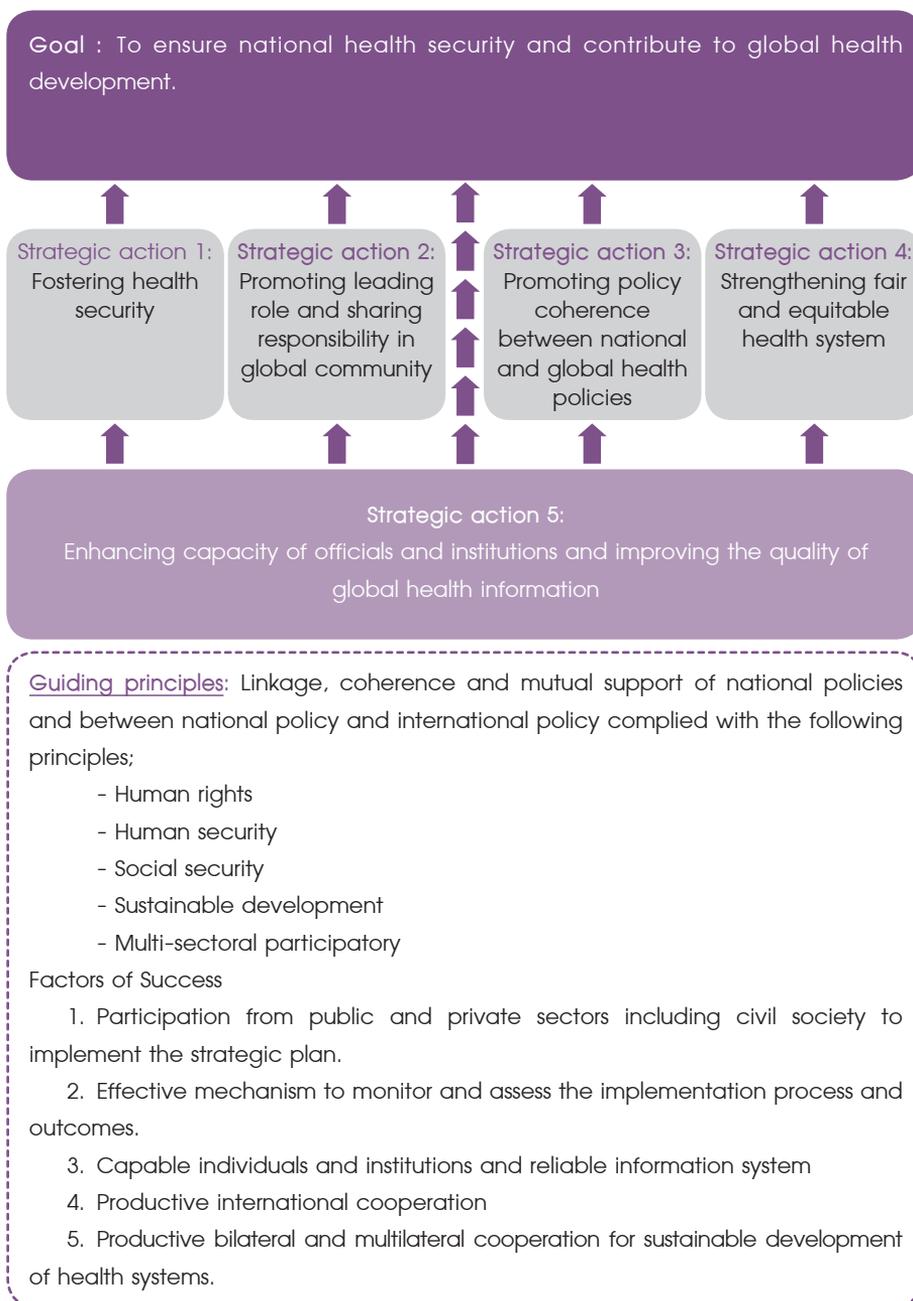
Opportunities

- 1) The declaration from leaders around the world regarding implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.
- 2) New cooperation mechanisms under the bilateral agreements, ASEAN, multilateral agreements and the UN are participatory.
- 3) Medical technology advancements.
- 4) International organizations have more manifesthealth protection policies.
- 5) The UN endorsed the Global Health and Foreign Policy resolution which reflects the importance of synergising global health policy and foreign policy.

Threats

- 1) The expansion of free trade agreements and investment impact the health determinant factors.
- 2) Impact of climate change on health.
- 3) Natural disasters and cross-border spread of diseases.
- 4) Undocumented migrant labour.
- 5) International lawsuits resulting from violation of international agreements directly and indirectly related to health.

7. Conceptual Framework



8. Goal

To ensure national health security and contribute to global health development.

9. Strategic Objectives

In order to achieve such goal, the following strategic objectives have been set;

(1) To ensure health security for the people living in Thailand.

(2) To promote Thailand's leading role in 8 global health areas

2.1 Medical Hub of ASEAN and Asia, with a focus on the wellness side of the health care business.

2.2 Universal Health Coverage : UHC

2.3 Disaster Risk Management

2.4 Field Epidemiological Training Network : FETN

2.5 Surveillance and Rapid Response Team : SRRT

2.6 Medical Emergency Response Team : MERT

2.7 Health Technology Assessment : HITA

2.8 Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicines

(3) To promote coherence between national and global health policies and also balance on trade, investment and health benefits.

(4) To strengthen the Thai health system to be fair and equitable.

(5) To enhance the capacity of individuals and institutions and improve the quality of information to support the development of global health work.

10. Strategic Actions

Strategic action 1 : Fostering health security

Strategic objective :

To ensure health security for the people living in Thailand.

Strategy

1. Reduce the impacts from threats and global health risks for the people according to the human rights principle.
2. Enhance the strength and capacity of the people in implementing and preventing cross border spread of diseases in line with the International Health Regulations (2005).
3. Enhance the capacity of the people to prevent, identify and respond to health threats and disasters resulting from humans, nature and technology.
4. Manage the impacts from environmental and climate changes to mitigate their consequences on the health of Thais and the global community.
5. Promote the use of the One Health Approach, taking account of the interaction of human health, animals and the environment.

Strategic Action 2 : Promoting Thailand's leading role and sharing responsibility in global community

Strategic objective :

To promote Thailand's leading role in 8 global health areas.

Strategy

1. Enhance the leadership role and image of supporting global health development and in advocating for 8 areas.
 - 1.1 Advance and support health services provision of ASEAN and Asia networks with a focus on wellness health services.
 - 1.2 Build and continuously develop a Universal Health Coverage (UHC) network.
 - 1.3 Advance and ensure participation of all networks to conduct disaster risk management.

1.4 Strengthen and expand infectious disease professionals' network.

1.5 Strengthen and expand a Surveillance and Rapid Response Team (SRRT) network.

1.6 Strengthen and expand a Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) network.

1.7 Create a model and be involved with a network for health intervention and technology assessment.

1.8 Strengthen and expand a network for Thai traditional and alternative medicines.

2. Increase cooperation on global health and make use of the global health knowledge, take part in the development of resolutions, declarations and statements to serve as a standard for other countries.

3. Support the dissemination, publicity and use of Thai health innovations at the international level.

4. Support and provide technical assistance and in kind contributions to developing countries (Health Diplomacy).

Strategic Action 3 : Promoting coherence between national and global health policies.

Strategic objectives :

To promote coherence between national and global health policies and also the balance on trade and health benefits of the people

Strategy

1. Support coherence between public policies and global health policies that balance the benefits between trade and investment and health of the population.

2. Advocate and support the policy implementation compliant to the agreements related to global health.

3. Advance and support the use of the health impact assessments (HIA).

Strategic Action 4 : Strengthening fair and equitable health system

Strategic objective :

To strengthen the Thai health system to be fair and equitable.

Strategy

1. Support the management and development of a strong, fair and equitable health system that covers the 8 aspects.
2. Create and improve the administrative system of resources for health (personnel, work, budget, and materials)
3. Create and improve an information and technology management systems of the Thai health system.
4. Establish an evaluation system to evaluate the implementation of the Thailand Global Health Strategy.

Strategic Action 5 : Enhancing capacity of officials and institutions and improving the quality of global health information

Strategic objective :

To enhance and strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions and improve the quality of information to support the development of global health work in a continuous manner.

Strategy

1. Promote improvement of the capacity of individuals and institutions to be able to conduct global health work in a continuous manner.
2. Reform the structure of the international affairs offices of the Ministry of Public Health in order to be efficiently implement the Thai Global Health Strategic Framework Action Plan.
3. Improve the global health information and knowledge management systems.

11. Mechanisms for Monitoring and Evaluating the Global Health Strategic Framework implementation

In order to ensure that the implementation of the Global Health Strategic Framework meets the set goals and for the implementation to be linked and integrated between agencies, the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs are assigned to be the key agencies to coordinate with concerned agencies including public, private and civil society organizations to develop an action plan and set up the mechanisms to monitor the progress of the implementation of the action plan and provide periodic evaluations in order to adjust the strategies for suitability and timeliness.

12. Expected Outcomes

1. Health security of people in Thailand.
2. Thailand's contribution to global health agendas setting and leading roles in

eight areas:



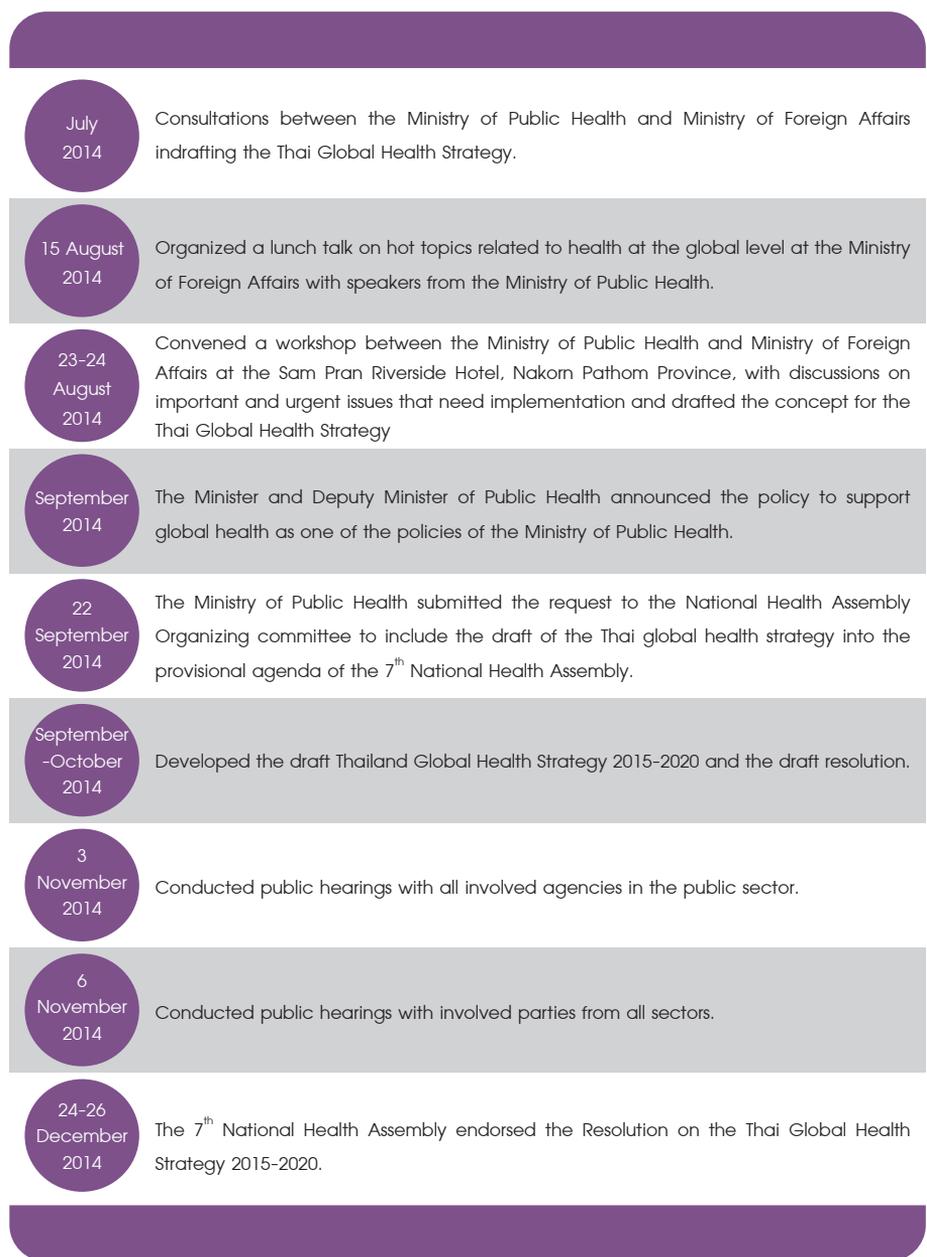
3. Policy coherence between public policy and global health policy as well as balance of interests between trade/investment and people's health.

4. Resilient, fair and equitable health system.

5. Capable officials and institutions and quality information which can continue supporting global health work.

Appendix 1 : Global Health Strategic Framework Development Process

The Global Health Strategic Framework was developed through the participation from various sectors following the timeline below:





Appendix 2 : Abbreviations

AOT	Airports Authority of Thailand
BOI	Board of Investment
DLA	Department of Local Administration
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FETN	Field Epidemiological Training Network
GPO	Government Pharmaceutical Organization
HAI	The Healthcare Accreditation Institute
HSRI	Health Systems Research Institute
HTA	Health Technology Assessment
IB	Immigration Bureau
JSCCIB	The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking
MERT	Medical Emergency Response Team
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MI	Ministry of Industry
MOAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
MOC	Ministry of Commerce
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
OCSC	Office of the Civil Service Commission
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MSDHS	Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
MOL	Ministry of Labour
NHCO	National Health Commission Office of Thailand
NHSO	National Health Security Office
NIEM	National Institute for Emergency Medicine
NRCT	National Research Council of Thailand
RTP	Royal Thai Police
SRRT	Surveillance Rapid Response Team
SSO	Social Security Office
THP	Thai Health Promotion Foundation

Contact us

Bureau of International Health
Office of the Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Public Health
Tivanond Road, Nonthaburi, Thailand 11000
Tel + 662 590 1369
Fax + 662 591 8562
website: www.bihmoph.net