

WHO Country Cooperation Strategy

Thailand

2017–2021



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WHO Country Cooperation Strategy, Thailand, 2017–2021

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Message from the Regional Director



This fifth Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) 2017–2021 is not only WHO's strategic vision for the Organization's work with the Royal Thai Government and its partners but, once again, is a pathfinder in global collaboration in health at the country level.

In recent years, Thailand has taken several bold initiatives with a large number of its population brought under health protection coverage. Thailand has achieved universal coverage with relatively good levels of spending on health, but faces significant challenges due to rising costs and its commitment to bring under the umbrella of its health coverage migrant workers and the informal sector.

Thailand is crucial to global health because of the extraordinary progress it has made in health and the prominent role it plays in global health.

The World Health Organization is proud of being a partner in some of the major health achievements of Thailand.

I commend the seventy-five governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders that reached agreement not only on priorities, goals and operational modalities but also chartered a CCS governance structure that would oversee optimal execution of the five Strategic Priorities for the World Health Organization's collaboration with Thailand.

I understand the final evaluation of the fourth WHO Country Cooperation Thailand 2012–2016 was conducted in June 2016. The evaluation gave a number of recommendations and I am pleased to see that these recommendations were taken onboard while developing this Country Cooperation Strategy.

I believe the five Strategic Priorities for WHO collaboration are aligned with Thailand's health priorities and WHO's resources focusing towards these priority programmes will contribute towards health progress in this extraordinary country as well as have a major impact on global health.

The method of working adopted will also foster multisectoral engagement and multiagency cooperation and ensure integrated approaches that respond to the imperatives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and effectively address the complex and interconnected nature of health in the Sustainable Development Goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "P. Khetrapal".

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh
Regional Director
WHO South-East Asia Region

Preface

The Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) 2017–2021 for Thailand describes WHO's medium-term strategic vision to guide the Organization's work in Thailand. Most importantly, it describes five priority programmes on which the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand, its numerous partners, and the World Health Organization will work jointly over the next 5 years. These programmes address some of the critical public health issues facing Thailand in its unique context – an upper-middle-income country that has pioneered universal health coverage and that is committed to improving health through knowledge generation, evidenced-based policy and social/political action.

But the CCS in Thailand is more. It represents the continuation of a strategic, innovative and unique approach to partnership – an approach where more than 60 stakeholders in health including the Ministry of Public Health, academia, civil society, other sectors and government autonomous health agencies all come together on a limited number of clear priorities based on evidence. In this approach, WHO serves as a catalyst to broader collaboration in the priority areas across sectors, where the work is fuelled by domestic investments and where the use of WHO's social and intellectual capital is maximized.

The core component of the Strategy describes the work in five priority areas: antimicrobial resistance, global health diplomacy and international trade and health, migrant health, noncommunicable diseases and road safety. Though most of WHO's work will be focused on these areas, it will continue to support normative and policy work in other important areas as needed.

The WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia fully supports this approach to the Organization's cooperation with the Royal Thai Government.

It is hoped that the Country Cooperation Strategy 2017–2021 will continue to contribute to improving the health of all people living in Thailand by bringing together the Ministry of Public Health, other ministries and a wide spectrum of partners to discuss critical health priorities and stimulate high-value policy work, knowledge generation, advocacy and capacity-building in these areas. We hope that the principles and processes involved in creating and implementing the Thailand-WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2017–2021 will serve as a model for other countries wishing to adopt this innovative approach.



Dr Sapon Mekthong
Permanent Secretary
for Public Health
Ministry of Public Health



Dr Daniel Kertesz
WHO Representative
to Thailand

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