

## Executive Summary

### Research Project: Monitoring and evaluation of Thailand's global health initiatives

In Thailand, the importance of global health problems is highly recognized. As such, the Global Health Strategic Framework, 2016-2020 has been introduced to promote policy coherence across sectors and improve the country's health security, which can contribute to sustainable economic and social development. It also aims that Thailand can play a leading role in global health policy issues. This framework consists of 5 areas of strategic action, namely (1) fostering health security; (2) advancing leadership role and sharing responsibility in the global community; (3) promoting policy coherence at the national and global level; (4) strengthening fair and equitable health systems; and (5) enhancing the capacity of personnel and institutes involved in global health, in addition to information system improvement.

The development of monitoring & evaluation (M&E) mechanism for the Global Health Strategic Framework presented in this report is a part of Global Health Diplomacy program, under the WHO Country Cooperation Strategy for Thailand 2017-2021. In order to provide recommendations on the M&E mechanism, the researchers conducted a literature review on good M&E practices for countries' health strategy. Furthermore, we reviewed key elements of the Thai Global Health Strategic Framework as well as analyzing the current situation of M&E for this policy framework.

The literature shows that there are recommendations, made by scholars and policy institutes, on desirable M&E mechanisms for health strategies which can be modified to suit the Thai context. The desirable characteristics include, for instance, the M&E addresses goals and objectives of national health strategies; prospective M&E is planned and implemented with explicitly-tasks organizations and coordinating instruments; the M&E framework provides detailed guidance on data sources, indicators and targets; dissemination of data and communication are effective and transparent; and evaluation results are used during decision making. The review also focuses on prioritization of M&E topics, M&E planning, development of evaluation research questions and indicators, and the reviews of policy, plans and programs in the health sector. Since these factors need to be considered for their technical, policy and management dimensions, the officers in charge of the M&E introduction should have adequate understandings of research methodology, quality assurance and ethics, the role of key stakeholders and other influences impacting policy processes and outcome, including management approaches to ensure transparent, reliable and acceptable M&E.

The situation analysis on the current M&E of the Global Health Strategic Framework indicates that the capacity strengthening component has yet accomplished, even though it is regarded as an urgent program according to the operation plan. Meanwhile, the committee for Global Health Strategy, appointed by the Public Health Minister in 2015, has never been called for any meetings or actions. Apparently, this causes problems in the Strategic Framework's governance as the policy requires collaborations between government departments with varying goals and missions such as those responsible for economic development, public health and foreign affairs. As a result, the goal of fostering policy coherence might have been hindered.

Effective governance structure and functions are essential for the development of M&E mechanism and vice versa, since M&E is an indispensable component of public policy cycle. Another issue to be taken into account is that after the introduction of the Global Health Strategic Framework, there have been significant changes in the country's middle- and long-term policies for economic, social and political/administrative development such as the Thailand 20-year Strategy and Reforms (including 20-year Public Health Strategy), Thailand 4.0 Policy and 12<sup>th</sup> Health Development Plan. These policy innovations may, to certain extent, have effects on global health policy and also priority, health-related strategies, programs and activities.

Based on the above-mentioned analysis, we propose the following actions to the Ministry of Public Health's Foreign Affairs Division, in the capacity of the secretariat of the Committee for Global Health Strategy:

- (1) Strengthen and improve efficiency of the governance functions of the country's global health policy;

- (2) Enhance the capacity of its personnel, as human resources are a crucial part in the development and implementation of this Strategic Framework;
- (3) Convene a mid-term review of the Strategic Framework and revise programs/activities and targets in accordance with the country's new middle- and long-term policies; and
- (4) Create collaborations with respective institutes in order to establish the M&E mechanism for the Strategic Framework. In so doing, it should assess the feasibility of particular options and plan for phasing-in development with explicit outputs from each stage.

Regarding the proposed M&E mechanism in Chapter 4, it involves the principles and general guidelines for M&E of the Strategic Framework and other issues for consideration. All these elements are supported by detailed information discussed in Chapter 1 Literature review on M&E of national health strategies, Chapter 2 Key components of the Strategic Framework including its operation plan, and Chapter 3 Situation analysis of the current M&E introduction for the Strategic Framework.

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