SEARHEF supported the strengthening of COVID-19 preparedness and response capacity of Thailand in 2020.

Thailand was the first country outside the People’s Republic of China to report a confirmed domestic case of COVID-19. Hence, the Department of Disease Control needed rapid mobilization of funds. As a needs-based, rapidly mobilized regional funding source, SEARHEF catered to this requirement swiftly.

The pandemic demanded extended hours of work by health staff at all levels in Thailand. SEARHEF helped the health authorities in Thailand to support the expenses related to additional staff time and the overall administration. In addition, SEARHEF support was used to procure essential medical equipment and supplies such as digital thermometers and personal protective equipment.

SEARHEF supported health education activities including translation of health education material; development, printing and dissemination of audiovisual material; and improving information communication facilities targeted at COVID-19 prevention and control.

When a new outbreak such as that of COVID-19 was reported in Thailand, its health system had to respond rapidly, increasing the need for additional emergency funding. SEARHEF was an ideal source of such prompt financing. As a result, the Thai health authorities could urgently launch their initial essential actions as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response.

COVID-19 pandemic

2020, Thailand

Funds allocated: US$ 175 000