

Annex 13

Template proposing Priority Areas for World Health Organization and Royal Thai Government (WHO-RTG) Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) 2022-2026

Proposed Priority Area: Enhancing Leadership in Global Health-Thailand (EnLIGHT)

Q1. This proposal is submitted by

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Q2. Please specify all partners who collectively drafted and submitted this proposal

This proposal is collectively drafted by International Health Policy Program and Global Health Division, Ministry of Public Health, based on three movement streams; 1) the ground works carried out by the current CCS programmes namely Global Health Diplomacy and International Trade and Health; 2) the Thailand Global Health Action Plan (2021-2027); and 3) a review of current and future global health movements relevant to enhancing Thailand's leadership in global health for sustainable health development and the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All.

During the consultation with major stakeholders held on 10 August 2021, a number of key actors declared their commitment to engage in the implementation of this EnLIGHT, including Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ThaiHealth Promotion Foundation, National Health Commission Office, National Health Security Office. Comments and recommendations from technical Departments of the Ministry of Public Health, WHO Country Office also contributed to the development of this proposal for CCS 2022-2026.

Q3. Please provide a clear problem statement with justification for the inclusion of this topic in the CCS 2022-2026. Please also specify why there is a need for additional support under the CCS, beyond the usual budget and current work of Thai health system will not be able to solve the problem.

The evolution of global health context is very dynamic. First, any given health problem nowadays is complex and cross-cutting. It cannot be handled effectively by a single country

alone. Second, global health terrain is forever changing, actors mushrooming including international agencies, NGOs, and private sector, all increasingly involve in shaping global health agenda. Third, ambitious global targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been committed to achieve by 2030. SDGs frame global direction on health and health-related issues, especially but not limited to SDG3. These difficulties require high and continuous political commitment, cross-sectoral collaborations and national capacities.

The scope of “CCS-EnLIGHT” includes, but not limited to, the areas covered by the 2017-2021 CCS programmes, i.e. the Global Health Diplomacy and International Trade and Health (CCS-GHD & CCS-ITH). CCS-GHD & CCS-ITH have clearly demonstrated its contribution to Thai society in a number of ways. For the past five years, RTG-WHO CCS (2017-21) had developed a platform for agencies from different sectors working as “Team Thailand” to contribute to global health community.

CCS-GHD Arm has continued its function to support the capacity building of Thailand in many international platforms. The explicit performance of Team Thailand for proactive engagement in bilateral, regional and global health framework such as UN, WHO and ASEAN Health governing bodies as well as other international health alliances including FPGH and GHSA. CCS-GHD expanded global health capacities of agencies both in and outside Ministry of Public Health. This also intensifies competency of Thailand in driving health-related global agenda UHC, alcohol and mental health through close collaboration with WHO HQ, SEARO and WHO Thailand country office. The capacity building activities, as diplomatic tool, also expanded to other countries which then tightens the connection between countries.

The CCS-ITH Arm has brought in-demand evidence for Thai society to take part in international trade negotiation and preparedness enhancement at the policy level; the recent CPTPP policy briefs and recommendations for Thailand to participate in the WTO platform on increase access to COVID-19 related products for the clear examples.

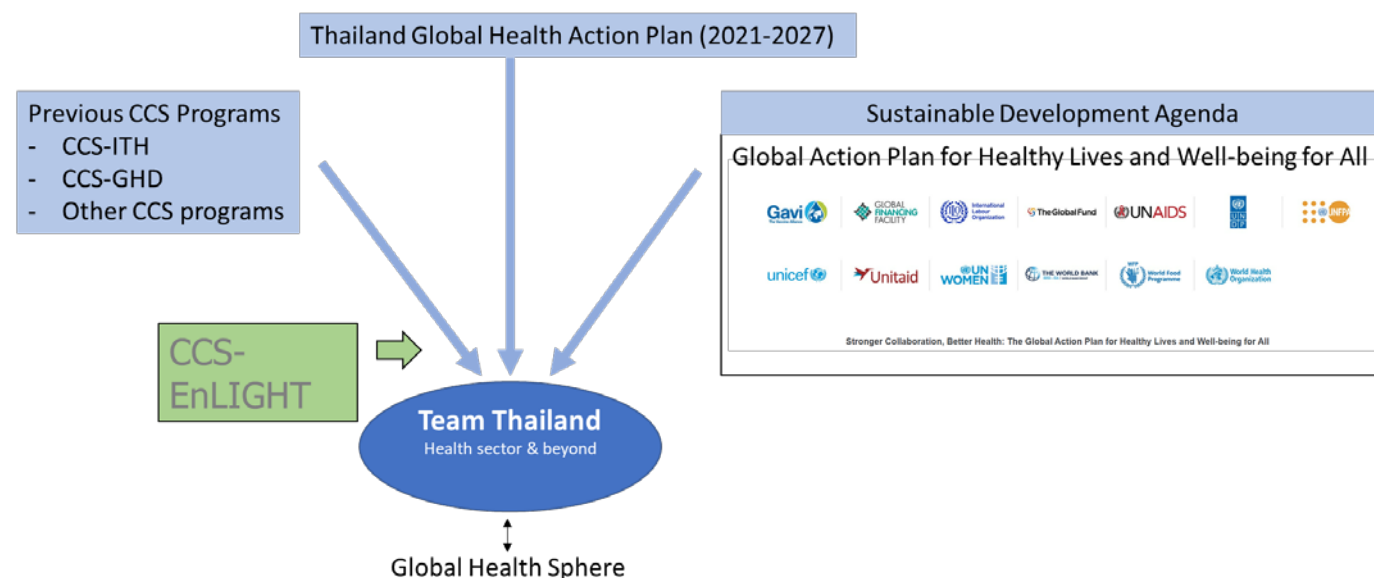
Both like never before, CCS-GHD and CCS-ITH have produced friendly mechanisms for health and non-health sectors to work together on common goals. Apart from knowledge generation and communication to support policy decision, CCS-ITH helped establishing three International Trade and Health Network Centres as a mean to expand networks of experts and agencies and to sustain the work in this area.

As “impact enhancer”, CCS-GHD and CCS-ITH worked to promote value-added of other CCS programs. CCS-GHD collaborated with CCS Road Safety to draw lessons from the Thailand’s global movement on this issue including supporting CCS road safety team to attend the WHO meeting in developing the Global performance targets on key risk factors and service delivery mechanisms. So did CCS-ITH and CCS-NCD on international trade and investment in highlight-processed food industry.

The mid-term review on Thailand Global Health Strategic Framework (2016-2020) was conducted to provide extensive inputs in terms of lessons learned and challenges, which lead to the development of Global Health Action Plan (2021-2027). This Action Plan put high expectation for Team Thailand to work on the dynamic and complex global health landscape with many emerging technical agenda/opportunities. The new Global Health Action Plan (2021-2027) encompasses five strategic issues. This new CCS programme is contributing to the implementation of these issues, particularly on global health reputation, policy coherence, and capacity strengthening both organizational and individual levels.

This proposal uses lessons learned from CCS 2017-2021 as steppingstone to address gaps and opportunities in broader perspectives, including using the sustain development agenda as an important backdrop, and addressing changing terrains of global health and cross-border

determinants of health. The proposal also enhances value-added and return-on-investment of other 2022-2026 CCS programmes by working together at the operation level with other programmes to address arising opportunities, related to global governance.



Q4. How can WHO add value? What is the role of WHO (either WHO Thailand or SEARO or Headquarter) in supporting this priority area?

Despite increasing international players in global health, WHO remains the main actors in global governance for health, as the one and only intergovernmental agency designated for health. Under the RTG-WHO CCS perspective, with its social and technical capitals from the headquarter, regional and national levels, WHO is the main driver towards the achievement of the priority programmes. One particular opportunity, WHO is the leading agency, coordinating with other 12 UN agencies, for the Global Action Plan on Healthy Lives and Well-being for All to drive the achievement of SDG 3. WHO at all three levels, based on given mandates of each Office, could provide great coordinated contributions to the Programme with primary aim on linking to country impacts. HQ, for example can help on advocacy and technical support, Regional Office can support on progress monitoring and evaluation as well as policy coherence, and the Country Office can offer convening, coordination and gateway power.

As describe in Q5 that this programme will cover four strategic actions, WHO can add value to this programmms specifically by:

- (1) Providing support through its intellectual capital: To have leading role in global health, Thailand has driven many health and health-related issues in relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals, WHO's GPW13 and SEA regional flagships through all WHO governing body meetings. Based on our experience in driving UHC, alcohol and mental health agenda, the movements required collaboration between Thailand and three levels of WHO. WHO can provide technical views of those agenda, and suggestions on working process to ensure appropriate approach were used at the right time.

- (2) Using convening power and gateway function, WHO's social capital can bridge Thailand with relevant stakeholders to strengthen, knowledge generation, knowledge communication, collective movement at the global level, as well as in capacity building. The close connection is one of key success factors and should be continued.
- (3) Acting as a link to connect this CCS-EnLIGHT programme to other CCS programmes as we look forward to working with other CCS programmes to enhance their global movement.
- (4) WHO can facilitate technical resource, including WHO staffs and invited experts, for capacity building activities, such as training workshops and seminars, conferences. Their experience sharing is intellectual capital that gains better understanding on global governance for sustainable health for participants.

Q5. Please specify what focus areas need to be addressed under this priority area, proposed plans/activities and the budget needed in Thai Baht for 5 years during 2022-2026.

The proposal will employ the '2x4' scopes of work model. The matrix below displays examples of interaction between two functions and four strategic actions.

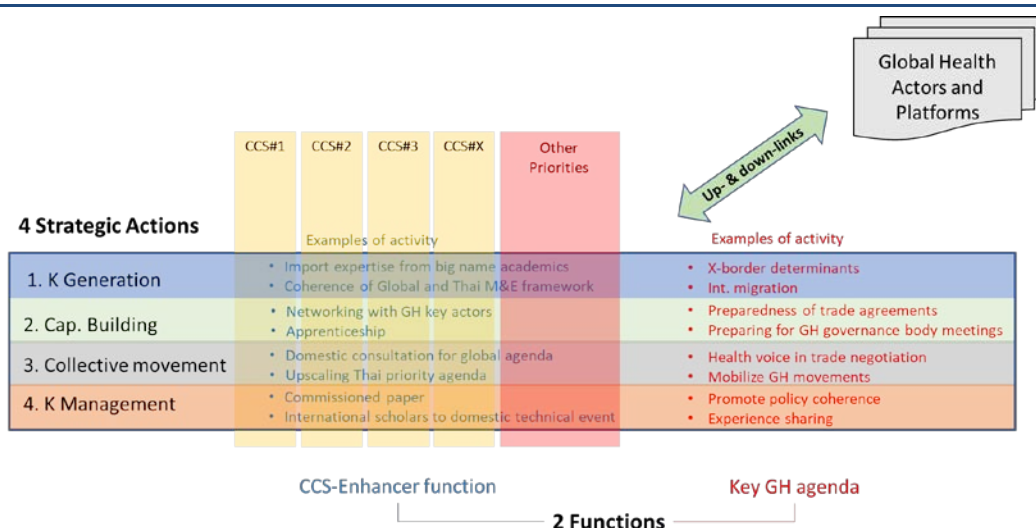
The **two functions** include:

1) **'Key global health agenda'** technical areas/agenda specific to global governance, for example international migration of health workers or cross-border consumption of health care services or intellectual property and health or emergence of new global health treaty; and

2) **'Supporting function'** activities that the CCS-EnLIGHT can support other CCS programmes, however, not to duplicate/replace the work (to be identified and agreed up on by CCS programmes and donors). Not limited to CCS, EnLIGHT can also support other priority agenda of institutions and authorities.

Four strategies include evidence generation, capacity building, international movement, and knowledge management including establish resource centers/platforms, effective policy communication to support policy decisions.

2x4 Operating model and examples of activities



The detailed activities for CCS-EnLIGHT are to be identified and agreed up on, according to preparedness of and priority areas set up by key actors, as well as emerging opportunity(s) in global health domain. There are **four strategic actions** as follow;

a) Knowledge generation

The knowledge generation aims to conduct research to provide policy recommendations for Thailand's movement at global and regional levels. This work area will also draw lessons from previous movement to improve coordination and enhance learning and application. In addition, future scenario will be analysed particularly post-COVID as COVID-19 has created the new world order and deviated function of work of global health governance, as witnessed by stronger and more robust collaboration among international agencies such as WHO and WTO, or with the private sector.

Research topic will be identified, priority is given to health and health-related Sustainable Development Goals, WHO's Triple Billion Targets, and national priority. One example of research topic is international trade and health. The interface between trade and health is on the cutting edge of health diplomacy. Health professionals and policy makers need to understand this interaction and well equipped with clear evidence to assure rational trade policies and agreements, informed by health needs and supported through progressive trade and foreign policies.

Interested research institutes are welcomed to collaborate in this working area to expand the global health research community in the country.

b) Capacity building

In order to develop human capital, this area will develop series of activities, especially core competency on global health, specifically for different target groups. For example, Global Health Diplomacy workshop and workshops on specific skills for young generation and attending global or regional platforms to expand real-life global health experience for both young generation and mid-career group. This would allow Team Thailand to understand global health platforms and its protocol, dynamic of global health movement and

determinants of global health. Online platform will be developed as alternative approach for training programmes. This also allows us to extend Thai and international audiences.

c) *Collective movement*

This strategic action aims to facilitate Thailand's preparedness and capacity of Team Thailand for key global health movements (such as UHC, NCD, HIV/AIDS, etc) at various global platforms using inputs and resources from this CCS. Scope of work includes identifying health or health-related agenda, identifying appropriate approach and platforms, forming and advancing the position(s) of Team Thailand by working with other partners. Our programme also looks forward to working with other CCS programmes to enhance their global movement. This can add value of Thailand's CCS programmes in global and regional platforms. Furthermore, we intend to expand collaboration to other health-related agencies or platforms, particularly those of which Thailand is a member, such as UN including WTO and UNAIDS, ASEAN, FPGH, APEC and other potential partners which can demonstrate impacts of work of this CCS to global and regional arena. In addition, all global and regional platforms will be identified to specify potential roles of Thailand for more effective movements.

d) *Knowledge Management*

The existing knowledge available on the Resource Center on Global Health, and website of the current International Trade and Health Programme is valuable basic information for this purpose.

While the next phase aims to increase number and types of materials available at the Resource Center, additional E-learning system will be developed to attract Thai and international audiences. In addition, the website is linked to websites of related organizations such as ThaiHealth, NHSO, NHCO, Global Health Division, and IHPP.

A proactive approach of knowledge management and communication will be applied to cope with the dynamics of situation and audience behaviours. Analysis of key success factors and lessons learned will be included as a basis for improving our works.

- **Proposed budget for 5 years during 2022-2026.**

Annual budget 15 million THB, with the total budget of 75 million THB to be requested under the CCS mechanism.

Q6. What are the changes we want to see over the 5 years – what will be different in 5 years as a result of this program under CCS 2022-2026.

The COVID-19 pandemic taught us a lesson about the interconnectedness of global health actors, "no country is safe until every country is safe"; health interventions should therefore rely on action beyond national policies and boundaries. The pandemic also affects the progress of countries towards achieving SDGs. As a result, the active collaboration and

sharing of experience among partners in global health development has become essential for the development of healthy public policies. Thailand can play active role in contributing to global and regional arena, however, there are still rooms of improvement. Our program can contribute to overcome those challenges.

The new CCS programme primarily aims to promote Team Thailand's *collective capacity for collective movements* towards good governance for sustainable health. through the following deliverables/ expected outcomes:

- Availability of evidence to support global/regional movements: Our programme will conduct research for policy recommendations to support Thailand's global movement. We look forward to becoming a global health think tank for policy decision, particularly for policy level at Ministry of Public Health. Specific issues or agenda will jointly be identified with relevant partners. This also strengthens capacity of research institutes on global health to support Thailand's movement.
- Expanded platforms for movements: More platforms will be identified to increase our opportunity for Thailand to play its roles. For examples, such as UN including UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) of which Thailand will be the Chair in 2022; WTO which provides a platform for health emergencies and international trade; UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) of which Thailand will be the Chair in 2022, ASEAN which there are rooms for Thailand to drive agenda across four health clusters, and APEC which Thailand will be host in 2022 and other international alliances as well as bilateral cooperation with other countries.
- Mobilized human resources and agencies equipped with relevant knowledge and capacity to drive agenda to support global governance for sustainable health.
- Increasing collaborations across CCS programmes: Our programme aims to support all CCS programmes to drive their agenda at global and regional levels through capacity building programme, collaborations for the movement, and expanding network.
- Expanding collaborations within countries: The work of this CCS will involve more agencies for example the Ministry of Commerce on international trade and health, universities to conduct research, health facilities at provincial level to gain better understanding on global health and link global health to national health.
- Expanding collaborations with other countries and international agencies: Apart of WHO which we already have good collaboration, we will work with more international agencies that work in the agenda Thailand drives for examples World Trade Organization, UNAIDS, and JICA (through GLO+UHC partnership). We will also be identified target countries that Thailand can have further collaborations in particular developing countries in Asia.