

# Thailand Public Revenue and Spending Assessment

How can spending on human development be made more efficient and equitable?

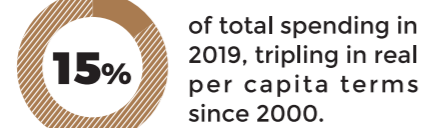


Download the report: [www.worldbank.org/thailand](http://www.worldbank.org/thailand)

## SPENDING



Health has been prioritized in the budget: general government health spending accounted for almost



But at **2.8%** of GDP, Thailand's public health spending remains relatively low in levels compared to peers

### HEALTH

## ACHIEVEMENTS



Public health insurance schemes cover almost the entire population, with good health outcomes despite contained spending



Increase in life expectancy from **70.6** years in 2000 to **77.2** years in 2019



Substantial declines in infant, under-five, and maternal mortality rates

## CHALLENGES



Health spending and service delivery face pressures from Thailand's aging population, the growing prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and the use of new drugs, procedures, and other medical technologies



The service delivery system is fragmented and not well prepared to prevent, detect and manage NCDs

## RECOMMENDATIONS



**Better integrate service delivery:** a nationwide interoperable health information system and more innovative payment models would allow better coordination across different providers



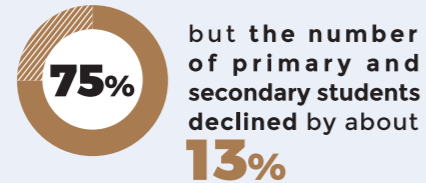
**Improve screening of hypertension and diabetes** to reduce the need for more expensive treatments



**Reform public health insurance purchasing arrangements** to reduce costs.



From 2004 to 2016 real public spending on education increased by

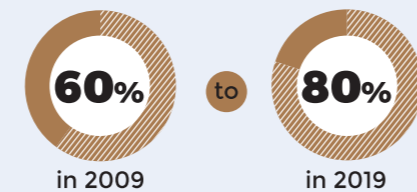


Relative to its peers, Thailand's public spending per primary student is relatively high, but spending per pre-primary and secondary student is relatively low.

### EDUCATION



Pre-primary enrollment increased from



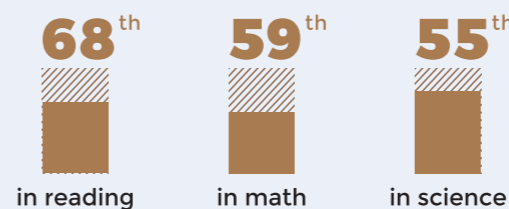
due to government policy to expand free access



Universal primary enrollment has been achieved since early 2000



Student learning outcomes are weak - Thailand ranked



out of 79 PISA-participating countries and economies in 2018.



The COVID-19 pandemic has led to further learning losses equivalent to more than

**1 year** of lost schooling.



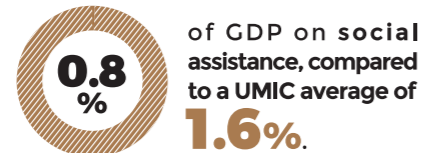
**Consolidate small schools** to help ensure that primary students have better access to teachers and resources



**Increase overall per-student spending** at the pre-primary and secondary levels: increase investments in preschools and reduce secondary class sizes.



In 2019, Thailand spent



In response to COVID-19, public spending on social assistance more than tripled, but this increase is expected to be temporary.

### SOCIAL PROTECTION



Thailand's response to the pandemic was timely and substantial, with relief measures curtailing the impact on poverty and inequality in 2020



The limited spending on social assistance is spread thinly, with high coverage rates (including many non-poor) but inadequate benefit amounts.



Due to high rates of informality, over half of the workforce lacks social insurance



The fragmented nature of the social protection system leads to inefficiencies



**Increase the Old Age Allowance** for the poorest beneficiaries to **2000** THB per month



**Improve targeting and increase the State Welfare Card** payment to **700** THB per month (30% of the poverty line)



**Reduce fragmentation of the social assistance system**, including by integrating program databases, consolidating eligibility criteria, and establishing a social registry.



**Implement reforms to public pensions** (index pensions and earnings ceilings, raise retirement age, increase contribution rates) to improve adequacy and fairness while ensuring financial sustainability.

