กรมอนามัย
Department of Health

Thailand's National Healthy City Initiative

From Local Action to a Network of Healthy Cities



Health Impact Assessment Division
Department of Health
Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
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Why Healthy Cities Matter for Thailand?



Thailand’s urban health challenges are increasingly interconnected

- Rapid urbanization and demographic change
- Air pollution and environmental health risks
- Climate change and extreme weather events
- Waste, sanitation and food safety
- Health inequalities and vulnerable populations
- A growing need for local-level action



These challenges cannot be addressed by the health sector alone.

World Health Organization
Healthy Cities for Healthier People

The Concept of Healthy City Development in Thailand

"A healthy city is one that continually creates and improves its physical and social environments and expands the community resources that enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and in developing to their maximum potential."
(World Health Organization, 1996)

People Healthy Cities Sustainable Tomorrow

1 Global Framework
International Commitments and Guidance

Thailand is part of the WHO Healthy Cities Network and draws on international frameworks to strengthen national and local actions.

World Health Organization
Healthy Cities

OTTAWA CHARTER
FOR HEALTH PROIMOTION
(1986)

Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Supporting SDG 11



Supporting SDG 3

2 Alignment with Thai National Policies
From National Strategies to Local Action

Healthy city development is integrated into Thailand's national policies and plans to ensure a healthy, inclusive, and sustainable society.



National Strategy (20 Years)
- Healthy people
- Inclusive society
- Sustainable environment



National Economic and Social Development Plan
- People-centered development
- Enhanced quality of life
- Balanced economic, social and environmental growth



Public Health (2023 3 – 2027)
- Strengthen health promotion and disease prevention
- Build healthy environments
- Enable all people to achieve better health and well-being

3 Key Principles of Healthy City Development
Turning Principles into Healthier Communities

Health in All Policies (HiAP)
Integrating health considerations into all local policies

Equity and Inclusiveness
Reducing inequalities and ensuring no one is left behind

Participation
Engaging citizens in planning, implementation and monitoring

Evidence-Based Decision Making
Using reliable data and scientific evidence to guide policies and actions

Sustainability
Promoting balanced economic, social and environmental development in line with SDGs 11 and 3

Towards Healthier Cities
Healthy People • Resilient Communities • A Sustainable Thailand



Better Health and Well-being for All

Thailand's National Healthy City Framework

Global and External Enablers

INSPIRATION | KNOWLEDGE | PARTNERSHIPS

WHO Healthy Cities Network

A global reference for healthy cities

Sharing knowledge, experiences and good practices for healthier cities worldwide

External Cross-sector Partners

- Government agencies
- Academic institutions
- Civil society and communities
- Private sector and development partners

- Shared urban health goals
- Cross-sector policy and governance mechanisms

Global knowledge and partnerships

National Coordination within the Ministry of Public Health

POLICY | STANDARDS | COORDINATION | SUPPORT

Ministry of Public Health
Department of Health

Lead agency for the Healthy City programme

National Committee for Healthy City Standards and Implementation

Set standards | Drive implementation | Coordinate across sectors

Technical Support

- Knowledge & data
- Standard guidelines
- Digital platform
- Incentives and awards

Regional Health Centers

- Provide technical support
- Encourage implementation
- Regulate
- Monitor & Evaluate

Regional Assessment and Certification Committee

Coordinate, assess and certify at the regional level

Provincial Assessment and Certification Committee

Conduct assessments, support implementation and certify at the provincial level

Feedback and results

Local Implementation

IMPLEMENT ACTIONS | ENGAGE COMMUNITIES | CREATE HEALTHIER CITIES

Local Administrative Organizations

Primary Implementing level

Plan and implement healthy city initiatives with community participation

Recognition pathway

Bronze | Silver | Gold

Core Framework Domains

- Healthy Environments
- Healthy Settings
- Healthy People

Health Outcomes

HEALTHIER PEOPLE | STRONGER COMMUNITIES
SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Improved quality of life for all



- Reduced water- and sanitation-related mortality
- Reduced morbidity from air pollution and environmental health risks
- Improved health literacy
- Better quality of life

The Value of Healthy City Development

Healthier People • Stronger Communities • More Sustainable Cities

Healthy city development provides an opportunity to improve quality of life, strengthen local governance, reduce health risks, **and build sustainable communities through cross-sector collaboration.**



Strengthens Local Governance

Enhances the capacity of local governments to manage cities in a systematic and integrated way.



Reduces Environmental Risks

Promotes a cleaner, safer and healthier environment through effective environmental management.



Promotes Health Equity and Access to Services

Reduces inequalities and improves access to essential public services, especially for vulnerable groups.



Improves Health Outcomes

Prevents diseases and promotes the health and well-being **for all.**



Empowers Communities and Promotes Participation.

Builds stronger and more resilient communities through people's participation and collaboration across sectors.



Develops Sustainable Urban Systems

Builds quality infrastructure and service systems that support healthy, livable and resilient cities for the future.



"Healthy Cities create opportunities today for a better and more sustainable tomorrow."

Healthy Cities

Healthier People • Stronger Communities • A Sustainable Thailand

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

13 CLIMATE ACTION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Thailand's Healthy City Standards

3 Key Elements for Healthier, Safer, and More Sustainable Cities

Healthy People
Healthy Communities
Sustainable Thailand

HEALTHY CITY THAILAND

1 Healthy Environments

Clean, Safe and Resilient Environments



- Environmental policy and planning
- Healthy public spaces
- Solid waste management
- **Water,Sanitation and Hygiene**
- Nuisance management
- Air quality
- Disaster and emergency management

2 Healthy Settings

Supportive Settings for Healthy Living



- Housing and sanitation
- Fresh market
- Food establishments
- Public toilets
- Temples and religious sites
- Early childhood centers
- Health-Promoting Schools (HPS)

Healthy People

Empowered People and Strong Communities



- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Physical activity and healthy lifestyles
- Accessible health and social services
- Community participation and empowerment
- Social support and inclusion
- Mental health and well-being
- Health literacy and communication

LOCAL ACTION | HEALTHIER PEOPLE | STRONGER COMMUNITIES | A SUSTAINABLE THAILAND

Healthy Cities
Healthier People
Stronger Thailand

Healthy City Achievements in Thailand

Improving Quality of Life for the Thai People

Healthy People Brighter Thailand

935 Cities

recognized as Healthy Cities

12% of local administrative organizations nationwide



Healthy Cities for a Healthier Thailand

People Healthier

Communities Stronger

Thailand Sustainable

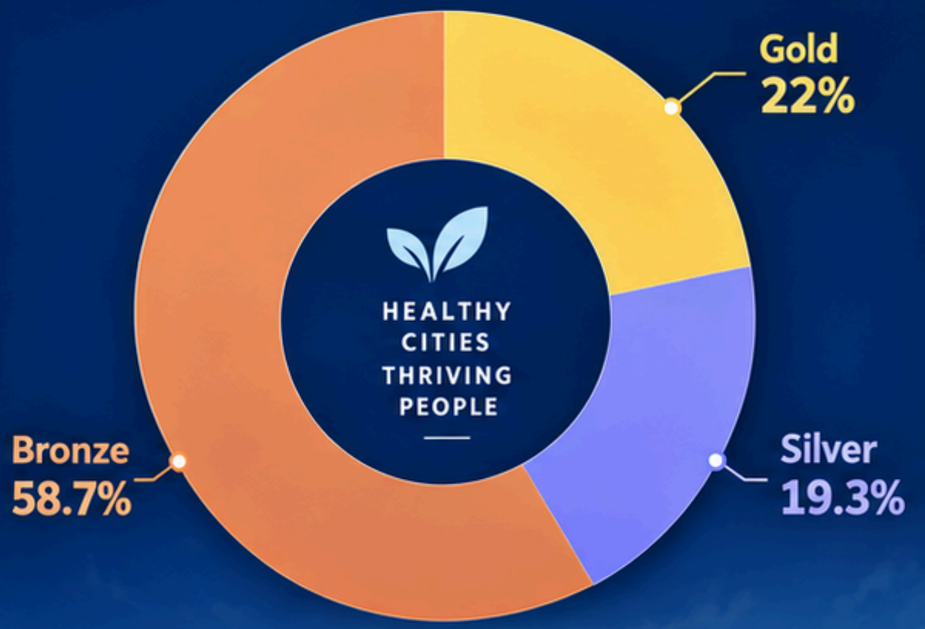
Healthy City Awards

- Gold Level **206** cities
- Silver Level **180** cities
- Bronze Level **549** cities

Regional Coverage

Region	Coverage
1	9.00%
2	9.40%
3	15.50%
4	14.20%
5	4.60%
6	11.60%
7	7.70%
8	10.40%
9	13.80%
10	30.40%
11	12.40%
12	6.60%
Total	**12.00%**

Proportion of Healthy Cities by Award Level



Healthier People • Stronger Communities • Sustainable Thailand

Connecting Thailand to the WHO-SEAR Healthy Cities Network

From Local Action to Regional Collaboration for Healthier, Safer and More Sustainable Cities

> Healthy Cities,
> Healthy People,
> A Stronger Thailand
> WHO South-East Asia

HEALTHY CITY THAILAND

Thailand's Commitment

National coordination
The Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Leads the Healthy City initiative

Standards and technical support
Develop guidelines, build capacity, and provide tools for local implementation

Networks at all levels
Connect local governments through 12 Health Regions and national networks

Working Together on Shared Urban Health Challenges

- **Air pollution** — Cleaner air for healthier cities
- **Environmental health** — Safe and healthy environments
- **Climate change and heat-related health risks** — More resilient communities
- **Sustainable urban development** — Liveable and resilient cities
- **Healthy ageing** — Age-friendly and inclusive cities
- **Health equity** — Leaving no one behind



8 Lead Cities from Thailand in the WHO-SEAR Healthy Cities Network (Gold Level)

8 Lead Cities


1. Bangkok Metropolitan Administration


2. Ban Suan Municipality (Chon Buri)


3. Khlong Cha-un Subdistrict Municipality (Surat Thani)


4. Sadao Municipality (Songkhla)


5. Ban Phai Municipality (Khon Kaen)


6. Khao Suan Klang Subdistrict Municipality (Khon Kaen)


7. Kalasin Municipality (Kalasin)


8. Maha Sarakham Municipality (Maha Sarakham)

Expansion is underway in 10 additional cities.

Together for healthier, more equitable and sustainable cities in the South-East Asia Region



Thailand
Healthy Cities for a Brighter Tomorrow

HEALTHY CITIES | HEALTHY PEOPLE | STRONGER COMMUNITIES | A SUSTAINABLE THAILAND | A HEALTHIER SOUTH-EAST ASIA

HEALTHY CITY THAILAND

Next Steps

for Thailand's Healthy City Initiative

เมืองสุขภาพดี Healthy Cities

People • Places • Sustainable Future

Healthy Cities Stronger Thailand

01 Measure Outcomes

From recognition to impact



Track changes in health, environment, quality of life and local capacity.

02 Advance the Standards

Challenge and innovate for greater impact



Develop a higher-level **"Challenge"** standard to address emerging urban global challenges.

03 Scale Up through Networks

From individual cities to regional collaboration



Expand Thailand's connection with the WHO-SEAR Healthy Cities Network, strengthen city-to-city learning, and grow our network of Healthy Cities.



> **"From recognition to impact, from standards to innovation, and from individual cities to connected networks."**

Healthier People Stronger Cities Brighter Thailand

Key Lessons from Thailand's Healthy City Journey

Building a Network of Healthy Cities for People, Places and a Sustainable Future

> Healthy Cities,
> Healthy People,
> A Stronger Thailand
> WHO South-East Asia

HEALTHY CITY THAILAND

1 Shared vision, common direction



One vision for healthier cities

2 Stronger together



Multi-sectoral collaboration drive changes

3 Empowered local governments



Local action for real impact

4 Standards for progress



From assessment to continuous improvement

5 Learning beyond borders



Cities learn, connect and grow together

Healthy Cities
Brighter People
Stronger Thailand



> Connected cities create a **healthier and more sustainable future for all.**

Thank You

Together for a Healthier South-East Asia

HEALTHY CITIES | HEALTHY PEOPLE | STRONGER COMMUNITIES | A SUSTAINABLE THAILAND | A HEALTHIER SOUTH-EAST ASIA





Thank you

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