

Human Rights Assembly Resolution

Sub-Room 4

The situation of the epidemic of COVID-19 with vulnerable groups¹

This resolution aims to prepare for future crises that affect health, economics and society in order to enable everyone living on the Thai soil, especially the vulnerable groups, to have a good quality of life and able to cope with crises

Participants of the 1st Human Rights Assembly, Sub-Room 4, consisting of government agencies civil society, and academics Considered the situation of the epidemic of COVID-19 with vulnerable groups and the challenges of human rights promotion and protection in such situations and have the following opinions:

Development of the COVID-19 epidemic situation

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Thailand in 2020 until now, the government has declared it a dangerous communicable disease that not only affects people's health and lives, but also affects the economy, occupation, education, and life of the people in a wide area, especially in vulnerable groups that are particularly affected by normal intervals. In the past, the government had measures to prevent and control diseases to protect people's rights to health. For instance, the government tries to provide people with access to COVID-19 testing, medical treatment, access to vaccines, and providing remedial measures for economic impacts to various groups of people to help people maintain their basic quality of life in difficult situations.

The actions of the above governments are in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2560, Section 47, which certifies that persons shall have the right to prevent and eliminate dangerous communicable diseases from the state free of charge. Furthermore, section 55 that the governments have a duty to ensure that people receive effective public health services thoroughly. It is also the implementation of Thailand's obligations under Article 11 and Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which recognizes the right of everyone to have an

¹ Vulnerable groups refer to people or groups who are deprived of access to resources, rights, and liberties equally.

adequate standard of living for themselves and their family and ensures their rights. to have physical and mental health of the highest possible standards.

Current challenge issues

However, in the epidemic of COVID-19, there is a challenge in communicating accurate and clear information about the prevention and treatment of COVID-19, including information about vaccines and the implications of vaccination. The variety of information has created confusion and distrust of the Ministry of Health's information that affected to the state's disease prevention and control measures, including public health.

In addition, management has found that there is a lack of operational mechanisms that can help people universally, especially vulnerable groups, who often lack access to health and technology information, resources, and various government services. Although various agencies have established a center to help people according to their mission, but there is still a lack of linking information for coordination in the area into the community, in the past government aids have focused on temporary remedies, lack of other measures, especially helping to restore economic capital for vulnerable groups, such as the revitalization of occupational channels for small entrepreneurs, and employment support or to stimulate occupation and increase employment, etc.

In the present, the government still face challenges in rehabilitating the economy and enabling vulnerable people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to return to work and earn enough to live on. This includes being prepared to deal with situations that may have an impact on health and the economy in the same way as the epidemic of COVID-19, emerging diseases, or other disasters.

Additionally, it was also found that the state does not have social security. Comprehensive and adequate social protection and social welfare to care for all vulnerable groups on Thai land.

In dealing with the challenges mentioned above. The network partners have agreed to drive action guidelines for people of various groups to receive universal and sustainable human rights protection as follows:

1. Development of crisis management systems and mechanisms

1.1 Development of “strategies systems and mechanisms for crisis management” by providing “area-level operational mechanisms” arising from collaboration between government agencies Civil society sector, people's sector, business sector, private sector, and academic sector to provide care and assistance to people, especially vulnerable groups, in a one-stop service in terms of food, health, housing, shelter, and essentials for life, etc.

1.2 Development of a system to support operations in terms of establishing a database of vulnerable groups (such as, data on vulnerable populations residential areas, problem patterns, etc.), database connection between different departments and organizations, allocation of manpower and sufficient budget uncomplicated/complicated and keep up with operations in crisis. As well as, it should also support the body of knowledge and develop the capacity of operational mechanisms at the local level to be able to operate effectively and be able to cope with emergency situations.

1.3 Development of government relief measures for particularly vulnerable groups both in terms of various remedial issues covering vulnerable groups Methods/procedures for accessing uncomplicated/complex measures and fairness by coordinating the information with the vulnerable group database system so that assistance can be done in a timely manner.

2. The preparation to cope with crisis

2.1 Knowledge development and proactive dissemination both health and technology to be ready to deal with critical situations, such as creating health literacy, developing a telemedicine service system (telemedicine) system for disseminating accurate information/news, and infrastructure development (Infrastructure) and knowledge of digital technology (Digital literacy) in order to enable people, especially vulnerable groups, to have access to information, services and government measures in a timely manner.

2.2 Improving fundamental economic (1) Establishment of the Fund for Rehabilitation of Vulnerable Groups by placing the problem owner as the core in managing and promoting the development of people with financial skills (Financial Literacy) both at the family and school levels according to the Cabinet Resolution on June 14, 2022, the draft action plan for financial skills development B.E. 2565-2570 was approved for further expansion into the community. This will prepare people to be able to cope with financial crises that may arise in the future (2) developing skills for vulnerable groups to have access to new employment systems in a timely and fair manner, such as hiring. Work in the Platform (Platform Economy), etc.

2.3 Improving the quality of life of vulnerable groups in various areas, including: formal education and alternative education of children, food security, housing, and having health insurance by should be done as follows: (1) Survey and follow-up of children directly and indirectly affected to enroll in both formal and alternative education systems, including continual assistance in various dimensions (2) Prepare food security to enable people to survive in times of crisis, such as establishing a community/local food stockpile project to distribute food to vulnerable groups, supporting food management through community involvement in crisis through allocation of wilderness areas Survey of public land in each locality for people to use in community farming. Using tax incentives to enable food operators to support food for vulnerable groups during times of crisis including supporting transport to distribute food to vulnerable groups in a timely, thorough and adequate manner (3) Provide/develop housing for vulnerable groups that are homeless in times of crisis to be hygienic and conducive to preventing the spread of disease; (4) Provide health insurance for all people living on the Thai soil. In particular, vulnerable groups have access to essential health services without discrimination, even in a critical situation, free access to health promotion/prevention of diseases such as vaccines, medicines and epidemic prevention equipment to receive health protection in accordance with human rights principles and health security of all people living on the Thai land.

2.4 Encouraging and supporting the business sector, the private sector, civil society, the people's sector, academia, the community and volunteers to be strong and ready to cope with various situations that may arise in the future by supporting resources, equipment, tools, capital, knowledge and organizing the development of community

leaders' potential Community members and vulnerable groups are empowered to cope with situations, including providing a common area that all parties can use for joint development/management. without focusing only on solving immediate problems but must be able to cope with long-term problems.

3. Social protection development, social security, and the welfare of the government to be a universal system as a government tool to reduce inequality in society and take care of everyone on Thailand.

3.1 Develop 3 health insurance systems, namely government, social security and gold card, to be of the same quality and standard. by covering everyone on the Thai land both homeless people with personal status problems non-Thai nationals, aliens, migrant workers and their dependents.

3.2 Develop the benefits of the social security system to protect the unemployment of all groups of workers, including informal and migrant workers to have a living income during the face of unemployment. Consider increasing the contribution of the Social Security Fund to suit the economic conditions and there are strict measures against employers who do not send contributions to employees.

3.3 Basic income insurance for all people of working age at a rate sufficient to sustain life. If any working age people earn less than the basic income rate, the government will fill it until the amount is reached.

3.4 Develop subsidies for young children (newborn - 6 years old) that are currently only given to children in poor families to support all children on the Thai land universally to eliminate the concerns of parents and guardians and ensure that the children who are the future of society are properly cared for and enough during childhood.

3.5 Adjusting the amount in the national pension system for the elderly (over 60 years) to be sufficient for a quality life. This is to ensure that the elderly, who have spent a long period of their lives shaping the country's economy and society, will not fall into poverty.
