



# Digital MCH Handbook: THAILAND

The 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Maternal Child Health Handbook

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Webinar Session “The Digital MCH Handbook”

*23 September 2021, Amsterdam*

**Dr. Sarawut Boonsuk**

*Deputy, Director-General, Department of Health*

*Ministry of Public Health, Thailand*

# Outline



---

Country profile

---

Country maternal child health system in the era of COVID-19 pandemic

---

Overcome of barriers/ challenges by using MCH handbook



# Country Profile

---



# Geographic condition & population

---

- Population 69.8 million
- Fertility rate 1.5
- Life Expectancy 76.9 years old
- Total livebirth 618,193 (2019)
- Out of pocket expenditure (% of Healthcare expenditure) 11.2%
- 99.9% of Thai population is covered by governmental insurance schemes





# Maternal and child health status in SDGs

---

Maternal mortality 23.1 per 100,000 live births (2020)

---

Neonatal mortality 4.2 per 1,000 live births (2020)

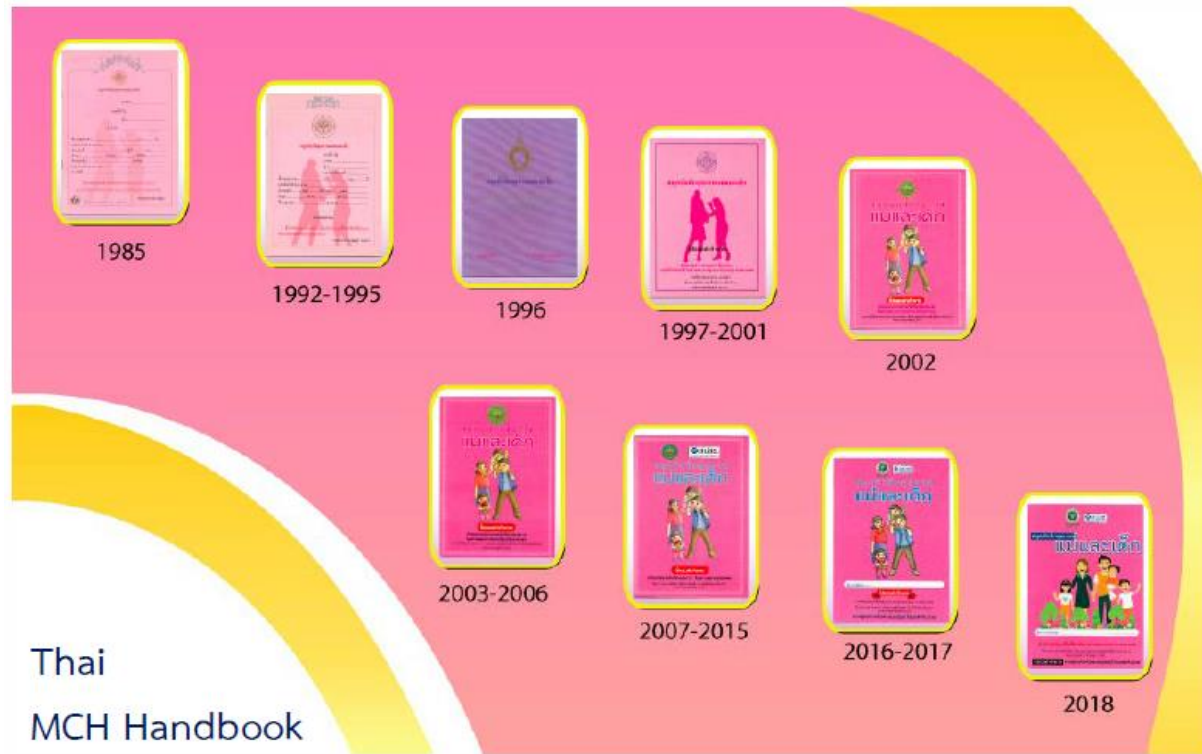
---

Under-5 mortality 8.4 per 1,000 live births (2018)

---

Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV rate 1.9% (2020)

# Current implementation status of the MCH handbook in National Health System



Thai  
MCH Handbook

Total distribution of MCH Handbook is 800,000 copies nationwide.

Funded by the National Health Security Office

Non-Thai  
MCH Handbook



MCH handbook is a fundamental tool of the ANC service in Thailand. The MCH Handbook is distributes nationwide to all government healthcare facilities and requested private healthcare facilities.



# Country maternal child health system in the era of COVID-19 pandemic

---

# COVID-19 statistics

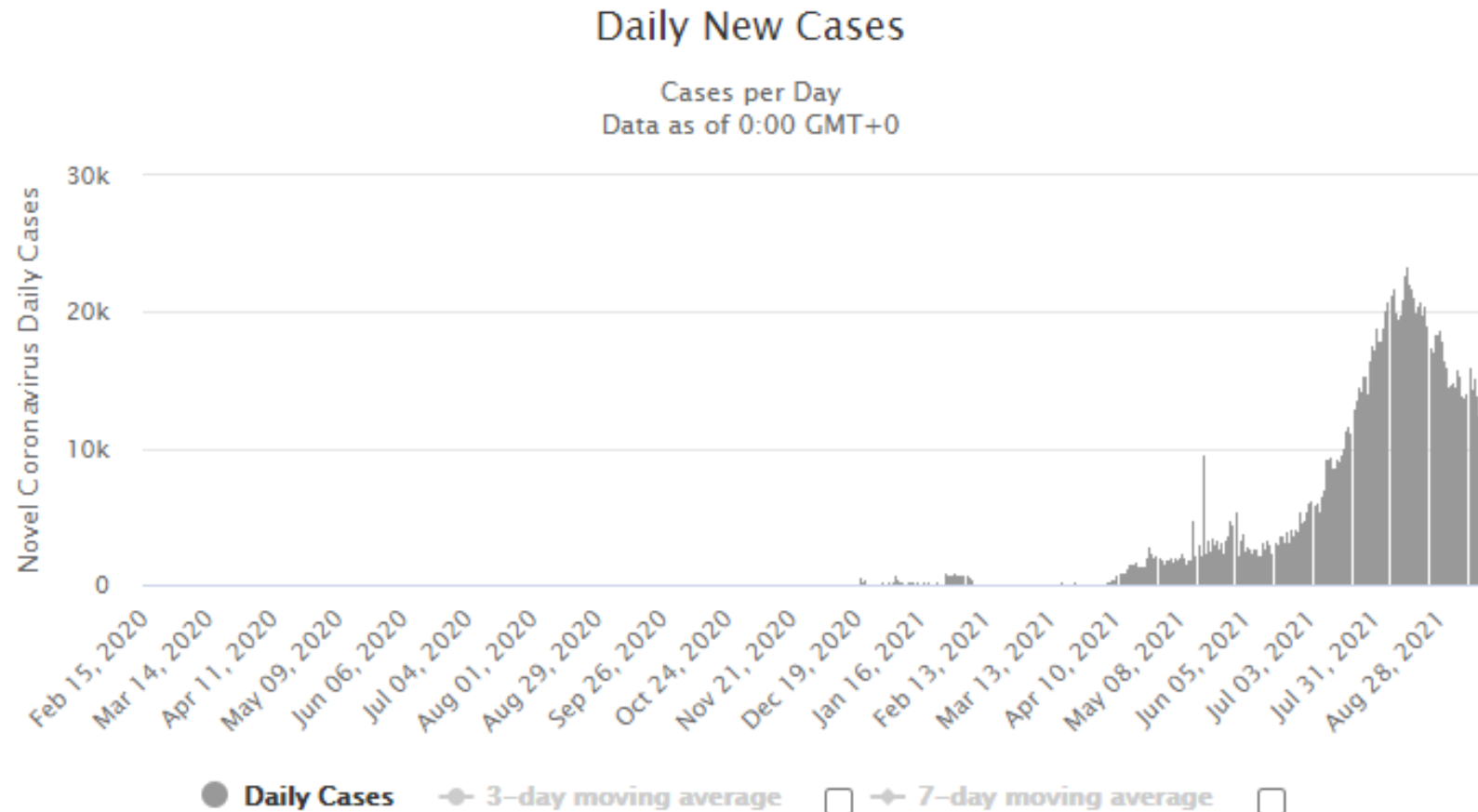


Cumulative cases  
1,500,005

Death  
15,612

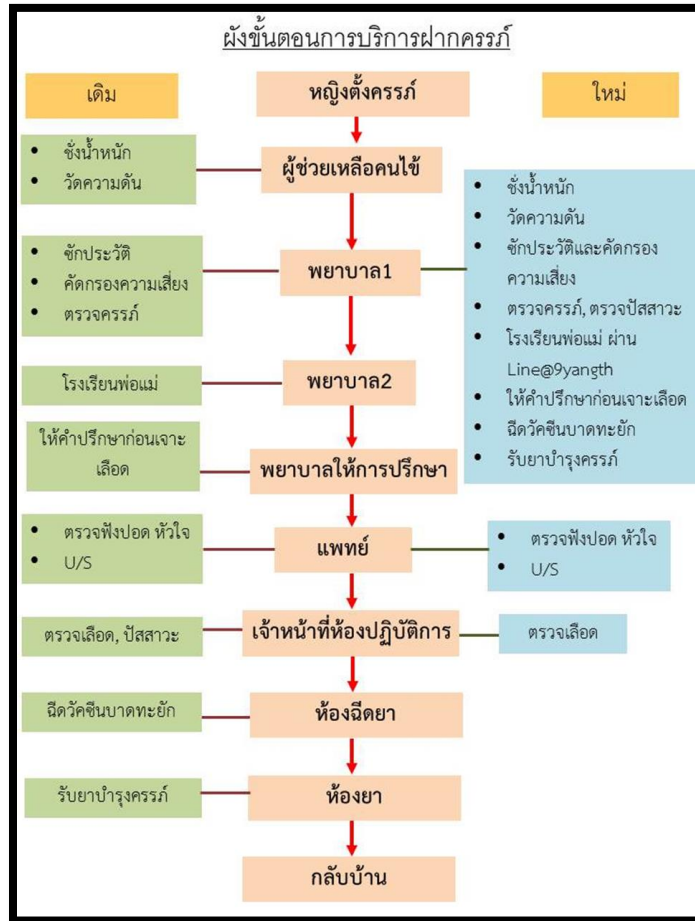
Recovered  
1,352,838

Pregnant and  
Postpartum women  
3,223





# Health services system for COC in maternal and child health services



Overall health services were modified by prioritising of emergency and urgent services and utilising appointment and technology to prevent overcrowded situation in the hospital.

Announce the new normal ANC service; One-stop service

Technology-assisted appointment in high risk ANC case was utilized and COVID-19 risk screening was performed in all patients.

Postponement of ANC visit in low risk case and child development screening occurred during March to May, and the telephone or Line follow-up were replaced.

Group activity such as Parental School was educated through Line group instead.



Direct messages were delivered by the 9yang Line official account, which is under the Early Moments Matter Project (UNICEF).



Guidance for maternal and childcare during COVID-19 pandemic

# Community participants in maternal and child health services

---

- Village health volunteers (VHV) (1 million) are a key factor to facilitate community services in Thailand. They work seamlessly with the sub-district health promoting hospital.
- They would facilitate the growth measurement of child and refer mother and child to the sub-district health promoting unit if necessary.





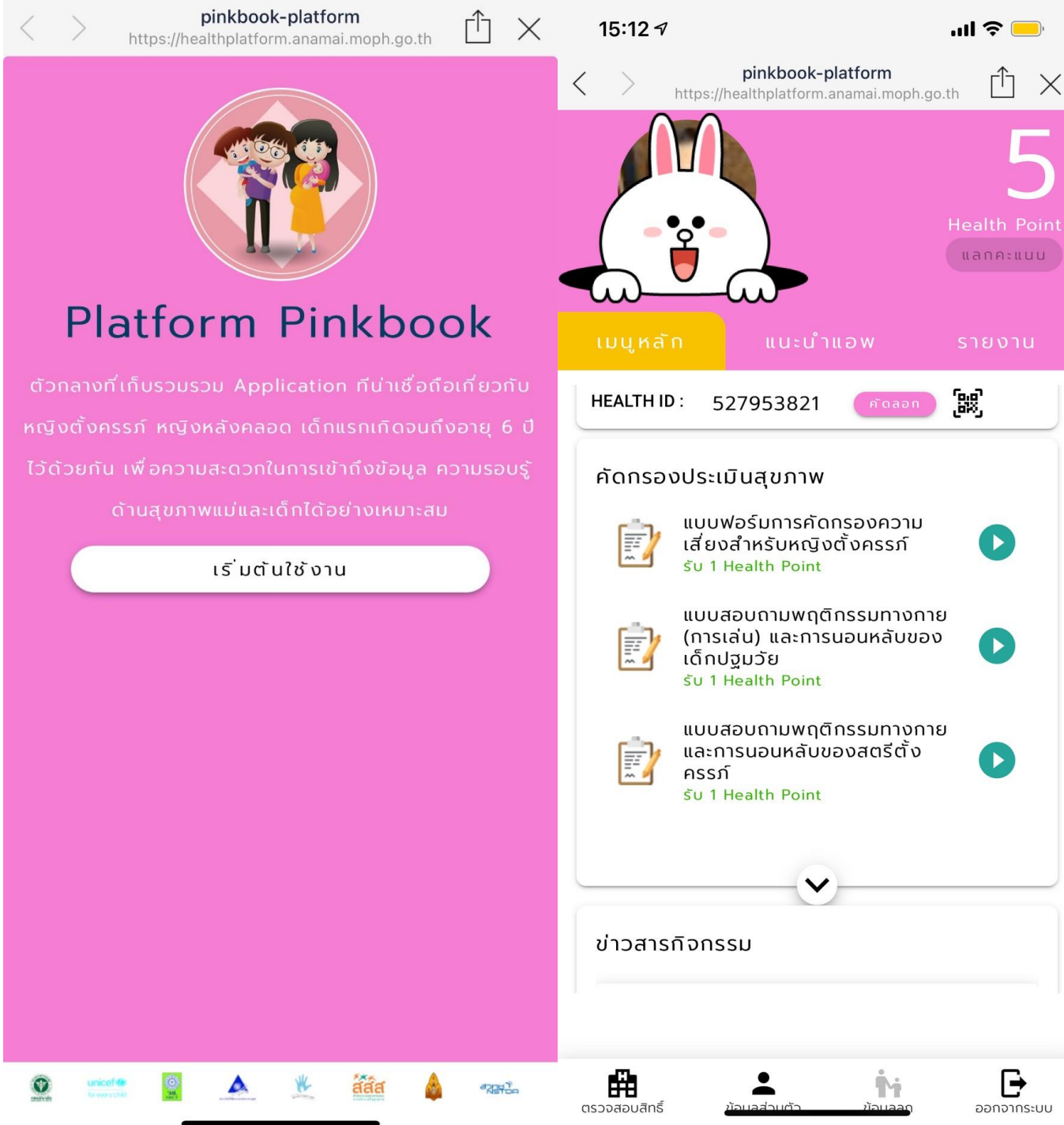
## Current barriers/ challenges for providing COC for maternal and child health services under the COVID-19 pandemic situation

- Anxiety and fear of mothers and families to reach healthcare facilities physically
- Mothers are skeptical to breastfed their babies due its close contact action
- Absent of 'parental school' sessions (preparation of parents prior to child birth)
- Difficulties during transportation, especially public transportation
- Health systems resource sharing with the COVID-19 preparation at the service providing level, including human, financial, and material resources.

*However, usual health services deliveries resumed since May 2020*







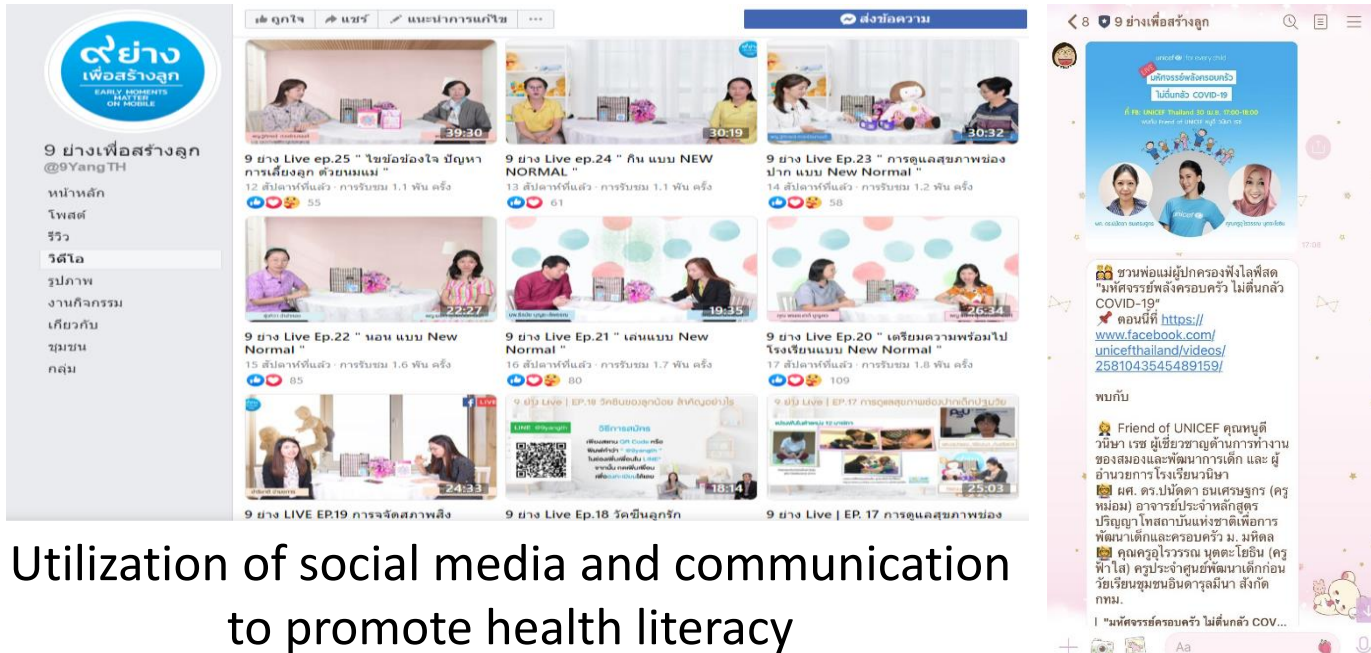
# Transformation of Digital MCH Handbook



- Digital transformation through integrative platform was initiated and under development.
- Digital MCH Handbook will be integrated with other age specific handbook in order to complete life-course health promotion approach
- Health points collection was adopted in order to encourage more engagement and retention of users



# Supportive factors to address the challenges



Utilization of social media and communication to promote health literacy



Strong primary health care systems through VHV and sub-district health promoting hospital

## Resilience health services delivery systems

- Service prioritization
- Appointment systems
- Hospital management; drug delivery





***THANK YOU***