

IMPLEMENTATION OF THAILAND'S SUBNATIONAL VERIFICATION PROGRAM

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Introduction

Thailand's National Malaria Elimination Strategy¹ aims to reach zero indigenous malaria by 2024 and subsequently apply for the World Health Organization's (WHO's) Certification of Malaria Elimination². To track progress and to affirm ongoing transmission areas are shrinking, the country's Division of Vector Borne Diseases (DVBD) has launched a step-by-step subnational verification program.

Methods

Provinces that have interrupted local malaria transmission for three consecutive years apply by submitting standardized evidence across five technical modules:

- disease surveillance
- diagnosis treatment
- Committee
- Planning
- resource mobilization

These modules coincide with the WHO's requirements, facilitating Thailand's preparations for national-level certification

Results

Since the program's launch in 2019, 40 provinces have qualified as malaria free (Figure 1). Most provinces showed strong surveillance to detect all malaria cases with support from 1-3-7 interventions; where routine data faltered, malaria officers reviewed source documents for evidence of sustained interruption of transmission and appropriate management of last-mile cases. These results coincide with the decline in active foci from 900 in 2019 to 448 in 2021. (Figure 2).

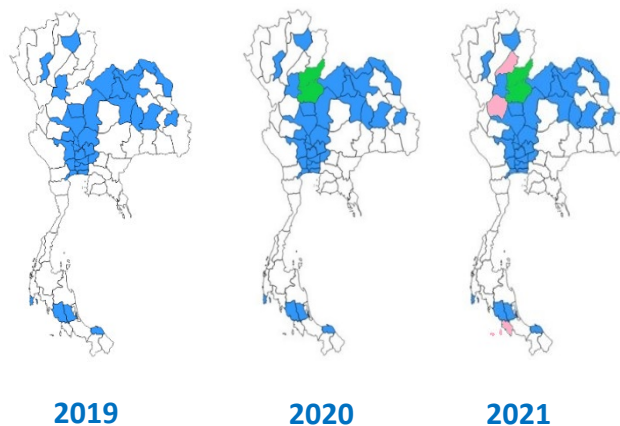


Figure 1: provinces have qualified as malaria free in Thailand

Conclusion

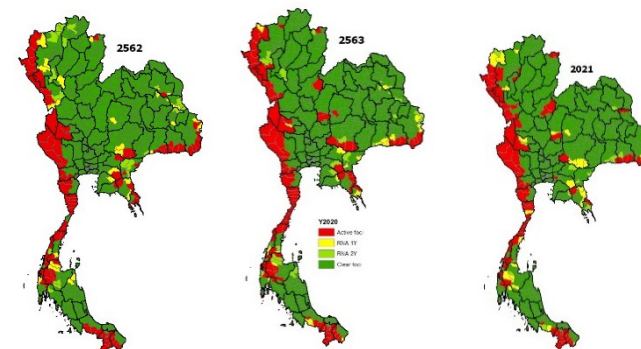


Figure 2: active foci 2019 -2021

The subnational verification program is supporting Thailand's elimination goals one province at a time. As the program strengthens, malaria officers from operational districts and provincial health offices are taking on enhanced leadership to support the path to malaria elimination.

Reference

1. National Malaria Elimination Strategy, Thailand 2017 - 2026. Thailand: Bureau of Vector – Borne Disease; 2016
2. World Health Organization. A Framework for Malaria Elimination. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2017