

The formal alleviation of people suffering and cost reduction during the COVID-19 epidemic in Thailand

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ABSTRACT

Remedial assistance and cost reduction for the people of the Thai government during the coronavirus disease 2019 epidemic is a review of the suffering of the people who have been healed by the Thai government. Remedies to reduce the burden of expenses on people in times of crisis. This research has therefore reviewed relevant research studies and used the Thai government's remedial information provided by the Fiscal Policy Office to show the spatial distribution of remedial assistance across different regions of the country. It was found that the government has directly provided assistance to people suffering from lack of income in 4 projects, namely the program to heal people during the first wave of the outbreak, paying 1,000 baht per month for 3 months from May to July 2020. There are participants in the project. 1.064 million.

The Roa Chana project has a weekly payout of up to 9,000 baht per person (February-May 2021). The project has 33.229 million people. The project to increase purchasing power for the welfare people has 3 phases. Phase one: October-December 2020, the government pays 500 baht per person per month, totaling 3 months, 13.808 million people are eligible. In the second phase, January-March 2021, the government pays 500 baht per person per month, for a total of 3 months, 13.718 million people are eligible. And in the third period of July-December 2021, the government pays 200 baht per person per month, for a total of 6 months, 13.581 million people are eligible. There is also a project to increase purchasing power for those who need special assistance up to 1,200 baht throughout the project period. There is a total of 2,285,429 people who are eligible, most of which are distributed in the Northeast. It shows the comprehensiveness of remedies and assistance that is beneficial to the further assistance of the relevant organizations.

1. INTRODUCTION

The pandemic caused a decline in economic growth and caused a sharp drop in employment in the second quarter (April-June) of 2020. However, consumer and business behavior has been supported by government-sponsored stimulus measures since March 2020, mainly social protection. It has a profound effect on poverty and employment. The impact of COVID-19 on social protection program recipients will depend on the level of investment in health and education as well as the macro-financial response in the medium to long term. Social protection programs provide access to social services such as health and education as well as act as a safety net to reduce negative income and health impacts for households.

Public health measures used to control disease are responsible for the direct impact on services, perhaps most notably in education. Public health measures have enormous economic impact, despite the changes made by macroeconomic stimulus and large payments to households. The cost of stimulus and the loss of GDP will have a lasting impact on public finances, reducing resources for future expansion projects. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU, 2020) estimates that the international recession and Thailand's public health measures will reduce the country's gross national productivity by 8.4 percent compared to the situation during the absence of the COVID-19 pandemic and will be reduced by 6.9 percent due to the impact of economic

stimulus measures. One of the main impacts of COVID-19 continues to be unemployment or job suspensions and continuing to lower incomes. UNICEF used data on sudden layoffs in Thailand to predict a modest increase in poverty in the second and third quarters to another level that hides more severe impacts in some groups. Because UNICEF only estimates the impact of COVID-19 on unemployment. It is therefore important to refer to other figures from the International Labor Organization. (International Labor Organization, 2020), with 6.6-7.5 million workers expected to be directly affected by the COVID-19 economic crisis.

In order to review the suffering of the people who were healed by the Thai government, especially the remedies to reduce the burden of expenses for people during the crisis. Therefore, this research study has reviewed various research studies. and use the Thai government's remedial information provided by the Fiscal Policy Office to show the spatial distribution of remedial assistance across different regions of the country. This study will reveal the breadth of remedies and assistance that will benefit further assistance to relevant organizations.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted in two parts: a review of relevant UNICEF research to study the relief of suffering in Thailand as a whole; and searching for information on Thai government assistance using the information collected by the Fiscal Policy Office. Descriptive statistical analysis is used to classification of the density of people in different regions of the country who receive the right to help and relieve suffering from the Covid-19 crisis.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research has reviewed the measures taken to remedy the suffering of the Thai people from the United Nations in Thailand (2020) report, indicating that The pandemic will cause a deep reduction in economic growth and employment in quarter 2 (Q2) (April–June) of 2020, but consumption behavior and businesses are being supported by a series of stimulus measures put in place by the Royal Government of Thailand since March 2020 and summarized in the table below. These are in large part a social protection package and will have substantial impacts on poverty and employment. The impact of COVID-19 on recipients of social protection programs will depend on the level of investments in health and education, as well as the macro-fiscal response in the medium to long run. Social protection programs enable access to social services, such as health and education, as well as acting as a safety net to mitigate the negative impact on incomes and health shocks for households.

Healthcare spending is also expected to rise by 1.7%, supported by the direct allocation for the sector in the fiscal stimulus package in 2020. Currently, Thai formal workers are protected under the social security scheme and all workers (including informal workers) receive cash assistance to alleviate the poverty impact. Cash handouts may be insufficient to mitigate the impact of income lost overall, and they still exclude some vulnerable groups due to eligibility criteria.

It also surveyed the Thai government's assistance measures during the severe Covid-19 outbreak that prevented people from doing their jobs as usual. Government measures are considered as remedies, reduce cost burdens, support the spending of essential goods, and increase purchasing power for those who need special assistance. There are 4 government-assisted projects: 1) Aid/Remedy/Compensation Program to people affected by the coronavirus

disease 2019 outbreak to help those who have government welfare cards 2) Roa Chana project 3) the project to increase purchasing power for government welfare card holders and 4) the project to increase Purchasing power for those who need special assistance.

Table 2 Number of people eligible for state financial aid.

Project	Number of eligible persons
1. Financial assistance/remedial/compensation programs	1,064,166
2. Roa Chana Project	33,229,388
3. Increase purchasing power project	
3.1 Phase One (October-December 2020)	13,808,756
3.2 Phase Two (January-March 2021)	13,718,150
3.3 Third phase (July-December 2021)	13,581,033
4. Increase purchasing power for those who need special assistance Project	2,285,429

Source: Royal Thai Fiscal Policy Office, 2021

Table 3. Descriptive parameters

	welfare cards	Roa Chana	purchasing power	purchasing power	purchasing power	special assistance
AVG	13820.33766	431143.415	179334.4805	178157.6104	176377.039	29363.93506
MEDIAN	9789	341758	134459	133677	132230	25599
MODE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MAX	49735	1959234	615650	611248	605509	104748
MIN	1229	95154	23816	23720	23440	6985
STDEV	11904.23077	304717.8202	131651.0294	130706.9153	129315.5269	18704.45024
SKEWNESS	1.511823305	2.314602076	1.44640467	1.44562306	1.441379927	1.575018542

Source: Royal Thai Fiscal Policy Office, 2021

The program to help and compensate people affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 epidemic aims to provide relief to those who have a government welfare card who have not received medical assistance from any government program. with reduced income and unable to find other income to replace The government paid compensation of 1,000 baht per month for a period of 3 months between May-July 2020. A total of 1,064,166 people were eligible, mostly in the northeastern region.

But when considering the Roa Chana project, the objective is to help reduce the burden of living expenses for people due to the new wave of the Covid-19 epidemic. There is support for a budget of no more than 9,000 baht per person, paid weekly between February-May 2021. There are a total of 33,229,388 eligible people, mostly in the Northeast.

The project to increase purchasing power for people with government welfare cards is intended to help heal and reduce expenses for those who have government welfare cards during the epidemic situation of Covid-19. This measure is aimed at helping people with cardholders who are unable to do their jobs normally, have lower incomes, and are unable to find other incomes to replace them. Assistance is divided into 3 phases:

- Phase 1, implemented during October-December 2020, the government supported the budget for the purchase of essential consumer goods from low-cost Blue Flag stores to develop the local economy at 500 baht per person per month for 3 months, with a total of 13,808,756 eligible people. Most of them are distributed in the Northeast.
- Phase 2, conducted between January and March 2021, the government supported the budget for the purchase of essential consumer goods from Thong Fah stores at 500 baht per person per month for 3 months, with a total of 13,718,150 eligible people.
- Phase 3 will be implemented during July-December 2021. The government supports the limit for the purchase of goods from Thong Fah stores and supports the limit for the purchase of goods or service fees from shops or service providers participating in the 3rd phase of 200 baht per person per month for 6 months. There is a total of 13,581,033 eligible people, mostly scattered in the northeastern region.

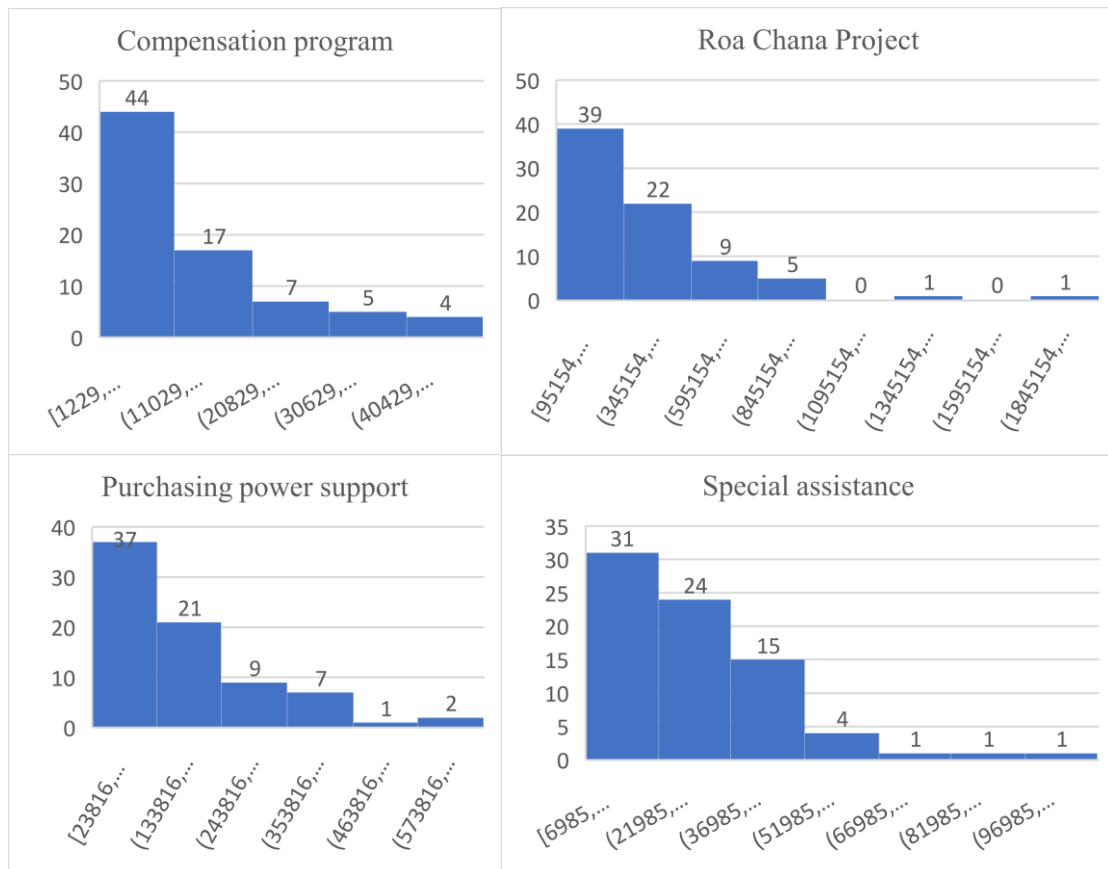


Figure 1. Distribution of government grantees in various projects during the COVID-19 crisis in Thailand

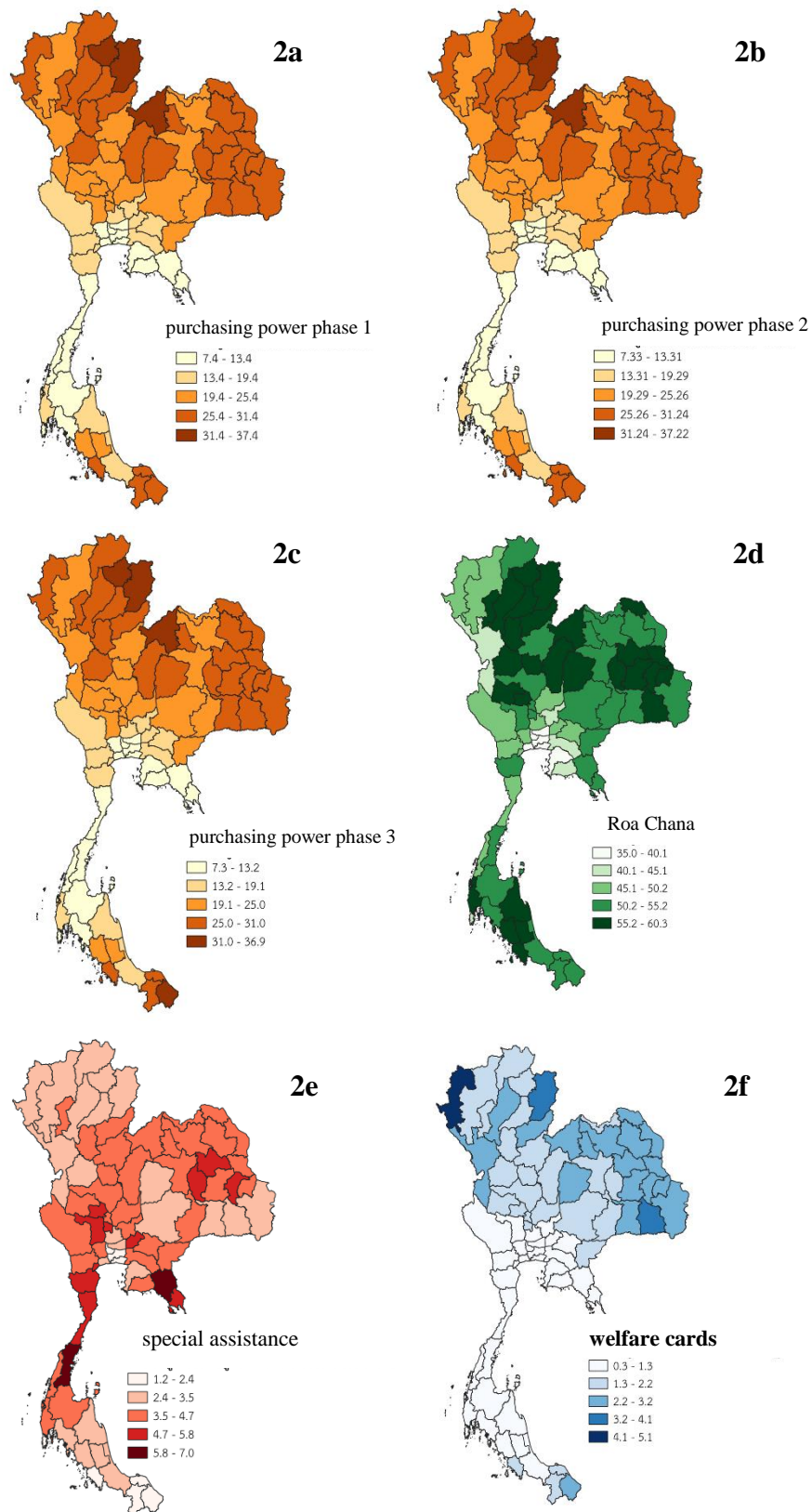


Figure 2. Distribution of government grantees in various projects during the COVID-19 crisis by regions in Thailand

The project to increase purchasing power for people with government welfare cards is intended to help heal and reduce expenses for those who have government welfare cards during the epidemic situation of Covid-19. This measure is aimed at helping people with cardholders who are unable to do their jobs normally, have lower incomes, and are unable to find other incomes to replace them. Assistance is divided into 3 phases:

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The project to increase purchasing power for disadvantaged groups aims to help and reduce the cost burden to those who need special assistance during the COVID-19 epidemic situation. The epidemic has left people in need unable to work as usual, their income is not enough to cover basic living expenses, and a dependency on their caregivers or family members. There is a credit limit for the purchase of goods from the Blue Flag Shop and support for the purchase of goods or service fees from participating stores or service providers, Phase 3, at 200 baht per person per month for 6 months between July and December. 2021, the total amount is not more than 1,200 baht throughout the project period. There is a total of 2,285,429 eligible people, mostly scattered in the northeastern region.

4. CONCLUSION

This particular research has surveyed information on measures to help the Thai government during the severe outbreak of COVID-19, people are unable to do their jobs as usual as a remedy reduce the burden of expenses Support spending on essential goods and increase purchasing power for those who need special assistance. There are 4 government-assisted projects. Firstly, A project to help/heal/compensate for people affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak. This project aims to help those who have a government welfare card of 1,000 baht per month for a period of 3 months during May - July 2020, there are a total of 1,064,166 people receiving rights. Our winning project, secondly, is not more than 9,000 baht per person, paid weekly between February-May 2021, with a total of 33,229,388 eligible people. Thirdly, Project to increase purchasing power for people with welfare cards of the state. It has three phases to pay for the people: phase one, October-December 2020, pay 500 baht per person per month for 3 months, with a total of 13,808,756 eligible people; phase two, January - March 2021, pay 500 baht per person per month for 3 months, with a total of 13,718,150 eligible people; and phase three, July-December 2021 pay 200 baht per person per month for 6 months with a total of 13,581,033 eligible people. And the last project to increase purchasing power for those who need special assistance up to 1,200 baht throughout the project period.

There is a total of 2,285,429 eligible people. Most of them are distributed in the Northeast Thailand.

5. REFERENCES

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