

# *THAILAND*

COVID-19 and International Cooperation  
December 8, 2020

# *Introduction*

- Thailand = the first country to report a case of coronavirus outside of China - 12 January.
- Evidence of domestic transmission - 31 January
- Biggest single-day increase of 188 new cases - 22 March
- **National Emergency Decree and declaration of a state of emergency - 26 March**
- Slower transmission since:
  - As of 23 September, the number of confirmed cases = 3,514, including 59 deaths
- **Thailand = an example of best practices**
  - 6<sup>th</sup> on the 2019 Global Health Security ranking
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> on the September 2020 Global COVID-19 Recovery ranking
  - UHC Champion in various international fora esp. UN

# *Health System in Thailand*

- **Governance**

- Combination of **national-level and local-level** governance mechanisms
- National: Government (Cabinet) + Ministry of Public Health + autonomous organizations
- Local: District Health System (DHS) + the Participatory Health Region committees

- **Health care delivery**

- Formal (predominantly public: 80%) + **informal** ('village health volunteers': 1 Mil)

- **Health insurance**

- 7.2% Civil Service Medical Benefit Scheme + 17.3% Social Security Scheme + 72.3% Universal Coverage Scheme + at least 3% having supplementary private insurance
- **Universal health coverage**

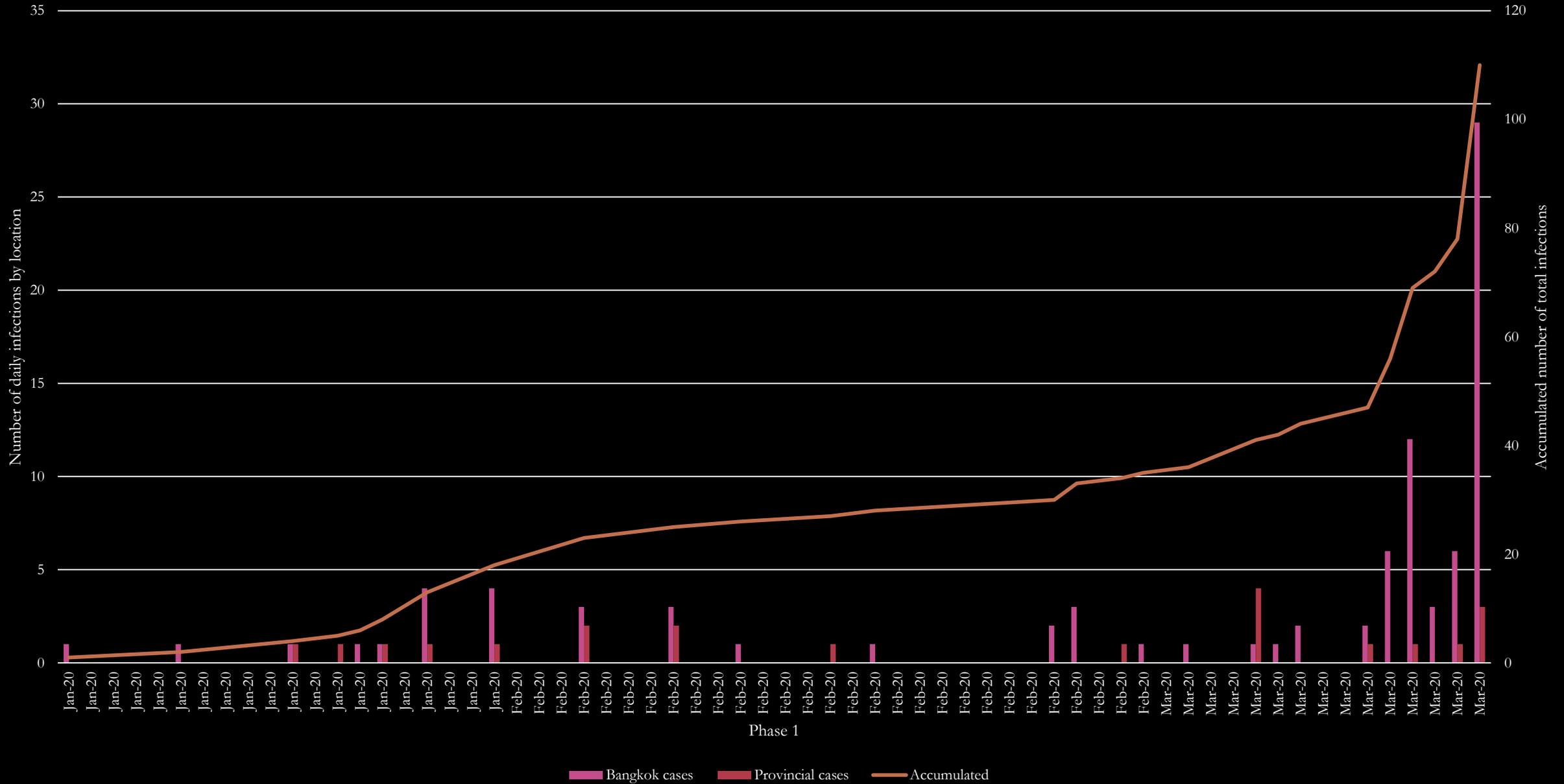
# *COVID-19 Response System in Thailand*

- Evolution of response system over time.
- Description of important turns of events – prompting specific policy responses.
- **First phase (January to mid-March):** persuasion strategies and “wait-and-see” policies
- **Second phase (mid-March – April):** regulations and heightened coordination
- **Final phase (May – present):** lockdown easing and maintenance of physical distancing

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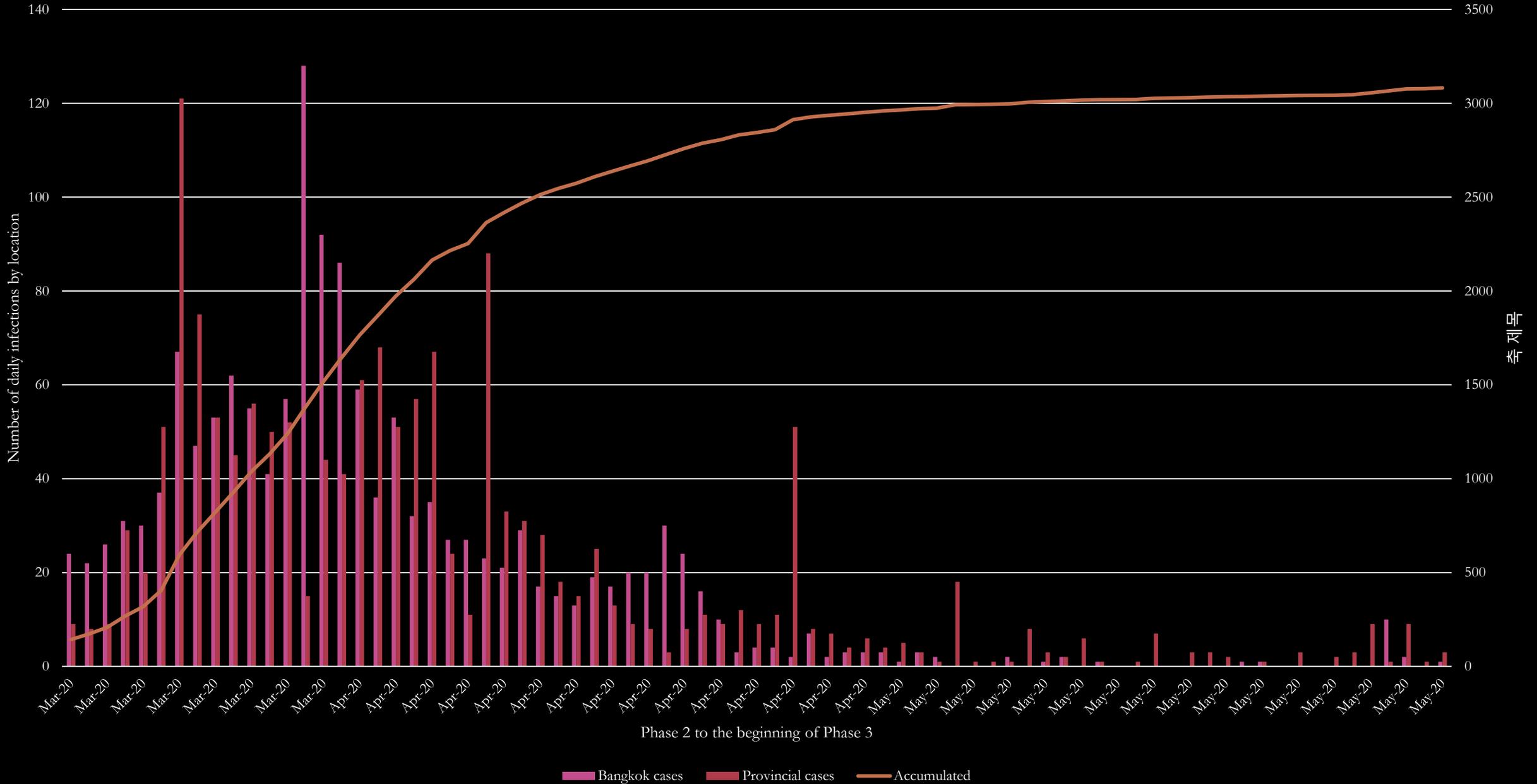
Daily infections by location and accumulated cases over the period



# *COVID-19 Response System in Thailand: Present system*

- National Emergency Decree in place until end of Sep.
- The Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA, henceforth) serves the HQ.
  - Prime Minister at the apex – **clear command hierarchy**
  - Authority to come up with COVID-19 measures and mobilize government resources
  - Task force for the following policy fields: public health interventions, procurement of protective equipment, public communications, foreign affairs, protective measures and relief measures
  - Public health task force = MOPH + Ministry of Interior + Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
  - National policy guidelines + implementation at the local level → **importance of local knowledge + social capital** inherent in village health volunteers, local admin bodies and social development volunteers

# Daily infections by location and accumulated cases over the period



# *Results of COVID-19 Policies*

- **Phase 1: Gradual growth of cases.**
  - 63 days from first confirmed case to 100 cases (12 Jan - 15 March)
- **Phase 2: Rapid rise and then fall.**
  - 3 days for number of cases to double from 100 to 200 (18 March)
  - 3 days from 200 to 400 (21 March)
  - 3 days from 400 to 800 (24 March)
  - 7 days from 800 to 1600 (31 March)
- **Phase 3: COVID-19 under control**
  - 100 days from 1600 to 3200 (9 July)
  - Still below 3500 today.



CCSA establishment 26 March





# *Results of COVID-19 Policies*

- **Success factors**
  - A strong and resilient health system: predominantly public with local policy agents (VHVs)
  - Universal health coverage: assured access to necessary and timely medical care
  - Strength of CCSA: clear governance structure and communications strategy
  - Public behavior: high public cooperation and public contribution

# *Covid-19 economic impact*

Change in manufacture and service output (year to year)

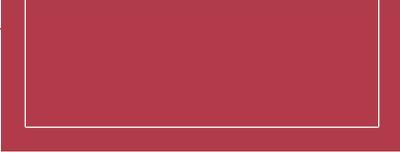


# *Covid-19: economic measures (enterprise)*

- Tax: tax filing deadline extension (by maximum 6 months), withholding tax reduction, fast-tracked rebate, increase tax deduction regarding employment expenses
- Utility bill exemption in state-owned industrial estates, delay billing in other cases
- Debt moratorium up to 6 months
- Soft loans through commercial banks, state-owned banks, and non-bank lenders who receive facilities from Bank of Thailand (altogether 650 billion baht (approx. 20 billion US dollar))
- Special package for export-related enterprises (line of credit, credit guarantee, low i/r loan)
- Budget of 400 billion baht (13 billion US dollar) as economic stimulus

# *Covid-19 economic measures (individual)*

- Cash handout between May – July (ranging from 5,000 baht per month plus a top-off up to 2,000 baht if qualified)
- Government subsidies for domestic tourism (up to 40% of accommodation and transport expenses)
- Tax: filing extension, increase tax allowance for health-related expenses, fast-tracked rebate
- 3% Utility bill discount between April to June (to support the work from home measure)
- Price control (reduction of 5-58%) for 72 essential goods
- Government-sponsored paid job training program between April – September
- Debt moratorium (mortgage, car leasing) for 3-6 months
- Low cost emergency loan (0.1% for up to 10,000 baht) between April - December



*Thank you – Khob Khun Krub*