

# Social Protection Governance in Vietnam and Thailand: Lessons Learned on Decentralization

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### TWO POLICY TYPES:

- Social insurance & social assistance

### THREE DECENTRALIZATION TYPES

- Deconcentration, delegation, and devolution

### QUESTIONS

- Who advocated the policy?
- How was social protection managed?
- Did beneficiaries participate?

### ASEAN CASES

- Vietnam & Thailand → ASEAN

# Introduction

Vietnam	Thailand
Government makes policy; each government agency makes policies for its jurisdiction	Open decision-making process
Some stakeholder participation	Social protection policies are part of political parties' campaign platforms
Limited end-user voice	Popular organizations are strong

## I. POLICY MAKING - Centralization vs. Decentralization

Advantages	Disadvantages
Uniform framework	Little consideration of local differences & new groups
Initiated by the government: long term policy goal	Policies lacking continuity

## I. POLICY MAKING - Centralization vs. Decentralization

Questions:

- Social protection agencies: independent or integrated into existing ministries?
- How much decentralization within social protection agencies?

## III. DECENTRALIZATION IMPLEMENTATION

- Operated by Vietnam Social Security (VSS) - a “partially delegated” organization
- Challenges: The case of health insurance
  - Health facility expenditures vs. health insurance funds
    - Cost coverage vs. fund balancing
    - End-user opinions
  - VSS highly centralized, leading to incentive problems

## SOCIAL INSURANCE MANAGEMENT - VIETNAM

- Diversified system with disparities among end-users
- Use of various decentralization methods

## SOCIAL INSURANCE MANAGEMENT - THAILAND

- Policy making mostly centralized, implementation decentralized within the central framework
- Coordination among different sectors (education and health care)
- Key decentralization areas
  - planning, budgeting, processing, beneficiary identification, service delivery, verification, monitoring

## SOCIAL ASSISTANCE - VIETNAM



## Local governance challenges:

- Service delivery vs. state management functions
- Implementation challenges
  - Local governments improvise frameworks
  - Poor follow-up on beneficiaries not claiming their benefits
  - Errors in beneficiary identification
  - Slow service delivery process and informal charges
  - Services in kind not suitable

# SOCIAL INSURANCE MANAGEMENT - VIETNAM

- Some similarities to Vietnam in the area of social assistance policies
- Focus on larger community - universal approach to the tambon –level administration
  - Investment in both resources and capacity building
  - Decentralization potentially empowers the disadvantaged

## SOCIAL ASSISTANCE - THAILAND

- Mass organizations/CSOs active in implementation, not policy-making
  - Key role: dissemination of information on rights and entitlements, beneficiary identification, monitoring of service delivery

Thị Kiều Oanh	1994	Khu 9 - TT Gio Linh	Mồ côi	180,000
Thị Đức Quang Nhật	1997	Khu 9 - TT Gio Linh	Mồ côi	180,000
Thị Ngọc Đạt	1995	Khu 11 - TT Gio Linh	Mồ côi	180,000
Thị Thanh Định	2001	Khu 6 - TT Gio Linh	Mồ côi	180,000
Thị Trang	1995	Khu 11 - TT Gio Linh	Mồ côi	180,000
Thị Tuấn Vũ	2003	Khu 5 - TT Gio Linh	Mồ côi	180,000
Thị Kim Ngân	1998	Khu 10 - TT Gio Linh	Mồ côi	180,000
Thị Thanh Hằng	2000	Khu 1 - TT Gio Linh	Mồ côi	180,000
Thị Thanh Vân	2003	Khu 1 - TT Gio Linh	Mồ côi	180,000
Thị Ân Thọ	25/04/2001	Khu 3 - TT Gio Linh	Mồ côi	180,000
Thị Ân Xuân	26/8/2002	Khu 3 - TT Gio Linh	Mồ côi	180,000
cô đơn: 24 người				4,320,000
Thị Thị Hoa	1934	Khu 4 - TT Gio Linh	Già cả cô đơn	180,000
Thị Thị Ba	1935	Khu 3 - TT Gio Linh	Già cả cô đơn	180,000
Thị Thị Xuân	1934	Khu 4 - TT Gio Linh	Già cả cô đơn	180,000
Thị Thị Nậy	1935	Khu 7 - TT Gio Linh	Già cả cô đơn	180,000
Thị Thị Ngọc Lạc	1926	TT Gio Linh	Già cả cô đơn	180,000
Thị Thị Nậy	1918	TT Gio Linh 41	Già cả cô đơn	180,000
Thị Thị Nậy	1934	TT Gio Linh	Già cả cô đơn	180,000
Thị Thị Huyền	1934	TT Gio Linh	Già cả cô đơn	180,000
Thị Thị Địu	1922	Khu 8 - TT Gio Linh	Già cả cô đơn	180,000

## III. PARTICIPATION - VIETNAM



### III. PARTICIPATION - THAILAND

- Combine centralized and decentralized policy making
  - Local governments supplement a uniform framework
- De-concentration, delegation, and devolution depending on tasks
  - Co-ordination among sectors
  - Equity among end-users
- Social protection not an end in itself
  - Social protection opens democratic space and empowers end-beneficiaries

## ISSUES ON GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION