



UNIVERSAL
HEALTH COVERAGE
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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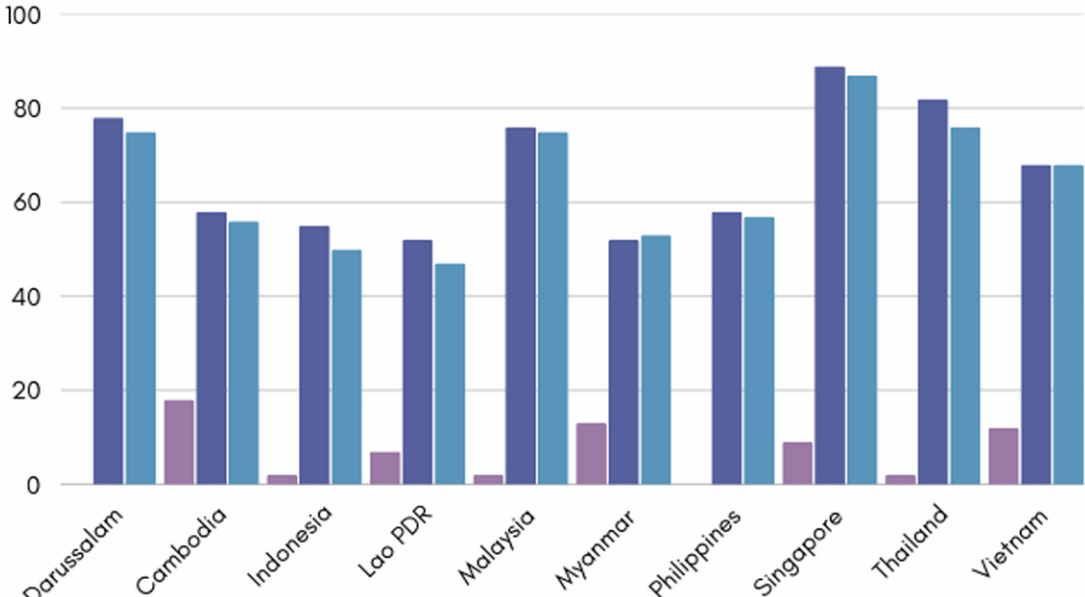
As part of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a key target with the goal of improving health access and security for all.

ASEAN member states have progressed in its **health coverage for their respective populations**. In 2002, Thailand emphasised its commitment to UHC in its National Health Security Act, and in 2004, Indonesia enacted a bill to protect Indonesian citizens from catastrophic household expenditure due to illness and death. In 2005, Cambodia adopted a master plan to establish a health protection system. The Philippines signed an act in 2013 in which the government covers the health premiums of informal sectors.

In Southeast Asia, ASEAN member countries have made some progress in the coverage of essential health services. **Thailand** improved most significantly, with its coverage of essential health services **increased by six points from 76 in 2015 to 82 in 2021**, followed by **Indonesia and Lao PDR**. However, **Myanmar regressed by one point**, dropping from 53 points in 2015 to 52 in 2021.

INDICATORS TO TRACK PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING
UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)

- Proportion of population with household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income greater than 10% of total household expenditure of income (%) 2021
- Coverage of Essential Health Services (an index reported on unitless scale of 0 to 100) 2021
- Coverage of Essential Health Services (an index reported on unitless scale of 0 to 100) 2015



Source: Compiled from ASEAN Statistical Brief, Volume VI, March 2024. "Good Health and Well Being: ASEAN's Progress Towards Universal Health Coverage." ASEAN, <https://www.aseanstats.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ASEAN-Statistical-Brief-March-2024-FINAL.pdf>, accessed 13 March 2025.

CHALLENGES FACING THE REGION

AGEING POPULATION

- Demographic shifts towards an ageing population in **ASEAN**.
- Percentage of elderly individuals increasing from **5.3%** in 2000 to **7.5%** in 2022.



CHRONIC DISEASES

- By **2025**, expected that the **major prevalence of diabetes** will not be in North America or Europe but in the **Asia Pacific region**.
- Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), such as **cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers** and **chronic respiratory diseases**, are the leading cause of mortality in ASEAN.



HEALTH OF MIGRANT WORKERS

- Over **7 million people** from ASEAN work in another ASEAN country.
- About **87% of intra-migrant workers** in ASEAN are **unskilled** or low-skilled.
- **Weak social security protection available** to low-wage migrant workers.



Source: Compiled from World Health Organization. "Universal Health Coverage." Accessed 13 March 2025. <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/theme-details/GHO/universal-health-coverage>.