

Reaching 650 million

Digital technology is key to achieving universal health coverage in ASEAN

Starting with primary care



Achieving universal health coverage is one of the targets of UN Sustainable Development Goal #3

Target 3.8:

Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

UHC Service Coverage Index in ASEAN

All ten countries in ASEAN have committed to the achievement of universal health coverage



Five ASEAN countries have surpassed the global median of 65% population coverage of universal health coverage with two – Singapore and Brunei – already considered to have achieved universal health coverage

However achieving and sustaining universal health coverage is difficult, forcing countries to prioritise between **Access, Quality and Cost**

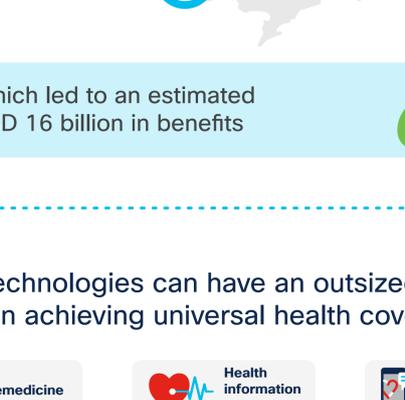


Digital technologies can eliminate the barriers in the iron triangle of healthcare, allowing countries to simultaneously improve



On a national scale, countries have achieved remarkable benefits from comprehensive digital transformation of healthcare

In Canada, the Health Infoway initiative invested USD 2.15 billion into digital transformation (e.g. telehealth, drug information systems, eclinics)



Which led to an estimated USD 16 billion in benefits

Three technologies can have an outsized impact in achieving universal health coverage:

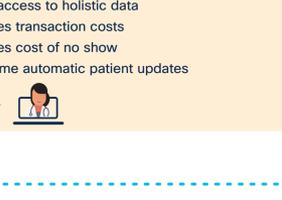


Quality challenge: people centered care, effectiveness of care, patient safety

- Direct to patient
- Comprehensive history and follow up
- Ensure drug prescription management
- Personalized health information
- More patient data enables data-driven decisions
- Monitoring patient condition

Access challenge: Geographic and transport and provider shortage

- Visibility of health stats in remote regions for improved policies
- Access online doctors
- Remote access
- Track and notify remotely

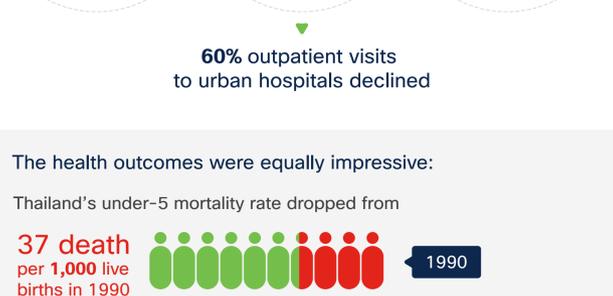


Cost challenge: Cost of care and efficient use of resources

- Reduces time associated with seeking care in remote areas
- Quick access to holistic data
- Reduces transaction costs
- Reduces cost of no show
- Real-time automatic patient updates

Spotlight: Thailand's shift to primary care

Thailand has reached 99% healthcare coverage nationally. Four decades after implementation, outpatient visits to rural health centers increased by 40%, and outpatient visits to urban hospitals declined by 60%, demonstrating a significant shift to primary care in rural areas.



The health outcomes were equally impressive:

Thailand's under-5 mortality rate dropped from 37 death per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 13 death per 1,000 live births in 2013

In the same time period, its maternal mortality rate dropped from 42 deaths per 100,000 live births to 26 deaths per 100,000 live births.

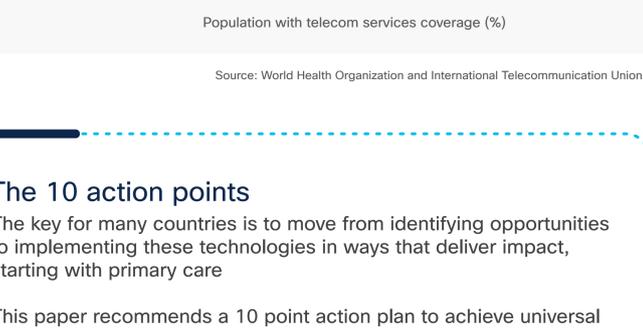
Start with Primary Care

Digital technologies will have the largest impact in healthcare if implemented at the primary care level



Over half of the countries in ASEAN face a severe shortage of physicians and other health workers

The opportunity zone shows the countries where digital technologies can make the biggest and most immediate impact on access to skilled healthcare workers, including doctors, nurses, and midwives



Source: World Health Organization and International Telecommunication Union

The 10 action points

The key for many countries is to move from identifying opportunities to implementing these technologies in ways that deliver impact, starting with primary care

This paper recommends a 10 point action plan to achieve universal health coverage through the implementation of digital technologies

