



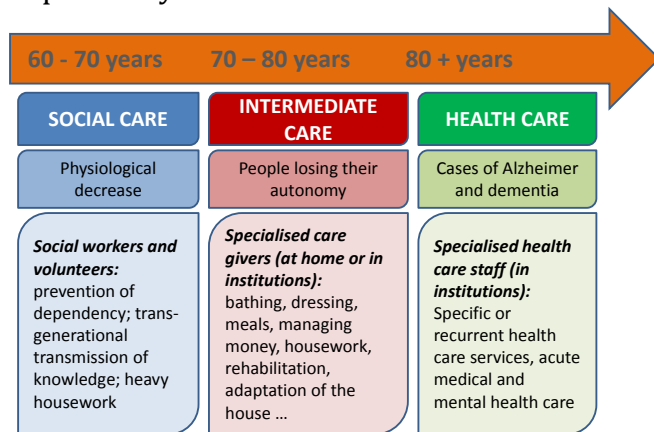
Social protection assessment based national dialogue: Recommendation on long-term care

One of the main recommendations of the assessment based national dialogue (ABND) report is to “*design and establish a long-term social care insurance system*”.

What is long-term care?

A long-term care system provides a collection of complementary services and activities undertaken by informal care givers (family, friends, volunteers, and/or neighbors) and/or professionals (health, social, and others) to ensure that a person who is not fully capable of self-care can maintain the highest possible quality of life, with the greatest possible degree of independence, autonomy, participation, personal fulfilment, and human dignity.

There are three types of long-term care services which are linked to a person’s level of dependency:



Why do we need a long-term care system in Thailand?

1/ The support provided by families is no longer sustainable due to the projected increase in the proportion of older persons (60+) in the total population - from 12.4 per cent in 2011 to 27.1 per cent in 2050 (UN DESA); to the feminisation of the workforce; internal migration amongst the working age population; and decreasing fertility rates (1.6 children/woman in 2010).

2/ The support provided by volunteers and informal care givers is not adapted to the new needs of the elderly; the proportion of “older-olds” (80 years and over) is rising as a consequence of increasing life expectancy. This category of the population faces challenges such as health deterioration, multiple non-communicable and chronic diseases (such as hypertension, cancer, and diabetes), functional limitations such as memory loss, dementia and disabilities which result in dependency and require specialised care.

Thailand needs to embark on the design of a comprehensive LTC system.

This system would be adapted to the demographic and social changes occurring in Thailand. It would enable a shift in the share of the burden from the families and communities to salaried care givers and medical staff. It would take stock of existing initiatives and lessons learned in Thailand.

