



Opening Speech

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For the joint UNFPA Thailand & FHI 360's Green Viability
and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments Conference**

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Distinguished guests, colleagues from FHI 360, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to deliver an opening remark at this strategic joint event between UNFPA Thailand and FHI 360. Thank you for joining us today as we explore the potentials solutions to address complex situations of climate change and its profound impact on healthcare services delivery, especially for the most vulnerable among us to ensure that we leave no one behind. Today, our mission goes beyond words to shed light on the harsh realities faced by pregnant women and girls on the frontlines of climate change, who are frequently unable to access the care they so desperately need.

Consider Ploy, a young pregnant woman living in a remote village on the mountains, her hopes intertwined with the prospect of a new life. Nonetheless, she wakes up each morning with anxiety, aware that the region's weather has become unpredictable due to climate change. Floods and droughts have made traveling to the nearest healthcare facility impossible.

Further, Som, a young girl who is not yet a woman, is carrying the weight of an unborn child. Her strength is incredible, but so is her vulnerability. She lives in an area where the air is polluted as a result of wildfires. Her unborn child's health is jeopardized by the air she breathes.

Last but not least, May, a survivor of gender-based violence in a southern province of Thailand dealing with the challenges of climate change-related



flooding, faces a perilous journey to reach healthcare facilities. Severe flooding has eroded infrastructure, making roads impassable for days and complicating her escape attempts.

These are not hypothetical situations; they are harsh realities that countless pregnant women and girls as well as survivors of gender-based violence in Thailand face in their lives. Climate change is not an abstract concept; for many, it is a challenge in their journey to motherhood leading to good quality populations which contribute to Thailand's sustainable development.

Today, we gather not only to recognize these stories, but also to recognize the critical role that organizations like the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Family Health International (FHI 360) Asia-Pacific Regional Office play in addressing these issues in collaboration with our government partners from line ministries at both national and sub-national levels and selected healthcare facilities. On this occasion, I am especially grateful for the start of our collaborative journey and the signing of the MOU between UNFPA Thailand and FHI 360's Asia-Pacific Regional Office. The healthcare facility assessments project is the first step in our collaboration between UNFPA and FHI 360 to advance the integration of climate-smart principles into the healthcare sector and foster sustainable and resilient healthcare systems capable of effectively addressing the challenges posed by climate change in Thailand. We are working together to bridge the gap between vulnerability and resilience, as well as hopelessness and optimism.

At this critical event, we hope to share not only the results of the Green Viability and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments in four areas across Thailand, but also inspiration and tangible recommendations on way forward. We've gathered here to talk about new ideas and concrete steps that can help women gain access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as support for survivors of gender-based violence. The assessments we're releasing today,



which were conducted at a small number of healthcare facilities, are more than just data; they're a road map to change.

Our goals extend beyond situations and reports. It is concerned with the possibility of ensuring that no pregnant woman or child is left behind as a result of the harsh effects of climate change. It is about making access to healthcare a reality for everyone, regardless of circumstance.

Today's agenda includes three critical elements:

Results of Green Viability and Climate Vulnerability Assessments. We'll start by revealing the findings of four healthcare facilities' green viability and climate vulnerability assessments. These assessments reflect upcoming challenges and opportunities for the WHO's tools and standards. They demonstrate our commitment to customization and transformation based on the Thai context.

Aside from the assessments, our agenda includes a dedicated session for idea exchange. We intend to foster a deep understanding of the common challenges faced by healthcare facilities at all levels in Thailand as a result of climate change's far-reaching effects. Innovative solutions emerge from the crucible of these debates.

We will also talk about future solutions and strategies as we turn our gaze to the horizon. This is where the transformation takes place. We will investigate innovative and implementable climate mitigation and adaptation strategies in Thailand's healthcare environment. These discussions are critical to our mission.

Moreover, this is the opportunity to make a significant difference by transforming the stories of these expectant women and girls into stories of resilience and hope. Today's evaluations, exchanges, and discussions are more than just measurements; they are the path to change. Furthermore, I would like to



emphasize the opportunities for expansion, and new strategic partners are more than welcome to join us in pioneering this initiative.

Thank you for coming today. Let us use the collective will and expertise in this room to envision a future in which the stories of pregnant women and girls as well as all vulnerable groups of Thai populations are not marred by climate-related obstacles, but instead are marked by resilience, health, and hope. We can work together to create a world in which every pregnancy is treated with care, regardless of any climate-related challenges that may arise.