

Reframing UHC and SDGs

Suwit Wibulpolprasert, M.D.

Senior Adviser on Global Health

International Health Policy Program, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

WHS regional meeting, Kish Islands, Iran

April 29th, 2019

Outline of presentation

- SDGs and UHC – the same or different?
- SDG contributes to UHC?
- UHC contributes to SDGs?
- The Political Economy of SDGs and UHC

1.1 SDGs is equivalent to UHC - broad

- The definition of ‘Health’
 - Health means ‘well-being’ in at least three, not just absence of diseases and infirmity
- The goal of SDGs – ‘Well-Being for All’, UHC - Universal ‘well-being’

We should move from ‘Health’ to ‘Well-Being’ Sector, and from WHO, MoH to WWO, MoW!!

1.2 UHC is part of SDGs - narrow

- Definition of UHC “**Universal Access to Essential, Quality, and Comprehensive Health Services and Technologies, including Health Promotion, Disease Prevention, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Care, without Financial Barrier**”
- **UHC is an important element of SDGs**

2. SDGs contributes to UHC

- They are the same ‘Well-being for All’ –broad def
- In the narrower definition of UHC:
 - Less poor, economic growth, education – more demand and investment on UHC
 - Reduce ‘inequality’ – advocacy for UHC
 - Innovation – Genomics, AI, Digital Health – improved access – real meaning of ‘Digital Health’
 - Peace – bring wealth and safe service access
 - Partnership – good governance of UHC

There is no such things as ‘Health Related SDGs’!!

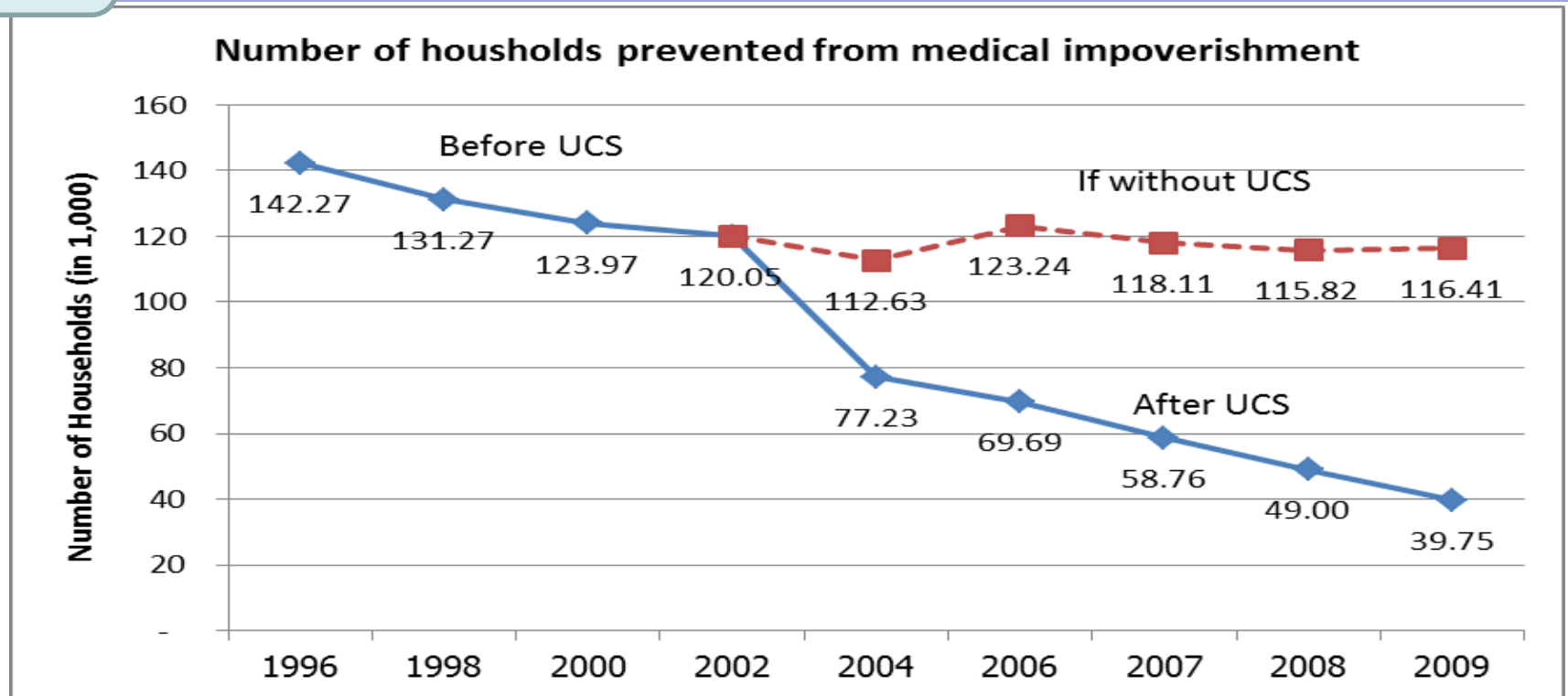
3. UHC contributes to SDGs – few examples

- SDG 1 – reduce ‘Medical Poverty’
- SDG 5,10 – reduce ‘inequality’ - universality
- SDG 8 – decent jobs and economic growth – big return on UHC investment **not expense**
- SDG 9 – opportunity for health innovation and industry

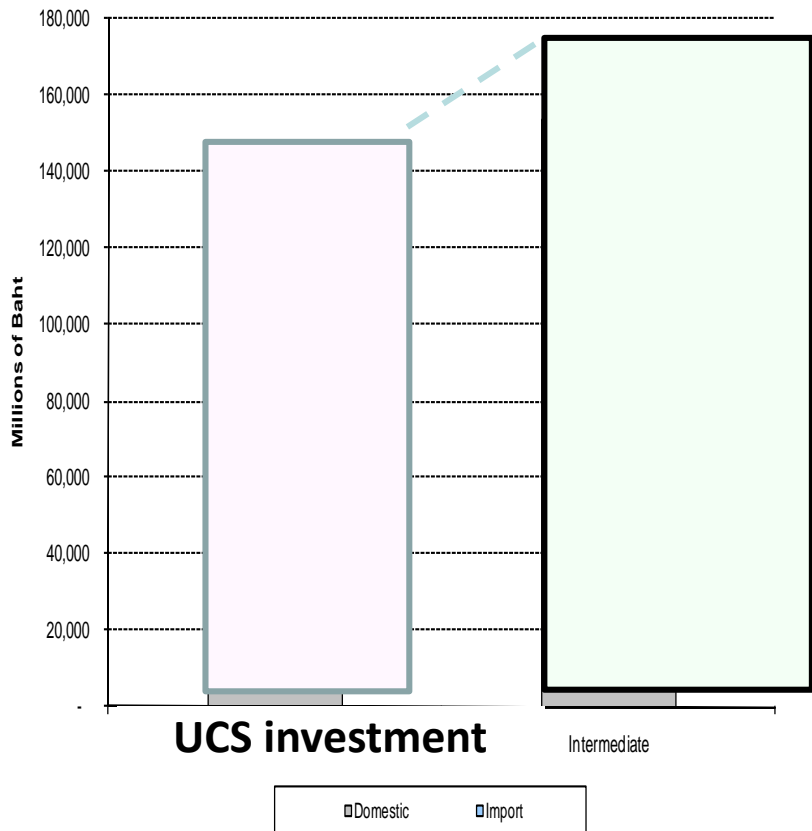
How the Thai UHC contributes to the SDGs?

SDG 1

Prevented 100,000 households from medical poverty annually.

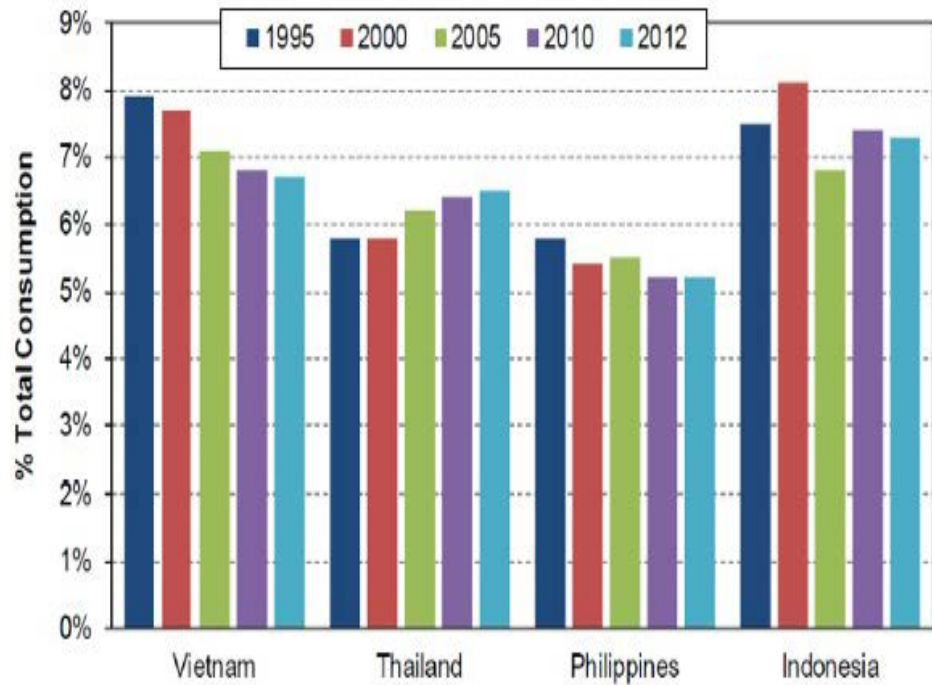


Return on UHC investment



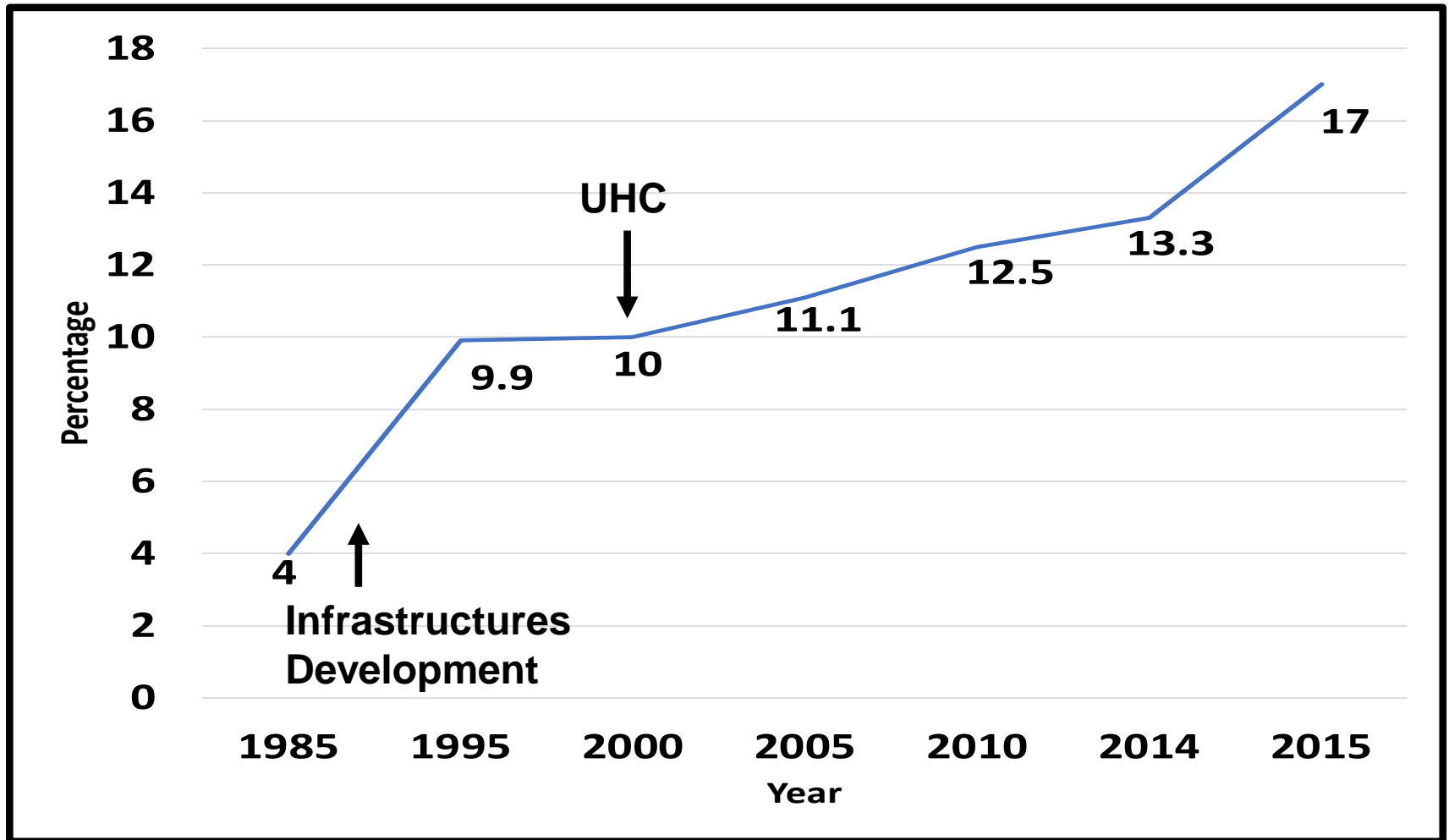
Income redistribution by UHC

Consumption of 20% Poorest



Public Investment on Health in Thailand

% government budget on Health

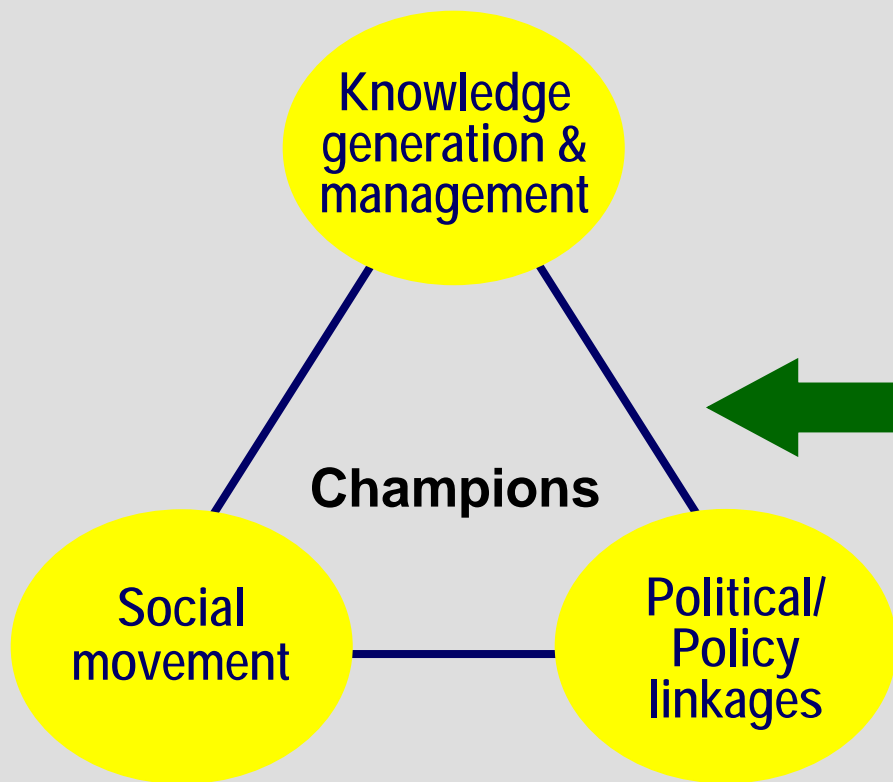


4. The Political Economy of SDGs and UHC

- Politics – ‘Mechanism and processes to determine **‘Who’** gets **‘What’**, **‘When’** and **‘How’**?’
- Limited resources but many needs – prioritization based on equity (horizontal, vertical) and efficiency – **Role of Economic**
- **Get social scientists, anthropologist, and political scientists involve in the science of SDGs and UHC – not just health specialists**

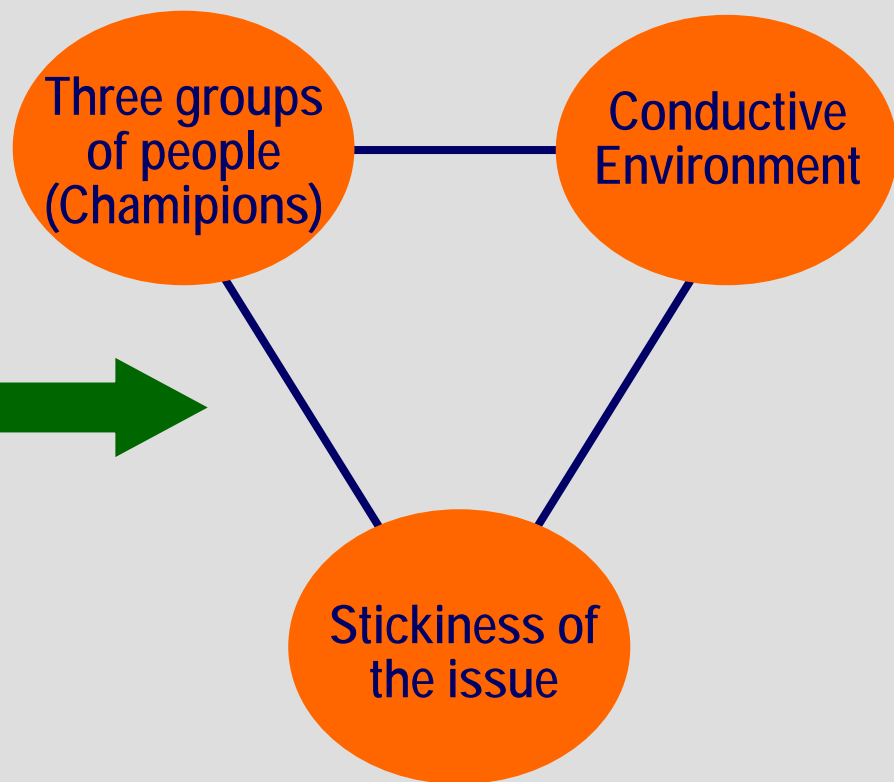
Strategies to reframe and rethink SDGs and UHC

“Triangle that move the mountain”



Prawase Wasi

“Tipping point”



Malcolm Gladwell