

## **ROUNDTABLE**

### **Border Health Policy and Humanitarian Governance Along the Thai–myanmar Frontier**

#### **Coordinator**

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#### **Roundtable Description**

Health responses along the Thai–Myanmar border are increasingly shaped by displacement, political uncertainty, and evolving humanitarian policy frameworks. Since 2021, intensified cross-border mobility has placed pressure on public health services while raising new questions about governance, regulatory interpretation, and institutional coordination within Thailand. Border health policy has therefore emerged as a critical arena where humanitarian imperatives intersect with national legal systems, professional regulation, and public health security. The roundtable therefore centers on Thailand's policy-making environment rather than operational health delivery inside Myanmar.

Unlike discussions centered on operational health responses in Myanmar border regions, this roundtable focuses specifically on Thailand's institutional and policy perspective. Drawing on ongoing research and consultative dialogue led by academic and policy partners in northern Thailand, the session examines how emerging humanitarian health frameworks are interpreted, negotiated, and implemented across ministries, professional bodies, and local health actors. Discussions will address regulatory pathways for cross-border care, institutional roles across government agencies, and the technical–legal challenges that shape which forms of healthcare become formally authorized, informally tolerated, or remain legally ambiguous.

The roundtable situates workforce mobility, humanitarian assistance, and service delivery constraints within a broader governance landscape. Particular attention will be given to policy adaptation under protracted crisis conditions, including questions of professional regulation, health security diplomacy, and the political dimensions of “humanitarian exception.” By bringing together Thai policymakers, academic researchers, and institutional stakeholders, the session highlights how border health policy evolves through iterative negotiation rather than through a single formal policy process.

By placing the Thai–Myanmar frontier within wider regional debates on health and humanitarian politics, this roundtable aims to foster critical discussion on how governance arrangements respond to displacement while balancing professional standards, human security, and regional cooperation. The discussion contributes to broader debates on policy implementation in fragile political contexts and the evolving role of Thailand as a humanitarian health actor in Southeast Asia.

*Keyword: Border Health Policy, Humanitarian Health Governance, Health Security*

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