# METHADONE TAKE-HOME DELIVERY PROGRAM IN MAE SONG, TAK PROVINCE, THAILAND

**Background: The Give Hope Group (GHG) operates under the Global Fund's initiative to eliminate tuberculosis and AIDS, targeting people who inject drugs (PWID) in Tak Province, Thailand. Mae Song subdistrict in Tha Song Yang district is a high-altitude, remote area located approximately 85 kilometers from the nearest hospital, Tha Song Yang Hospital. During the rainy season (May–October), travel is particularly difficult, taking 4–5 hours to reach the hospital. These logistical challenges prevent around 80 PWID from accessing methadone maintenance treatment (MMT). This inaccessibility increases the risk of individuals relapsing to opium use or avoiding MMT initiation altogether.**

**Methods: In response to these barriers, GHG collaborated with Tha Song Yang Hospital to implement a methadone take-home delivery program. New participants were initially screened and dosed at the hospital, while GHG staff facilitated monthly methadone deliveries to the community. Three local field assistants were responsible for collecting used methadone bottles and appointment cards, ensuring continuous delivery throughout the rainy season. Methadone was delivered directly to participants' homes or designated meeting points within Mae Song, ensuring that treatment was not interrupted.**

**Results: The take-home delivery service enabled 52 PWID in Mae Song to receive continuous methadone treatment during the rainy season, preventing relapse to opium use. The service reduced travel time and costs for participants, allowing them to focus on income-generating activities. Additionally, 30 previously untreated individuals expressed interest in starting methadone treatment.**

**Conclusions: The methadone take-home delivery program effectively addressed the barriers to MMT in remote areas during the rainy season. The success of this initiative highlights the importance of community-based service delivery and the trust built between local workers and healthcare providers, enabling sustained access to life-saving harm reduction services.**

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