

WGHC-5 Annual Meeting Summary of Recommendation and Key Agreements

**GMS WGHC Business Meeting
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In the GMS**

GMS WGHC Business Meeting

- The 5th Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Health Cooperation (WGHC-5) took place on 13–14 December 2022 in Siem Reap. The meeting was co-organized by the Ministry of Health (MOH) of Cambodia and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with the theme *“Looking forward – Envisaging GMS Health Cooperation through to 2030.”*
- WGHC-5 aimed to kickstart the development of the strategic vision for GMS Health Cooperation 2024-2030.
- Sessions were designed to jointly discuss and reflect on the WGHC, identify what went right, what went wrong, and what improvements and changes can be made in the future.

- Four key areas of discussion included: climate change and health, addressing migrant health issues, use of digital health technology, private sector engagement in regional health cooperation and health security, and promotion of One Health.
- Some of the recommendations included the development of a GSM-wide portable health insurance scheme - but countries must work together and agree, particularly on insurance packages, which may vary across countries due to different national socioeconomic levels

- A collaborative approach in tackling health-related impact of climate change – particularly its impact on cross-border health security. For GMS countries to explore more opportunities for cooperation aimed at improving regional health security
- Adoption of cluster approach (instead of an individual disease approach) in addressing health-related incidents. Thus, for any cluster of abnormal health events detected, immediate response or action is taken to arrest the problem at its source and prevent it from affecting more people or spreading geographically. Requires more investment in swift response mechanisms

Envisaging GMS health cooperation through to 2030 - The common vision of GMS countries is to extend their collaborations from the existing health security initiatives to overall health system strengthening approaches.

9 Key milestones identified:

- **Malaria elimination goals achieved in the GMS**
 - Surveillance system strengthening
 - Early diagnosis and treatment
 - Ensure fund commitment for malaria prevention and treatment
 - Vector control, health education which focuses on effective intervention/education for the vulnerable population in high-risk areas such as forest, migrant population, and distribution of LLINs

- **Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) within GMS and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) under control within GMS region**
 - Gap analysis of IPC/AMR
 - Rational use of antibiotics
 - Strengthening anti-microbial labs
 - Establish GMS-AMR surveillance
 - Harmonization of drug use laws within GMS
 - Control of counterfeit medicines in GMS

- **Universal Health Coverage for all population in the GMS region**
 - Conduct feasibility study
 - Regional meetings (health + finance and other concerned parties)
 - Regional agreement on interoperable health insurance scheme)
 - Information system in place across GMS countries
 - Development of policy and legal framework
 - Define/strengthen essential health services package

- **Health financing/ seeking fund commitment for the region health through the regional investment plan**
 - Regional mapping on health sector financing
 - Establishment of GMS health cooperation trust fund
 - Regional level innovative financing instrument/ mechanism
 - Regional pool fund for pandemic preparedness
- **Development of preparedness and response plan for emerging diseases**
- **Addressing climate change of preparedness and response plan for emerging diseases**
 - Identify needs and develop plans and guidelines for climate threat
 - Develop GMS tailored policy and coordination mechanism for climate change (4Q policy)

- **Secure the availability of vaccines for preventable infectious diseases**
 - Perform regional study on vaccine development and manufacturing
 - Develop GMS MOU on equitable vaccine distribution
 - Harmonization of regulatory process

- **Digital Health integration in all sub-sectors of Health within GMS region**
 - Conduct comparative study and mapping on digital health status
 - Regional meeting (Health+ICT+ legal)
 - Strengthen regional health information system
 - Establish regional Logistics information management system (LMIS)

- **IHR/regional health security**
 - Engage beyond human and animal health sectors
 - Improve human resource capacity in health security
 - Improved access to immunization and CDC
 - IHR evaluation conducted in each country and prepare policy briefs to policy makers
 - Established one health working mechanism

Preparing for success – revisiting the structures and processes of the WGHC

- Refine implementation of the WGHC activities in consultation with other regional platforms and development partners to avoid duplication.
- Continue the regional meetings and regional workshops for knowledge sharing by setting clear objectives in line with the mandates of other GMS ministerial meetings.
- Improve the role of WGHC secretariat in policy formulation and decision making at country level by promoting role and capacity of government officials in the secretariat.

- Promote the awareness and visibility of WGHC activities by expanding the communication channels, updating newsletters and WGHC websites.
- Enhance multi-sectoral collaboration in One Health among GMS countries by closely working with non-health sectors to setup coordination mechanism and to explore additional resources for implementation of priority One Health activities in the GMS.
- Improve the monitoring and evaluation capacity of WGHC members and WGHC secretariat by updating the progress of workplan implementation and preparing necessary reports. Develop or revise M&E framework as necessary.
- Develop clear objectives and workplan with timeline and provide support in timely manner and regular update the WGHC members.

Thank you!

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