

# Regional Health Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion

Diseases don't recognize borders and threaten  
economic development

# ADB's Health Sector Work in the Greater Mekong Subregion

## WORKING GROUP ON HEALTH COOPERATION

**GMS HEALTH COOPERATION STRATEGY:** Health security, connectivity and mobility, workforce development  
**REGIONAL INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK:** pipeline for all stakeholders

## GMS HEALTH SECURITY PROJECT:

Laboratory strengthening and infection prevention and control



## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL PROJECT 2 + ADDITIONAL FINANCING:

Specific diseases (Malaria)



## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL PROJECT 1:

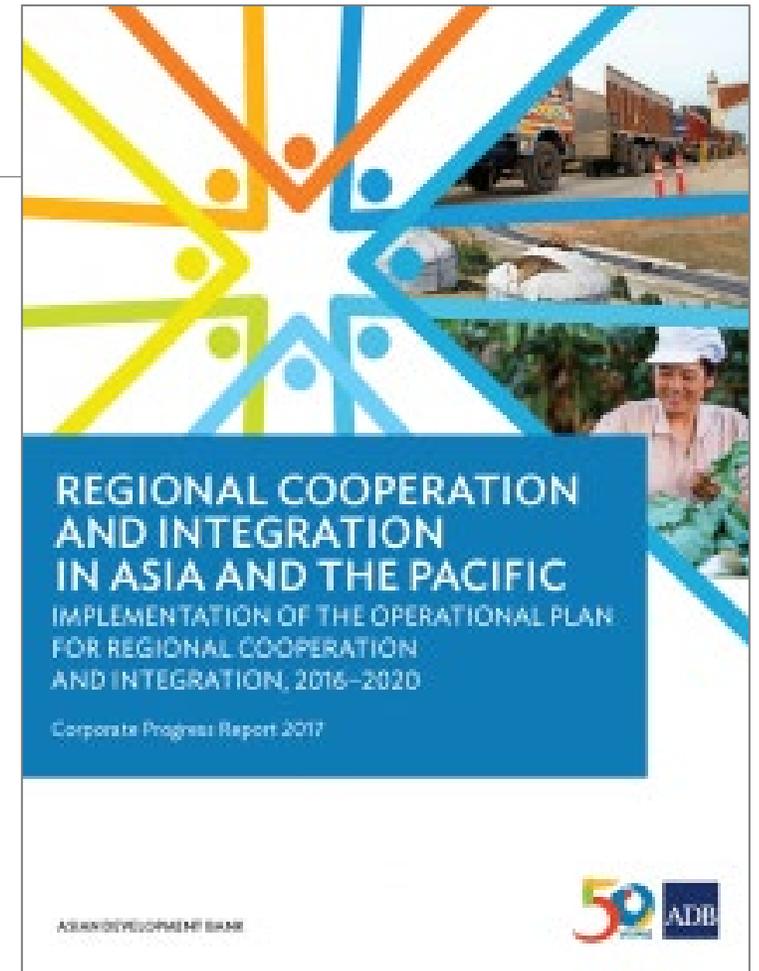
Specific diseases

2005

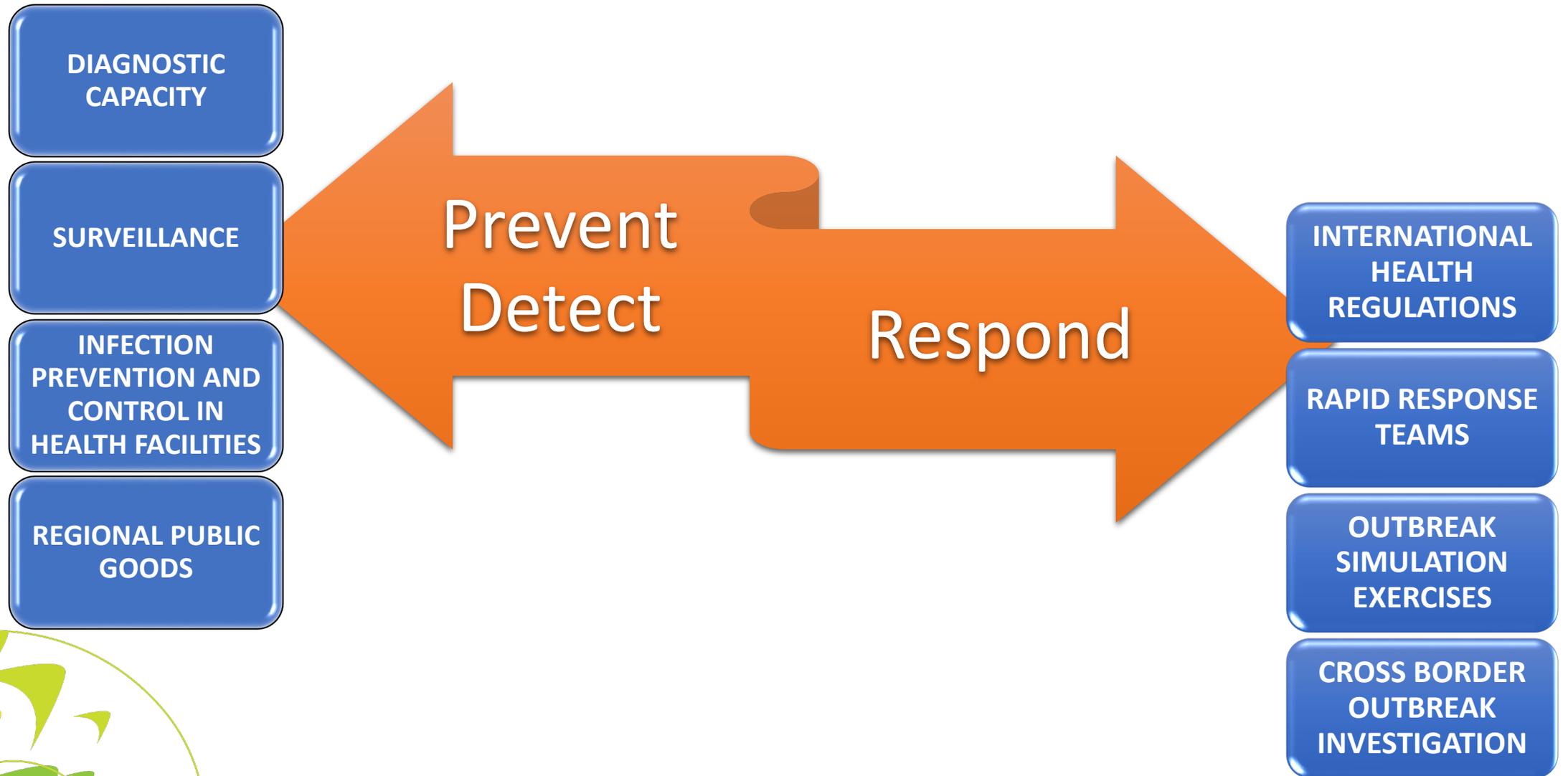
# GMS Health Regional Cooperation

## Focus on action plan to support the three pillars of the GMS Health Cooperation Strategy:

- (i) strengthening national health systems to address transnational health threats and health security as a regional public good;
  - (ii) respond to the health challenges and health impacts as a result of connectivity and mobility; and
  - (iii) health workforce development
- Reinforced by **LONG-TERM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK GMS-GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION 2030** and the **COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN 2021–2023**
  - Aligned with WHO's International Health Regulations and ASEAN commitments on COVID-19 response



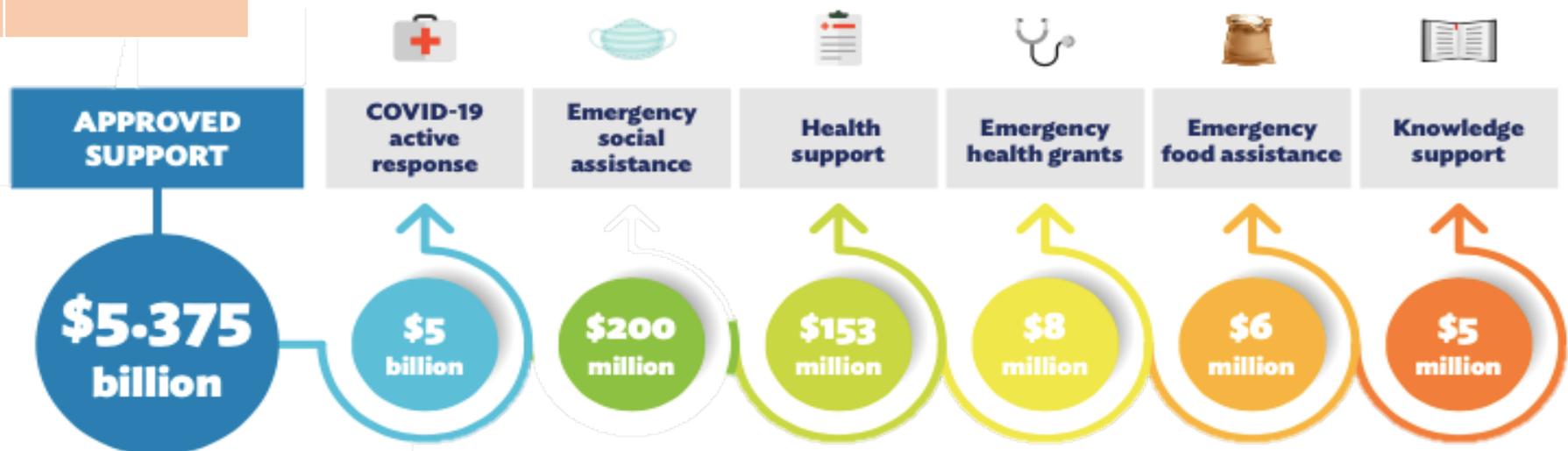
# Continuous Health System Strengthening



# ADB'S RAPID COVID-19 RESPONSE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Country	Total Budget (\$ million)	Amount Allocated for Health (\$ million)
CAM	250.00	80.00
INO	1,500.00	250.00
MYA	250.00	75.00
PHI	1,500.00	250.00
THA	1,500.00	200.00

- The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has had devastating impacts in Southeast Asia. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) quickly responded with a substantial assistance package, and continues to work on additional support to help countries address the impacts of the pandemic.
- In Southeast Asia, ADB's support is focused on three crucial areas: (i) supporting healthcare responses to save lives; (ii) supporting the poorest and most vulnerable suffering dire economic hardship; and (iii) addressing the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and economies to help countries rebound after the crisis.



strengthen the country's healthcare system, increase social assistance to the poor and vulnerable, and provide economic stimulus to businesses, including small and medium enterprises.



### INDONESIA

**\$1.5 billion** to support the government in **expanding social assistance programs**, boosting resources for COVID-19 prevention and control, and **safeguarding workers** and productive sectors from the economic downturn.

### MYANMAR

**\$50 million** to support the government's COVID-19 response through social assistance to poor, disadvantaged and at-risk groups, the strengthening of healthcare systems, and support for micro, small and medium enterprises.



### PHILIPPINES

**\$1.5 billion** to support government response programs, such as those increasing funding for **social protection**, **providing assistance to small businesses**, and expanding health measures to **stop the spread of the pandemic**.



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# • *The COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program*





## FUTURE ACTION

INDONESIA

ADB is working to mobilize further financial support and technical assistance to **strengthen the health sector's pandemic response capacity**. Additionally, ADB will be providing \$1.5 million in technical assistance to support the **procurement of critical medical supplies**, including PPE for health care workers.

LAO PDR

A **\$45 million project will improve the quality of health care services and facilities**, and will also support COVID-19 related responses.

MYANMAR

Other support being explored includes an additional **\$20+30 million in assistance under the GMS Health Security project**. (Lao PDR and Myanmar). Additional support for Cambodia expected.

PHILIPPINES

**Discussions on COVID-19 vaccines support** are commencing among GMS countries. ADB is considering a wide financing strategy and package (both loans and TA)

GREATER  
MEKONG  
SUBREGION

ADB has also started preparing the **\$72 million GMS Healthy Border Project** for Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. The project **will improve access to health services** for migrant workers, and will be partially repurposed for COVID-19 response.

# Areas of possible joint collaboration in the GMS and ASEAN regions (1)

- ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers – **new ADB project on migration and health** that will support points-of-entry and health facilities for sanitation and hygiene, testing, and isolation and quarantine for facilitating safe movement of people.
- Investing in **digital health solutions** that facilitate the movement of people across the region – adapting to the new normal and improving border health services.
- Continue responding to all hazards and emerging health threats including, pandemics and emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, and strengthening public health systems and access to healthcare - **ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases.**

## Areas of possible joint collaboration in the GMS and ASEAN regions (2)

- Addressing **the nexus between Animal and Human Health** – new initiative working with Nossal Institute to document evidence-based practices and new approaches for improved prevention and response to One Health challenges.
- Building core capacity for ensuring timely access to a **safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine**. Large gaps in capacity for vaccine manufacturing as well as regulatory capacity for medical products exist in the region. Financial and technical resources for vaccine sourcing, procurement, distribution, and delivery are a further constraint. The GMS Program can assess the needs and gaps for vaccines and promote regional mechanisms for pooled procurement to achieve timely access and better negotiating power with major manufacturers.
- Explore **intraregional capacity building, learning exchanges and skills transfer** in common areas of interest, especially medicine, nursing, public health, field epidemiology and traditional medicines

## Areas of possible joint collaboration in the GMS and ASEAN regions (3)

- Strengthening the link between GMS investments for CLMV and the Initiative on ASEAN Integration that seeks to **bridge the GAP between CLMV and other member states**. The Initiative helps ASEAN's newer Member States implement ASEAN commitments and agreements.
- **Strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration and addressing health impacts in other sectors:** road safety strategies – zero tolerance to road fatalities, air pollution impacts on vulnerable populations, water and vector borne diseases etc.
- **Study on 2 decades on investment in regional health security**, which includes ADB-ASEAN SARS/H1N1 collaboration under way.
- **Action Plan on Health (GMS/ASEAN/ADB)**. Institutionalize health collaboration in areas where a partnership bring value and benefits to the region.