



Session 2: GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework and Regional Investment Framework 2024-2026



6th GMS Urban Development Working Group (UDWG-6) Meeting
21 June 2023



UDSF 2015-2022 – Context

- UD – newest WG when formed. Preceded by Task Force starting 2012
- Stimulated by: (i) Growing emphasis on spatial approach in GMS program; (ii) Rapid urbanization in the region; (iii) Rising share of cities in national economic activity globally – “engines of growth”; (iv) Interlinkages between urban development and climate change; and (v) Common issues from rapid urbanization: urban scrawl/slums, informality, infra and services gaps, migration, etc.
- But finding opportunities for RCI in UD can be challenging:
 - ✓ Cities (and hinterland) –inward looking, little focus on regional/national spatial design
 - ✓ Not connecting cross border unlike other infra (transport, energy)
 - ✓ Cross-country diversity in patterns and levels of urbanization, economic density, and national political systems
 - ✓ Multi-sectoral



UDSF 2015-2022 – Key Features

- Vision: “Sustainable urban development in the GMS”
- Cross-cutting themes:
 - Green development and climate change resilience
 - Disaster risk management
 - Inclusive development
 - Competitiveness
- Ambitious scope within cross-cutting themes...
- ...but generally tentative and not prescriptive

GMS URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK PILLARS		
Planning and Development of Key Urban Centers <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Identification of key urban centers within overall GMS corridor and urban system■ Infrastructure provision and upgrading in GMS corridor towns■ Infrastructure provision and upgrading in other key urban centers■ Development plans and spatial plans for high-priority urban areas	Planning and Development of Border Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Identification of border areas and urban centers within overall GMS corridor and urban system■ Development plans and spatial plans for high-priority urban areas■ Development of border zones■ Cooperation in cross-border issues	Capacity Development in Urban Planning and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Improved urban planning and management■ Increased role of the private sector in infrastructure provision■ Improved institutional coordination at the national level■ Peer-to-peer technical exchanges■ Increased synergy with other GMS sectors



UDSF 2015-2022 – Implementation Insights

- A quick and preliminary view. Detailed assessment would be needed as part of formulating the next SF
- RIF-2022: Investment projects in corridor towns/liveable cities; border areas. TAs for preparation of the projects
- Diminishing availability of RCI-focused resources and TA funds, but resources for climate change may be increasing.
- Lowest engagement with other Development Partners compared to other GMS WGs
- Information exchange in diverse areas remains important, as does scope for customized capacity building
- Scope for new UDSF: build on first one while aligning with GMS 2030



The New GMS-2030 Strategic Framework



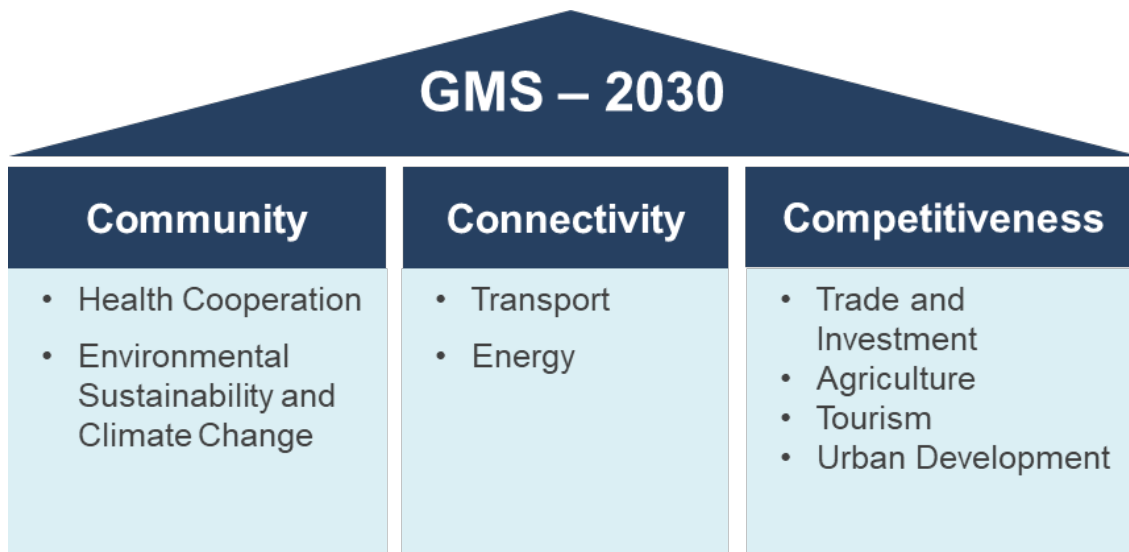
Endorsed at the 7th GMS Summit of Leaders (9 Sep. 2021)

Vision

“A more integrated, prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive subregion”

Mission

“A subregional cooperation program focused on its fundamental strengths of **community, connectivity, and competitiveness**, while embracing the core principles of **environmental sustainability and resilience, internal and external integration, and inclusivity**, for building a GMS community of shared future.”



Other areas: SDGs, ICTs, e-commerce, logistics, labor mobility and safe migration, education and skills, special economic zones, development partner and private sector participation.



6 Innovative Approaches

1. Digital Revolution
2. Spatial Approach
3. Policy Dialogue
4. Private Sector
5. GMS Open Platform
6. Focus on Results



<https://www.adb.org/documents/gms-economic-cooperation-program-strategic-framework-2030>



GMS 2030 and the Urban Development Sector

- ❑ Highlights urbanization implications: infra gaps, basic services, waste management, environment, equity, poverty and shelter. Cities impact on public goods like clean rivers and oceans.
- ❑ Challenges: Make cities more livable, cooperate on public goods, and develop city clusters as GMS growth engines
- ❑ Calls for more holistic planning combining grey, green and blue infrastructure to better address public health, disaster risk resilience and climate change.
- ❑ Links UD to GMS priorities of spatial development approaches such as economic corridors, border areas and SEZs



GMS 2030 Implementation: Strategic alignment for stronger results

- ❑ The GMS Secretariat is seeking feedback from all sector WGs on a proposed Sector Strategy Framework (SSF)
- ❑ This will facilitate development of respective sector strategies/frameworks
- ❑ New SSF will align better with GMS-2030

In the context of **Urban Development**, this will require:

- **Preparation of a new strategy.** The UDSF ended in 2022. New UDSF could be prepared in time to be highlighted by the 8th GMS Leader's Summit in 2024 and go till 2030.
- **Cascading and aligning the GMS Program results framework** of urban development with the GMS-2030 RF, endorsed by 25th GMS MC Lao PDR.



Supporting programmatic strategic alignment

The Sector Strategy Framework is envisaged as a flexible template that improves alignment and:

- provides consistency across sectors
- can be customized to specific sector needs.

Urban Development links strongly with 3 of the 6 cross-cutting innovative areas of the GMS-2030:

- Digitalization,
- Spatial approach, and
- GMS open platform as pathway for increased Local Government role

Urban Development is also aligned with GMS-2030 priorities of labor mobility and safe migration, & SEZs.



Proposed Table of Contents:

- I. Introduction: provides context, need and justification of the new strategy.
- II. Situation analysis: overview and assessment of where things stand, i.e., SWOT analysis.
- III. Stakeholder inputs in formulation process: inclusivity, transparency, ownership
- IV. Strategic priorities: vision, mission and strategic thrusts of the strategy. Linkages with GMS-2030, national plans and other development frameworks. Cross-cutting themes (also aligned to GMS-2030). Assumptions and risks, with strategies for mitigating risks.
- V. Implementation aspects: Institutional, HR and financing plans
- VI. Monitoring and Evaluation: Results framework/Theory of change
- VII. Communications and dissemination strategy for raising awareness



Towards the New UDSF: Milestones

- Review of existing UDSF, Sector and regional trends: Sep-Nov 2023
- Zero draft and GMS Secretariat Consultations with GMS member countries: Jan-Feb 2024
- GMS Secretariat consultations with Development Partners, others: Mar 2024
- Draft new Strategic Framework: Apr 2024
- GMS Secretariat circulates new SF to GMS governments: Apr/May 2024
- Review and consideration of new SF by UDWG: May/June 2024
- Revised draft incorporating comments from UDWG: Aug 2024
- Review and approval by SOM: Sep 2024
- Endorsement by MC: Oct/Nov 2024



Thank you!

