

AGREEMENTS AND ACTIONS
Business Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion
Working Group on Health Cooperation
25-26 July 2023

1. The focal points of the Working Group on Health Cooperation (WGHC) in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) met in Bangkok 25-26 July 2023 to lay out the road map for the GMS Health Cooperation Strategy 2024-2030 (the strategy).
2. **Session 2:** Covered the results from the WGHC Secretariat's review of the current strategy 2019-2023. The results found the current strategy had achieved good results and remains relevant. **The meeting agreed it is important that the next strategy deliver on three or four ideas of strategic importance and provide opportunities to be selective and focus on concrete regional plans/ideas. It also agreed an exhibition or showcase of the work, i.e., a conference side event at PMAC or similar, would be valuable.**
3. **Session 3:** Provided high-level information on some of the emerging areas in global and regional health, which may influence the GMS-region. **It was agreed where there are already existing agreed results frameworks e.g., in the GMS-2030 or suggested indicators e.g., in the GMS Gender Strategy, these should be incorporated into the strategy.**
4. **Session 4:** Asked the countries to discuss and rank the top three to five priorities for the strategy followed by the barriers to achievement. **The meeting agreed that the existing strategy had several areas which remained relevant and agreed (on Day 2) a broader, simplified framework be developed. Action:** A suggested framework will be provided to the focal points for consideration in early August 2023.
5. **Session 5:** This session explored some early ideas for regional cooperation. **The meeting agreed to explore 3 sectors which provided the opportunity to showcase the wins, from an economic perspective, using concrete examples e.g., road safety.**
6. **Session 6:** WGHC-5 discussed the emerging challenges of addressing climate change risks and the role that regional cooperation plays. **The meeting agreed Climate Change would be a cross-cutting issue, rather than a strategic pillar, with considerable narrative in the strategy to allow for concrete activities.** Noting the commitment to mitigate the impacts of climate change and natural disasters on health in the UHC 2030 Political Declaration.
7. **Session 7:** Discussed Digital Health and the meeting **agreed the strategy should reflect digital health as a *cross-cutting issue* rather than an *enabling environment*.**
8. **Session 8:** The meeting considered the existing framework and had an open discussion on the framework and vision for the strategy. **The meeting agreed the vision for the strategy will need the input of sectors other than health and could come later. The meeting also agreed the strategy will have two high level strategic (wide) pillars. The first Health Security and the second Health System Strengthening towards UHC. Under these a narrower focused program, which selects three or four areas of strategic importance to deliver upon. Under these would be narrowly focused concrete activities.**

9. **Session 9:** The timeline and country consultations for the strategy were discussed. **It was agreed an ambitious target of endorsement during the 6th GMS Health Cooperation working group meeting to be held in Beijing, in December 2023.** This would require a progress report – outlining the details of the strategy to be presented in Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) 12-13 October 2023.

10. Actions from Session 9:

a Focal Points were asked to provide the Secretariat with an outline of the internal approval processes needed for each of their countries to allow a realistic timeline for those approvals to be developed, recognising the limited time between SOM and Health Cooperation meeting in Beijing.

i ADB will take this information and develop a reverse clock with all these steps to share with each country.

b For country consultations – the Secretariat will follow-up with each focal point to better understand their preference e.g., internal consultation, single workshop etc.