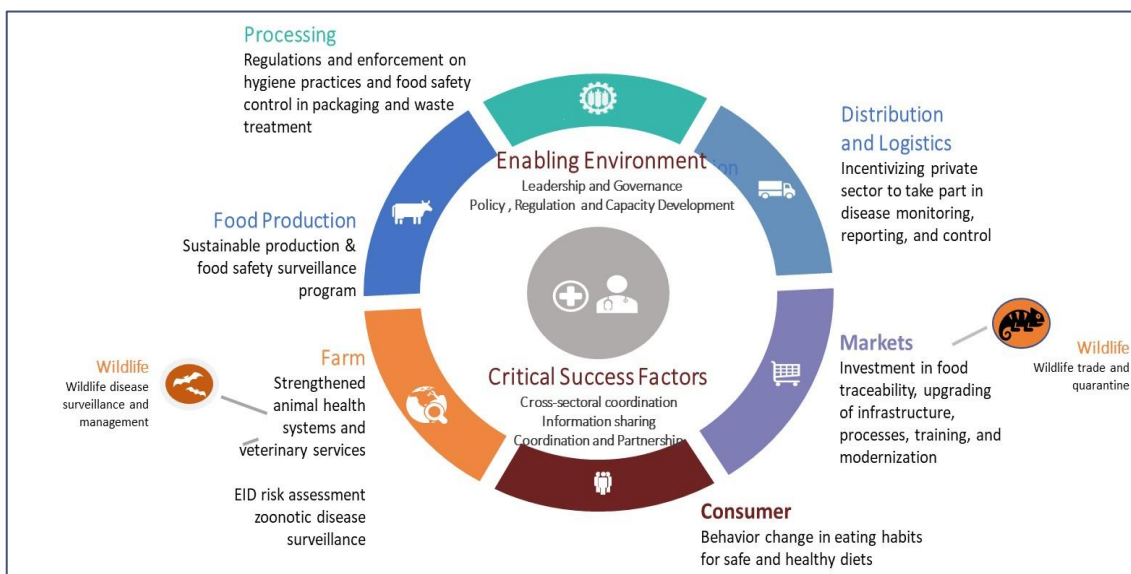


1. Using One Health to Support Food Security and Food Safety in the Green Recovery

Livestock production is essential to improving One Health in the GMS. Livestock production is a source of high-quality nutritious food, provides employment, supports economic development and trade, and promotes resilience to disasters, all of which underpin human wellbeing. The existing food systems often lack the necessary infrastructure for effective disease monitoring and control facilities and allow little emphasis on food safety. Furthermore, the food system value chains in the GMS tend to be complex, fragmented, relatively inefficient and frequently cross borders. Poor facilities for slaughtering, cold storage, and processing contribute to poor food safety, high food wastage and low competitiveness. Smallholders are often the most severely affected with limited access to value chain services and markets due to the absence of formal, quality-assured trade pathways.

Food systems of animal products are important pathways for exposure to many diseases and to food contaminants. Many emerging and re-emerging hazards have originated or are amplified in food systems. The proliferation of food safety laws in the region demonstrates recognition of the critical threat these hazards pose. National strategies commonly prioritise the competitiveness of the livestock sector through improving production with little emphasis on food safety or value chain management. The problem is exacerbated by poorly enforced food-safety standards with limited oversight or enforcement. It is argued that investments in infrastructure, such as animal disease control zones, feedlots, laboratories, and quarantine facilities, can improve livelihoods, resilience and food security while reducing public health risks, increasing market access, and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adverse environmental impacts.

Applying One Health approaches to food systems would help address many of the priority emerging and global public health threats. Working across multiple sectors to strengthen food



Courtesy World Bank

safety along the food value chain requires a 'One Health' approach and provides entry points to address emerging infectious diseases and zoonoses (see figure). It has been suggested that risk assessments be undertaken with a sound understanding of animal diseases (both domestic and wildlife), food borne infections and residues, and the risk from potential zoonotic pathogens and how they could be transmitted through the food value chain. Quality assurance programs might be used to support investment in food safety and the reduction of food borne disease risks, while simultaneously supporting improved productivity, safety and environmental sustainability for the livestock sector. Animal and animal product identification and traceability are considered essential for food safety assurance, and also for improving disease control. Traders, markets and other 'aggregation points' such as collection yards, live animal markets, and slaughterhouses pose a high risk for disease transmission between animal populations and humans. Programs are required to reduce this risk using the principles of science-based structured risk assessments.