



Regional Meeting for the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS): *One Health in the GMS: Where are we now and where next?*

BACKGROUND

The term 'One Health' has become increasingly familiar in the light of the zoonotic origins of the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing to fore the animal-human-environment interaction. While an interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral systems approach to planning, implementing and monitoring initiatives and services that touch on the animal-human-ecosystems interface has never been more important, knowledge and experience on the application of One Health principles is still lacking. It is critical to use the experience and lessons learned from One Health to date to include in a regional COVID-19 recovery plan, and a broad range of future outbreak preparedness activities in the GMS.

The GMS Long-Term Strategic Framework 2030 focuses on preparedness to handle outbreaks and pandemic risk, principally through surveillance and information systems, quarantine facilities, animal disease control zones, cross-country cooperation, laboratories, and capacity building to detect and respond to outbreaks. It builds strong alliances with other sectors, consolidating health security as a regional public good. Intraregional collaboration under a "one-health" policy will enhance country efforts to attain SDG goals and targets. This meeting provides a good opportunity to discuss the work that has been done so far, share lessons learned in the use of a One Health approach across countries and sectors as documented by the regional TA (9571) on *Strengthening Regional Health Cooperation in the GMS*, and to identify priority next steps.

More specifically, the objectives of the meeting are to:

- 1) Discuss the current status of One Health-relevant systems, policies and approaches across the GMS based on examples from the region and Nossal Institute's review work to date;
- 2) Introduce and discuss economic approaches for valuing the benefits of One Health across sectors, to help prioritise One Health planning and advocate One Health to key stakeholders; and
- 3) Identify and discuss opportunities for further collaboration and priority next steps for One Health in the GMS.

Rikard Elfving and Najibullah Habib, ADB Task Managers

MEETING AGENDA

3 June 2021, Thursday	Time allocation (mins)	Agenda item	Lead
9:00 am	20	Welcome remarks and participant introductions <i>[Including: Project overview & objectives; detailed participant introductions circulated beforehand]</i>	ADB and Nossal Institute
9:20 am	25	Presentation: Where is One Health now? Results of One Health GMS Systems & Policy desktop reviews and stakeholder consultations to date	Nossal Institute
9:55 am	35	Panel discussion: Reflections on current status and approaches of One Health in the GMS [based on above presentation] Followed by: Plenary discussion	DMC representatives from across countries (multi-sectors) Chaired by Nossal Institute
10:30 am	35	Panel: Practical examples of applying a simple One Health Framework in the GMS Followed by: Plenary discussion	DMC country representatives Chaired by Nossal Institute
11:05 am	20	Presentation: A One Health business case: Using an economic approach to value the benefits of One Health across sectors	Nossal Institute
11:25 am	20	Q&A and reflections [Participants are also encouraged to consider key issues for activating One Health in the GMS beyond zoonoses]	Chaired by Nossal Institute
11:45 pm	15	Agreement on next steps and concluding remarks <i>[including the establishment of a working group on Regional Health Security including One Health]</i>	ADB
12:00 pm		End of meeting	