

Technical Specification – Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Neglected Tropical Diseases, and Zoonotic Diseases (HP 8)

Communicable diseases remain a major public health concern across the ASEAN region. The COVID-19 pandemic reaffirmed the critical importance of strong systems to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats, from long-standing illnesses such as tuberculosis and malaria, to emerging and re-emerging diseases with epidemic and pandemic potential. Health Priority 8 (HP 8) focuses on the prevention and control of communicable diseases, with particular attention to emerging infectious diseases (EIDs), neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), and zoonotic diseases, which often arise at the interface of human, animal, and environmental health. Many of these diseases affect vulnerable populations and require sustained, cross-sectoral approaches to address effectively. Strengthening regional and national capacities in surveillance, early warning, laboratory systems, vector control, and outbreak response is central to ASEAN’s health security agenda as well as enhancing regional coordination, information-sharing, and joint preparedness mechanisms.

Projects intending to contribute to HP 8 should demonstrate that they have taken into account the following general, global, regional and national considerations:

General

- Multi/cross-sectoral: Use of [One Health](#) and Whole-of-Government approaches
- Integration of surveillance, case detection, reporting, and response systems
- Emphasis on early warning systems, rapid diagnostics, and interagency coordination

Global

- Refer to the [“International Health Regulations \(2005\)”](#) and the [“Joint External Evaluation Tool \(3rd edition\)”](#) to guide system capacity development
- Use of [“WHO’s Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response \(IDSR\) technical guidelines”](#)
- Refer to the [“One Health Joint Plan of Action \(2022-2026\)”](#)
- Consult [WHO’s R&D Blueprint](#) for priority pathogens and response frameworks
- Use the [WHO Blueprint for Zoonotic Threats and the FAO-WOAH-WHO Tripartite Zoonoses Guide](#) to develop and understand how to respond and respond to zoonotic diseases
- Refer to the [WHO Global Elimination strategies for NTDs \(e.g., 2030 NTD Roadmap\)](#) to identify and prioritise neglected tropical disease interventions
- [“Global Strategy on Infection Prevention and Control \(GSIPC\) – WHO \(2023\)”](#) - Provides strategic directions for reducing healthcare-associated infections and managing infectious disease outbreaks by 2030

- [Resolution on Communicable Diseases – WHO \(1995\)](#) - Address new, emerging, and re-emerging infectious diseases, urging member states to strengthen surveillance and response systems
- [WHO Infection Prevention and Control Hub](#) - Centralised resources on IPC practices, antimicrobial resistance, and outbreak response

Regional (Asia):

- [ASEAN Regional Strategic Plan for Zoonoses and Emerging Infectious Diseases](#) - The primary strategic framework for managing zoonoses and emerging infectious diseases in the ASEAN region
- ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Health Security (ARAPHS) - Embedded within broader ASEAN health frameworks that guide regional preparedness and response to public health threats, including zoonoses and emerging infectious diseases. Each will provide ideas for interventions and activities to consider:

https://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Summary_ASEAN-Post-2015-Health-Development-Agenda-2021-2025_FINAL_adopted-15th-AHMM_May-202239.pdf

<https://knowascc.asean.org/publication/trend-report-no-2-2024-building-a-resilient-health-system-to-strengthen-regional-health-security-in-the-asean-region/>
- Refer to the [AHC 2 work plan for cluster 8](#)
- Reach out to regional or national WHO and FAO for any specific initiative and events
- [“Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies \(APSED III\)”](#)
- [ASEAN+3 Field Epidemiology Training Network \(FETN\)](#)
- [WHO Western Pacific Regional Office \(WPRO\)](#) - Offers country-specific data, technical guidance, and updates on communicable disease trends in the region

National

- National Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) framework
- National Actions Plans for Global Health Security
- National Strategic Plan for Emerging Infectious Diseases and Public Health Emergencies
- National One Health strategic plans
- National action plans for EIDs and NTD elimination strategies
- National vector control, outbreak response, and case management guidelines
- National Plan for Zoonotic Disease Prevention and Control
- National Zoonotic Disease Priority Lists and Outbreak Contingency Plans

- National Action Plans for Infection Prevention and Control