

Technical Specification – Regional Preparedness and Response to Public Health Emergencies (HP 9)

The ASEAN region continues to face an evolving landscape of public health threats, ranging from emerging infectious diseases to natural disasters and the health impacts of climate change. These challenges reinforce the urgent need for strong, coordinated, and resilient systems for regional preparedness and response to public health emergencies. Health Priority 9 (HP 9) focuses on strengthening ASEAN’s collective capacity to prevent, prepare for, and respond to health emergencies through timely coordination, effective communication, and interoperable systems. Rapid cross-border responses, real-time information sharing, and collaborative risk assessment are critical in preventing localised outbreaks from escalating into regional or global crises. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how they will contribute to sustainable improvements in ASEAN’s ability to detect, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies through coordinated, evidence-based, and inclusive approaches.

Projects intending to contribute to HP 9 should showcase that they have taken into account the following general, global, regional and national considerations:

General

- **Promoting regional collaboration & coordination** – Cross-border and multisectoral partnerships, surge capacity, emergency operations, and community resilience strategies
- **Health system strengthening** – Building resilient systems to handle crises.
- **Enhancing multi-hazard health emergency preparedness**, including pandemics, chemical, biological, radiological, and environmental crises
- **Strengthening surveillance & early warning and risk assessment systems** – Real-time data for early outbreak detection
- **Risk communication & community engagement** – Delivering timely, accurate, and clear information about health risks and protective actions using multiple channels (media, social platforms, community leaders etc.)

Global

- Refer to [CDC – Office of Readiness and Response \(ORR\)](#) - Offers a comprehensive collection of resources, reports, and tools for public health emergency preparedness at local, state, and regional levels
- WHO’s [“Policy Considerations for Strengthening Preparedness and Response to Arbovirus Epidemics and Pandemics”](#) - Defines national standards for public health emergency preparedness across U.S. jurisdictions, with relevance for regional planning globally

- Refer to the World Health Assembly – [Global Pandemic Agreement](#) - Provides actions to strengthen international coordination for pandemic preparedness and response
- Refer to the WHO HEPR Framework (2023) – [Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Resilience guidance](#) adopted by WHA 76 to support prevention, detection, and response systems
- [Global Health Security Agenda](#) (GHSa 2024) – Multi-country initiative accelerating IHR implementation
- Refer to the [Global Health Emergency Corps \(GHEC\)](#) for WHO emergency workforce standards
- Use the [WHO Benchmarks for Health Emergency Capacities](#) – Tool for measuring preparedness performance
- Refer to the Quadripartite [One Health JPA](#) – Cross-sectoral action for zoonotic and environmental threats

Regional:

- Refer to the [ASEAN Public Health Emergency Coordination System \(APHECS\) Framework](#) - Coordination mechanism for ASEAN Member States to jointly prepare for and respond to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEIC)
- Use the WHO [South-East Asia Region – High-Threat Pathogen Prioritisation](#) to identify how to develop and implement strategies to achieve an effective and sustainable health workforce
- Refer to the ASEAN Policy Brief on [“Strengthening ASEAN Public Health Emergency Measures”](#) to develop regional training programs and simulation exercises
- Use the [“ASEAN Strategic Framework for Public Health Emergencies”](#) for Core SOPs, stockpiling, lab capacity, and joint response plans
- Use the [“ASEAN Disaster Law & Public Health Emergencies Mapping and Guidelines”](#) for integration of health emergencies into disaster risk frameworks

National

- National Emergency Preparedness & Response Plans (multi-hazard)
- IHR Core Capacity National Action Plans
- National Actions Plans for Global Health Security
- National Human Resources for Health (HRH) strategic plans
- National multisectoral workforce surge strategic plans
- National One Health Frameworks and HRH Technical Working Groups
- National SOPs for surveillance, Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs), and Emergency Medical Teams EMT coordination.
- Academic curricula for pre- and in-service training of health workers
- Local organisations (including faith-based and civil society) leading health work force development and education as well as working with community and volunteer health workers

