



Australian Government

AusAID

The Australian Aid Program: *Initiatives to Combat Emerging Infectious Diseases*

Greater Mekong Subregion Public Health Forum
on Regional Cooperation in Communicable Diseases Control
and Health System Development
Vientiane,
5-7 November 2007

Australian Aid Context

- Doubling of aid budget (to A\$4 billion) by 2010
- Aid White Paper (April 2006)
 - ◆ Framework/strategy for managing increased aid
- New policy for Health assistance (Aug 2006)

Aid commitments - Pandemics & Emerging Infectious Diseases

- Assistance since early 2003 (SARS, AI, EIDs)
- Total **A\$52 million** commitments to date from within usual aid program resources
- November 2005: Australian Prime Minister announced an additional **\$100 million** funding
- www.ausaid.gov.au/hottopics

\$100 million commitment

- Asia-Pacific region
- 4 years from July 2006
- A\$10m APEC initiatives
- Remainder split between country-specific and regional programs

Australia's EID support

- Pandemics and Emerging Infectious Diseases Strategy 2006-2010
- Areas of focus:
 - 1: Planning/preparation
 - 2: Recognition, control, prevention
 - 3: Strengthening national systems
 - 4: Facilitating rapid response

Geographic priorities



<p>1. Near neighbours at significant risk</p>	<p>Indonesia, PNG, East Timor</p>	<p>Comprehensive</p>
<p>2. Other Asia-Pacific countries at risk</p>	<p>e.g. Mekong, Pacific region</p>	<p>Selective (also multilateral and regional programs)</p>
<p>3. Beyond Asia-Pacific region</p>	<p>e.g. Africa</p>	<p>Through global and multilateral programs</p>

Mekong Bilateral Assistance

Vietnam

- \$3m package announced Oct 2005, through UNDP and DoHA, for preparedness/ response/recovery capability, surveillance & outbreak response; professional linkages

Cambodia

- communications program for Ministry of Health (UNICEF); mobilising field team (FAO), surveillance & response (WHO)

Laos

- Support for WB multi-donor AHI trust fund

Burma

- \$1m to WHO/FAO program, including rapid disease investigation, technical inputs, training

Assistance: Regional

- Support for organisations in the region
 - ◆ eg WHO (APSED), ASEAN, APEC, SPC
- Implementing global initiatives in region
 - ◆ eg OIE, GOARN
- Flexible donor coordination & response mechanisms
 - ◆ eg World Bank Trust Fund
- Broader AusAID programs
 - ◆ eg Scholarships, Linkage Programs, Research



Regional Assistance - continued

- ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme
- Placement of epidemiologists in WHO offices
- CARE Australia Avian Influenza Mekong Preparedness Local Risk Reduction Activity
- Research: Likely support for multi-sectoral, applied research on EIDs in Asia-Pacific

Regional programs – an example

OIE South East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign

- Since 1997
- Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, China
- Purpose - to increase the productivity and economic output of the livestock sector by controlling and eradicating FMD.
- Has strengthened general Veterinarian capacity

Challenges in implementing Regional EID Programs

Multiple Partner Governments involved therefore a wide variation in:

- o capacity of partner government systems at activity design and implementation
- o availability and quality of baseline data
- o expectations of appropriate outcomes for different countries within the same activity

Challenges for Regional EID Programs - continued

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Measuring outcomes in country is often easier than capturing impact at the regional level

Sustainability

- Countries may absorb the cost of national level activities but be less willing/able to provide resources for continuing regional level activities

Thank you

www.aisaid.gov.au/hottopics



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