

Towards a GMS Regional Health Strategy

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Summary of GMS Issues and Opportunities for Regional Cooperation

- Important National Public Health Issues in GMS
- Types of Regional Cooperation in Health
- Regional Institutions in the GMS and Activities
- Challenges of Regional Cooperation
- Conditions for Regional Cooperation
- Framework for Discussing Regional Cooperation
- Possible Topics for Regional KM and Support
- Next GMS Regional Public Health Forum

Important National Public Health Issues in GMS

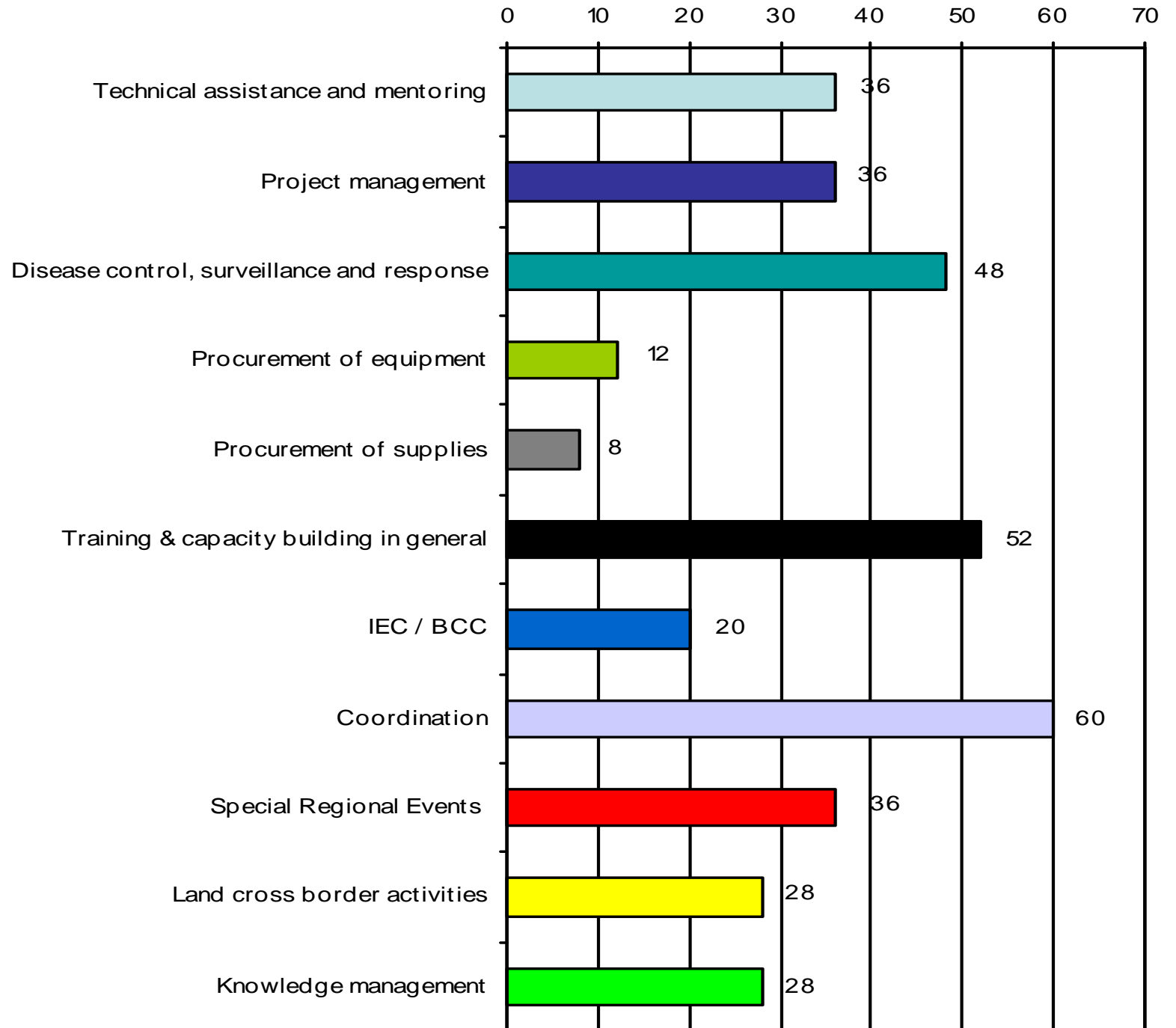
- **Address regional public goods/services with externalities**
 - Build preparedness, surveillance and response capacity in support of IHR/APSED and contain (re)emerging diseases like AI, TB, Malaria, and Dengue
 - Strengthen health and nutrition promotion programs
 - Improve knowledge management
- **Improve health care for lagging communities and achieve MDGs**
 - Provide appropriate, quality care in isolated communities
 - Make health care affordable for the poor
- **Increase health sector performance (effectiveness, equity, and efficiency)**
 - Strengthen health sector planning, management and financing (e.g., provincial planning and budgeting, district health system development, contracting out)
 - Improve quality of services (staff skills, professional associations, quality control)
 - Hospital management
- **Address increasing demand for health services**
 - Invest to address increasing demand for hospital services due to rising income, aging and changing behaviour resulting in NCD, accidents/injuries, chronic infections
 - Plan and Address mismatch of HR

Types of Regional Cooperation in Health

- Control of infectious diseases
- Cross-border health services
- Sharing knowledge for health system development
- Providing a motivating environment among peers
- Advocacy for political support
- Creating leverage for scaling up support
- Setting standards of HR, services and goods for quality assurance
- Improving economy of scale
- Coordinating planning and investment
- Joint training programs and standards for services

Regional Institutions in GMS Health

- ACMECS
- Actmalaria
- ADB
- ADPC
- APEC
- ASEAN
- AusAid
- CIDA
- Denmark
- DFID
- EC
- IFRC
- IOM
- KIA
- OIE
- Rockefeller Foundation
- SIDA
- UNDP
- UNICEF
- UN-OCHA Bangkok
- USAID
- World Bank



Findings from Review of Regional Activities

- Selective priority for some infectious diseases.
- Attention to border populations.
- Insufficient “knowledge management.”
- Lack of effort to reach isolated communities.
- Inadequate coordination of activities.
- Unstable funding.

Challenges of Regional Cooperation

- There may be overriding political priorities.
- More advisory in nature than national/global.
- Multiple actors and need for consensus
- Limited and unstable funding.
- Challenges implementation.

Conditions for Regional Cooperation

- Need to set priorities for regional cooperation
- Seek complementary roles of regional actors
- Ensure political will and ownership
- Find “champions” to manage the change process
- Ensure sufficient know-how and sharing
- Strong buy in (demand-based) from “clients”

Framework for Discussing Future GMS Regional Cooperation

Potential Areas for Cooperation	Possible Examples
Political will	Regional “change teams” & global partnerships
Regional strategy & coordination	A coordinating arrangement among regional institutions and governments
Knowledge management	Health system development (e.g., financing, management, HR, regulations, healthcare for ethnic minorities)
Capacity building (institutions & individual)	Multi-country initiatives for strengthening institutions and staff (e.g., Phnom Penh Plan); regional training for IHR & APSED
Coordinating services & supplies	Cross-border health services & quarantine
CDC	Emerging diseases
Standards for quality improvement	Quality control for drugs; curriculum; accreditation & licensing; legal preparedness

Possible Topics for Regional KM and Program Support

- CDC Knowledge Management
- Health Care for Border Population
- Provincial Health System Development
- Health Care Financing for the Poor
- Human Resource Development and Skills Trainings
- Private Sector Development
- Using Information Technology

- Possible GMS Regional CDC project in 2009/2010

Regional Public Health Forum

- Next Regional Public Health Forum?
- Programmatic Focus?
- Where and When?
- Tracks/Arrangements?
- Financing?