

Summary of Highlights of the Forum & Options for Way Forward with GMS Regional Cooperation in Health

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07 NOV 2007

THEME A: REGIONAL CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN CDC

- Still capacity constraints for implementing IHR and APSED
- Need to share national preparedness and improve legal preparedness
- Strengthen surveillance and response capacities
- Need more attention to resurging diseases like dengue and drug resistant TB
- Good examples of cross border co-operation

THEME B: REGIONAL CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN HIV/AIDS CONTROL

- A more focused approach to HIV/AIDS strategy and programming is required recognizing that HIV epidemics in the region are likely to remain concentrated in specific situations related to the sex industry and drug use.
- Regional exchanges and learning will help to strengthen understanding of what works in this more focused approach

THEME B: REGIONAL CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN HIV/AIDS CONTROL

- A programme approach rather than isolated or ad hoc project approaches is needed to ensure sustainability within national HIV programmes
- Strengthened surveillance systems linked with operational research and careful monitoring will help identify critical areas, groups and situations for HIV interventions.

THEME C: REGIONAL CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN STRENGTHENING RURAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

How to address some of the health systems challenges in strengthening remote border areas of the GMS?

Reaching poor communities with CDC:

- Without strong local health systems the delivery of the any CDC interventions will have limited impact .
- Health care requires to be affordable for the poor
- Integrating CDC can improve efficiencies and lessen burden on health staff
- Need to focus on strengthening capacities of provincial management of health systems and their financing
- Need to regionally address un-regulated cross-border health practitioners, and sub-standard medications.

THEME C: REGIONAL CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN STRENGTHENING RURAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

- Equity funds won't solve poor quality of services
- Consider training network for regional accreditation
- Need for health systems research.
 - Example: Study on how equity funds may be modified to work in cross border – for referral
- Need for regional “training” for accessing the new International Health Partnership funding.

THEME D: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN REGIONAL COOPERATION

- Reviewed rationale and options for regional cooperation based on national priorities and avoiding duplication
- Knowledge management needs to be improved, with various options for doing so
- Need to ensure political will
- Need to coordinate regional activities
- Based on above, reviewed options for GMS regional cooperation