

**ASEAN-WHO COLLABORATION ON RESPONDING TO COVID-19 IN ASEAN MEMBER STATES (EU SUPPORT TO ASEAN)
POTENTIAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT ASEAN**

No.	Priority Area/Activity identified by WHO	Existing Mechanism in ASEAN Health Sector	Current Status of Implementation and Deliverables	Specific Potential Activities to be Supported by WHO
<i>Priority Area 1: Information exchange and technical cooperation through the ASEAN EOC Network for public health emergencies</i>				
1.1	A series of thematic virtual sessions connecting public health EOCs of the Member States through the ASEAN EOC Network and HEOCs at SEARO and WPRO to strengthen operations and exchange of knowledge and information. WHO will support the activity by mobilizing experts from ASEAN countries and globally to share latest guidance and experiences on COVID-19 response and beyond	ASEAN EOC Network	Core project activity of ASEAN EOC Network is to enhance networking between public health EOC of all AMS through regular video conference and annual meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation of WHO experts in ASEAN EOC webinar series. 2. Special session of ASEAN EOC Network members with WHO on specific topics. 3. Participation of WHO experts in the ASEAN Webinar Series with Expert Panel on COVID-19 Response.
1.2	Development of basic training modules on incident management system (IMS) and information management principles and functions. Capacity building and strengthening functionality of Health EOCs operations at national and sub-national level through virtual or onsite simulation exercises	<p>ASEAN EOC Network</p> <p>ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Centre (ABVC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of objective of the ASEAN EOC Network is to form an early warning mechanism through regular and rapid information sharing - While ASEAN BioDiaspora capacity is to provide bio-surveillance for EID and all hazards that pose serious threats to public health 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of IMS for AMS, considering the functions and role of ASEAN EOC Network and ABVC. 2. Training/ToT for the IMS as part of the regional and national training programme of the ASEAN BioDiaspora project.

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1.3	Establishing regional EOC-NET for knowledge management and information sharing. Development of advocacy and IEC materials on the role of EOCs and importance of regional network involving national and sub-national EOCs	ASEAN Risk Assessment and Risk Communication Centre (ARARC)	Performs as as depository centre, to cater for database on the Centre's trainings, research and upload reference documents related to risk assessment and risk communication produced by the Centre and recommended international resource materials.	Development of advocacy and IEC materials by WHO based on specific topics of concern/ongoing public health events in the region. Dissemination can be done through the Centre.
1.4	Review/assessment of 'State-of Art' HEOC/ PHEOC in the Region. Mapping of activities for further development and strengthening of EOCs	ASEAN EOC Network	Ongoing development of priorities for ASEAN EOC Network for 2021-2025	1. Assessment/Mid-Term review of ASEAN EOC Network by WHO; and 2. Development of Strategic Priorities for ASEAN EOC Network.
1.5	Human Resources	ASEAN EOC Network	ASEAN Portal for Public Health Emergencies	Hiring a web-master for the ASEAN Portal for Public Health Emergencies and seconded in ASEAN Secretariat

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<i>Priority Area 2: Regional cooperation on risk communication, including addressing mis-information</i>				
2.1	Strengthen infodemic management, including misinformation management for COVID-19 and public health emergencies in countries through tools and training of government officials for infodemic monitoring, and communication material development for response	ASEAN EOC Network ARARC ABVC	N/A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of ASEAN context Infodemic on COVID-19. 2. Development of Assessment Tools to be utilised by ASEAN in managing false information and fake news during public health crisis. 3. Integration of misinformation management for COVID-19 and other public health emergencies into the ABVC situational updates report.
2.2	Develop and strengthen national and regional partnerships, including with media and civil society organization(CSO) to create awareness on protective measures during COVID-19 as well as on identifying and mitigating rumours and misinformation	N/A	N/A	The conduct of Regional Conference/Stakeholders Meeting

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<i>Priority Area 3: Technical exchange on laboratory readiness and response</i>				
3.1	<p>Identify key areas for technical support to strengthen national laboratory strategies for the ASEAN region. This will be largely achieved in collaboration with the RPHL and further technical assistance provided by WHO through WHO CCs and global reference laboratories (including the reference labs under RPHL).</p> <p>Activities will Include but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving national laboratory networks; 	<p>ASEAN Laboratory Network</p> <p>ASEAN Biosafety and Biosecurity Network</p>	<p>The ASEAN Biosafety and Biosecurity Network aims to accelerate implementation and sustain the Biosafety and Biosecurity in ASEAN;</p>	<p>Based on the recommendations transpired from the ASEAN Biorisk Management Meeting in December 2019, the following are the recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusion of other relevant sectors namely Agriculture & Livestock, Defense, and Disaster Management. An activity to initiate the engagement may be conducted through a table-top/simulation exercise, involving the above-mentioned sectors
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Bio-risk management trainings based on latest WHO guidance document; 			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Improving laboratory information management systems; 			

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				building and other initiatives on biosafety and biosecurity that aligned with the IHR 2005 Core Capacities and gaps identified by the Joint External Evaluation. These efforts will complement the capacities of ASEAN Member States in responding to naturally occurring, accidental or deliberate biological events in the region.
	4. Refresher trainings on specimen collection, storage and transport;	Feasibility Study of BioBanking	N/A	WHO experts to support the conduct of the Feasibility Study for the BioBanking
	5. Infectious substance shipment trainings (training of trainers, if resources permit);			
	6. Sustaining rRT-PCR testing;	ASEAN EOC Network – Laboratory Component	Implementation of the Strengthening Laboratory Capacity on COVID-19 Bio genomic for ASEAN Member States.	Subject to the commencement and progress on the project implementation, WHO may support the following activities: 1. TOT/Workshop by WHO perform phylogenetic network analysis of the viral genomes to better
	7. Support strategies for the use of advancing diagnostic platforms like Ag RDTs and evolving innovations;			
	8. Improving need based genomic sequencing capacity (either in-country or referral testing);			

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				<p>understand the COVID-19 epidemiology at each member states and its relationship with the world-wide pandemic</p> <p>2. Support ASEAN EOC Network in the start up COVID-19 surveillance system for monitoring strains/mutations in AMS</p>
	9. External quality assurance programme (through WHO HQ)			
<i>Priority Area 4: Enhancing coordination for cross-border public health response</i>				
4.1	Situation assessment of point-of-entry focusing on ground crossing – development of tools and joint conduct	Development of Protocol for Cross Border Contact Tracing and Rapid Outbreak Investigation	The Development of Protocol for Cross Border Contact Tracing and Rapid Outbreak Investigation is currently ongoing with Indonesia as the Lead Country.	The conduct of situational analysis among AMS
4.2	Joint Intra Action Reviews focusing on point-of-entry and cross border activities (this will be part of above situation assessment - regional virtual meeting based on country level discussion)			Joint Intra Action Reviews focusing on point-of-entry and cross border activities in accordance with the endorsed Protocol for Cross Border Contact Tracing and Rapid Outbreak Investigation.

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4.3	Strengthening capacities for case detection at land border crossings, with particular emphasis on community based surveillance - guidance development			Capacity building for public health personnel at the borders.
4.4	Strengthening capacities for case detection at land border crossings, with particular emphasis on community based surveillance - in-country training in selected countries (country costs will be funded by funds distributed to countries, budget here are mostly for international consultant who travel to countries)			
4.5	Orientation and pilot exercise of risk assessment of border areas (transmission assessment, mobility/vulnerability mapping) - mostly virtual meetings			
4.6	ASEAN PoE focal points meeting	Biosafety and Biosecurity Improvement Initiative	At national level, Lao PDR as the lead Country conducted the National training workshop on strengthening the detection, investigation, and control of disease infection at Point of Entry	WHO may wish to extend the ongoing initiatives of Lao PDR into regional Meeting of ASEAN PoE
4.7	Follow up PoE capacities strengthening activities to address gaps identified through the assessment (country costs will be funded by			

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	funds distributed to countries, and budget here are mostly for international consultant who travel to countries)			
<i>Priority Area 5: Technical exchanges on disease surveillance through the ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network</i>				
5.1	Webinars - Sharing experience of COVID-19 response implemented by FETP of ASEAN member states (e.g., sub-national transmission assessment)	ASEAN+3 FETN	Regular video conferences among ASEAN+3 FETN on COVID-19 response	1. Participation of WHO experts in video conferences; and 2. To convene Special session of ASEAN+3 FETN members with WHO on specific agreed topics.
5.2	Development of tools to be used by FETP in ASEAN member states (e.g. sub-national transmission assessment, cluster investigation)	ASEAN EOC Network	Finalisation of the Generic SOPs for Multi-Hazards Public Health Emergency Response Approach for ASEAN Member States	WHO to support the finalisation in the development of Generic SOPs for Multi-Hazards Public Health Emergency Response Approach for ASEAN Member States.
5.3	ASEAN regional meeting - learning from COVID-19 response to inform strengthening of FETP of ASEAN member states and collaboration (can be back-to-back with ASEAN FETN meeting)	ASEAN+3 FETN	N/A	Can be part of the Special Session of ASEAN+3 FETN Members with WHO

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5.4	Joint risk assessment among ASEAN-SEARO-WPRO on COVID-19 or other relevant health hazards (This activity 5.4 may be listed either under Priority Area 1 (EOC) or Priority Area 5		N/A	Joint risk assessment among ASEAN-SEARO-WPRO on COVID-19 or other relevant health hazards
5.5	Human Resources		N/A	
Priority Area 6: Development of regional research agenda to inform improved responses to COVID-19				
6.1	Research priorities have been defined by WHO and other high-level stakeholders across different thematic areas with a strong emphasis on vaccines, therapeutics and clinical management			
6.2	Based on the results of the survey and desk review, OR specific capacity building initiatives and mentoring, in partnership with the successful SORT-IT programme at WHO-HQ, directed at outbreak response units in country, for specific pillars			
6.3	A pilot study to assess approaches to resilient designs of outbreak response. We will focus on a single system to exhaustively assess its components and subsystems, and relevant stakeholders. Approaches to resilient design will mirror those of in the field of engineering and finance where resilience can be quantitatively tracked, and the impact of its constituents formally measured. The pilot will focus on a			

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	particular component of the health supply chain, given its criticality in supporting all other pillars contributions to outbreak response. The activity will: i) define resilience and characterise the system of interest and relevant stakeholders, ii) provide design options with resilience as a critical criterion, as part of a decision framework, iii) develop operational assessment framework to monitor resilience, and iv) develop simulation exercise to train and test the system for enhanced resilience			
6.4	Technical support to ASEAN in maintaining and strengthening essential health services by providing regular updates on the list of essential health services during Public Health Emergencies and recovery phase	Implementation Plan of ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF)	Regular updates on list of essential health services	Technical and expert's support to review in regular basis the list of essential health services during Public Health Emergencies and recovery phase
6.5	Enhance/facilitate the use of digitalisation in healthcare, where appropriate e.g. areas such as telemedicine	Implementation Plan of ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF)		Study report and recommendations on facilitative framework required to facilitate the digitalisation of health