

# Promoting Regional Health Cooperation in CAREC – A scoping Study

## Key Findings

### Health Risks and Challenges in CAREC

- Region prone to outbreaks from emerging infectious diseases and transboundary animal diseases (e.g., COVID-19)
- Migrant workers vulnerable to health risks
- Health systems need strengthening to address non-communicable diseases, achieve universal health coverage and Sustainable Development Goals



### Opportunities for Regional Cooperation through CAREC Platform

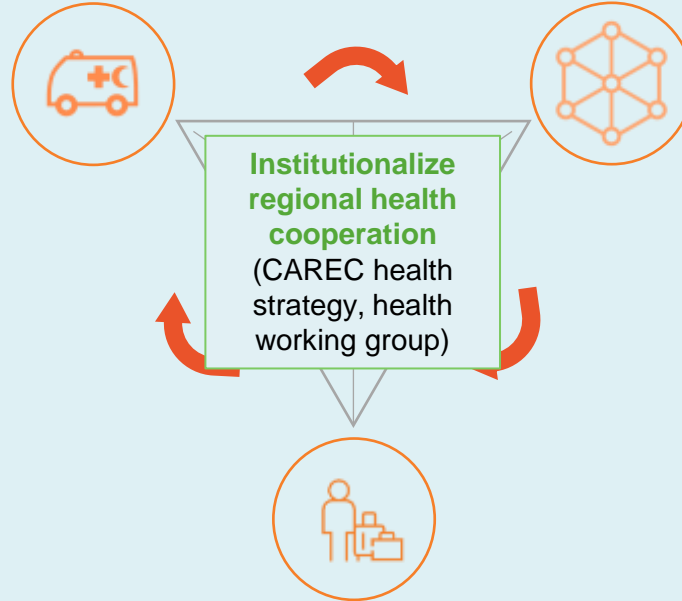
- Joint regional interests and benefits to address cross-border health risks (e.g., COVID-19)
- Economies of scale to improve health services and efficiency (e.g., pooled procurement)
- Knowledge sharing and capacity building (e.g., technology transfer)
- Uptake of digital technology
- Expanding existing cooperation to more CAREC members

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## Key Recommendations

### Strengthening Regional Health Security

Distill lessons learned from COVID-19; information sharing; explore joint outbreak investigation, regional emergency stockpiles, regulatory coordination and procurement during crises; strengthen nat. health security capacities (IHR)



### Supporting Health Systems

Build leadership for regional health cooperation; regulatory coordination and reliance policies; regional HR skills, learning and training; develop sustainable financing mechanisms; explore joint procurement of medicines and technology; information sharing on NCD risk factors and disease monitoring; knowledge sharing on innovative ICT

### Improving health services

### for migrants, mobile populations, and border communities

Joint strategies to protect most vulnerable residing in border areas and improve access to services; explore potential for health services along CAREC economic corridors, cross-border provision of specialty care and current state of portability of benefits