



Priority in
SHORT TERM

Containing COVID-19 Distilling lessons learned

Start with
EASIER AREAS

Assessments, knowledge exchange, dialogue, coordination, joint capacity development

Expand to
ADVANCED AREAS

Harmonization of standards, setting up regional mechanisms and cross-border solutions

**CAREC
2030**

**Reality
Check**

Regional Health Challenges

NCD
Non-communicable diseases (NCD) form the largest part of the overall burden of disease in the region.

Emerging infectious and other communicable diseases are declining but remain a threat
Continual financing required to control acute and chronic infectious diseases.

Emerging infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, pose persistent threat

Epidemics and pandemics

The CAREC region is especially prone to outbreaks due to increasing connectivity, population mobility, urban hubs, and livestock raising and trading

Malaria, dengue, and Japanese encephalitis

Some CAREC countries are exposed to outbreaks of other communicable diseases

Labor migrants, are often in poor working and living conditions with limited access to social protection and health services.

**Reality
Check**

**Health System
Development**

The quality of health services, especially in rural areas, remains substandard.

Challenges in the health workforce

- Aging workforce
- Staff mix and recruitment
- Urban-rural maldistribution
- Education
- Enforcement of standards and accreditation

Fragmented national health information systems

- Parallel surveillance systems
- Lack of integration of the private sector
- Fragmentation between facilities at national, provincial, and local level



The quality, availability, and affordability of medicines

- substandard and falsified medicines
- over-the-counter sale and incorrect use of antibiotics resulting in increasing antimicrobial resistance

1 Strengthen regional health security



Addressing
**Public Health
Threats**

- Regional surveillance and rapid response
- One Health approach
- Regional health security infrastructure
- International Health Regulations
- Combatting antibiotic resistance

Add value to ongoing COVID-19 response efforts

2 Support health systems development through regional cooperation



**Human resources
for health**



Health information systems

- Assessing health workforce requirements to support national health strategies

- Leveraging innovative digital solutions to advance regional health cooperation
- Harmonization of eHealth standards and advancing interoperability



**Access to medicines
and technology**

- Advance transfer of technologies to facilitate pharmaceutical manufacturing in the region
- Advance regulatory coordination and reliance policies
- Explore joint procurement

3 Improve health care for migrants, mobile populations, and border communities



- Assessing current state of portability of health care benefits and liabilities across borders
- Develop joint strategies to improve access to health services for most vulnerable in border areas
- Further assess cross-border health services along the CAREC economic corridors

- Improving information at pre-departure stages
- Support regional collaboration in access and financing of health services for migrants
- Introducing fully pledged migrant health insurance schemes

**3 Entry points for
Regional Health
Cooperation**