



6th Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Health

Session 7: CAREC Health Work Planning for 2025

7-9 April 2025 | Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic



Session objectives

Defining a way forward

- To identify cross-sector collaboration opportunities for health and financing resources for incorporation into the RIF
- To review the WGH 2025 workplan
- To discuss CAREC Health calendar of events
- To present the WGH terms of reference and coordination mechanism
- To discuss the addition of sub-working groups (e.g., regulatory work, climate change and health)

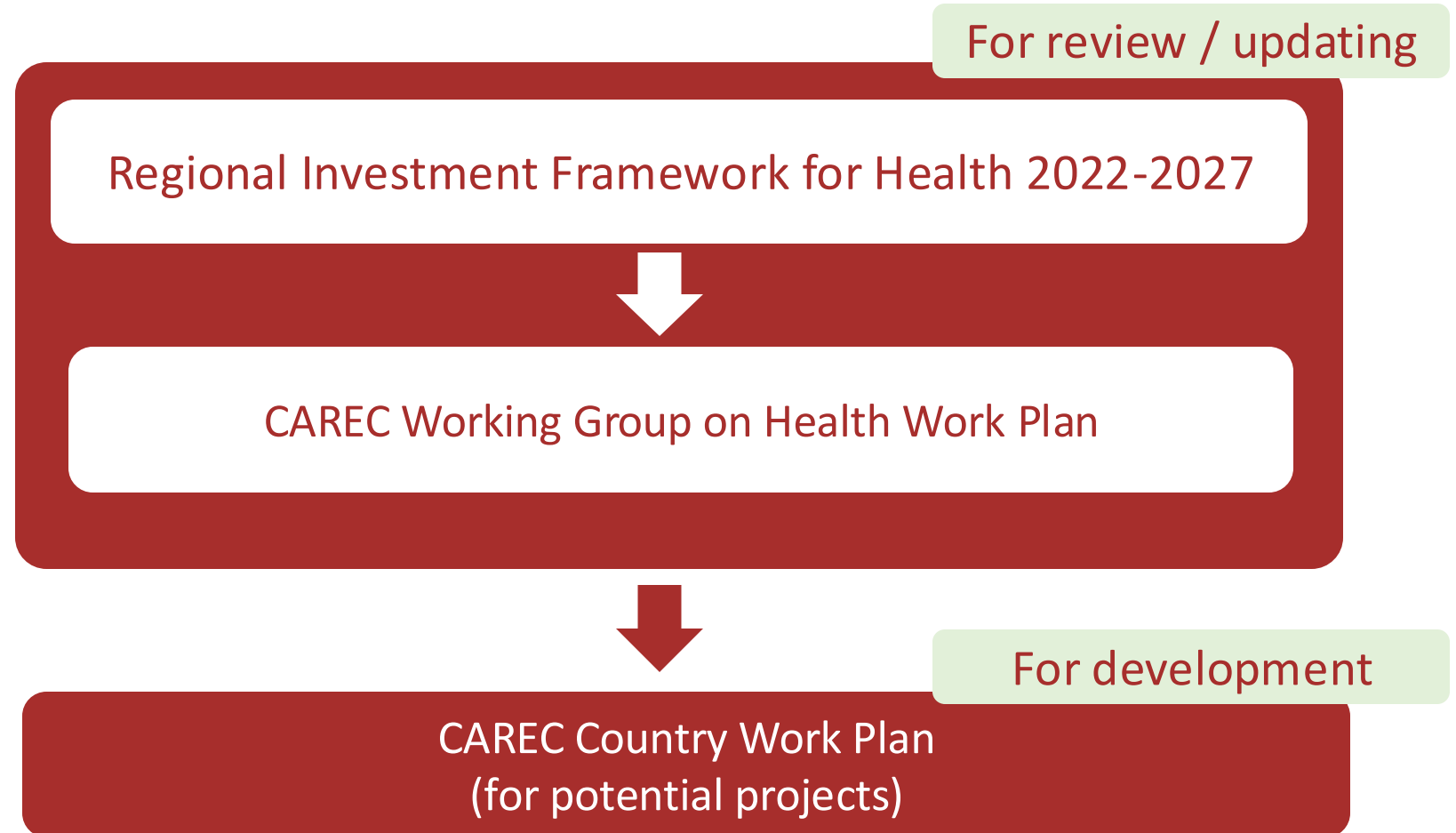


6th Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Health

Implementing the CAREC Health Strategy 2030



Instruments for Implementing the CAREC Health Strategy



Considerations for the updating or development of the RIF and work plans

Sessions 1 & 2: Multi-sectoral Projects with Health

Integrate health interventions in non-health sector projects such as economic corridor development, transport, trade projects etc.

Trade + health examples:

- Strengthen Points of Entry infrastructure and capacities (e.g. One Health coordination, prepare emergency coordination and response, climate resilient health facilities)
- Service delivery packages - border health and migrant specific services

Transport + health examples:

- Reducing adverse health impacts (e.g. from increase in air pollution, road traffic accidents, establishing first aid and trauma centers)

Tourism + health examples:

- Improved public health infrastructure and capacity in areas with mountainous tourism and cross border tourism
- Preparedness for public health emergencies and/or adverse climate events



6th Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Health

Review of the CAERC Regional Investment Framework for Health 2022-2027



The Regional Investment Framework for Health (RIF)



- Supports the implementation of the CAREC Health Strategy 2030
- Identifies priority projects and technical assistance to promote regional health security and cooperation
- A tool for coordinating investments and mobilizing resources

Review of the Regional Investment Framework

Review by Pillar and Cross-cutting themes to determine

1. Any RIF activity to be removed
2. Addition of suggested RIF activities and projects based on country interventions from the first 2 days of the 6th WGH meeting



6th Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Health

WGH Work Plan for 2025



CAREC Working Group on Health Workplan for 2025

Pillar	Output and Timeline	Countries	Responsible Group
Pillar 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Five CAREC Centers of Excellence on Global Public Health Education identified (Q2) ▪ Participation in and facilitation of a summer workshop on Public Health Education (ToT) (Q2) ▪ Standard curriculum for Global Public Health degree outlined (Q3) ▪ Modules for continuous professional development identified (Q3) ▪ Policy and gaps analysis for mutual recognition of health worker certifications started (Q3-Q4) 	Regional	SWG on human resources for health, GOPA IOM (tbc)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A regional health security dashboard development started (Q3-Q4) 	Regional	CARINFONET, WHO (tbc)
Pillar 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KGZ Health Security Project: Upgrading of laboratories infrastructure in select facilities started (Q3) 	KGZ	KGZ MOH
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Action plan for regional cooperation and integration of health supply chains to improve access to essential medicines and medical supplies, especially during public health emergencies, developed and approved by the CAREC WGH (Q3-Q4) ▪ Regional market information sharing platform on selected hard-to-access medical products pilot started (Q3-Q4) ▪ Viable options for cross-border collaborative procurement arrangements (including financing mechanisms) assessed (Q3-Q4) ▪ A specific cross-border collaborative procurement mechanism recommended and elaborated to be piloted by at least two countries in 2026 	Regional	SWG on procurement and supply chains
Pillar 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAREC Health sub-working group on drug regulation established (tbc) (Q4) 	AZE, KGZ,	SWG on drug regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacities of participating NRAs assessed (Q3) 	PAK, TAJ,	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional cooperation with interested NRAs established (Q3-Q4) (e.g., strengthened import control measures for medicinal products, joint assessment of applications for marketing authorization of selected medicinal products) 	UZB (tbc)	

CAREC Working Group on Health Workplan for 2025

Pillar	Output and Timeline	Countries	Responsible Group
Pillar 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border health needs and service availability and readiness assessment conducted (Q3) Start joint strategy to reduce health risks for the most vulnerable groups in border areas (Q4) Cross-border data exchange pilot started (Q4) 	TAJ, UZB	IOM (tbc)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KGZ Health Security Project: Upgrading of select health facilities in border areas to be climate-resilient started (Q4) 	KGZ	KGZ MOH
Digital health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity development workshops on (a) electronic health/medical records and (b) evaluation of digital health apps conducted (Q3) Feasibility report on assessment of digital health applications (apps) in CAREC region completed (Q4) 	Regional	VAMED
Climate change and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAREC Health sub-working group on climate change and health established (tbc) Deliverables approved (Q4): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Regional decarbonization strategy endorsed Minimum requirements for low-carbon and climate-resilient health facilities approved 	Regional	SWG on climate change and health, WG on climate change





6th Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Health

Country Work Plans for Potential Projects



Instruments for Implementing the CAREC Health Strategy



Regional Investment Framework for Health 2022-2027



CAREC Working Group on Health Work Plan



CAREC Country Work Plan
(for potential projects)

Exercise for country work planning

After the updating of the RIF

1

Discuss 1-2 project ideas within the scope of the CAREC Health Strategy for your country with regional relevance.

These ideas may be stand-alone health projects or part of a multi-sectoral project

For each of these project ideas, use the project template to identify the:

- Project outputs and activities, sectors involved, project timeline, financing source

2

Using the country work plan template, identify the activities/steps, responsible agencies, timeline and support needed to further develop the project idea(s)

Types of possible support for country project development

Assessments,
Diagnostics, Scoping

Regional knowledge
sharing events

Country Working
Group Support

Workshops or
Trainings

Concept Note
Development

Examples of strategic support for countries

- Health impact assessment, Barriers, Assessment, Health Facility Readiness Assessments, Cost-effectiveness/benefit analyses etc.
- Joining sub-working group on investment planning; establishing country working groups (e.g. multi-sectoral, border health)
- Workshops for development of project ideas
 - stand-alone or jointly with other sectors
- Technical support from ADB experts for finalizing project concept notes to present to MOF

1. Potential Projects for [Country]

Project Outputs and Activities	Sectors	Timeline	Financing Source

2. Country Work Plan for [name of Country]

What does your country need to do to further develop the proposed country project?

Activities	Responsible Group/Agency	Timeline	Support needed



6th Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Health

WGH Terms of Reference



Working Group on Health: **Mandate**



- Support the development, operationalization and implementation of the CAREC Health Strategy 2030 and Regional Investment Framework
- Establish and guide Sub-Working Groups (SWGs) for health
- Ensure adequate engagement of and coordination with regional actors and within country
- Contribute to development and implementation of a supportive environment for regional health cooperation

Working Group on Health: Composition



- Three senior working group members (one appointed as WGH focal point), responsible to represent country in WGH and responsible for communications.
 - *Ideally WGH members should stay the same for several years to ensure continuity and attend virtual and onsite meetings and ensure handovers.*
- Chaired by CAREC countries on a rotational basis following the CAREC chairmanship rules.

Working Group on Health: **Terms of Reference (summary)**



1. Ensure that the Regional Health Strategy till 2030 under CAREC and the Regional Investment Framework for Health (till 2026) are in line with national programs.
2. Contribute to the **implementation of the CAREC Regional Health till 2030 Strategy and Regional Investment Framework** by developing an annual plan and support its operationalization.
3. **Coordinate with other sectors and ministries** for the technical inputs required for implementation of the Regional Health Strategy till 2030.
4. Review and endorse SWG outputs and deliverables
5. With support from the CAREC Secretariat:
 - **Reports to the CAREC Senior Official Meeting (SOM)** by preparing necessary inputs. Chair of WGH bears responsibility for delivering inputs.
 - Includes reporting progress against CAREC 2030 Program Results Framework (aligned with CAREC Health Strategy Results Framework)

Health as a part of the CAREC Program

Operational Clusters

- Economic and financial stability
- Infrastructure and economic connectivity
- Trade, tourism, and economic corridors
- Agriculture and water
- Human development

ICT cuts across all the above clusters

Development Partner

Technical and financial support

Ministerial Conference

- Policy and strategic dialogue
- Decision body

CAREC Institute

Knowledge support

Senior Officials' Meeting

- Complex projects/initiatives approval and coordination
- Oversight and progress monitoring

CAREC Secretariat

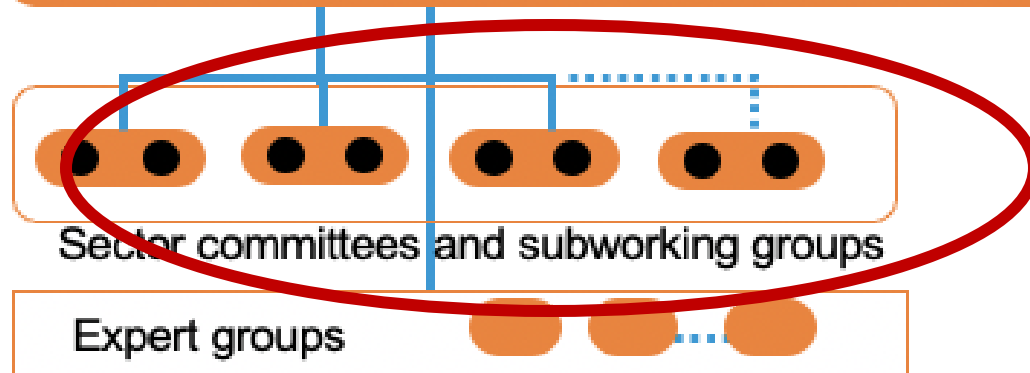
Technical and organizational support

Private Sector

Financing and public-private dialogue

Sector committees and subworking groups

Expert groups





6th Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Health

WGH Coordination



Principles of coordination

- **Ownership** - CAREC countries set their own policy and operation regulations and documents for health security, human resources for the health system, procurement, working with the vulnerable population etc.
- **Alignment** - CAREC Regional Health Strategy is aligned with the national and regional health priorities.
- **Harmonization** – CAREC Secretariat coordinate, facilitate implementation of the CAREC Health Strategy and share information to avoid duplication.
- **Results** - CAREC countries jointly with ADB focus to develop results and results get measured.
- **Mutual Accountability** – CAREC countries and ADB are accountable for implementation of the health strategy

Levels of coordination

Level 1

Country-level health coordination: between WGH members and SWG members or experts on health security, human resource management, digital health, climate change and health, procurement etc. on needs-basis (along four pillars and cross-cutting issues of the CAREC Health Program)

Level 2

WGH-CAREC coordination: between country's WGH spokesperson/TA coordinators and ADB/CAREC Secretariat (Regional Coordinators and Health Secretariat)

Level 3

Whole-of-Government/cross-sector coordination: Coordination between WGH members with other line ministries, including with CAREC Senior Officials/National Focal Points, as well as the Presidential office involvement

CAREC Health Secretariat

(under the general CAREC Secretariat)

CORE TEAM

Kirthi Ramesh, Social Sector Specialist, ADB

Begzod Djalilov, Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB

Brian Riley, Health Specialist, ADB

Sabina Yusifova, Senior Project Officer, ADB

Lua Pottier, Regional Health Security Expert

Rukhshona Qurbonova, Regional Health Coordinator

Jeremy Gorospe, TA Implementation Coordinator

Rosebelle May Azcuna, M&E expert

PILLAR 1

GOPA Consultants
(Martina Merten)

PILLAR 2

PILLAR 3

Philipp Kalpaxis, Principal Procurement Specialist, ADB

Jae Kwon,
Health Specialist, ADB

Individual Consultants
(Valerio Reggi, Maeve Maegner)

PILLAR 4

CROSS-CUTTING

Climate Change

Brian Riley,
Health Specialist, ADB

Digital health

VAMED consultants

Other experts on needs-basis

Effective communication with Working Group on Health (WGH)



- **Defined Roles and Responsibilities:** All WGH have clearly defined roles and responsibilities to ensure accountability.
- **Focal person:** Identify one focal person per country among WGH members for communication.
- **Shared Goals and Objectives:** WGH members support working towards shared goals and objectives within the framework of the CAREC Health Program (Strategy and RIF).
- **Support coordination:** Update CAREC Senior Officials/NFPs and get updates from SWG members, coordinate within health sector.
- **Regular Meetings:** Regular meetings are scheduled to ensure all WGH are aligned and updated on progress.
- **Communication Channels:** Clear and direct communication channels, such as chat groups, email correspondence
- **Collaborative Tools:** collaborative tools like shared documents (new knowledge sharing platform)

Feedback Mechanisms and Working Group on Health (WGHs)

- **Feedback Mechanisms** to continuously improve processes and address any issues promptly:
 - **Regular surveys** to gather opinions on processes, tools, and overall workflow
 - **Meetings** hold regular feedback meetings where team members can openly discuss any issues, successes, and suggestions for improvement.
 - **Anonymous Feedback Channels** use an anonymous way for team members to share their thoughts without fear of repercussions.
 - **One-on-One Check-Ins** organize monthly or bi-monthly check-ins with the members of the WGHs to discuss their experiences, challenges, and suggestions.



6th Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Health

Additional Sub-Working Groups

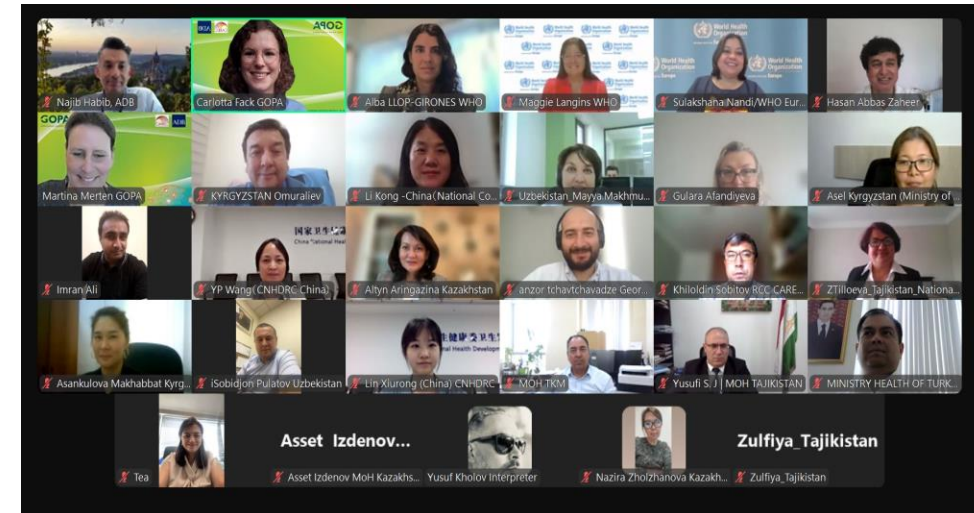


Objectives of Sub-working Groups

- SWGs support development of concrete deliverables – supporting implementation of CAREC Health Strategy and Regional Investment Framework - to advance regional health cooperation
- SWG reports to the WGH; co-chaired by countries
- Voluntary participation: selected countries with interest in topic
- SWG members meet regularly and on needs-basis (remotely) and as agreed to discuss technical area related topics and elaborate documents/proposals for WGH's consideration



SWG Procurement and Supply Chain Management



SWG Human Resources for Health

Additional Sub-Working Groups: discussion

- Climate change and health
- Drug Regulation
- Forecasting and Investment Planning
- Border Health
- Any other suggestions?



6th Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Health

CAREC Health Calendar of Events in 2025



CAREC Health Calendar of Events in 2025

Months	Events	Format
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Health, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 7-9 April 2025 	Hybrid (in person and virtually)
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd Meeting of the HRH Sub working group, with Excellence Centers joining Digital Health Webinar on Electronic Health Records/Electronic Medical Records 	Hybrid (in person and virtually) Virtual
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAREC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) Summer School with the School of Public Health at Hong Kong University (tbc) Digital Health webinar on evaluation of digital health applications 	Onsite Virtual

CAREC Health Calendar of Events in 2025

Month	Events	Format
July		
August		
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4th meeting of the HRH Sub working group 	Virtual
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOT with Hong Kong University with Centers of Excellence on covering Essential Public Health Functions into Public Health Instruction: best practices and the way forward (tbc) Meeting on National Regulatory Authorities “<i>Enhancing cooperation among CAREC drug regulatory authorities. Strengthen regulation and increase preparedness to manage public health emergencies</i>”, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan (tbc) 	Virtual Hybrid (in person and virtually)
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting of the CAREC National Focal Points CAREC Ministerial Conference 	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5th meeting of the HRH Sub working group 	Virtual

Thank you



Visit CAREC Health website: <https://health.carecprogram.org/>