

RETA 6194: Preparing the Greater Mekong Subregion Regional Communicable Diseases Control Project

Major Change in Scope and Increase in Budget from the Belgium TA Grant Fund

I. Introduction

1. The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Economic Cooperation Program identifies communicable disease control (CDC) as a priority for regional cooperation in view of emerging diseases such as avian influenza and dengue hemorrhagic fever, and HIV/AIDS,¹ and of the burden of endemic diseases among the poor and ethnic minorities. The GMS program includes a \$30-million Regional CDC Project in the GMS (the Project) for 2005.

2. On 20 October 2004, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a regional technical assistance (TA) to the governments of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), and Viet Nam for an original amount of \$600,000, to be financed on a grant basis by the Japan Special Fund. This is being implemented in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), with a contribution of \$150,000. The three governments together, will provide a total of \$50,000 equivalent in kind.

3. As described in the approved TA paper, the purposes of the TA were to (i) assess CDC efforts in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam, and regional collaboration in the context of the GMS; (ii) through stakeholder consultations, help identify regional priorities, feasibility, and funding requirements of strengthening CDC; and (iii) prepare the project proposal and implementation manual. Based on the discussion at that time, it was agreed not to include the People's Republic of China (PRC), Myanmar, and Thailand in the Project.

4. The feasibility study has been completed within the original budget. The three governments are firmly committed to proceed with the Project. It is scheduled for Board circulation in September 2005. The overall anticipated impact of the GMS CDC Project is to contain the spread of epidemic diseases and reduce the burden of common endemic diseases in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam.

II. Change in Scope and Amount

5. Based on the feasibility study, further opportunities have been identified which would help strengthen project preparation and implementation. Accordingly, the original scope has been expanded as follows.

6. The first change in TA scope is to do more detailed planning for regional disease control, including (i) detailed needs assessment of the surveillance and response system in Viet Nam, (ii) detailed regional planning for HIV/AIDS prevention and control for migrant and mobile populations, and (iii) a workshop on regional collaboration for disease surveillance and response to be cofinanced by the PRC.

7. The second change in TA scope is to improve and assess the response capacity for the control of avian influenza in Viet Nam and Cambodia, and possibly the Lao PDR. This will include purchase of equipment public education, training of frontline health workers,

¹ Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

assessment of their benefits, and through surveillance, learning more about the spread of avian influenza in the region.

8. The proposed expanded TA scope requires additional funding, since the original amount of \$800,000 was fully utilized to meet the original requirements. Accordingly, a change in scope was proposed in the amount of \$300,000. The Government of Belgium has approved the use of the Belgium TA grant fund in the amount of \$250,000 for this purpose, while the Government of the PRC will contribute \$50,000 equivalent in cash and in kind on a parallel basis. The total cost of the TA will increase from \$800,000 to \$1.1 million.

III. President's Decision

9. On 15 June 2005, the Management approved, as per PAI 5.11, para. 38 the following: (i) a change in scope of the TA caused by an expansion of project preparation activities within the original scope of the TA, but resulting in an increase in cost exceeding 15% of the original TA cost; (ii) an increase in the TA cost by \$300,000 on account of supplemental grant funding of \$250,000 committed by the TA Grant Fund of the Government of Belgium, and \$50,000 equivalent of the PRC; and (iii) administration by ADB of the proposed grant fund committed by the Government of Belgium.