



**Asia-Pacific
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Agenda Item: -

Health Working Group Work Plan for 2021

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: HWG Chair



**Second SOM Steering Committee on
Economic and Technical Cooperation
Meeting
28 May 2021**

The Health Working Group's Work Plan for 2021

Introduction

The COVID-19 global pandemic has exhibited how a health issue can quickly have detrimental impacts to an economy's populations and economic future. Since the start of the pandemic, the APEC region has recorded about 15 million cases and almost half a million deaths from COVID-19, equivalent to 37 percent of global deaths¹. Although the APEC region recorded real GDP growth of 3.6 percent in 2019, the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in negative real GDP growth rate and a staggering output loss of USD 2.9 trillion.²

While responding to COVID-19 member economies are also working to maintain other essential health services across the life course. However, prevention and treatment services for both infectious and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have been increasingly disrupted as the implementation of public health measures to mitigate community transmission of the virus continues to affect access and delivery of key health services and programs.

In addition, COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated existing challenges faced by our health systems, including barriers to access healthcare and health services. It has also raised social and economic inequalities, which have been magnified by the disproportionate impact of the crisis on the poor, women, children, Indigenous peoples and others in vulnerable and at-risk situations.

Nonetheless, the pandemic has resulted in innovation in the research and development of medical countermeasures, as well as the use of digital technology and tools to help overcome our current constraints. While the implementation of these solutions were as a result of our current challenges faced by our economies in the short term, they will provide the basis for positive improvements to our health systems in the long term.

It has been estimated that recovery is expected to begin in 2021 with GDP growth projected at 5.2% in the APEC region.³ However, recovery hinges on what policies are implemented to contain the virus and start rebuilding our economies. In addition, we must reflect on how to continue our progress in moving towards achieving universal health coverage (UHC) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

¹ <https://www.apec.org/Publications/2020/11/APEC-Regional-Trends-Analysis---November-2020>

² https://www.apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2020/0706_ARTA

³ https://www.apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2020/0706_ARTA

In accordance with the Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the APEC Health Working Group (HWG) aims to reduce the impact of health-related threats to the economy, trade and security of member economies, and to strengthen health systems to increase their efficiency, responsiveness and resilience to achieve and maintain universal health coverage. For instance, following the emergence of COVID-19 in 2020, the APEC HWG facilitated important discussions to assist the APEC region in responding to the crisis, including a roundtable discussion in February, the development of a COVID-19 statement in March and further discussions on COVID-19 response in September.

Consequently, the HWG, within APEC, can facilitate the collaboration and information exchange needed to: 1) support the development of policies to contain the virus, 2) rebuild our economies, and 3) achieve UHC and the 2030 Agenda; while supporting and aligning with the work of key partners such as the World Health Organization.

For 2021, the HWG's theme will be "*Response, Rebalance, Recover. Together*" This theme seeks to complement the APEC 2021 theme "*Join, Work, Grow. Together*".

For 2021, the HWG's mandate will be actualized through activities focused on:

1. **Response:** As the region continues to respond to increases in cases of COVID-19 and the emergence of new strains of the virus, the HWG will continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by facilitating prevention, surveillance, containment and treatment efforts, while integrating equity, diversity and inclusion throughout the response. This will also include cooperating on various aspects related to COVID-19 medical countermeasures and exploring the impacts to vulnerable and at-risk communities.
2. **Rebalance:** The continuous threat from other current and emerging infectious diseases, as well as the growing and overwhelming burden from non-communicable diseases continues to impact our health systems. In some instances, the emergence of COVID-19 has exacerbated these diseases. The HWG will focus on balancing responding to the pandemic, while also refocusing on other health issues, supporting healthy populations across the life course, including those health issues from the 2020 Work Plan that were deferred due to the emergence of COVID-19.
3. **Recover:** Moving forward, we must continue to strengthen and support implementation of a "Health in All Policies", "whole-of-society" and coordinated regional approach. The HWG will focus its efforts on enhancing preparedness, response and recovery for public health emergencies. It will also explore the development and contribution of digital health technologies in safeguarding people's health and protecting the region from health threats, as well as enhancing the resilience, scalability and sustainability of health systems, thereby moving towards universal health coverage and equitable economic growth.

4. Together: COVID-19 has demonstrated the importance of international cooperation to overcoming global challenges. The HWG will focus on working together to share knowledge and experiences on all three themes (Response, Rebalance and Recovery), as well as discuss how the HWG can support those efforts within APEC, regionally and globally. The HWG will encourage and facilitate collaboration with other APEC fora on the three themes, particularly given the multi-sectoral nature of the COVID-19 response. Furthermore, the HWG will seek to support and align with efforts of other global, regional and multilateral bodies on COVID-19 efforts.

The HWG recognizes the importance of gender-based analysis in strengthening health systems and encourages HWG member economies to include a gender-based lens in their activities. Women are positive agents of change in efforts to advance health for all, including in their roles as decision-makers, leaders, innovators and caregivers.

Expected Deliverables for 2021

1. Governance Deliverables:

- 1.1. Two Health Working Group Meetings (February 2021 – SOM1 and August 2021 – SOM3)
- 1.2. Supporting the APEC SCE's assessment of the Health Working Group (February/March 2021)
- 1.3. Discussion of the "*The North Star*" – A Healthy Asia-Pacific Strategic Document (March 2021 – SOM1) and Endorsement (August 2021 – SOM3)
- 1.4. Reviewing the HWG's progress in achieving the HWG Strategic Plan 2021-2025, through the Critical Success Factors and Key Performance Indicators (August 2021 – SOM3)
- 1.5. HWG Report to the SCE (November 2021)

2. Policy/Technical Deliverables:

HWG Deliverables:

- 2.1. **Vaccination Program of Work 2020-2021**

Rationale: Following the re-emergence of vaccine-preventable diseases across the APEC region in 2018 and 2019 and a renewed focus on vaccination within the HWG, the HWG agreed to coordinate and build on existing efforts on vaccination in the HWG and promote a cohesive, longer-term approach to related initiatives. The Vaccination Program of Work (VPoW) 2020-2021 outlines planned initiatives addressing both the demand side (vaccine acceptance and uptake) and the supply side (improving vaccine supply chains). Due to the anticipated increased focus on vaccination in 2021 and 2022, it is recommended that the Vaccination Spotlight Report and Policy Workshop (Policy Options for Addressing Digital Literacy) be deferred to 2022, to ensure COVID-19 vaccination efforts are reflected.

2.1.1. Policy Discussion: COVID-19 Vaccination – Roll-out and Addressing Vaccine Confidence (February 2021 – SOM1)

Description/Rationale: The issue of “vaccine hesitancy”, or individuals’ delayed acceptance or refusal to be vaccinated despite the availability of vaccines, due to lack of confidence, has been escalated further by the emergence of COVID-19, accompanied by misinformation, and the new vaccines that have been developed as a response. In addition, given the limited supply of vaccines in the short to medium term, economies are having to prioritize and ensure equitable access to at-risk and vulnerable populations.

In alignment with the VPoW and the APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course, the HWG will have a Policy Discussion during the first HWG meeting to discuss experiences with COVID-19 roll out, the role digital literacy has played in addressing vaccine confidence and how economies can ensure equitable access to its most vulnerable and at-risk populations. The discussion will seek to facilitate HWG collaboration and the exchange of information to support the development of domestic policies related to vaccine confidence initiatives and overall COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

2.1.2. Policy Discussion: Protecting Gains from Immunization Programs in the Control of Vaccine Preventable Infectious Diseases (August 2021 – SOM3)

Description/Rationale: The COVID-19 response has diverted resources away from national immunization programs, debilitating long time efforts to control vaccine preventable diseases. In alignment with the VPoW and the APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course, the HWG will have a Policy Discussion during the second HWG meeting to discuss how to protect the region’s immunization efforts to control vaccine preventable diseases, which have been disrupted by the COVID-19 response. The discussion will be supported by officials from the regional offices of the WHO. The discussion will aim to facilitate the exchange of

information to support the need to protect domestic immunization efforts and opportunities for streamlining with COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

2.2. **Policy Discussion: Addressing Non-Communicable Diseases Across the Life Course (March 2021 – SOM1)**

Description/Rationale: According to the World Health Organization, 7 of the 10 leading causes of deaths in 2019 were due to NCDs. NCDs also accounted for 74% of deaths globally in 2019. NCDs, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and cancer, also put individuals at increased risk of complications related to COVID-19. However, prevention and treatment services for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have been increasingly disrupted as the implementation of public health measures to mitigate community transmission of the virus continues to affect access and delivery of key health services and programs. In addition, the pandemic has disrupted or halted critical mental health services while the demand for mental health is increasing. This will have long term effects for our health systems for years to come. As a result, the HWG will hold a discussion to provide an opportunity for member economies to share their experiences and perspectives in addressing NCDs, while also addressing COVID-19, and how they have been able to address the needs of at-risk and vulnerable populations. The discussion will be supported by officials from the regional offices of the World Health Organization, as well as the International Agency for Research on Cancer, who will provide overview presentations of NCDs in the regions, before member economies begin a guided discussion. The discussion will seek to facilitate the exchange of information to support continued domestic efforts to address NCDs.

2.3. **Development and Endorsement of “Good Practices on Public Policies in Childhood Nutrition” (August 2021 – SOM3)**

Description/Rationale: Malnutrition in all forms costs the global economy approximately US\$ 3.5 trillion per year, with overweight and obesity alone costing US\$ 500 billion per year. Through its effects on health, malnutrition increases health-care costs, reduces productivity and slows economic growth, which in turn can perpetuate a cycle of poverty and ill health. In addition, the years 2016 – 2025 have been proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, presenting an opportunity to address all forms of malnutrition. As agreed during SOM1 2020, the HWG will work to develop a compilation document of best practices to address childhood nutrition, both obesity and malnutrition, across the Asia-Pacific region, and support the region’s capacity to share knowledge and experience in addressing this important issue. This effort will be led by the sub-working group on Childhood Nutrition led by Chile.

2.4. **Development and Endorsement of “Good Practices for Healthy Ageing” (August 2021 – SOM3)**

Description/Rationale: 2021 marks the beginning of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) to catalyze and collaborate on action to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live. Furthermore, the APEC region includes some of the most rapidly ageing populations in the world. For instance, a third of all APEC economies are projected to be “super-aged” within the next decade, meaning more than a fifth of their population will be older than 65 years of age. As discussed during SOM1 2020, the HWG will work to develop a “Document on Good Practices for Healthy Ageing”. This effort will be led by the sub-working group on Healthy Ageing led by Chile.

2.5. **Publication and Launch of the HWG ‘Dementia Spotlight’: A Compilation of Initiatives to Address Dementia in the Asia-Pacific Region (March 2021 – SOM1)**

Description/Rationale: The global societal cost of dementia is approximately US\$ 818 billion and the number of people living with dementia in the Asia-Pacific region is expected to triple between now and 2050. While dementia is not a normal part of aging, it mainly affects older people and is one of the major causes of disability and dependency among the global aging population. Moreover, older age often exacerbates pre-existing inequities based on income, education, gender and urban/rural residence, highlighting the importance of equity-focused policy-making. Population aging requires collaboration across sectors to address the underlying determinants of health of older people, including housing, transport and the built environment. As agreed to during HLM9, the HWG will finalize the development of a ‘Dementia Spotlight Report’ which will facilitate the sharing of successful policies and programs across the region to encourage collaboration between APEC economies. The Report will also be submitted as a regional resource to the WHO’s Global Dementia Observatory knowledge exchange platform and will seek to strengthen the HWG’s partnership with the WHO, the International Federation on Ageing, and Alzheimer’s Disease International.

2.6. **Policy Discussion: Leveraging Digital Technologies to Address COVID-19 and Sustain Innovation to Support Health Systems (August 2021 – SOM3)**

Description/Rationale: The development and contribution of digital health technologies in response to COVID-19 has revealed its importance in safeguarding people’s health and protecting the region from health threats. Moreover, these technologies have the potential to positively change aspects of the healthcare sector, enhancing the resilience, scalability and sustainability of health systems, thereby moving towards universal health coverage. It is recommended

the Policy Dialogue Workshop will be conducted in 2021, and the discussion will also lead to the development of a report on the Best Practices in Digital Health Innovation in Response to COVID-19, to share expertise both within the APEC region and more globally.

3. Cross-Fora Deliverables:

3.1. Post-2020 APEC Roadmap to Promote Mental Wellness in a Healthy Asia Pacific (February 2021 – SOM1 and August 2021 – SOM3)

Description/Rationale: The promotion of mental health, both within and outside of the health sector, is a shared responsibility that requires the active participation of all sectors and actors, on local, global and national levels. COVID-19 has underscored the importance of inclusive mental health services and psychosocial support into all aspects, and all levels, of preparedness and responsive activities for current and future public health emergencies. In addition, it has underscored the gaps that exist in our mental health systems and demonstrated important lessons in building these services for the future. Given the expiry of the APEC Mental Health Roadmap in 2020, the HWG will work alongside the APEC Life Sciences and Innovation Forum (LSIF) and the APEC Digital Hub for Mental Health to endorse a process for the development of a post 2020 Roadmap at the first HWG meeting, and endorse the Roadmap at the second HWG meeting. The post 2020 Roadmap will seek to strengthen mental health and reduce the economic impact of mental illness in the Asia-Pacific across the life course. It will also complement the extension of the WHO's Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan to 2030.

3.2. Joint Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) and HWG Policy Dialogue – Strengthening Health Systems Resilience: Post COVID-19 (August 2021 – SOM3) (TBC)

Description/Rationale: Resilient health systems are key to preparedness and response to emergencies as all disasters are health issues, affecting the health of the population and bringing about substantial loss and disruption to public health systems, as has been demonstrated by COVID-19. Emergency preparedness is a key element of APEC's human security agenda and building disaster resilience is central to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The HWG will work together with the Emergency Preparedness Working Group to host a Policy Dialogue on strengthening health system's resilience, taking into account ongoing global reviews of the global response to COVID-19. WHO Regional Offices, ASEAN, PECC and PIF will also be invited to participate and

contribute to the discussion. The Policy Dialogue will seek to highlight the economic value and return on investment for strengthening pandemic preparedness to support future investments and policies.

4. **Approved and on-going HWG Projects:**

APEC Funded:

- 4.1. APEC Conference on Digital Healthcare Innovation – COVID-19 Response by Health Information Utilization (*Chinese Taipei*)
- 4.2. Achieve One Planet from 4E: Eat, Exercise, Ecology, Economies (*Chinese Taipei*)
- 4.3. Policy Capacity and Public Health Crises: A Diagnostic Tool for Enhancing Policy Effectiveness and Capacity Building (*Hong Kong, China*)
- 4.4. Workshop on development economic analysis due to visual impairment and (avoidable) blindness (*Indonesia*)
- 4.5. Empowering People With Mental Disorders Through Optimum Health Programme: A New Approach to Mental Health in Region (*Indonesia*)
- 4.6. Performance Assessment of Mental Health Rehabilitation to Combat the 4th Wave of COVID-19 (*Thailand*)
- 4.7. Digital Health Platforms for COVID-19 Prevention and Control (*Thailand*)
- 4.8. APEC Conference on Urbanization, Population Aging and Technology Innovation (*Chinese Taipei*)
- 4.9. Symposium about Early Hearing Damage Prevention in Young People (*Chile*)
- 4.10. Digital Tools for Addressing Infectious Disease in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities (*Chinese Taipei*)

Self Funded:

4.11. Empowering Telehealth Solutions Across APEC (*United States*)

4.12. Workshop on Prevention and Promotion Policies for Obesity (*Chile*)

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate <i>(Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)</i>	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration <i>(within APEC and beyond APEC)</i>
<p>Policy Discussion: COVID-19 Vaccination – Roll-out and Addressing Vaccine Confidence</p> <p>(February 2021 – SOM1)</p>	<p>Global vaccination levels have stagnated below the levels required to ensure that the population is fully protected, an issue that is exacerbated by “vaccine hesitancy”, or individuals’ delayed acceptance or refusal to be vaccinated despite the availability of vaccines, due to lack of confidence, convenience and complacency. This issue has been further exacerbated by the emergence of COVID-19, accompanied by misinformation, and the new vaccines that have been developed as a response. In addition, given the limited supply of vaccines in the short to medium term, economies are having to prioritize and ensure equitable access to at-risk and vulnerable populations.</p> <p>In alignment with the VPoW and the APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course, the HWG will have a Policy Discussion during the first HWG meeting to discuss experiences with COVID-19 roll out, the role digital literacy has played in addressing vaccine confidence and how economies can ensure equitable access to its most vulnerable and at-risk populations.</p>	<p>We welcome APEC’s working partnership with other relevant global initiatives for strengthening infectious disease control. (2015 APEC Economic Leaders Declaration)</p> <p>Strengthening health systems to support Universal Health Coverage providing the whole population with access to safe, effective, quality, affordable and sustainable primary health care. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Address emerging and re-emerging infectious disease outbreaks. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Provide increased access to immunization and other preventive initiatives for both communicable and non-communicable diseases. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Enhancing preparedness and response to public health emergencies and disasters, including prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (HWG Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020)</p> <p>HLM9 reaffirmed vaccination across the life course as a pillar of preventative healthcare, noting that vaccination prevents illnesses, enabling populations to remain healthy, and reduces related expenditures over time. (9th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy Joint Statement)</p> <p>HLM10 highlighted the importance of providing safe, quality and effective vaccines across the region, and the value of cooperation among APEC economies and partnership with stakeholders to improve the affordability, availability, accessibility, and use of such vaccines, particularly for developing economies. HLM10 welcomed the efforts to enhance cooperation in immunization in the coming months and years as we address the current COVID-19 pandemic. (Joint Statement on the 10th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy)</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region’s work in these areas</p> <p>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: <i>Response, Recovery, Together</i></p>	<p>The HWG will collaborate with key partners in this space, such as the WHO, to ensure that the guiding framework of vaccine rollout strategies that are discussed during this policy discussion is coordinated with global health partners to ensure maximum impact of the HWG’s efforts.</p>
<p>Policy Discussion: Protecting Gains from Immunization Programs in the Control of Vaccine Preventable Infectious Diseases (August 2021 – SOM3)</p>	<p>The COVID-19 response has diverted resources away from national immunization programs, debilitating long time efforts to control vaccine preventable diseases. Therefore, in alignment with the VPoW and the APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course, the HWG will have a Policy Discussion during the second HWG meeting to discuss how to protect the region’s immunization efforts to control vaccine preventable diseases, which have been disrupted by the COVID-19 response. The discussion will be supported by officials from the regional offices</p>	<p>Enhancing preparedness and response to public health emergencies and disasters, including prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (HWG Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020)</p> <p>HLM9 reaffirmed vaccination across the life course as a pillar of preventative healthcare, noting that vaccination prevents illnesses, enabling populations to remain healthy, and reduces related expenditures over time. (9th APEC High-</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p>	<p>Partnerships with other sub-working groups within APEC, including the Life Sciences Innovation Forum, will be emphasized.</p> <p>Established partnerships with the WHO (including the WHO regional office) will be leveraged and new,</p>

	of the WHO. The discussion will aim to facilitate the exchange of information to support the need to protect domestic immunization efforts and align those efforts with the work of the WHO.	Level Meeting on Health and the Economy Joint Statement)	Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas <i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i> 2021 HWG Priorities: Rebalance, Recovery. Together	strategic partnerships sought as necessary.
Policy Discussion: Addressing Non-Communicable Diseases Across the Life Course (March 2021 – SOM1)	<p>The APEC HWG was originally established in 2003, following the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak, to address health-related threats to economies' trade and security. While the scope of our work has since expanded, engagement at the HWG is particularly valuable for facilitating coordinated action on shared challenges with communicable disease, exchanging best practices and innovative approaches, and facilitating strengthened cooperation and health system integration in the region to guard against cross-border health threats.</p> <p>The HWG will hold a discussion to provide an opportunity for member economies to share their experiences and perspectives on other health issues, other than COVID-19, to support healthy populations across the life course, including those health issues from the 2020 Work Plan that were deferred due to the emergence of COVID-19. The discussion will be supported by regional experts from the World Health Organization.</p>	<p>Recognizing health as the foundation of economic prosperity and human development, we highlight the importance of promoting health systems towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which are resilient, sustainable, accessible and responsive to current and future needs to foster quality growth and human development. We look forward to further work on ways to address the fiscal and economic impacts of ill health. (2016 APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration)</p> <p>We welcome APEC's working partnership with other relevant global initiatives for strengthening infectious disease control. (2015 APEC Leaders Declaration)</p> <p>Improving health emergency preparedness, surveillance, response and recovery systems for public health emergencies, including pandemic events and natural disasters. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Enhancing preparedness and response to public health emergencies and disasters, including prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (HWG Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020)</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas <i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i></p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: Rebalance, Recovery. Together</p>	<p>Partnerships with other sub-working groups within APEC, including the Life Sciences Innovation Forum, will be emphasized.</p> <p>Established partnerships with the WHO (including the WHO regional office) will be leveraged and new, strategic partnerships sought as necessary.</p>
Development and Endorsement of "Good Practices on Public Policies in Childhood Nutrition" (August 2021 – SOM3)	Malnutrition in all forms costs the global economy approximately US\$ 3.5 trillion per year, with overweight and obesity alone costing US\$ 500 billion per year. Through its effects on health, malnutrition increases health-care costs, reduces productivity and slows economic growth, which in turn can perpetuate a cycle of poverty and ill health. In addition, the years 2016 – 2025 have been proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, presenting an opportunity to address all forms of malnutrition. As agreed during SOM1 2020, the HWG will work to develop a compilation document of best practices to address	The HWG recognized the importance of addressing childhood obesity in APEC economies as overweight and obese children are likely to stay obese into adulthood and develop non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, at a younger age. (2019 Joint Activities of the HWG and LSIF that Support Health across the Life Course)	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by</p>	

	<p>childhood nutrition, both obesity and malnutrition, across the Asia-Pacific region, and support the region's capacity to share knowledge and experience in addressing this important issue. This effort will be led by the sub-working group on Childhood Nutrition led by Chile.</p>		<p>building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas <i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i></p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: Rebalance, Together</p>	
<p>Development and Endorsement of "Good Practices for Healthy Ageing" (August 2021 – SOM3)</p>	<p>2021 marks the beginning of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) to catalyze and collaborate on action to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live. Furthermore, the APEC region includes some of the most rapidly ageing populations in the world. For instance, a third of all APEC economies are projected to be "super-aged" within the next decade, meaning more than a fifth of their population will be older than 65 years of age. As discussed during SOM1 2020, the HWG will work to develop a "Document on Good Practices for Healthy Ageing". This effort will be led by the sub-working group on Healthy Ageing led by Chile.</p>	<p>At the same time, we must respond more effectively to global challenges as diverse as inequality, climate change, terrorism, and our ageing populations. (2019 Host Economy Leaders' Statement)</p> <p>Address the health needs of aging populations and people with disabilities. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Encourage action to address the current and future fiscal implications of ill-health, especially from non-communicable disease and aging...(Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>HLM8 welcomed the continued partnership with the APEC Finance Ministers' Process and the exploratory dialogue to address the fiscal and economic impacts of the steep rise in chronic disease and of ageing societies in APEC economies, while keeping the healthcare system sustainable. (Joint Statement on the 8th APEC High-level Meeting on Health and the Economy)</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas <i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i></p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: Rebalance, Together</p>	

<p>Publication and Launch of the HWG 'Dementia Spotlight': A Compilation of Initiatives to Address Dementia in the Asia-Pacific Region</p> <p>(March 2021 – SOM1)</p>	<p>The global societal cost of dementia is approximately US\$ 818 billion and the number of people living with dementia in the Asia-Pacific region is expected to triple between now and 2050. While dementia is not a normal part of aging, it mainly affects older people and is one of the major causes of disability and dependency among the global aging population. Moreover, older age often exacerbates pre-existing inequities based on income, education, gender and urban/rural residence, highlighting the importance of equity-focused policy-making. Population aging requires collaboration across sectors to address the underlying determinants of health of older people, including housing, transport and the built environment.</p> <p>The 'Dementia Spotlight Report', will facilitate the sharing of successful policies and programs across the region to encourage collaboration between APEC economies, particularly those facing similar contextual challenges in meeting the needs of aging populations.</p>	<p>At the same time, we must respond more effectively to global challenges as diverse as inequality, climate change, terrorism, and our ageing populations. (2019 Host Economy Leaders' Statement)</p> <p>Address the health needs of aging populations and people with disabilities. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Encourage action to address the current and future fiscal implications of ill-health, especially from non-communicable disease and aging...(Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>HLM9 reaffirmed the need to increase funding for dementia research, to share knowledge and best practices in the region, and the incorporation of care provider experiences when developing dementia policies. (Joint Statement on the 9th APEC High-level Meeting on Health and the Economy)</p> <p>HLM8 welcomed the continued partnership with the APEC Finance Ministers' Process and the exploratory dialogue to address the fiscal and economic impacts of the steep rise in chronic disease and of ageing societies in APEC economies, while keeping the healthcare system sustainable. (Joint Statement on the 8th APEC High-level Meeting on Health and the Economy)</p> <p>The HWG recognized the importance of addressing childhood obesity in APEC economies as overweight and obese children are likely to stay obese into adulthood and develop non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, at a younger age. (2019 Joint Activities of the HWG and LSIF that Support Health across the Life Course)</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas</p> <p>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: <i>Rebalance, Together</i></p>	<p>The 'Dementia Spotlight Report' will be submitted as a regional resource to the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Dementia Observatory (GDO) knowledge exchange platform. The GDO knowledge exchange platform provides a space for all relevant stakeholders (e.g. APEC HWG) to share resources (e.g. compilation of good policy, guidelines and practice examples for dementia) to facilitate mutual learning and promote the exchange of good practices in the area of dementia.</p> <p>Established partnerships with the International Federation on Ageing (IFA), Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) and WHO Regional Offices will also be leveraged and new, strategic partnerships sought as necessary.</p>
<p>Policy Discussion : Leveraging Digital Technologies to Address COVID-19 and Sustain Innovation to Support Health Systems</p> <p>(August 2020 – SOM3)</p>	<p>The development and contribution of digital health technologies in response to COVID-19 has revealed its importance in safeguarding people's health and protecting the region from health threats. Moreover, these technologies have the potential to positively change aspects of the healthcare sector, enhancing the resilience, scalability and sustainability of health systems, thereby moving towards universal health coverage. The discussion will also lead to the development of a report on the Best Practices in Digital Health Innovation in Response to COVID-19, to share expertise both within the APEC region and more globally.</p>	<p><i>Recognizing new opportunities and emerging challenges presented by globalization and digital transformation, we resolve to advance economic, financial and social inclusion, with a vision to build an inclusive, accessible, sustainable, healthy and resilient APEC community by 2030, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (2017 APEC Economic Leaders' Statement)</i></p> <p>The importance of strengthening the resiliency of health systems and supply chains, and the important role that digital health should play moving forward. (Joint Statement on the 10th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy)</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p>	<p>The HWG will work closely with relevant stakeholders as required (e.g. WHO, World Bank and the OECD).</p>

			<p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas</p> <p><i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i></p> <p><i>2021 HWG Priorities: Response, Rebalance, Recovery. Together</i></p>	
<p>Post-2020 APEC Roadmap to Promote Mental Wellness in a Healthy Asia Pacific</p> <p>(February 2021 – SOM1 and August 2021 – SOM3)</p>	<p>The promotion of mental health, both within and outside of the health sector, is a shared responsibility that requires the active participation of all sectors and actors, on local, global and national levels. COVID-19 has underscored the importance of mental health services and psychosocial support into all aspects, and all levels, of preparedness and responsive activities for current and future public health emergencies. In addition, it has underscored the gaps that exist in our mental health systems and demonstrated important lessons in building these services for the future.</p> <p>Given the expiry of the APEC Mental Health Roadmap in 2020, the HWG will work alongside the APEC Life Sciences and Innovation Forum (LSIF) and the APEC Digital Hub for Mental Health to endorse a process for the development of a post 2020 Roadmap.</p>	<p>We recognise the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in the region, and emphasise the importance of an integrated approach for prevention and treatment. We acknowledge and support ongoing work on Mental Health, Cervical Cancer, and Rare Diseases. (2019 APEC Ministerial Chair's Statement)</p> <p>We encourage cross-fora collaboration to achieve the common goal of proactive investment in healthy workforces and access to healthcare. (2016 APEC Ministerial Declaration)</p> <p>Supporting healthy populations across the life course, including the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases...(HWG Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020)</p> <p>HLM8 recognized that mental health is essential for sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region. Without it, individuals are limited in their choices and opportunities to improve their lives and to contribute as members of the society. (Joint Statement on the 8th APEC High-level Meeting on Health and the Economy)</p> <p>HLM8 noted that focus should include upstream prevention of mental illness through primary and community healthcare settings and ensuring e-access to mental health services. (Joint Statement on the 8th APEC High-level Meeting on Health and the Economy)</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas</p> <p><i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i></p> <p><i>2021 HWG Priorities: Response, Rebalance, Recovery. Together</i></p>	<p>The HWG will work alongside the Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) to execute this deliverable.</p> <p>The HWG will also work closely with the APEC Digital Hub for Mental Health and other relevant stakeholders as required (e.g. WHO, World Bank and the OECD).</p>
<p>Joint Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) and HWG Policy Dialogue – Strengthening</p>	<p>The APEC region comprises 59% of the world's population and experiences over 70% of the world's natural disasters. In 2018, natural disasters accounted for an estimated US\$ 675 billion in economic losses, or around 2.4% of the Asia-Pacific region's GDP.</p>	<p>Improving health emergency preparedness, surveillance, response and recovery systems for public health emergencies, including pandemic events and natural disasters. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Enhancing preparedness and response to public health emergencies and disasters, including prevention and control</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p>	<p>The HWG will work alongside the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) to execute this deliverable.</p> <p>Collaboration with international organizations such as the WHO,</p>

<p>Health Systems Resilience: Post COVID-19</p> <p>(August 2021 – SOM3)</p>	<p>Resilient health systems are key to preparedness and response to emergencies as all disasters are health issues, affecting the health of the population and bringing about substantial loss and disruption to public health systems, as has been demonstrated by COVID-19. Emergency preparedness is a key element of APEC's human security agenda and building disaster resilience is central to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The HWG will work together with the Emergency Preparedness Working Group to host a Policy Dialogue on strengthening health system's resilience, taking into account ongoing global reviews of the global response to COVID-19. The Policy Dialogue will seek to highlight the economic value and return on investment for strengthening pandemic preparedness to support future investments and policies.</p>	<p>of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. (HWG Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020)</p> <p>HLM10 recognized that APEC economies will need to continue to support actions to improve health system efficiencies and foster an enabling local environment for stakeholders in health-related industries. This may include greater investment in the certification of laboratories for vaccines and pharmaceutical products and medical devices by international accreditation organizations, as well as accelerated research and development for valid diagnostic tests, treatments and vaccines. (Joint Statement on the 10th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy)</p>	<p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas</p> <p><i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i></p> <p><i>2021 HWG Priorities: Response, Rebalance, Recovery, Together</i></p>	<p>OECD and other relevant stakeholders, as required.</p>
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Approved and On-going Projects for 2021

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
<p>APEC Conference on Digital Healthcare Innovation – COVID-19 Response by Health Information Utilization (Chinese Taipei)</p>	<p>The ageing population is rapid and causes the rise of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes, healthcare spending will continue to rise as the costs of medical services grow. In response to the ageing society, digital transformation of health and care is a key solution. In addition, the transmission and integration of data under digital information systems has demonstrated as an effective way to implemented contain measures at the beginning of disease outbreak. This project will provide APEC member economies with a platform to share a variety of digital data-driven health innovative models, which consists of not only a majority of applications in disease diagnosis, treatment and management for improving care delivery, quality and medical accessibility, and how it can be digital approaches for epidemic response during COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>(1) This project echoes the 2020 APEC theme "Optimising Human Potential towards a Future of Shared Prosperity" and its priority "Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology" by cooperating with the ICT sector, community, health management sector and hospital.</p> <p>(2) This project is in response to APEC Leaders in 2017 and to align with APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER) to enhance inclusiveness of Internet and Digital Economy.</p>	<p><i>Host Year Priorities:</i> Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p>	

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		(3)This project supports the goal of the Healthy Asia 2020 Roadmap Initiative and Health Working Group (HWG) 2021-2025 Strategy Plan to build sustainable health systems and provide continuous health management and early diagnosis/treatment by applying digital health information to promote integrated people-centred health services and holistic approaches to healthcare.	Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas <i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i> <i>2021 HWG Priorities: Response, Rebalance, Recovery. Together</i>	
Achieve One Planet from 4E: Eat, Exercise, Ecology, Economies (Chinese Taipei)	<p>This project will organize a 2-day conference in 2022 in Taipei that includes the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interactive sessions for the APEC economies to share public policies and strategic actions on the prevention of NCDs, including innovative strategies on risk communication, promotion of physical activities, and advocacy of healthy and sustainable diet; 2. Communication channels for APEC economies to deliberate and develop a multi-sectoral approach on the engagement of various domestic sectors to collaborate in the planning, implementation, and the use of innovative technology to promote green eating and physical activities; 3. Deliberation sessions for APEC economies to share the best practices on the innovation and transformation of green transportation as well as the promotion of green eating; and, 4. Site visit to organizations that implement green eating and green transportation. 	<p>We recognize the importance to support people's health across the life course through the promotion of healthy diet, physical activities and disease prevention. (2019 HWG work plan)</p> <p>At the same time, we must respond more effectively on the implementation of the 2011 APEC NCD Action Plan and APEC's economies coordination for NCDs prevention and control. (7th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health & the Economy)</p> <p>Meanwhile, we must apply practicable measures to enhance the capacity of public health sectors in each APEC economy in order to control and mitigate the risks of NCDs. (The Healthy ASIA Pacific 2020 Initiative)</p> <p>This project aims to develop a multi-sectoral approach to address the increasing risks of NCDs based on the principles of "Prevention, control and awareness", "Innovation" and "Inter-sectoral and cross-border collaboration". (Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 Roadmap)</p> <p>Through the promotion of environmental protection, physical activities and healthy diet, this project aims to enhance people's capabilities to overcome the challenge of</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas</p> <p>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: Rebalance, Together</p>	

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		<p>COVID-19. (APEC Support Fund – Sub-Fund on Human Security)</p> <p>Address the global burden of NCDs through the promotions of sustainable and healthy diet. (2030 Sustainable Development Agenda)</p> <p>Encouraging APEC economies to share the best practices on the prevention of NCDs. (WHO Global Action Plan on NCDs)</p> <p>Deliberate and develop a multi-sectoral approach on the promotion of green eating and physical activities. (WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity)</p>		
<p>Policy Capacity and Public Health Crises: A Diagnostic Tool for Enhancing Policy Effectiveness and Capacity Building (Hong Kong, China)</p>	<p>Originated as a public health crisis, COVID-19 pandemic has caused a range of devastating consequences spanning far beyond public health arena. Based on recent policy brief by APEC Policy Support Unit, APEC real GDP is expected to contract by 2.7% in 2020, or output loss of USD 2.1 trillion. Governments in APEC region have responded differently to the pandemic, ranging from advocating social distancing to extensive contact tracing and economy-wide lockdowns, and their effectiveness differs considerably. Even if the same measures are adopted, the policy effectiveness in terms of curtailing the spread of virus can also differ markedly from one place to another. The project can support capacity building needs for APEC developing economies as the diagnostic tool and will enhance emergency preparedness by identifying and addressing vulnerable aspects of policy capacities in responding to public health emergencies.</p>			<p>The project will work in a South-to-North cooperating model so that the western economies will derive lessons from Asian economies (HKC, China, Singapore and South Korea) as these economies have made significant achievements in containing the pandemic.</p> <p>Collaboration with non-APEC regions will also be included and they will use their channels and network to influence policy makers in their economies.</p>
<p>Workshop on development economic analysis due to visual impairment and (avoidable) blindness (Indonesia)</p>	<p>Visual Impairment and (avoidable) blindness implies to the socioeconomic when considering an individual's unemployment, care-taking requirements, increased dependence on others, lower quality of life, economic productivity loss, and increase poverty. However, some economies have lack of knowledge and skill to calculate its economic impact. This knowledge and skill will</p>	<p>Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020 Initiative:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening the prevention & control of non-communicable diseases, including disabilities and injuries 	<p>Host Year Priorities:</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all</p>	<p>This project supports WHO programme for prevention of blindness, VISION 2020: The Right to Sight. It will collaborate</p>

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	strengthen the awareness and advocacy of the urgency in implementing a visual impairment and (avoidable) blindness control program. The project will be delivered in a workshop that aims to create a framework in analyzing of economic impact due to visual impairment and (avoidable) blindness, a framework to develop cost-effective eye care program and a framework to create finance system (Universal Health Coverage) for eye care. The workshop will be held in 2021. Some speakers from Vision Loss Experts Group (VLEG) will deliver their expertise in the workshop.	<p>2. Strengthening health systems to support UHC</p> <p>Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020 Roadmap:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage action to address the current and future fiscal implication, of ill health, especially from non-communicable diseases, and promote the development of diverse sustainable financing option to meet the health care needs of all citizens <p>HWG Strategic Plan 2016-2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mandate of the HWG is to work together to improve people's health and well-being, aiming to promote trade, security, inclusive growth and development in the APEC region. 	<p>people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas</p> <p><i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i></p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: Rebalance, Recovery. Together</p>	with Vision Loss Experts Group (VLEG) and supports The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)
Empowering People With Mental Disorders Through Optimum Health Programme: A New Approach to Mental Health in Region (Indonesia)	People with mental disorders are viewed as a burden for families, groups, and even communities and are no longer possible to be empowered. People with severe mental illness, even though they have certain disability, but still they could live independently in community, if they are given the opportunity and support to do so. It has been demonstrated globally that people with mental illness recover well with appropriate ongoing treatment and support. The Optimal Health Program (OHP) in mental health aims to eliminate the stigma that is still strongly embedded in society. The OHP is the result of years of research which builds on an individual's strengths, promotes hope and self-efficacy. Some economies have implemented OHP in mental health, such as Indonesia, Australia and Malaysia, but others maybe not because OHP is a new approach in mental health. A workshop to share learned lessons about OHP will be conducted in 2021	<p>APEC Roadmap to Promote Mental Wellness in a HAP (2014-2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote mental health and well-being Build awareness while reducing social stigma and exclusion associated with mental disorders, and eliminate discrimination Integrate mental health interventions into community and economy-wide primary care and public health strategies <p>Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020 Initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including mental illness. This includes adopting a holistic and multi-sectoral approach that provides continuous health management and early diagnosis/treatment. <p>Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020 Roadmap:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government commitment to health, specifically Encourage patient-centered, evidence-informed, and holistic approaches 	<p>Host Year Priorities:</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas</p> <p><i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i></p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: Rebalance, Recovery. Together</p>	This project supports WHO Mental Health Action Plan 2020; WHO Quality Rights to Promoting the Human Rights of people with psychosocial, intellectual and cognitive disabilities; and APEC Digital Hub for Mental Health.

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		<p>to healthcare and increase equitable access to efficient quality healthcare services;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention, control and awareness, specifically Promote innovative tools to increase health literacy, such as awareness of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental illnesses, disabilities, violence and injuries including preventive and curative interventions, and their respective behavioral risk factors. 		
Performance Assessment of Mental Health Rehabilitation to Combat the 4th Wave of COVID-19 (Thailand)	This project focuses on mental health impact, public mental health interventions, and psychological supports during the COVID-19 pandemic and assess the performance of mental health rehabilitation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic by providing suggestions for mental health issues (stress, depression, suicide and burnout) through mental health promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The goal of this project is to enhance the capacity of APEC economies, especially the developing economies, through research and workshop, and to develop a guideline and recommendations as a basis for further collaboration to address the APEC-wide issue of mental health rehabilitation due to the COVID-19 crisis.	<p>We welcome APEC efforts to campaign for mental health including the development of projects under the APEC Digital Hub for Mental Health. (2016 AMM Joint Statement)</p> <p>Key areas: Strengthening the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including mental illnesses, disabilities, violence and injuries. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Action to advance key areas: Develop the capacity of APEC member economies to address current and emerging health challenges through comprehensive partnership between governments and stakeholders. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Supporting healthy populations across the life-course, including the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including mental health, and promoting healthy aging. (HWG Strategic Plan 2021-2025)</p> <p>The APEC Health Working Group will consider best practices that were utilized by APEC member economies during the COVID-19 epidemic to support the health needs of APEC member populations, with this knowledge-exchange aiming to promote resilient health systems and further strengthen rapid emergency response capacities in the APEC region. (APEC Health Working Group Statement on COVID-19)</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities:</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas</p> <p><i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i></p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: Response, Rebalance, Recovery. Together</p>	The HWG will work closely with relevant stakeholders as required (e.g. other APEC fora, WHO and OECD).

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Digital Health Platforms for COVID-19 Prevention and Control (Thailand)	Thailand's Department of Diseases Control is currently developing the 3 linkable platforms i.e., Clue case report (chat bot), CDCO E-order (application) and EOC Dashboard (data visualization). The process is now under the authority of DDC IT Centre. The plan is to improve the coverage and the accuracy of data.	<p>We acknowledge the importance of the secondary use of health and medical data in accordance with relevant ethical and data privacy laws principles. (2016 AMM Joint Statement)</p> <p>Innovations involving the use of digital technologies are increasingly being seen in many sectors of our economies and contribute to economic growth. Furthermore, digital technologies and innovations are increasingly changing the way businesses and government operate across all sectors of our economies. (2018 APEC Ministerial Chair's Statement)</p> <p>Key areas: Improving health emergency preparedness, surveillance, response and recovery systems for public health emergencies, including pandemic events and natural disasters. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Action to advance key areas: Develop the capacity of APEC member economies to address current and emerging health challenges through comprehensive partnership between governments and stakeholders. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>The APEC Health Working Group will consider best practices that were utilized by APEC member economies during the COVID-19 epidemic to support the health needs of APEC member populations, with this knowledge-exchange aiming to promote resilient health systems and further strengthen rapid emergency response capacities in the APEC region. (APEC Health Working Group Statement on COVID-19)</p> <p>Enhancing preparedness, response, and recovery systems for public health emergencies and disasters, including prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (HWG Strategic Plan 2021-2025)</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities:</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas</p> <p><i>ECOTECH Priorities: TBD</i></p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: Response, Rebalance, Recovery. Together</p>	The HWG will work closely with relevant stakeholders as required (e.g. other APEC fora, WHO and OECD).

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APEC Conference on Urbanization, Population Aging and Technology Innovation (Chinese Taipei)	<p>This project will organize a 2-day conference in 2022 in Taipei that will include the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interactive sessions to exchange on healthy cities, age-friendly cities, integrated care for chronic disease policies with technology innovation in the ageing population, and sustainable environment; and, 2. Site visit to smart cities, hospitals and communities where age-friendly and environment-friendly designs are adopted. 	<p>At the same time, we must respond more effectively to global challenges as diverse as inequality, climate change, terrorism, and our ageing populations. (2019 Host Economy Leaders' Statement)</p> <p>Address the health needs of aging populations and people with disabilities. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>We recognise the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in the region, and emphasise the importance of an integrated approach for prevention and treatment. (2018 APEC Ministerial Chair's Statement)</p> <p>Strengthening the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including mental illnesses, disabilities, violence and injuries. This includes adopting a holistic and multi-sectoral approach that provides continuous health management and early diagnosis/treatment. (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Encourage action to address the current and future fiscal implications of ill health, especially from non-communicable disease... (Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020)</p> <p>Supporting healthy populations across the life-course, including the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases... (HWG Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020)</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas</p> <p>ECOTECH Priorities: <i>TBD</i></p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: <i>Rebalance, Together</i></p>	
Symposium about Early Hearing Damage Prevention in Young People (Chile)	<p>The aim of this project is to develop strategic actions and recommendations to prevent and monitor early hearing damage in young people. The project will result in the publication of a report with results of strategic actions to prevent hearing damage from exposure to recreational noise, and the best practices to promote early prevention.</p> <p>Virtual symposium on April.</p>	<p>Supporting healthy populations across the life-course, including the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including mental health, and promoting healthy aging (Health Working Group Strategic Plan 2021-2025)</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery</p> <p>ECOTECH Priorities: Developing human capital through capacity building</p>	<p>Collaboration with APEC partners and external stakeholders will be vital for the success of this work.</p> <p>Partnerships with other sub-working groups within APEC, including the Life Sciences</p>

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
			Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth	Innovation Forum Policy (LSIF), Technology and Innovation (PPST), and Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL) of APEC
Digital Tools for Addressing Infectious Disease in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities (Chinese Taipei)	Infectious disease outbreaks may cause wide-ranging socioeconomic disruptions. Traditional tools for detecting and monitoring outbreaks can be cost-prohibitive. Recognizing the huge potential of digital technologies supporting detection and monitoring of disease outbreaks, Chinese Taipei proposes a project to provide APEC economies with a platform to share experiences of the aforementioned theme and examine collaboration opportunities and challenges from policy and technical aspects. Chinese Taipei proposes to host a web conference in August 2021. The overall objective of this project is to establish a platform for industry, academia, and government in the APEC economies to exchange experiences and lessons learned from developing digital tools to combat infectious diseases and complement conventional surveillance.	<p>This project closely aligns with the 26th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 2018, where the leaders declared "Innovations involving the use of digital technologies are increasingly being seen in many sectors of our economies and contribute to economic growth... We will promote the use of digital technology and innovation for high quality and sustainable development."</p> <p>The project aligns with the priority areas set out in the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap, especially in the key areas of (1) Promotion of interoperability; and (2) Promoting innovation and adoption of enabling technologies and services. The project is expected to enhance cooperation between the digital economy and the healthcare industry in the APEC region.</p> <p>This project closely aligns with the "Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020 Initiative," which aims to achieve sustainable and high-performing health systems that will ensure people's health. And also relates to key factors of the Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 Roadmap in (1) Prevention, control and awareness; (2) Innovation; and (3) Inter-sectoral and cross-border collaboration.</p> <p>This project aligns with the objectives of Health Working Group and HWG Strategies Plan 2016-2020 in (1) encouraging research and supporting innovation that adds value to health systems and outcomes and addresses the current and future needs of all APEC member economies; and (2) encouraging and facilitating collaboration between health and</p>	<p>ECOTECH Priority: This project meets the ECOTECH Priority- "Human security". It is designed to help APEC members in developing and strengthening innovative health systems and to better deal with infectious diseases.</p> <p>Host Year Priorities:</p> <p>Pursuing Innovation and a Digitally-Enabled Recovery, by accelerating APEC's work in support of the digital economy.</p>	This project will work alongside the Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) and APEC's Policy Partnership for Science, Technology and Innovation to execute this deliverable.

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		other sectors, other APEC fora and international health bodies.		
Empowering Telehealth Solutions Across APEC (United States)	Following completion of the study <i>Empowering Telehealth Solutions Across APEC</i> which focuses on the telehealth policy and regulatory landscape, including a review of policy enablers and barriers, and provides innovative practices that guide the effective delivery of telehealth services across the APEC region, the United States will hold a series of follow-on information sharing and capacity building activities. These activities, such as webinars or policy roundtables, will be held to discuss the findings and recommendations of the study and further increase members' understanding of policy responses to guide the effective utilization of telehealth solutions in the APEC region. The objective is to increase understanding and drive towards consensus among members of effective policy, regulatory practices, and innovative solutions to develop an effective enabling environment in the region that empowers the use of telehealth to address patient and population health needs.	<p>This project is aligned with the May 2020 "Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade," which tasks APEC Senior Officials to undertake a coordinated approach that involves garnering and disseminating information on policies and practices that can benefit APEC's response and recovery strategies to COVID-19.</p> <p>This work is also directly aligned with the 10th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and Economy (HLM10) Joint Statement, which highlighted the "importance of shared information in combatting COVID-19" and discussed the "need for measures to facilitate interoperability between privacy and regulatory regimes in order to enable the secure sharing of health-related data". HLM10 also highlighted "the leadership APEC economies have demonstrated in using digital technology and health innovations to respond to COVID-19 and the importance of sharing best practices to strengthen the region's ability to address COVID-19 and future health challenges". This also reflects the directions articulated under the APEC 2020 Leaders Statement which states that Leaders "recognise the importance of the development and contribution of digital technologies in safeguarding people's health and protecting the region from health threats, and enhancing resilience, scalability and sustainability of health systems, thereby moving towards universal health coverage".</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery, with a focus on the right macroeconomic, microeconomic and trade policy choices</p> <p>Increasing inclusion and sustainability for recovery by building a better society for all people and generating a green recovery</p> <p>Pursuing innovation and a digitally enabled recovery by accelerating the APEC region's work in these areas</p> <p>2021 HWG Priorities: <i>Response, Rebalance, Recovery, Together</i></p>	This project will work with both members from HWG and LSIF to undertake this activity.
A Double Burden: Childhood Obesity and Undernutrition	Malnutrition in all forms costs the global economy approximately US\$ 3.5 trillion per year, with overweight and obesity alone costing US\$ 500 billion per year. Through its effects on health, malnutrition increases health-care costs, reduces productivity and slows economic growth, which in turn can perpetuate a cycle of poverty and ill health.	<p>We recognise the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in the region, and emphasise the importance of an integrated approach for prevention and treatment. (2018 APEC Ministerial Chair's Statement)</p> <p>Supporting healthy populations across the life-course, including the prevention and control of</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities: Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery</p> <p>ECOTECH Priorities:</p>	<p>A Double Burden: Childhood Obesity and Undernutrition</p> <p>(In 2020 the HWG decided to create a new</p>

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(In 2020 the HWG decided to create a new sub group unifying malnutrition and obesity in one space)	<p>The HWG recognizes the importance of addressing the double burden of malnutrition in APEC economies as it confers a serious and negative economic impact on both individuals and populations.</p> <p>The HWG will explore the current realities of malnutrition across APEC member economies and how to address this issue in order to ensure shared prosperity within economies and across the Asia-Pacific region more broadly.</p>	non-communicable diseases, including mental health, and promoting healthy aging (Health Working Group Strategic Plan 2021-2025)	<p>Inclusive growth—addressing the social dimension of globalization, health, gender</p> <p>Developing human capital through capacity building</p> <p>Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth</p>	sub group unifying malnutrition and obesity in one space)
Policy Dialogue From Promotion and Prevention to Continuous, Integrated and Comprehensive Care for a Positive, Active and Healthy Aging	<p>The world is aging rapidly. Between 2000 and 2050, the proportion of people aged 60 and over will double, going from 11% to 22%, increasing four times the population of 80 and over (WHO, 2018). Demographic change will be faster and more intense in low and middle income economies, with 80% of people in this age group living in these economies (WHO, 2018). By 2015, economies like Chile have reached a proportion of older people similar to Japan, that is one of every four people has reached 60 years old and over.</p> <p>The Asia-Pacific economies are not far behind: with an average life expectancy of 77.3 years, APEC economies have one of the highest levels of aging in the world. Thus, 39% of the world's elderly population is represented by APEC economies. In this context, the challenges of attending and giving quality health to this age group appear, to promote healthy aging. Therefore, and as postulated by the World Report on Aging and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the commitment lies in "the development of long-term health and care systems, capable of providing good quality integrated care"[1].</p>	<p>At the same time, we must respond more effectively to global challenges as diverse as inequality, climate change, terrorism, and our ageing populations. (2019 Host Economy Leaders' Statement)</p> <p>HLM9 reaffirmed the need to increase funding for dementia research, to share knowledge and best practices in the region, and the incorporation of care provider experiences when developing dementia policies. (Joint Statement on the 9th APEC High-level Meeting on Health and the Economy)</p> <p>HLM8 welcomed the continued partnership with the APEC Finance Ministers' Process and the exploratory dialogue to address the fiscal and economic impacts of the steep rise in chronic disease and of ageing societies in APEC economies, while keeping the healthcare system sustainable. (Joint Statement on the 8th APEC High-level Meeting on Health and the Economy)</p> <p>The HWG recognized the importance of addressing childhood obesity in APEC economies as overweight and obese children are likely to stay obese into adulthood and develop non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, at a younger age. (2019 Joint Activities of the</p>	<p>Host Year Priorities:</p> <p>Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery</p> <p>ECOTECH Priorities:</p> <p>Inclusive growth—addressing the social dimension of globalization, health, gender</p> <p>Developing human capital through capacity building</p> <p>Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth</p>	Policy Dialogue From Promotion and Prevention to Continuous, Integrated and Comprehensive Care for a Positive, Active and Healthy Aging

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		HWG and LSIF that Support Health across the Life Course) Supporting healthy populations across the life-course, including the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including mental health, and promoting healthy aging (Health Working Group Strategic Plan 2021-2025)		