

SEA DREAM aims to fund research that responds to the health priorities of the **ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda (APHDA) 2021-2025**, within one or multiple of these four thematic areas:

Climate Change on Health

Southeast Asia is one of the regions most affected by climate change, with rising temperatures, extreme weather events, food insecurity, and air pollution already threatening health and livelihoods. These pressures are contributing to more heat stress, outbreaks of vector-borne diseases, malnutrition, and respiratory problems, especially among vulnerable populations.

To address these challenges, SEA DREAM supports research exploring diverse approaches to understanding and mitigating the health impacts of climate change, including topics such as, but not limited to:

1. links between climate variability, heat, environmental change, and health outcomes.
2. the resilience of health systems to climate-related shocks
3. early-warning and surveillance systems for climate-sensitive diseases
4. health impacts of air pollution and other environmental exposures
5. One Health approaches connecting human, animal, and environmental health

Infectious Disease

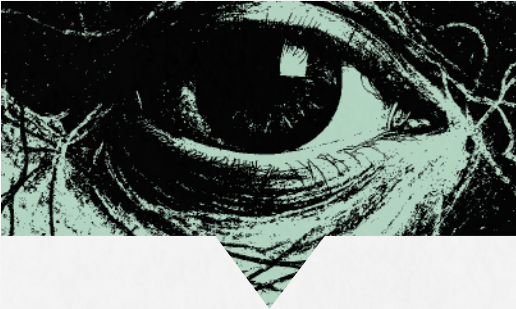
Infectious diseases remain a major health challenge in Southeast Asia, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income countries and vulnerable populations. The region faces ongoing threats from emerging and re-emerging pathogens, vector-borne diseases, neglected tropical diseases, and antimicrobial resistance, compounded by climate change, natural disasters, and inequities in care and treatment.

SEA DREAM supports research that explores innovative approaches to prevent, detect, and control infectious disease threats in the region and informs diverse public health strategies, such as, but not limited to:

1. burden, drivers, and transmission dynamics of communicable, emerging, and re-emerging infectious diseases, including neglected tropical and zoonotic diseases
2. strategies for outbreak preparedness, early detection, and regional response to public health emergencies
3. antimicrobial resistance, including patterns, drivers, and mitigation strategies
4. environmental determinants of infectious diseases, including climate impacts, pollution, and ecosystem changes
5. effects of natural disasters and climate-related shocks on infectious disease risk and explores strategies to improve related regional disaster preparedness
6. factors contributing to inequities in vaccine coverage and access to preventive interventions

Mental Health

Mental health conditions are a major contributor to disability in Southeast Asia, undermining well-being, daily functioning, and social participation. Vulnerable populations, including children, adolescents, migrants, and those affected by disasters, bear disproportionate impacts. Stigma, limited access, and social and structural barriers further intensify these challenges across the region.



SEA DREAM supports research that guides interventions, fosters innovation, and strengthens mental health outcomes and inclusion across Southeast Asia, including topics such as, but not limited to:

1. burden, drivers, and risk factors of mental health conditions
2. impact of disasters, pandemics, and climate-related events on mental health
3. early detection, intervention, and community-based approaches to improve mental health outcomes
4. strategies to reduce stigma, promote inclusion, and address social determinants of mental health
5. innovation to develop scalable solutions for equitable mental health care and psychosocial support

Health Equity in Every Research.

Health equity is a core lens guiding all SEA DREAM-funded research. By centering equity, the programme aims to ensure that innovations, interventions, and evidence benefit all populations, especially marginalized and underserved groups. Equity considerations cut across all four thematic areas, shaping research questions, methods, and implementation strategies to reduce disparities and promote inclusive health outcomes across Southeast Asia.

Health Systems & Access to Care

Health inequities in Southeast Asia, rooted in social, economic, and environmental factors, limit access to quality and affordable care. Rural populations, migrants, and marginalized groups face disproportionate barriers, while fragmented financing, workforce shortages, and uneven technology adoption challenge health system performance.

SEA DREAM supports research that informs policy, strengthens health system performance, and enhances equitable access to quality health services in the region, including topics such as, but not limited to:

1. maternal, neonatal, and child health and promoting life-saving solutions and interventions
2. health system capacity and expanding access to universal health coverage
3. inclusion of migrants and mobile populations in health services
4. digital and innovative approaches for health tools and interoperable health information and data systems



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What will DREAM 4 Health fund?

