



Henk Bekedam (MD, MSc Econ) Senior Global Health Consultant

Henk Bekedam is a Dutch national and a medical doctor by profession. He acquired his MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics in 1996. He has an extensive track record of 32 years in international public health leadership, health reform and management. For 24 years, Henk worked with the World Health Organization (WHO), predominantly in Asia. He was also seconded to African governments while working with the Dutch government.

Key skills and experiences

- **Strategic Policy Advisor**

Henk Bekedam and his teams advised senior government officials on a wide range of public health and health system related issues. These included policy dialogues on SARS, COVID-19, Avian Flu (H5N1), food safety, AIDS, TB, hepatitis, antimicrobial resistance, noncommunicable diseases, integrated health information systems, health sector reform, and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Cambodia, China, Egypt, and India.

- **Senior Health Advocate**

Henk Bekedam has advocated for greater investments in the Health sector, strengthening public health, and called for attention to diseases and threats such as AIDS; Hepatitis; antimicrobial resistance and environmental pollution; stop tobacco, and promote injection safety.

- **Leadership and Management**

Henk Bekedam has an exceptional grasp of leadership and management of diverse and large teams. In Malawi he headed the regional health office, supervising 10 districts with more than 3000 staff. As the WHO China Country Representative, he managed 100 consultants providing technical advice to the Chinese Government during the SARS outbreak. Most recently, as the Country Representative for WHO India, Bekedam supervised more than 2,000 staff in India covering 240 offices. Corporately, his office was one of the largest WHO country offices regarding operational budget and staffing numbers.

- **Building and promoting Partnerships**

Defined by a critical awareness to national and global health policies, Bekedam has successfully established strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, donors, and NGOs. His transparent and pragmatic approach has been crucial to decisive policy creation, informing the wider health policy sphere. As the WHO Director of Health Sector Development in Manila, Henk worked with development partners and two WHO regional offices in establishing the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (APO).

Henk Bekedam worked in Malawi as a civil servant heading the Regional Health Office where he coordinated partners during public health emergencies, drought responses, and led the refugee health programme which supported more than one million refugees from Mozambique.

- **Communications**

Henk Bekedam is well-versed in media relations, exemplified during his tenure in China and the respective outbreaks of SARS and H5N1, and subsequent calls for health sector reform. He has chaired numerous high-level meetings and, throughout his career, been the keynote speaker/speaker at more than 100 conferences. Additionally, Bekedam has written and contributed to several peer reviewed articles on a wide variety of topics.

Positions held

WHO Representative to China (2002-2007), Egypt (2013-2015) and India (2015-2020). In these roles, Bekedam has led WHO teams in advising senior governments officials, including the Ministry of Health (MoH), Finance, Agriculture, and State Councils.

Bekedam was the **Director of Health Sector Development** at the **WHO Western Pacific Region** (2007-13). He led a team that provided policy advice to 37 countries in UHC, health planning, financing, human resources, information systems, pharmaceuticals, and service delivery. He also chaired the AMR Working Group for the region.

In 1996, Bekedam joined WHO as a team leader of health sector reform in **Cambodia** support the government efforts to rebuild health systems in the post-Khmer Rouge period.

Prior to joining WHO, Bekedam worked for seven years in Africa (1988-95); in **Zambia** at a district hospital and headed the regional health office in **Malawi**, covering half of the domestic population and one million Mozambican refugees.