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## External Review of the National Malaria Control Programme in Timor Leste

**Dili, Timor Leste: 09 December 2011**

An external review of the National Malaria control Programme in Timor Leste was carried out from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2011 jointly by a team of national and international experts. The objective of the review was to conduct a comprehensive in-depth review of the National Malaria Control Programme, Timor Leste and recommend measures to further strengthen the programme with a view to achieving national and global targets on MDG-6 related to malaria. The review methodology consisted of examining programme reports and pertinent scientific literature, discussion with the National Malaria Control Programme officials, National and District level public health officials and private clinic staff, principle partners, field visits to nine out of 13 districts in the North, Central and Southern parts of the country, interview with key stakeholders, including endemic communities and analysis of data from the national database and those received from districts during the field assessments. The results of the External review were presented to the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2011 at the Hotel Timor in Dili.

Malaria is endemic in Timor Leste. The number of clinical and confirmed malaria cases reported in the country has decreased from 223,002 in 2006 to 119,072 in 2010. This represents a 52% reduction of malaria incidence in 2010 compared to 2006.

*P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* are the major parasite species in the country and *P. falciparum* accounted for 63-84% of the confirmed malaria cases from 2006 to 2010.

The country received two grants from Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM): one in 2004 (Round 2) with which began the scaling up malaria control interventions and another in 2009 (Round 7) to further expand intervention coverage. Malaria Control programme is largely supported financially by the GFATM but also by Ministry of Health and technically by WHO. The scaling up of key activities in 2008 and 2009 is now showing impact.



Members of the external review team: Sitting, Dr. Pushpa Herath (Entomologist/Vector Control specialist), Dr V.P. Sharma (Team Leader), Dr Jorge Luna (WHO Rep.), Mr Agapito Soares (DGHS/MoH), Sra Isabel Gomes (Director, Community Health), Dr Manel Yapabandara (TO-MAL, WHO/TLS); Standing Mr. Raul Sarmiento (Malaria Program Manager, MoH), Dr Shilpa M. Pandav (Health Economist), Mr. Truls Eriksen (PSM & EDM specialist), Dr. Suvajee Good (RA-Health Promotion/WHO/SEARO), Dr. Shampa Nag (BCC specialist) Dr Rui Pablo de Jesus (RA-CDC, WHO/SEARO), Dr Kan Tun (Public Health specialist; program management).

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