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WHO handover 'Blue Trunk' Medical Libraries to Timor-Leste

As part of the World Health Organization's ongoing support to strengthen health services in Timor-Leste, 22 Blue Trunk Libraries have been donated to the Ministry of Health, the District Health Services and academic health institutions over the past two years. Each library costs US \$ 2000 and contains over 100 books on public health and medicine. The library books cover a wide range of subjects from primary health care, health management and epidemiology, to communicable diseases and immunization. They also include practical manuals offering solutions to many of the medical, public health and managerial problems healthcare providers may have to face.



Portable 'Blue Trunk'
Library

The Blue Trunk Library was developed by the Library of the World Health Organization in order to compensate for the lack of up to date medical and health information available in district health centres in Africa. The libraries are easy to transport to remote areas as the books are neatly packed into the blue metal trunks and arranged according to major subjects. The Blue Trunk Library books were initially available in English and French, however the project has since been expanded and the libraries are now available in the Portuguese and Spanish languages.

In December 2011, 20 Blue Trunk Libraries were delivered to the WHO Country Office Timor-Leste in the Portuguese language. 13 of these libraries were funded by the ePORTUGUÊSe Programme with funds from the European Commission Project to support the Development of Human Resources for Health in Timor-Leste and PALOP (Portuguese speaking African countries) and 7 libraries were supported by WHO SEARO (South East Asia Regional Office). The ePORTUGUÊSe Programme in WHO Headquarters was a collaborator in the preparation, delivery and training for users of the 20 Blue Trunk Libraries delivered in 2011 and is part of the efforts to strengthen the capacity building of the health professionals in Timor. WHO Country Office Timor-Leste handed over the Blue Trunk Libraries to the Ministry of Health, national health institutions and universities and to each of the 13 District Health Centres.

The most recent library donation took place on August 21st, 2013 when WHO Representative, Dr. Jorge Mario Luna, presented Professor Joao Martins, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) and the Cuban Brigade doctors with a Blue Trunk Library in the Spanish language. Professor Martins thanked WHO for their continued support to develop the medical faculties at UNTL and expressed hope that this assistance would continue in future. Dr. Jorge Luna also presented a Blue Trunk Library in the English language to the National Institute of Health (INS) on August 7th, 2013. Mr. Leao Borges, Director for Administration, INS, gratefully accepted the donation on behalf of the national institution.



Dr. Jorge Mario Luna, WHO Representative presents Dr. Joao Martins, Dean of Medicine and Health Science, UNTL and doctors from the Cuban Brigade with a Blue Trunk Library



Dr. Jorge Mario Luna, WHO Representative presents Mr. Leao Borges, Director for Administration, National Health Institute (INS) with a Blue Trunk Library

Dr. Jorge Mario Luna said that he hoped the donation would contribute to strengthen the quality of health care in Timor-Leste and provide useful references to standardize health services at both district and national level. “WHO acknowledges the challenges created by the multilingual environment within the Timorese health system and tries to provide medical publications in a variety of languages whenever possible,” said Dr. Luna. Earlier this year, WHO Country Office Timor-Leste provided over 250 medical books to INS, National Library, UNTL, UNIPAZ, UNIDILI and the Ministry of Health, with further assistance on the provision of resources planned in future.