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## **First National Health Accounts Workshop held in Timor-Leste**

WHO Country Office Timor-Leste is supporting Ministry of Health to institutionalize National Health Accounts under the "EU-WHO Universal Health Coverage Partnership: Supporting policy dialogue on national health policies, strategies and plans and universal health coverage." As part of this initiative the Ministry of Health Timor-Leste, organized the first multi-stakeholder workshop on National Health Accounts (NHA) between 17th and 18th October 2013, with support from WHO.

The objectives of the workshop were to understand key concepts of National Health Accounts, to understand strengths and limitations of National Health Accounts, to familiarize with NHA matrices, to understand the relevance of National Health Accounts and the issues in implementing National Health Accounts in Timor-Leste and to identify the way forward. The workshop began with a brief introduction of usefulness of NHA by Sr. Marcelo Amaral, National Director, Finance Management and Procurement, Ministry of Health, the key framework and purpose of NHA was presented by Dr. Rajesh Pandav, Health Policy Advisor, WHO Country Office-Timor-Leste and an overview of the Health System in Timor-Leste was given by Sr. Mateus Cunha, Department of Planning and Monitoring, Ministry of Health. Sr. Radolfo Soares, Directorate of Statistics, Ministry of Finance affirmed necessary coordination for institutionalizing the National Health Accounts in Timor-Leste.

Sessions during the workshop were facilitated by Dr. Sakthivel Selvaraj, Senior Health Economist, Public Health Foundation of India, Ms Uttara Aggarwal, Technical Officer, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia and Dr. Rajesh Pandav, Health Policy Advisor, WHO Country Office Timor-Leste.



**Participants at the First National Health Accounts Workshop**

A total of 30 participants attended the workshop. These included representatives from Ministry of Health (Directorate of Finance Management and Procurement, Directorate of Policy Planning & Cooperation, Institute of Health Sciences), Ministry of Finance (General Directorate of Statistics, National Directorate of Budgeting, Development Partnership Management unit), Development Partners (WHO, USAID) private sector (Stamford Hospital) & Insurance companies (NITL, Sinarmas).

The participants were introduced to the NHA framework using three dimensions including financing, consumption and provider dimensions. Using these dimensions and individual classifications from those dimensions the country can expect to understand the flow of funds from different sources to the health sector. This particular workshop facilitated in identifying various sources of data that can be utilized for populating NHA matrices. During the workshop, WHO Representative to Timor-Leste, Dr. Jorge Mario Luna, expressed his appreciation to all those present and reaffirmed WHO's commitment to support the Ministry of Health in institutionalizing NHA in Timor-Leste.

Sr. Jose Dos Reis Magno, Director General of Ministry of Health, Timor-Leste in his closing remarks emphasized the importance of institutionalizing NHA in Timor-Leste, This will help to understand how health care funds are distributed across the different services, interventions and activities that the health system produces.



H.E. Dr. Sergio Lobo, Minister for Health was provided with an update on progress of activities and the proposed road map for institutionalizing National Health Accounts in Timor-Leste by Dr. Jorge Mario Luna, WHO, Dr. Rajesh Pandav, WHO and Sakthivel Selvaraj, Public Health Foundation of India

As a follow up to the National Health Accounts Workshop, development partners were apprised about the outcomes of the workshop and the proposed roadmap in a meeting held at the WHO Country Office Timor-Leste on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2013. This meeting was held to identify ways for development partners to collaborate further with Ministry of Health on the planning of National Health Accounts. Representatives from Ministry of Health, AusAID UNICEF, USAID, UNFPA, World Bank and Marie Stopes International were present at this meeting.