HEALTH POLICIES AND SYSTEMS

Important progress has been made in strengthening health policies and systems. In recent years the Ministry of Health has increased its capacity for planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, and has formulated key national policies and standards while continuing to build capacity of human resources. It has also formulated guidelines and norms for logistics to deliver quality essential medicines and technologies, and in collaboration with partners and stakeholders has increased the capacity for inter-sectoral coordination and harmonization and alignment of international cooperation and partnerships. However continued efforts are needed to further strengthen human resources for health (in particular the right mix of human resources at district level), hospital referral systems, quality health services delivery, improving health information systems, medicine forecasting and procurement and coordination within the health system and inter-sectoral action for health. There is also a need for further ensuring the systematic evaluation of impacts of health technology and interventions (using economic, organizational and social analysis, among others) to inform evidence-based policy decision-making, especially on how best to allocate resources for health interventions and technologies in support of the efforts to reach universal health coverage of quality adapted health services in Timor-Leste.

COOPERATION FOR HEALTH

The MoH established the Department of Partnership Management to harmonize and align donor support with national plans and strategies. It also instituted a Health Sector Coordination Group to strengthen overall donor coordination of bilateral, multilateral and nongovernmental partners in the health sector. WHO assisted in strengthening national health sector coordination to ensure clarity of roles and coordination among development partners and relevant government counterparts. WHO also provided support for organizing national health sector coordination meetings. Joint Health Sector Reviews have been conducted since 2014 for the purpose of reviewing progress, identifying issues and making recommendations for areas of improvements in the health sector. WHO not only provides intensive technical support for implementation of the grants from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) but also the Head of WHO Country Office is an active member of the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), playing a key role in advocacy and decision making. WHO provides support to hold regular monthly meetings of the various technical working groups including the Expanded Programme on Immunization, Food Safety, HIV/AIDS and Emergency Health Cluster.
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<th>Strategic Priorities</th>
<th>Main Focus Areas for WHO Cooperation</th>
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| STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Strengthening health systems to ensure universal health coverage | • Support development of robust national health policies, strategies and plans, identification of appropriate health financing mechanisms to ensure financial risk protection, formulation of legal and regulatory frameworks, strengthening inter-sectoral coordination, harmonization/alignment of international cooperation for health and partnerships.  
• Support strengthening of human resources for health with focus on institutional capacity building at the National Institute of Health (INS) and health research.  
• Support strengthening of quality health service delivery at all levels including strengthening of primary health care, improving access to medicines, strengthening laboratory and blood transfusion services and strengthening health management information systems including civil registration and vital statistics systems. |
| STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: Reducing the burden of communicable diseases | • Strengthening health systems capacity to reduce the burden of communicable diseases including vaccine-preventable diseases, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV and dengue.  
• Strengthening health systems capacity to reduce the burden of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) including lymphatic filariasis, yaws, soil transmitted helminth infections and leprosy.  
• Strengthening health systems capacity in early detection and to reduce the burden of emerging infectious diseases and zoonotic diseases. |
| STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases, mental health, violence and injuries and disabilities, ageing, through intersectoral collaboration | • Strengthening health systems capacity to reduce the burden of noncommunicable diseases including cancer through health promotion, risk reduction, early detection and treatment through a multi-sectoral approach.  
• Strengthening health systems capacity for scaled-up response to mental health and epilepsy.  
• Support initiatives in the area of violence and injury prevention and disabilities, ageing, oral health, eye and ear, nose and throat diseases. |
| STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, adolescent health and nutrition; and | • Support development and review of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health policies, strategies and guidelines and strengthening capacity with a view to reducing risk, morbidity and mortality and improving health across the life course through adoption of a multi-sectoral approach.  
• Support initiatives in the area of nutrition such as formulating evidence-informed guidelines, strengthening nutrition surveillance and scaling up action in nutrition, promoting child growth standards, complementary feeding, and strengthening capacity in the management of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children through multi-sectoral mechanisms. |
| STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: Emergency preparedness, surveillance and response including implementing the provisions of the International Health Regulations | • Support health systems strengthening in disaster risk management for health through systematic analysis and management of health risks posed by emergencies and disasters, through a combination of hazard and vulnerability reduction to prevent and mitigate risks, preparedness, and response and recovery measures.  
• Strengthening of integrated disease surveillance and implementing the provisions of the International Health Regulations.  
• Strengthening risk reduction through addressing the social, economic and environmental determinants of health. |