

MDTF NEWS

Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Integrating Health Programs | Oct-Dec 2018

MDTF e-newsletter goes global

The MDTF e-newsletter will from this issue cover all lines of work under the program. While DFAT's focus has been on East Asia and the Pacific, contributions from Gavi and the Global Fund have expanded the scope of work to Africa and Asia. This newsletter aims to share knowledge and experience globally, with each country benefiting from what the others have learnt.

Australia joins pandemic facility

Australia has become a donor to the World Bank Group (WBG)'s Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF), joining Japan and Germany. [More](#)

Coordinating Health Security in Cambodia

Government counterparts and development partners attended WBG Cambodia's 4th Health Security Coordination Meeting on 10 August. The series is co-financed by Australia (DFAT) and Japan (PHRD).

Health service delivery gaps in Indonesia



A schoolboy braves the needle during an immunization campaign in Batu, East Java.

The wide variation in service availability and readiness of ATMI (AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, and Immunization) programs in Indonesia needs to be tackled as the world's fourth most populous nation gears up for Universal Health Coverage in 2019, a recent supply-side readiness report has revealed.

The comprehensive assessment report – [Assessing HIV, TB, Malaria and Childhood Immunization Supply-Side Readiness in Indonesia](#) – found disparities in service availability and readiness in these four programs across public and private primary care facilities. Supply-side readiness, the ability of a country's health system to deliver service, has profound policy implications and the report's data point to a health system in need of strengthening despite its basic robustness.

Supply-side readiness is instrumental to Indonesia's effort to obtain UHC by 2019. Though it is now the world's 10th largest economy and an emerging middle income country, Indonesia still faces difficult challenges as it moves away from reliance on external financing for health programs. It needs to secure local resources to address current weaknesses in the health system, prepare for growing demand for health services under UHC, and compensate for the anticipated drop in international funding for HIV, TB, Malaria and Childhood Immunization programs.

Kicking TB out of PNG

The [Emergency Tuberculosis Project](#), funded by the World Bank Group and the Australian Government, aims to kick Tuberculosis out of Papua New Guinea by 2022.

The WBG has produced a series of [powerful stories](#) about those [fighting TB on Daru](#), a small island with one of the world's highest infection rates of TB, to coincide with the [UN High-Level Meeting on TB](#) on September 26.

Kiribati's health future

A consultation workshop on *Preparing Health Services for the Future* was held with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services on 14-15 August.

It focused on preliminary health service costing, workforce plans, clinical service drafts, infrastructure assessment, and disaster risk assessment.

Getting resources to the frontline in the Solomon Islands

Provincial Health Division Annual Operational Planning and Budgeting workshops were held across all provinces in July and August to engage health workers responsible for service delivery.

Health zone managers - the frontline implementers of health service delivery to the Solomon Islands population - were actively engaged in the planning process for the first time.

Health worker profile: Dr Tekeua Uriam

Anaesthesiologist, Tungaru Central Hospital, Kiribati



At first Tekeua Uriam just wanted to concentrate on her job as an anaesthesiologist at the Tungaru Central Hospital. But as her career progressed she came to realize that she could make valuable contributions to the development of

young medical graduates. So she decided to lend her services to the Kiribati Internship Training Program (KITP).

“I was hesitant [*to take on KITP*], I just wanted to focus on anaesthesiology, but over time I started to realize how important senior doctors' roles are in junior doctors' development,” said Dr Tekeua, who plays a vital role in training and management of the KITP.

The Kiribati Internship Training Program was started to train graduates returning from medical schools in Cuba and Fiji in 2013 and 2014. The young doctors needed clinical experience and further skill development to ensure they are certified safe and competent to practice. KITP has since become a model for internship training in the region and accepts graduates from other Pacific Island nations such as Tuvalu and Nauru.

But the internship is not only about giving newbie doctors medical competency. It's also about inoculating the right attitude and understanding to offer patients compassionate and kind professional care. “I feel like I have to contribute and not just in the theoretical part but also other aspects of building the junior doctors,” said Dr Tekeua, adding, “It's fulfilling and I enjoy it.”

Fiji National University has since 2016 accredited KITP for post-graduate studies. “With KITP, we are able to turn out more and more well-trained interns and there are eight of them who are continuing with post-grad studies,” Dr Tekeua said.

This is a big step in terms of specialized health services as the region is heavily dependent on ex-pat specialists. KITP vision is to create local specialists through training which will need the continued support of the ministry of health, she explained.

“Our aim is that in 4 or 5 years' time we will be able to fill the gaps in specialized services through training,” Dr Tekeua said.

From data analysis to technical assistance and advocacy in Nigeria



Gavi partners and Nigerian PHC chief Dr Faisal Shuaib (second from left) at the retreat.

The Nigeria [Health Financing System Assessment \(HFSA\)](#) highlights the need for increased financing to health and “smarter” investments to high-impact front line services.

The assessment, completed in June, found that despite steady economic growth Nigeria has been under spending on health and exposed large shares of its population to catastrophic health expenditures.

The government is redressing the problem through the [Basic Health Care Provision Fund \(BHCPEF\)](#) which will provide operating budget to primary health care facilities, and funding for the national health

insurance scheme to scale up access to a package of essential health services for Nigerians.

The Immunization Financing Assessment (IFA), finalized this summer, was similarly vital for identifying the major constraints to sustainable immunization. The evidence informed the National Strategy for Immunization and PHC System Strengthening (NSIPSS), which charts the way forward for the country’s transition from Gavi funding and was approved by the Gavi Board in June. Gavi Alliance partners came together at a retreat on September 24th and 25th to support the development of the government’s accountability framework.

The WBG Nigeria team continues to support budgeting and planning reforms, while using analytics to support advocacy messages in partnership with THISDAY newspaper, a multi-platform news media based in Lagos. See the article from [THISDAY](#) newspaper on the latest developments.

Tonga discusses sustainable health financing options

The Ministry of Health held a workshop on “Rolling out the Package of Essential Health Services in the Health Financing Context of Tonga” in Nuku’alofa on 29-30 August.

The aim of this workshop was to examine Tonga’s health financing system in relation to health outcomes, and in the context of financing pressures to the sector, including challenges in transitioning from intensively donor-supported programs in health.

Rolling out activities proposed in the Package of Essential Health Services, and the health system adjustments needed to support them, will inevitably influence Tonga’s health financing options over the coming years.

Reflections on the World Bank/Gavi Alliance Partnership in 2017/18

This year marks the third year of the World Bank Group’s partnership in the Gavi Alliance through which the bank is supporting countries to develop the financial systems needed to progress towards universal health coverage (UHC).

The partnership is also strengthening financing, data and regulatory systems needed for sustainable immunization. As focal point for the WBG’s Sustainable Financing work stream with Gavi, Sarah Alkenbrack made a presentation at a meeting hosted by UNICEF in June. The presentation

synthesizes key health financing challenges facing 13 countries and highlights data gaps in measuring performance. For the full report and presentation, please contact Sarah Alkenbrack at salkenbrack@worldbank.org.

Tracking spending on transitioning health programs in Indonesia

The World Bank Group and the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies, University of Indonesia, have conducted a public expenditure tracking for health priority programs, including those transitioning away from external financing.



Greetings from the PET workshop

Using the Public Financing Management (PFM) framework, the study identified issues in health financing from planning and budgeting, to execution, and monitoring and evaluation, that prevent effective program implementation to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). These issues include inconsistencies of the central strategic plans and their translation at the sector and sub-national levels. There are also budget rigidities preventing reallocation and carry over, as well as gaps in the line item budget system.

Understanding the planning and budgeting processes, fund flows and channeling mechanism, and the expenditure pattern of external funding, is vital for the development of Indonesia's plan to transition away from external sources. The study's results were presented at a dissemination workshop in Jakarta on September 6th. It was attended by officials from various central MOH units, and representatives from study sites (provinces and districts) and the mayor office. Members of parliament and district health officials were also present.

In his opening remarks, Dr Anung Sugihantono, Director General for Disease Prevention and Control, emphasized the importance of ensuring the quality of planning and budgeting to increase the effectiveness of government financing during the implementation of health programs. He also reminded the audience that there are contextual challenges, especially those arising out of decentralization, that make improving coordination vital.

Sharing knowledge on costing essential health services in Myanmar



Sharing Myanmar's experience in the Lao PDR

On September 19th, the WBG Health teams in Lao PDR and Myanmar co-hosted a knowledge sharing session on costing of the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) in Myanmar.

Lao PDR is about to embark on a major costing exercise of their service packages and the national health plan. Officials from the Lao Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, and representatives from development partners were keen

to learn from the recent experience in Myanmar, where the World Bank Group had supported the costing of the EPHS and budgeting for Myanmar's National Health Plan.

In Myanmar, over the past year, the WBG has supported the Ministry of Health and Sports to develop costing and budgeting tools. The budgeting tool is used to estimate the additional budget the ministry would need to deliver the National Health Plan. The costing tool informs the design and implementation of the EPHS by estimating the full economic cost of delivering the package of services at the facility level. Both tools also serve as part of the evidence base to develop Myanmar's Health Financing Strategy, which is an ongoing process.

Dr Thant Sin Htoo, Assistant Permanent Secretary of Myanmar's Ministry of Health and Sports, together with Hui Sin Teo (Health Specialist) and Tom Traill (Consultant) from the WBG Myanmar Health team, shared Myanmar's experience on this work.

4th ASEAN Health Cluster 2 Meeting

As part of a regional collaboration on health security, the World Bank Group participated in the 4th ASEAN Health Cluster 2 Meeting in Bagan, Myanmar, on 12-13 September 2018.

The WBG recognizes health security as essentially a major cross-border issue which requires regional action. Thus, it proposes to collaborate with ASEAN to promote the sharing and exchange of knowledge, raise awareness, and build political commitments for sustainable financing and resilient systems for health security in all ASEAN member states.



WB proposes health collaboration with ASEAN

October to December activities

Oct 4- 6, 2018: Meeting for the Formation of Technical Working Group for Strategic Health Purchasing for TB and Maternal Neonatal Health in Indonesia

Oct 23, 2018: Inter Government Agency meeting on CSO Financing in Indonesia

Oct 2018: Primary Health Care workshop in Vietnam

Nov 2018: Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) High level meeting in Indonesia

Nov 2018: Multi stakeholder workshop on CSO Financing in Indonesia

Nov 2018: In-country analysis and modelling workshop on Implementation Efficiency using Optima for TB Program in Indonesia

Dec 2018: Meeting on analysis of the immunization program of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)

Dec 2018: Lao PDR Flagship course on Health Sector Reforms and Financing in a Transition Context, December 10-14, Luangprabang Province

MDTF leadership moves



Toomas moves to Geneva

Toomas Palu, formerly the WBG’s Global Practice Manager overseeing the MDTF as well as the World Bank’s health portfolio in the East Asia and Pacific, has moved to Geneva to take on the role of Adviser on Global Coordination.

As part of his role, he will continue to work with Gavi and the Global Fund on issues of transition, sustainability and collaboration with the WBG. He will also take over the MDTF program manager role from Ajay Tandon, the lead economist, whose main work portfolio has moved to South Asia.

Toomas hopes to further consolidate approaches and lessons across the whole MDTF work program, while Ajay will continue as a technical advisor to the MDTF Program. Enis Baris, formerly a Global Practice Manager in East Asia and the Pacific region, will take over Toomas’s portfolio in East Asia and the Pacific and will also oversee the MDTF program.

Tonga tackling NCDs through stronger taxes

A series of consultative workshops were held in early September as part of the evaluation of tax policy aimed at addressing the non-communicable disease (NCD) crisis currently facing Tonga.

Taxes on alcohol, tobacco and unhealthy foods and beverages have been introduced in recent years, with the intent to encourage people to consume less products which contribute to the risk of acquiring an NCD.

Preliminary results from a new World Bank Group study have demonstrated behavior change in the community, with 18% of smokers reducing their consumption of manufactured cigarettes as well as decreases in the frequency of consumption of a number of unhealthy foods compared with the pre-tax period. More efforts are needed to make healthy products more accessible and affordable.



Hon Losaline Ma’asi, the Internal Affairs Minister, expresses her appreciation to the World Bank for the NCD tax study.

The evaluation team is currently developing the final report to be presented to the government and stakeholders early next year. For information on some of the preliminary findings, please see the recently published blog; <http://www.devpolicy.org/tongas-tobacco-taxes-20180924/>

To receive the MDTF e-newsletter please contact:

Sutayut Osornprasop, World Bank Thailand, sosornprasop@worldbank.org, +1 202 3783383

Chadin Tephaval, World Bank Thailand, chadint@gmail.com, +66 86 600 0715

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