

# MDTF NEWS

Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Integrating Health Programs | June-August 2018

## HSFA Indonesia

Teams from the World Bank, Indonesian Government, and World Health Organization (WHO), are carrying out preparatory work for the health security financing assessment (HSFA) in Indonesia. The findings of the assessment will be instrumental in strengthening sustainable financing and resilient systems for health security in the country.

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## PMAC reflections

World Bank Health Manager Toomas Palu and DFAT Principal Health Specialist Stephanie Williams look back at what was learned from the side meeting of the Prince Mahidol Awards Conference in Bangkok earlier this year. Read their blog in the link below.

[More](#)

## Health financing focus

The World Bank and Indonesia's Ministry of National Planning (Bappenas) held a focus group discussion on "Health Financing for National Strategic Health Planning" on May 24-25.



*Vietnam HSFA participants appreciate a point being made at the assessment's validation workshop in Hanoi on June 13.*

## HSFA pilot in Vietnam revealing

The Health Security Financing Assessment (HSFA) just concluded in Vietnam has found that overall the country's health security system is well prepared with a good structure for responding to public health threats to its population.

The comprehensive assessment, piloted in Vietnam over the past six months, also found that the country spent US\$220 million on health security in 2016, or US\$2.4 per capita. Most of this came from government budget and was spent at the provincial level.

The assessment offers valuable lessons for other countries in the region where similar assessments will unfold. One lesson is that political commitment is central for preventing, controlling and responding to epidemics. Another important lesson is that financing the operational costs of necessary structures, both at national and local levels, is essential for preparedness.

These findings were revealed at a series of meetings on the [Vietnam HSFA](#) – validation workshop, [regional technical task force meeting](#), and brainstorming session on capacity building for health security financing – held in Hanoi on June 13-15, 2018.

## PNG and Pacific HFSAs

Health Financing System Assessments for [Papua New Guinea](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Vanuatu](#) and [Kiribati](#) are now available online. Executive summary pamphlets have been developed and will be available at the Pacific Update Conference and the Malaria Congress (see events section), and shared with key stakeholders in country. Furthermore, summary findings from the four HFSAs were published in a Devpolicy blog entitled '[Making health dollars go further in the Pacific](#)' on 28 June 2018, which is also available on the WB Pacific [Facebook](#) page.

## Immunizing ASEAN

The Bangkok Post wrote a cover story on putting money into pandemic preparedness in the ASEAN region. It was published in the Asia Focus section of the newspaper. [More](#)

## Better safe than sorry

Another Bangkok Post story, also in the Asia Focus section of the newspaper, about sustainable financing to ensure people are safe from infectious diseases that can quickly engulf the globe. [More](#)

## Tonga's tax hike dents smoking

World Bank Human Development Specialist Sutayut Osornprasop [blogs](#) on the Tongan government's successful use of tobacco tax to effect better health outcomes. [More](#)



*Indonesian government and World Bank team members at their productive HSFA preparatory meeting in May 2018.*

## June to August events

**Early June 2018:** CSO Financing Mechanism in the Greater Jakarta Area, Indonesia

**Week of 11 June 2018:** Needs of grassroots health system meeting in Vietnam

**13-15 June 2018:** Vietnam HSFA Validation and Regional Health Security Technical Task Force Workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam [#financinghealthsecurity](#)

**19-21 June 2018:** Meeting of the Bi-Regional TAG on APSED (III): Advancing Implementation of the IHR (2005), New Delhi, India

**21-22 June 2018:** Workshop on Financing for Health Security in Tarawa, Kiribati

**June 2018:** District Health Information System (DHIS2), technical workshop on new features for immunization and maternal child health services in Lao PDR

**1-5 July 2018:** Presentation on Financing core health systems for essential services and security: integrating the agendas at the 1<sup>st</sup> Malaria World Congress in Melbourne, Australia

**5-6 July 2018:** Presentation on PNG and Pacific HFSAs at the Pacific Update Conference in Suva, Fiji, as part of a panel on Health in the Pacific

**Mid-July 2018:** Strategic Health Purchasing, Technical Working Group Establishment in Indonesia

**Mid-July 2018:** Public Expenditure Tracking for Health in Indonesia

**10 August 2018:** Health Security quarterly meeting in Cambodia

**13 August 2018:** Health Financing and UHC, capacity building course in Lao PDR

**August 2018:** Workshop to disseminate the Vietnam HSFA final report

## Learning from the immunization frontline in Yen Bai



*DFAT, World Bank and Vietnam's Ministry of Health officials visiting a grassroots service delivery station in Yen Bai, northern Vietnam.*

Officials from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the World Bank and Vietnam's Ministry of Health visited Yen Bai province in mid-June for a first-hand look at grassroots service delivery in northern Vietnam. The team heard from frontline health workers about how they faced and resolved challenges related to delivering immunization services to people in poor, remote and mountainous communes.

Generally, Vietnam has high immunization coverage rates but the timeliness of childhood immunization (such as Hepatitis B) remains a challenge. There are also coverage gaps, especially in the mountainous communes with large ethnic minority populations whose healthcare access still lags behind that of the general population.

Through US\$5 million in co-financing from the MDTF for the "Investing and Innovating for Grassroots Service Delivery Reform Project", DFAT will partner with the World Bank to assist the Government of Vietnam in ensuring the sustainability, performance, and integration of essential immunization services.

## Addressing Health Security in the Pacific

The Kiribati Health Security Financing Workshop was held on the 21st and 22nd of June in Tarawa. This workshop provided an opportunity for the Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) to examine how they can use their annual planning and budget process more effectively to achieve incremental improvements for health security over the coming years.

With support from the World Bank, WHO, the Pacific Community, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Tupaia Health Mapping, MHMS identified priority issues to improve the preparedness and response capacity to health security threats in Kiribati.

The workshop was the first of its kind in the Pacific instigated by the World Bank. Discussions highlighted how core health systems need to be strengthened through this exercise so that MHMS can respond effectively to health emergencies or threats. The MHMS senior management team will review the priorities that were determined through the workshop and include them in the broader service delivery plans and budgets for 2019 and beyond.



*Participants at the health security financing workshop in Kiribati take a stretch after a long session.*

*To receive MDTF e-newsletter please contact:*

*Sutayut Osornprasop, World Bank Thailand, [sosornprasop@worldbank.org](mailto:sosornprasop@worldbank.org), +66 85 096 4999*

*Chadin Tephaval, World Bank Thailand, [chadint@gmail.com](mailto:chadint@gmail.com), +66 86 600 0715*