# **Technical Report** **for the Capacity Building Workshop in Production of the National Health Accounts (NHA)**

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| ***Period:*** | *25 November-6 December 2024* |
| ***Place****:* | *Tiffanys Canyon, Shimabala, Zambia* |
| ***Participants****:* | *A total of 24 participants attended the workshop: 16 MOH,3 UNZA, 1 WB, 2 WCO and 2 WHO AFRO Staff.**.*  |

## **Background Information**

Zambia has been producing National Health Accounts since 1998. The last NHA was conducted in 2023 which covered the period 2017 to 2021. National Health Accounts (NHA) are a vital tool for tracking health expenditures across various financing sources in a country, including government budgets, private sector contributions, households, and external donors. They provide a comprehensive overview of how resources flow through the health system, from revenue generation and allocation to the final expenditure on healthcare services. NHA is particularly important for informing policy decisions, tracking progress toward achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and evaluating the efficiency and equity of health financing.

Thus, to successfully build in-country capacity of MOH staff in conducting the NHA, the World Bank provided financial support and the WCO/WHO AFRO provided technical support by engaging an international consultant to spearhead this work. Additionally, the WHO IST Health Care Financing Technical Officer provided in-country support in the NHA training process. Hence, a two-week workshop was organized in shimabala at Tiffany’s Canyon in Lusaka province to build capacity of MOH staff in conducting the NHA using the SHA tool.

## **Aim of the Training**

To build the capacity of Ministry of Health officials to conduct the National Health Accounts (NHA) independently, analyze health expenditure data, and use the findings to inform health financing policy and resource allocation.

## **Methodology**

The training adopted an interactive and participatory approach, combining lectures/power point presentations with group discussions, case studies, and hands-on exercises. The sessions were designed to reinforce key concepts in NHA while also allowing participants to apply the skills they learnt in a practical setting. Each session was facilitated by the consultant who has the expertise and practical experience in the methodology of the NHA, including utilization of the Health Accounts Production Tool (HAPT). Participants with prior exposure were encouraged to share their experiences and challenges from their participation in previous rounds of the NHA, fostering an opportunity to draw insights from practical scenarios. The overall goal was to build both theoretical understanding and practical skills that are directly applicable to successfully undertaking the NHA within Zambia’s health system. The workshopmaterials were shared with the participants enabling them to actively follow through the presentations.

## **Activities**

**Day 1:** The meeting was officially opened by the Assistant Director Mr Lucas Zulu from the Department of Policy and planning at Ministry of Health who gave a brief background on the purpose and objectives of the NHA training. The WHO/AFRO Consultant Dr Ezrah Tera Rwakinanga made presentations on the background and key concepts of the NHA and its implication on health sector planning. The first day also included Installation and updating of the Health Accounts Production Tool (HAPT) on windows computers.

**Days 2 to 10:** The rest of the training days involved the activities outlined below as well as a re-cap and discussion of the previous day’s work.

* Preparing Modules 1 to 6 of the HAPT
* Reviewing of Health Accounts Dimensions
* Discussion on classifications for Zambia’s case
* Mapping of Questionnaire data
* Mapping of Secondary data format
* Distribution Keys for Financing, Provision and Consumption Classifications
* Application of the distribution keys and generation of HAPT tables
* Conducting quality checks on the HAPT tables generated
* Reviewing of the HAPT tables
* Discussion of achievements and the next steps.

## **Achievements**

* The participants gained a thorough understanding of the NHA framework, including the definitions, classifications, and scope of health expenditures.
* The capacity of MOH staff was strengthened in data Collection and Validation by equipping officials with the skills to identify relevant data sources, validate data quality, and ensure comprehensive coverage of health expenditures from all financing sources.
* Participants were enabled to analyze NHA data using the HAPT tool, by ensuring that they interpret health expenditure flows and identify trends.
* MOH officials were empowered to apply NHA findings in the development of health financing policies.

## **Recommendations**

WCO to continue providing support to MOH in the implementation of the NHA in the country.

## **Next steps:**

* Finalize the 2017/2021 NHA report and have it disseminated in the first quarter of 2025.
* Conduct a stakeholder mapping and create a core team to drive the 2022/2024 NHA process.
* Develop a roadmap, budget and concept note for the next NHA.

***Participants for the Capacity Building Workshop in Production of the National Health Accounts, 25 Nov-6 Dec 2024, Tiffany’s Canyon, Shimabala, Zambia***

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