

Launching of MR catch up campaign

12th January 2023, Time: 09.00 AM

Location: Veracruz (Dili), Timor-Leste

Talking points delivered by Dr. Shyam Pathak, Health Manager of UNICEF in Timor-Leste



Representative from President of Dili Municipality Authority

Executive Director of National Hospital, Dr Alito Soares.

Director of Dili MHS, Sra Agostina Segurado

Cefe Suco/ Cefe Aldia

Representative from PNTL, Civil Society, faith-based agencies and private sectors

Representative from WHO- Dr Sudath

Dear Children and parents

Representatives from the media,

Ladies and gentlemen

Bom dia and a very good morning

1. I am pleased to join Senior MoH officials led by DG Sr Marcelo and the Director of Dili Municipality Health Services in today's event in launching the Measles-Rubella Campaign together with introduction of Pneumococcal vaccine, Polio vaccine, Vitamin A and deworming for children under five years of age in Dili.
2. My heartfelt congratulation to DG Marcelo for his initiative, leadership, vision and guidance to Ministry of Health and partners in planning and roll-out of this integrated multi antigen campaign with introduction of PCV vaccine that got delayed due to COVID-19 response.

3. The pandemic has reversed the gains made with routine immunization. The routine immunization coverage in Timor-Leste has been around 80% which means 20% of children did not complete the routine immunization schedule. The number of children missing out of routine immunization varies from 20% to 30% in different municipalities. Now there are greater number of children who have not completed the routine vaccination and they are at risk.

4. Pneumonia or lower respiratory infection is top three leading causes of death for under five children. The introduction the new vaccine PCV provide protection at the earliest as possible in life, it is recommended to provide the three doses of the PCV vaccine for children under one year age.

5. UNICEF provides technical, logistic and financial assistance to Ministry of Health and SAMES to support the national integrated campaign. All the vaccines and immunization related devices have been procured through UNICEF procurement service. UNICEF team works in close collaboration with the National team and municipality team to support the national integrated campaign with target to reach 95% of eligible children under the age of 5 years.

6. With support from UNICEF, the campaign advocacy started in August 2022 and continued up to December

2022. The advocacy events reach out to the parents, and teachers, and to the community leaders including religious institutions on importance of the immunization and scaling up COVID-19 vaccination specifically second dose and a booster dose among adult population above 18 years of age.

7. UNICEF supported Health Promotion department to disseminate the campaign messages through social media (Facebook and WhatsApp), community radio announcement and talk show, and from TV channels as well as through vehicle miking car in the communities. Mother Support Group also plays a crucial part in this integrated campaign advocacy – through their network and spread the message up to the household level on the importance of this integrated campaign
8. My sincere appreciation and best wishes to Dili Municipality Health Services and Saude na Familia team to implement the campaign successfully
9. On behalf of UNICEF Representative, I reiterate UNICEF's commitment to deliver quality essential health services to every Timorese Child including routine immunization.

All the very best and Obrigado barak

