

Remarks by Bilal Aurang Zeb Durrani, UNICEF Country Representative to Timor-Leste
At the occasion of the workshop on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Healthcare Facilities –
(WinHCF).

Monday, 22 April 2024 @ 0:30am – Hotel Timor



- H.E. Jose dos Reis Magno – Vice Minister for Institutional Strengthening in Health
[S.E. José dos Reis Magno, - Vise-Ministru ba Fortalesimentu Institusionál Saúde, Ministériu Saude](#)
- H.E. Santos Noronha – Secretary of State for Electricity, Water, and Sanitation
[S.E. Santos Noronha – Sekretariu Estadu Eletrisidade, Bee no Saneamentu.](#)
- Mr. Belarmino Freitas Gomes dos Santos, Director of DNRAS, Ministry of State Administration
[Sr. Belarmino Freitas Gomes dos Santos, Diretor DNRAS, Ministériu Administrasaun Estatál](#)
- Presidents of Authority of all municipalities
[Presidente Autoridade-sira husi Munisipiu hotu-hotu](#)
- Officials from Ministry of Health and Municipal Health Offices
[Ofisial sira husi Ministériu Saúde no ofisial saúde sira husi munisipiu sira](#)
- Representatives from DFAT, Embassy of Japan and USAID

Reprezentante sira husi DFAT, Embaixada Japaun no USAID

- Member of the media

Membru sira husi média

I am delighted to be here today for this long-awaited workshop on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities – (WinHCF). It is a great pleasure to witness this diverse gathering, representing Government officials and various stakeholders from national level and those from the municipalities. This shows our joint commitment to making sure that the health and wellbeing of children and our communities, is fully realised through a sustained convergence of health services delivery and WASH.

Hau kontenti tebes ba iventu workshop Bee, Saneamentu no Ijiene (BESI) iha Fasilidade Kuidadu Saúde sira (FKS) ne'ebe ita hotu hein kleur ona. Hau orgulhu hasoru malu ho parseiru sira hotu, ofisial sira ne'ebé reprezenta Governo, parte-interesada sira husi nivel nasional no municipal sira. Ida ne'e hatudu ita hotu iha komitmentu atu asegura katak Saúde no bem-estar ba labarik no ita nia comunidade bele realiza tomak ho sustentavel iha prestasaun servisu ba Saúde no Be'e, Saneamento, no Ijene.

While Health and WASH sectors remain two broader social development sectors, WASH in Healthcare facilities has become a critical sub sector globally. This is because good and fully functioning WASH facilities at health centres, will contribute to the achievement of two critical Sustainable Development Goals; Good Health & Well Being (Goal 3) and Clean Water & Sanitation (Goal 6).

Enquanto seitor Saude no BESI nudar seitor dezvoltimentu rua ne'ebe bo'ot, BESI iha FKS globalmente sai ona nudar sub-sector ne'ebe importante tebes. Ida ne'e tamba fasilidade BESI nee'be funsiona diak husi kada FKS, sei kontribu ba ODS 2 ne'ebe importante mak hanesan; Saúde no Bem-estar (ODS 3) no Be'e mos no Saneamento (ODS 6).

It is pleasing to see the collaboration between Ministry of Health and the new Secretary of State for Electricity, Water and Sanitation (SEAS), which has made it possible for us to witness a forum which is dedicated to WASH in Health Facilities.

Haksolok tebes atu hare katak kolaborasaun entre Ministério da Saúde (Mds) no Secretario do Estado Elektrisidade, Agua no Sanemanto (SEAS) ne'ebe ho disponibilidade tomak hamutuk iha forum ida ohin lora kona servisu BESI iha FKS.

As we know WASH in Healthcare Facilities is a globally recognized sub sector. It is therefore encouraging to note that in Timor-Leste, this could be the first step towards aligning our national standards and monitoring systems with our global counterparts.

Hanesan ita hotu hatene Globalmente, BESI iha FKS nudar sub-sector, tamba ne'e enkoraja atu nota katak iha Timor-Leste, servisu BESI iha FKS nudar pasu dahuluk hodi alina ita nia padraun nasional no sistema monitorizasaun ho ita nia parseiro global sira.



Your excellencies, ensuring the functionality and quality of WASH in Healthcare Facilities has a direct impact on the quality of health services, including the safety of both the patients and the health staff. Sadly, the truth of the matter is that there are long term infrastructure gaps in WASH in Healthcare Facilities, which make it difficult for quality health services to be provided.

Excelencias, assegura BESl nia funcionalidade no qualidade iha kada FKS, sei fo impktu direita ba qualidade servisu saúde nian, inklui seguransa pasiente no pesoal saúde sira nian. Maibé, triste tebes, realidade ne'ebe ita hasoru katak problemas infrastrutura BESl iha FKS difikulta servisu tratamentu saúde ne'ebe qualidade.

While both Government and other stakeholders have for long provided WASH infrastructure in healthcare facilities, a large proportion of toilets and handwashing stations are known to be not functioning due to two major reasons. First is the lack of maintenance and the second is lack of reliable water supply, particularly in rural healthcare facilities.

Enquantu, Governu no parte-interesada sira seluk fornese ona servisu infrastrutra BESl iha FKS, problema boot rua kona-ba sentina no estasaun fase liman sei labele funciona, tamba ho razaun rua. Primeiro, tamba laiha manutensaun, no Segundu, tamba falta sistema forneseimentu be'e partikularmente fasildade saúde sira iha area rural.

Underlying these visible challenges in the sector is the lack of a dedicated budget line only for this sub sector. There are also critical gaps in having dedicated human resources, mobilizing resources as well as orienting health staff on sustaining WASH in healthcare facilities.

Dezafiu hirak ne'ebe bele haree iha seitor ne'e mak falta alokasaun fundus dedikadu ba sub-seitor ida ne'e. Iha mós problemas kritikus sira seluk liga ba rekursu umanu, mobilizasaun rekursu inklui orientasaun ba pesoal saúde sira kona-ba sustentabilidade BESI iha FKS.

We know that it takes time to address these key issues and there needs to be collective decisions by health, WASH, and municipal authorities in this regard. Considering the great dependability of healthcare facilities on rural water systems, we may also need a strong community mobilisation and participation in moving on.

Ita hatene katak, sei lori tempu naruk atu resolve problema xave sira no presiza iha desizaun kolektiva husi parte Saúde, Be'e no Autoridade Municipiu sira kona ba servisu BESI ida ne'e rasik. Konsidera mos katak, dependensia boot ba sistema be'e rural, presiza mobilizasaun no partisipasaun komunidade ne'ebe forte atu hadi servisu BESI ba oin.

It is against this backdrop that UNICEF appreciates the support of donors like UNICEF Australia, Government of Japan and USAID for their flexibility to let UNICEF integrate this critical WASH in healthcare facilities component in the health, nutrition and COVID 19 response programs. As a result, we have been supporting the Ministry of Health to upgrade different components of water, sanitation, and hygiene services in all the 70 Community Health Centers in Timor-Leste since 2020.



Ho kontestu ida ne'e UNICEF apresia duador sira hanesan UNICEF Australia, Governu Japaun no USAID ba sira nia flesibilidade fo biban ba UNICEF hodi integra komponenti BESI iha FKS, Saúde, Nutrisaun no programa responde COVID-19. Tamba ne'e ami apoiu ona Ministério da Saúde hodi melhora

komponente sira kona-ba Be'e, Sanemantu, no servisu Ijene iha Sentru Saúde 70 iha Timor-Leste desde 2020.

However, more work still needs to be done. In this SDG era, interventions in WASH in healthcare facilities goes beyond the three components water, sanitation and hygiene. It is also required for us to address waste management and environmental cleaning. This means modern WASH in healthcare facilities has five broad service areas which we must pay attention to.

Maske nune'e, sei iha buat barak atu halo. Iha era ODS, intervensaun BESI iha FKS, laos deit komponenti Be'e, Saneamntu no Ijene deit, maibe mos presiza intervensaun seluk hanesan jestaun lixu no hamoos ambiente sira. Signifika katak BESI iha FKS ne'ebe modernu iha are lima nebe luan tenke hetan atensaun.

The global platform Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) monitors these five service areas in healthcare in all the countries, and regrettably, Timor-Leste has no data to report on these at present. Considering the total number of healthcare facilities we have is quite manageable, developing a dedicated monitoring system for WASH services seems quite achievable. UNICEF has been a global advocate in this regard and we remain available to support this important target in Timor-Leste.

Plataforma global kona-ba JMP nian (Joint Monitoring Program) monitoriza area lima refere iha FKS ida-idak iha nasaun hotu-hotu, infelismete, Timor-Leste laiha dadus atu relata. Ho numeru fasilidade ne'ebe bele jere, ita bele dezenvolve sistema monitrisasaun ne'ebe dedikadu ba servisu BESI sente fasil atu atinji. UNICEF sai ona nudar advogadu global ba servisu ida ne'e, iha disponibilidade tomak atu apoiu hodi atinji alvu sira iha Timor-Leste.

Another urgent area of focus should be to ensure a mechanism for proper operation and timely maintenance of WASH in healthcare facilities. UNICEF has been facilitating this discussion and will continue to do so.

Areas seluk importante atu hare mak hodi aseguara mekanismu operasional no manutensaun ne'ebe lais ba fasildade BESI iha FKS sira. UNICEF fasilita ona diskusaun kona-ba servisu hirak ne'e no sei kontinua fasilita diskusaun tempu tuir mai.

The issue of water supply gaps in the healthcare facilities needs a combined approach by Ministry of Health, SEAS and most importantly Municipality authorities including SMASA. During our project implementation, we have witnessed some ground level realities and are quite willing to share that experience to reach solutions.

Kestaun kona-ba barreira Sistema Be'e iha FKS sira, presiza aproximasaun integradu entre Ministério da Saúde, SEAS no importante liu mak involvimento ativa husi Autoridade Municipio sira inklui SMASA. Durante implementasaun pojeitu ida ne'e, ami hasoru realidade balun iha terrenu ne'ebe ami hakarak fahe tutan hodi hetan solusaun.

I hope today's gathering will be the first step of a journey that leads to a road map and actional solutions for all these issues in front of us.

Hau hein katak ita nia sorumutu ohin lora sei sai pasu dahuluk husi ita nia viagem ne'ebé lori ita aba mapa dalan ida no asaun ba solusaun kona-ba kestoin hotu iha ita nia oin.

I wish you all the best for a fruitful knowledge sharing and discussion.

Deseju ba imi hotu bele fahe konesimentu ba malu no diskusaun ida ne'ebé furak.



Obrigado