

**Remarks by Ms Ainhoa, UNICEF Deputy Representative  
On the debriefing of EPI review activity  
Date: 25 October 2024  
Venue: Novo Turismo, Dili Timor-Leste**

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- **H.E. Vice Minister of Health, Sr Jose dos Reis Magno**
- **Director General of Primary Health Care, Dr Elisabeth Leto Mau**
- **National Directors, head of departments and senior officials of Ministry of Health**
- **WHO Country Representative, Dr Arvind Mathur**
- **Technical experts from the headquarters and regional offices of UNICEF, and WHO and other agencies**
- **Representative from Civil society organizations**
- **Friends from Media**



Bomdia, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I take this opportunity to congratulate H.E Honourable Vice Health Minister Sr Jose dos Reis Magno for his excellent leadership and commitment to ensure quality health services for every Timorese child. My sincere appreciation goes to every health professional, frontline worker, and partner for their support to scale up immunization activities across the country. The immunization milestones achievements attribute to our joint and collective efforts to protect children in Timor-Leste.

The national immunization review carried out on 14-25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 will contribute to the development of the 2024-2030 National Immunization Strategy.. UNICEF is committed to providing technical assistance in the development of the National Immunization Strategy and its costing with direct support from UNICEF headquarters. This is an opportunity to align with, and meet, the national health strategy and SDG 2030 targets on immunization.



Since the last national immunization review carried out eight years ago, Timor-Leste has expanded the routine immunization program with the introduction of three new vaccines for children under five years of age, and COVID-19 vaccines for the above 12 years population group. Despite multiple challenges, Timor-Leste achieved pre COVID-19 status with routine immunization coverage by the end of 2023. Currently, the focus is to reach the children with zero dose and partially immunized through outreach activities via Mother Support Group and health teams. UNICEF continues to support Ministry of Health in the forecasting and procurement of vaccines and facilitate with GAVI for the COVID-19 vaccine. I am pleased to inform you that GAVI has committed to providing COVID-19 vaccines to Timor-Leste until 2025 without any costs.



My sincere appreciation goes to the external reviewers from UNICEF EAPRO, US CDC Atlanta, WHO HQ, WHO Bangladesh, NCIRS and MoH EPI Indonesia for their technical support to conduct the national immunization review. The

findings and recommendations from this review will help to address the gaps and enhance the quality of immunization services.

On behalf of UNICEF, I reiterate our commitment to support Ministry of Health to ensure every Timorese child is covered under a routine immunization program and 100% vaccinated. I want to acknowledge the support and contribution from GAVI to overall immunization activities and health system strengthening in Timor-Leste.

Once again, my sincere gratitude to Ministry of Health for their unwavering commitment and dedication to ensure quality health services including immunization for every Timorese child.



Obrigada wain.