9 Appendices

9.1 References


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9.2 Health systems in transition methodology and production process

HiT reports are produced by country experts in collaboration with an external editor and the Secretariat of the Asia Pacific Observatory based in the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in Manila, Philippines. Reports are based on a template developed by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies that, revised periodically, provides detailed guidelines and specific questions, definitions, suggestions for data sources and examples needed to compile reviews. While the template offers a comprehensive set of questions, it is intended to be used in a flexible way to allow authors and editors to adapt it to their particular national context. The template has been adapted for use in the Asia Pacific region and is available online at http://www.wpro.who.int/asia_pacific_observatory/hits/template/en.

Authors draw on multiple data sources for the compilation of HiT reports, ranging from national statistics, national and regional policy documents to published literature. Data are drawn from information collected by national statistical bureaux and health ministries. Furthermore, international data sources may be incorporated, such as the World Development Indicators of the World Bank.

In addition to the information and data provided by country experts, WHO supplies quantitative data in the form of a set of standard comparative figures for each country, drawing on the Western Pacific Country Health Information Profiles (CHIPs) and the WHO Statistical Information System (WHOSIS). HiT report authors are encouraged to discuss the data in the text in detail, including the standard figures prepared by the Observatory staff, especially if there are concerns about discrepancies between the data available from different sources.

The quality of HiT reports is of real importance since they inform policymaking and meta-analysis. Reports are subject to wide consultation throughout the writing and editing process, which involves multiple iterations. They are then subject to the following.

- A rigorous review process consisting of three stages. Initially, the text of the HiT report is checked, reviewed and approved by the Asia Pacific Observatory Secretariat. It is then sent for review to at least three independent experts, and their comments and amendments are incorporated into the text, and modifications are made accordingly. The text is then submitted to the relevant ministry of health, or appropriate
authority, and policy-makers within those bodies to check for factual errors.

- There are further efforts to ensure quality while the report is finalized that focus on copy-editing and proofreading.
- HiTs are disseminated (hard copies, electronic publication, translations and launches). The editor supports the authors throughout the production process and, in close consultation with the authors, ensures that all stages of the process are taken forward as effectively as possible.

### 9.3 About the authors

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