Mongolia Report Shines Spotlight on Health System

ULAANBAATAR, 14 August 2013 – Mongolia launched its Health Systems in Transition (HiTs) report today in an event that included the Prime Minister of Mongolia, the Director General of the World Health Organization, and the Minister of Health, among many Health Partners.

The Mongolia HiT report, a product of the Asia Pacific Observatory (a WHO special program housed in Western Pacific Regional Office), is a comprehensive review of the country’s health system and policy reforms. The report paves the way for easy access to relevant and timely information for policy makers and analysts. The HiT report covers a wide scope of topics, including the organization and governance of the health system, health-care financing, physical and human resources, health services delivery mechanisms, and the principal directions in health sector reform.

Dr Margaret Chan, World Health Organization Director General, said the launching of the Mongolia HiT is a milestone in health system analysis in the Asia Pacific Region. “These profiles give policy-makers a solid foundation of scientific evidence and analysis on a range of factors that shape the performance of health systems, from issues of financing, resources, staff, facilities and skills, to institutional, legislative, and structural foundations” said Dr Chan.

The report highlights both the strengths of the Mongolia health system and the challenges it faces. The health of Mongolians has improved considerably during the second half of the twentieth century, and these gains are accelerating. These improvements are due to improved social conditions and a strengthened health system with modern technologies. Public health interventions delivered by government health services are achieving universal coverage, and sophisticated curative interventions are available in major metropolitan areas. However, the rise in noncommunicable diseases and reaching populations in remote areas continue to be challenges for the health system to address.

Launched in 2011, the Asia Pacific Observatory is a partnership of governments, development agencies and the research communities that includes the governments of Hong Kong (China), the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand as well as the Asian Development Bank, AusAID, the World Bank and WHO (South East Asia and Western Pacific Regional Offices).

The Mongolia report is the Asia Pacific Observatory’s fourth HiT report, with the others being the Fiji HiT, Philippines HiT and Malaysia HiT. The HiTs are based on a template also used by the European Observatory, and help build a global body of comparable data. HiTs are under way in many other countries, including Bangladesh,
Cambodia, China, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Tonga.

The HiT reports online are available free of charge at: www.wpro.who.int/asia_pacific_observatory/about.html

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