

4. Working in partnership to bring health and finance together



Health workers provide care in Ba Ajeng village in Malaysia. Determining which health services are delivered, when, where, and for whom is the job of ministries of both health and finance.

Sustainable financing of public health priorities will become increasingly relevant in the context of the SDGs and continue to require collaboration between health and finance, as well as other sectors. This collaboration is supported

by WHO through country teams as well as through regional efforts.

For example, at the regional level, WHO in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, supported a workshop in 2016 that gathered key

policy-makers in ministries of health and finance, as well as the insurance industry, from countries across Asia.

Sustainable financing of public health priorities is a particular health financing challenge shared by countries in the Region. WHO is working with the health and finance sectors to prepare for and respond to reductions in funding from global health initiatives, including strategies on ensuring the adequacy of domestic financing, improving health system efficiency through health financing reform, and managing the transition in funding sources and channels to improve overall health system performance. WHO support has included the development of an analytical framework and country-specific support to plan and manage a smooth transition from vertically funded disease programmes to domestic financing systems.

Support to the health sector in improving public financial management systems also is an important element of work on sustainable financing of public health priorities and on strengthening collaboration between the finance and health sectors. This work includes improving flexibility in resource allocation and enables the health sector to be more strategic in shaping incentives with service providers to ensure the public interest and the advancement of UHC. ■