1. Transition to integrated financing for priority public health services

Financial levers can be powerful tools to improve the governance of health systems. Health financing can serve as a trigger for broader health system reform, particularly during a transition to reduced donor funding. In the Western Pacific Region, vertically financed disease control programmes that were largely governed separately are gradually being integrated and coordinated into the general health system.

As countries transition to more domestic or integrated financing for priority public health services and more efficient and resilient health systems, this can lead to strengthened governance of health systems. For example, improvements are made in health planning and budgeting within and across sectors, accountability and monitoring mechanisms for public finance, and domestic procurement and supply management systems for essential medicines and supplies.

To guide Member States, the Regional Committee endorsed in October 2017 the *Regional Framework for Action on Transitioning to Integrated Financing of Priority Public Health Services in the Western Pacific*, such as HIV, TB, malaria and immunizations. The framework also supports Member States undergoing budget or service delivery reforms.

The framework identifies four pillars of action for countries: confirming the core programme elements and service delivery arrangements for priority public health services; strengthening financing institutions to make better use of available resources; increasing domestic financing; and governing the transition process.

WHO supports countries addressing these challenges using these actions and a whole-of-system approach, bringing together ministries of health and finance with various departments to smoothen transition. Supporting and guiding countries during this transition has strengthened how WHO works and the Organization’s role with key development partners, such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank Group and other United Nations agencies.