

**The Secretary of State for the Council of Ministers and
Official Spokesperson for the Government of Timor-Leste
Ágio Pereira**

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Dili, Timor-Leste**



Health indicators improving in Timor-Leste

This week as the Government prepares to defend the budget in speciality, the Secretary of State for the Council of Ministers noted “The data being reported by the line ministries demonstrates the money spent thus far by the Government to develop our nation is delivering results and making a tangible difference in the lives of Timorese.’

‘One of the most positive areas, and most vital to our people, is health and we are seeing improvements in our indicators. The Xanana Gusmão Government’s social policies combined with a strong strategic vision by the Ministry of Health has given us the opportunity to tackle head on the responsibility of ensuring our citizens begin to receive better and more consistent health care services.’

2008/2009 Health Indicators

- Infant mortality has been reduced from 90/ 1000 (2004) to 60 /1000 (2008/2009)
- Children mortality under five has been reduced from 130/ 1000(2004) to 83 /1000 (2008/2009).
- Child mortality from malaria has been reduced from 400/1000 (2004) to 275/1000 (2008/2009).
- TB has been reduced from 789 / 100,000 to 447 / 100,000 which is close to meeting the Millennium Development Goals.
- Fertility rate has decreased from 7.8% (2004) to 7% (2008/2009)
- Maternity Mortality Rate has decreased from 660/100,000 (2004) to 450/100,000 (2008/2009)
- Leprosy is close to being eradicated completely in Timor-Leste.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Nelson Martins, attributes the overall improvements in health indicators to the decentralization of health services. Now, primary care coverage is provided across the thirteen districts of Timor-Leste giving greater access and quality of services, especially in rural areas.

With the purchase of multiple purpose vehicles, the District Health services have been able to gain faster and more efficient access to vulnerable patients. With greater access to health facilities, there has been a significant increase in the number of patients treated and a raised awareness of public health issues.

Overall, the strategic plan for the National Health Care System is providing a framework for sector growth, capitol works projects in 2009 and 2010 will also heavily contribute to improved access to health services and service delivery. ENDS

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