



# World Bank Support for NHA in East Asia and Pacific

Meeting of Asian Pacific National Health  
Accounts Network

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# The Context of WB Support

- ✦ Most WB support provided through limited grant funds, or through partnerships with other donors
- ✦ Decision to provide support for NHA in EAP is predominantly driven by country-based priority setting on a case-by-case basis: health competes with other sectors
- ✦ Some region-wide analytical initiatives are supported, where grant finance can be mobilized, but NHA have not attracted this kind of support until now: NHA competes with more urgent “regional public goods”

# Support for NHA in EAP IDA Countries

- ✦ VIETNAM (2001), SAMOA (2001), TONGA (2003) undertook NHA as part of WB-IDA financed health sector projects
- ✦ MONGOLIA (2003) undertook NHA through an Institutional Development Fund grant
- ✦ Departments/Ministries of Health provided the institutional home

# Challenges for NHA in Low Income Countries Under Stress

- ✦ Long delays in budget execution and limited audit of public expenditure
- ✦ High donor dependence, highly fragmented donor finance, weak donor compliance with government reporting requests
- ✦ WB, other donors support household expenditure surveys and statistical capacity building
- ✦ CAMBODIA, LAO PDR: WB is supporting capacity building in public sector accounting and audit, Public Expenditure Tracking surveys in health, sector-wide planning, reporting and review

# Support for NHA in China

- ✦ Small WB input to large undertaking!
- ✦ Regional Health Expenditure Surveys were piloted in the Health III Project in mid-1980s, and are still used
- ✦ 1996 study: *Issues and Options in Health Financing*, assessing status of health accounts, comparing with OECD formats and definitions, proposing work program, supported by Ministry of Health (MOH), the China National Health Economics Research Institute (CNHEI), WB and other donors

# Support for NHA in China: current collaboration with CNHEI

- ✦ Review of NHA data and methods
  - Classification of govt, social, private
  - Data on off-budget expenditures, social security expenditures at all levels
- ✦ Updating of NHAs and detailed NHAs for 2 provinces (Rural Health Project)
- ✦ Study of financing of public health functions at county level
  - Sub-sector NHA component seeks to compile data on expenditures on different public health functions, using OECD classification as a starting point, but the methodology will most likely be revised in the course of the work. The study will probably cover 4 counties

# Support for Uses of NHA in Philippines

- ✦ Philippines NHA produced (without WB support) since late 1990's by National Statistical Coordination Board
- ✦ Critical to monitoring of strategy of shifting sources of finance following decentralization of most public health service delivery, and establishment of framework for national social health insurance
- ✦ Multiple ODA partners are supporting the strategy and supporting technical strengthening of the NSCB and other institutions responsible for main data sources
- ✦ 18 month lag in publication limits value to policy makers
- ✦ Need for detailed provincial and sub-sectoral NHA