

Saúde Ba Ema Hotu (Health for All)

Mission Statement

Saúde Ba Ema Hotu seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and families in Timor-Leste through the direct work of our healthcare professionals as well as through partnerships with government, development partners and non-government organisations.

Our Objectives

Saúde Ba Ema Hotu's key objectives are to:

- ensure that all Timorese have access to quality healthcare services, including women, children, the disadvantaged and the disabled;
- provide effective, sustainable and integrated services to address the socio-economic determinants of health , through innovative, collaborative and community-led approaches; and
- promote education that creates and sustains healthier communities, through sustained focus on school health initiatives, and on highly prevalent risky behaviours, including tobacco and alcohol use.

Our Values

In working to achieve our objectives, Saúde Ba Ema Hotu will be guided by the following values:

- Compassion
- Respect
- Responsiveness
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Integrity

The Challenge

Good health is essential for a good quality of life. All Timorese people, regardless of where they live, are entitled to healthcare and a quality of life that provides for their human dignity.

The good health and wellbeing of people depends upon the provision of healthcare as well as addressing the socio-economic determinants of health including water and sanitation, housing, nutrition, power, education and household income.

Since the Restoration of Independence Timor-Leste has made positive progress in healthcare outcomes. However, as a post-conflict and Least Developed Country, Timor-Leste faces substantial challenges in providing for the health and dignity of its people. With most Timorese living in rural areas, one of the greatest challenges is providing services in remote and difficult to access villages.

While there are existing programs providing healthcare, there remain gaps in coverage and people and families are left behind. With limited resources in the sector and weak coordination with and involvement of local communities, the most remote areas often become neglected.

This means that too many Timorese are missing out on adequate healthcare and other critical services that provide for a dignified quality of life.

The challenge has been set by the Sustainable Development Goals, agreed by the United Nations General Assembly for the year 2030, which provides a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

By adopting the 2030 Agenda, Member States, including Timor-Leste, have committed to leave no one behind in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

'Sustainable Development Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages' sets out a range of targets in the health sector. This includes to:

'Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.'

The goal of universal healthcare for all is also shared by the World Health Organisation which works to 'promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable'. As part of this commitment, the WHO has a 'goal to ensure that a billion more people have universal health coverage' with a 'focus on primary healthcare to improve access to quality essential services'.

Sustainable Development Goal 3, and the goals of the World Health Organisation, will only be achievable in Timor-Leste if we are able to reach and support women, children and men in remote and difficult to access villages.

Our Strategic Approach

Saúde Ba Ema Hotu adopts a holistic approach to improving health and living conditions through providing direct healthcare services, as well as coordinating with other organisations to provide a wider range of essential health-related services mainly to people living in remote areas. Besides providing quality health care services, Saúde Ba Ema Hotu also serves as a stewardship agent, by engaging with both service providers and local communities to ensure that essential services to address socio-economic determinants of health reach those who need it most.

Through its work Saúde Ba Ema Hotu will be able to identify areas of care that may not be supported and will seek to work, together with the Ministry of Health and other health care providers, to meet these needs.

Saúde Ba Ema Hotu seeks to complement the work of the Ministry of Health in remote areas. Through close cooperation and collaboration Saúde Ba Ema Hotu will ensure that its work in no way duplicates that of the Ministry of Health.

Direct Healthcare Provision

We provide direct healthcare services through a dedicated team of both national and international healthcare professionals. We work to attract and develop relationships with physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals and staff to establish an extensive network that can provide effective patient care.

It is in this way that we support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3 and help to ensure that nobody is left behind in the provision of healthcare.

Our staff and volunteers travel through rural Timor-Leste, living in villages for short periods of time to provide healthcare as well as to link individuals and families to other organisations that provide services to address socio-economic determinants of health.

Our healthcare work will prevent death and disease while promoting individual and family wellbeing. This includes a focus on:

- communicable diseases;
- maternal and child healthcare;
- malnutrition;
- oral health and tooth decay;
- eye care;
- supporting people with disabilities;
- sanitation
- mental healthcare support; and
- health promotion and education through sustained focus on school health initiatives, and on highly prevalent risky behaviours, including tobacco and alcohol use.

Special care is also taken to address the health needs of the elderly and people with disabilities.

In providing effective healthcare, Saúde Ba Ema Hotu will endeavour to visit each home and family in selected areas on a yearly basis to conduct a general check-up of health and other needs.

As well as undertaking these house visits, Saúde Ba Ema Hotu will also make regular visits to address direct healthcare needs.

Making use of our strong relationships within the sector, we adopt a cooperative and collaborative approach with both the Ministry of Health and other healthcare organisations to provide the best possible care.

In addition to direct health care provision, Saúde Ba Ema Hotu will also work to enhance human and institutional capacity building for better provision of quality care.

Coordinating and Mobilising Additional Resources for Remote Communities

Importantly, Saúde Ba Ema Hotu recognises that individual, family and community wellbeing depends on more than medical services. To achieve a healthy society we also need to ensure that all people have access to vital services that address socio-economic determinants of health such as water and sanitation, housing, power, education and household income.

To work towards this, a key role of our healthcare professionals is to identify gaps that impact upon community wellbeing and the quality of life of individuals and families and then to provide linkages and work with other service delivery organisations to address these gaps.

In this way, Saúde Ba Ema Hotu can perform a stewardship role to mobilise additional resources and secure services and improvements to rural and remote villages. We work to connect with and establish an extensive network of service providers, including both government and non-government, to coordinate services for rural and remote communities.

We work together with local leadership, including the Chefe de Suco and Chefe de Aldeia, as well youth and community groups and the Church as well as district government officials, to provide a holistic and connected approach to community wellbeing.

This will improve the quality of life and wellbeing of Timorese in rural and remote areas while also reducing poverty, illness and disease.

In undertaking this work, Saúde Ba Ema Hotu has a particular focus on the needs of children, women, the disadvantaged and the disabled.



Sustainability and Financing

Saúde Ba Ema Hotu recognises that to provide health and related services to the remote parts of Timor-Leste we need to ensure our organisation is sustainable and operates on a sound financial footing. This requires a range of funding sources as well as professional financial management.

Along with traditional fundraising approaches, we are working to develop further innovative funding sources through a range of income-generating activities. This will include strengthening rural households through developing and supporting income-generating activities in areas such as agriculture and fisheries as well as tourism. This work will be assisted by harnessing information technology solutions to improve market access, marketing and business support.

Our Work

Saúde Ba Ema Hotu's activities include:

- monitoring and assessing the wellbeing and quality of life of families and communities;
- direct provision of healthcare services, through house visits and mobile clinics in remote areas;
- providing health promotion and education through sustained focus on school health initiatives, and on highly prevalent risky behaviours, including tobacco and alcohol use;
- developing strong and positive partnerships with government and non-government organisations that provide services and improve the quality of life of Timorese people;
- coordinating with other service providers, and working closely with the Ministry of Health and healthcare clinics to identify and address healthcare gaps;
- improving health and health care in communities through partnerships that engage individuals and organisations;
- maximizing the use and/or adopting new technology to improve quality of care; and
- working to secure and mobilise additional resources to remote communities to support the wellbeing of individuals and families.

Our Governance Structure

Saúde Ba Ema Hotu is committed to good governance including transparency, accountability and effectiveness. Saúde Ba Ema Hotu is a legally registered non-government organisation governed by a Board of Administration consisting of a range of experienced professionals and healthcare workers who are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation as well as establishing policies for its management and conducting oversight of its operations to ensure effective performance and operation. The Board appoints a Chair who presides over its meetings and is responsible for ensuring that the Board is effective in setting and implementing Saúde Ba Ema Hotu's strategy and activities.

The Board appoints an Executive Director who is responsible for managing the daily operations of Saúde Ba Ema Hotu including its administration, implementation of programs and its planning. The Executive Director is supported by a Secretary, and a Treasurer of the organisation.

Saúde Ba Ema Hotu has adopted a high level of management and financial accountability, which is overseen by a Fiscal Board made up by members who are not part of the organisation's management. External auditors will also be engaged to provide an independent opinion on the integrity of Saúde Ba Ema Hotu's financial statements and activities.

The following is an organigram of the governance structure of Saude ba Ema Hotu:

