UHC 2030 Technical Working Group on Health Systems Assessments

2nd Face-to-Face Meeting:
LINKING HEALTH SYSTEMS ASSESSMENTS TO PERFORMANCE DIMENSIONS
6-7 November 2018, Geneva

Bringing it all together
Next steps
First face-to-face meeting resulted in the following 4 key deliverables

**Deliverable 1:** Development of a recommended UHC2030 annotated template to conduct health systems (performance) assessments, including taxonomy, working definitions, a set of recommended indicators.

**Deliverable 2:** Development of UHC2030 process guidance on HS(P)A, integrating performance assessment and based on the principles of country ownership and leadership.

**Deliverable 3:** Development of a UHC2030 knowledge platform around HS(P)A and support to cross-country learning.

**Deliverable 4:** Advocacy to gain stakeholder buy-in on UHC2030 TWG deliverables to promote a more accountable HS(P)A environment.
General agreement for functions-to-performance approach: a way to make HSS actionable

- Functions: more dynamic, less static; can more easily link to outcome/performance; what we *do* rather than what it *is*

**BUT**

- Building blocks still the reality in many places: funding proposals, Ministry of Health departments, (some) HSAs, etc.

- Explain linkage to building blocks in any template/approach we propose → no need to dwell on it but show how it links

- Two distinct outcomes:
  1) final outcomes (health systems performance dimensions)
  2) intermediate outcomes
Sub-functions, indicators, and ‘things’

• Level of granularity on sub-functions will be key
• We will not be able to come up with a perfect framework (academic exercise) → need to ensure pragmatism
• Indicators: keep some imperfect indicators (pragmatism) but “don’t shy away from sub-functions because there are no easily collectible measures”
• Link overall indicators to functions and sub functions one can work on → be pragmatic and chose a place for a sub function even if it is not perfect.
Root cause analysis

• Root cause analysis should be a part of the HSA-HSPA continuum
• Diagnosis (‘bypassing primary care level’, ‘medical radiation exposure’) linked to qualitative (focus groups, interviews…) and quantitative (‘number of X-rays undertaken for back problems’) measures → further linked to intermediate and final health system goals
Stewardship/governance sub-functions

• Setting strategic direction: policy formulation (strategic plans, guidelines...)
• Participation (i.e. consensus-building, coordination, collaboration, partnerships...)
• Legislation
• Regulation
• Generating the use of intelligence (performance review, monitoring and evaluation)
• Architecture of the HS and institutional design (i.e. governance of the public private mix)
• Functional management capacity (i.e. budget, human resources – day to day) for governance itself
• Transformation capacity (i.e. leadership – more global)
• Intersectoral collaboration (i.e. across ministries and topic)
Financing function

Sub-functions:

• Revenue generation
  • Description of formal structure/mechanisms
  • Effective functions of structure/mechanisms

• Pooling (of health risks)
  • Description of formal pooling mechanisms
  • Effective functioning of formal pooling mechanisms

• (Strategic) purchasing
  • Description of purchasing system
  • Effective functioning of purchasing system

Intermediate goal/outcomes:

• Financial protection
• Coverage
Delivering services function

Possible sub-functions:
• Level of care incl. referral
• Level of integration
• Service delivery activities (prevention, self-management support, etc)

Unresolved issues/next steps:
• Look at pharmaceuticals/med devices carefully to distribute across functions
• Private sector service delivery?
• Need for case studies?
• patient-centredness
Resource generation sub-function

• Consider re-naming the function itself
• Sub-functions: health workforce, physical resources (pharmaceuticals, equipment, infrastructure), information system, social resources
• Sub-sub functions/detailed sub-functions: availability, appropriate mix, planning & sustainability, continuing education

Next steps:
• Research/literature on social resources?
• Thorough sub-function check against criteria
• Qualitative information pieces + quantitative indicators
Intermediate results? (right side of the performance chain)

• Accountability
• Coverage
• Integrated care?
• Financial protection
Ensuring the policy link

• (Perceived) independence of those conducting the HS(P)A
• Champions/role models
• HSPA not enough to put priorities on political agenda
  • HSPA report in parliamentary session
  • Release HSPA results to public
  • Media
  • Ensure buy-in/involvement of politicians and policy-makers (MoH driving force in some countries)
Overall to-dos

• Background paper on function/sub-function criteria
• Alignment/coordination with UHC Monitoring, Global Action Plan on SDGs, various function-specific deep dive tools
• Building blocks to functions: more clarity in the taxonomy matrix specifically on this link
• Social resource as a new sub-function: some research?
• Continue work on sub-functions in sub-groups
• Prepare discussions on quantitative indicators and qualitative information sources
• Prepare discussions on intermediate and final goals
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