



HEALTH SECTOR REFORM: OVERVIEW AND RELEVANCE TO IRAQ AND KRG

Leadership role of MOH

Health Sector Reform: Definition and Scope



- It is a **Planned Policy Change**
- It is concerned with defining **priorities,** **refining policies, and reforming the** **institutions** through which those policies are implemented



Health Sector Reform: Definition and Scope

- Primarily Organizational and Structural Reform that supports and complements on-going Programmatic Reforms
- Based on **evidence** from the analysis of health system functions and performance



The Form of Health Sector Reform

- Health Sector Reform is as much a **Political reform** as it is Technical
- **Players, position, power, perception**



Objectives of health reforms

- To improve **access to quality** services
- To increase **equity** and **efficiency**
- To adapt services to new changes and challenges (**transitions**)
- To secure **sustainability** in HC financing



Health Sector Reform:

- Rationale
- Epidemiological & demographic **transitions**
- **Low life expectancy at birth**
- **Inefficient** use of scarce resources in terms of allocation as well as production of health services
- **Unfair distribution** of resources within the health sector - Equity concerns



Health Sector Reform:

...contd.

Rationale

- Growing role of the **private sector** - financing, provision
- Weak **regulation** by MOH
- Weak **decentralization** of service provision
- **Escalating** costs of health care
- Increased population **expectations**



Evidence Base for Health Sector Reform

- **Burden of Disease analysis**
- **National Health Accounts**
- **Cost and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis**
- **Human Resource Development Projections**
- ***Political Mapping & stake holder analysis***
- **Health System Function Assessment**



Health Sector Reform: Agenda

- Areas of Reform
 - Strengthening **governance** function of MOH
 - Health services **decentralization** including hospital autonomy
 - **Financing** of health care (improving equity & coverage by social health protection)
 - Private sector **regulation**
 - Public private **partnership**
 - Human resource **development**
- Areas of HSR are closely **interrelated** and are unlikely to be implemented in isolation



Questions that Ministries of Health are Asking

- How best to achieve **universal** and **equitable** health coverage?
- How to **assess** and **improve** equity in the financing and provision of health services?
- How best and to what extent should health services be **decentralized**?
- What are the various **models** of **public private partnership for efficient** delivery of health services?



Questions that Ministries of Health in EMR are Asking

- How to **regulate the private sector**. Can self-regulation work?
- How to assess and improve the **quality of care** in the public and private sector?
- What are the **costs and benefits** of producing various cadres of health workers – what numbers and skills?
- What are the **optimal payment methods** for providers under health insurance schemes?



Implementing Health Sector Reform

- **Design** evidence based reforms through policy analysis and operational research studies
- **Social marketing** of the reform for **consensus** among stakeholders (political mapping - reduce resistance, strengthen alliances)
- **Preparation** for implementation (legal support, capacity building, institutional development, logistical support)
- **Monitor implementation** – role for regional and national observatories



Role of MOH

- **Generating evidence and rationale for policy changes:**
 - data collection & analysis including trend analysis
 - improving use of all sources of data
 - transforming data into evidence
 - desk review (HSR in similar countries)



Role of MOH

- **Designing the reform agenda:**
 - identifying evidence based priorities
 - assessing reform feasibility (resource availability, sustainability)
- **Making case for policy changes :**
 - advocacy inside the health sector
 - social marketing of the reform (with other sectors inside the cabinet and with major partners) : **seeking political commitment**



Role of MOH

- communication (important role of the media)
- building consensus & defusing resistance
- **Preparing for implementation:**
 - identifying the major actors
 - strengthening institutional set up (at national & sub national levels)
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Role of MOH

- capacity development to prepare for implementation
- establishing the national steering committee
- **Implementation of the reform:**
 - logistical arrangements
- **Monitoring & evaluation of the reform:**
 - benchmarking achievements
 - lessons learnt & need for adjustments



Conclusions

- **Evidence based reforms** are most likely to succeed
- Pivotal role of **capacity building in owning and using analytical tools**
- Importance of **institutional development & strengthening** (health policy units)
- **Balanced HSR agenda** instead of focusing on one issue
- **Social marketing** of reforms critical - political
- Monitoring & evaluation during implementation



Thank you for your
attention!!