Access to Health – a global, regional and local agenda

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We are all in this together….

- Today's world is complex and inter-connected - people everywhere today expect greater choice, higher standards and better health and well-being

- Globalization is resulting in lifestyle choices, product availability and consumption patterns that impact negatively on health, especially the incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases

- Pathogens, Vectors and Pollution do not respect frontiers and boundaries – the wind blows, water flows, mosquitos fly and people travel - we ignore these realities at our peril

- Climate change will affect us all

- No country can solve its problems alone in our inter-connected world

The Global Goal is
Universal Health Coverage

The goal of universal health coverage is to ensure that all people obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship when paying for them.

This requires:

- a strong, efficient, well-run health system;

- a system for financing health services;

- access to essential medicines and technologies;

- a sufficient capacity of well-trained, motivated health workers.

"I regard universal health coverage as the single most powerful concept that public health has to offer. It is inclusive. It unifies services and delivers them in a comprehensive and integrated way, based on primary health care."

Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General

Have we been here before?

The European Vision: Health 2020

"To significantly improve the health and well-being of populations, reduce health inequalities, strengthen public health and ensure people-centred health systems that are universal, equitable, sustainable and of high quality"

4 priorities for Health 2020

1. invest in health through a life-course approach and empower citizens,

2. tackle Europe's major disease burdens of non-communicable and communicable diseases;

3. strengthen people-centred health systems and public health capacity, including preparedness and response capacity for dealing with emergencies; and

4. create supportive environments and resilient communities.

These are not isolated areas of action but are frequently interdependent and mutually supportive. Addressing them requires combining governance approaches – hierarchical, dispersed and participatory – to make health and well-being possible for everyone.

WHO's core roles

- Providing technical assistance as requested by Member States for their planning and policy development, assessment of opportunities for health system strengthening and in strategizing innovative approaches to strengthen the delivery of services; and

- Generating evidence-informed policy options by facilitating a common dialogue between Member States, academia and international partners to compliment technical literature with the first-hand experiences of countries in transforming the provision of care.

Health System Strengthening

Ask these questions before you begin:

- Does the health system rationally, equitably and efficiently address the nation's burden of disease?

- Is it ready to meet predictable demographic and epidemiological change over time?

The analysis must focus on the health service delivery model – this is what makes the difference in health outcomes - what is supposed to happen in public health programmes, facility based services and community based services? How they are organised.

Include the nutrition, environmental health, water supply and sanitation components of health systems, and how the system engages with other sectors to address the wider cultural, social and economic determinants of health.

Resource constrained systems must be prepared to prioritise on the basis of the available evidence for effectiveness and efficiency, and ensure that political support reflects that prioritisation.

The WHO health systems framework – lining up to support and sustain heath service delivery to produce better health outcomes
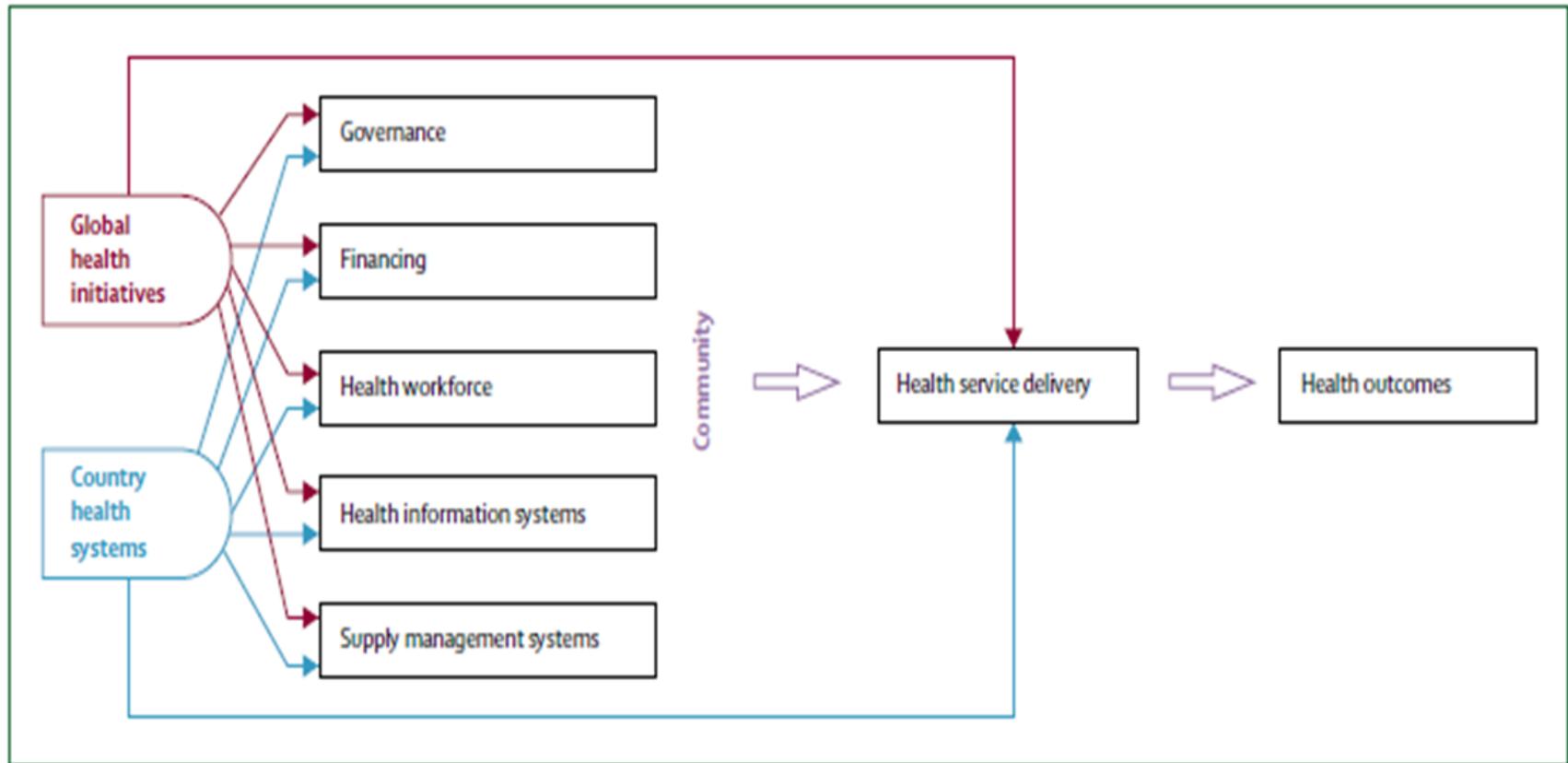

Figure 1: Conceptual framework of the interaction between global health initiatives and country health systems

Some Challenges

- Restricted public sector budgets

- Fragmentation

- Dynamic reform programmes - forever changes?

- Deteriorating services

- Rise of the private sector in healthcare, often poorly regulated

Small countries face special challenges - implementing Health 2020 in countries with small populations

A WHO regional initiative involving Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro and San Marino. By participating in the project, countries will have the opportunity to:

• share Health 2020 implementation-related knowledge, processes and promising practices;

• strengthen technical capacity in countries in accelerating the implementation of innovative Health 2020 approaches such as whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, documenting their outcomes and process of adoption;

• receive, if needed, dedicated technical assistance on Health 2020 implementation; and

• contribute to fill the gap in the European policy-making literature in health policy development in the contexts of small countries.

Another way of presenting comparative health systems analysis – the World Health Report 2000 in song

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVgOl3cETb4

thank you

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