



# Healthcare System in Saudi Arabia

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## Objectives of this lecture

- Understand the organizational structure of the MOH
- Differentiate between health policies (Macro- vs. Micro-policy)
- Distinguish between policies, procedures and guidelines
- list the most important vision 2030 healthcare transformation initiatives



**In Saudi Arabia, Healthcare is  
Governed by the Ministry of  
Health (MOH)**

# History of MOH



- **1925 (1343H):** Public Health Department, in Makkah
- **1925 (1344):** Public Health and Ambulance Services
- **1950 (1370):** *Ministry of Health established by a royal decree from King Abdul Aziz*



# MOH Mission



- Provision of healthcare at all levels
- Promotion of general health and prevention of disease
- Developing laws and legislations regulating both governmental and private health sectors
- Monitoring performance in health institutions
- Monitoring research activity and academic training in field of health

# MOH Milestones in Prevention and Control



- **1950:** ARAMCO collaborated with WHO to MOH control malaria in Eastern region
- **1978:** The country adopted concept of Primary Health Care
- **1983:** Primary healthcare was implemented in healthcare system
- **1997:** Successful immunization program where 90% of children were immunized



# What is a Healthcare System

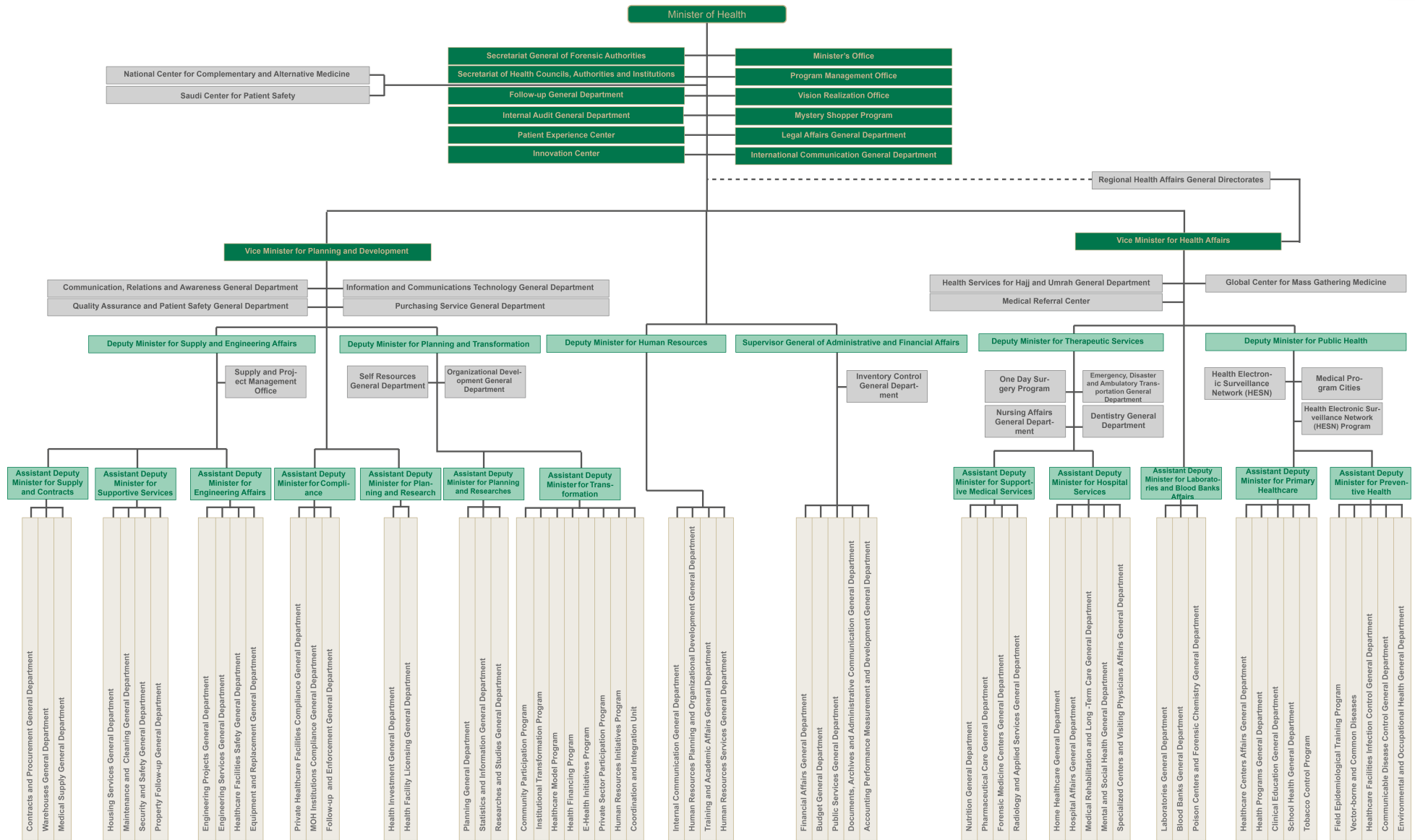
- “a system which ‘exists and evolves to serve societal needs’—with ‘components’ that ‘... can be utilized as policy instruments to alter the outcomes”



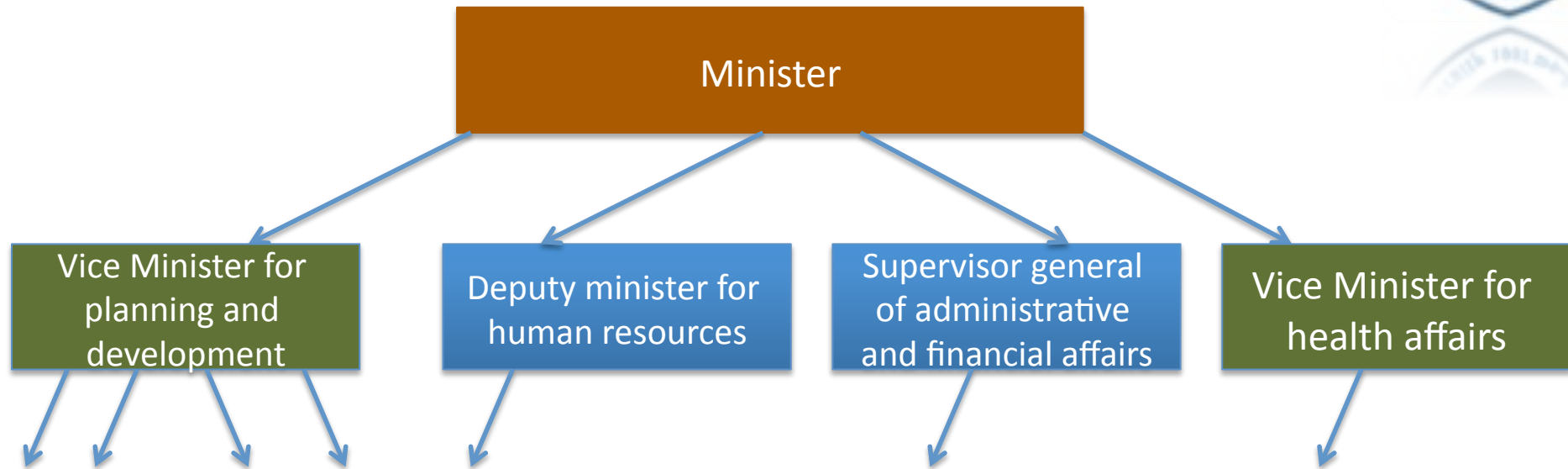
# Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Health

As of: March, 2018

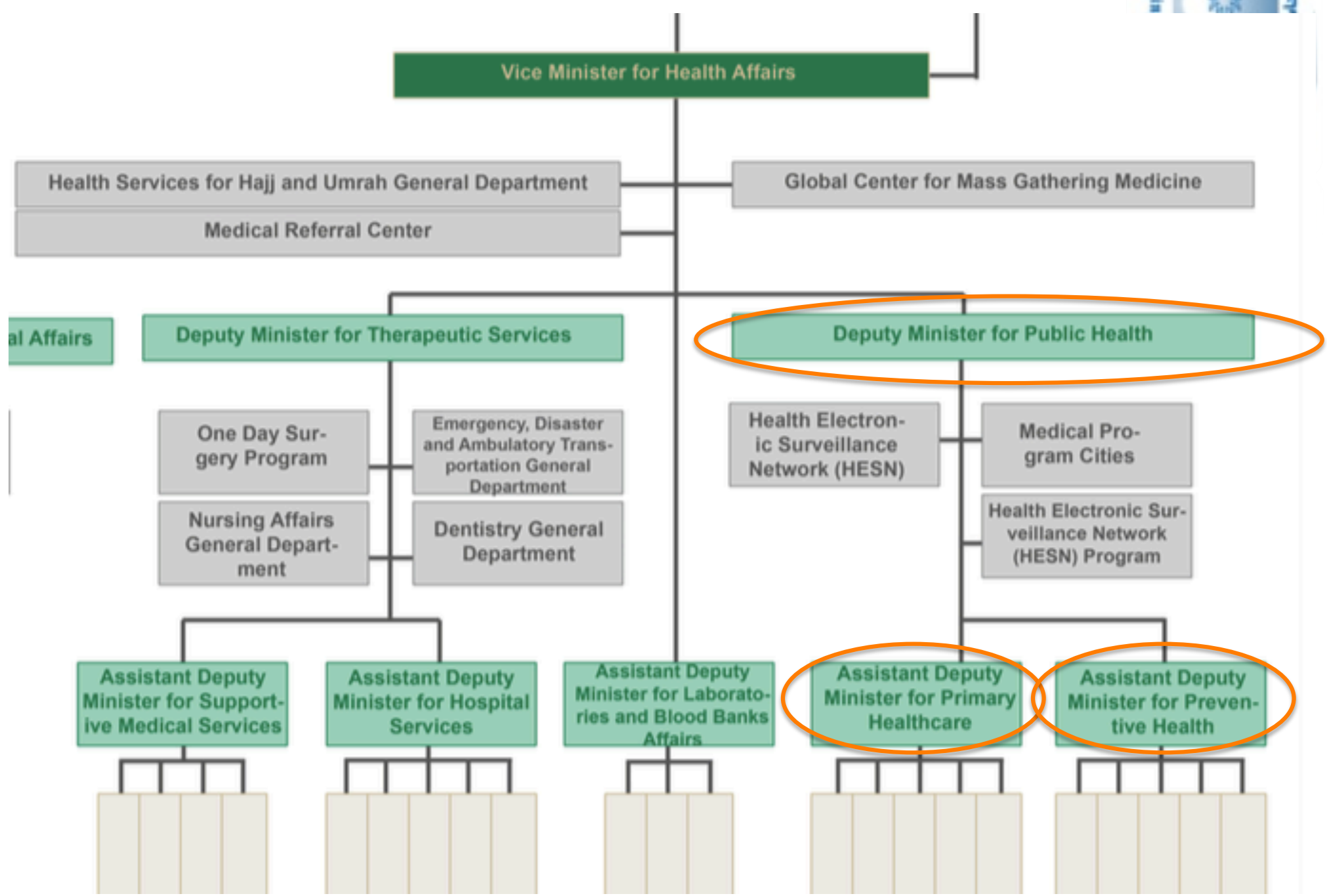
# MOH Interim Organizational Structure

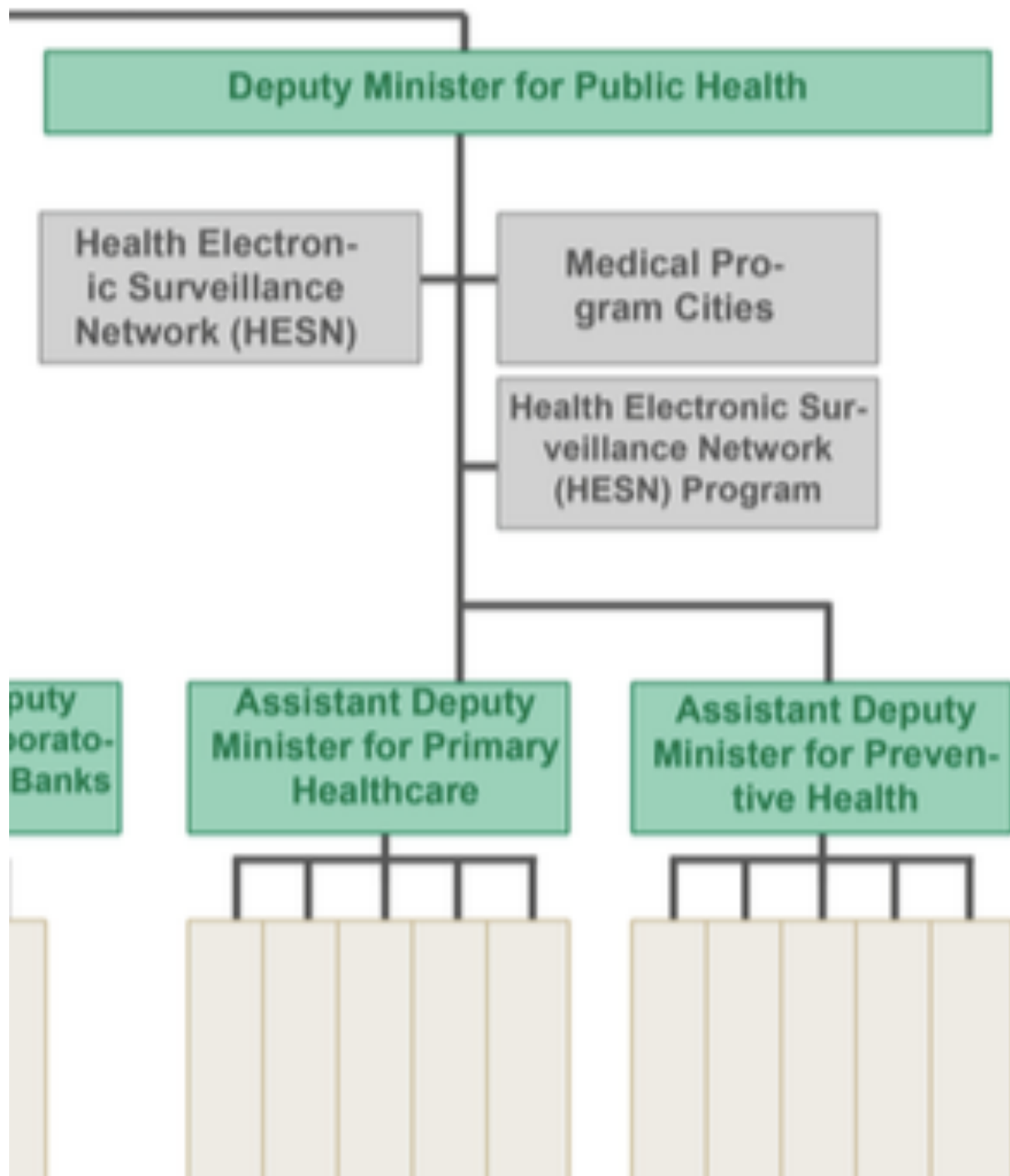


Minister of Health  
Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah



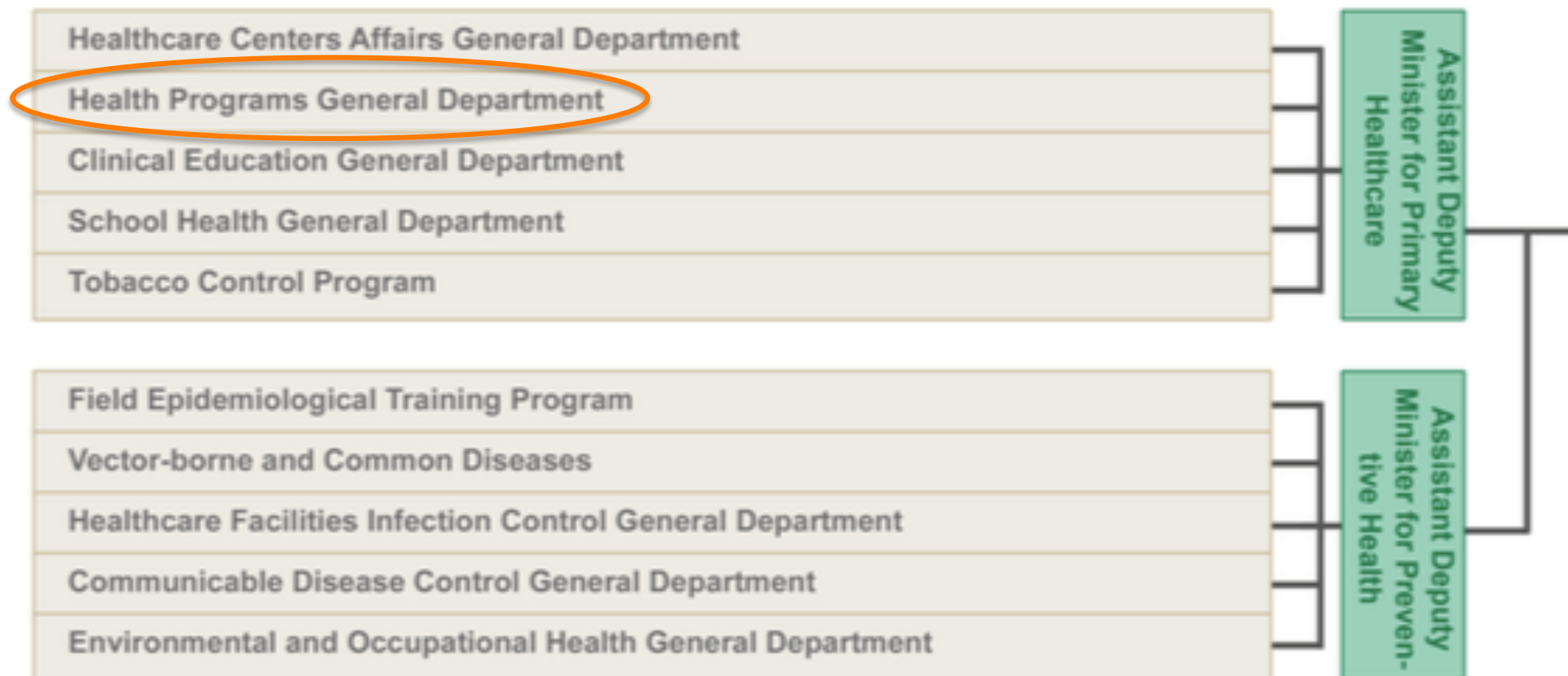
# Organizational Structure of MOH







# Under Deputy Minister of Public Health



# Health Programs General Department (Non-communicable Diseases Health Programs)



In 2003, the MOH created the Non-communicable Diseases  
General Department

Its purpose was to implement policies to combat and prevent  
non-communicable diseases

The name was later changed to the “Health Programs and  
Chronic Diseases”

Source: <https://www.moh.gov.sa/endepts/Non-Communicable/Pages/Definition.aspx>

# Health Programs General Department (Non-communicable Diseases Health Programs)



- Obesity control program
- Diabetes prevention
- Healthy marriage
- National newborn screening program
- Cancer prevention
- Diet and physical activity program
- Health crown preventative program
- CVD prevention
- Injury and accident prevention
- Osteoporosis prevention
- Asthma prevention
- Prevention of blindness



# Ministry Directorates

- Healthcare is operated in each region under the directorate of that region
  - 20 regions => 20 directorates



# Macro-policies and Micro-policies



# Macro Health Policy

- Broad and expansive health policies that are developed at the national level
- Affect a large portion of the population
- Define the country's vision priorities, budgetary decisions, course of action to sustain health
- Developed based on population-health needs
- e.g. MOH policies; vision 2030 health initiatives

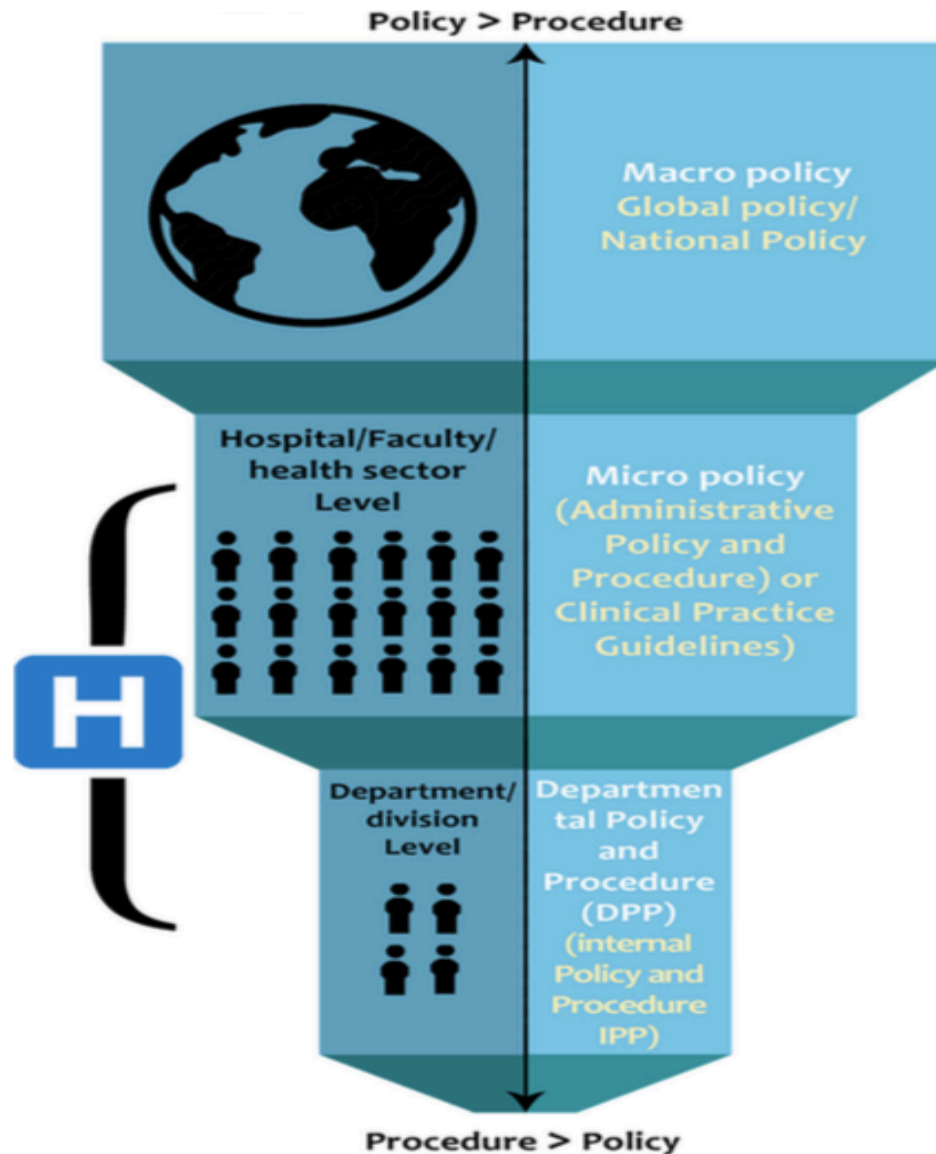


# Micro Health Policy

- More specific to an organization , examples:
  - Hospital administrative policy and procedures (APP)
  - Departmental/Internal policy and procedures (DPP/IPP)
  - Clinical practice guidelines
- Based on the operational needs of the facility; differ by organization (from hospital to another)
- Policies that apply to:
  - employees; operations; ethics; safety; research



# Macro- vs. Micro- Policy



MOH



Hospital  
(e.g. KKUH)



Department





## Inter-relationship between micro- and macro- policies

- Micro-policies at organizations are developed in line with macro-policies put in place by the MOH
- The development and implementation of such policies require a multi-disciplinary approach
  - e.g. many ministries work together on development of some macro-policies; MOH + MOCS + MOD + MOE...
  - Different departments of the hospital collaborate for putting in place micro-policies



**Policies**  
**Procedures**  
**Guidelines**

**What's the difference?**

# Policy, Procedures and Guidelines



- **Health Policy:**

- *A set of rules that describe what will and will not be done in terms of healthcare; can range from broad philosophies to specific regulations.\**
- It includes:
  - What the role is?
  - When will it apply?
  - Who does it cover?

Source: Alkhamis AA. Framing health policy in the context of Saudi Arabia. J Infect Public Health 2016; 9: 3-6.



# Policy, Procedures and Guidelines

- **Health Procedure:**
  - *steps that describe methods and instructions on how to carry out a relevant policy, accomplish a particular goal, perform a function or carry out an activity or process.*
- i.e. steps on how to implement your **policy**

Source: Alkhamis AA. Framing health policy in the context of Saudi Arabia. J Infect Public Health 2016; 9: 3-6.



## Policy, Procedures and Guidelines

- **Health or Clinical Guideline:**
  - “Systematically developed statements to assist practitioners in making patient decisions about appropriate healthcare for specific circumstances”
- These provide clear evidence-based recommendations to influence physicians’ (or clinicians’) decision making

Source: Alkhamis AA. Framing health policy in the context of Saudi Arabia. J Infect Public Health 2016; 9: 3-6.



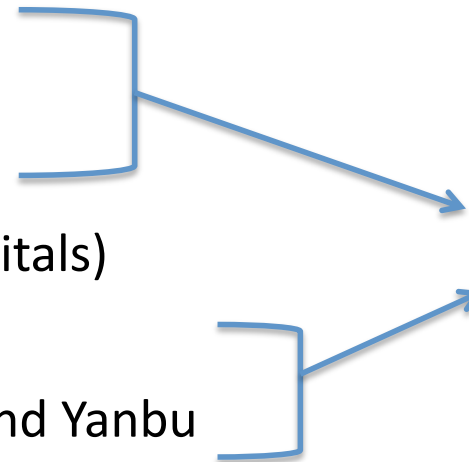
# **Governmental Health Sector vs. Private Sector**



# Provision and Financing of Healthcare

- Prior to 2016, almost **60%** of the healthcare provision was provided by MOH and free
- **Other Government** bodies include:

- Referral hospital (KFSHRC)
- Security Forces
- Army Forces
- National Guard
- MOE hospitals (teaching hospitals)
- ARAMCO hospitals
- Royal commission for Jubail and Yanbu
- School health units
- Red Crescent Society



Provide services for defined populations  
***(employees and dependants)***

# Healthcare Delivery Structure in 2011

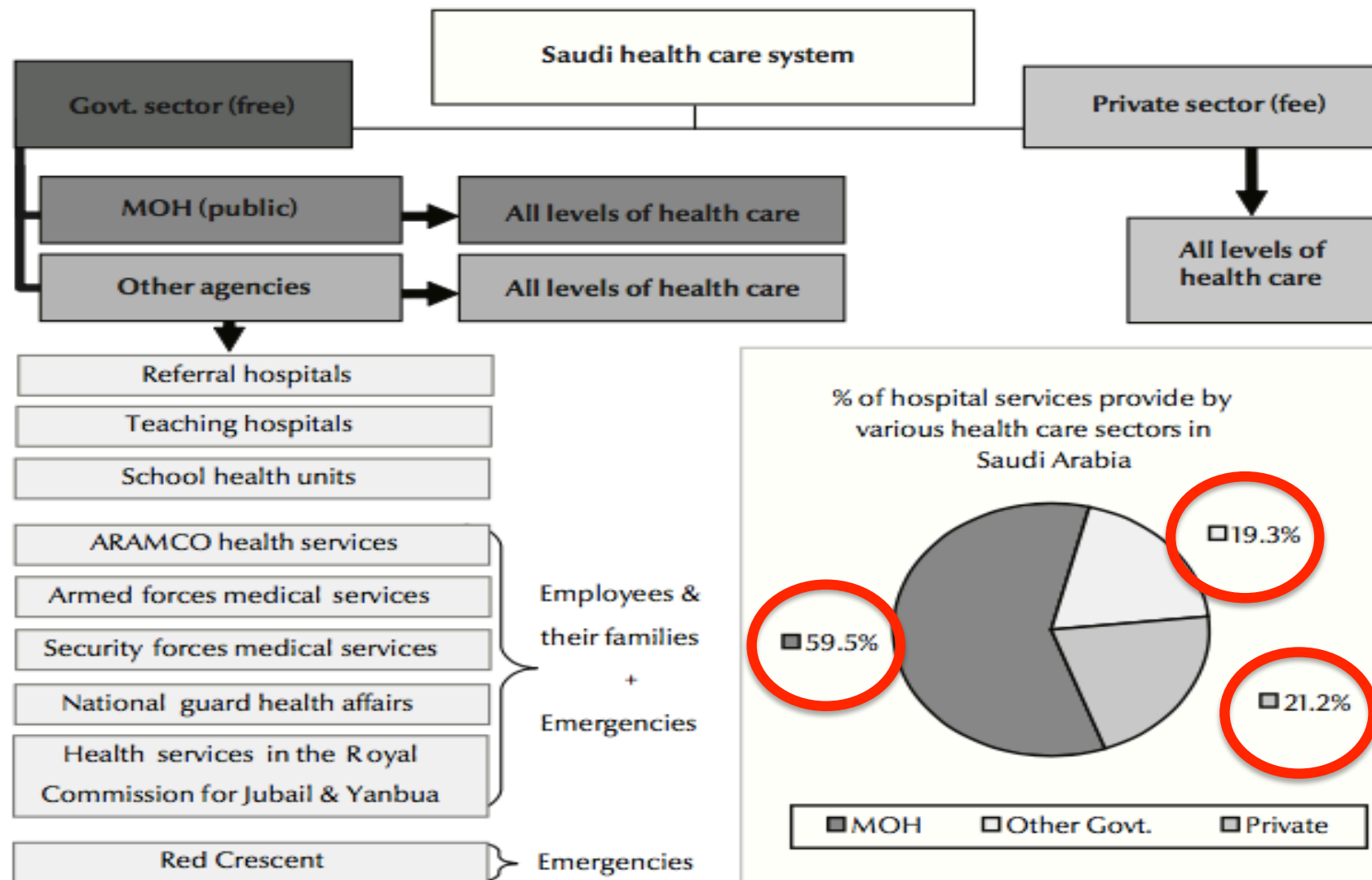


Figure 1 Current structure of the health care sectors in Saudi Arabia (MOH = Ministry of Health). Source of data: [4]

Source: Almalki M, Fitzgerald G, Clark M. Healthcare system in Saudi Arabia an overview. East Mediterr Health J 2011; 17(10): 784-793



# National Transformation Program

## برنامج التحول الوطني

### NTP 2020



- After drop in oil prices and rapid medical development
- Each public health institution should improve their performance by gradual partnership with a private entity (Public-private partnership PPT)
- MOH initiated 15 key performance indicators to meet this objective



# **Vision 2030 and the Transformation in Healthcare**

# Vision 2030 Healthcare Initiatives: Why?



- The Saudi population is rapidly growing with a demographic shift
- Available free healthcare services cannot meet the growing population of Saudi nationals
- Between 2015 and 2016 -> significant drop in MOH governmental funding; free governmental hospital care was no longer available for private sector workers

# Major Components of Healthcare Transformation of Vision 2030



- Privatization of the healthcare system
- Redrafting a method for financing such a system

In order to establish a sustainable healthcare system that meets the population needs

# Whose Responsible for Directing this Transformation?



- The **Vision Realization Office** (VRO) at the MOH
- VRO objectives are:
  - Achieve objectives of NTP 2020 and vision 2030
  - Monitor transformation activities (initiatives and tasks)
  - Creating a motivating and productive work environment
  - To make sure their objectives and activities are in allign with the vision 2030 objectives of other governmental sectors (*multi-disciplinary approach*)



# Recent MOH Achievements

- **PHC**: new 80 PHC opened -> total 2,390 (*compare to 2,037 in 2011*)
- Launching of the **Demographic and Health Survey** (a database for 50,000 family's health status)
- **Education health campaigns**: interaction with more than 3 million people
- **Total hospitals**: 279 (*compare to 244 in 2011*)



# References



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