



Global Health Programs & Policies

Objectives:

- Define a health policy
- Understand why health policies and needed
- Differentiate between health policies (Macro- vs. Micro-policy)
- Provide examples for micro- vs. macro- policies
- Distinguish between policies, standard, strategy, program, procedures and guidelines
- Enumerate the factors needed to assess when formulating a health policy

Done by:

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Important | Extra | Notes

[Editing file](#)

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”

what is a Health Policy

Decisions, plans and actions that are undertaken to achieve specific health care goals within a society.”

“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.”

Factors that affect health policy decision making

- Economic factors
- Cultural/religious factors (e.g.HPV vaccine; in the west they vaccinate teenagers due to their sexual activity at a young age)
 - Behavioral factors
 - Physical environment
 - Availability of medical services (technology advances)
- Epidemiological structure (disease distribution and disease prevention priorities)
- Public health evidence
- **Political situation** networking and connections to get to the policymakers or influencers

Macro Health Policy

- Broad and expansive health policies that are developed at the national level
- Affect a large portion of the population (region or country)
- 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**

Level of country, region, or even the world

Micro Health Policy

More specific to level of organization or individuals, 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

like policy for dealing with discharge against medical advice; each hospital has their own policies. clinical guidelines: stroke management in the ER

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

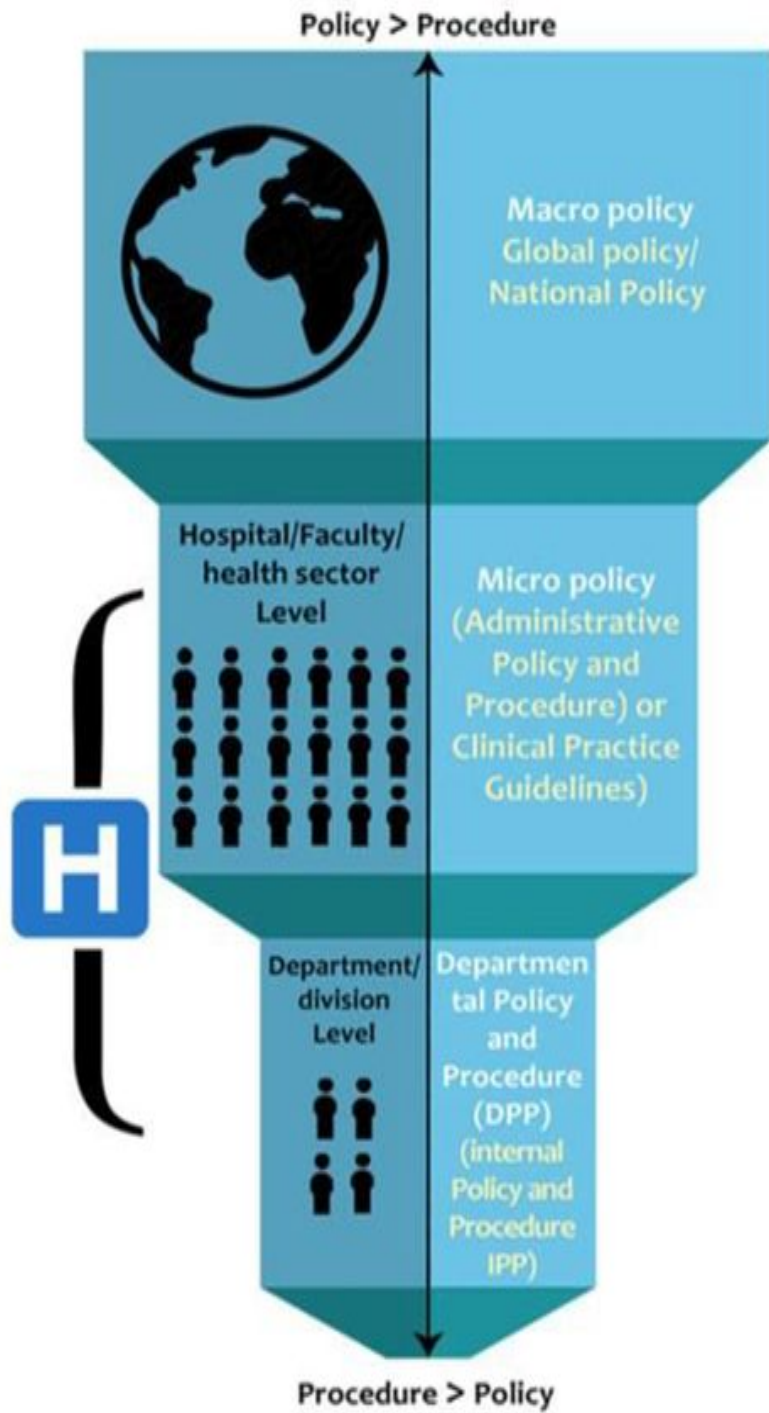
MOH



Hospital (e.g. KKUH)



Department



What is the usefulness of health policies?

- Defines a vision for the future
 - Helps to establish targets
 - Outlines priorities
 - Points of reference for the short and medium term.
 - Shows the expected roles of different groups
 - Builds consensus
 - Informs people
- Ex. التحول الوطني الصحي
Help the country reach its visions and goals

Pathway for policy development

Policy should be driven by evidence

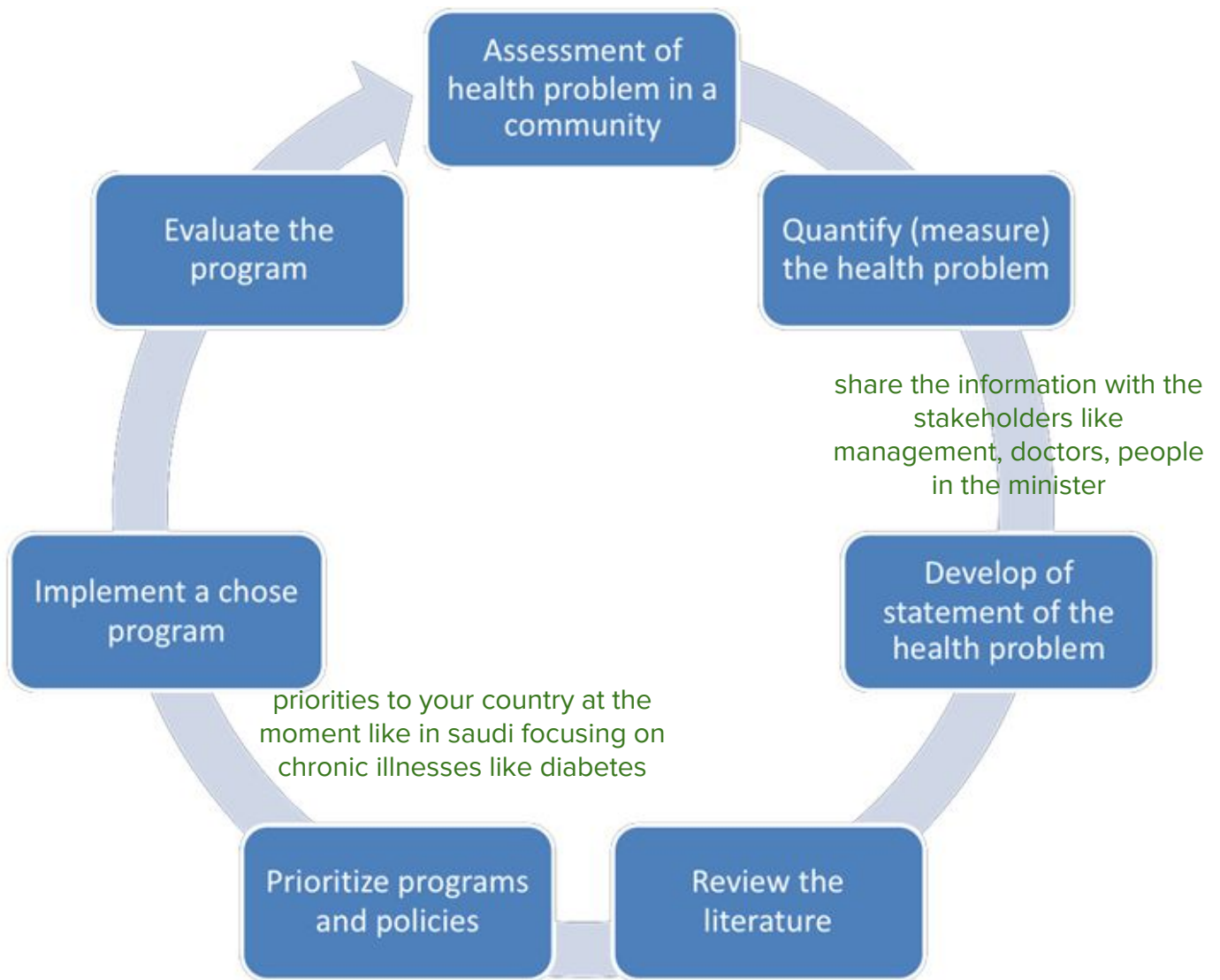
Many factors may challenge the adoption of a policy:

- **Ideological** People who make the policy
- **Political** Like the minister or people who are influential to him
- **Economic**

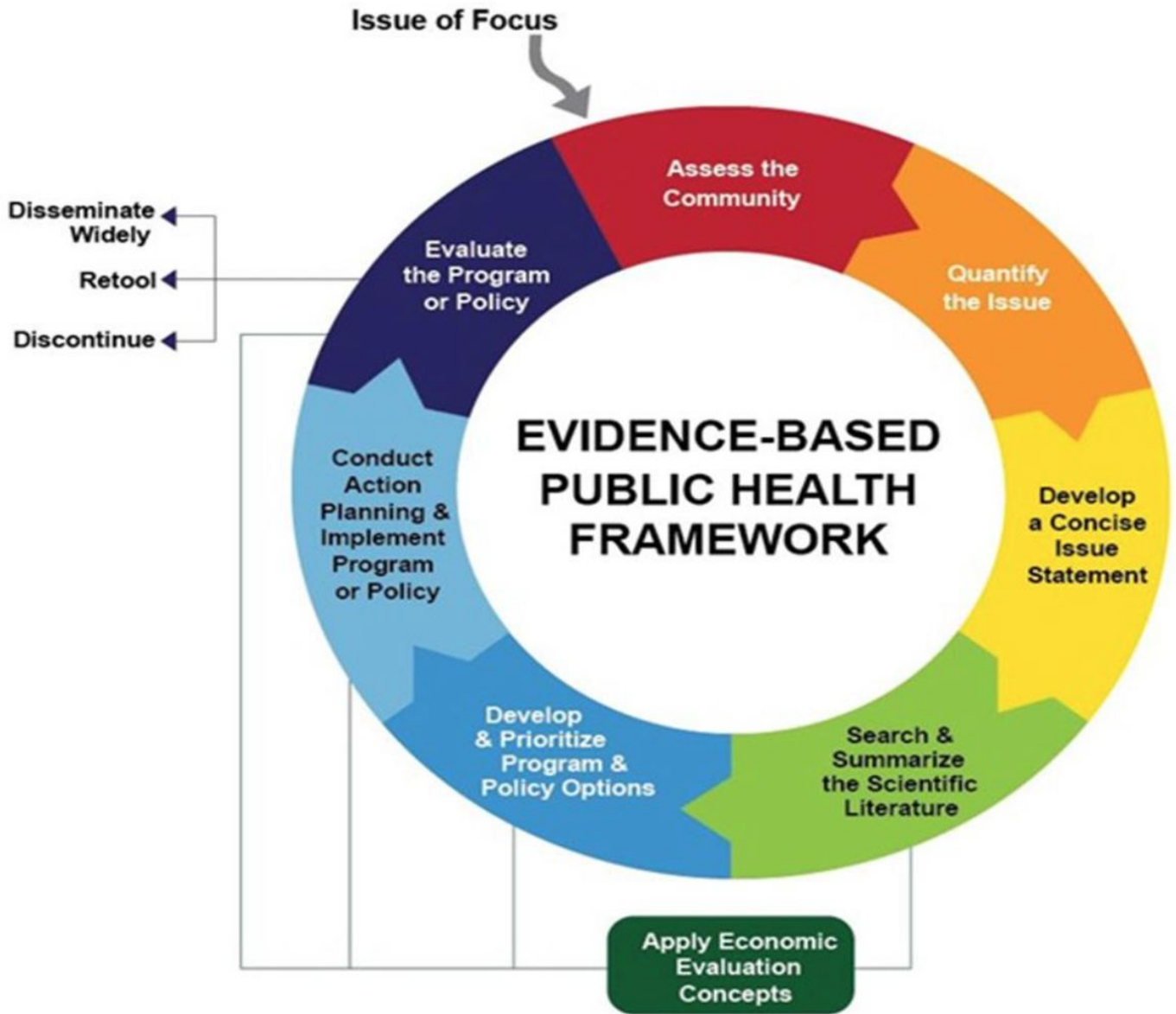
Most of all, adoption of policy is largely driven by the beliefs of the **policymakers** more so than the strength of the evidence itself

Policymakers are the ones you want to target

Pathway for policy development



it doesn't stop it's a vicious cycle because the country will keep changing and having new goals



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?
micro-policy

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**

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

Summary (from doctor’s slides)

Health policies are a set of regulations that are followed to achieve health goals

- They can be micro- or macro- policies
- They are influenced by many factors, but the major driving factor is beliefs of the policymakers
- Convincing the policymakers about the usefulness of a new policy is key for implementation of that policy
- There is a long process from inception of the policy idea to implementation

Summary

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MOH (macro policy) > Hospital (micro policy) > Department (Departmental policy)

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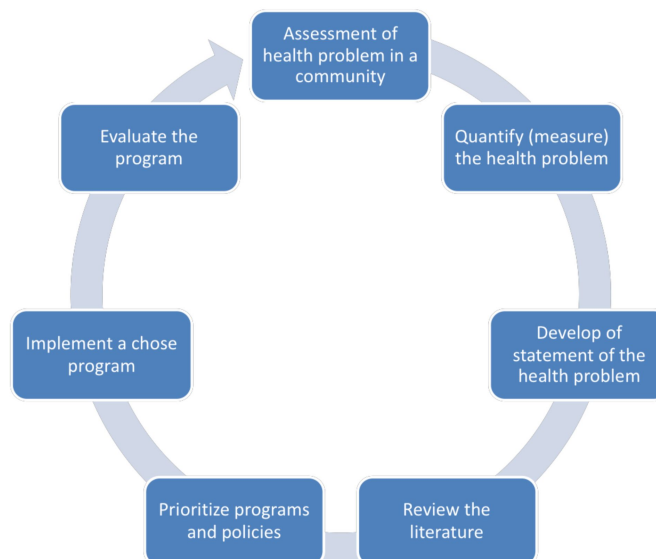
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Q: What is the greatest challenge to global health?

A: Accessibility to health information

Q: What is the scope of global Health ?

A: Sharing health problems and solutions worldwide

To which Ministry of health departments In KSA does the healthy marriage program belong?

General department for preventive health.

Good luck!

