



Saudi Arabia Health Systems

Objectives:

- Define what is a health system
- To enumerate the components of the health system
- Understand the role of each component
- To identify the strengths and weaknesses of Saudi health system
- Be familiar with the current transition in the health system

Done by:

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Important | Extra | Notes

[Editing file](#)

- **In Saudi Arabia, Healthcare is Governed by the Ministry of Health (MOH).**
 - What is important for you to know: MOH history.
- **History of MOH:**
 - **1925 (1343H):** Public Health Department, in Makkah (No government by that time).
 - **1925 (1344):** Public Health and Ambulance Services.
 - **1950 (1370):** Ministry of Health established by a royal decree from King Abdulaziz.
- **MOH Mission:**
 1. Provision of healthcare at all levels.
 - This is the old vision, but now the vision has changed. The MOH won't be the provider, it will limit the provision of healthcare & act as regulators. Also, the health care will be provided by other sectors.
 2. Promotion of general health and prevention of disease.
 3. Developing laws and legislations regulating both governmental and private health sectors.
 4. Monitoring performance in health institutions.
 5. Monitoring research activity and academic training in field of health (continued now).
- **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. why now? Because the concept of health care has risen globally at that time including WHO. The main goal was to work on primary prevention that supports the practice of primary health care.
 - **1983:** Primary health care was implemented into healthcare system.
 - **1997:** Successful immunization program where 90% of children were immunized. The country was trying vigorously to control infectious diseases that can be prevented by immunization. This results in significant reduction in the prevalence of polio, measles & mumps.
- **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.
 - A health system is the total of all the organizations, institutions and resources whose primary purpose is to improve health.

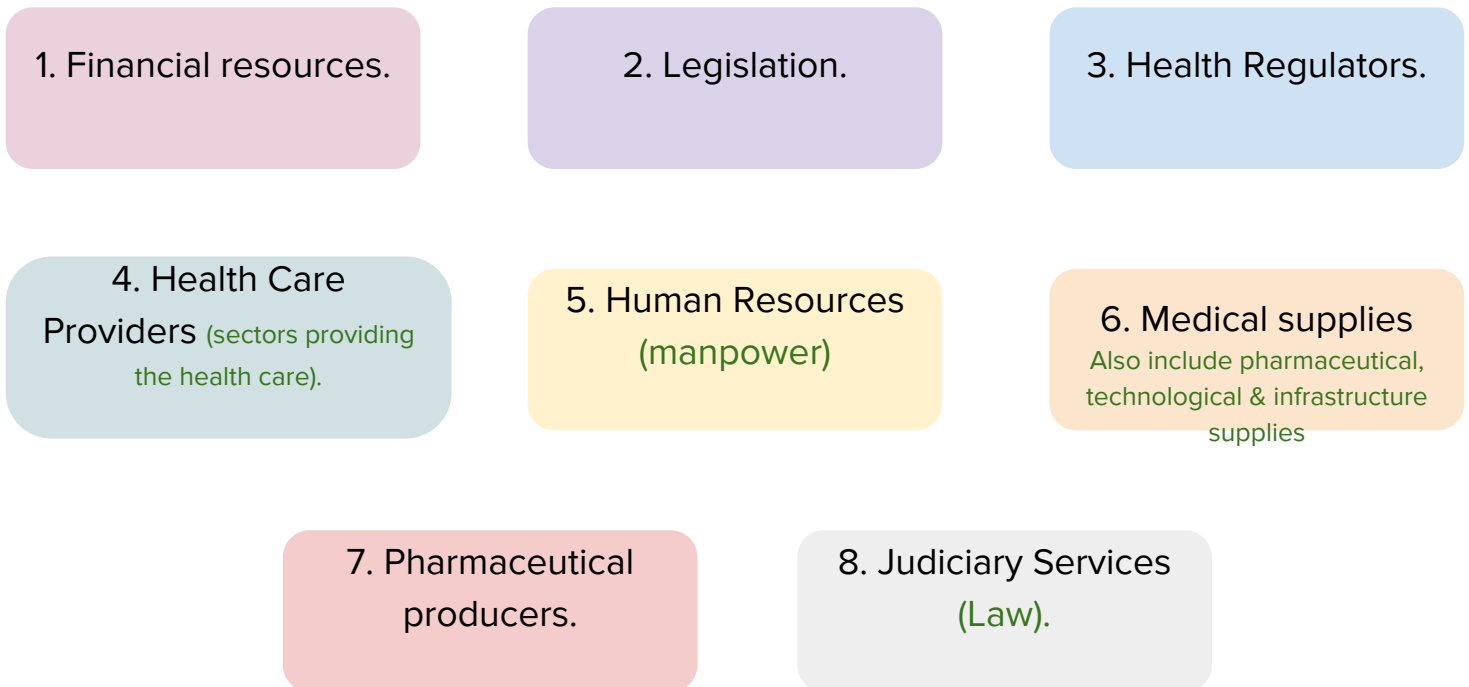
- **What does Healthcare System Need?**

1. Information.
2. Staff.
3. Funding.
4. Communication.
5. Supplies/technology (as for the tech, by providing people who are informed on how to use it).
6. Transport.
7. Guidance and direction provided by policies & expertise.

- **As Per WHO Health Systems should provide Services that are:**

1. Affordable.
2. Responsive to the community (the health system should deal w/ urgent conditions promptly; e.g. pts wait in the ER for hours with no care provided. Waiting for months to get specialized health care).
3. That treat people decently. all people have access to the health system.

- **Components of a health system:**



- **Financial resources:**

1. The government.
2. Out of pocket services (Private).
3. Charity.
4. Donation شخص يتكفل بعلاج شخص ثاني

- **Health regulators:**

- The National Health Council. المجلس الوطني الصحي
- Ministry of health.
- The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties. Regulates medical practice of physicians.
- Council of Co-operative Health Insurance.
- The Saudi Food and Drug Authority. Regulates pharmaceutical aspects.
- International health regulators. E.g. WHO & CDC.

- **Healthcare providers:**

- Governmental:
 - MOH.
 - Other ministries (MOE, MOD...etc).
- Non-governmental (private).

- **Provision and Financing of Healthcare:**

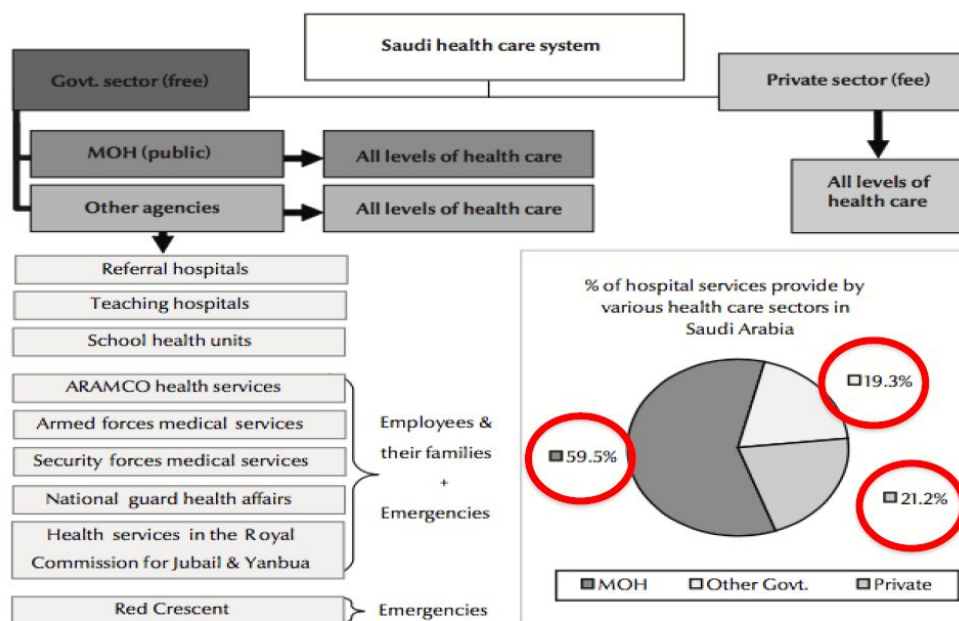
- **Prior to 2016**, almost 60% of the healthcare provision was provided by **MOH** and free.
- Other Government bodies include (remaining 40% provided by).
- They are under the guidance & direction of MOH but the funding is not from the MOH.
 - Referral hospital (KFSHRC).
 - Security Forces*:
 - Army Forces*
 - National Guard*
 - MOE hospitals (university teaching hospitals)

- **Legislation:**

- Executive bodies:
 - The King.
 - The Council of Ministers.
- Judicial body:
 - The Saudi court.
- Legislative body:
 - Shariah.
- all these factor will control how the health system runs.

*Provide services for defined populations (employees and dependants)

- **Healthcare Delivery Structure in 2011:**
- **التحول الوطني الصحي is responsible for reforming the healthcare system in KSA.**



- **Human resources:**

- Current manpower in Saudi Arabia Health System: 282 hospitals under the ministry of health. (only hospitals of MOH WITHOUT other governmental hospitals).
- Why the staff count is important? Because we have global benchmarks for countries to have a good health system to have a staff to population ratio. Until now, we have not reached the global ratios.
- We are underserved in physicians, dentists, pharmacists.
- We are underserved particularly in public health professionals.

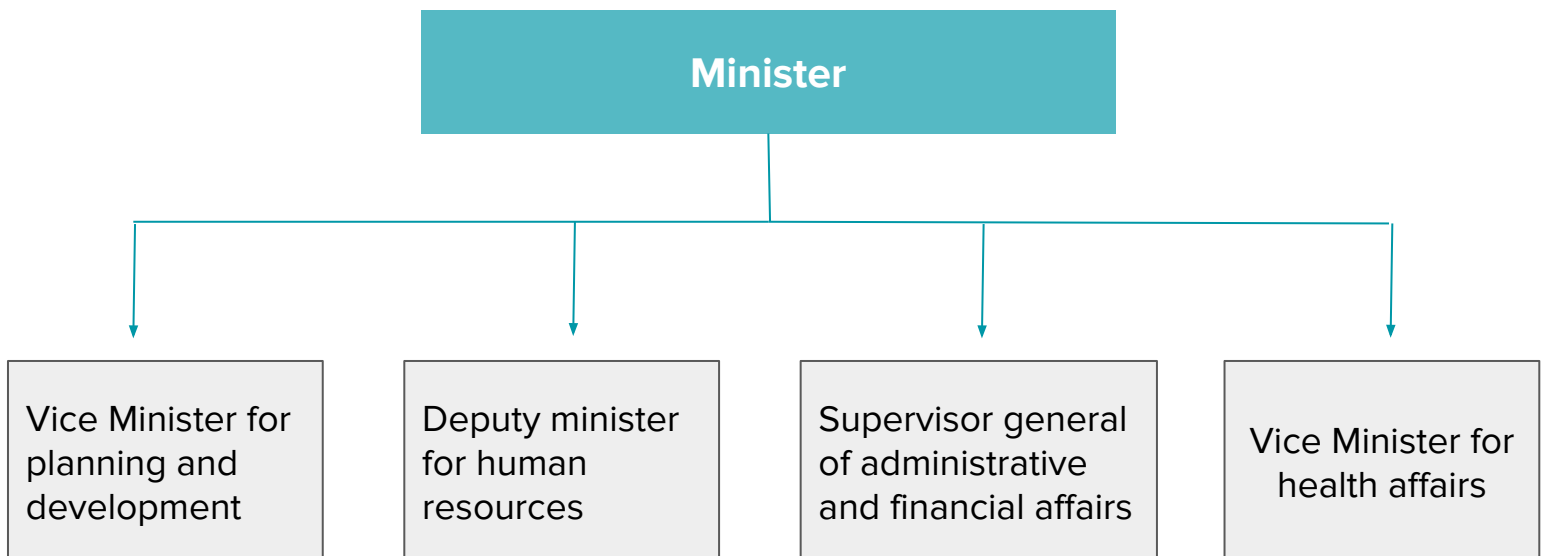
Staff to population ratios:

Staff	Count	Ratio (No. per 100,000 population)
Physicians (including dentists)	89,675	13.5
Dentists only	13,935	1.13
Pharmacists	25,119	1.1
Nurses including midwives	180,821	31.9
Allied health personnel	107,323	18.1

- **Health Regulators:**

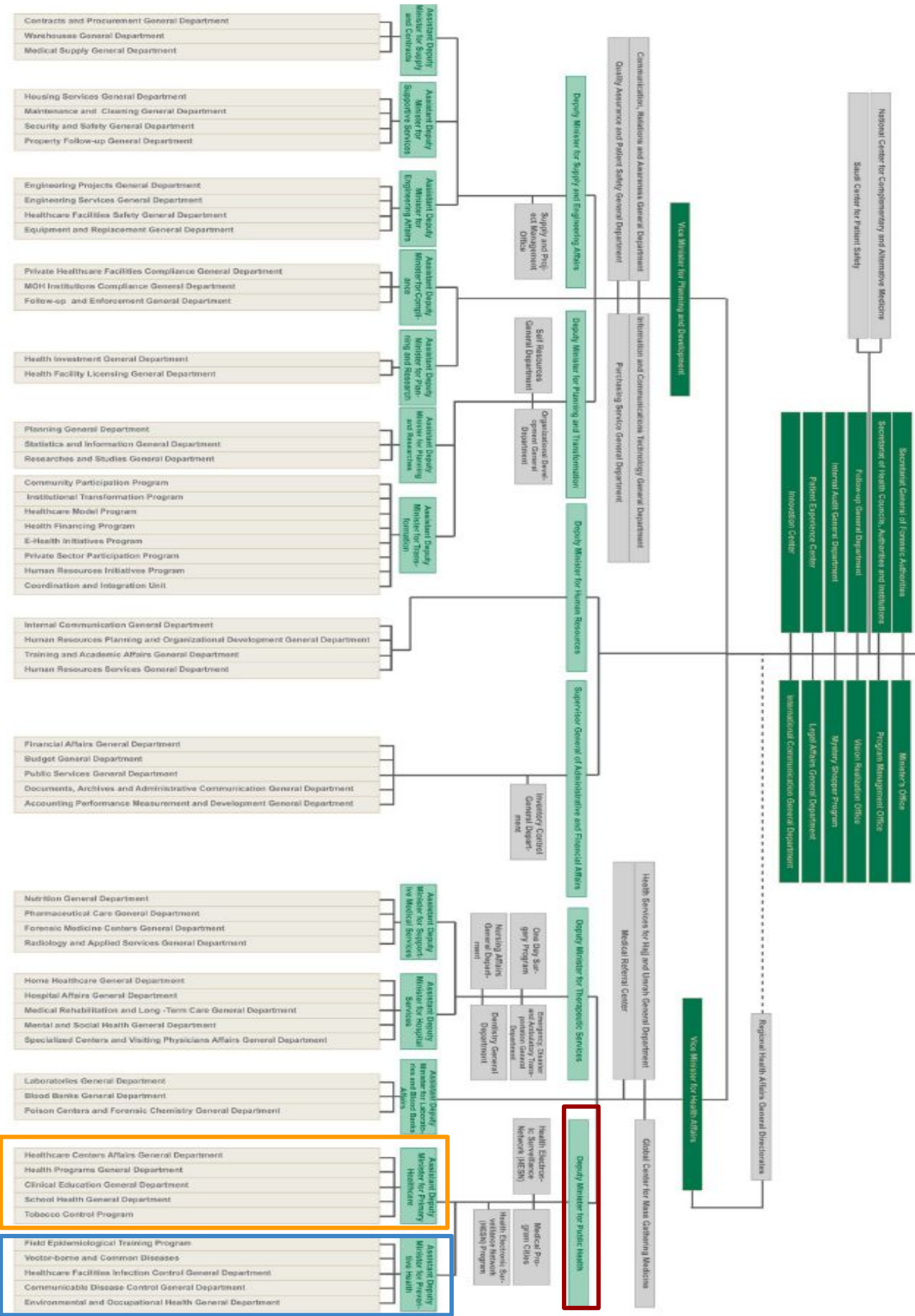
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- **Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Health:**



MOH Interim Organizational Structure

Minister of Health



- وكيل الوزارة للصحة الوقائية

- Family medicine

- وكيل الوزارة للصحة العامة

- We are under health prevention

● Ministry Directorates:

- The MOH has to regulate the whole country; thus, it divides the country into directorates.
- Healthcare is operated in each region under the directorate of that region.
 - ◀ 20 regions => **20** directorates محافظة
- In each directorate there is a director that is responsible for reporting to MOH about their directorate.

● Strengths & Weaknesses of the **current** health system:

Strength	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Universal (covers everybody) (NHS). ● Accessible. ● Comprehensive (primary, secondary and tertiary). ● Safe. ● Equitable. ● Free. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weak primary care. * ● Multi-sectoral: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duplication of services among providers. ○ Difficult to Coordinate. ○ Waste of resources. ● Poor electronic health record system.

* This results in the prevalence of chronic diseases.

- If we had an effective primary care system, diabetic patients won't progress into developing diabetic foot or patient with CVS get stroke & as a consequence there'll be a disability that decreases the quality of life.
- Effective primary care system basically acts on primary prevention by screening the population to identify high risk groups for chronic diseases & implement early management.

● Vision 2030 and the Transformation in 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.

- **National transformation program objectives;**

1. Increase privatization of healthcare services. (by making 60% of health care services from non-governmental sources & 40% provided by the government).
2. Optimization of use of resources To avoid waste of resources.
3. Increase the use of information technology.
4. Increase training for physicians (through The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties).
5. Increase number of nurses and allied health.
6. Improve services in ER and ICU.
7. Improve primary care services.
8. Improve infrastructure, facilities, standards.
9. Acceptable waiting time for services (all levels).
10. Improve governance of healthcare.
11. Adopt national emergency preparedness plan (to be prepared for any national disaster such as; Corona)
12. Identify additional revenues.
- 13. Improve public health services** (aiming to be a **developed country**). **Controlling community** is more beneficial & effective in **prevention than individual-based services**.
14. Improve services provided post-discharge.
15. Improve safety principles.

The ultimate goal: improve quality of life

- **Who's Responsible for Directing this Transformation?**

- The Vision Realization Office (VRO) at the MOH (مكتب التحول الوطني الخاص لكل وزارة).
- 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 align with the vision 2030 objectives of other governmental sectors (multi-disciplinary approach).

- **Comparing the previous health care system to the transformed one:**

- **Previously the MOH was:**

- Provider.
- Regulator.
- Payer

- **New health care system:**

- MOH will be regulator and significantly reduce the provision of healthcare.

Summary

● 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.
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6-Medical supplies

7-Pharmaceutical producers

8- Judiciary Services

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- **Vision 2030 and the Transformation in Healthcare:**

Some of the National transformation program objectives:

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Good luck!

