

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
Sixty-fifth Session
Khartoum, Sudan, 15-18 October 2018**

October 2018

SIDE EVENT

**LAUNCH OF A NEW HEALTH FINANCING ATLAS TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH FINANCING
SYSTEMS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH
COVERAGE**

Objective of the event

The objective of the event is to launch a new regional health financing atlas – *Strengthening health financing systems in the Eastern Mediterranean Region towards universal health coverage: health financing atlas 2018*.

Background

The health financing atlas was developed using a detailed analytical framework, comprising nine elements – macroeconomics, health financing architecture, revenue raising, pooling, purchasing, benefits design, population coverage, service coverage and financial protection – to describe and analyse health financing systems in the 22 countries of the Region.

The nine elements can be grouped under the following four areas:

- overall macroeconomic picture and architecture of the health financing system;
- health financing governance;
- the three health financing functions (revenue raising, pooling and purchasing), in addition to benefits entitlements; and
- the three dimensions of universal health coverage (population coverage, service coverage and financial protection).

An exhaustive set of questions and issues related to the nine elements were considered to map each country's health financing system and a regional summary is provided. The analytical section is supplemented with a presentation of six indicators summarizing the trends in health spending in each of the countries over the past 10 years (from 2006 to 2015).

Challenges in the Region

Health financing systems are key to ensuring effective and sustained progress towards universal health coverage. Understanding the ongoing challenges hampering the health financing system in a country serves to assist the development of effective, equitable and efficient health financing strategies to fulfil the ultimate goals of universal health coverage. The health financing atlas uses a concise analytical framework to present information on the health financing system in each of the countries and provides an analysis of all health financing systems in the Region. The atlas allows for a comparison of health financing systems in order that countries can compare their own systems with that of other countries to further develop their own unique vision, strategies and roadmaps to reform their national health financing systems towards universal health coverage.

This is the first time that a detailed analysis of health financing systems in the Region has been provided. The atlas provides updated information and the most recently published health accounting data, based on the new System of Health Accounts (SHA 2011). It will serve as a benchmark for future similar analysis.

Expected outcome

- Dissemination of a regional information production on health financing systems.