

Summary report on the

WHO-EM/EDB/128/E

Intercountry meeting on Good Governance for Medicines for Phase II countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Cairo, Egypt
25–27 October 2016



**World Health
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Summary report on the

**Intercountry meeting on Good
Governance for Medicines for Phase
II countries in the Eastern
Mediterranean Region**

Cairo, Egypt
25–27 October 2016



**World Health
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

© World Health Organization 2016

All rights reserved.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use.

Publications of the World Health Organization can be obtained from Knowledge Sharing and Production, World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, PO Box 7608, Nasr City, Cairo 11371, Egypt (tel: +202 2670 2535, fax: +202 2670 2492; email: emrgoksp@who.int). Requests for permission to reproduce, in part or in whole, or to translate publications of WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean – whether for sale or for noncommercial distribution – should be addressed to WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, at the above address: email: emrgoegp@who.int.

Contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	Conclusions.....	2
3.	Recommendations.....	4

1. Introduction

The WHO Good Governance for Medicines (GGM) programme has now been operational for 12 years and extends to 16 countries from the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. The overall objectives of the programme are to improve good governance, prevent corruption in the pharmaceutical sector and contribute to health systems strengthening in countries, focusing on the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies and procedures that ensure the effective, efficient, ethical, transparent and accountable management of pharmaceutical systems.

The GGM programme is implemented through a model three-step process, starting with a national transparency assessment that identifies vulnerabilities to corruption. The second phase includes a nationwide consultation on the results of the assessment and the generation of a framework which sets out the direction for how good governance in the country's pharmaceutical sector is envisioned. The final phase is the implementation of the framework with a long-term action plan that addresses the eight elements of good governance.

An intercountry meeting on the GGM programme for Phase II countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region was hosted by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean from 25 to 27 October 2016 in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting was attended by 37 participants from eight countries of the Region, namely Afghanistan, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan and Tunisia, along with regional and international experts, and WHO staff from the Regional Office, country offices and headquarters. Participants included members (or potential members) of national GGM task forces and steering committees, with background knowledge of the relevant WHO methodologies and willing to assume a proactive role in GGM Phase II and III activities.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- share progress made in the development of the national framework for GGM among countries of the Region;
- develop an understanding of common gaps in governance;
- exchange experience in the establishment of national frameworks; and
- develop a GGM plan of action up to 31 December 2017 in order to graduate to Phase III, the final phase.

The proposed meeting outcomes were:

- priority actions and challenges identified for national GGM programmes;
- capacity of national task forces increased to address the identified challenges;
- awareness increased of the WHO methodological approach for improving good governance in the pharmaceutical sector; and
- country-specific action plans developed for promoting good governance in 2017.

2. Conclusions

The meeting was participatory in nature to allow for maximum interaction between country groups. The overall purpose was to facilitate cross-country learning and share country experiences in developing national GGM frameworks. Experiences from other countries in the Region (the “GGM champions”) were also shared to provide insight on moving forward from assessments to Phases II and III of the GGM programme.

Country progress reported on the development of national frameworks for GGM included: creation of GGM task forces or committees; delivery of workshops to disseminate assessment findings and raise awareness of good governance in the pharmaceutical sector; increased political will to implement GGM programmes; collaboration between various stakeholders, such as ministries of health, other line ministries, national anti-corruption commissions, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector; implementation of assessment recommendations; increased promotion of individual and institutional integrity in the pharmaceutical sector; and increased transparency and accountability in medicine regulatory and supply systems.

National assessment results from participating countries showed significant similarities in strengths and weaknesses in pharmaceutical systems. The main challenges faced in the implementation of the GGM programmes are the scarcity of financial and human resources, the high turnover of officials and weak civil society engagement. Some of the countries also face political instability.

Throughout the workshop, needs highlighted included effective anti-corruption legislation, a whistle-blowing mechanism, a conflict of interest policy, transparent and accountable regulations and administrative procedures, collaboration with anticorruption and transparency initiatives, engagement of civil societies and promotion of moral leadership.

Participants defined activities to manage conflict of interest, including the development and disclosure of a conflict of interest policy, the development of regulation for conflict of interest management to enable sanctions and enforcement, setting up an independent committee for

handling conflicts of interest, declaration of the composition of technical committees, selection of members on merit and expertise, preparation of terms of reference for each committee, including time-limited services, training of committee members in the code of conduct and conflict of interest policy, and establishment of a regular monitoring process to ensure implementation of the conflict of interest policy.

National GGM frameworks should be developed and implemented in a multi-stakeholder manner to ensure full participation and create ownership to ensure the acceptance and application of the GGM framework. High-level government support and the engagement of ministries other than the ministry of health, such as the ministries of finance, justice, interior and social affairs, are also key to the success of the national GGM programme.

It was agreed that the application of the GGM framework should be closely monitored and assessed regularly to ensure its proper implementation.

3. Recommendations

For Member States

1. Countries should develop their own clear GGM vision and ensure that this vision is linked to wider governmental action and to maximum engagement with other partners.
2. Countries should carry out a sustainability assessment for their national GGM programme. This should look beyond funding requirements and outline aspects such as communication, stakeholder engagement and strategic planning that are equally essential for programme sustainability.

3. Countries should share with WHO the technical support they need to speed up the signing-off by ministers of health of the assessment reports and GGM frameworks, and for the development, endorsement and implementation of the frameworks.
4. GGM taskforces or committees should obtain quick approval for reports and action plans.
5. Countries should share with WHO their progress reports on GGM action plan implementation by June 2017.



World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
P.O. Box 7608, Nasr City 11371
Cairo, Egypt
www.emro.who.int