

Table 1. Status of development and implementation of universal health coverage priority benefits packages in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Afghanistan	In 2003, Afghanistan introduced a basic package of health services delivered through primary care, and an essential package of hospital services. Because of changing epidemiological and health needs, those packages were reviewed, and a new integrated package of essential health services was developed in 2021 (38).
Islamic Republic of Iran	In a recent effort supported by WHO, 2 high-burden and high-cost conditions, multiple sclerosis and diabetes, were selected. A benefits package was developed through an evidence-informed deliberative process. This experience is considered a pilot for other conditions and is planned to be scaled up for all health services funded by the government (24).
Lebanon	The Lebanese essential health service package was developed in 2016 through a consultative process with health policy-makers, health economists, professional associations, national and international donor agencies, and the community. UN Children’s Fund, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and European Union supported its development, and the World Bank and local NGOs implemented the package in primary healthcare centres. The package has been under revision since 2021 (39).
Morocco	Morocco has prepared a draft of the primary health care benefit package but it has not yet been endorsed. Currently, WHO supports Morocco in reviewing and developing a new package based on consultative predefined criteria (29).

Pakistan	<p>A national essential package of health services was developed in 2020 through an evidence-informed deliberative process that involved a wide range of stakeholders, including WHO, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Aga Khan University, Radboud University, local NGOs, and the private sector. The package was led by the Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination, and Health Planning, System Strengthening and Information Analysis Unit. Taking guidance from the national package, all provincial health departments have now developed their own packages.</p>
Somalia	<p>An essential package of health services was developed in 2021 through consultation with the Ministry of Finance, health policy-makers, NGOs, health economists, the private sector, medical associations, and development partners. The Ministry of Health, World Bank, and WHO all played a key role in initiating the formulation of the health package. However, development of the implementation plan was constrained by the shortage of financial resources and poor coordination (40).</p>

NGO = nongovernmental organization.