Establishing a national program for guideline adaptation

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WHO EMRO virtual workshop series on methodologies in supporting evidence-informed decision-making
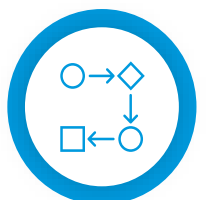
Cairo, Egypt

23 November 2023

Outline

WHO agenda in support of national guideline programmes

Key specifications of a national guideline programme

Roles and responsibilities in national guideline adaptation agenda

Toward a region where the evidence-informed decision-making is the norm
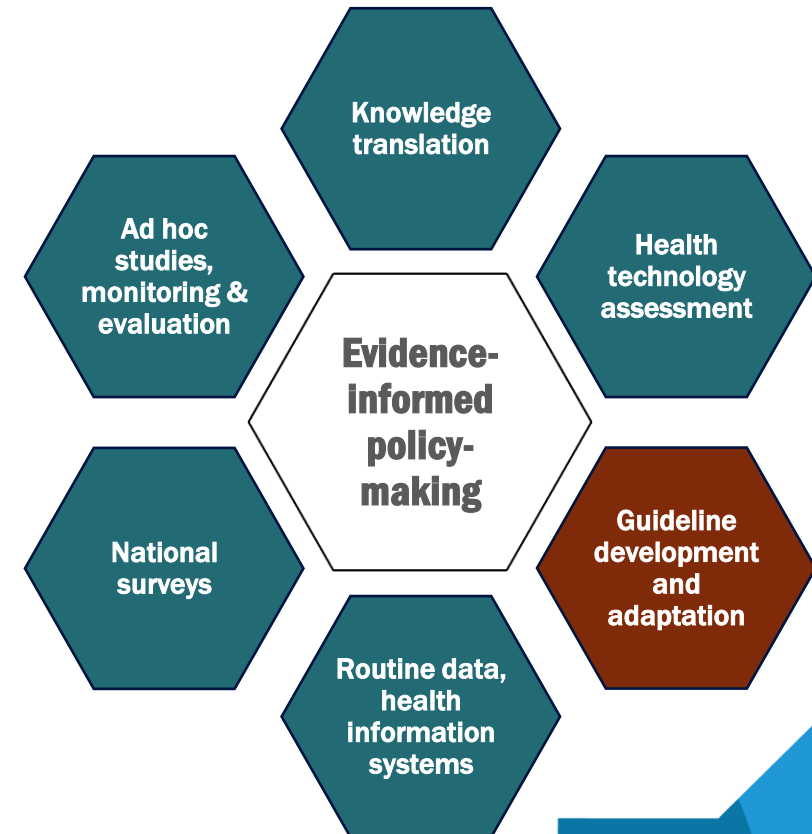
Regional action plan

for the implementation of the framework for action to improve national institutional capacity for the use of evidence in health policy-making in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

(2020–2024)

World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Eastern Mediterranean

Resolution (EM/RC66/R.5; 2019) urged *member states* to:

"Establish national programmes to adapt and/or develop evidence-based public health and clinical practice guidelines on national priority issues"

Knowledge translation

Ad hoc studies, monitoring & evaluation

Health technology assessment

Evidence-informed policy-making

National surveys

Guideline development and adaptation

Routine data, health information systems

To achieve **universal health coverage**

Why the national guideline programme matters

Enhances **health promotion** and **well-being**

Increases **quality of care** and **efficiency**

Strengthens **credibility** and reduces **bias** in decisions

Ensures national **ownership** and involves **stakeholders**

What should be done?

WHO initiatives for guideline program in the EMR

Region wide support
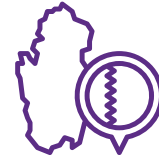
16 web-based resources for technical capacity

Template for guideline presentation

Roadmap for country action

Country support

Topic specific guidelines: Qatar
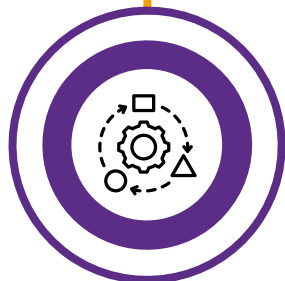
National programme for Egypt

Review of national programme: Iran

What is a national guideline program?

Ecosystem / Infrastructure

✓ Laws, regulations and commitment
✓ National technical, financial and human resource capacity
✓ Stakeholder engagement

Development / adaptation

✓ National steering committee
✓ Robust methods and quality assurance
✓ National roadmap for action

Guidelines impact

✓ Dissemination and implementation plans
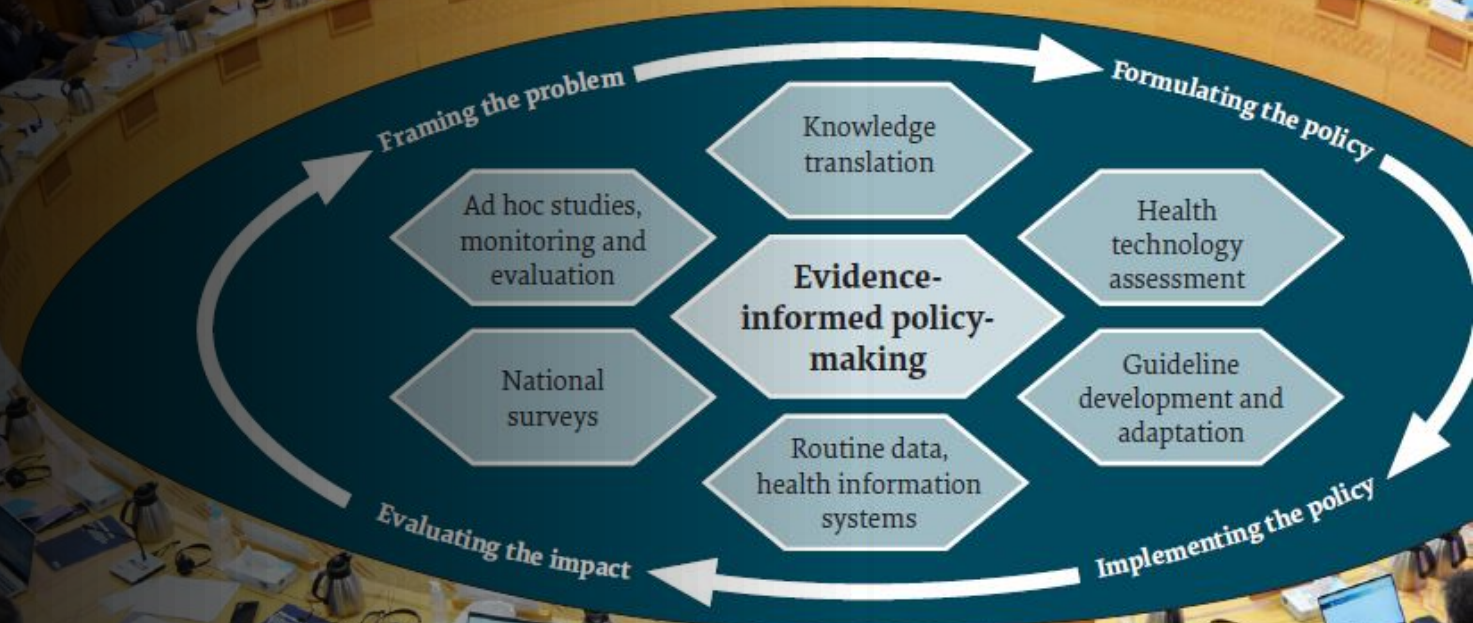✓ Monitoring and evaluation
✓ Accountability and responsiveness

Lessons learnt from country experiences in establishing national guideline programmes

- High-level policymakers' commitment
- Brining all the stakeholders to the table
- Expanding national capacities for action

Responsibilities of a national guideline programme

1) Adoption of a guideline for use in the country

- From another country or international society

- Developed nationally by a professional society or health care entity in the country

- Responsibilities of the national programme:

1. Ensuring it addresses the needs

2. Ensuring it is developed using valid approaches
   - Apply appraisal tools for assessment of the guidelines
   e.g. AGREE II

3. If it meets the criteria AND requires no change or update

4. Adopted and released as the national guideline or recommendation within a guideline

2) De novo development

- If there is no notable existing guideline to respond to the needs

- Or when the guidelines are assessed and are not of acceptable quality and/or do not address the needs

3) there are existing guidelines, that require adaptation

- Why adapt?
1. Context affects applicability and use of a guideline
   - Health care setting and practices
   - Disease profile
   - Availability of resources
2. Adaptation is more cost effective and less resource intensive
- Valid adaptation of guideline requires following steps and approaches to ensure the adapted guideline is valid and reliable

Guideline adaptation flowchart

1. **Priority setting** of the topic and main questions the guideline is going to address

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2. Establishing the **Guideline Development Group (GDG)** and the **Technical Support Team (TST)**

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3. Finalizing the **scope** of the guideline and formulating **PICO question**

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4. Searching, critical appraisal and **selection** of eligible local or global **guidelines for adaptation**

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5. **Updating evidence**, where required

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6. Adopting, revising or **updating recommendations**

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7. **Review and clearance** of the adapted guideline

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8. **Dissemination, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of guideline**

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9. **Plan for updating** the guideline

Roadmap for the national programme

- Roles and responsibilities for each step of guideline adaptation process
- Key stakeholders of National Guideline Programme in the country
- Key minimum criteria for priority setting, scoping, and other steps of the process
- Qualifications and role of "guideline development group" members
- Template for writing a guideline
- Guidance on implementation plan and monitoring and evaluation framework

Thank you

Framing the problem

Formulating the policy

Knowledge translation

Ad hoc studies, monitoring and evaluation

Health technology assessment

Evidence-informed policy-making

National surveys

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Routine data, health information systems

Evaluating the impact

Implementing the policy