

Policy brief as a tool for policy-making

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Outline

- Policy-makers key questions
- Regional Framework for improving national institutional capacity for use of evidence in health policy-making
- Common concerns of policy-makers about evidence-informed policy making
- Policy briefs for policy-making



Evidence-informed policy-making

Using best-available evidence to answer policy questions

What are the main What are the Are the policy Are the policy **Policy-maker** potential effective options costoptions feasible to priority effective and issues/problems and safe policy implement and questions for decision-making? options? affordable? sustainable? Policy-makers are keen in using evidence in their decisions **Important challenges in: Usual sources of** evidence availability, validity, relevance and timeliness of research and national data Knowledge Policy briefs products and Data fact sheets and processes Guidelines and health technology assessments observatories **Important challenges in availability of products and processes**



Policy makers common questions for health and social policies

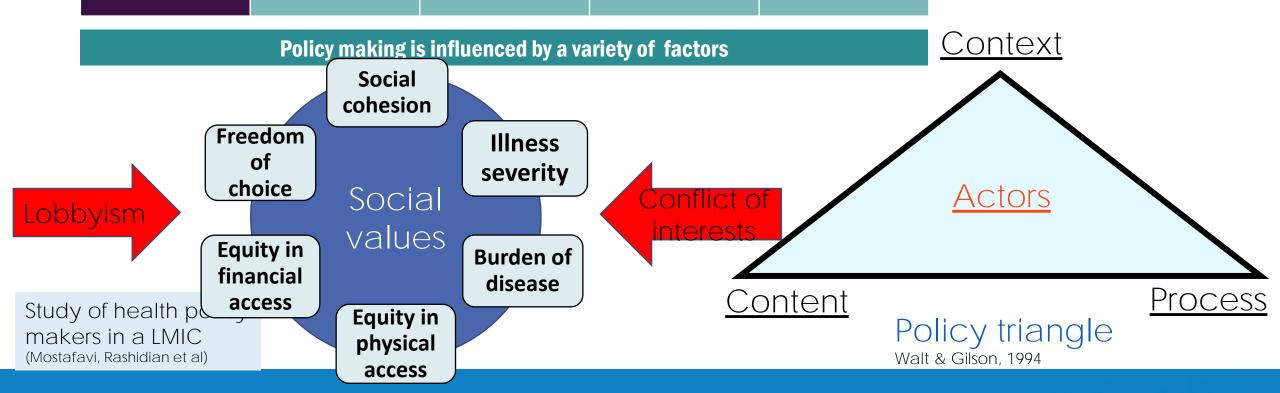
Policy-maker questions

What are the main priority issues/problems for decision-making?

What are the potential effective and safe policy options?

Are the policy options cost-effective and affordable?

Are the policy options feasible to implement and sustainable?









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for use of evidence in health policy-making in EMR countries (2020-2024)

(EM/RC66/R.5; approved Oct 2019)

Framework for improving national institutional capacity for use of evidence in health policy-making

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (2020–2024)

(EM/RC66/R.5; approved Oct 2019)

EMR countries committed to the *integrated approach* for institutional capacity and action for use of evidence in health-policy making

Requirement of the integrated approach:

- 1. Internal programmatic coherence within each key program, avoiding duplications
- 2. Systematic links between the key programs





Follow up to RC2019 decisions on evidence-informed policy-making (EM/RC66/R.5)

"Develop an action plan for the implementation of the framework in consultation with Member States"

"Make plans to establish a regional network of institutions to actively support evidence-informed policy-making at national level" (i.e. NEDtP) Key requests of RC2019
Resolution



Framework for improving national institutional capacity for use of evidence in

health policy-making in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (2020-2024)

All countries of Region

- Build institutional capacity for evidence-informed policy-making
- Develop policy briefs on topics of regional importance
- Adapt WHO guidelines for areas of high priority
- Develop multi-country or regional guidelines for high priority topics
- Establish a regional network of support institutions

Countries with limited academic resources

 Support development of policy briefs/adapt WHO guidelines for the national context WHO support for Member States

Countries affected by emergencies

Support rapid processes for policy synthesis products



Concerns of policy-makers about evidence-informed policy making

- Lack of understanding of policy context
- Lack of time
 - Needing the answer yesterday
- Lack of evidence
 - irrelevance of evidence
- Political pressures and lobby

- Communication and dialogue
- Differentiating between perceived lack of time and reality
- A good policy brief can make these concerns transparent
 - And alleviate them where possible



Policy making stages and processes

Policy processes are very context specific, policy actor dependant and vary over time in a country

Stages

- Problem formation / agenda setting
- Policy formulation
- Policy implementation
- Policy evaluation

Policy briefs' role

Policy briefs can address all stages of policy-making

As such could be powerful tools for policy-makers and policy-developers



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