

Governance and population interventions

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Governance ...

... is the **structures and processes** by which the health system is **regulated, directed and controlled.** (Dwyer and Eagar 2008)

...in narrow sense covers the **oversight, control and incentive mechanisms** that are used to hold any particular institution **accountable** to its owners or founders, and **to align the objectives and interests** of the institution's management with the objectives of its owners or founders.

(WHO 2014)



Framework for assessment of governance

Are all combinations of structures and actions in place?

Governance structures

- Ministerial linkages
- Cabinet committees
- Parliamentary committees
- Interdepartmental committees and units
- Mega-ministries
- Joint budgeting
- Public engagement
- Stakeholder engagement
- Industry engagement

Governance actions

- Evidence support
- Setting goals and targets
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Coordination
- Implementation and management
- Accountability mechanisms
- Providing legal mandate
- Financial support
- Policy guidance

Assessment recommendations on: governance and accountability

- Include NCDs to NHP with clear targets
- Align activities and incentives in the NHP and in health system in general
- Make institutions accountable for their results in the system
- Create a targeted NCD strategy with clear outcome targets
- Increase coordination among actors
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Examples: governance

- In Turkey, high-level interministerial committee is headed by Ministry of Planning (which approves investment budgets for all ministries).
 - Role of the Government Office in Estonia?
- In Swindon (England), health and social care funds were pooled for children's services to reduce obesity (and other targets)?
 - NCD-specific budget pooling of health and social care funds in Estonia?
- In England, low performing hospitals put into „special measures“ i.e. are twinned with high performing ones for defined period and set targets based on national performance variation.
 - Possibility for PHC practices in Estonia?

Examples: interventions

- Alcohol and tobacco: excise tax tied to price index, minimum prices for alcohol
- Obesity:
 - ▣ Calculate cost of a “healthy food basket” to reduce SD impact (e.g. Slovenia),
 - ▣ Promotion of local farmers’ markets to increase exposure to healthy food (e.g. Ireland and UK)
 - ▣ Reduction of marketing of foods high in salt, fats and sugar to children (e.g. UK)
 - ▣ Taxation of saturated fats (e.g. Denmark)

Example: salt reduction

Finland

- Started in the 1970s, including significant public awareness campaigns
- In 1993, mandatory salt labelling was introduced and products containing particularly high levels of salt were also required to bear warning labels
- Introduction of a “better choice” logo, supported by the Finnish Heart Association, which identified low-salt options
- Intake in FIN dropped from approx. 12g late 1970s to as little as 6.5g by 2002

UK

- Strategy centred on the setting of rigorous salt reformulation targets on a food category basis, which created a “level playing field” for food manufacturers to gradually reduce the salt content of their products
- This was accompanied by recommendations on consumer-friendly labelling approaches and public awareness campaigns
- Since the UK salt reduction programme started, a 10-15% reduction has been reported. Intake dropped from 9.5 g in 2000-2001 to 8.6 g per day in 2008 .
- The salt content of key food products was reduced by 25-45%
- Both countries have established sound monitoring systems of salt consumption based on gold standard methods





Thank you!