Efficiency and the path to UHC

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Improving Health System Efficiency and Strengthening Primary Health Care

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Why this study, why we are here

- In WHR2010, we emphasized that progress towards UHC requires that we pay attention to efficiency

- Not just “more money for health”, but “more health for the money”

- Efficiency is critical to the sustainability agenda: there is no such thing as “enough money”, and attention to efficiency is essential for sustaining progress

- WHR2010 identified 10 leading causes of inefficiency
  - But these are categories
  - Unlike some other aspects of performance, there is no standard metric here – causes, solutions, priorities, and measures are highly context-specific
More specifically

- As follow-up to the WHR2010, we wanted to produce a number of case studies of country efforts to improve efficiency in their health systems
  - Approached our regional offices for recommendations, and the result was the development of these 11 country cases

- Also focusing on strengthening PHC (directly and indirectly), as this is central to an efficiency agenda for health system improvement

- This meeting is aimed at improving the quality of the work and exploring what lessons can be drawn, through a process of mutual review and feedback (and grateful to BMGF for supporting it)
Diverse set of country experiences

- Low, middle and high income countries
- Africa, Asia and Latin American countries
- Different topics
  - Medicines, provider payment, insurance market reforms, HRH, alignment of donor assistance
- Synthesis will be a challenge, and grateful to Winnie for taking this on
  - Lessons may be more about processes and commitment than specific actions
  - Important to keep efficiency high on the agenda at national and international levels
Some words of thanks

- EU-WHO Partnership for UHC which was the main funding source for the country studies
- BMGF (Dan Kress, Deputy Director, Integrated Delivery and Dr Hong Wang, Senior Program Officer) for both their financial support and technical input to this workshop.
- Blavatnik School of Governance, Oxford University (Prof Ngaire Woods, and Prof Winnie Yip) for hosting the meeting
And more

- My colleagues from WHO regional offices, particularly Cristian Morales (PAHO) and Laurent Musango (AFRO) for their support and active engagement in this work

- And all of you

- So really looking forward to these next few days to get more into the details of the reforms and the studies, and see what we can learn from this.