



World Bank
Institute



The World Bank Institute

Focus on Health Systems Strengthening



THE WORLD BANK



WBI's Health Systems Strengthening Practice

WBI is a global connector of knowledge, learning, and innovation for poverty reduction. Using state-of-the-art technical knowledge, WBI's Health System Practice creates platforms for South-South knowledge exchange among health practitioners, and helps develop communities of practice. The objective is to enable practitioners to design and implement their own solutions and innovative approaches to tough policy challenges.

We help clients achieve transformational change by making knowledge available to them and helping them build leadership skills and consensus around health system solutions. We work with global, regional, and country-based institutions and practitioner networks—connecting globally to deliver locally. Our Health Systems Strengthening Program has reached 19,000 individuals in 52 countries since its inception in 1996.

The challenge

Health systems are complex. They require high levels of human capital and financial investment, a clear vision, and strong leadership and commitment. Countries, therefore, need to plan and allocate their limited resources efficiently if they are to meet their most pressing needs. Ailments such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malnutrition are still important, and non-communicable diseases such as heart disease and diabetes are on the rise. In addition, health system inefficiencies mean that people lack access to health services, facilities are ill equipped, human resources and skills are lacking, and inflation looms large. The poor are the most adversely affected, the least able to afford treatment, and at greatest risk of falling deeper into poverty.

Our audience

Our audience includes parliamentarians, health managers, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), academia, the private sector, aid donors, development agencies, training institutions, the media, civil society, public and private health personnel, and World Bank Staff. We have programs in more than 18 countries.

We also help develop capacity in countries by creating and supporting partnerships with and among institutions and networks, primarily in Asia, Africa, and Europe and Central Asia.

Our approach

The Health Systems Practice works with in-country partners to create the conditions for

transformational change aimed at improving the health status of the poor.

To support the design and implementation of effective public policies, we offer products using the four interrelated business lines in the diagram shown in the next panel.

The goal is to:

- Facilitate the transfer and application of state-of-the-art technical knowledge on health systems, particularly on financing and payment, service delivery, institutional organization, regulation, and governance, and on health outcomes and strategic planning
- Develop the capacity of regional networks of partner institutions
- Create a space for countries to exchange knowledge and experience
- Help countries introduce transformational change by developing leadership and consensus-building skills
- Develop and foster communities of practitioners who share similar policy reform goals.



Business Lines

Translation of Knowledge into Practice for Results

bridges the gap between technical knowledge and results on the ground. Includes knowledge exchange among countries and hands-on practitioner to practitioner learning on how to implement reforms. Current topics include Results-based Financing; good governance in pharmaceuticals; design and implementation of health insurance schemes; and establishing priorities for health care delivery.

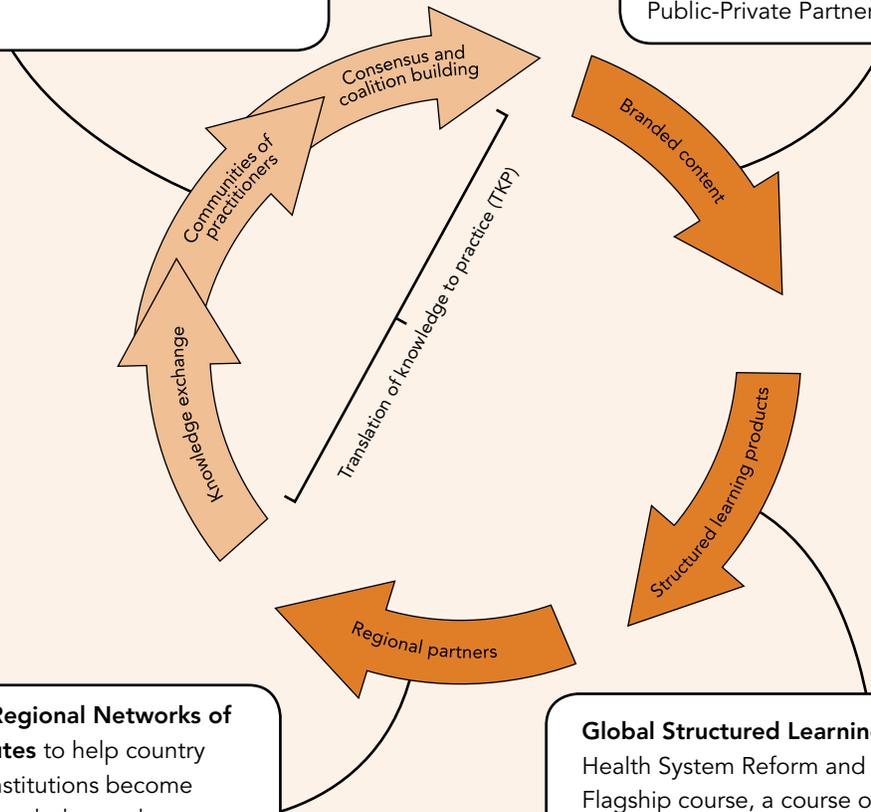
Branded content. WBI and its partners have a long history of developing technical content and transferring it to policy makers through structured learning products and networks. The current emphasis is on the political economic of reform and the “how-to” of reform implementation. Current topics include Human Resources for Health; Pharmaceuticals; Targeting Public Subsidies; and Social Health Insurance. Modules on Results-based Financing and Public-Private Partnerships will soon be offered.

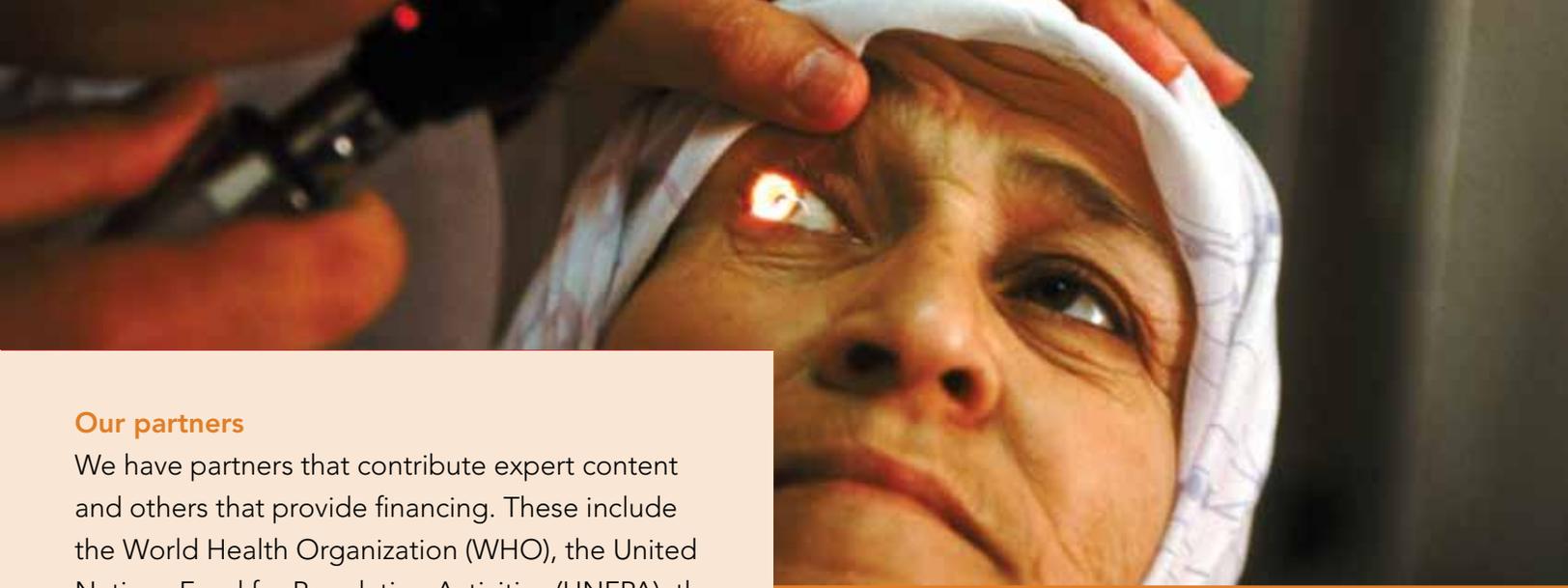
Country and Regional Networks of Partner Institutes

to help country and regional institutions become training and knowledge exchange centers. Examples include the Asia Network for Capacity Building in Health Systems Strengthening and the Africa Francophone Network in West Africa.

Global Structured Learning Products

include WBI's Health System Reform and Financial Sustainability Flagship course, a course on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and several e-learning courses that currently have nearly 21,000 alumni in 70 countries. These learning products help establish a common language for health systems analysis and reform, and make training affordable, accessible, customized, and timely. These products are offered annually to a global audience.





Our partners

We have partners that contribute expert content and others that provide financing. These include the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the Harvard University School of Public Health, Bitran y Asociados, Aga Khan University, BRAC University, Asian Institute of Management, China Network for Training and Research in Health Economics and Financing, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Chulalongkorn University, Gadjah Mada University, Institute for Health Policy, University of Hong Kong, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, DFID, AusAID, Nossal Institute, Canadian Public Health Association; Centre Africain d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion, Centre de Formation et de Recherche en Matière de Population, Centre d'Etudes de la Famille Africaine, Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur la Population pour le Développement, Institut de Santé et Développement, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Le Centre International de Formation en Recherche Action, Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée, Institut Supérieur des Sciences de Population, Health Policy Analysis Center, International Finance Corporation, and the World Bank regional offices.

What our clients think

"I successfully changed the payment system to services providers from a fixed salary system to a salary plus performance-based incentive system."

Flagship Course on Health Systems Strengthening and Financial Sustainability participant
High-level country official in India

"The Course is run by experts in the field and one has the opportunity to interact with them and get more information or clarification on issues. Also, it includes a cross-section of professionals which makes it worthwhile to share experiences and engage in healthy debate. Lastly, the information from the course is in 'touch with reality.'

Achieving MDG Course participant
Mid-level country official from Africa

"I really liked the learning experience. I had expected that an online course would be a passive learning experience. Instead, it was interesting, inspiring, with vibrant communication with other participants, the trainers provided feedback, it was not passive at all!

E-learning Course Participant



The World Bank Institute (WBI) is a global connector of knowledge, learning, and innovation for poverty reduction. We connect practitioners, networks, and institutions to help them find solutions to their development challenges. With a focus on the 'how' of reform, we link knowledge from around the world and scale up innovations. We work with and through global, regional, and country-based institutions and practitioner networks, to develop customized programs that respond to specific needs. WBI connects globally and delivers locally.

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For more information, please contact

Maria-Luisa Escobar
Practice Manager
infoWBIHS@worldbank.org