

# Extent and Causes of the Collapse in the Registration of Innovative Medications in Lebanon: A Mixed-Methods Analysis

HPR212

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## Introduction & Objectives

Innovative registration delays, or the **Drug Approval Lag**, hinder the first step in making treatments available and are often linked to regulatory inefficiencies, constrained healthcare financing, and fragmented decision-making. Since late 2019, **Lebanon's health system has faced overlapping socioeconomic and political crises**, yet their impact on innovative medication registration remains undocumented.

The objectives of this study were:

1. To measure the drug approval lag in Lebanon before (2014-2019) and after (2020-2024) the crisis.
2. To develop an interpretive framework exploring the rationale behind an informal policy to delay innovative drug registration.

## Method

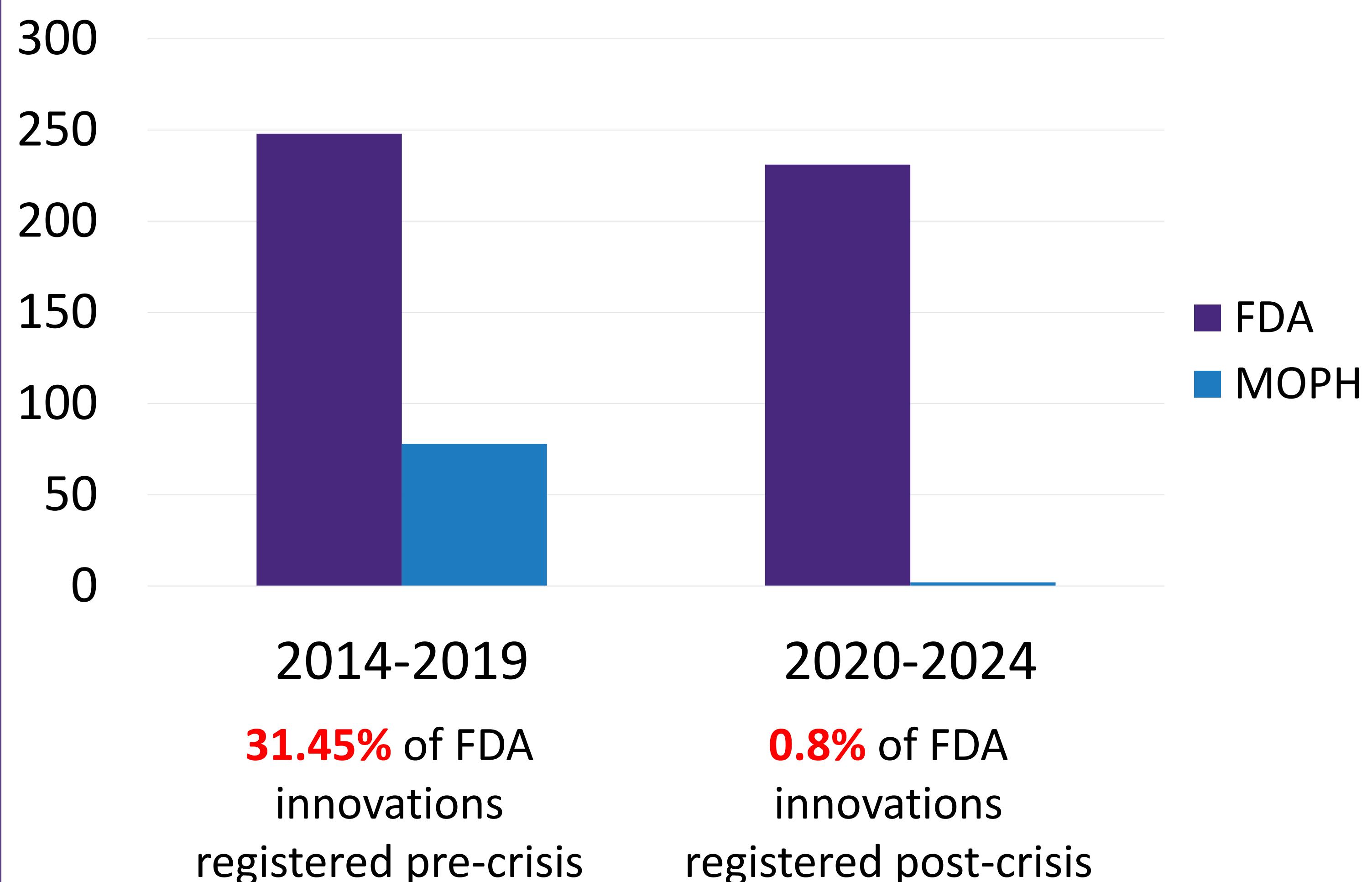
This study followed a **time-series mixed-methods design**.

Innovative medication approval by the FDA & EMA was **quantitatively compared** to innovative registration in Lebanon across two time periods: 2014-2019 and 2020-2024.

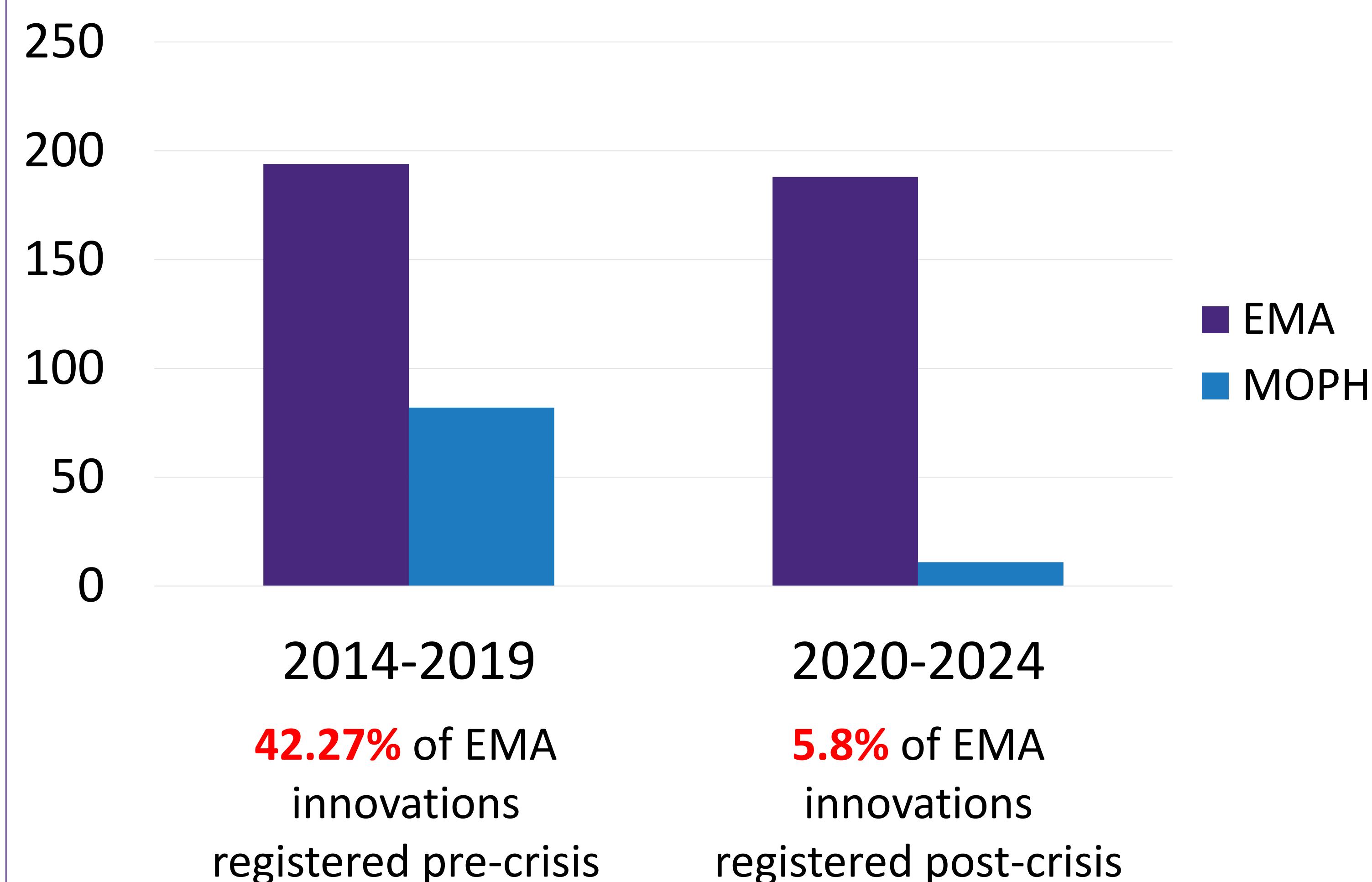
**Qualitative In-Depth Interviews** were subsequently conducted with key stakeholders to develop an interpretive framework.

## Results

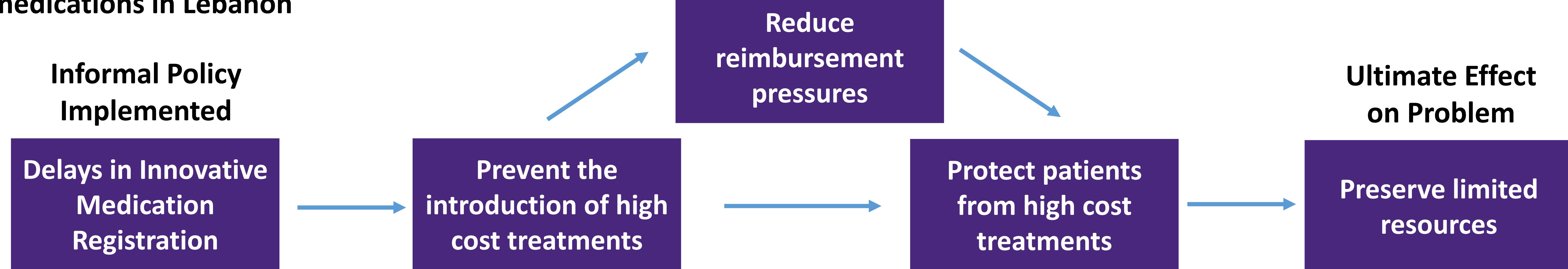
**Figure 1. Drug Availability Gap in Lebanon before and after the 2019 Crisis Compared to the FDA**



**Figure 2. Drug Availability Gap in Lebanon before and after the 2019 Crisis Compared to the EMA**



**Figure 3. Interpretive framework illustrating the rationale behind the decision to delay the registration of innovative medications in Lebanon**



## Conclusion

Health systems are complex adaptive systems and policies affecting the drug approval lag can lead to delays in access to innovative treatments.

As such, **evidence-informed policies**, coupled with **consideration of system interconnections**, are **essential to restore Lebanon's healthcare standing** and guide **health policy design**.

## References

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