

Strengthening VBA Systems for Enhanced Patient Access to Health Technologies in the Future Universal Health Coverage System in Egypt

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INTRODUCTION

High population growth, limited resources, the increasing burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, and the rising costs of innovative health technologies pose significant challenges to the Egyptian healthcare system. As Egypt aims for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030, equitable access to treatments becomes vital. However, introducing expensive health technologies complicates efforts to maintain financial sustainability and achieve UHC goals.

Implementing Value-Based Assessment (VBA) offers a solution by evaluating health technologies based on clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and societal impact. The study aims to evaluate the challenges facing the healthcare system and propose strategies for strengthening Egypt's VBA systems.

METHODS

Strategies for strengthening VBA systems were proposed during the 2nd annual conference of the Egyptian Association of Health Economics in October 2023. Input was collected from diverse stakeholders across various governmental sectors to identify the key barriers and facilitators to effective VBA implementation. These strategies were further refined through discussions with international experts during a workshop in Copenhagen, Denmark, with a focus on enhancing patient access as a central objective in transforming the healthcare system.

RESULTS

Challenges

Discussions during the workshops pinpointed multiple obstacles that affect the healthcare system's performance and complicate the development of a robust VBA framework in Egypt. Challenges include the following (**Figure 1**):



Figure 1 Challenges affecting the Egyptian healthcare system

Recommended Strategies

Based on the previously mentioned challenges, several strategies were proposed that aim to strengthen the VBA in the country. Strategies were divided into six categories as shown in **Figure 2**.



Figure 2 Strategies to strengthen the VBA system

CONCLUSION

In the context of the challenging situation of the healthcare system in Egypt, several strategies were suggested to have a stronger VBA system aiming to create a more efficient, and effective healthcare system.

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