The Country Connector in 2023

A year in review

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FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTRY CONNECTOR ON PRIVATE SECTOR IN HEALTH

Generating Evidence

We developed the **knowledge hub** to help you find a diverse range of resources on health systems governance in one place. The hub focuses on generating evidence, insights and learning to guide policy development and implementation that is inclusive of the private sector in health.

Research Highlights

Governance Pathway Model for the private health sector

We are in the process of finalizing the Governance Pathway Model for the private health sector. The development of the model came in response to Member States' request for support in addressing gaps related to the governance the private sector in health. Those requests were driven by COVID-19 experience which proved that the effective engagement of the private sector in health is a prerequisite for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Health Security

Milestones

2020
The Strategy Report

The WHO's Advisory Group on the Governance of the Private Sector for UHC released a Strategy Report on <u>"Engaging the private health service delivery sector through governance in mixed health systems"</u> to formulate its recommendations on private sector engagement to meet UHC goals. The Strategy Report introduced six Governance Behaviours that governments should adopt to better govern their mixed health systems.

2022
Systematic Review

We identified the need to support countries with a decision support tool to assess the institutional and organisational capacities needed to exercise the WHO governance behaviours. To do that, we undertook a systematic review to build baseline understanding of the capacities required to use the governance behaviours to implement health policy goals

2023
Model development and piloting

Building on the findings from the systematic review, we developed the Governance Pathway Model for the private health sector. The Model aims to support governments in matching policy instruments with required capacities for better governance of the private sector in health. In October, we have successfully run the first pilot of the model in Tunisia which was followed by expert interviews to inform model refinement and finalization.

2024- 2025
Finalize and implement

We aim to finalize and publish the systematic review and the Governance Pathway Model in Q1 2024. The first country implementation is scheduled to take place in Egypt in February 2024.

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Data for Governance

The Country Connector's Data for Governance Working Group has finalized a study protocol that aims to explore the **data that are currently being collected by governments and how they are being used for governance of the private sector in health**. The study will be conducted in selected countries with support from USAID and will result in the development of **country case studies** and a **comparative analysis**.

We have updated the operational definition of the private sector in health

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The private sector in health service delivery definition has been adopted by WHO on advice from the Technical Advisory Group on the Governance of the Private Sector for UHC. This was prompted by the realization that the absence of such definition may result in underappreciation of the private health sector's impact on health systems performance and public health goals such as equity, efficiency and quality.

Sources of Care in Mixed Health Systems dashboard

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You can now navigate the sources of care in mixed health systems through an interactive dashboard. More details can be found here.

Engagement with the private sector in the Eastern Mediterranean

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We have released a report that provides a comparative synthesis of country experiences in engaging with the private sector during the pandemic with a specific focus on health service delivery. The intention of this analysis is to distil behaviours and derive lessons between countries to strengthen governance of national health systems, inclusive of the private sector in health.

Delivering MNCH and FP services during COVID-19 in Pakistan and Uganda

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We published two case studies based on a WHO study that aimed to document the experience of engaging with the private sector in health to maintain the delivery and use of maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) and family planning (FP) services during the COVID-19 pandemic. in each of Pakistan and Uganda.

Engaging the private sector in delivering health care and goods: governance lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

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This policy brief explains ways to improve the engagement with the private sector in delivering health care and goods based on lessons and experiences of private sector engagement during the pandemic. It was developed in collaboration between European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and the World Health Organization.

Supporting Countries

We provided **tailored support** to countries that are interested in working with the private sector in health. Support has ranged from facilitating capacity building activities, participating in regional meetings and generating evidence to specific country requests.

In the past 12 months, we made it to **Accra, Geneva, Cairo, Tunis and Lusaka**. In Accra, we discussed ways in which governments can harness the private sector to deliver quality maternal, newborn and child health. We have partnered with Devex and MSD for Mothers in an event on #EndingMaternalMortality during this year's World Health Assembly in Geneva and another event on sustainable approaches to improve Maternal Health and achieve UHC through strategic private sector collaborations ahead of the UN high level meeting. We have also participated in two events organized by WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office in Cairo on the role of the private sector in reorienting health systems towards primary healthcare.
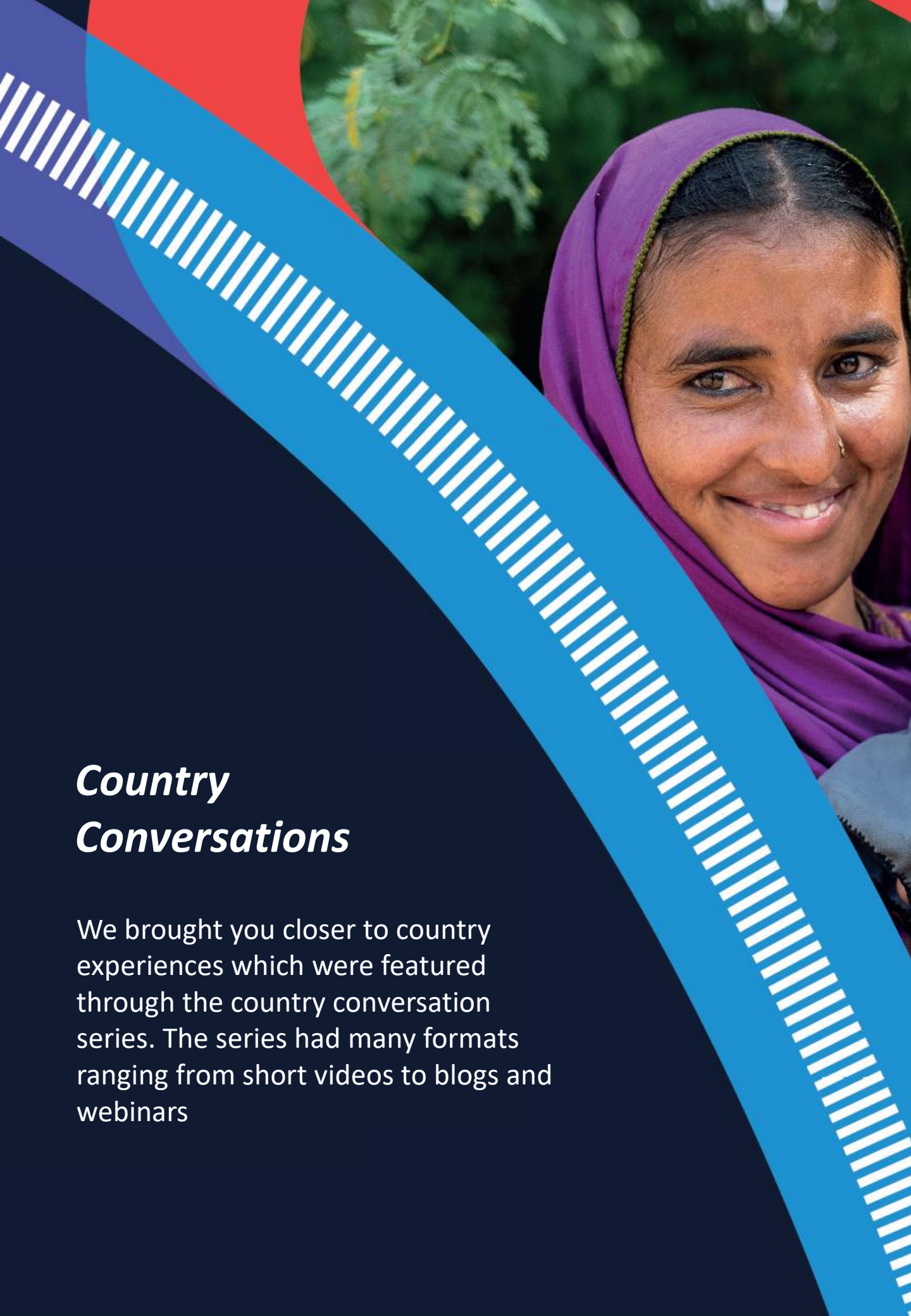
In Tunis, we held a one-day workshop between the WHO Tunisia Office, WHO Headquarters, Ministry of Health representatives and for-profit private providers in Tunisia. The meeting connected public and private actors with the aim to enhance national coordination for the implementation of Tunisia's National Health Policy. Lastly, we made it to Lusaka to participate in an event on private sector engagement in health and health financing ahead of Kigali's High-Level Health Conference.

We also held hybrid meetings for the steering committee of the Country Connector and WHO's technical advisory group on the governance of mixed health systems.

Sharing Experiences

We provided a **space** for country stakeholders, partners and expert to engage and share experiences on working effectively with the private sector in health through the Country Conversation series and the technical working groups

Country Conversations

We brought you closer to country experiences which were featured through the country conversation series. The series had many formats ranging from short videos to blogs and webinars

Let's Talk
Governance

We participated and hosted webinars on different programmatic areas ranging from improving access to quality health services, building health system resilience through private sector engagement, strengthening sexual and reproductive health outcomes to transforming maternal and newborn healthcare in informal settlements.

Our blogs and vignettes covered a broad range of topics including digital health solutions, evolving private provider network models , developing and delivering private health sector engagement strategies , governing the transition from donor to domestic financing and helping governments champion and sustain the process of change in fragile health settings

Lastly,
We have given the Connector a *fresh new look*

We have completed a revamp of the Country Connector in the first half of the year. The revamp included reorganizing the site to make it more user friendly, featuring the human element in our branding and giving the Connector a more modern look. Click here to view the highlights of the revamp and check the new website.

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