



UHC2030
Technical Working Group on
Health Systems Assessments
Terms of Reference

Outline of presentation



- UHC2030 launch – June 2016
- UHC2030 meeting – December 2016
- Online meeting – August 2017
- Health systems assessment tool review (commissioned)
- One-on-one interviews with tool owners and users (on-going)
- HSA and HSPA

UHC2030 launch, June 2016: Session 7 on HSA

- **Health systems assessments are necessary but there is little coordination among the different assessments and the use of results is sub-optimal**
- **A risk of a harmonized approach is diffuse accountability – due to several actors involved, it can often be unclear who has ultimate responsibility**
- **A harmonized approach must be weighed against flexibility and complexity of exercise**
- **A technical working group would be useful to work through all of the different issues, pros and cons, to make joint recommendations as to the way forward**

UHC2030 launch, June 2016: Session 7 on HSA

- **Different overarching HSA tools exist**
- **More specific assessment tools looking into one aspect of health systems exist and can be used for a more in-depth look (“deep dive”) at a particular health sector aspect as needed**
- **Global action is not a substitute for country practices – diagnostics can be standardized but applying the results needs to be a country-specific approach**
- **Policy dialogue processes should be kept in mind and taken into consideration when applying the diagnostics**

UHC2030 meeting, December 2016: Round Table on HSA



Objectives:

- Clarify past deliberations on pressing issues related to health systems assessment such as:
 - Why harmonization and alignment is the best approach vs. creating a new, single HSA tool
 - Links between overarching health systems assessments and targeted thematic assessments (health financing, human resources for health, etc) termed ‘deep dives’
- Agree on how to organize the TWG, including high level objectives, timetable, participation and way of working

UHC2030 meeting, December 2016: Round Table on HSA

Suggestions for Technical Working Group objectives

- Examine all relevant, existing tools and approaches on health systems assessments
- Come to a consensus on how to better harmonize the different approaches, where feasible, especially in view of comparability of results across assessments
- Agree upon common approach for conducting the assessments at country level, given the differing needs and objectives of each specific context



Aug. 2017: Online meeting with HSA stakeholders



- TWG concept note - shared and discussed on 2 August 2017
- Broad consensus for:
 - an action-oriented agenda
 - a more demand-driven HSA
- Examining HSPA within the context of the SDGs and UHC → better linkages to HSA work?

Conclusion of various meetings



(a) to formally constitute a UHC 2030 technical working group (TWG) on Health Systems Assessments

(b) to have the TWG on HSA focus principally on:

- (1) concrete modalities of HSA harmonization & alignment amongst the main HSA tools used in different country settings
- (2) a common understanding of definitions, principles, and criteria for measuring health systems performance towards UHC

TWG objectives



- (1) to recommend options for conducting a more harmonized and aligned HSA, with practical guidance on the optimal country-led and demand-driven process
- (2) to recommend a common, adaptable annotated framework for health systems performance assessment

Under objective 1 (HSA)



- Examine all relevant, existing tools and approaches on health systems assessments
- Examine potential entry points for harmonization by distilling its pros and cons
- Arrive at a consensus on how to better align the different approaches, where feasible
- Agree on what HSA should be in the SDG era, with a view to what is needed in countries to progress towards UHC including clear linkages to on-going work such as UHC assessments
- Agree upon principles and main approaches for a country-led process, given the differing needs of those conducting the assessments, as well as the objective of lowering transaction costs from a MoH/government perspective
- This may include some so-called ‘deep dive’ tools (tools which examine a health system building block or key health sector challenge in depth), as ascertained by the TWG on HSA

Health Systems Performance Assessment



- Initial discussions around whether sub-group on HSPA was necessary (answer: no)
- Observation: HSPA community quite distinct from the HSA community
- Largely overlapping content?
- Can a performance framework be applied to any well-done HSA?

Under objective 2 (HSPA)

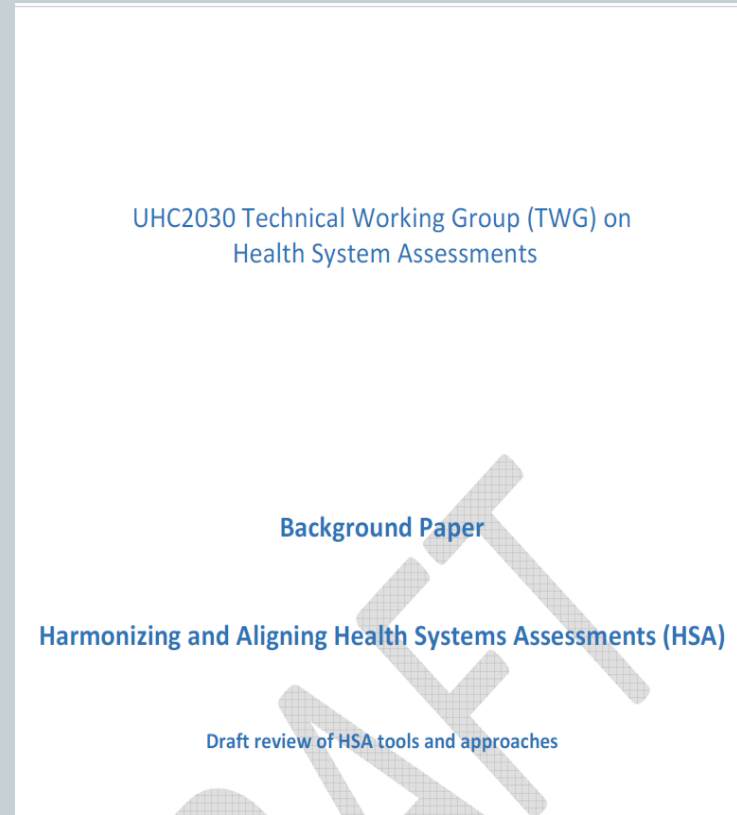


- Examine existing frameworks and approaches to Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA)
- Examine the evidence base used across the different frameworks for HSPA, with a specific focus on links to HSAs
- Agree upon the key definitions, principles, and criteria for HSPA

Health Systems Assessment Tool Review



- Commissioned to consultant Katja Rohrer
- 7 tools for overarching system-wide assessment
- Document review
- Individual interviews with tool owners and tool users



Health Systems Assessment Tool Review



Name of the tool	Run by	Year
Health System Assessment Approach: A How-To Manual	USAID	2012
Health System Performance Assessment	WHO/EURO	2012
Health System Analysis for better Health System Strengthening	World Bank	2011
Monitoring the Building Blocks of Health Systems: a Handbook of Indicators and their Measurement Strategies	WHO	2010
Health System Rapid Diagnostic Tool	FHI 360	2011
Situation Analysis of the Health Sector	WHO	2016
Health System Reviews (HiTs)	WHO/EURO	2010



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