

# FROM CONCEPTS

# TO IMPLEMENTATION

Health Economics  
and Financing  
for Universal Health  
Coverage

## From Concepts to Implementation: Health Economics and Financing for Universal Health Coverage

The Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization organized a learning event at the UN House in Kuwait on 30-31 March 2022 called From Concepts to Implementation: Health Economics and Financing for Universal Health Coverage. Participants were introduced to health economics and financing concepts and tools that can contribute to better policy and implementation to support progress on UHC in Kuwait. The event was co-facilitated by WHO, the Kuwait University School of Public Health, the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, and the P4H Network. The event was part of a broader effort to support health financing reforms and policy in Kuwait, including the operationalization of the Health Economics and Financing Unit (HEFU) in MOH. The event generated significant interest in social media and the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) conducted TV interviews with senior participants.



The poster features a stylized graphic of a person's head and shoulders in shades of green, blue, and orange. At the top, it displays the logos for the World Health Organization (Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean), the 'Health for All by 2030' initiative, and the Ministry of Health of Kuwait. The main text reads: 'FROM CONCEPTS TO IMPLEMENTATION: Health Economics and Financing for Universal Health Coverage'. The dates '30 31 March 2022' are prominently displayed. A location pin icon indicates the event is at 'UN HOUSE, KUWAIT'. At the bottom, social media handles '@uninkuwait' and the website 'kuwait.un.org' are provided.

## Key Messages

1. Health economics and financing is a shared agenda and responsibility and needs a multi-disciplinary and collaborative effort to empower and enable stakeholders.
2. Sustainable health financing reforms require alignment with national development plans and priorities and involvement of actors across and outside the health system.
3. Health financing arrangements should contribute to an equitable and fair health system that leaves no one behind under universal health coverage (UHC) policy and plans.
4. Institutional and individual capacity in health economics and financing exists in Kuwait, but it is fragmented and lack a standardized platform for analysis and shared learning.
5. The HEFU can play a key role in driving the financing policy agenda and raising the visibility and utility of health economics and financing tools and approaches to improve efficiency, equity, and cost-effectiveness.
6. The HEFU should serve as a convening platform for coordination and bringing together actors with an interest and stake in health financing reform and implementation.
7. Assessing health financing arrangements in the country will help to identify challenges, gaps, and opportunities for evidence-based policymaking.
8. Participants requested technical support from WHO and other partners in areas such as health technology assessment (HTA) to enable better resource prioritization, provider payment reform to set the right incentives for financing of health services, regular monitoring of financial protection across the population, public financial management review, alignment of health financing functions to ensure equity and sustainability, and producing National Health Accounts (NHA) to measure progress on UHC.
9. Building the information system infrastructure, to increase access to timely and accurate data and information, is essential to policy and decision-making.
10. Synthesis of analysis and reporting formats should be tailored to the needs of senior leaders, managers, and stakeholders.
11. Participants expressed a need for additional events - such as policymaker briefings and technical workshops - to further raise the visibility of health financing and build capacity in the system.



Participants of From Concepts to Implementation – Health Economics and Financing for Universal Health Coverage in Kuwait at the UN House on 31-30 March 2022.