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# Importance of private health sector governance in the health system (strategic and operational policies)

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# Governance practice and health system performance

- Governance practice includes **all interactions** between public, private and civic actors
- These interactions help improve health system performance through **public health policy**
- Public health policy is **the decisions, plans, and actions** that are undertaken to achieve specific health care goals within a society
- By governments being **central** to these decisions and processes, the health system can be strengthened by improving:



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# Governance of the private sector

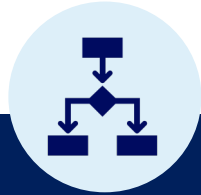
- A failure to govern the private sector **threatens the ability of countries to achieve public health policy goals**
- Growth in the private sector represents **a complex mixture of both opportunities and threats** for public health goals

# Governance of the private sector

- To 'steward' the whole health sector, national health authorities need to have a comprehensive view on health care provision



Governments have a limited track record of engagement with the private sector



Private sector may have separate management procedures, patterns of care, and information systems



Resources channelled through the private sector may be perceived to be at the "expense" of the public sector



The vision and beliefs in the public and private sectors may be perceived as incompatible



Government may lack the skills and competencies to engage with autonomous actors

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# Governance of the private sector

The WHO recognizes that **governments have to reconsider their role in the health system**, in relation to new stakeholders that emerge through new policy processes and in countries with decentralized health systems



WHO strategy: **Engaging the private health service delivery sector through governance in mixed health systems**

## ENGAGEMENT

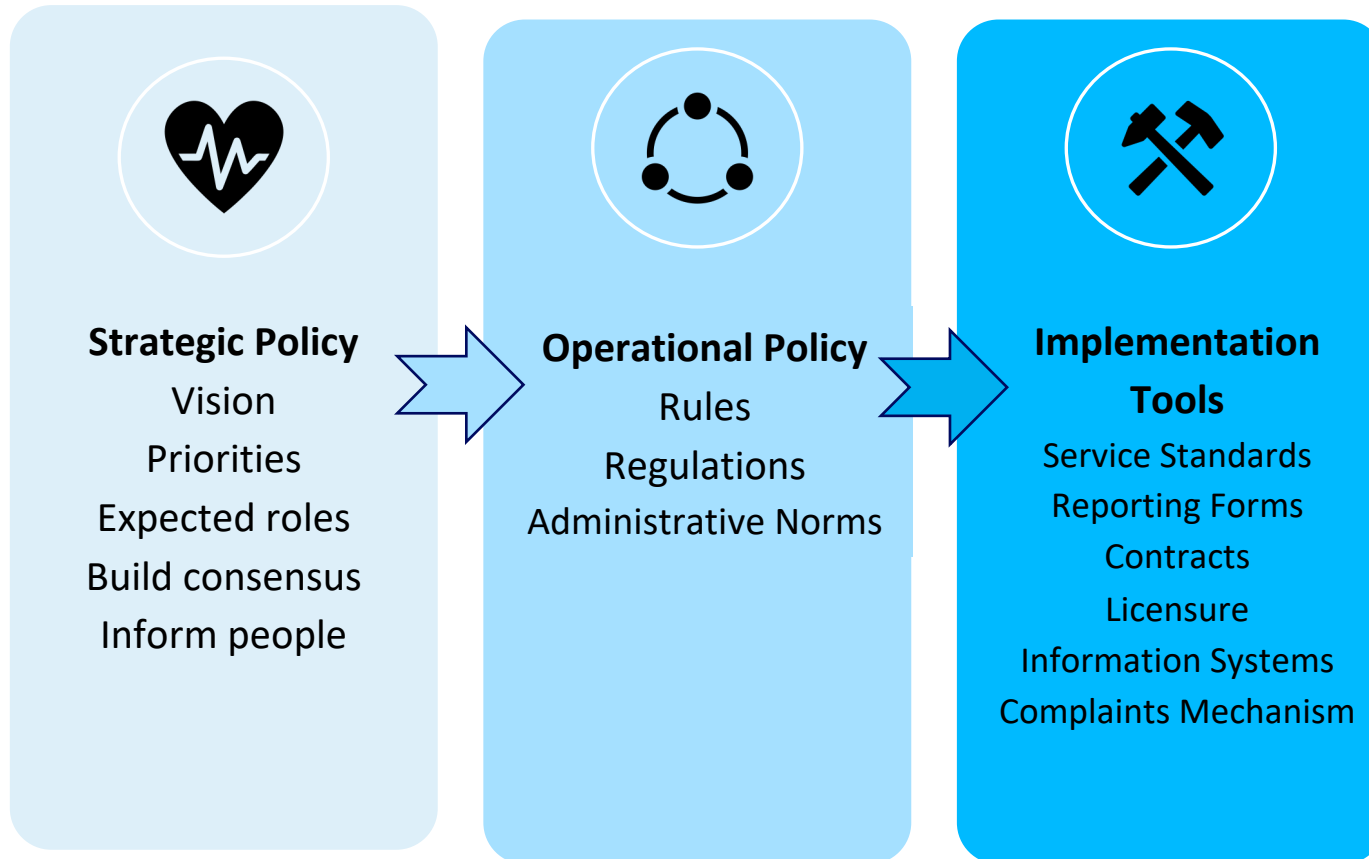
*“...it is clear that governments do not have all the answers. Productive relations with the private sector and voluntary groups are both possible and desirable” (WHO 2007)*

*Governments should take the lead because they “have a much wider range of policy levers at their disposal” (WHO, 2007)*

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# Policy levers for private sector engagement

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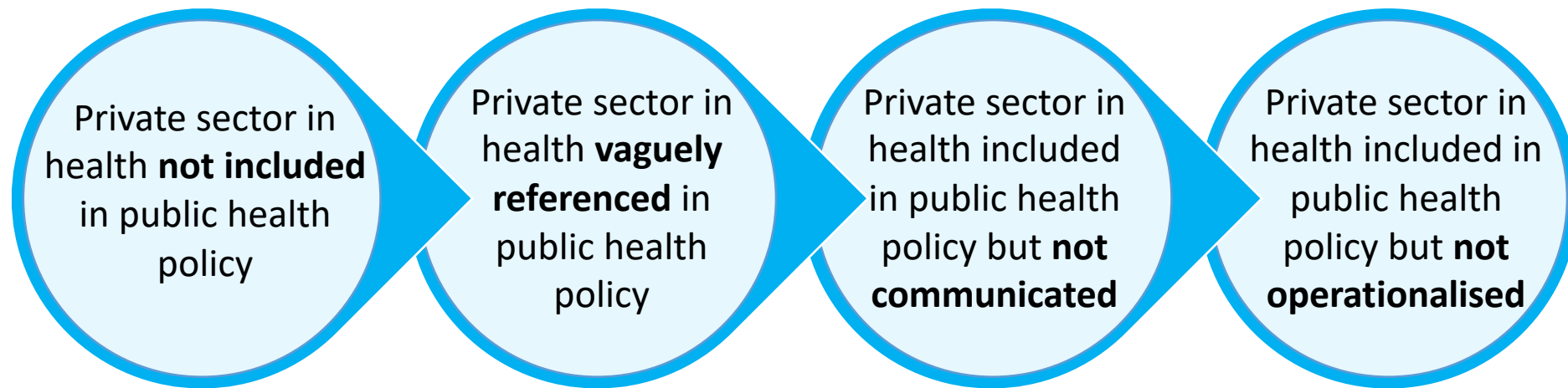


Inclusive public health policy is important as goals and priorities need to be **shaped, shared and implemented** across all health entities, including the private sector in health.

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# Private sector vacuums in public health policy

- In the absence of clear direction, a policy vacuum may occur:





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# Key messages

- Governance practice includes **all interactions** between public, private and civic actors. These interactions help improve health system performance through **public health policy**.
- Public health policy is **the decisions, plans, and actions** that are undertaken to achieve specific health care goals within a society
- By governments being **central** to these decisions and processes, the health system can be strengthened by improving:
  - Equity in access to health services.
  - Service quality and financial protection
  - Health security for public health emergencies
- Lack of governance of the private sector **threatens the ability of countries to achieve public health policy goals**
- Public health policy that is inclusive of the private health sector is important as goals and priorities need to be **shaped, shared and implemented** across all health entities
- Policy development is typically framed as having a **series of sequential parts or stages**. The process of policy making does not need to be linear. A common framework for policymaking includes: Agenda setting, Policy formulation, Policy adoption and legitimation and Policy implementation and evaluation

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# Policy cycle: where to begin?

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# Thank You!

**Importance of private health sector governance in the health system (strategic and operational policies).**

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