



# Challenges Facing the health Sector in the Arab Region and the role of integrity in addressing them

**Dr. Elfatih Abdelraheem – Regional Health and Development Advisor**



**Health System building blocks**

**1**

**Challenges per building blocks**

**2**

**Health Supply chains challenges**

**3**

**The role of integrity in  
addressing challenges**

**4**

# OUTLINE



# Health System building blocks



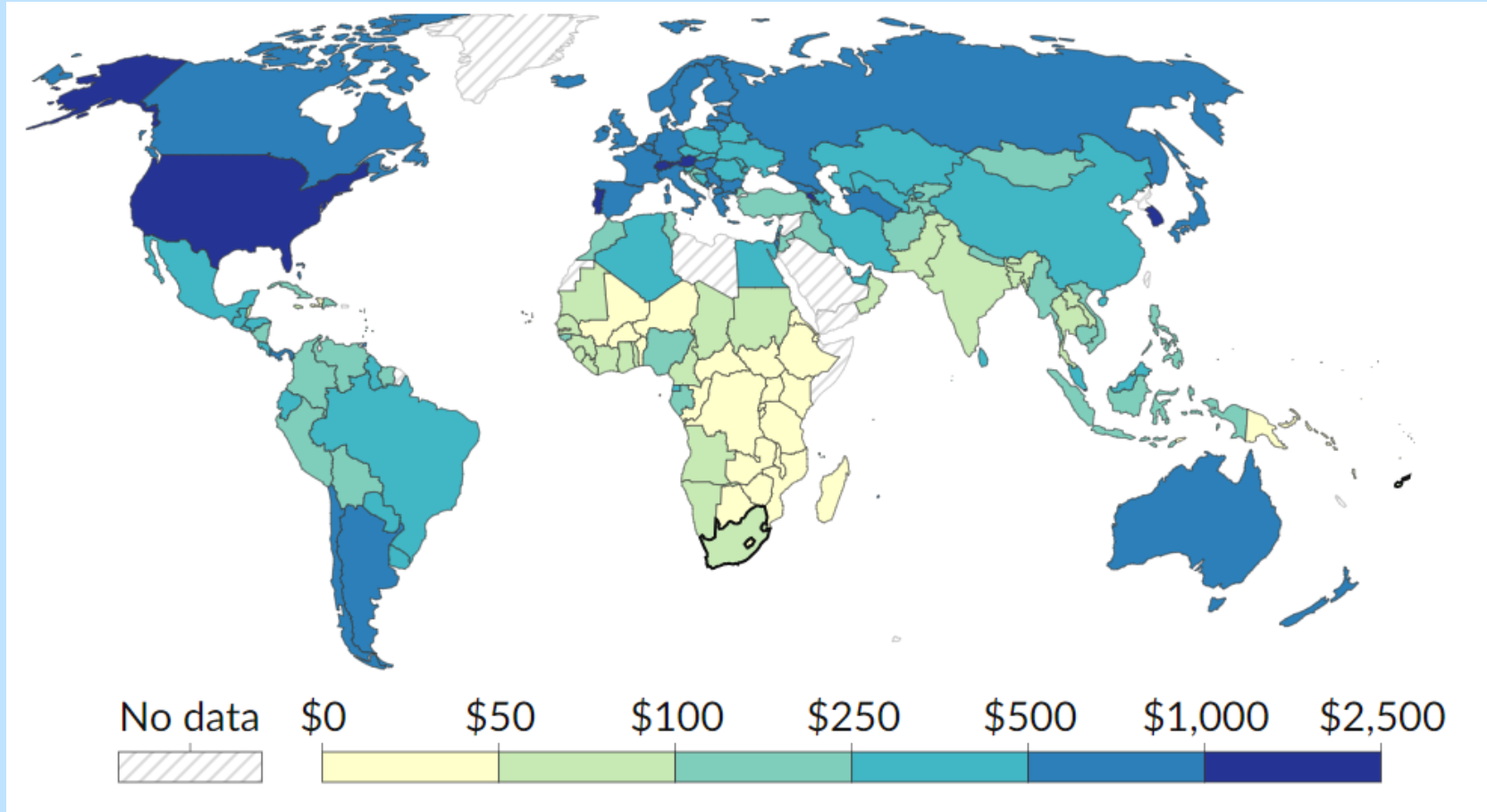


# Impact of lack of integrity on the health sector

Building block	Role of integrity
<b>Governance and leadership</b>	<p>Weak governance structures and limited political will to prioritize health.</p> <p>Lack of stakeholder engagement in health policy formulation.</p> <p>In efficiencies in health system management</p>
<b>Financing</b>	<p>Limited public health funding and reliance on out-of-pocket expenditures, which lead to inequities.</p> <p>Inadequate health insurance coverage and fragmentation of financing mechanism</p> <p>Economic instability and resource allocation issues due to conflict in some countries in the region.</p>
<b>Health Information system</b>	<p>Lack of robust data collection and analysis systems, leading to gaps in understanding health needs.</p> <p>Poor integration of health information systems across different providers and levels of care.</p> <p>Limited use of health data to inform policy and practice.</p>



# Out-of-pocket expenditure per capita on healthcare, 2021 (World in data)





# Impact of lack of integrity on the health sector



Building block	Role of integrity
<b>Service Delivery</b>	<p>Unequal access to quality healthcare services, especially in rural and conflict-affected areas.</p> <p>Insufficient integration of services, leading to fragmentation of care.</p> <p>High out-of-pocket expenses, which deter individuals from seeking care.</p>
<b>Health workforce</b>	<p>Shortage of trained healthcare professionals, especially in nursing and primary care.</p> <p>Brain drain, with many healthcare workers immigrating for better opportunities.</p> <p>Inadequate training and continuing education programmes.</p>
<b>Access to medicines and technologies</b>	<p>Inconsistent availability of essential medicines and technologies, often due to supply chain issues.</p> <p>High costs of medications, particularly for non-communicable diseases (treatment).</p> <p>Regulatory barriers that hinder to introduction of new health technologies.</p>



# Challenges facing health supply chains

## Loose accountability

- Multiple tiers and complex purchasing, importation, clearance, storage and distribution creates a diffuse sense of accountability.

## Corruption

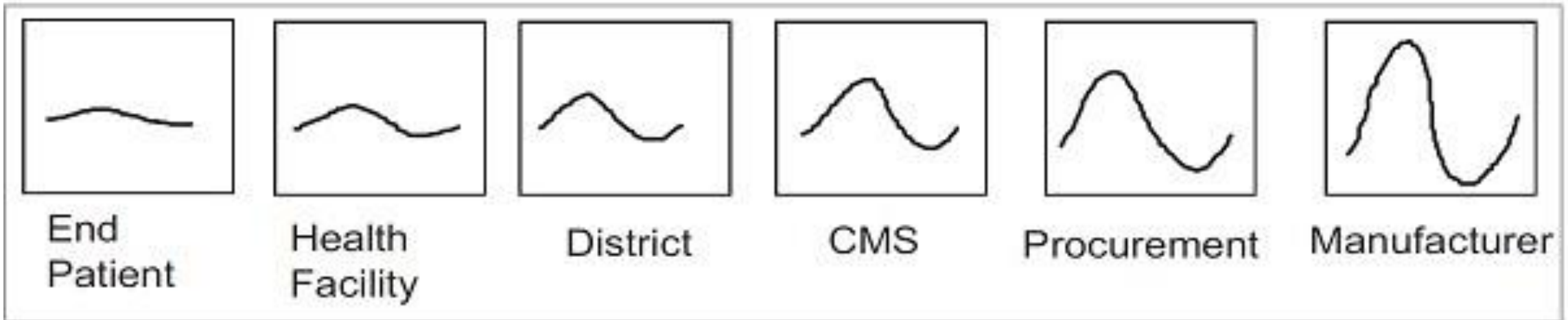
- Management of purchasing, warehousing and distribution of health supplies to medicines to lower and health district health levels.
- At lower levels, management of the supplies is under the jurisdiction of other departments in the district or regional health departments.





# Challenges facing health supply chains

- **Multiple levels of complexity with poor information flow**
  - In most LMICs, there are at least three tiers or levels of administrative management of the health supplies and commodities: warehousing, distribution, and inventory management.
  - The important flow and collection of information from one tier to another is very weak, and this results in the bullwhip effect phenomenon.







# The role of integrity in addressing challenges



Building block	Role of integrity
<b>Governance and leadership</b>	<b>Strong Institutions:</b> Integrity in governance fosters accountability, participatory decision-making, and effective leadership, which are essential for building resilient health systems
	<b>Public Trust:</b> When health authorities operate with integrity, it builds public confidence, encouraging community involvement and support for health initiatives.
<b>Financing</b>	<b>Efficient Resource Allocation:</b> Integrity in financial management ensures that funds are allocated where they are needed most, maximizing the impact of health investments.
	<b>Accountability:</b> Transparent budgeting and spending practices help prevent mismanagement and corruption, leading to more sustainable health financing.
<b>Access to Essential Medicines and Technologies</b>	<b>Fair Procurement Processes:</b> Integrity in procurement minimizes corruption, ensuring that essential medicines and technologies are sourced fairly and made available to those in need.
	<b>Supply chain Visibility:</b> introduction of digital technology through tracking solutions, enhance accountability and integrity.



# The role of integrity in addressing challenges



Building block	Solutions offered by integrity
<b>Health Information Systems</b>	<b>Data Accuracy and Reliability:</b> Integrity in data collection and reporting is vital for making informed decisions. Accurate health data helps identify needs, allocate resources effectively and evaluate interventions.
	<b>Transparency:</b> Open access to health information fosters accountability, allowing stakeholders to monitor health outcomes and address discrepancies.
<b>Health Workforce</b>	<b>Recruitment and Retention:</b> Integrity in recruitment processes prevents nepotism and ensures that qualified professionals are hired and retained, addressing workforce shortages.
	<b>Professional Standards:</b> Encouraging ethical behaviour among health workers promotes a culture of accountability and commitment to quality care.
<b>Service Delivery</b>	<b>Quality and Equity:</b> Promoting integrity ensures that healthcare services are delivered fairly and based on need, rather than corruption or favouritism. This enhances access for underserved populations.
	<b>Patient Trust:</b> When healthcare providers uphold ethical standards, it builds trust, encouraging individuals to seek care and adhere to treatment



# Thanks