

Skills building session:
**Effective governance arrangements
and capacity for
strategic purchasing of health services**

HSR Symposium Liverpool
Monday 8 October 2018

Introduction and overview

Inke Mathauer, MSc., PhD

Department of Health Systems Governance and Financing

Rationale for this session

- Governance of the purchasing function has received little attention in both research and policy practice, although no one would dispute its importance.
- Governance arrangements are critical for purchasing to become more strategic.
- The question is how to assess and how to strengthen and improve the governance arrangements for the purchasing function.

In a nutshell:

What do we mean by purchasing and governance?

- Purchasing refers to the allocation of funds to health providers for the provision of health services.
- The idea of *strategic* purchasing implies linking the allocation of funds from purchasers to health service providers with *information* on provider performance and/or the population's health needs
- SP means to organise purchasing in a way that it can achieve the strategic objectives of the health system
- The strategic purchasing encompasses benefits specification, aligned provider payment systems with coherent incentives, building information management systems
- Strategic purchasing also requires effective governance arrangements.
- Governance refers to strategic policy development, oversight, coordination, regulation, and ensuring accountability (see details in next presentation).

Objectives of this session

- present and discuss a new (draft) WHO analytical framework of governance for strategic purchasing.
 - The framework has been applied in several countries, upon which it has been finalised
- develop skills on undertaking a systematic analysis of a country's governance arrangements for strategic purchasing
- explore ways to enhance capacities of governance and purchasing actors

Group work: Topics for discussions

Skills building – group discussion (part 1)

Topic 1: Governance of the purchaser market

Topic 2: Governance of the purchasing agency

Topic 3: Conducive factors for governance of strategic purchasing

When assessing your country situation along the analytical framework's components (Topics 1-3):

- **What are the strengths in your country?**
- **What are the challenges and gaps? What are the issues?**
- **What are the impacts of these challenges and gaps on strategic purchasing?**

Skills building – group discussion (part 2)

Theme 1: Addressing gaps in governance for SP:

How can governance weaknesses be addressed and what are the policy instruments to apply?

Theme 2: Strengthening capacity for governance:

What and whose capacities to strengthen, and how to do so?

Theme 3: Generating evidence on governance for SP:

What are the most important research questions on governance for SP?

Also think of political economy and feasibility issues when exploring these questions.