

Studying the link between institutions and health system performance: a framework and an illustration with the analysis of two Performance-Based Financing schemes in Burundi

Submitted by

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The presentation at the MMI conference will be based on a scientific paper recently submitted to a scientific journal (see abstract below). We will organise the presentation in such a way that it contributes in understanding (1) issues related to institution building in fragile states and (2) the possible contribution of performance-based financing in health system strengthening.

ABSTRACT

Institutional arrangements of health systems and the incentives they set are increasingly recognized as critical to promote or hinder performance in the health sector. Looking at complex health system interventions from an institutional perspective may contribute to better understanding what are the paths and processes that lead to the results of such interventions. We will present an analytical framework drawing from new institutional economics. This framework suggests seven dimensions to look at: institutions, enforcement mechanisms, property rights, incentives, interactions between extrinsic and intrinsic sources of motivation, behavioral changes, and organizational performance.

We will apply the framework to the analysis of the institutional (re)arrangements of two Performance Based Financing (PBF) schemes in Burundi by carrying out an empirical comparison of case studies using mainly qualitative data from primary and secondary sources and analyzing them with focus on the seven dimensions of the framework.

The analysis of the case studies provides a comparative narrative of the two PBF schemes and highlights the differences in their operational design, the challenges faced during implementation and the adaptations made.

From a methodological perspective, this paper proposes a tool to analyze complex health system interventions, looking beyond the evaluation of the final effects to focus on the processes through which institutional (re)arrangements affected those results. Its application indicates, at an empirical level, that such analysis could help identify lessons regarding the design of health systems interventions, such as PBF schemes, and the process of reforming institutional arrangements.