George Wharton
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Established in 2020, the PHSSR is a global collaboration working to enhance knowledge and understanding of how to strengthen health systems in a post COVID-19 world.

Our mission is to help build health system resilience to withstand future crises and sustainability to improve population health in the long-term.

Robust and timely research focused on high-impact areas

Generate actionable, policy-relevant findings and recommendations

Based on collaboration across academia, public and private sector

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PHSSR supports assessments into health systems’ sustainability and resilience, led by leading local researchers, with expert input from health authorities and system stakeholders.

The assessments inform recommendations for health system strengthening.
Why sustainability and resilience?

**Resilience**
“A health system’s ability to prepare for, absorb and adapt to short-term shocks and accumulated stresses, and to learn and transform”

**Sustainability**
“A health system’s ability to continually deliver the key health system functions and adapt to changing contexts to improve population health”

- Mutually reinforcing in aggregate, but not one and the same.
- Both essential: PHSSR adopts a dual track approach
The PHSSR Framework

- Health system governance
- Health system financing
- Health and care workforce
- Medicines and technology
- Health service delivery
- Environmental impact
- Population health

Partnership For Health System Sustainability & Resilience
PHSSR geographic reach to date
Research partners in 20 countries
Latest Country Reports – available at www.phssr.org

Belgium
Ghent University

Canada
University of Toronto

Greece
University of West Attica

Japan
Keio University and HGPI

Portugal
Instituto Superior Técnico

Switzerland
Zurich University of Applied Sciences
While the PHSSR Country Reports contain country-specific findings and recommendations, there are common themes and trends across countries.
Coordination of services requires effective multi-level, cross-sectoral governance.

Dissolve siloes through policy alignment, clear (and shared) accountability, and data-sharing.

Example recommendation: Canada

- Strengthen mechanisms for collaborative action, and improve transparency and clarity of roles of different actors at provincial level and across sectors especially related to areas of public health, and emerging areas outside of hospitals and medical care which require consistent standards.
- Implement a Pan-Canadian Health Data Strategy
Financing: sample findings and recommendations

Incentives and resources remain misaligned to key health system goals.
Payment system reform can promote coordination, prevention, efficiency and responsiveness.

Example recommendation: Belgium
Reform the healthcare payment system (from mainly FFS to a larger weight for prospective payments and P4P) to provide appropriate incentives to care providers which are aligned with broader health system goals such as supporting integration and prevention, and promoting quality, efficiency and responsiveness of care.
The resilience of the workforce has been tested to the point of unsustainability: better working conditions should be a key focus of the recovery.

Example recommendation: Switzerland

- Improve working conditions for nurses and other health care personnel to reduce early career exit and low working hours.
- Measures to should include reducing the administrative burden, enriching job profiles and career opportunities and ensuring adequate staffing.
Medicines and technologies: sample findings and recommendations

Example recommendation: Netherlands

Strengthen international cooperation to:

• Counteract the vulnerability of the health system due to the limited national production capacity and restricted direct access to essential raw materials

• Gather more evidence on the cost-effectiveness of medical technologies

• Maintain a level playing field for investments in R&D

International collaboration to underpin adoption, innovation, and security of supply in medicines and technologies.
Service delivery: sample findings and recommendations

Bringing care out of hospitals and closer to communities by empowering healthcare providers working at the community level.

Example recommendation: Belgium

- Strengthen the coordinating role of primary care by enhancing incentives and encouraging other professionals to systematically feedback to GPs.
- Strengthen healthcare provision in nursing homes, by establishing stronger formal and automated links with other healthcare providers.
- Connect each hospital network with a cluster of 1st line care providers.
Population health: sample findings and recommendations

Population health is unequally distributed: promoting health and addressing inequalities should be in all policies.

Example recommendation: Greece

- Develop a national, cross-government policy framework against health inequalities: measure them; agree targets and cross-sectoral action plans; monitor and evaluate; and publish an annual report on progress.
Environmental sustainability: sample findings and recommendations

Health systems' impact on the environment must be acknowledged and measured, and commitments must be met with action.

Example recommendation: Saudi Arabia

- Develop standards and undertake regular measurements of the healthcare sector’s carbon footprint to expedite sustainable green healthcare facilities.

- Build on regional-level environmental sustainability efforts and collaborate with national and international jurisdictions for the integration of the efforts into a national programme.
Activation and Engagement

PHSSR Canadian Launch

We launched the Partnership for Health System Sustainability and Resilience in Canada. The event took place on May 21, 2022, at the Faculty Club at the University of Toronto.

Stakeholders and panel of speakers included:
- Mamta Goyal, Canadian President, World Economic Forum
- Prof. Gary Allen, Lead PHSSR Researcher in Canada
- Marko Zlatkovic, Expert Panel Member
- Laura Green, Innosign

Global activation

“Collaborating to Build Healthy and Resilient Health Systems” at WEF Annual Meeting in Davos, May 25, 2022

Healthcare System Resilience Summit at World Expo Dubai, January 30-31, 2022

Partnership For Health System Sustainability & Resilience
6 further country reports and overarching report by May 2023

EU-level report

Sustained engagement with policymakers on findings and policy recommendations

Research in 10 new countries in 2023 – 24: focus on Asia-Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa
Next steps: from research to policy change

Support further development of recommendations, and provide basis for sustained engagement in pursuit of implementation

1. Evaluate the progress and changes in health systems since the initial country assessments
2. Promote focussed engagement by stakeholders with PHSSR recommendations
3. Identify areas of improvement to promote cross-country knowledge exchange

Methodology:

- Identify priority issue areas
- Evidence review
- Key informant interviews
- Focus group discussions
- Validation Workshops
- Dissemination Events

Outputs:

1. Guidance Document
2. Country Project Plan
3. Country Report
4. Policy Briefs
5. Cross-country Comparative report
Thank you