

# 5TH ANNUAL GHANA HEALTH POLICY DIALOGUE 2022

## THEME:

HEALTH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR  
UHC IN GHANA: A WHOLE-OF-SECTOR APPROACH?

VOLTA SERENE HOTEL – HO  
27TH NOVEMBER – 30TH NOVEMBER 2022

## Partners



HSRM  
Capacity-building in Health Systems  
Research and Management

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# Health System Performance Assessment for UHC – theory, scope, purpose, content

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# What is Health System Performance Assessment (HSPA)?



„a country-specific process

of monitoring, evaluating, communicating and  
reviewing

the achievement of high-level health system goals  
based on health system strategies“

(WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2013)

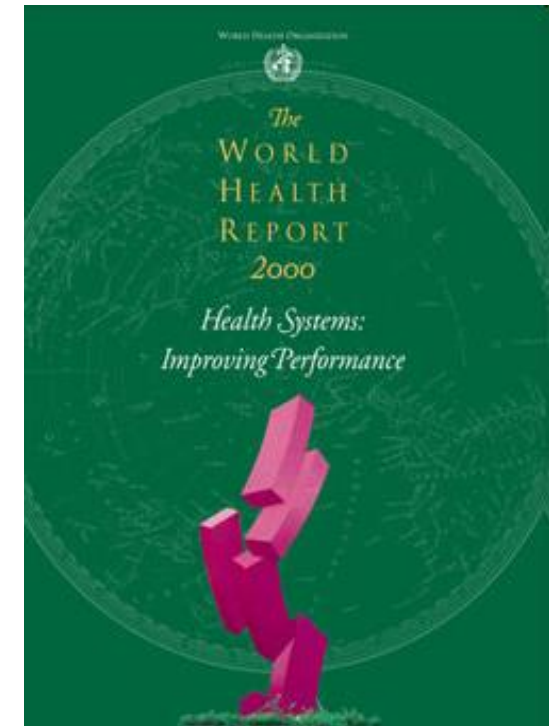
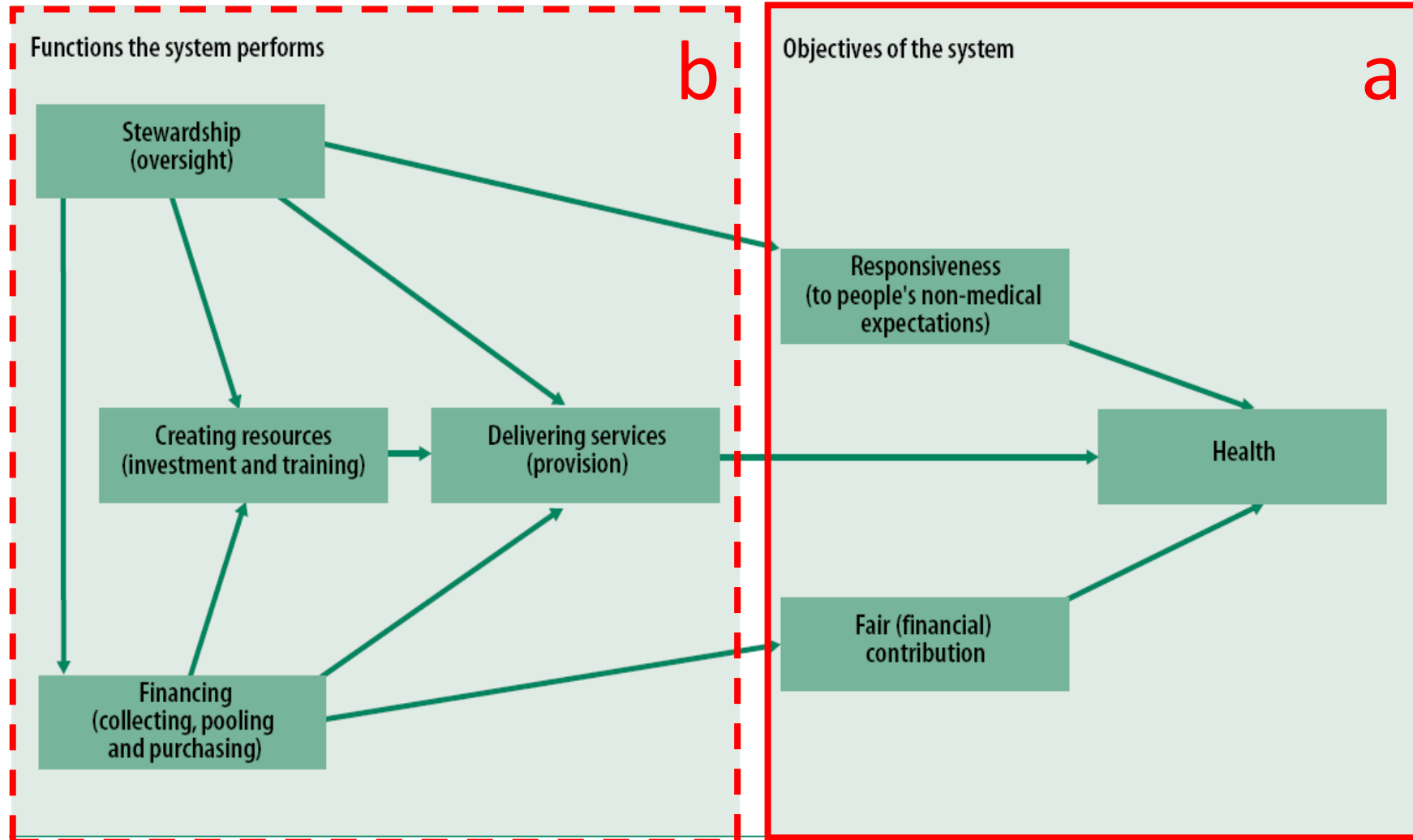
# Why do we need HSPA?



Health policy-making and reform require, first and foremost, a sound understanding of how a health system is performing.

Assessing the performance of a health system effectively is the first step to improving it.

(1) “Performance” needs (a) an understanding about systems’ objectives and (b) which elements (e.g. “functions”) contribute to achieving them

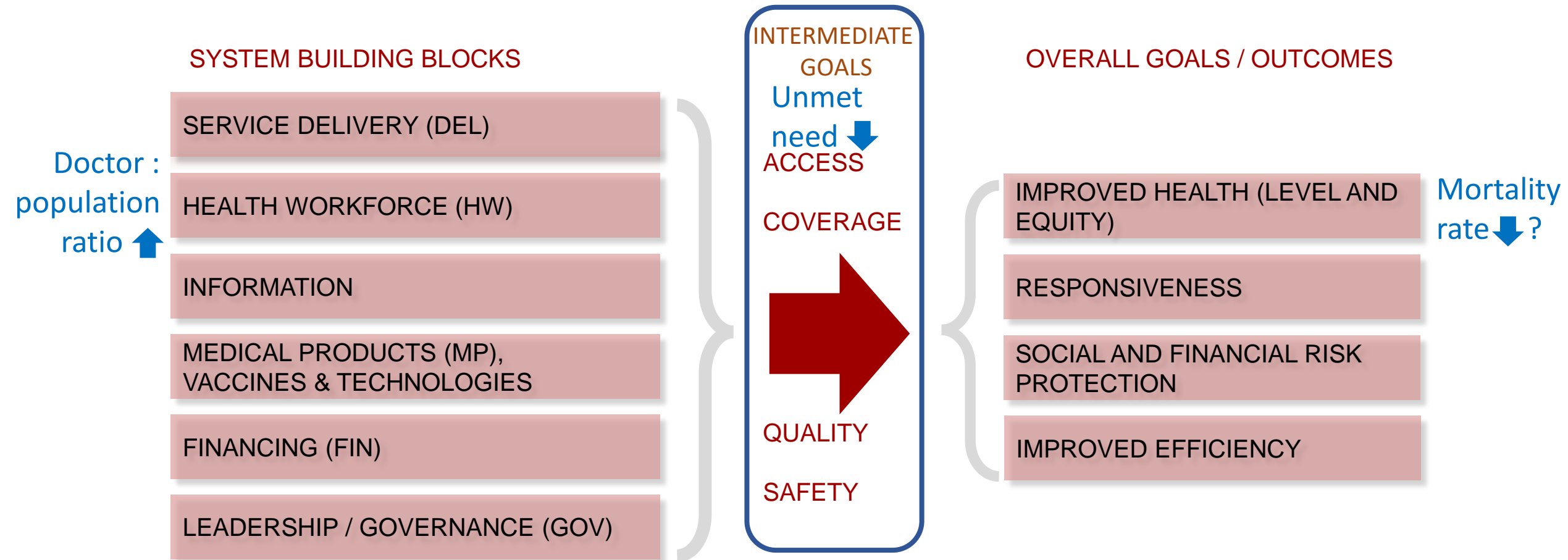


Looking at the results from 2000,  
the political applicability was questionable

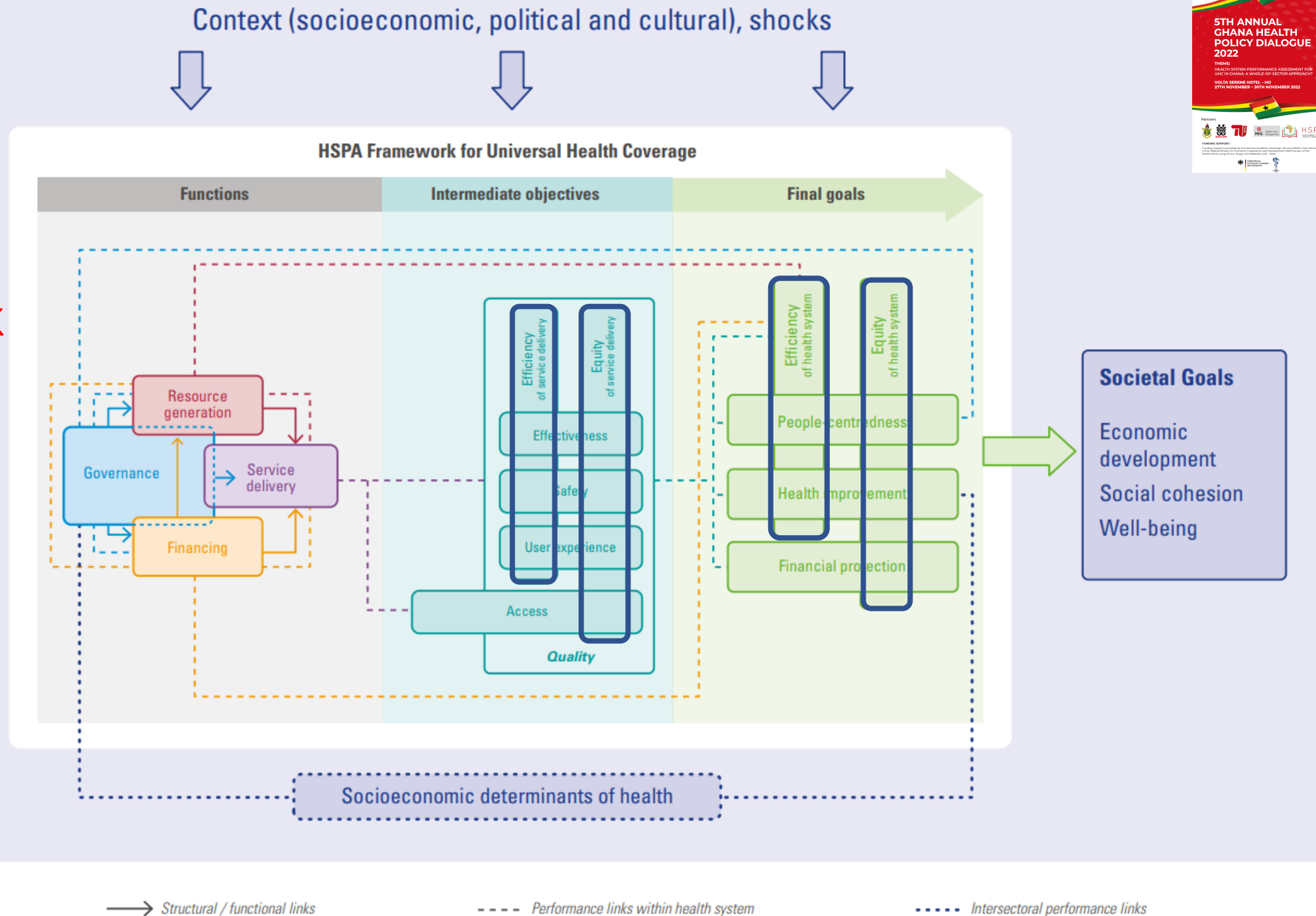
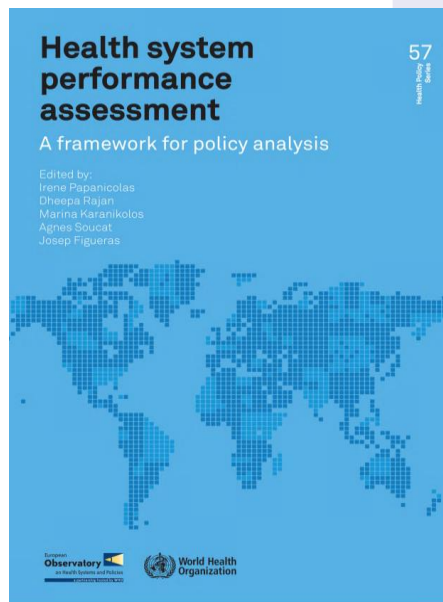
#1

Member State	ATTAINMENT OF GOALS						Health expenditure per capita in international dollars	PERFORMANCE	
	Health		Responsiveness		Fairness in financial contribution	Overall goal attainment		On level of health	Overall health system performance
	Level (DALE)	Distribution	Level	Distribution					
Equatorial Guinea	152	151	143	118	134	152	129	174	171
Eritrea	169	167	186	169 – 170	108 – 111	176	187	148	158
Estonia	69	43	66	69	145	48	60	115	77
Ethiopia	182	176	179	179 – 180	138 – 139	186	189	169	180
Fiji	106	71	57 – 58	73 – 74	54 – 55	78	87	124	96
Finland	20	27	19	3 – 38	8 – 11	22	18	44	31
France	3	12	16 – 17	3 – 38	26 – 29	6	4	4	1
Gabon	144	136	118 – 119	101 – 102	84 – 86	141	95	143	139
Gambia	143	155	165 – 167	157	149	153	158	109	146
Georgia	44	61	165 – 167	141	105 – 106	76	125	84	114
Germany	22	20	5	3 – 38	6 – 7	14	3	41	25
Ghana	149	149	132 – 135	146	74 – 75	139	166	158	135
Greece	7	6	36	3 – 38	41	23	30	11	14
Grenada	49	82	63 – 64	84 – 85	147	68	67	49	85
Guatemala	129	106	115 – 117	159	157	113	130	99	78
Guinea	167	166	168 – 169	130 – 131	76 – 78	172	159	160	161
Guinea-Bissau	170	177	184	174	122 – 123	180	156	156	176
Guyana	98	126	114	105 – 106	45 – 47	116	109	104	128
Haiti	153	152	157 – 160	172 – 173	163	145	155	139	138
Honduras	92	119	129	163	178	129	100	48	131

As linking goal outcomes to functions (or building blocks) directly is difficult, intermediate outcomes were added, where results can be better attributed (and influenced)



Equity and efficiency seen as cross-cutting issues: we come back to that

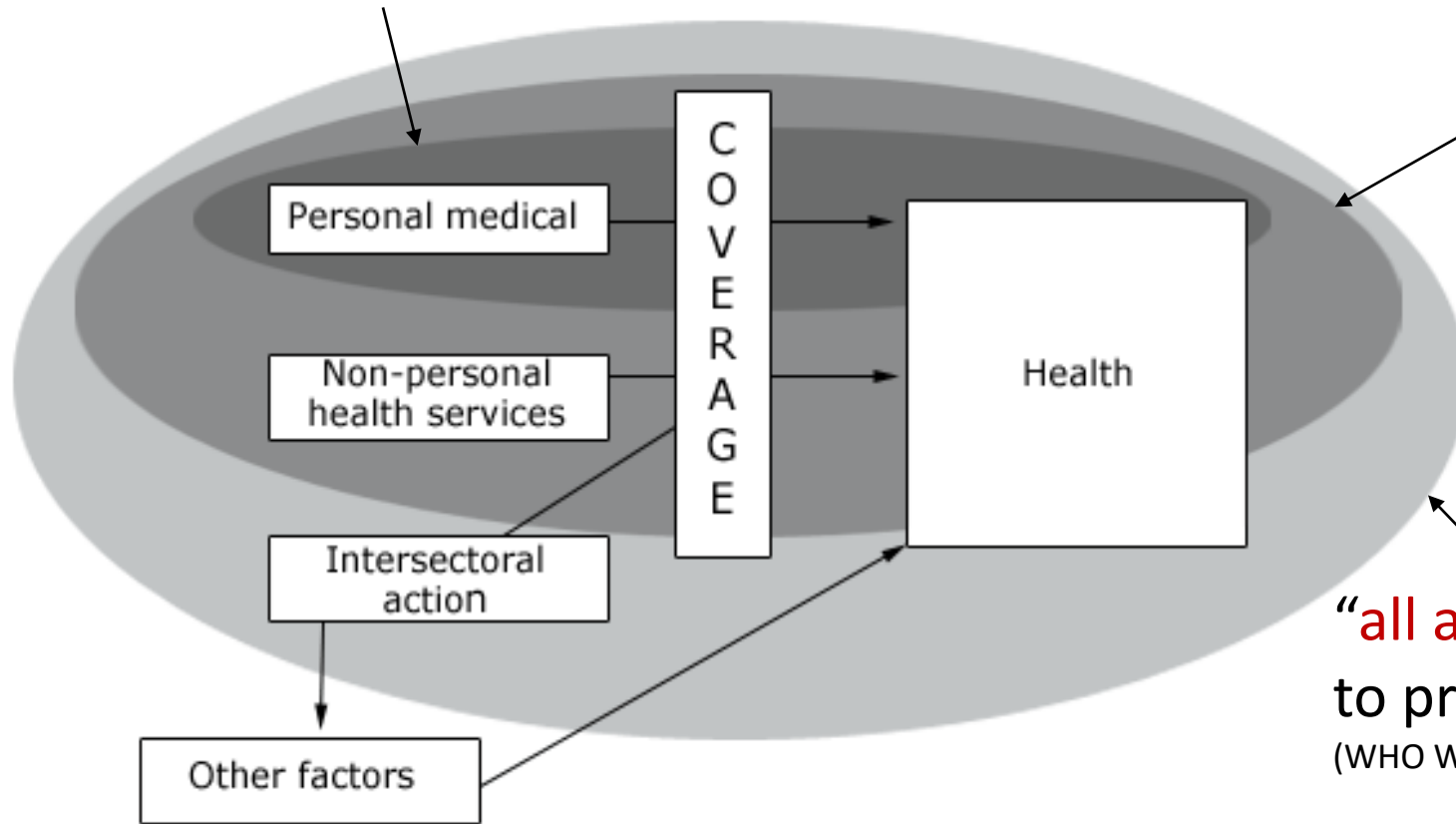




## (2) “Performance” needs an agreement about which activities are part of the “health system” (and which are not)

“The **health care system**, not including public health activities or other wider issues”

(Hurst & Hughes 2001)



“combined **functioning of public health and personal health care services**” that are under the “**direct control of identifiable agents**, especially ministries of health”

(Arah, 2006)

“**all activities** whose primary **purpose** is to promote, restore or maintain health”

(WHO WHR2000)



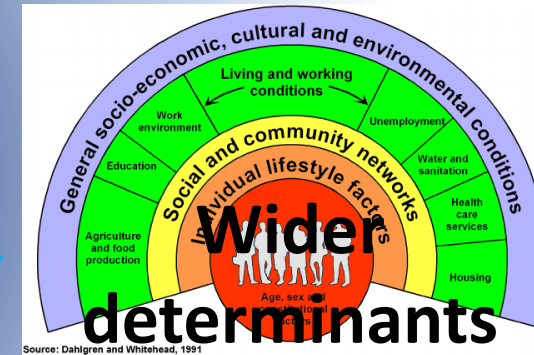
# Pros and Cons of different health system boundaries

- + Closer to concept of UHC
- + Accountability
- + Clarity in areas of action

- + More holistic view
- + Accounts for interactions



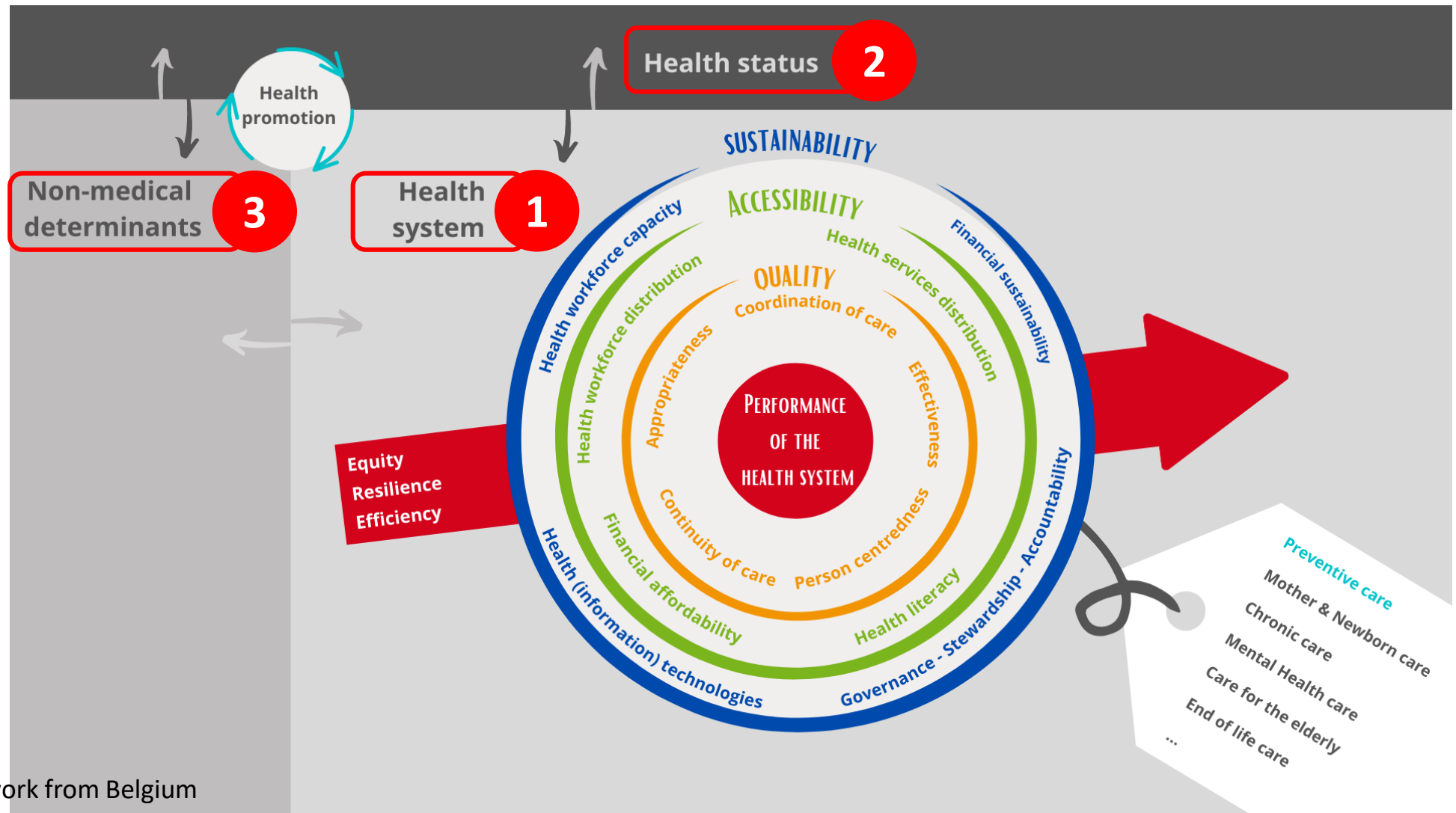
Health system boundaries



- Exclusion of (most) determinants
- Hard to measure effect on outcomes
- Slow change
- Lack of clarity on roles
- Hard to assign responsibility

In balance, I suggest that we need (1) HSPA, (2) health status reporting (burden of disease) and (3) Health Impact Assessment of non-medical determinants – separate but thought together ...

... Ghana's Holistic Assessment Tool includes all 3 – on purpose?



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**THEME:**  
HEALTH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR  
URBAN GHANA & WHOLE OF SECTOR APPROACH

**VOLTA SERIES MEETING - HD,  
27TH NOVEMBER - 30TH NOVEMBER 2022**

**Partners:**

**FUNDING SUPPORT:**

- the role of HSPA for UHC in Ghana,
- the scope of HSPA (“health care system” vs. broad approach),
- selection of framework and included dimensions,
- attributability  
functions/ building blocks → intermediate outcomes → final outcomes,
- indicator selection:  
availability of underlying data, data sources, validity of indicators,
- comparison with other countries (selection, availability, comparability of indicators),
- implementation of HSPA (responsible agency, frequency ...),  
*and last but not least*
- making HSPA useful for policy-making!