



Technical Discussions



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PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

Some problems of financing the health sector

1. How much knowledge do the national health authorities have about the sources of revenue for the sector and for its component institutions; of the purpose for which the funds are used according to the main heads of the national budget and the main activities of those institutions; of the mechanisms for assigning resources to the sector and to the institutions; and of the execution and control of expenditure?

1.2 How much knowledge is there in the countries about the trends of the share of the health sector in the expenditure of the public sector?

1.3 Is such knowledge a precondition for the formulation of a policy for the financing of the health sector in the context of national development?

1.4 If it is, and the amount of knowledge available is inadequate, what would be the principal obstacles and what are your recommendations for overcoming them in practice?

2. Is it possible to increase the productivity of the health sector by reorienting the formation, assignment, and destination of resources so that the sector can play an increasing part in national development efforts?

2.1 If it were possible to do so, what would be the main areas of action?

3. Existing systems of financing of the health sector, both internal and external, appear to have deficiencies and limitations which prevent optimum use being made of them and impede optimum assignment to the most outstanding health problems. What are the most important obstacles and how could they best be overcome?

4. What possibility is there, if any, of creating new sources for financing the health sector, both internal and external? What kind of sources and what mechanisms would be the most advisable?

5. Is the health sector capable of absorbing possible increases in internal or external funds, for both the production of services and investments?

5.1 If its "capacity to absorb" is considered inadequate, what would be the most advisable ways of making use of the increase in funds in the short, medium and long-term?

6. What would be the importance of instituting and strengthening health planning in contributing to the solution of the problem of financing the health sector and its component institutions?