

# USAID MEDICINES, TECHNOLOGIES, AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES (MTaPS) PROGRAM

*Improved Access. Improved Services. Better Health Outcomes.*

Approaches and Tools for Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems

## Using **Health Technology Assessment** to Strengthen Informed Decision Making in Pharmaceutical Systems

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# Why is health technology assessment important?

## **Health technology assessment (HTA)**

facilitates priority setting:

- Explicit methods to determine the value of health technology at different points in its lifecycle
- Informs resource allocation decisions to promote an equitable, efficient, and high-quality health system

Achieving universal health coverage requires effectively managing and allocating limited health system resources.

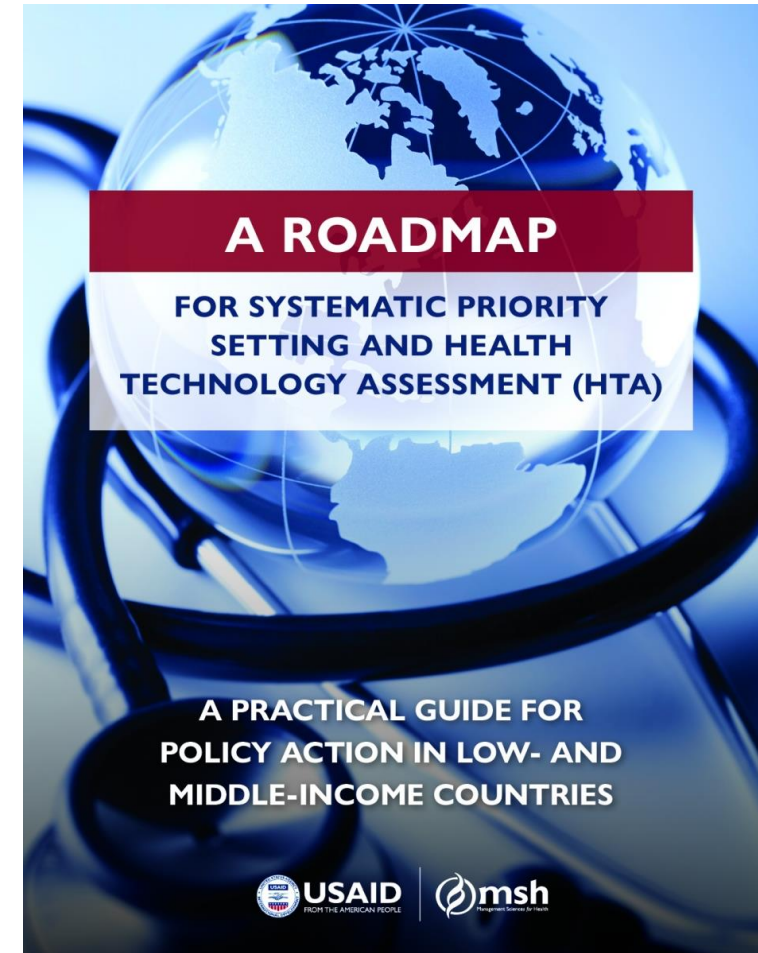


# Approaches and tools MTaPS has been using to implement HTA (I)

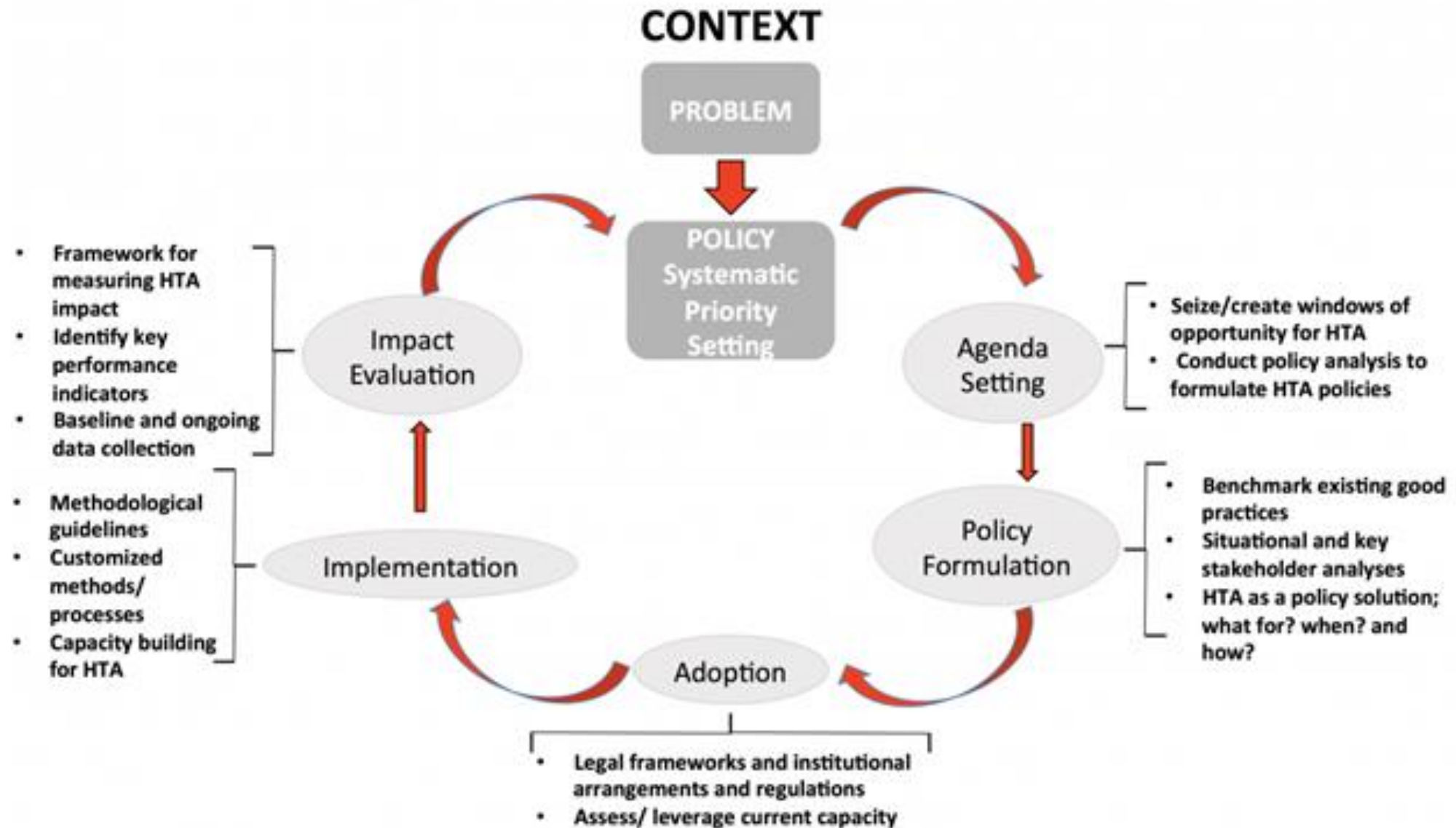
MTaPS uses a stepwise approach for HTA implementation.

- Adapted stages model to characterize the basic elements of dynamic policy making for HTA
- Recognizes that health-related policy making is not always a straightforward process

Advocates for using HTA in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) for determining the value of a health technology (e.g., medical product or medical device) at different points in its lifecycle to inform decision making



# Approaches and tools MTaPS has been using to implement HTA (2)



# Case study: Assessing HTA progress in Asian countries by using a balanced scorecard

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- Developed a balanced scorecard for assessing HTA and assessed progress in China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam
  - Benefit package design and updating national essential medicine lists are good entry points for HTA application
  - Formal mechanism linking HTA with policy making and political commitment can lead to strong HTA programs
- Balanced scorecard offers a pragmatic framework—identifies potential barriers and informs capacity-building efforts



# Case Study: HTA implementation in Indonesia



The simplification of topic selection criteria and wider access to the submission form will empower stakeholders and improve the quality of HTA proposals.

**Topic selection**—prioritization of health technologies to be evaluated—is an important stage in the HTA process. Existing processes lacked operational definition criteria and scoring indicators. MTaPS supported the Ministry of Health in improving topic selection processes:

- ✓ Conducted a literature review and documented recommendations from over 60 stakeholders
- ✓ Refined HTA topic selection criteria from eight to six criteria
- ✓ HTA Committee accepted new criteria for measurable indicators and non-redundancy
- ✓ Flow chart detailing HTA topic selection and digital form for stakeholders to nominate HTA topics now available

# How can you apply these approaches and tools?

- **A Roadmap for Systematic Priority Setting and Health Technology Assessment (HTA)** (Castro et al., 2020): This roadmap serves as a practical guide for policy action in LMICs to successfully implement HTA and outlines a path to sustainable UHC and self-reliance.



# Additional resources: readings

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- [Exploring facilitators and barriers to introducing health technology assessment: a systematic review](#) (Suharlim et al., 2022)
- [Assessing progression of health technology assessment implementation in Asia: a balanced scorecard for cross comparison of selected countries in Asia](#) (Kumar et al., 2022)
- [Assessing Health Technology Assessment Progress in Asian Countries Using a Balanced Scorecard](#) (September 2022)
- [Advancing HTA in Asia for Sustainable Universal Health Coverage](#) (December 2021)
- [Who Gets What and Why?](#) (Castro, September 2020)





# Additional resources: e-learning and videos

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- **Pharmaceutical Systems Strengthening 101** (available in [English](#) and in [French](#)): This course introduces learners to the basic principles of PSS, including how address pharmaceutical system problems advances universal health coverage; combats antimicrobial resistance, HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other public health threats; and promotes maternal and child health.
- **Translating HTA into Policy and Practice: Setting a Path to Self-Reliance**: This video from the launch of *A Roadmap for Systematic Priority Setting and Health Technology Assessment*, provides an overview of the roadmap and highlights several countries' experiences with HTA implementation.
- **Health Technology Assessment Pathways in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Scaling Up for Sustainability of Universal Health Coverage in Asia**: This video from a 2021 HTAsiaLink event discusses case studies on best practices, technical frameworks, policy options, and multiple institutional pathways toward systematic priority setting using HTA.



## Who to contact



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