

# National Essential Health Care Packages (NEHCs)

*A focus on Universal Health Coverage &  
Sustainable Healthcare*

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# Goals of the presentation

- Provide an understanding of NEHCPs.
- Explain the steps in designing, prioritizing, and implementing NEHCPs.
- Highlight challenges and solutions drawn from global case studies to improve NEHCP processes.
- Discuss the role of M&E in ensuring the success of NEHCPs.

# Introduction

## Definition

- Strategic frameworks that outline the health services deemed essential for a population, prioritizing cost-effectiveness, equity and sustainability.
- They aim to address health needs while optimizing the use of limited resources.

## Core objectives

- Ensure access to high-priority promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative health services.
- Reduce financial barriers to accessing care.
- Strengthen health system performance and equity.

## Global relevance

- Integral to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and SDG 3.8.
- NEHCPs serve as a policy tool for governments to allocate resources effectively.

# The need for NEHCPs

## Why NEHCPs are critical?

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Address inequities in access to healthcare and improve service delivery for vulnerable populations.

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Respond to shifting disease burdens, including NCDs and emerging health threats.

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Provide a structured approach to prioritize interventions based on population needs.

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## Key impacts

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Enhances health outcomes by focusing on high-impact interventions.

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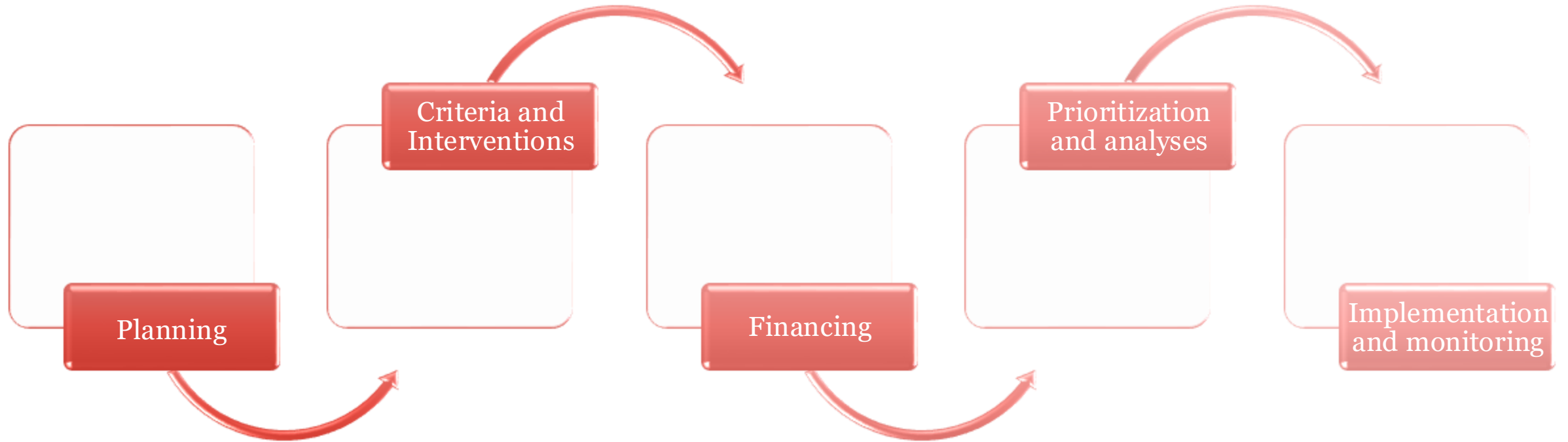
Prevents financial hardship through public financing mechanisms.

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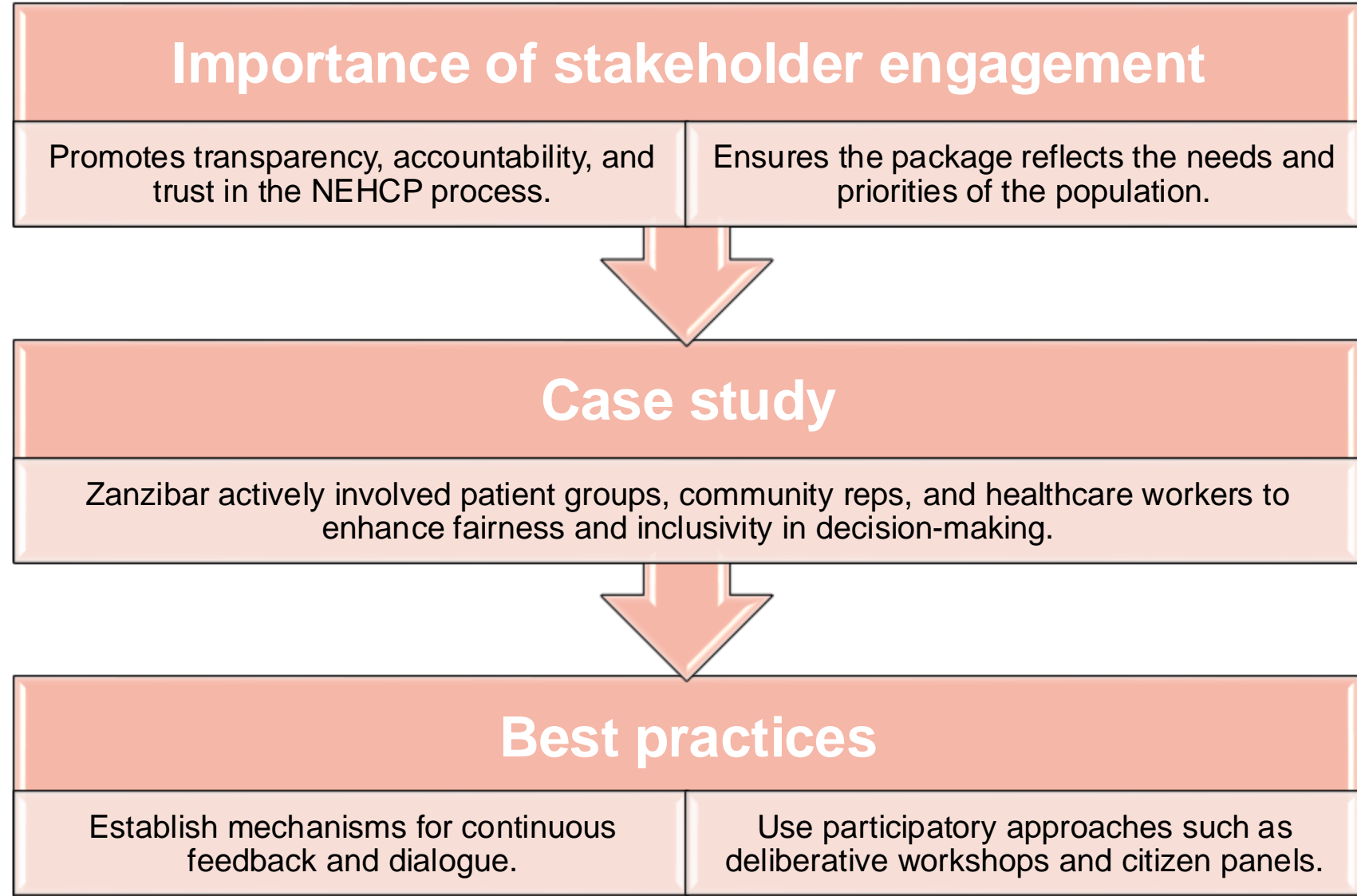
Strengthens accountability and transparency in health spending

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# Designing NEHCPs: Key steps



# Stakeholder involvement



# Financing NEHCPs

## Approaches to financing

- Implement progressive universalism by prioritizing interventions that benefit the most vulnerable populations.
- Explore mixed financing models, including public funding, cost-sharing, and private sector contributions.

## Challenges

- Limited fiscal space and competing priorities in low-resource settings.
- Dependence on external donor funding for specific interventions.

## Case study

- Pakistan developed a phased financing strategy to sustainably implement its NEHCP while securing donor and government commitments

# Transition to implementation

## *Key prerequisites for successful implementation*



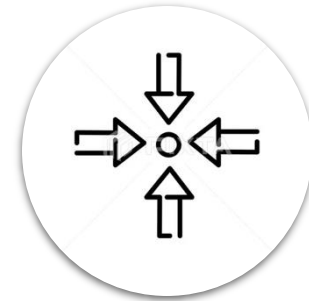
### High-level political commitment

- Secure support from government leaders, legislators, and policymakers.



### Capacity building

- Invest in training for health workers, managers, and policymakers.



### System alignment:

- Ensure NEHCPs are integrated with existing health policies, infrastructure, and financing mechanisms.



# Challenges in NEHCPS implementation

## Common challenges

### **Resource constraints**

- Inadequate funding, human resources, and infrastructure.

### **Health system gaps**

- Weak information and referral systems
- Fragmented service delivery.

### **Political and institutional barriers**

- Limited coordination among stakeholders and resistance to change.

# Monitoring and Evaluation

## The role of M&E

- Tracks progress in implementation and identifies areas for improvement.
- Provides data to assess the impact of NEHCPs on health outcomes and financial protection.

## Framework for M&E

- Develop core indicators aligned with SDG 3.8.1 (service coverage) and 3.8.2 (financial risk protection).
- Create country-specific indicators to address local priorities and challenges.

## Case study

- Pakistan's M&E framework integrated routine health information systems and periodic surveys to monitor progress

# Strategies for effective NEHCPs

## **Institutional strengthening**

Establish governance structures to oversee NEHCP processes.

## **Capacity development**

Train personnel at all levels to enhance technical and managerial capabilities.

## **Sustainable financing**

Align NEHCPs with national budgets and explore innovative financing solutions.

## **Context-specific adaptation**

Customize NEHCPs to address local needs while learning from global best practices.

## **Continuous M&E**

Build robust systems to monitor implementation and improve accountability

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