

ITMAM Reports

Report No. 7



The health sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- Intellectual Property
- insurance
- health

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Overview of the Health Sector in KSA

The Health Transformation Program has played a key role in enhancing the efforts of health entities within the Saudi healthcare ecosystem. The development of a well-defined and integrated health strategy has been pivotal in establishing a comprehensive health system that benefits all residents, contributing to the Kingdom's advanced health infrastructure. This includes state-of-the-art hospitals offering extensive services across the country. Additionally, Saudi Arabia leverages modern technology in healthcare, utilizing electronic systems for patient registration and big data analytics to improve disease diagnosis.

The Kingdom is home to various world-class universities and medical institutes that offer cutting-edge education in medicine and nursing, fostering the growth of highly skilled healthcare professionals. Furthermore, the Saudi health system is implementing a series of innovative initiatives and preventive programs with a focus on raising awareness and promoting early detection, with the aim of reducing the spread of chronic diseases. In addition, The Kingdom has effectively addressed major health challenges by implementing stringent measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Key Figures of the Saudi Health Sector **in 2023**

94%

Healthcare services Coverage within the kingdom.

126+

Million vaccinations recorded in the National Immunization Registry.

77 years

Life expectancy per capita.

81%

Average satisfaction with healthcare services.

587+

Thousand volunteers.

2678

cases rescued by air ambulance.

30

Million beneficiaries of Sehhaty Application.

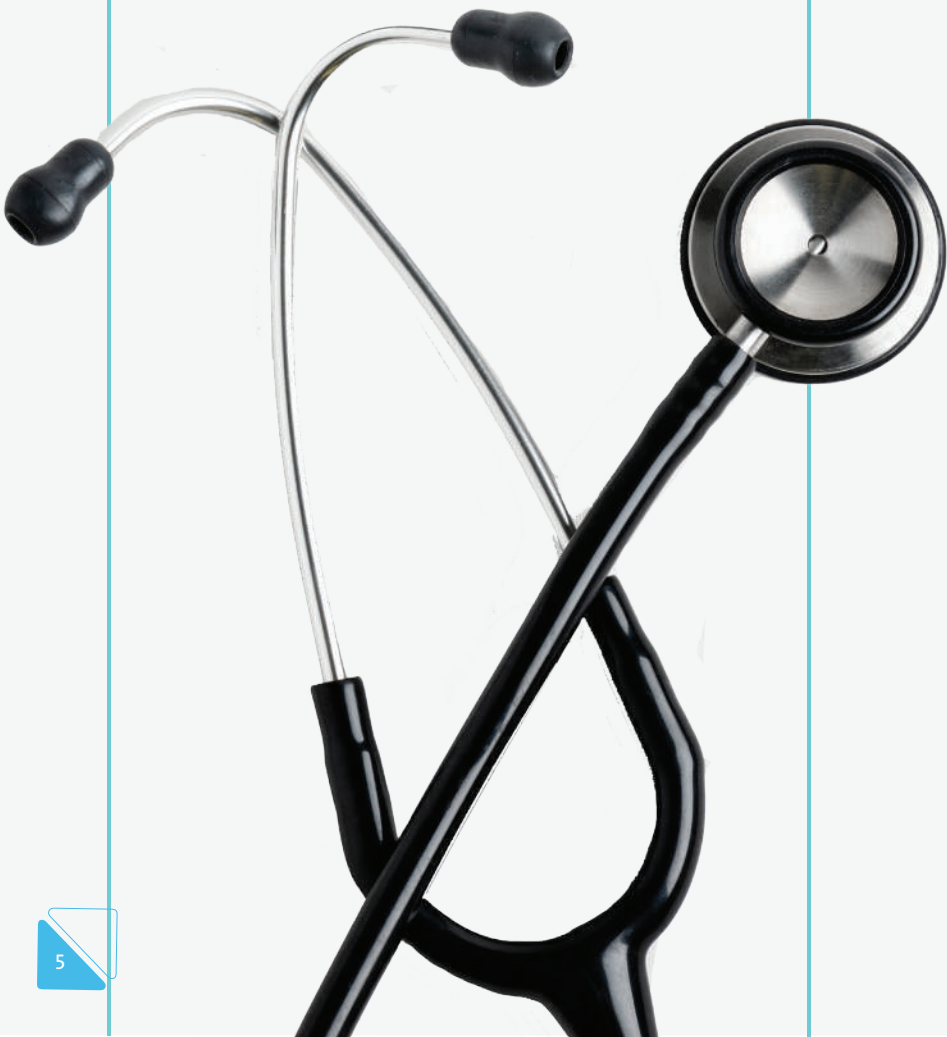
1.4

Million instant virtual consultations.

* Source: Saudi Press Agency (SPA)

Key Challenges Faced by the Health Sector in KSA

- Deaths and injuries caused by traffic accidents, straining the health sector.
- A rapidly growing population, with the Kingdom's total population projected to increase from 33.4 million in 2018 to 39.4 million in 2030, leading to a higher demand for health services.
- Constant evolution of modern medical technologies.
- Premature deaths due to chronic diseases that reduce life expectancy.
- Ongoing changes in risk factors/parameters of communicable and non-communicable diseases, such as, environmental and genetic influences, behaviors and lifestyle, socioeconomic status, and health policies, can increase the prevalence of diseases, particularly non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.
- The Kingdom's vast geographical area.



Roles of Key Players in the Health Ecosystem

01

برنامج تحول
القطاع الصحي



Health Sector Transformation
Program

02

المجلس الصحي السعودي
SAUDI HEALTH COUNCIL



Healthcare Strategy

03

وزارة الصحة
Ministry of Health



MoH Strategy

برنامج تحول
القطاع الصحي



Health Sector Transformation Program

The program encompasses all health entities within the Kingdom's health ecosystem, aligning with the strategic direction, general framework, objectives, and pillars of the strategy. It also includes relevant indicators and initiatives aimed at improving access to health services, enhancing the quality and efficiency of services, promoting prevention of health risks, and enhancing traffic safety.

The program is centered around several key themes:

- 01** Better workforce Sufficient and capable health workforce.
- 02** Improving quality and accessibility of healthcare services.
- 03** Controlling healthcare cost.
- 04** Promoted public health.





Healthcare Strategy

The Saudi Health Council is dedicated to establishing regulations that facilitate coordination and integration among health-related entities, aiming to enhance and promote healthcare services. The Council is responsible for developing the Saudi Healthcare Strategy, which seeks to establish a comprehensive and integrated health system, ensuring fair and accessible healthcare for the entire population.

The strategy comprises the following key objectives:

- 01** Ensure that all residents have access to essential health services.
- 02** Promote public health and disease prevention instead of focusing solely on treatment.
- 03** Coordinate between health entities to improve integration and efficiency in the provision of healthcare services.
- 04** Achieve digital transformation by expanding electronically provided healthcare services and digital solutions to facilitate access to care
- 05** Promote the quality of healthcare services.



The Ministry of Health (MoH) oversees all health affairs in the Kingdom. It's main objective is to establish an integrated and sustainable health system that takes care of public health, promotes prevention of diseases, provides comprehensive people-centric healthcare services, empowers competencies, and supports innovation.

Currently, the MoH strategy aligns consistently and coherently with the Kingdom's healthcare strategy. It aims to:

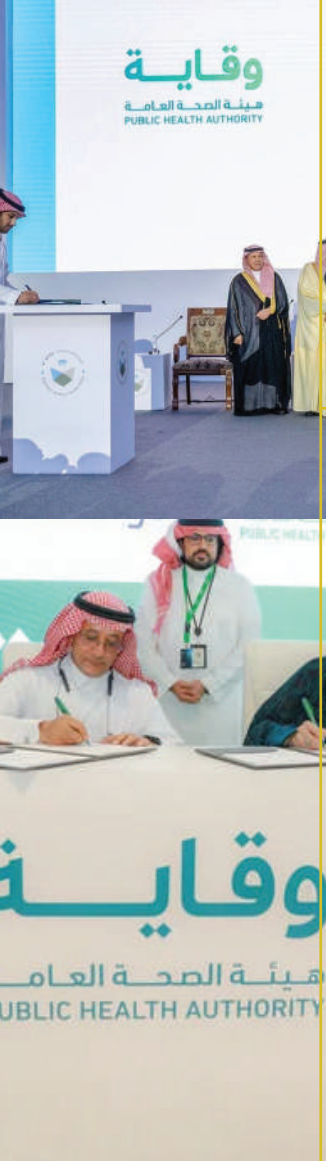
- 01** Improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare services.
- 02** Oversight and supervision of private healthcare facilities.
- 03** Develop legislations and regulations to organize health care.
- 04** Respond to challenges such as rising costs of health services.
- 05** Eliminate chronic diseases and improve healthcare outcomes.



وزارة الصحة
Ministry of Health



الملكة
الأميرة



Advancements in the Saudi Health Sector

2021

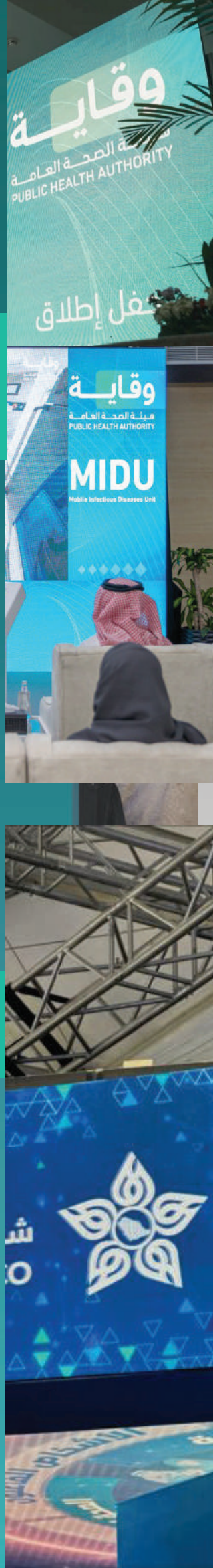
Transforming the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention into a government entity called the Public Health Authority

The decision stemmed from the health sector's transformation initiatives. The entity's role in preventing diseases and reducing both infectious and non-infectious diseases has been activated. This includes monitoring, following up on, and preventing the spread of diseases, as well as conducting research and studies in the field of disease prevention. The entity plays a pivotal role in promoting public health, reducing the incidence rate of infectious and non-communicable diseases, particularly in the context of the fight against Covid-19. It also contributes to eliminating the factors leading to such diseases and enhances the level of readiness to face health crises.

2022

The Establishment of Health Holding Company

The Council of Ministers' decision to establish the Health Holding and to regulate the National Health Insurance Center was approved: The Ministry of Health will act as the regulator and supervisor of both public and private health institutions. Meanwhile, the Health Holding, through its health clusters, will deliver integrated healthcare services to beneficiaries across all regions of the Kingdom, adhering to a modern healthcare model at various levels. The Health Insurance Center will be responsible for financing these services.





2022

Transforming King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center into an independent non-profit organization.

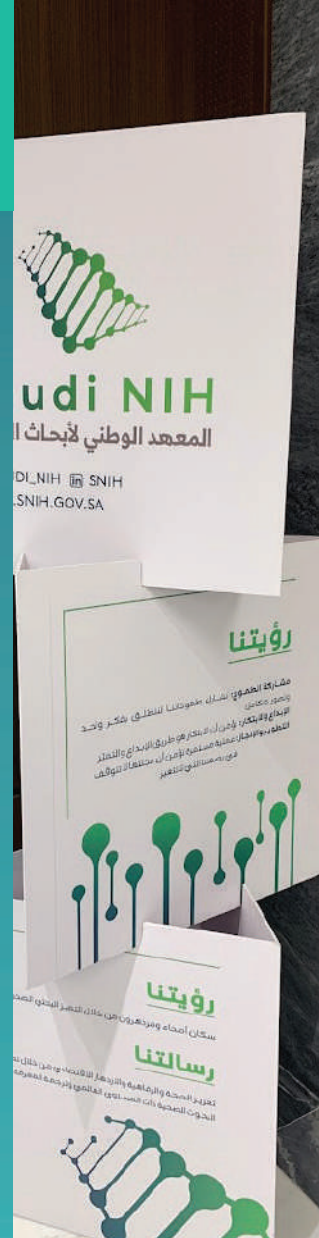
To act as a key enabler, aligning with the hospital's transformation journey to achieve its goals in line with Saudi Vision 2030, by enhancing the quality of life through improved service delivery to all residents.



2023

Establishment of the National Institute of Health (NIH)

The Council of Ministers approved this to oversee and support translational research and clinical trials in the Kingdom. Its goal is to improve the surrounding environment, add value to these research efforts, and convert their results into tangible health and economic benefits. This will contribute to enhancing individual and community health and raising the quality of life.





2024

Significant Efforts by the Saudi Health Ecosystem in Serving Pilgrims During this Hajj Season

- 01 Equipping 189 hospitals, health centers, and mobile clinics.
- 02 A bed capacity of over 6,500 beds.
- 03 More than 40,000 medical, technical, and administrative staff and volunteers.
- 04 3 mobile medical warehouses distributed in the holy sites.
- 05 More than 370 ambulances, 7 ambulance planes, 12 laboratories, and 60 trucks, providing more than (1860) medical items.

Key Achievements

- 01 Over 390,000 pilgrims received health services.
- 02 More than 28 open-heart surgeries successfully conducted.
- 03 More than 720 cardiac catheterizations successfully performed.
- 04 More than 1,169 dialysis sessions successfully performed.
- 05 Over 5,800 pilgrims received virtual services through Seha Virtual Hospital.



Key MoH Achievements Over the Past Years



- Empowering citizens to choose and enroll in comprehensive health insurance plans that provide access to both public and private healthcare services, through:

1. Establishing a National Health Insurance Center, along with an affiliated fund covering citizens, in coordination with the Council of Health Insurance.
2. Focusing on organizational and supervisory tasks, and establishing institutions to provide healthcare services



- Implementing best world-class practices in health information technology, through:

1. Designing and implementing the standardized electronic file.
2. Facilitating citizens' electronic access to health services and implementing telemedicine systems.
3. Implementing electronic medical imaging archiving systems.



- Enabling citizens to access urgent primary healthcare services within an hour, through

3. Expanding primary healthcare services in line with global standards.
4. Developing urgent healthcare services.
5. Establishing mobile clinics to serve peripheral areas.



- Advancing public health to position the Kingdom among the top 20 most developed countries, through:

1. Reducing obesity and fight smoking, particularly in schools.
2. Increasing early detection of diseases.
3. Activating the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control.
4. Providing preventive and therapeutic mental healthcare.



- Increasing hospital capacity and expanding home health services and long-term care, through:

1. Increasing the capacity of the home healthcare program.
2. Implementing electronic home healthcare systems.



1. **Achieving the highest levels of quality and patient safety in health facilities, through:**
2. Establishing the Saudi Patient Safety Center (SPSC).
3. Enhancing the competence of health practitioners in the field of patient safety.
4. Launching the Antibiotic Optimization Program.



- **Increasing spending efficiency and enhancing performance productivity across all ministry activities, through:**
- 1. Improving design efficiency and implementing a standardized blueprint for the construction of health facilities across the kingdom.
- 2. Increasing operating efficiency by 20%.
- 3. Improving the efficiency and competency of specialized hospitals.



- **Enhancing the private sector's involvement in delivering healthcare services, through:**
- 1. Developing partnership models to privatize services with both local and international partners.
- 2. Outsourcing medical and other services to the private sector.
- 3. Boosting the localization of critical healthcare industries.
- 4. Developing a structured mechanism to ensure the achievement of the necessary initiatives.



- **Localization of specialties and professions by employing skilled and qualified personnel, through:**
- 1. Implementing a performance measurement system and elevating medical licensing standards.
- 2. Providing training opportunities and increasing the capacity of specialty seats.
- 3. Making partnerships with specialized academic institutions.
- 4. 100 thousand health practitioners by 2030 project.



Leading Governments in the Application Health Sector



01

It provides comprehensive health services to all residents of the Kingdom, facilitating access to health information and a range of health services from diverse entities within the health sector.



02

It indicates the user's health status using colored codes, ensuring the highest level of security and privacy. It also allows people to contribute to preventing the spread of infection by reporting infected people or instances of gatherings that violate precautionary measures.



03

To identify registered medicines, their details, and approved prices, search for pharmaceutical alternatives at the lowest price, review food products and registered medical devices, and submit reports and inquiries.



04

It aims to offer psychological text counseling overseen by a specialized team. In addition, the application functions as a comprehensive library, offering a wealth of information on mental health presented in the most modern formats.



05

It aims to file complaints related to health insurance in Saudi Arabia, inquire about insurance status, or identify authorized health insurance providers.



06

This application, managed by the Health Volunteer Center (Ministry of Health), aims to make it easier for volunteers to find opportunities and participate in various initiatives that match their skills and fields of expertise.

References



This report was translated with the professional support of Tarjama.



About Tarjama:

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