

HEALTH SYSTEM RESEARCH IN JAPAN

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Example of HSR: National Public Health Agencies

- Having experienced COVID-19, countries are working to either establish new National Public Health Agencies (NPHA) or improving existing ones.
- In Japan, the National Institute of Infectious Disease Control (NIID) has traditionally been at the forefront of infectious disease control. However, following COVID-19, it has been agreed that it will merge with the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) to form the Japan Institute for Health Security (JISH) in April next year.
- Discussions are currently ongoing about what functions and roles the NAPH should have and what constitutes appropriate governance globally. These international discussions will be useful for the establishment and operation of Japan's JISH.
- Also, during the legislative process for JISH's establishment in Japan, many discussions have taken place domestically regarding its functions and governance. Sharing these experiences will be beneficial for countries that are establishing or improving their NAPHS in the future.

Example of HSR: National Public Health Agencies

	enablers	barriers
Service delivery		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ lack of testing capacity ✓ insufficient number of hospital beds
Health workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ public health center staff engaged in infectious disease control during normal times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ shortage of personnel, including at public health centers ✓ overwork
Health information systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ existing data sharing mechanisms related to infectious diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Non-electronic data sharing systems
Access to essential medicines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ legislative development, arrangement ✓ Coordination with local governments during normal times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Delay in domestic vaccine and treatment research and development ✓ Vaccine hesitancy
financing		
Leadership/governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coordination between relevant agencies during normal times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Application of normal-time relationships to emergencies

Example of HSR: Japan's G7 presidency, contribution to UHC

Lessons from the field

The G7 presidency and universal health coverage, Japan's contribution

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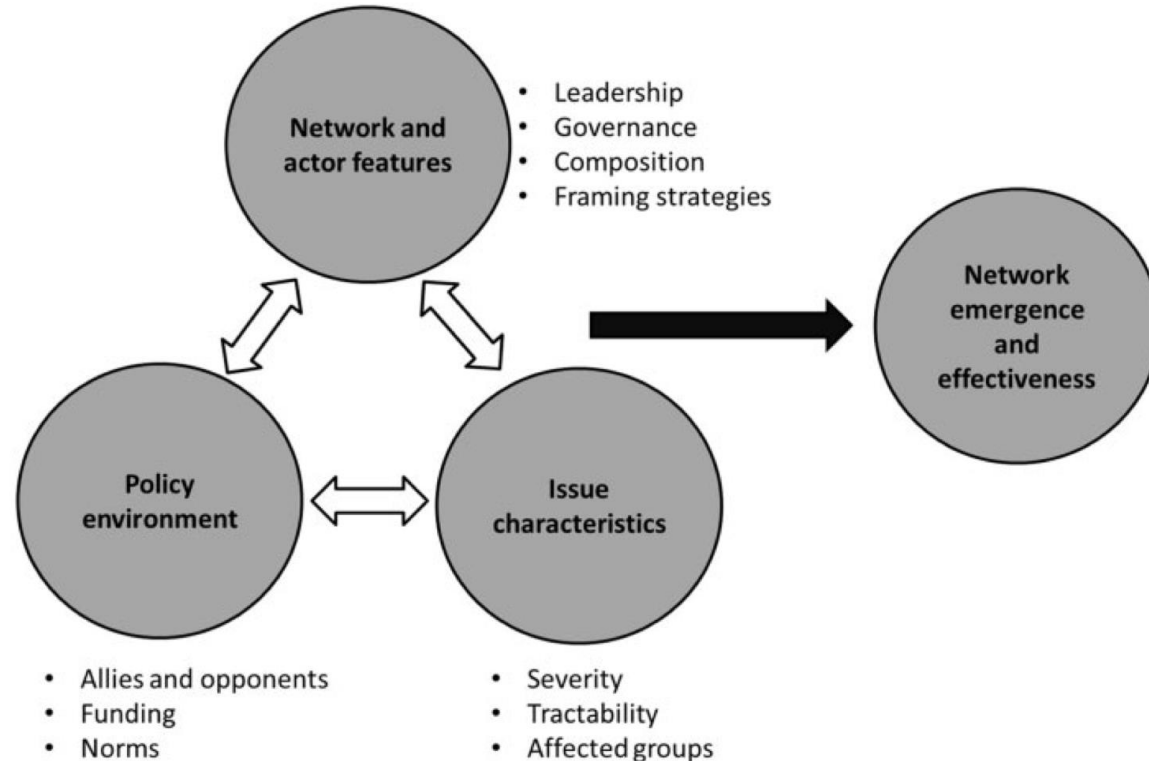
Problem If universal health coverage (UHC) is to be achieved globally, it needs sustained promotion and political awareness and support.
Approach During its presidency of the Group of Seven (G7) industrialized nations in 2016, Japan aimed to raise the issue of UHC to the top of the global health agenda.

Setting Japan has promoted a health agenda at all of the G7 summits since 2000 that it has hosted. Human security has been the foundation of Japan's foreign diplomacy for several decades and, consequently, there was no apparent opposition within Japan to the inclusion of UHC on the agenda of the summit in 2016. Other G7 governments appeared keen to promote such coverage.

Int changes Since the 2016 summit, UHC has remained a central agenda item for the United Nations and World Health Organization, though the leaders of both these global organizations have changed. In 2017, Japan hosted the UHC Forum in Tokyo. The participants, were the heads of United Nations agencies, politicians and other decision-makers from all over the world, showed their continued commitment towards UHC.

Is learnt In the raising of awareness of an item on the global health agenda, high-level champions are critical. Although they may be diverse, all relevant stakeholders need to be connected and allowed to discuss policies with each other. Having too many allies can, however, lead to policy fragmentation, especially when there is commitment from the highest echelons within each country.

(Sakamoto et al, 2018)



(shiffman et al, 2014)

Example of HSR: Japan's G7 presidency, contribution to UHC

Category	Factor: Measureable changes	Measurable changes and outcomes
Actor Feature	Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three champions Shinzo Abe (Prime Minister), Yasuhisa Shiozaki (Former Minister for Health), Keizo Takemi (Member of House of Councilors) • Make their commitment visible through internationally recognized medical journals and speeches at international conferences.
	Governance and Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted several meetings so as to increase policy cohesion both with the G7 members and non G7 members: G7 Ise-Shima summit, G7 Kobe Health Ministers' Meeting, G7 preparatory meetings, side event at 69th WHA and UNGA, International conference on UHC in the New Development Era, TICAD VI. • Expand outcomes from G7 related meetings to other G7 countries and Five outcome documents agreed by the highest level of policy makers: G7 Leader's declaration, G7 Kobe communique, Nairobi declaration, Nairobi implementation plan, UHC in Africa: Framework in Action.
Policy environment	Allies and opponents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan is strong promoter. Germany supported Japan to take UHC agenda at G7 meetings. And there are no apparent opponent.
	Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GF start to funding UHC/HSS together with contribution from the WB • Japan also made financial commitment of US\$1.1 billion
Issue characteristics	Tractability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO/WB joint monitoring framework • "UHC in Africa: Framework in Action" was adopted in 2016. The follow-up conference will be held in Japan in 2017.

For the future

- ✓ The experience of COVID-19 has renewed interest in health system research.
- ✓ Japan has a long history with its health care system, including community health and universal health insurance system, which includes many successes and lessons. There are high expectations from other countries for Japan to share these experiences.
- ✓ Most health system research in Japan deals with domestic issues, and there is not enough analysis aligned with global discussions.
- ✓ There is also a lack of research that communicates how Japan's experiences can be useful to other countries, including LMICs.
- ✓ It is necessary to conduct research in line with the global context and to have a perspective on how Japan's experiences can be applied to other countries.



THANK YOU!