

### Our Principles for Health System Reform

- **Universal and Equal Coverage.** Extend the same basic healthcare coverage to all populations, citizens and expatriates.
- **Financially Sustainable and Cost-effective Coverage.** The basic coverage should yield the desired health outcomes/objectives while being financially sustainable through a host of viable financing sources and cost control measures.
- **Adequate and Flexible Coverage.** The healthcare services offered under the basic coverage should cover the essential needs and be flexible to account for future changes in requirements.
- **Quality Healthcare Delivery.** The healthcare delivery practitioners and organizations, public and private, should comply with high standards of healthcare quality.

### Our Broad Recommendations for Health System Reform

To achieve the above principles, we advocate for a **comprehensive and integrated approach to health sector reform that is based on the pillars of Social Health Insurance (SHI)**, and, hence, we provide the following broad recommendations:

1. Provide a single, mandatory, basic health insurance policy to the entire population, citizens and expatriates;
2. Establish a Public Health Institute (PHI) that is independent of the Ministry of Health and that has the following responsibilities:
  - a. Provide basic health insurance coverage (HIC); the coverage shall provide priority to primary and preventive healthcare services but also fulfill the population's tertiary care needs;
  - b. Prequalify healthcare service providers for HIC through an agreement with a qualified third party assessor according to internationally recognized healthcare quality standards;
  - c. Conduct surveillance assessments on healthcare providers with the assistance of the same third party assessor as in (b);
  - d. Pay healthcare providers for services rendered under the HIC. The amount shall be determined to be commensurate with the services under the HIC;
  - e. Carry out health awareness and prevention campaigns.
3. The financing of the PHI shall come from the private and government sectors' subscription on behalf of employees and returns of safe investments;
4. The PHI shall not compete with private insurance companies on healthcare services that are complimentary to the basic services covered under HIC nor shall the private insurance companies be allowed to compete with the PHI on its HIC services;
5. Adopt to the extent possible decentralization and independence (administrative and financial) in the operation of public medical organizations;
6. Adopt a host of creative and rigorous prepayment, surveillance, and deterrence methods to control the cost of healthcare services under HIC;
7. Provide and develop the human and physical resources needed to administer and operate an effective and efficient healthcare system.

### Our Immediate Call for Action

We call for the immediate formation of a **National Health Commission (NHC)** with representation from all stakeholders to oversee the process of health system governance and reform; and empower the NHC with a professional team of independent local and international experts with proven records and credentials in the full spectrum of health reform to develop a comprehensive and integrated solution for Kuwait's health system with a three to five-year implementation roadmap. The solution should address the five control levers for health system reform; namely, **financing, regulation, organization, payment, and behavior**.