From Health Crisis Management to Building Sustainable Health Security: An Approach to Health System Governance in Algeria

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Abstract:

This article analyzes the role of health system governance as a mechanism for transitioning from health crisis management to building sustainable health security, particularly in light of global transformations that have exposed the limitations of traditional approaches to addressing health threats. A descriptive-analytical method was adopted through a review of international reports, especially those issued by the World Health Organization, alongside an analysis of the current state of Algeria's health system. The study concludes that, although health crisis management plays an important role in containing risks, it remains situational in nature, whereas sustainable health security constitutes a long-term framework grounded in prevention, preparedness, and effective response. The findings further demonstrate that health governance serves as a pivotal link between these two dimensions, through its role in improving planning quality, strengthening coordination among stakeholders, and consolidating the principles of transparency and accountability, which contribute to enhancing the efficiency and resilience of the health system. The study also reveals that Algeria's health system faces challenges related to weak institutional coordination, limited digitalization, and inequitable resource distribution, which constrain the effectiveness of health crisis response. The article accordingly emphasizes the need to strengthen health governance through institutional, digital, human, and financial reforms, as well as the adoption of a "Health in All Policies" approach, in support of building a resilient health system capable of achieving sustainable health security.

Keywords: *health crisis management; health governance; sustainable health security; health system; Algeria*

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Introduction:

Over the past decades, the world has witnessed profound transformations in the nature of health threats. Risks are no longer confined to traditional diseases but have expanded to include cross-border epidemics and complex health crises, as became particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. These developments exposed the limitations of conventional models of health crisis management, which rely primarily on situational intervention, while simultaneously highlighting the need for more comprehensive and sustainable approaches grounded in strengthening the preparedness and resilience of health systems. In this context, the concept of sustainable health security has emerged as a new reference framework aimed at ensuring the continuity of health services and safeguarding public health against various threats.

Achieving this objective, however, remains contingent on the effectiveness of health system governance, which is the mechanism through which resources are properly directed, stakeholder efforts are coordinated, and the quality of health policies is improved. WHO reports have consistently affirmed that weak governance is one of the primary drivers of health system fragility, while its improvement constitutes a fundamental pathway toward strengthening health security and ensuring effective crisis response.

In the Algerian context, despite the efforts made to develop the health sector, the health system continues to face a range of challenges related to institutional coordination, digital readiness, and managerial efficiency, raising fundamental questions about the extent to which governance within this sector can keep pace with current health transformations and achieve sustainable health security.

This brings us to the central research question of the article: To what extent does health system governance in Algeria contribute to the transition from health crisis management toward the construction of sustainable health security ?

Several sub-questions emerge from this central inquiry, most notably:

- What is meant by health crisis management and sustainable health security ?
- What is the nature of the relationship between them ?
- What role does health governance play in strengthening health security ?
- What are the key challenges facing health system governance in Algeria, and what reforms does its development require ?

This topic's significance lies in the fact that it addresses one of the most vital issues relating to human security, while also carrying a strategic dimension given the increasing health challenges of our time. The article seeks to highlight the role

of health governance as a key lever for improving health system performance and enhancing its sustainability. Its relevance is further reinforced by its timeliness, particularly in the wake of global health crises that have reshuffled public policy priorities.

This article aims to:

- Analyze the conceptual framework of health crisis management and sustainable health security;
- Highlight the role of health governance in achieving health security;
- Diagnose the challenges associated with health system governance in Algeria;
- Propose requirements for strengthening governance in ways that support the construction of sustainable health security.

To achieve these objectives, a descriptive-analytical approach was adopted through a review of scientific literature and international reports, such as those issued by the World Health Organization and the World Bank, in addition to an analysis of the current state of Algeria's health system.

The article is organized into four main sections. The first addresses the conceptual framework of health crisis management and sustainable health security. The second focuses on health system governance as a mechanism for transitioning toward sustainable health security. The third examines the challenges facing health system governance in Algeria, and the fourth presents the requirements for strengthening this governance in pursuit of sustainable health security.

1. The Conceptual Framework of Health Crisis Management and Sustainable Health Security:

a. The Concept of Health Crisis Management:

- Defining Crisi:

Establishing a unified definition of "crisis" is a complex undertaking, given the diversity of studies and scholarly approaches that have engaged with the concept. The difficulty stems primarily from the breadth of its meaning and the variety of domains in which it is applied (political, economic, and social), as well as the differing analytical perspectives that various academic disciplines bring to bear on it.

Several definitions help clarify the scope of the concept:

Hermann (1963, p.10) defines crisis as "A crisis is a situation which disrupts the system or some part of the system (i.e., a subsystem such as an alliance or an

individual actor). More specifically, a crisis is a situation that creates an abrupt or sudden change in one or more of the basic systemic variables."

Mitroff (2005, p.15) describes crisis as "Crises are major disruptions that affect a system as a whole and threaten its basic assumptions, its core values, and its very existence."

Pearson and Clair (1998, p.60) characterize crisis as "A low-probability, high-impact event that threatens the viability of the organization and is characterized by ambiguity of cause, effect, and means of resolution, as well as a belief that decisions must be made swiftly."

Al-Sha'lan (1999, p.26) defines crisis as "a state of tension and a turning point that may lead either to improvement, benefiting the organization, or to deterioration, harming it, thereby requiring a decision that generates new situations, whether negative or positive, affecting all related entities."

According to these definitions, the concept of crisis is characterized by a set of core features that enjoy near-universal scholarly consensus. At its heart, a crisis is a sudden event that disrupts the normal course of affairs. It typically arises without sufficient warning, which limits the ability of actors to prepare in advance. It entails a direct threat to fundamental values or vital interests, whether concerning the safety of individuals or the stability of institutions. This is compounded by a severe time pressure, as crises impose a rapid decision-making pace under conditions of heightened uncertainty arising from insufficient information or ambiguous events.

- ***Defining Crisis Management***

Researchers and practitioners have proposed a variety of perspectives on the nature and definition of crisis management, contributing significantly to the development of the field.

According to the WHO Health EDRM Framework (2019), crisis and emergency management involves integrated processes of prevention, preparedness, readiness, response, and recovery, supported by risk assessment, surveillance, and early warning systems.

Crisis management is the overall activities and processes related to a crisis, including planning, preparedness, response and recovery. (International Organization for Standardization, ISO 22300:2018)

Mitroff defines it as a set of organized processes aimed at preventing crises or mitigating their effects, preparing for their occurrence, responding effectively when they arise, recovering from their consequences, and learning from the experience. (Mitroff, 2005, p. 4).

Crisis management has also been defined as "the capacity to overcome crises through various scientific and administrative tools, while avoiding their negative effects and capitalizing on their positive outcomes" (Al-Sayyid, 2002, p. 25).

Overall, these definitions suggest that crisis management is a comprehensive set of scientific and administrative processes, procedures, and measures aimed at anticipating crises, assessing their risks, building advanced preparedness, responding effectively upon their occurrence, and recovering from their consequences; all while working to minimize adverse repercussions and maximize opportunities arising from the experience, within a framework that safeguards systemic continuity and protects vital interests.

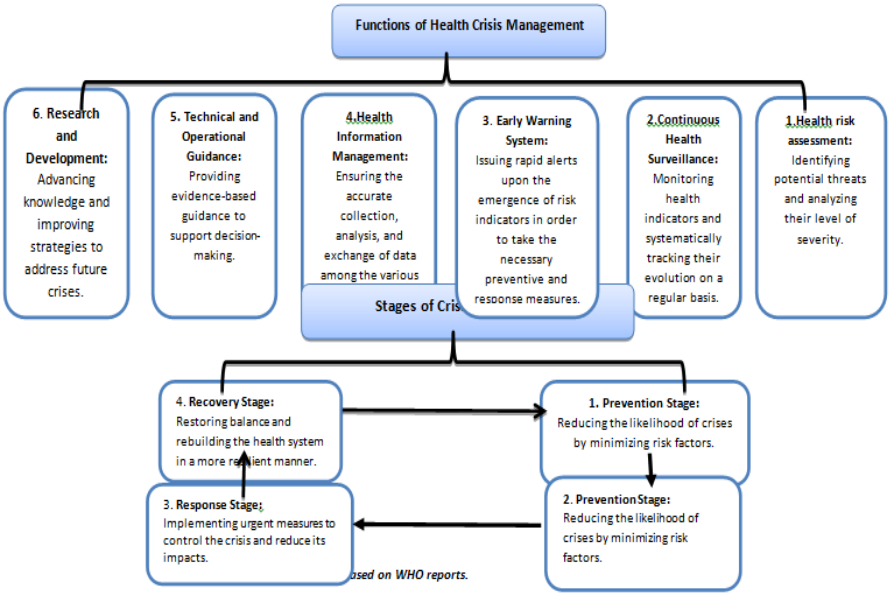
- ***Defining Health Crisis Management:***

According to WHO literature, there is no fixed, standardized definition of "health crisis management" as a rigid term. The Organization does, however, articulate a clear conceptual framework within the field of health emergency management, defining it as: "an organized and integrated process encompassing prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery, aimed at reducing health risks and protecting populations from the effects of health emergencies through the coordination of efforts and resources across all levels" (WHO, 2019).

To deepen the understanding of health crisis management and capture its various dimensions, it is necessary to examine the characteristics that give it its distinctive nature:

- **Health crisis management operates in an environment of uncertainty:** Decisions are made under conditions of incomplete data and continuously evolving information, requiring flexible and adaptive approaches.
- **Health crisis management is characterized by speed and decisiveness:** Given its direct relationship to the protection of human life, time is a decisive factor in limiting the spread of health threats and reducing their consequences.
- **Health crisis management is grounded in scientific knowledge:** Decisions are based on epidemiological data and expert recommendations, giving it a scientific character that goes beyond conventional administrative management.
- **Health crisis management involves a multiplicity of actors and overlapping levels:** Central and local authorities, health professionals, and civil society organizations all participate, necessitating effective coordination to unify efforts.
- **Health crisis management has a dynamic character:** Health crises evolve rapidly, requiring continuous revision of strategies and policies.

Figure 1. Functions and Phases of Health Crisis Management



Source: Prepared by the author based on WHO reports.

b. The Concept of Sustainable Health Security

Health security is a relatively recent concept that gained prominence with the rise of global health threats, particularly cross-border epidemics and infectious diseases.

- ***Defining Health Security:***

Definitions of health security vary according to the analytical perspectives from which it is approached. The World Health Organization (WHO) conceptualizes health security as the protection of populations from health threats through prevention, preparedness, and effective response mechanisms (WHO, 2014).

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) considers health security one of the core dimensions of human security, emphasizing protection against disease and ensuring access to essential health services (UNDP, 1994).

Gostin (2014) links health security to the ability of states to establish resilient health systems capable of addressing health risks while ensuring equitable access to healthcare services.

Health security has also been defined, in the context of societal transformation, as "the capacity of a society to provide health protection to its

members and ensure the continuity of health services in the face of risks and crises" (Al-Ghadhami, 2012, p.85).

Based on these perspectives, health security may be understood as the capacity of the state and society to protect public health from various threats and risks, through an integrated system grounded in prevention, preparedness, and effective response that is evidence-based, guarantees the continuity and equitable accessibility of health services, and thus ensures individual safety and societal stability.

- ***Dimensions of Health Security:***

Health security is a complex, multidimensional concept that extends far beyond the narrow curative dimension to encompass an integrated set of preventive, organizational, and societal policies and interventions aimed at protecting population health and ensuring its sustainability in the face of diverse threats. Health security rests on a set of interrelated dimensions whose combined influence reinforces the capacity of health systems to withstand and respond to challenges.

The preventive dimension stands out as one of the foundational pillars of health security, focusing on anticipating risks through the development of epidemiological surveillance systems, strengthening immunization programs, activating early detection mechanisms, and promoting health literacy within the community. This proactive orientation reduces the spread of disease and lowers the cost of subsequent treatment.

Of equal importance is ***the curative dimension***, which reflects the health system's readiness to manage disease cases through the provision of effective health services, ensuring the quality of clinical performance, and mobilizing the necessary human and technical resources. This dimension is a direct indicator of health system efficiency, particularly in crisis contexts that demand rapid and effective response.

The institutional and organizational dimension concerns the governance of the health sector through coordination and effectiveness, including clarity of roles among stakeholders, the strengthening of decision-making mechanisms, and ensuring coherence between central and local levels. This dimension is critical during health crises, which require collective mobilization and coordinated response.

The community dimension is an indispensable element of health security, relating to individuals' awareness and adherence to healthy behaviors, as well as levels of trust in health institutions. The effectiveness of health policies ultimately depends on the degree to which the community is engaged in their implementation.

The economic dimension constitutes a fundamental pillar of sustainable health security, relating to the state's capacity to mobilize financial resources and direct them efficiently toward the health sector. This ensures the continuity and improvement of health services, particularly during crises that place additional pressure on public expenditure.

Finally, ***the international dimension*** has assumed growing importance in an era of health globalization, as health threats increasingly transcend national borders. This calls for strengthened international cooperation, information-sharing, and coordinated responses within a common multilateral framework to address major epidemics and health risks.

Health security, then, cannot be achieved through any single dimension in isolation. It is the product of dynamic interaction among all these dimensions collectively, which makes a comprehensive, integrative approach grounded in effective governance not merely desirable but necessary.

- The Relationship Between Health Crisis Management and Sustainable Health Security

To clarify the relationship between health crisis management and sustainable health security, the following comparative framework, drawing on the WHO's approach, examines the complementarities and distinctions between the two concepts:

Table . Health Crisis Management vs. Sustainable Health Security

Criterion	Health Crisis Management	Sustainable Health Security	Nature of Relationship
Nature	A situational operational mechanism for dealing with crises	A long-term strategic framework	Functional complementarity
Objective	Containing crises and minimizing losses	Prevention and ensuring continuity of the health system	Crisis management serves the achievement of health security
Timeframe	Short-term	Long-term (before, during, and after crises)	Temporal extension
Logic	Reactive	Proactive	Transition from reaction to anticipation

Criterion	Health Crisis Management	Sustainable Health Security	Nature of Relationship
Outcomes	Limiting immediate damage	Building a resilient and sustainable health system	Causal relationship
Learning	Drawing lessons from crises	Applying lessons to improve policies	Accumulation of institutional knowledge
Scope	Focuses on the response phase	Encompasses prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery	Crisis management as part of a broader system
Reference	Emergency, coordinated interventions	Comprehensive and sustainable health policies	Institutional integration

Source: Prepared by the author based on WHO reports.

The table makes clear that health crisis management is operational, reactive, and short-term in nature, whereas sustainable health security is strategic, preventive, and long-term. While the former aims to contain crises and limit immediate losses, the latter seeks to ensure prevention and the ongoing continuity of the health system. Crisis management is therefore not an alternative to health security but rather a constituent element of a broader framework that is centered on resilience, preparedness, recovery, and long-term institutional learning.

2. Health System Governance as a Mechanism for Transitioning Toward Sustainable Health Security:

a. The Concept and Principles of Health Governance:

- ***Defining of Heath Governance:***

The World Bank defines governance as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development (World Bank, 1992).

The United Nations Development Programme defines it as "the set of mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which societal affairs are managed and through which different actors interact to achieve the public good" (UNDP, 1997).

Governance may accordingly be understood as the set of organized procedures that determine how responsibilities are carried out within institutions, with an emphasis on standardizing practices and defining accountabilities.

The World Health Organization (WHO) conceptualizes health governance as part of the stewardship function of health systems, which includes regulation, oversight, and accountability to improve health system performance and population health outcomes (WHO, 2000).

According to the World Bank, health governance is "the way in which authority is exercised in managing health resources, formulating policies, and ensuring the delivery of effective and equitable health services" (World Bank, 2014).

On this basis, health governance may be defined as an integrated system of institutional and regulatory mechanisms aimed at directing and regulating the health system's performance, through ensuring transparency, accountability, and participation to achieve efficiency in resource use, equity in service distribution, and an enhanced capacity to respond to challenges and attain sustainable health security.

- ***Principles of Health Governance***

As the health sector continues to evolve, improving health system performance is no longer solely a function of resource provision or infrastructure development. It is increasingly contingent on the adoption of an effective governance approach capable of ensuring the sound management of those resources and directing them toward health objectives. Health governance has thus emerged as a modern reference framework aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of health policies and improving service quality, through the institutionalization of a set of core principles that regulate stakeholder conduct and inform decision-making.

WHO and UNDP literature has consistently affirmed that the success of health systems can no longer be measured solely by traditional performance indicators, but by the degree to which they adhere to governance principles. These principles are as follows:

- **Transparency:** Strengthens citizens' trust in the health system and curtails misinformation, thereby raising adherence to health protocols, particularly during crises.
- **Accountability:** Ensures improvements in service quality through performance evaluation and the accountability of officials, reducing dysfunction and enhancing efficiency.
- **Participation:** Yields health policies that are more realistic and responsive to population needs, by involving health professionals and civil society in the decision-making process.
- **Rule of Law:** Guarantees adherence to health and ethical standards, and protects patients' rights, raising the overall quality of healthcare.

- **Effectiveness and Efficiency:** Enables optimal use of health resources and the achievement of the best outcomes at the lowest cost, which is a critical consideration given resource constraints.
- **Equity and Fairness:** Contributes to reducing health disparities across population groups and regions, and reinforces the principle of equal access to healthcare.
- **Responsiveness:** Enables the health system to intervene rapidly and effectively in the face of crises, thereby reducing their health and social consequences.
- **Coordination and Coherence:** Ensures the harmonization and integration of health policies with other sectors, reinforcing the effectiveness of public interventions.

Studying the principles of health governance goes beyond theory. It offers a way to understand how a health system can become more efficient and resilient, better able to respond to crises, and more capable of ensuring lasting health security.

b. The Role of Governance in Strengthening Health Security

Health security is one of the contemporary concepts that reflects a country's capacity to prevent health risks, respond swiftly and effectively to epidemics and crises, and ensure the continuity of essential health services. Within this framework, health governance emerges as one of the foundational pillars of a strong and resilient health system. According to the WHO, institutionalizing governance principles within health systems constitutes a prerequisite for achieving universal health coverage and strengthening preparedness for health emergencies.

First: Improving Planning and Supporting Decision-Making

Governance enhances the quality of health planning by adopting an approach grounded in accurate data and scientific evidence, enabling the identification of health priorities in accordance with the genuine needs of the population. It also strengthens the effectiveness of decision-making, particularly under exceptional circumstances such as epidemic outbreaks, by ensuring procedural clarity and timeliness of response.

Second: Strengthening Coordination among Health Stakeholders

Governance reinforces coordination and integration mechanisms among the various actors involved in the health sector, whether public institutions, the private sector, civil society, or international partners. This coordination helps unify efforts and reduce duplication, thereby increasing the effectiveness of collective responses to health crises.

Third: Consolidating Transparency and Accountability

Transparency and accountability are fundamental pillars of sound governance. They ensure the proper management of health resources and their allocation toward genuine priorities, and contribute to reducing mismanagement and corruption, building public trust in the health system, and reinforcing its capacity to achieve health security.

Fourth: Strengthening Crisis Preparedness and Response

WHO reports indicate that health systems operating under effective governance are better equipped to respond rapidly and systematically to health crises, owing to clear role distribution, streamlined decision-making, and effective multi-level coordination.

Fifth: Achieving Equity in Access to Health Services

Governance contributes to reducing disparities between regions and social groups in accessing health services, through the adoption of more equitable resource and capacity allocation policies, thereby strengthening the inclusiveness and fairness of health security.

Health governance thus transcends its role as an administrative mechanism to constitute a strategic framework that guarantees the sustainability of health security. It improves health system performance, enhances preventive and responsive capacities, and institutionalizes the principles of equity and transparency, making it an indispensable component in building an effective and resilient national health system.

c. Challenges of Health System Governance in Algeria as an Entry Point for Analyzing Sustainable Health Security

Health system governance in Algeria constitutes a complex framework in which administrative, organizational, and technical dimensions intersect, which gives rise to a set of structural and functional challenges that directly affect health system performance and its capacity to achieve sustainable health security. The most significant of these challenges are as follows:

First: Coordination Challenges between Central Administration and Local Authorities

Weak coordination between the central level and the local level is one of the most prominent challenges impeding the effectiveness of health governance. This manifests in:

- Overlapping responsibilities among administrative levels, creating ambiguity in the distribution of authority;
- Delays in transmitting decisions from the center to field structures, affecting implementation speed;

- Limited managerial autonomy at the local level, alongside continued centralized dominance in decision-making.
- This situation sometimes results in policy decisions that are misaligned with local specificities, constraining the effectiveness of health responses at the operational level.

Second: Organizational and Operational Challenges in Health Crisis Management

Health crises, particularly during epidemic outbreaks, have revealed significant organizational gaps and coordination failures within the health system. The most notable challenges include:

- The absence of unified, rapid, and effective mechanisms for health crisis management;
- Uneven levels of preparedness across health institutions and facilities;
- Difficulties in mobilizing human and material resources in a timely manner.
- These factors reduce response effectiveness and delay intervention in emergency situations.

Third: Challenges of Digitalization and Health Readiness

Despite the efforts made in the area of digital transformation, the health system continues to face several obstacles, most notably:

- Inadequate rollout of integrated health information systems across institutions;
- Significant disparities in digital infrastructure among health facilities;
- Limited use of health data to support decision-making and proactive planning.

Digitalization is today a pivotal element in the development of health governance; its weakness constrains the capacity for effective and anticipatory crisis management.

Fourth: The Impact of These Challenges on Achieving Health Security

The cumulative effect of these challenges directly undermines health system performance and its ability to guarantee sustainable health security, as evidenced by:

- Reduced preparedness for health crises;
- Unequal service quality across regions;
- Slow responses to health emergencies;
- Difficulties in achieving equitable access to health services.

These challenges have exposed the limits of existing administrative and organizational structures, particularly in moments of crisis, which increases the pressure for structural, organizational, and digital reform.

3. Requirements for Strengthening Health System Governance in Algeria in Support of Sustainable Health Security:

Strengthening health system governance in Algeria is a strategic lever for transforming how the state manages public health, shifting from reactive crisis response toward a model built on prevention, long-term planning, and systemic resilience. International literature (particularly WHO reports) has consistently affirmed that governance deficiencies are among the primary determinants of health system fragility, while their improvement constitutes a central lever for advancing performance and resilience.

Within this framework, building sustainable health security in Algeria requires the activation of an integrated package of reforms that extends beyond the technical dimension to encompass institutional, organizational, and economic dimensions.

First: Institutional Reform and Strengthening the Legal Framework

The legal and institutional framework is the cornerstone of any genuine governance reform. Ambiguity of responsibilities or the obsolescence of legal instruments weakens the effectiveness of health policies. The modernization of the legal framework must therefore be directed toward:

- Aligning health legislation with current epidemiological and demographic changes;
- Redistributing responsibilities between central and local levels in ways that reinforce functional decentralization;
- Strengthening the managerial autonomy of health institutions in decision-making, while subjecting them to effective oversight mechanisms.

Second: Consolidating the Principles of Sound Governance in the Health Sector

Effective governance cannot be achieved without translating its principles into concrete practice. This requires:

- **Establishing genuine transparency** in the management of health resources and programs, including the publication of data and performance indicators;
- **Activating multi-level accountability mechanisms** (administrative, financial, and professional);
- **Engaging stakeholders** (medical staff, civil society, and patients) in the formulation of health policies.

Third: Digital Transformation of the Health System

Digital transformation has become one of the most critical determinants of health governance effectiveness, enabling the shift from conventional management to data-driven management. This takes shape through:

- Developing integrated health information systems that enable real-time data exchange;
- Scaling up electronic health records to ensure the continuity and quality of care;
- Building digital early warning systems grounded in epidemiological data analysis.

World Bank reports have affirmed that digitalization improves expenditure efficiency and supports evidence-based decision-making, thereby strengthening the anticipatory capacity of the health system.

Figure 2. Conceptual Model of The Impact of Digitalization on Health System Performance



Source: Prepared by the author.

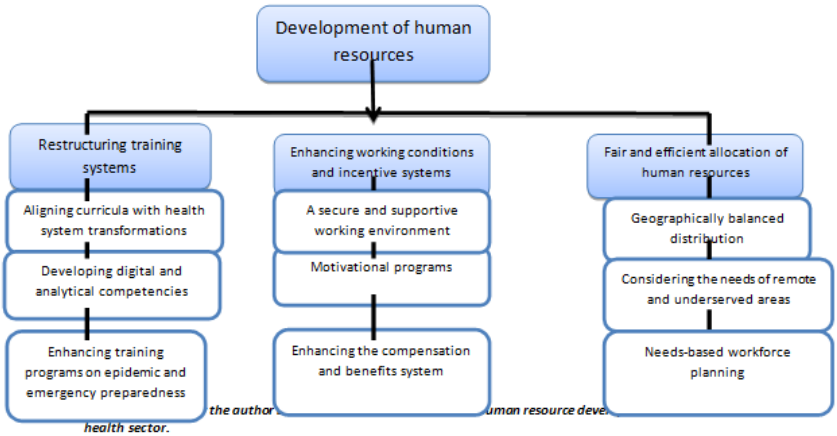
Fourth: Developing Health Human Resources

The human element is the fundamental pillar of any health system, yet its effectiveness remains contingent on the quality of management. Reform, therefore, requires:

- Restructuring training systems in alignment with contemporary health transformations;
- Improving working conditions and incentive structures to reduce the emigration of skilled health professionals;
- Adopting a rational and equitable distribution of human resources across regions.

Investment in human resources is not limited to the quantitative dimension; it encompasses building competencies capable of adapting to crises, thereby reinforcing system-wide resilience.

Figure 3. Conceptual Model of the Role of Human Resource Development in Enhancing Health System Efficiency and Effectiveness



Source: Prepared by the author based on the literature review on human resource development in the health sector.

Fifth: Reforming Health Financing

Financing is one of the most pressing challenges facing health system sustainability, necessitating:

- Diversification of funding sources (public budget, health insurance, public-private partnerships);
- Improvement of resource allocation efficiency through performance assessment tools;
- Advancement of universal health coverage to ensure equitable access.

Sixth: Strengthening Multi-Sectoral Coordination

Health security is no longer a sectoral matter; it is intrinsically linked to environmental, economic, and social determinants. This requires:

- Integrating the health dimension into all public policies;
- Strengthening coordination between the health, environment, education, and economic sectors;

- Adopting a **"Health in All Policies"** approach**,** which involves embedding health considerations across all public policy domains rather than confining them to the health sector alone.

Strengthening health system governance in Algeria is not a secondary reform concern; it is a structural necessity for rebuilding the health system on more efficient and resilient foundations. The integration of institutional reform, digital transformation, human resource development, and financing improvement is capable of generating a qualitative shift from a reactive management model to a proactive system capable of effectively managing health risks.

Achieving sustainable health security ultimately depends on the state's capacity to translate governance principles into concrete practices, thereby ensuring the continuity, quality, and equity of health services.

Conclusion:

In light of the profound transformations reshaping the global health landscape, responding to health crises can no longer be confined to situational interventions; it demands the adoption of a comprehensive approach grounded in anticipation and the strengthening of systemic resilience. This article has shown that the transition toward sustainable health security remains contingent on the effectiveness of health system governance, the framework through which resources are directed, stakeholders are coordinated, and the quality of health policies is improved.

The analysis demonstrates that, while health crisis management is essential for limiting the immediate impacts of health risks, it remains episodic in nature. Sustainable health security, by contrast, constitutes a broader strategic framework aimed at building a resilient health system capable of prevention, response, and recovery. In this context, health governance has emerged as an essential link between these two dimensions, transforming situational interventions into durable policies grounded in effectiveness, equity, and sustainability, as WHO literature consistently affirms.

The study further concludes that Algeria's health system, despite the progress achieved, continues to face challenges related to weak institutional coordination, limited digitalization, and inequitable resource distribution, all of which undermine crisis preparedness and response capacity. Strengthening health governance is therefore not a discretionary reform option but a strategic necessity.

On this basis, the following practical recommendations may be put forward:

- Accelerating the reform of the legal and institutional framework to clarify responsibilities and institutionalize decentralization;

- Expanding health digitalization and adopting integrated information systems that support evidence-based decision-making;
- Investing in health human resources through training, incentivization, and equitable distribution;
- Improving health financing efficiency and directing it toward strategic priorities;
- Strengthening multi-sectoral coordination and adopting a "Health in All Policies" approach;
- Consolidating the principles of transparency and accountability to reinforce citizens' trust in the health system.

Building sustainable health security in Algeria must be regarded as a strategic imperative—one that requires effective health governance capable of balancing efficiency and equity, reactive response and proactive anticipation, thereby ensuring the protection of public health and the reinforcement of societal stability in the face of present and future health challenges.

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