

Dr. Awad Mataria

Universal Health Coverage/Health Systems, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Dr. Awad Mataria is the Director of "Universal Health Coverage/Health Systems" at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. With more than eighteen years of experience in health systems strengthening, health economics, and health financing, Dr Mataria has been supporting countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region for the last thirteen years to transform their health systems with a focus on health financing reforms to move towards Universal Health Coverage. Dr. Mataria's interest in clarifying the conceptual linkages between Universal Health Coverage and Health Security through a health system strengthening lens has intensified since the outbreak of COVID-19. Throughout his professional career, Dr. Mataria has developed a special interest in working in fragile and conflict-affected settings. He has a Ph.D. in Health Economics and a Master's in Health System Analysis, following his undergraduate degree in Pharmacy. Dr. Mataria's areas of expertise include Universal Health Coverage, health systems development, health financing, services organization, health insurance, using economics in health care priority setting, economic evaluation of health care interventions, and National Health Accounts. He has several publications in high-impact journals, including the Journal of Health Economics, Health Economics, and The Lancet. He is the second editor of a landmark book on "Making Health Systems Work in Low and Middle-Income Countries," published by Cambridge University Press on December 29, 2022. Dr. Mataria is fluent in three languages: English, French, and Arabic (his mother tongue).