
Political economy of AI in health

26 March 2026

Health Policy and Strategy, Division of Health Systems and Services (DHS)

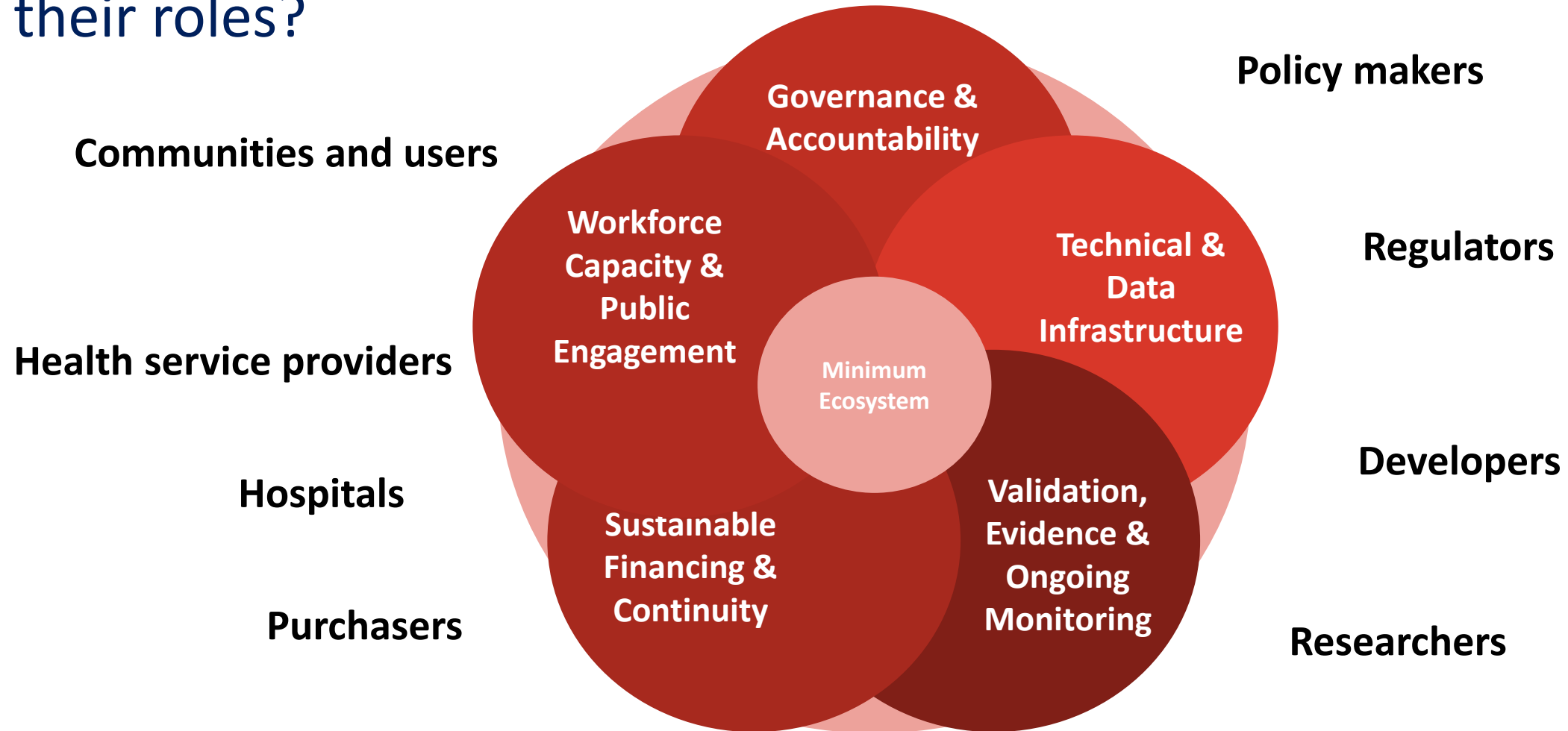
Outline

- Why political economy matters for AI in health?
- AI ecosystem in health
- Key stakeholders and their roles
- Incentives in shaping AI adoption and governance
- Challenges and potential risks
- Key principles for the use of AI in health

Why political economy matters for AI and health?

- Political economy:
 - Power, incentives, interests, institutions, and market dynamics
 - Distribution of power, resources, and influence
- AI adoption and governance:
 - Can reshape power, resources, and accountability in health systems
 - Can redistribute decision-making power

AI ecosystem in health: who are the key stakeholders and what are their roles?



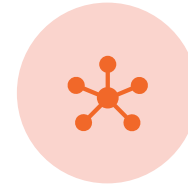
Political economy factors and incentives in shaping AI adoption and governance – some examples



**DEVELOPERS –
MARKET SHARE,
SCALE-UP, DATA
ACCESS**



**POLICY MAKERS –
LEADERSHIP,
SYSTEMS
PERFORMANCE**



**REGULATORS –
PROTECT AGAINST
HARM**



**HOSPITALS –
SYSTEM
PERFORMANCE
AND INTEGRATION,
COMPETITIVENESS**



**PURCHASERS –
COST
CONTAINMENT,
EFFICIENCY GAINS**



**HEALTH SERVICE
PROVIDERS –
INCREASED
PRODUCTIVITY AND
QUALITY OF CARE**



**COMMUNITIES AND
USERS – IMPROVED
ACCESS, DATA
SECURITY, SELF-
MANAGEMENT**

Challenges and potential risks



Rapidly changing AI landscape without adequate regulatory system to ensure safety, quality, and effectiveness



Inequitable access in who benefits and bears the risks



Public distrust without data privacy and protection



Lack of institutional and health workforce capacity/readiness



Development of AI tools for commercial interest rather than public health benefit

Key principles for use of AI in health



Having strong overall governance and a continuous learning system to monitor impacts of AI adoption in health given the rapidly evolving societal needs and AI landscape

Thank you