

Stakeholders Workshop on National Health Policy Reformulation

Group Work Documents

Group V

P.Or 5 Health Products, Technologies and Supply Chain Management

The main policy issues here concern the availability, adequacy, universal access and utilization of appropriate medicines, vaccines and health technologies by those who need them, at time and place where they are needed. As such the policy goal of this area will be defined as: *‘Ensured the availability of medicines, vaccines and other medical products and technologies, which are appropriate, safe, efficacious and qualified, to who need them, at a time they need them, and also ensure the rational use of medicines, vaccines and blood products.’* The priority strategies include:

- Ensure that there is universal access and rational use of essential medicines, vaccines, laboratory reagents and other medical products and technologies;
- Define and apply locally appropriate and essential health products and technologies;
- Establish transparent national appraisal mechanisms for health products and technologies;
- Enforce a harmonized national regulatory framework for health products and technologies;
- Develop and formalize the country-wide efficient procurement and supply chain management system for medicines, medical products and equipment;
- Promote local productions, research and innovation of essential health products and technologies;
- Strengthen regulatory measures in the prevention of irrational use of medicines and drug abuse; and
- Explore and promote the evidence-based utilization of herbal and other alternative medicines through mutual collaboration with traditional medicine practitioners and revise the regulatory framework for the practitioners.

P.Or 6 Health Information System

Health information system concerns the availability, completeness and timeliness of data that is used for evidence-based policy planning and implementation. All healthcare providers shall be obligated to report on information emanating from their activities through established channels in a manner that meets safety and confidentiality requirements. The goal shall be defined as: *‘Streamlined in providing complete, accurate, reliable and timely health information for making the right decision at the right time ensuring an equitable, effective, efficient and responsive health system.’* The priority strategies include:

- Collaborate, harmonize, and integrate data collection, analysis, storage, and dissemination mechanisms of public and non-public actors to ensure availability of adequate and complete information;
- Develop capacity and tools including a web-based observatory, to ensure effective data collection, collation, analysis, interpretation, and real-time dissemination for improved evidence-based decision-making process;
- Undertake a proactive initiative to harmonize and integrate with the country overarched ICT Master Plan, and utilize the common communication technologies;
- Provide a special focus on promotion of the health information system at primary health care level, reaching to the majority of the population who needs more in health services and the current initiatives on use of mobile tablet be expanded and sustained;
- Expand training programmes on health information to the Basic Health Staff;
- Establish mechanisms to promote, coordinate, regulate, and ensure sustainability of health research and development;
- Facilitate the access to information to the public while protecting privacy and confidentiality; and
- Endorse and implement the National Health Information Policy.

P.Or 7 Health infrastructure

The health infrastructure includes all physical infrastructures such as hospitals, health centres, administrative offices, staff quarters, and also medical and non-medical equipment, transport and technology infrastructure, including ICT, required for effective delivery of services by all health service provider at all levels. The policy goal will be defined as: '*Ensured adequate and appropriate health infrastructure.*' The priority strategies include:

- Develop and implement health infrastructure policy;
- Set standards for health service infrastructure to support delivery of quality services; providing detailed specifications for buildings, equipment, furniture, transport, communication, water, electricity, waste management in hospitals, primary health care units, ICUs to cater for patient, staff and attendant safety and privacy concerns;
- Develop the National Health Facility Registry;
- Collaborate with ICT sector and ensure appropriate installation of ICT network appropriate to the level of health services delivery;
- Construct and consolidate health infrastructure development to increase access to the EPHS and improve quality of health services;
- Develop norms and standards to guide planning, development, and maintenance of health infrastructure, keeping a space of diversity for difficult topographical settings of the country;
- Facilitate development of infrastructure that progressively moves the prevailing norms and standards;
- Provide the necessary logistic support for an efficiently functioning referral system;

- Develop policy and guidelines for accepting donations and procurement of all infrastructures including vehicles, and disposal of the same; and
- Strengthen the regulatory framework to enforce health infrastructure standards.

P.Or 8 Research and Development

Health Research plays a vital role in supporting the evidence-based policy and intervention formulation, identifying gaps and critical factors for special needs for vulnerable groups especially the women, children and the elderly. The policy goal for health research is: *‘Strengthened evidence-based policy making process for overall health development.’* The priority strategies include:

- Develop prioritize research agenda for the policy implementation and monitoring and evaluation;
- Promote research policy dialogue in ensuring that the research is relevant to the needs of the local residents;
- Create platforms for improving the domain of health research and effective dissemination of research findings;
- Strengthen linkages with international and local non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations in health research and development;
- Enhance ways and means including mechanisms for resource mobilization, sharing of research funding in carrying out essential national health research and harness the development partners funds to support the national health research agenda;
- Establish a well-functioning system of "Responsible Conduct of Research" in health research and academic institutions and ensure an ethical code of conduct for health research has been observed and sustained;
- Promote inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration and networking in health research and development;
- Inculcate a good research culture through creation of favourable research environment and promoting research in academic institutions, program planners and implementers; and
- Strengthen capacity of health staff on effective use of research evidence and programme data in decision making at different levels.