



Pakistan's Health Policy Forum

A health-sector Think Tank

Statement

P a k i s t a n ' s H e a l t h P o l i c y F o r u m

Hosted by

Heartfile

heartfile.org/policy.htm



Members of Pakistan's

Government Agencies



Ministry of Health
Government of Pakistan



National Health
Policy Unit



Planning Commissions
Government of Pakistan



Pakistan Medical
Research Council



College of Physicians
& Surgeons Pakistan



Institute of
Psychiatry



National Institute
of Health



Department of Health
Government of N.W.F.P.



University of Health
Sciences Lahore



Rescue 1122



National Institute of
Cardiovascular Diseases

NGOs



Save the Children



TheNetwork
for Consumer Protection



Marie Adelaide
Leprosy Centre

HeartLife



MARIE STOPES
INTERNATIONAL



شہادت



HANDS
JOIN HANDS FOR DEVELOPMENT



RSPN
Rural Support
Program Network



Peoples Health
Movement

Private Medical Academia and Service Delivery



آغا خان یونیورسٹی
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



Shaikat Khanum
Memorial



SAHARA
FOR LIFE TRUST



Baqai Medical University



Frontier Medical
College



Shifa International
Hospital

Health Allied Organizations



Population Council



ORACLE



Center for Research
on Poverty
Reduction and
Income Distribution



Pakistan Institute of Legislative
Development and Transparency

Health Policy Forum

Development Partners



World Health Organization



THE WORLD BANK



unicef



Asian Development Bank



UNAIDS



German Technical Cooperation



Department for International Development



Canadian International Development Agency



The David and Lucile Packard Foundation



John Snow International



The Asia Foundation



Technical Assistance and Management Agency

Professional Associations



Pakistan Medical Association



Pakistan Nursing Council



Pakistan Society of Family Physicians



Diabetic Association of Pakistan



Pakistan Association of Pharmaceutical Physicians



PHARMA BUREAU of Information and Statistics



Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association



National Council for Homoeopathy



Pakistan Tibbi Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association



Pakistan Pharmacists Association

Membership of Pakistan's Health Policy Forum is evolving. The Forum Statement reflects current membership status as of end-November, 2005. Updates are available on the accompanying CD Rom, which also posts a list of individual members.

Forum Host

Heartfile

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Précis - What is Pakistan's Health Policy Forum?

Pakistan's Health Policy Forum is an intellectually independent health-sector think tank with an institutional mechanism designed to stimulate, assist in the development of and monitor health policies, foster their implementation and catalyze change through technical and policy support. It also provides a neutral platform for synchronizing stakeholder efforts — including those of the civil society and the people — within the health sector in Pakistan.

In order to achieve this purpose, the Forum performs analytical, technically supportive and advocacy roles and plays a watchdog function. Drawing on its think tank capacity to analyze strategic issues, it is envisaged to offer evidence-based, locally feasible consensus-driven policy solutions, in support of which it will take an advocacy orientation and provide technical support. With a clear grounding in well-defined values, principles and strategic parameters, the Forum has a clearly articulated structure and an operational plan of action.

Membership of the Forum includes all categories of health professionals and service providers from the public and private sectors at the individual and institutional levels, government representatives, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral development partners, representatives of pharmaceutical and traditional medicine associations, members of professional societies and the people.

Within the context of the inter-sectoral scope of health, the Forum membership also includes expert economists, gender, social sector and poverty specialists and management, media and technology consultants. The first initiative of its kind in the social sector, the Forum is organized on democratic principles and is free from any party, political or religious affiliations.

Strategic Parameters

Scope

The Health Policy Forum is:

- an independent health-sector think tank with an institutional mechanism
- a platform for synchronizing stakeholder efforts.

Purpose

To stimulate, assist in the development of and monitor health policies, foster their implementation and catalyze change through technical and policy support.

What does it provide?

- A point of national contact for stakeholders within the health sector
- A forum for discussion and dialogue
- An ongoing consultative mechanism
- Specific deliverables
- Communication plan for deliverables
- Accountability drive.

The Health Policy Forum performs the following functions in order to achieve its purpose:

- Analysis: reviewing and analyzing health policies and their implementation and offering evidence-based locally feasible solutions
- Advocacy: advocating on behalf of the people and the civil society to influence policy makers
- Technical support: playing a technically supportive role for achieving its objectives
- Watchdog function: promoting accountability of decisions by educating citizens and the civil society in the dynamics of healthcare delivery, policy and financing; the Forum mobilizes their participation in the health policy process.

Within the context of its ethics and principles, Pakistan's Health Policy Forum works with the public, private and non-profit sectors and is supportive of the role of public-sector-initiated policy and planning initiatives.

Foresight

Mission

The mission of Pakistan's Health Policy Forum is to provide an independent and effective voice for the protection and promotion of the health of the country's population. It seeks to act with integrity, to be inclusive and to work cooperatively while retaining its independence at all times.

Vision

Our vision is a future in which the entire population of the country has an equal opportunity to attain the highest possible level of health and well-being. As part of this vision:

- health policies will effectively address inequities in health
- excess mortality, morbidity and disability and care-givers burden — especially in poor and marginalized populations — will be reduced
- risks to health that arise from environmental, economic, social and behavioural causes will be mitigated
- health systems will be financially fair and will be designed to meet the specific needs of health promotion as well as treatment, prevention and control of diseases.

In line with our vision, we believe that

- fostering collaborative endeavours between stakeholders — both within and outside of the health sector — is critical to improving health outcomes
- people, public action and the civil society can play a role in setting priorities, making decisions and planning strategies for improving health and that they must be encouraged and enabled to contribute their activities to nationally agreed goals
- the process of developing health policies and their implementation needs to be supported and overseen by a group of stakeholders and an institutional mechanism, which has an independent and scientifically robust ability to analyze issues, offer solutions, play a technically supportive role, take an advocacy orientation and perform a watchdog function.

Values and Principles

1. People's-centered priorities
2. Intellectual independence and voice
3. Neutral, equity-focused, evidence-based orientation
4. Sustainable institutional capacity
5. Ingenuity of indigenous response
6. Collaborative consensus-building.

Structure

Membership

Members are called Forum Members; they either represent organizations or are represented in their individual capacities. Members are sought by invitation and are categorized as:

Institutional members: organizations of international, national, sub-national or local scope that contribute or can contribute to protecting and promoting the health of the country's population. Institutional members are represented by the organization's nominee

Individual members: individuals who contribute or can contribute to protecting and promoting the health of the country's population in their own individual capacity.

Terms of membership

Members would be expected to:

- support the mission and the vision of Pakistan's Health Policy Forum
- play a voluntary participatory role.

Membership does not:

- entail any legal or financial obligations
- bind members to endorse respective viewpoints generated during discussions and dialogues.

Membership's endorsement and support of deliverables

- 'Forum Consensus Statement(s)' will require the concurrence of the two-third majority of members and will display logos of all concurring member organizations
- 'Forum Viewpoint(s)' will be accepted from specifically assigned members/moderators and may not display member logos.

Core Group

A Core Group oversees the strategic direction of the Forum. This group has been constituted from within the membership.

Host

The Host organization implements the operational course of the Forum and has committed its resources in order to provide technical and secretarial support. It also takes the responsibility to represent the Forum, manage its processes and outputs and handle its correspondence, records and resources. In addition, it has also developed and is managing its electronic discussion gateway.

The Host organization will be rotated on a five-yearly basis. For the initial five-year duration, the Forum will be hosted by Heartfile – the organization, which has lent impetus to its creation, played the role of a catalyst in bringing individuals and organizations into its membership and has taken a lead role in developing a consensus on the strategic and operational directions of the Forum.

Moderators

The moderators are responsible for moderating dialogues and the technical content of the processes and outputs of the Forum. Members with a robust professional background, who further agree to voluntarily commit at least ten percent or more of their time to this function, can act as moderators. They will be selected from within the membership. The organizational member from the Host organization will play the role of the Lead Moderator.

Pakistan's Health Policy Forum has been constituted in a quasi-prescribed arrangement, upon which there is a five-year moratorium. After this period, the structure of the Forum will be revisited to assess if a more formal configuration such as the introduction of structured bylaws, the articulation of rights, privileges and powers, stricter procedures about convening sessions and voting, and the establishment of boundaries of sub-initiatives is likely to bring any added value to the outcome of this initiative.

Action Plan

Preliminary Actions

1. Building up the Forum membership and fostering a consensus around the strategic and operational directions – the Forum Statement
2. Establishing an institutional mechanism to achieve the purpose of the Forum within its defined scope
3. Developing the Gateway Paper as an index output of the Forum to set the tone and direction of the Forum
4. Setting of priorities in order to comprehensively guide the operational scope of work of the Forum in key areas: analytical and technically supportive vis-à-vis advocacy
5. Developing a Web-based discussion forum that will facilitate cost-effective and productive virtual dialogues amongst members.

Periodic Initiatives

1. Setting up of an annual consultative moot for interfacing national policy makers with all other stakeholders in the health sector and other processes as may be necessary as an antecedent to this consultative deliberation such as relevant health policy and systems research and the development of policy positions
2. Publication of a health policy periodical.

Ongoing Undertakings

1. Development, articulation and appropriate communication of specific policy position(s) or relevant materials as Forum Consensus Statement(s) and viewpoint(s) in key priority area(s) – periodically or as needed
2. Providing a focal point of national contact for stakeholders, convening meetings, assisting with networking and encouraging the proliferation of critical discussions and dialogues – periodically or as needed
3. Maintenance and moderation of an online discussion forum as a tool to facilitate the functions of the Forum
4. Responding to documents and consultations on health and allied social issues
5. Providing consulting services, where appropriate.

Financial Parameters

The Health Policy Forum will be supported by a multi-source resource base, which will be inclusive of in-kind and technical contributions as well as funds. The Host agency will set up a transparent resource handling mechanism, which will allow the reflection of all contributions from participating and supporting sources and will ensure that the funds are audited and made public.

“Public policy — as an outcome of the struggle involving ideas, ideologies and interests — is a fascinating and complex interaction between politics, policy, and action. Pakistan's Health Policy Forum has been developed to facilitate the streamlining of these complexities within the health sector. It is envisaged that in doing so, it will provide solutions for improving health outcomes on the one hand, whereas on the other, it will assist in strengthening the societal political culture within the country by fostering participatory deliberations and mainstreaming the voice of the people and the civil society into the decision making process”.

Sania Nishtar; FRCP, Ph.D

Founder and Convener of Pakistan's Health Policy Forum

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