



Health Sector Strategy Punjab

صحت زندگی

Post 18th amendment, the Punjab Government decided to steer the Health Sector through formulation of a Strategy. The Punjab Health Sector Strategy has been developed in response to challenges related to quality of service delivery and coverage, a competent health workforce, governance and regulation of health sector and for ensuring that the poor and vulnerable are financially covered as currently 75 percent of the health expenditure is out of pocket. A number of strategies are outlined using a phased approach from 2012 to 2017, recommending that the budget be increased from PKR 11.2 billion to PKR 14.8 billion. The key emphasis of the Strategy is on integrating health services supported by a strong monitoring and evaluation system. The Strategy's implementation plan is ready and requires robust monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure that the desired goal of "a measurable reduction in the morbidity and mortality in most common illnesses especially among the vulnerable groups" is achieved, backed by a strong political commitment.



Recommended Policy Actions

- **Health Sector Ministerial Board (HSMB)**
The prime task of the board shall be to ensure a comprehensive implementation of the Strategy and to promote inter-sectoral linkages
- **Implement Health Sector Strategy in a 'Phased Approach'**
Technical assistance should be taken where necessary. The overall budget allocation should increase from PKR 11.2 billion to PKR 14.8 billion by 2017
- **Effective Monitoring and Evaluation of Strategy Implementation**
A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework based on strategic outcomes must be developed. Roles of provincial and district health departments must be clearly defined
- **Measure progress through improvements in Health Outcomes**
Implementation progress of the health Strategy may be monitored through change in health indicators as depicted in national household level surveys such as Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS), Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Surveys (PSLSMS), Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) and National Nutrition Survey (NNS)
- **Focus on key strategic areas**
An integrated approach through Essential Health Services Packages at all levels; contracting out of services; development of multi-sectoral nutrition strategy; restructuring of Department of Health and regulation of public and private hospitals

The Strategy: Status of Health in Punjab

With a sizeable population in Punjab– 53 percent of the total – the improvements in health indicators are better than other provinces, particularly in addressing high maternal and child mortality. Despite this, Punjab is lagging behind in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. More than a third of the province's population is below the poverty line and almost 60 percent are below the age of 25 years (Table 1). In the aftermath of 18th constitutional amendment, new Programmes, including disease control Programmes, up grading health facilities, integration of a number of vertical Programmes, human resource training institutes and a Health Care Commission have been developed. The provincial government has taken a number of initiatives to improve health outcomes which include Health Sector Reform Programme, Chief Minister's Initiative of Primary Health Care, Punjab Devolved Social Services Programme, and Punjab Resource Management

Table 1: Current situation Punjab Indicators

Population below poverty line	> 0.33
Population below the age of 25 years	60%
Under 5 mortality rate per1000 live births	111
Infant mortality rate per1000 live births	77
Maternal mortality ratio per 100000 live births	227
Immunization coverage	36.4%
Utilization of skilled birth attendants	46%
Anemia in women of reproductive age	49%
Total fertility rate	3.6
Burden of Tuberculosis	60%
Source: Multiple indicator cluster survey Punjab 2011	

Programme. Despite improvements in the health sector, there is an inadequate access to health care services for the people of Punjab because of insufficient competent human resources, lack of integration of health information system and regulatory mechanisms for drugs and private practices.

Strategic Vision, Objectives and Results (2012-2020)

Based on the current health status and delivery modalities in Punjab, a health sector Strategy has been devised with a vision

// to enhance health status and productive lives of the people of Punjab by improving maternal and child health, nutrition, control of communicable and non-communicable diseases //

The following section provides a quick glance of issues in the health sector, related outcomes and proposed strategies outlined in the Punjab Health Sector Strategy 2012-2020.

The Punjab Health Sector Strategy-2017 aims to strengthen the systems through improvements in institutional arrangements and integration of various Programmes especially at the district level by implementing an integrated essential health services package which is the cornerstone of this process.

Punjab Health Strategy – Strategic Plan

Issues	Expected Outcome	Proposed Strategy
Service Delivery – Issues in access and quality of health care	Develop a safe and effective health services delivery system with a focus on institutionalising quality of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutionalise essential health services package for all levels of care and improve emergency care services Establish District Health Complexes for improved patient management, human resource skills development and training Strengthen urban primary health care, integrate vertical health Programmes and strengthen health Communication Focus on strengthening MNCH, family planning, infectious and non-infectious disease control and nutrition for women and children Standardise health services delivery and implement Minimum Service Delivery Standards (MSDS)
Governance and Accountability - An efficient system of health sector governance, management and regulation	Improve efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness through a decentralised system with a comprehensive and responsive regulatory regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved stewardship and monitoring by restructuring Department of Health for effective implementation of health policy initiatives Strengthen health system by optimising decentralisation and hospital autonomy Develop and operationalise Punjab Healthcare Commission Develop a robust and comprehensive system for assessment, accountability and incentive for performance
Health Workforce - Inadequate and lack of skilled workforce available to fulfill population health needs	Have an adequately skilled workforce in Punjab, it is essential to have a well structured human resource planning and management policy for provision of good quality services at all levels especially in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a human resource planning and development unit Develop and operationalise a Health Services Academy for training of different categories of health workers, create opportunities for continuous medical education and revise medical curriculum with a focus on preventive and promotive care
Health Information Systems - Lack of comprehensive, timely, accurate and functional information foundation for health policy and planning decisions	A well functioning health information system should provide access to reliable data for evidence based policy making and resource mobilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardised information system for public and private sector health facilities and strengthen linkages with community based information systems Strengthen Disease Early Warning System (DEWS) at all health facility levels Develop capacity of health professionals on use of the information systems for management and research
Essential Medicines and Health Technologies - Uninterrupted supply of quality essential drugs for healthcare facilities and outreach workers	Ensure a continuous and adequate supply of quality essential drugs and medicines at all levels; an improved logistics and supply chain management enforce drug regulations and ensure sufficient storage capacity for drugs storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance existing logistics and supply chain management system by strengthening procurement, restructuring of medical store depots, and automation of system for quantification, procurement and distribution Institutionalise regular reviews of Essential Drugs List Strengthen and enforce quality regulation for drugs produced in province
Healthcare Financing - Optimised healthcare financing through fiscal responses	Well structured health care financing policy with strategy for financial risk protection of disadvantaged and vulnerable households; efficient and effective utilisation of budget allocated and increased public private partnership for provision of quality services at larger scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance government expenditure on health Improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy in health care spending Improve capacity of the provincial and district governments for increasing effective budget utilisation Establish a social security mechanism in collaboration with Zakat, Bait al Maal and Waseela-e-Sehet initiatives for targeting vulnerable and disadvantaged households

Targets Identified for Implementation of Strategy

- Reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and under five mortality rate to 30 and 40 deaths per 1000 live births
- A Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 220 per 100000 live births
- Reduction in the prevalence of Tuberculosis to 0.1 percent, Hepatitis B and C to 0.4 percent, and HIV/AIDS to 0.01 percent among vulnerable groups
- Control and reverse the prevalence of non-communicable diseases by 40 percent
- Reduction in prevalence of underweight from 30.1 percent to 10 percent, stunting from 17.6 percent to 6 percent, wasting from 14 percent to 5 percent among children, and iron deficiency anemia among women from 27 percent to 10 percent

Way Forward

Implementation of the Strategy

Implementation of the Strategy is a colossal task as it requires effective synergies between the Department of Health and the Directorate General Health Services (DGHS) in tandem with important inputs by the Punjab Health Sector Reform Programme (PHSRP) to bring about much needed changes in the health system. For an improved and comprehensive delivery

of health services, inter sectoral linkages are required – furthermore, for an effective implementation of the Strategy, the role of various departments such as education, finance, labor and industry and water and sanitation will need to be strengthened.

Healthcare Budget for Implementation of Strategy

To ensure implementation of the Strategy, the healthcare budget of Department of Health needs to be streamlined with the Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF). Assuming that the Gross Domestic Progress (GDP) of the province increases from 3.5 percent to 5.7 percent over the next 10 years, the provincial budget may also increase considerably. Currently, 12.4 percent of the provincial budget is allocated for health and allied sectors; however, this is expected to decrease to 11 percent over the next 10 years. The vertical health Programmes will continue to be funded by the federal government till year 2015. Considering the health sector activities, there is a funding gap of 8 percent of overall health budget and a spending gap of 49 percent; the situation is expected to improve over the next ten years provided that utilisation of funds by the districts is improved.

The overall budget allocation needs to increase from PKR 11.2 billion to PKR 14.8 billion by 2017.

Progress so far:

- Essential Health Services Package for the primary level care services has been developed and formally approved whereas, packages for secondary and tertiary care level is in progress
- An integrated PC-1 mainly focusing on the Maternal and Neonatal Child Health, Nutrition and Family Planning is under approval
- An integrated Punjab Health Information System is under development
- The Punjab Health Care Commission is now operational to regulate the health sector
- Department for International Development and World Bank have in principle committed to support the health sector based on the vision and outcomes spelled out in the Strategy, therefore, a result-based framework has been developed to ensure proper monitoring for implementing the Strategy
- Disbursement Linked Insights (DLIs) for the health sector support agreed by the Government of Punjab, World Bank and Department for International Development, has been based on Health Sector Strategy
- Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) of Department of Health Punjab is linked with Health Sector Strategy



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TRF is funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development and AusAid, and managed by HLSP