

National health policy consensus building workshop

Alsalam Rotana Hotel, Khartoum, Sudan, 13-14 May 2007



Federal Ministry of Health

In collaboration with the National Council for Strategic Planning, Secretariat for Sudanese Working Abroad, WHO and UNICEF

Introduction

The previous five years witnessed a great concern and effort to complete and update Health policies, which resulted in many Health policy documents in a number of priority areas. For instance, the following policies have been developed and/or updated: health service delivery, human resources development, hospital Autonomy, Drug policy, Maternal and child Health Policy, communicable disease policy, etc...

The National Health Policy has been formulated as a comprehensive summary for all of these policy documents with wide participation from experts in related domains. Then, the five years strategic plan (2007–2011) was developed by the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with the National Council for Strategic Planning. The national health policy consensus building workshop has come at the end to build consensus around these documents and agree on implementation arrangements as well as the role of different partners.

Objectives of the Workshop

- Presentation and discussion of the National Health Policy and the Five Year Strategic Plan 2007–2011; and
- Build consensus around these document and the role of different partners in the coming period.

Participants

The opening ceremony (session) attended by:

- H/E Minister of Health National Unity–Government of Sudan;

- States Ministers of Health;
- Secretary General of the National Council for Strategic Planning;
- Secretariat for Sudanese Working Abroad;
- WHO; and
- UNICEF.

With participation of health personnel from various specialties and different levels, including State Ministries of Health, Sudan Medical Specialization Board, Sudan Medical Council, universities, relevant unions and associations, private sector, relevant ministries, health services of police and army, Health Insurance, partners in the UN agencies and NGOs, representatives from the media and press, and from the National Assembly.

Activities of the workshop included

- Presentation and discussion of the General Health Policy in terms of the direction, the vision and the preparation process.
- Presentation and discussion of the Five Years Strategic Plan 2007–2011 in terms of the current status, preparation of the document and the objectives and required interventions).
- Paper Presented about the Doctors` practice (Public/Private).
- Group work to review the document and presentation of the comments and recommendations. The group witnessed high participation from representative of different stakeholders.

Recommendations of the Workshop

The workshop proposed the following recommendations:

Political commitment

- Health is a cross-cutting issue and should be a government priority and should be included in all sectors plans.
- A conducive environment to partnership for health should be encouraged.
- There is a great need to advocate for increasing political commitment and increasing financial public allocation to health to approach the continental commitment (15%).
- New mechanisms to streamline financing to foster equity and poverty reduction.

Primary Health Care

- More emphasis is to be given to PHC to ensure coverage and equity.
- New approaches should be developed for delivery of PHC at local level to ensure its effectiveness, efficiency and acceptability.
- Increase the coverage of cost effective interventions such as IMCI and the basic package of health interventions.
- Consider introduction of the family doctor concept and practice.
- Community involvement in health should be strengthened in planning, implementation and evaluation.

Scanning future health problems

- Anticipate the changes in social, demographic features, lifestyles and environment.
- Non-communicable diseases need to be emphasized and elaborated in the document.
- Disaster and emergency preparedness should be stressed.
- Emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases should be considered in planning.
- Strengthen surveillance systems, particularly laboratory based monitoring.

Capacity building

- Maximize the contribution of our workforce; all cadres inside the country.
- Training of allied health personnel should be scaled up to increase coverage and accessibility.
- Training of community health workers should continue in areas of greater need.
- Strategies and mechanisms should be set up to maximize the contribution of the Sudanese health professionals working abroad.
- Consideration should be given to IT including telemedicine to support the day to day decisions in health care.

For more information about the workshop, please contact Dr. Ashraf Obeid Mohamed, e-mail: omdagarci@hotmail.com

