



Health Policy

Subject 5

Health Policy Definition, Goals and process

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Learning Objectives

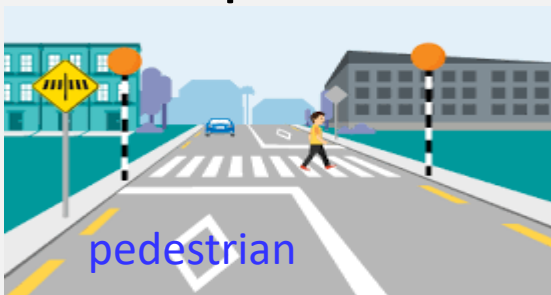
Objectives

• By the end of this lecture, students should be able to:

1. **Define** “Policy”, “Health Policy”, “Global Health”, “Global Health Governance”
2. **Identify** the goals of health policy,
3. **Describe** the policy process,
4. **Differentiate** between health policies (Macro- vs. Micro-policy)
5. **Discuss** Global Health major players and challenges
6. **Discuss** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Definition: Policy

- Policy is a law, regulation, procedure, administrative action, incentive, or voluntary practice of governments and other institutions.
- Policy decisions are frequently reflected in resource allocations.
- Health can be influenced by policies in many different sectors.
- For example, transportation policies can encourage physical activity (pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly community design); policies in schools can improve nutritional content of school meals.



Health Policy

Health policy refers to decisions, plans, and actions that are undertaken to achieve specific health care goals within a society.

'Health Policy' provides a broad framework of decisions for guiding health actions that are:

- useful to its community in improving their health,
- reducing the gap between the health status of population and,
- ultimately contributes to the quality of life.



Definition: Global Health

- An area of study, research and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide.
- Emphasizes **trans-national** health issues, determinants and solutions.
- Inter- and **multi-disciplinary collaboration** within and **beyond health sciences**.
- A combination of **population-based prevention** and **individual-level clinical care**.



Why health policies are needed?

A health policy can achieve several things:

- It defines a **vision for the future** which in turn helps to **establish targets** and points of situation for the short and medium term.
- It **outlines priorities** and the **expected roles** of different groups; and
- It builds **agreement** and informs people.

Building healthy public policy

- Creating supportive **environments**.
- **Strengthening** community action.
- Developing **personal skills**.
- **Re-orientating** health care services toward **prevention** of illness and **promotion** of health.

The Priorities of this policy

Health policy stressed the need for providing primary health care with special emphasis on prevention, promotion and rehabilitation. The main areas are:

- a. Nutrition
- b. Prevention of food contamination and quality of drugs.
- c. Water supply and sanitation
- d. Environmental protection
- e. Immunization programs
- f. Maternal and child health services (MCH)

Other Aspects

1. Health Education.
2. Development of Health Information System (HIS).
3. Production of Drugs and Equipment.
4. **Health Insurance** and Legislation.
5. Medical **Research**.
6. Policy Formulation
 - i. Identifying Policy **Needs**
 - ii. Formulating Policy
 - iii. Designing Policy Strategies
 - **iv. Reviewing the Policy**

Health Strategies

1. Restructuring of the health **infrastructure**.
2. Development of **Health Manpower**.
3. Research and development.

Elements , essential aspects:

1. **Solving** of Health Problems.
2. Supply of drinking water and basic sanitation, using technologies that the people , can afford.
3. **Reduction of existing imbalance** in health services by increasing Rural Infrastructure.
4. **Establishment of HIS** (Health Information System).
5. Provision of health promotion.
6. Concerted actions to **combat widespread malnutrition**.
7. **Research** into alternative methods of health care delivery and low- cost health , technologies.
8. Greater coordination of different systems of medicine.

The key steps in health policy process include:

Step 1: Identify the **Problem** .

Step 2: Policy Analysis

2.1 **Identify** and Describe Policy Options

2.2 **Assess** Policy Options

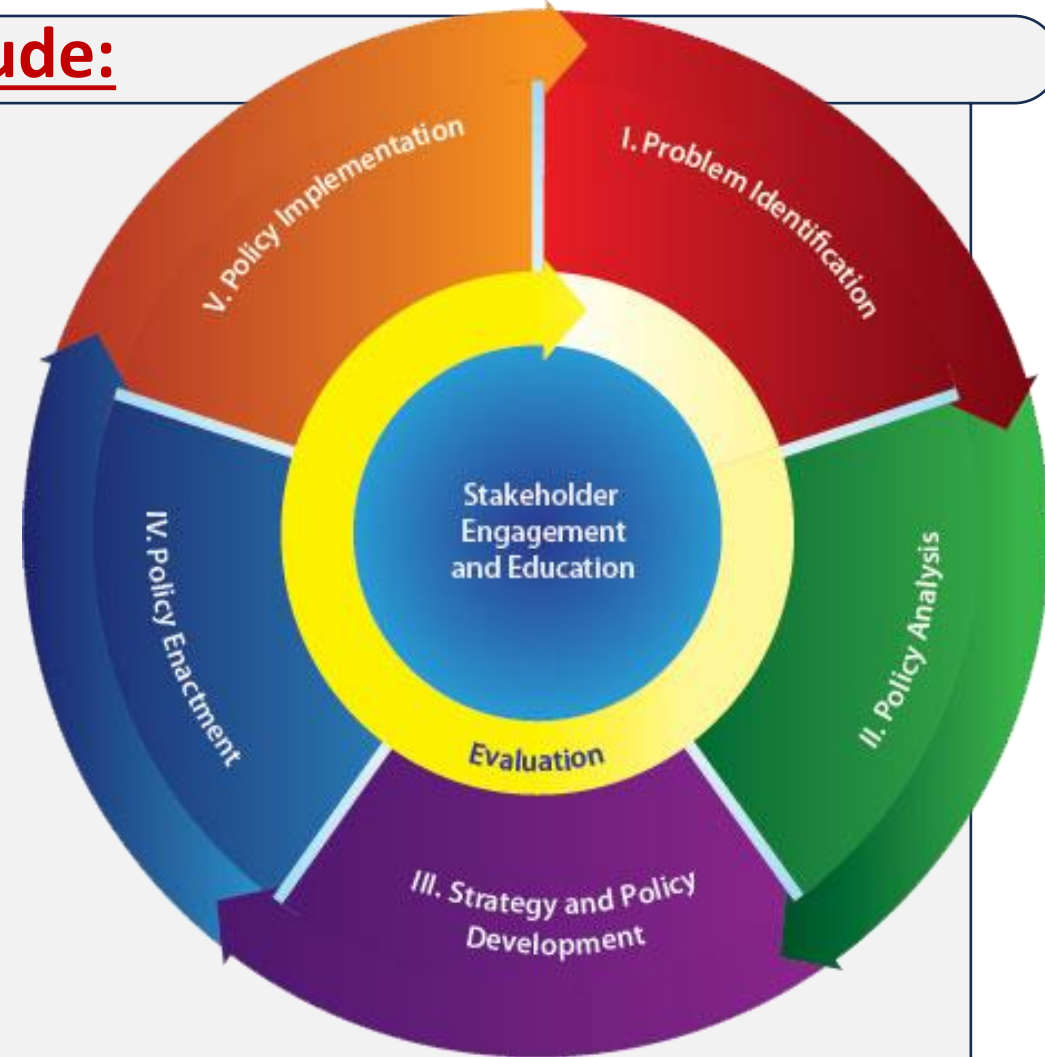
2.3 **Prioritize** Policy Options

Step 3: **Develop a Strategy** for Furthering Adoption of the Policy Solution.

Step 4: Policy **Performing**.

Step 5: Policy **Implementation**.

Principal activities: Stakeholder engagement & education AND Evaluation



Factors that affect health policy decision making

- Economic factors
- Cultural/religious factors
- Behavioral factors
- Physical environment
- Availability of medical services
- Technology advances
- Epidemiological structure (disease distribution and disease prevention priorities)
- Public health evidence
- Political situation

Macro Health Policy

- **Broad and expansive health policies** that are developed at the **national** level.
- Affect a **large portion of the population** (region or country).
- Define the country's vision **priorities**, financial decisions, course of action to sustain health.
- Developed based on **population-health needs**.

Micro Health Policy

- **More specific** to level of **organization or individuals**, examples:
 - Hospital administrative policy and procedures.
 - Departmental/Internal policy and procedures.
 - Clinical practice guidelines.
- Based on the **operational needs** of the facility; differ by organization (from hospital to another).
- Policies that apply to:
 - Employees
 - Operations
 - Ethics
 - Safety
 - Research

Inter-relationship between micro- and macro- policies:

- **Micro-policies** at organizations are developed **in line with macro-policies** put in place by the **Ministry Of Health (MOH)**.
- The development and implementation of such policies require a **multi-disciplinary** approach
- For example:
 - ✓ Many ministries work together on development of some macro-policies; MOH + Ministry of Education (MOE) etc.....
 - ✓ Different departments of the hospital collaborate for putting in place micro-policies.

Global Health Major Players:

International organizations ,e.g. :

- **World Health Organization (WHO)**
- **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**
- **World Bank**



The World Health Organization

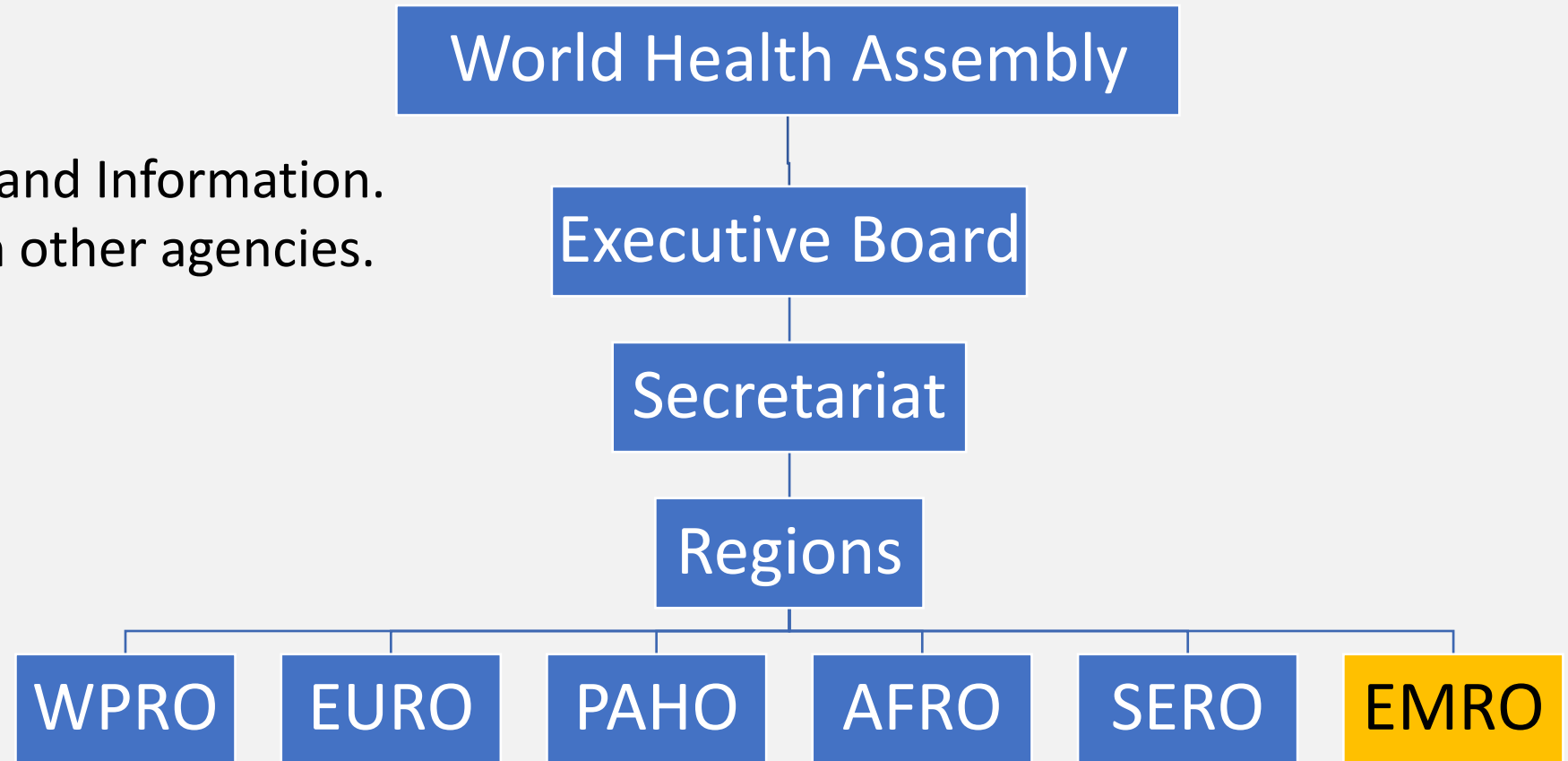


World Health
Organization

- **(WHO)** is a specialized **non-political health** agency of the United Nations with headquarters in Geneva.
 - It has its own structure: came into force on **April 7th, 1948**, which is celebrated every year as **“World Health Day”** with a different theme each year to focus attention on a specific public health issue.
- **Two major policy developments influenced WHO:**
 1. The **Alma-Ata** Declaration of 1978 that identified **primary health care** as the key to the attainment of the **goal of Health for All**.
 2. Global strategy for **Health for all by 2000**, followed by Millenium developmental Goals (MDGs), and recently Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.
 3. Achieve **universal health coverage**, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

• WHO Scope of Work:

- Prevention and control of disease.
- Development of comprehensive health services.
- Family Health.
- Environmental Health.
- Health Statistics.
- Health Research.
- Health Literature and Information.
- Coordination with other agencies.



Global Health Challenges

- Impact of financial crisis & globalization
- Multiple, diverse, emerging health threats
- Failures in delivery & access to both existing and needed interventions.
- Disparities and inequities continue
- Fragile health systems unable to achieve SDGs targets

Universal health coverage (UHC)

UHC means that all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial problems.

It covers the full range of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care



**HEALTH
FOR ALL**
12.12
UNIVERSAL HEALTH
COVERAGE DAY

Millennium Development Goals

The (MDGs) are eight international development goals that all 193 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organizations have agreed to achieve by the year 2015. The goals are:

1. eradicating **extreme poverty and hunger**,
2. achieving **universal primary education**,
3. promoting **gender equality** and **empowering women**.
4. reducing **child mortality** rates,
5. improving **maternal health**,
6. combating **HIV/AIDS, malaria**, and other diseases,
7. ensuring **environmental sustainability**, and
8. developing a **global partnership** for development.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

11/18/2023

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

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16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

- The 193 Member States of the United Nations reached consensus on the outcome document of a new sustainable development agenda entitled, "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".
- This agenda contains 17 goals and 169 targets
- This agenda builds on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were adopted in 2000 and guided development action for the last 15 years. The MDGs have proven that global goals can lift millions out of poverty.
- UN summit for the adoption of SDGs with its 17 goals was held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York and convened as a high-level meeting of the General Assembly.

How are the SDGs different from the MDGs?

- The 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 targets are **broader in scope** and will go further than the MDGs by **addressing the root causes of poverty** and the **universal need** for development that works for all people.
- These goals will cover the **three dimensions** of sustainable development:
 - economic growth,
 - social Inclusion and
 - environmental protection.
- The **SDGs are universal** and apply to all countries, whereas the **MDGs** were intended for action in **developing countries only**.
- A **core feature** of the SDGs has been the **means of implementation** - the mobilization of financial resources, as well as capacity building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

How will progress of the SDGs be measured?

- The 17 goals and 169 targets will be monitored and reviewed using a set of global indicators.
- These will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels, which will be developed by Member States.

When are the SDGs expected to start and end?

The SDGs started on 1 January 2016 and to be achieved by 31 December 2030.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



1. reduce the global **maternal mortality rate**.
2. reduce **neonatal mortality** and under-5 mortality.
3. end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.
4. **reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases** through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.
5. Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic **drug abuse** and harmful use of alcohol.
6. **Reduce number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents**.
7. ensure **universal access** to reproductive health-care services, including **family planning**, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs.
8. Achieve **universal health coverage**, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
9. substantially reduce the number of **deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination**.

