

COMM 311

Global Health Programs and Policies

Nurah Alamro, MD. MPH. DrPH.

Assistant Professor and Consultant of Public Health

Community Medicine Unit, Family & Community Medicine Department

nmalamro@ksu.edu.sa

Objectives

By the end of this lecture, residents 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)

{ 1 Definitions }

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.

Definition: Health Policy

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

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 synthesis of population-based prevention and individual-level clinical care

Definition: Global Health Governance (GHG)

- The formal and informal institutions, norms and processes which govern or directly influence global health policy and outcomes

{ 2 Goals of Health Policy }

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 reference for the short and medium term.
- It outlines priorities and the expected roles of different groups; and
- It builds consensus and informs people.

{ 3 The Policy Process }

The key steps include:

Step 1: Identify the Problem or Issue

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 Enactment

Step 5: Policy Implementation

Overarching 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

{ 4 }

Macro- vs. Micro- Health Policy

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, budgetary decisions, course of action to sustain health
- Developed based on **population-health needs**
- For example, MOH policies; Vision 2030 health transformation initiatives

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 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 + MOMRA + MOE etc (HiAP)
 - Different departments of the hospital collaborate for putting in place micro-policies

{ 5

Global Health Players and Challenges }

Global Health Major Players

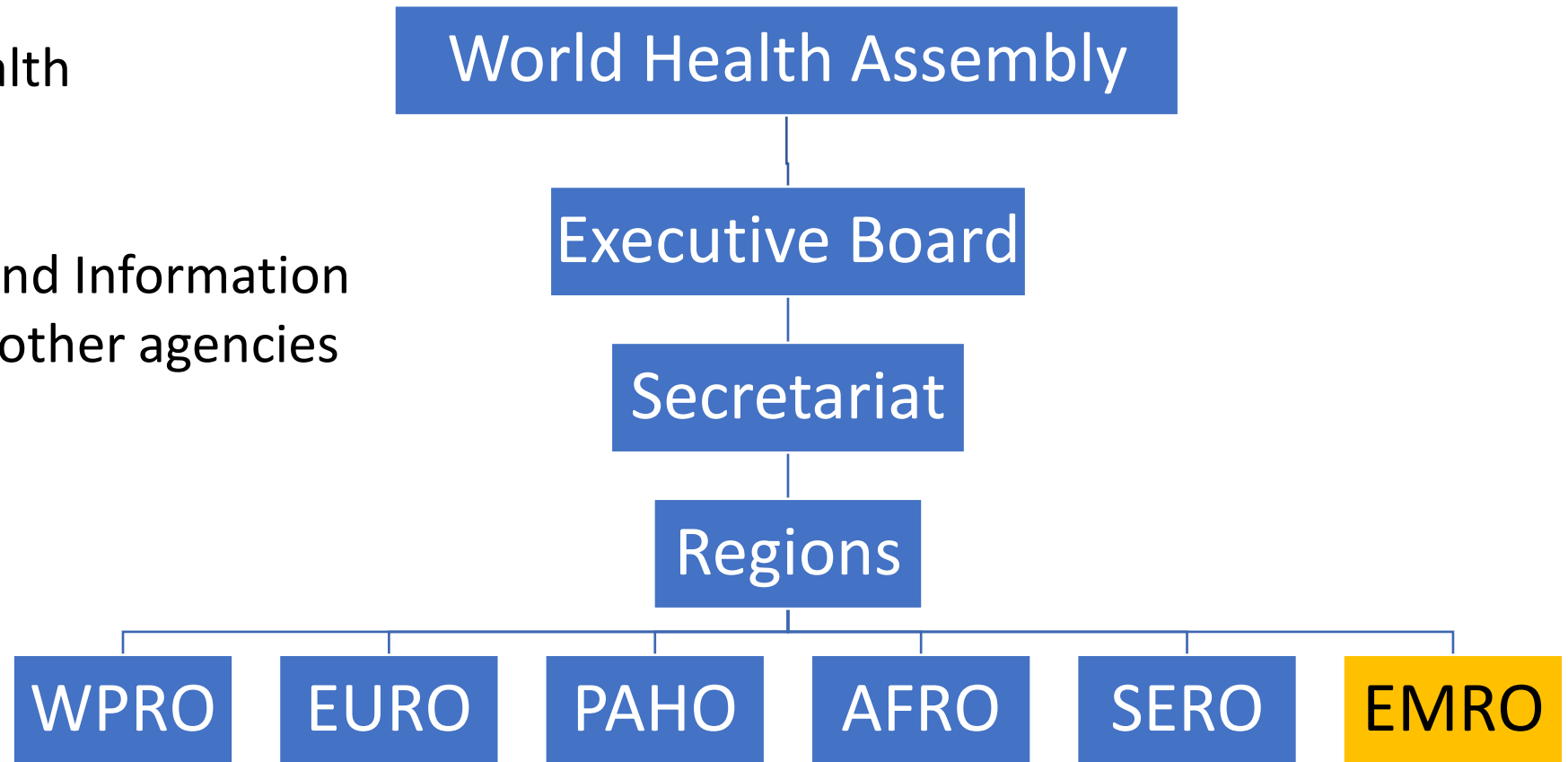
- International organizations (e.g. **WHO**, UNICEF, World Bank)
- Multilateral entities (e.g. G8, G20)
- Multilateral initiatives (e.g. GAVI)
- Bilateral initiatives (e.g. PEPFAR)
- Philanthropies (e.g. Gates Foundation)
- Global public-private partnerships
- Private sector-industry
- Civil society

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** is a specialized non-political health agency of the United Nations with headquarters in Geneva.
- **WHO is unique among the specialized UN agencies as it:**
 - has its own constitution: 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.
 - own governing bodies
 - own membership
 - own budget
- **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 MDGs, and recently SDGs 2030.



• **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

{ 6 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) }



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

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

What is sustainable development?

Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

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



- 3.1** By 2030, reduce the global **maternal mortality ratio** to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
- 3.2** By 2030, end **preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years** of age, with all countries aiming to reduce **neonatal mortality** to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.
- 3.3** By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.
- 3.4** By 2030, **reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases** through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.
- 3.5** Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.
- 3.6** By 2020, **halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents**.
- 3.7** By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.
- 3.8** 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.
- 3.9** By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being

Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	17	2017	●	↑
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	3.7	2018	●	↑
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	7.1	2018	●	↑
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)	10.0	2018	●	↑
New HIV infections (per 1,000 uninfected population)	NA	NA	●	●
Age-standardized death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease in adults aged 30–70 years (%)	16.4	2016	●	↑
Age-standardized death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)	84	2016	●	●
Traffic deaths (per 100,000 population)	28.8	2016	●	↓
Life expectancy at birth (years)	74.8	2016	●	→
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 adolescent females aged 15 to 19)	7.3	2017	●	↑
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	98.0	2013	●	●
Percentage of surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)	96	2018	●	↑
Universal health coverage (UHC) index of service coverage (worst 0–100 best)	74.0	2017	●	↑
Subjective well-being (average ladder score, worst 0–10 best)	6.6	2019	●	↑



Thank you!

**Office Hours (by appointment
via email):**

Mondays & Wednesdays

11 AM – 1 PM

Via Zoom

nmalamro@ksu.edu.sa

References

- CDC. Health Policy Analysis and Evidence. Accessed October 10th, 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/policy/analysis/index.html>
- WHO. Health Policy. Accessed October 10th, 2020: https://www.who.int/topics/health_policy/en/
- Park, K. Text Book of Preventive and Social Medicine; 23rd. *M/s Banarsidas Bhanot Publishers, 1167.* Pages: 918 - 922
- Tikki Pang. Global Health Governance – A Search for Meaning. (2009). Accessed October 10th, 2020: <https://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/bitstream/2123/11524/1/pang160709.pdf>
- Alkhamis AA. Framing health policy in the context of Saudi Arabia. *J Infect Public Health* 2016; 9: 3-6.
- UN General Assembly, Transforming our world : the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/57b6e3e44.html> [accessed 10 October 2020]
- United Nations. About the Sustainable Development Goals. Accessed October 10th, 2020: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. (2020): Sustainable Development Report 2020. New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). Accessed Feb 17th, 2021: [https://github.com/sdsna/SDR2020/blob/master/Country%20Profiles%20\(PDF\)/Saudi%20Arabia.pdf](https://github.com/sdsna/SDR2020/blob/master/Country%20Profiles%20(PDF)/Saudi%20Arabia.pdf)