policy

March 2014

HEALTH POLICY PROJECT

Governance

Overview

Individuals, families, and communities around the globe rely on governments and local institutions to organize and regulate health services to ensure their well-being. It is important that individuals and civil society—especially groups of people who are least able to access high-quality healthcare—have a voice in shaping the policies and programs that guide service provision. When health policy decisions are made, systems and structures should allow citizens and providers to exercise voice and collaborate with government as partners. Ongoing collaboration is required for all stakeholders, including citizens, state actors, and health providers to continue to exercise effective stewardship of the health system.

To monitor the effectiveness of laws and other types of policies that influence public health—whether related to healthcare services, citizens' rights, or national budgets—health stakeholders must have access to information, be able to identify what works and what does not work, and communicate that information effectively to policymakers. Likewise, governments and other groups need to be able to monitor whether institutions involved in healthcare delivery, protection of human rights, and resource allocation are performing their assigned functions. By working together with their constituents, creating the space for social participation, and setting up internal accountability systems, governments are better able to identify solutions that ensure equitable access to crucial health services.

What We Do

The Health Policy Project (HPP) works to strengthen the capacity of national and local governments, civil society groups, the private sector, and other health institutions to strengthen forums for health stakeholder engagement, foster stewardship, track progress of health policy, financing, and related programs, and to increase accountability for policy and funding commitments.

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Our programs work with ministries of health, parliamentarians, civil society groups, and healthcare providers to support participatory processes in developing, implementing, and monitoring inclusive health policies to promote accountability, transparency, stewardship, and ownership of policy initiatives.

HPP governance initiatives cut across family planning and reproductive health, HIV, and maternal health programs. We develop individual and institutional capacity across multiple sectors to engage stakeholders in health policy development, generate and use evidence more effectively, and create and sustain systems to improve accountability for policy action and, ultimately, improve health outcomes.

How to Work with Us

For over 40 years, Futures Group has managed large and complex international health and development projects for a range of major development players, achieving significant results on the ground in more than 100 countries. Host-country partners with interest in receiving project assistance should contact their USAID Mission. All Missions may participate through field support. For information on how to work with the Health Policy Project please contact:

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First Lady Mama Salma Kikwete presents the RAPIDWomen Tanzania advocacy tool. Together with her, from left to right, are Hon Sophia Simba, Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children, First Lady Salma Kikwete, and Dr. Asha Rose Migiro, UN Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa and former UN Deputy Secretary-General.

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