

# HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

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# OBJECTIVE

By the end of the lesson you should be able to explain the concepts of health systems and health systems management.

# INTRODUCTION

- Definition: A health system is a structured and interrelated work of all agencies contributing to health within a country.
- it includes efforts to influence determinants of health as well as more direct health improving activities.
- A health system consists of all organisations, people and actions whose primary intent is to promote, restore or maintain health.
- It is made up of six building blocks (pillars)- Leadership and governance , Health financing , Service delivery , Human resources for health (HRH) , Medical products, vaccines and technologies and Health information systems (HIS)

- A dynamic relationship exists between the various components in a health system.
- The multiple relationships and interactions among the blocks constitute a functioning health system.
- Each building block interacts with and influences the others, and is in turn affected by them.

- Good health services are those which deliver effective, safe, quality personal and non-personal health interventions to those that need them, when and where needed, with minimum waste of resources.
- A well-performing health workforce is one that works in ways that are responsive, fair and efficient to achieve the best health outcomes possible, given available resources and circumstances. This means . there are sufficient staff, fairly distributed; they are competent, responsive and productive

- A well-functioning health information system is one that ensures the production, analysis, dissemination and use of reliable and timely information on health determinants, health system performance and health status .
- A well-functioning health system ensures equitable access to essential medical products, vaccines and technologies of assured quality, safety, efficacy and costeffectiveness, and their scientifically sound and cost-effective use.
- A good health financing system raises adequate funds for health, in ways that ensure people can use needed services, and are protected from financial catastrophe or impoverishment associated with having to pay for them. It provides incentives for providers and users to be efficient.

- Leadership and governance involves ensuring strategic policy frameworks exist and are combined with effective oversight, coalition building, regulation, attention to system-design and accountability

# Health Systems Management

- Health System Management (HSM) is the coordination of provision of preventive, curative, promotional or rehabilitative health care services through effective management of facilities, HRH, financial and other resources.
- Management include planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Managing resources such as staff, budgets, drugs, equipment, buildings and information.
- External relations and partners, including service users.



# Necessary conditions for effective health systems management

- Availability of an adequate number of managers at all levels of the health system.
- Managers have the appropriate competences – knowledge, skills and understanding of the role, tasks and purpose of the services they deliver;
- Critical management support systems are functional – basic support systems function well – clear administrative rules and regulations; well planned and timely delivery of supplies, equipment and drugs; functioning infrastructure and health technology; transparent financial and procurement processes.
- A working environment which enhances managers' performance.
- Well planned and monitored activities.