

Policy, Process, Stakeholders, and Context

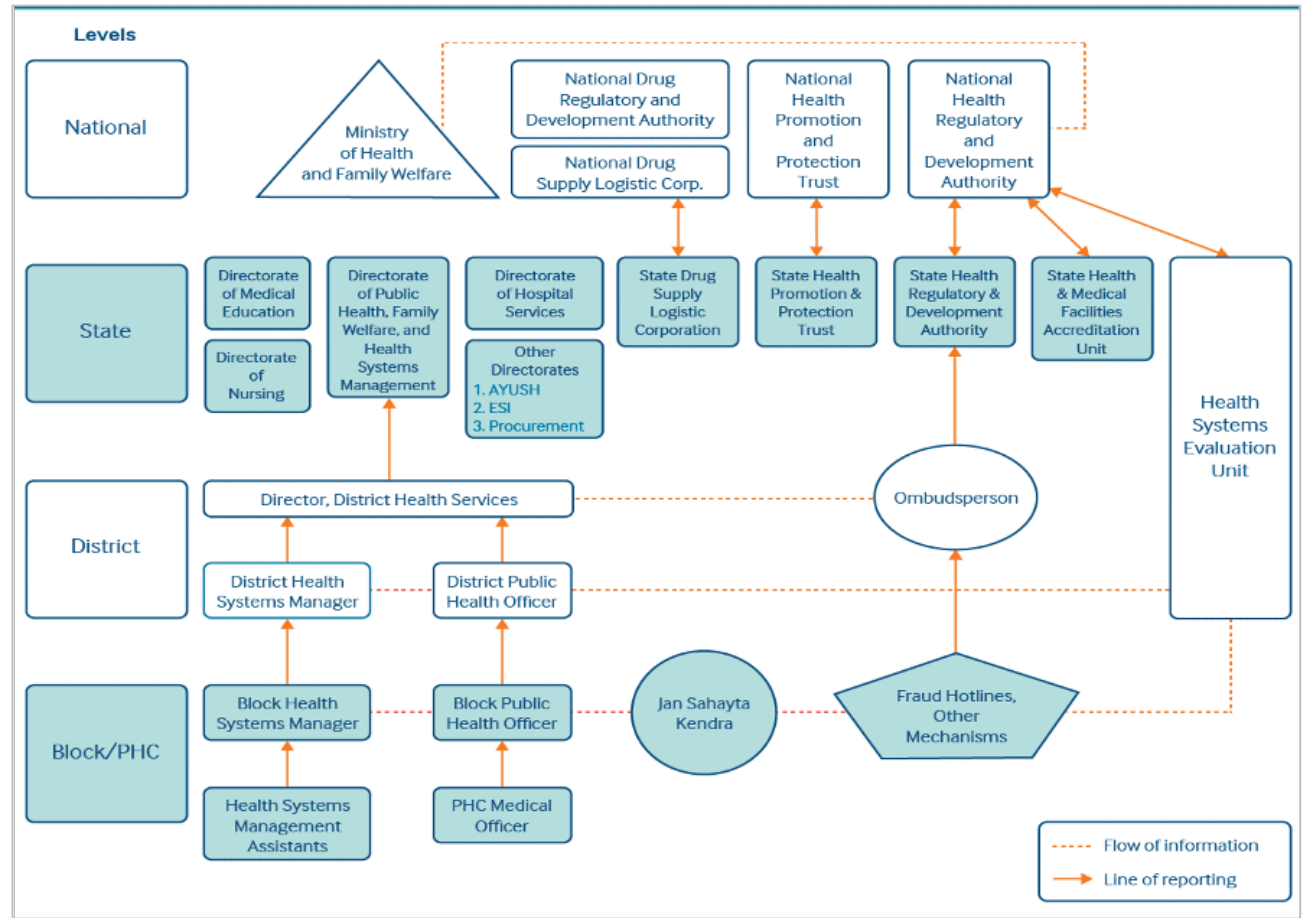
Navigating Politics: Why Do We Need Consistent Policy Engagement in the GPEI?

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Health Systems Are Complex and Political



Different Levels of Government May Not Agree



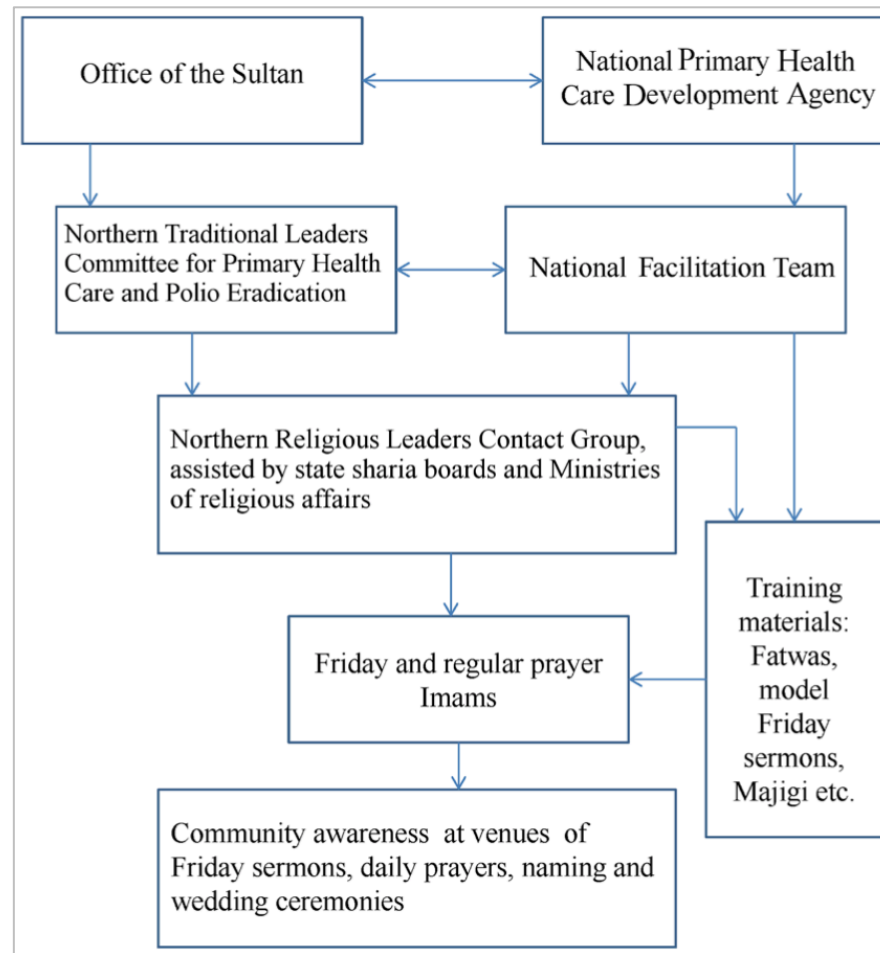
- ▶ Interest and commitment at the highest political level in conflict with community needs and the project goals
- ▶ Differing approaches and strategies adopted by different stakeholders across national, subnational, and district levels, especially in decentralized government

Policy Engagement Strategy: Engage Political Entities at Many Levels



- ▶ Host policy dialogues or stakeholder workshops among all relevant stakeholders throughout the planning and implementation process
- ▶ Hold advocacy meetings at the national, subnational, and district levels, keeping priorities and messaging consistent across levels and stakeholders

Example: Nigeria



Source: Nasir, S.-G., Aliyu, G., Ya'u, I., Gadanya, M., Mohammad, M., Zubair, M., & El-Kamary, S. S. (2014). From intense rejection to advocacy: how Muslim clerics were engaged in a polio eradication initiative in Northern Nigeria. *PLoS Medicine*, 11(8), e1001687. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001687>

Governments Have Competing Priorities



Image source: Gavi. Retrieved on July 14, 2020, from <https://www.gavi.org/programmes-impact/country-hub/eastern-mediterranean/afghanistan>

Unintended Outcomes



Image source: Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Retrieved July 6, 2020, from <http://polioeradication.org/news-post/ending-polio-across-africa/>

Policy Engagement Strategy: Maintain Program Neutrality



Image source: Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Retrieved on July 14, 2020, from <http://polioeradication.org/news-post/populations-on-the-move-vaccinating-every-child-in-afghanistan/>

Governments Change

- ▶ Periodic change in country's leadership and management, resulting in changing priorities and policies



Image source: Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Retrieved on July 14, 2020, from <http://polioeradication.org/news-post/the-people-at-the-heart-of-polio-eradication-in-afghanistan-2/>

Program Fatigue and Long-Term Commitment

- ▶ Recommitting will and resources to the project every year for a prolonged time period



Image source: Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Retrieved on July 14, 2020, from <http://polioeradication.org/news-post/tracing-every-last-poliovirus/>

Other Lessons from GPEI on Policy Engagement Strategy

- ▶ Share experiences at the national and regional levels on progress and challenges, maintaining transparency
- ▶ Involve a wide range of stakeholders at multiple levels in planning all phases and activities of the program
- ▶ Utilize social accountability tools to gather feedback from community members to improve service delivery and governance



Image source: Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Retrieved on July 6, 2020, from <http://polioeradication.org/news-post/reaching-all-children-in-the-lake-chad-basin/>

Ownership

“In staff hiring, in campaign, in data collection, giving leadership or not, they all should be done in coordination ... If people understand at the national level that this is an integrated program and is not separate, we are all sitting in the same boat and working for the same common goal. If we have this sense, everyone will have the ownership of the program this will avoid interruption in the program.”

—Program staff, Afghanistan

Stakeholders Are Key

- ▶ Identify stakeholders' capacity and role in the partnership
- ▶ Engage key stakeholders

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