

Panel: Achieving SDGs through Citizen-centric Health Reforms

In 2015, Pakistan was not able to achieve the key health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly target 4 (child health) and 5 (maternal health). Legislative gaps, lack of accountability, data, awareness, political will, and focus on citizen-centric healthcare were a few of the major barriers in accomplishment of these MDG targets. Hence, it is important to learn from previous mistakes and improve Pakistan's performance towards its new global commitments of transforming lives by 2030 through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In order to do so, it has to be a top priority to map out the progress and gaps in health-related commitments and the reasons for those gaps. Moreover, to avoid any lags in progress towards achieving SDG-3 (Good Health and Well-Being), complete dedication and a strong will has to be the heart of all the healthcare-related initiatives.

Though the only SDG solely dedicated to health is Goal 3, several other goals tend to directly or indirectly have a massive impact on it. Hence, when talking about health, it is important to inculcate the opinions of multiple stakeholders, including citizens to draw an overall picture. It is also important to come up with a holistic approach with collaborative efforts to identify and bridge the gaps in the health sector and come together to strengthen our existing policies. For this, a bottom-up approach is needed which can close the persistent gap of partiality and injustice. To address these gaps which exist at almost all levels of management, an integrated action for social sector development, emphasising health and education, is indispensable. Therefore, it is critical to discuss the increasingly intricate link between health and development and peace and prosperity. This panel will try to address the following questions:

- What are the current institutional mechanisms to implement the SDGs at national and provincial levels and how are these arrangements are interlinked with each other?
- What are the gaps and challenges in implementing the integrated and multi-sectoral approaches to achieve the health sector goals?
- What should be the best way to align the health goals with other sectors and what could be the framework for implementation in this regard?

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