

Abstract

The authors adapt the strategic planning process to the public health sector with the goal of providing advisory policy support to the Government of Kenya on healthcare financing reform. This document is not a strategic plan, but describes the process by which a strategic ten-year plan will be developed. The framework for the process is based upon the following points: setting goals in terms of the ultimate beneficiaries, focusing upon economic issues, separating financing and service delivery issues as much as possible, and remembering that people pay for the health system, directly or indirectly, and that the efficiency and equity of expenditures are important. The paper concludes with a proposal for the institutionalization of the process in the Ministry of Health and an action plan for conducting the planning process. Sections introduce strategic planning, offer a background to strategic planning in health, and build the strategic planning framework.