

RECLAIMING OUR RIGHT TO HEALTH: PUSHING BACK AGAINST THE PRIVATIZATION OF HEALTH TOWARDS A PEOPLE-CENTERED NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

Breaking Taboos in Global Health / Briser les Tabous Dans la Santé Mondiale

March 23, 2023



Council for Health and Development and IBON Foundation

PHILIPPINES

HEALTH

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity”

World Health Organization, Constitution

Health as a Right

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognized the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being.

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action declared that “human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments

Declaration of Alma-Ata: Health is a fundamental human right, governments have a responsibility for the health of their people

IN THE PHILIPPINES:

“The State shall protect and promote the health of the people and instill health consciousness among them”

Philippine Constitution of 1987

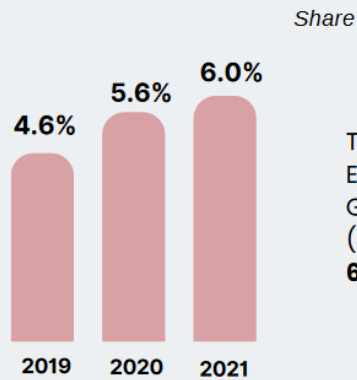
Article II, Section 15

PRIVATIZATION OF HEALTH

- Privatization is not simply a response to fiscal difficulties and not only to sell off state-owned enterprises
- In the direction of “redefine the role of the government”, privatization of health facilities and services resulted to the abandonment of the state’s responsibility to people’s health and allowing private business to take over.

THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH SYSTEM

TOTAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE TO GDP



The share of Total Health Expenditure (THE) to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices was **6.0 percent in 2021**.

CURRENT HEALTH EXPENDITURE BY FINANCING SCHEME

Share and Level



50.3%

PhP 546.64 billion

Government schemes and compulsory contributory health care financing schemes



41.5%

PhP 451.00 billion

Household out-of-pocket payment



8.2%

PhP 89.35 billion

Voluntary health care payment schemes

CURRENT HEALTH EXPENDITURE BY FINANCING AGENT

Level and Share



Households

PhP 451.00 billion

41.5%



Social Security Agency

PhP 148.08 billion

13.6%



Central and Local Government

PhP 391.71 billion

36.0%



Corporations**

PhP 67.47 billion

6.2%



Insurance Corporations

PhP 28.64 billion

2.6%

**Other than insurance corporations (e.g., HMOs, etc.)

ISSUES IN THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH SYSTEM

Lack of available health facilities

- Primary Level
 - Rural Health Units (RHU) 1:39,541 RHU to population ratio
 - Only half of the total population has access to RHU
- Secondary and Tertiary Level
 - 1,289 Hospitals in the Philippines
 - 440 government-owned (34%)
 - 849 private (66%)
 - 109,893 Total Bed Capacity
 - 50,966 public (46%)
 - 58,927 private (54%)

ISSUES IN THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH SYSTEM

Health workers shortage

- 17.08 HRH per 10,000 population (2021)
 - Lower compared to five years ago
 - 19.23 HRH per 10,000 population (2016)

Poor working conditions of Health Workforce

- Rampant contractualization of health workers in both public and private health facilities
- Lack of sufficient income which has pushed HRH to work overseas
 - Average of 27,050 Filipino health personnel deployed in 2015-2018

HEALTH PRIVATIZATION IS AIMED TO TRANSFER THE SERVICE OF PROVISION AND FINANCIAL BURDEN FROM THE STATE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE INDIVIDUAL.

1. Reduction of social spending on health,
2. Devolution of national government responsibility,
3. Rationalization of service provision,
4. Commercialization of services and implementation of user-fees, fiscal autonomy, corporatization and income retention of hospitals,
5. Promoting social health insurance over service delivery,
6. Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs), and
7. Creating an enabling environment for the private sector



THE MASS MOVEMENT CLAMORING FOR THE RIGHT TO HEALTH



EMPOWERMENT OF HEALTH WORKERS AND ACTIVISTS

- Unionization of healthcare workers
- Governments should heed the calls of healthcare workers
 - Better wages and benefits
 - Employment opportunities

With the current system of health in the country, an overhaul will be needed in order to achieve a free, comprehensive, and progressive national health system that will ensure the accessibility and availability of health care to all Filipinos especially to the poor and oppressed.

TOWARDS THIS GOAL, WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

1. Junk PPP, corporatization, and all forms of privatization
2. Allocate at least 10% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to health
3. Increase budget for government hospitals, health facilities and services
4. Ensure an adequate number of health personnel in the healthcare system with job security and just compensation
5. Re-nationalize and strengthen the public health care system
6. Enact the Free National Public Health System Bill or House Bill 208

MARAMING SALAMAT PO AT MABUHAY ANG MAMAMAYANG LUMALABAN!



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