

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND RURAL-HEALTH



CONSTITUTION

The South African Constitution (Act 108 of 1996) is the supreme law of the land and all policy, strategic planning and resource allocation must align with its principles and the obligations placed on government in terms of the bill of rights.



LEGISLATION

Such as the National health Act, codifies the structure and obligations of the health system and its various actors.

RISKS Legislation is a blunt instrument that itself cannot promote equity between urban and rural. There is no requirement to rural-proof planning.

OPPORTUNITIES Legislation articulates obligations and what must be done.



POLICY

Describes a course of action in a particular area and includes objectives, principles of action and intended outcomes.

RISKS Rural is not considered distinct from underserved and is not adequately accounted for or prioritized.

OPPORTUNITIES Rural-proofing of policy establishes rural as a priority and how it should be accounted for in planning and resource allocation.



BUDGET

Budgets are developed for the implementation of policy and strategic plans. They are both informed by and inform how planning is done.

RISKS Rural costs are not considered. Cost cutting if not carefully considered has greatest impact in rural settings.

OPPORTUNITIES Rural-proofing of budgets will require rural-proofed plans to follow to account for allocations.

FACILITIES

Facilities collect data and statistics on service delivery and expenditure. This information should filter into the strategic planning process to ensure that plans reflect need within communities.

RISKS Poorly resourced facilities do not reflect need in communities because access is limited and utilization is low. Planning and resourcing takes place based on faulty assumptions.

OPPORTUNITIES Unmet need should be determined to establish real service delivery needs. Different approaches to service delivery should be considered.

NATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN (5-YEAR)

Outlines the DoH's long-term strategy to deliver on its objectives. It includes programmatic targets and priority interventions.

RISKS Rural is not explicitly defined or accounted for in the plan. Has knock on effects for annual planning. There is no definition of rural.

OPPORTUNITIES Having rural-proofing included in this plan would establish the basis for systematic inclusion of rural factors in future plans.

NATIONAL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

This plan is developed annually but has a three-year outlook. It provides detailed objectives, activities and targets for national programmes.

RISKS Rural is not defined or accounted for in the APP and no consideration is given to differing resource needs between urban and rural contexts.

OPPORTUNITIES Rural-proofing as documented strategy can ensure that rural is properly defined and that strategies, activities and resourcing are appropriate for context.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET

Budgets are developed for the implementation of policy and strategic plans. They are both informed by and inform how planning is done.

RISKS Rural costs are not considered. Cost cutting if not carefully considered has greatest impact in rural settings.

OPPORTUNITIES Rural-proofing of budgets can help ensure plans more fully consider rural need and service delivery contexts.

DISTRICT HEALTH PLAN

Provides detail on specific activities and targets for service delivery within a district.

RISKS Rural contexts are not fully considered and factors such as geography and cost not accounted for in planning, further disadvantaging rural communities.

OPPORTUNITIES Activities and targets can be rural-proofed to ensure services are fit for context and resourced appropriately. This will reinforce rural-proofing of provincial plans.

PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC PLAN (5-YEAR)

Outlines a provincial department's long-term strategy to deliver on its objectives and obligations.

RISKS Long-term planning does not explicitly account for rural context. Knock on effects for annual planning.

OPPORTUNITIES Rural-proofing of strat-plan ensures rural-proofing is a long-term obligation. Establishes clear map for accounting for rural in priority setting and strategy over time.

PROVINCIAL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

Developed annually but with a three year outlook. Details provincial DoH priorities, objectives, activities and targets.

RISKS Rural contexts are not considered and treated as underserved. Plans don't consider rural factors and not appropriate for context.

OPPORTUNITIES Rural-proofing of plan allows for adaption based on context and can improve effectiveness and efficiency.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Long-term plan (2030) for South Africa's social and economic development. It outlines broad strategies and targets for development across various sectors.

RISKS NDP may be another set of paper promises with little clear direction towards implementation.

OPPORTUNITIES The NDP includes rural development as a priority in promoting equity. This includes economic and social investment. This offers a political underpinning for rural-proofing.