

A National Vision for Surgical Care in Pakistan

Achieving access to safe, timely, affordable surgical care for all of Pakistan by 2025

It is estimated that **five billion people worldwide lack access to safe surgical, obstetric, and anesthesia care when needed**, including over 95% of people in South Asia. Surgical conditions make up 30% of the global burden of disease, and lack of access to safe surgery results in **over 16.9 million deaths each year**; this is four times the global mortality attributed to HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.

Disparities in the delivery of surgical care are stark, with the poorest third of the world receiving only 6.5% of all surgical procedures. Despite widespread misconceptions on the costs of scaling surgical care in low-resource settings, **emergency and essential surgical care is cost-effective** compared to other public health priorities, such as antiretroviral therapy for HIV and oral rehydration therapy for diarrhea. On a macroeconomic level, lack of access to surgical care can **cost low- and middle-income countries \$12.3 trillion dollars in lost economic growth** by 2030.

A majority of the 200 million Pakistanis lack access to surgical care; it is estimated that **an additional 10 million surgical procedures are needed to address the burden of surgical diseases facing our population**. The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery (LCoGS) recommends a minimum of 20 surgeons, anaesthesiologists, and obstetricians (SAO) per 100,000 population; **in Pakistan there are only 6 SAO per 100,000** according to current estimates.

To improve the state of surgical care across Pakistan, and in alignment with the World Health Assembly resolution 68.15 *“Strengthening emergency and essential surgical*

*care and anaesthesia as an essential component of universal health coverage”, the initiative of creating a **National Vision for Surgical Care in Pakistan** will be launched. The Ministry of National Health Services and Regulation, in collaboration with Indus Health Network, is convening a **Stakeholders’ Conference for the National Vision for Surgical Care** to define a framework and targets for this national strategy.*

Pakistan is well poised to pioneer a **National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anaesthesia Plan (NSOAP) implementation in Asia**, serving as a model for other countries in the region with similar demographic and resource dynamics.



**PROGRAM IN GLOBAL SURGERY
AND SOCIAL CHANGE**

Harvard Medical School

Stakeholders' Conference: National Vision for Surgical Care

15 - 16 November, 2018 - Serena Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan

Conference Objectives

This conference aims to:

1. Sensitize stakeholders about the need for surgical care as an essential component of universal health coverage;
2. Provide stakeholders with an overview of national surgical, obstetric and anaesthesia planning (NSOAP) process;
3. Facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue on surgical care in Pakistan;
4. Identify synergies within existing national and provincial health strategies to improve surgical care;
5. Promote consensus among stakeholders on priority areas for surgical system strengthening.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of the conference, participants will have:

1. Understood the national surgical planning process and its core domains;
2. Identified priority areas based on gaps and challenges facing surgical care;
3. Strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships for surgical system strengthening in Pakistan;
4. Prepared stakeholders with the tools and strategies needed to create a National Vision for Surgical Care in Pakistan;
5. Defined policy and people-centered actions for improving surgical care at the local, provincial, and national levels.

National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anaesthesia Plan (NSOAP)

Rationale: The Need for a NSOAP

In 2015, the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery (LCoGS) launched its report “*Global Surgery 2030*” on the state of surgical care globally and proposed a set of six indicators to assess and monitor national surgical systems. The vision builds upon six domains: 1) infrastructure, 2) workforce, 3) service delivery, 4) financing, 5) information management, and 6) governance.

The Commission proposed a framework for developing a NSOAP to integrate surgical, anaesthesia, and obstetric care within countries’ national health plans. NSOAPs aim to save lives and prevent disabilities, in turn promoting a country’s economic growth. In 2017, during the 70th WHA, Zambia developed the first ever NSOAP, followed shortly after by Tanzania in early 2018. In addition, Senegal (2013) and Ethiopia (2015) developed similar plans prior to the LCoGS, and have contributed their experience to the growing momentum.



NSOAP Implementation in Pakistan

The NSOAP in Pakistan will be unique, as health governance is devolved to provinces. An overall proposed chain of results is illustrated in Figure 1. This chain will be refined further during the conference.

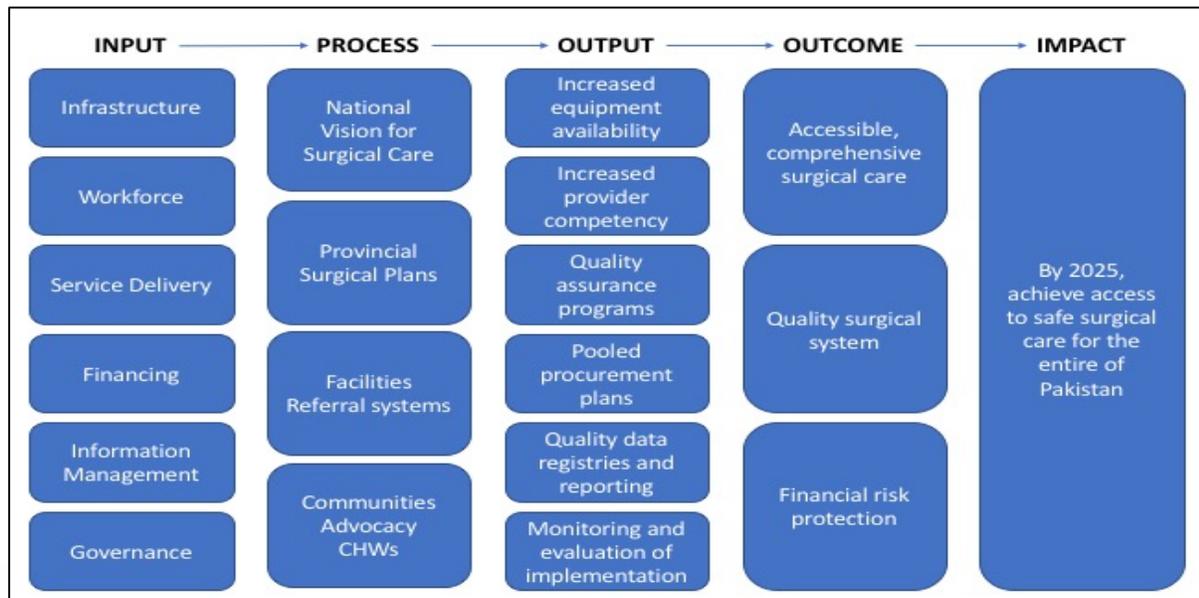


Figure 1. Result chain detailing inputs, processes, outputs, outcomes and impact.



Monitoring and evaluation framework

The monitoring and evaluation framework will focus on different indicators but the basis of this will be the six indicators outlined in the LCoGS (Figure 2).

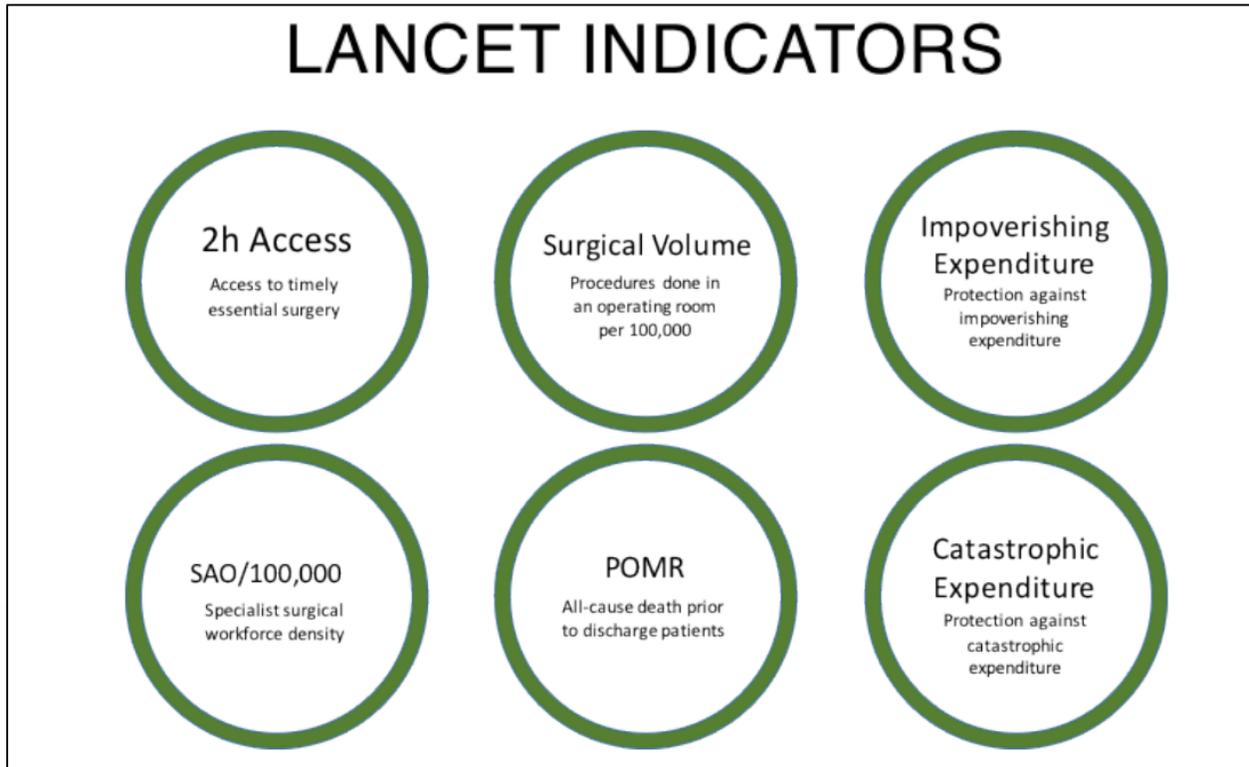


Figure 2. Lancet Commission on Global Surgery indicators



NSOAP Process

The development of NSOAP is a coordinated process building on eight essential consecutive steps (Figure 3): 1) Ministry support, 2) situational analysis and baseline assessment, 3) stakeholder engagement and priority setting, 4) drafting and validation, 5) monitoring and evaluation, 6) costing, 7) governance, and 8) implementation.

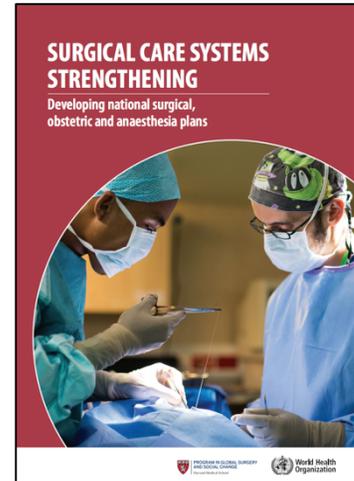


Figure 3. NSOAP planning process framework.

Further Reading

Surgical Care Systems Strengthening: Developing National Surgical, Obstetric and Anaesthesia Plan.

<https://goo.gl/x1xM6P>



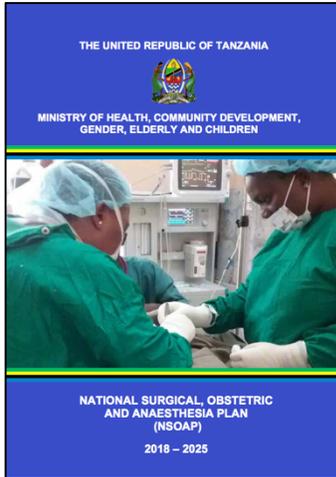
Policy Brief: National Surgical Obstetric and Anaesthesia Planning: Process and Consensus Recommendations.

<https://goo.gl/pRm44W>

The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery ("Global Surgery 2030: evidence and solutions for achieving health, welfare, and economic development").

<https://goo.gl/XZR3GM>



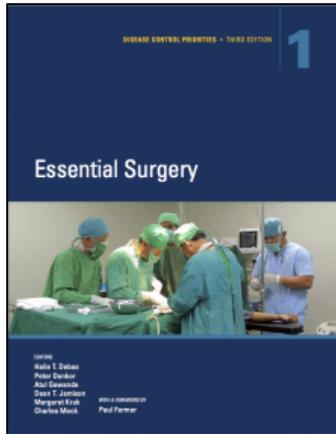
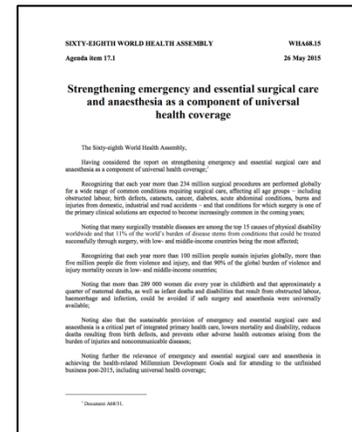


Tanzania National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anaesthesia Plan.

<https://goo.gl/pAuHLx>

World Health Assembly Resolution 68.15: Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage.

<https://goo.gl/9tYLLk>



Disease Control Priorities, 3rd Edition, Volume 1, Essential Surgery.

<https://goo.gl/42ydCq>

Harvard Program in Global Surgery and Social Change National Surgical Planning Resources.

<https://goo.gl/ib1Foh>

