

Beyond Health Measures: Towards a Genuine People's Health Agenda

Council for Health and Development



Brief Context

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic further revealed gaping and grave weaknesses of a fragmented system with many people – the poor mostly – struggling to avail even the most basic of health services. Health financing was brought to its knees by the perennial problems of corruption, especially in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the high out-of-pocket spending.

Brief context

Filipinos still die of preventable and curable diseases

Household out-of-pocket payment (OOP):

2019 ➡ 47.9%

2020 ➡ 44.7%

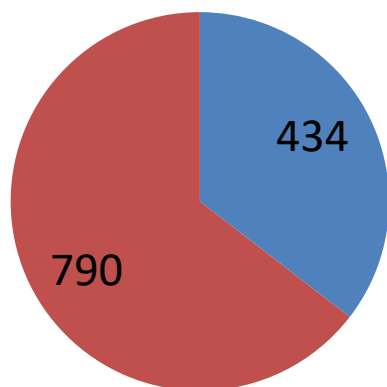
OOP greater than 40% of the capacity to pay for health care (*World Health Organization*):

CATASTROPHIC HEALTH SPENDING

Brief context

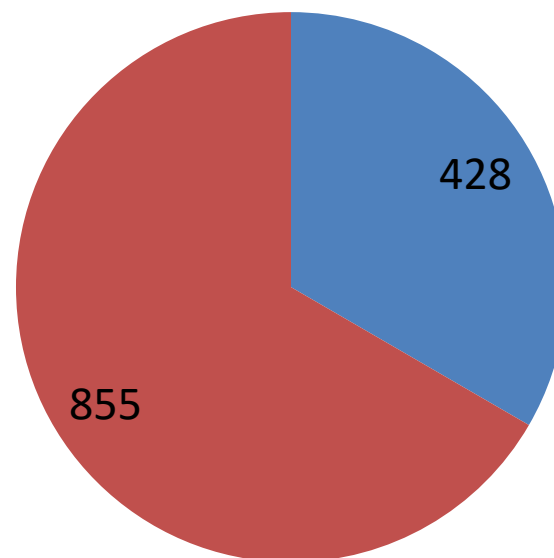
Government hospitals:

2016: 1,224 Licensed Hospitals



■ Government ■ Private

2020: 1,283 Licensed Hospitals



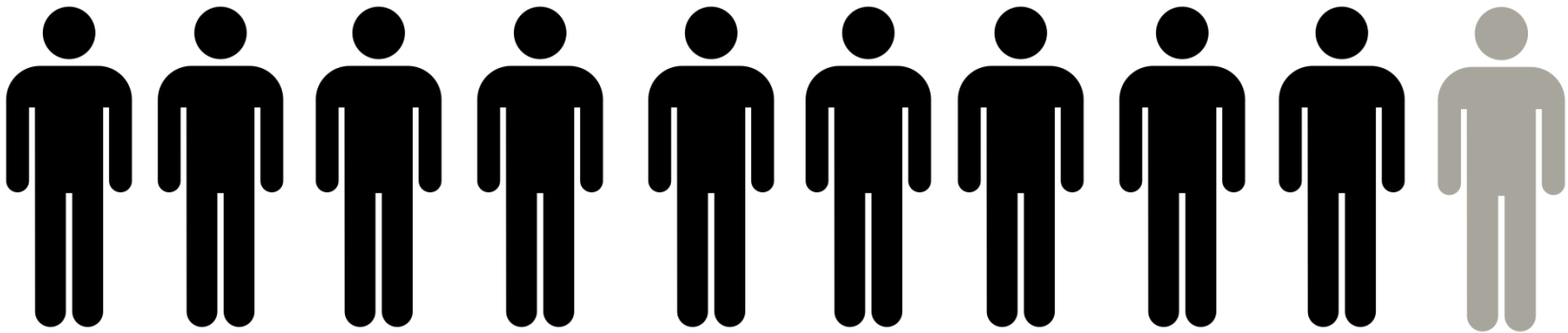
■ Government ■ Private

Brief context

Barangay Health Stations:



Access to Essential Medicines:

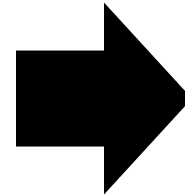


RECOMMENDATION: **A PEOPLE'S HEALTH AGENDA**

Top to Bottom Perspective

Bottom to Top Perspective

Critical and Facilitatory Role



**People-Led
Approach to
Health**

People-Centered National Health Care System

- ➡ Reversal of the policy of privatization and devolution
- ➡ Adequate budget for health
- ➡ Integrated public health system for free, progressive and comprehensive health at all levels of care – primary to tertiary level

Equity in Health Resources

- ➡ Community-based orientation of the public health system
- ➡ Preventive and promotive
- ➡ Appropriate ratio of health facility to population and its needs

Strong Health Workforce

- ➡ Clear health human resource development plan
- ➡ Measures to stop the “brain drain” and labor export policy
- ➡ Protection of health workers’ rights including the right to unionize

Genuine Pharmaceutical Industry

- ➡ National pharmaceutical industry
- ➡ Selective parallel importation and removal of VAT on essential medicines
- ➡ Strengthening of the FDA

BEYOND HEALTH MEASURES

A people's health agenda premised on the right to health can only be realized through a national, integrated, and comprehensive health system that is publicly funded, freely accessible to all citizens, and firmly based on the fundamental principles of equity, social justice, and people-centered development.