The Walt & Gilson (1994) Policy Analysis Framework

Component	Sub-Variables	Description
Context: Refers to the setting within which the policy is developed, including historical, political, economic, and socio-cultural factors. Influences actors' behaviour and policy processes. Can include macro-level (e.g., national politics, economic policies) and micro-level (e.g., organizational culture) contexts.	Political Context	Stability of the political environment, government structure, ideology, regime changes, policy priorities.
	Economic Context	Financial constraints, resource availability, economic policies (e.g., structural adjustment programs), impact of economic crises on health funding.
	Social Context	Demographics, social inequalities, cultural beliefs, public attitudes towards health reforms, social cohesion.
	Historical Context	Past policy experiences, legacies of previous regimes or policies, historical relationships with international organizations.
	Institutional Context	Bureaucratic culture, administrative capacity, institutional norms, organizational structures within the health sector.
	Global Context	Influence of international donors, global health agendas, international aid, and technical assistance.
Actors: Encompasses individuals and groups involved in or affected by policy, including policymakers, bureaucrats, international agencies, donors, healthcare professionals, and the public. Actors' interests, power, and influence are crucial in shaping policy outcomes.	Policy Makers	Government officials, politicians, ministry of health representatives, bureaucrats.
	Healthcare Professionals	Medical professionals, nursing associations, health managers, frontline workers.
	Public and Communities	Beneficiaries of health policies, community leaders, civil society groups, patients' associations.
	Interest Groups and NGOs	Advocacy groups, professional bodies, unions, non-governmental organizations.
	International Actors	Multilateral organizations (e.g., WHO, World Bank), bilateral donors, foreign consultants.
	Private Sector	Health service providers, pharmaceutical companies, private insurance companies.

	Media	Role in shaping public opinion, highlighting policy issues, and influencing policymakers.
Process: Describes how policies are initiated, developed, implemented, and evaluated. Includes agenda setting, decision-making, and implementation phases. The process is often influenced by power dynamics and the interactions between different actors.	Agenda Setting	How issues get recognized as needing policy action, influence of crises, advocacy, research evidence.
	Policy Formulation	Development of policy options, consultation processes, drafting of policy documents.
	Decision Making	Who makes final decisions, level of transparency, negotiation and compromise, role of evidence vs. political influence.
	Implementation	How policies are executed, allocation of resources, coordination between stakeholders, barriers to effective implementation.
	Evaluation and Feedback	Monitoring policy outcomes, evaluating impact, learning from successes and failures, using feedback for future policies.
	Policy Adaptation	The capacity of the policy process to respond to changing circumstances or evidence, flexibility in policy execution.
Content: Refers to the specific elements of the policy itself, such as goals, strategies, and proposed interventions. The content of policy is often a result of negotiations among actors and is influenced by the context and processes involved.	Policy Objectives	Clear articulation of policy goals and desired health outcomes.
	Strategies and Interventions	Specific actions proposed, technical solutions, health programs to be implemented.
	Resources and Tools	Financial, human, and technical resources required for policy execution.
	Implementation Plans	Timelines, responsibilities, logistical arrangements, communication strategies.
	Equity Considerations	How the policy addresses disparities in health access and outcomes, focus on vulnerable groups.
	Alignment with Broader Goals	Consistency with national health strategies, alignment with international health frameworks and targets.