**GAP ANALYSIS: WHY DOES THE PROBLEM EXIST?**

1. **Limitations in the method of conducting the workshop**

I find it difficult to set up a workshop given the limited timeframe and capacity per session due to the pandemic COVID-19 from 2021 to early 2022. Considering the limited time and resources, the option of holding the workshop in a limited setting could have an impact on the desired outcome of the workshop.

1. **Lack of technical expertise in reviewing the policy**

Most initiatives in the DUNas focus on government, but as we seek to further improve our pharmaceutical sector, the private sector should be involved holistically to overcome and propose better initiatives for the rakyat. Our team basically has technical expertise to review the government sector issues, but specialised knowledge is required for private sector issues. The lack of knowledge in these areas makes it difficult to review and revise policies effectively.

1. **Inadequate data collection**

A thorough analysis of current policy, including an assessment of its strengths and weaknesses and the identification of areas where policy could be improved, is required to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the current policy landscape leading to more effective policy recommendations. Our team can only conduct the analysis based on existing data, such as the action plan, related policies of other agencies of the Ministry of Health and other ministries. It would be good if an overall analysis of the pharmaceutical chain could be done including the consumer perspective.

1. **Limited timeframe to review the policy**

Reviewing a national medicines policy is a complex process and a time-consuming task.

Hiring a professional consultant can be a valuable resource when revising a national medicines policy. Some of the reasons are:

1. a specialised consultant undertaking the process of reviewing the national medicines policy can bring valuable insights and best practises from other countries or regions that can be applied to the local context.
2. Consultants are free from any political or personal bias. This can help ensure that the policy reviewed is based on sound evidence and is in the best interest of the current system.
3. Reviewing a national medicines policy is a complex process and a time-consuming task. Consultants can provide the necessary time and resources to thoroughly review the policy and ensure that all aspects are considered and evaluated.
4. Stakeholder engagement: Consultants can help facilitate stakeholder engagement and consultation, including the involvement of health professionals, patient groups, pharmaceutical companies and regulators. This can ensure that the policy is informed by a broad range of perspectives and is inclusive of all stakeholders.

Overall, consultants can provide a range of benefits when reviewing a national medicines policy, helping to ensure that the policy is evidence-based, objective, inclusive and ultimately in the best interests of thepopulation.

The Fishbone diagram shows the factors that can lead to a non-holistic review of medicines policy:

Limited resources / funding

Limited timeframe for review process

Inadequate data collection

* Review based on existing plan of action.
* Not enough budget
* Changes in gov budget spending policy
* Limited capacity policy due to pandemic
* No thorough situational analysis.
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Non - Holistic Medicines Policy Review

* Takes longer time to review.
* Limited capacity policy due to pandemic
* 1st term & 2nd term review done by consultant.
* No experience staff.
* Pharmaceutical sector is indeed complex & consists of many stakeholders.

Complexity of the policy

Implementation challenge

Insufficient expertise