

Supplementary File 2: Interview Guide

IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS (FOR SENIOR HEALTH LEADERS)

Introduction:

Thank you for taking the time for this interview on the political determinants of Health Policies and Systems Research (HPSR) in your country. You are being interviewed because you are a senior decision-maker, policymaker or HPSR practitioner in your country.

This interview may take up to 60 minutes. We prefer to conduct it in one sitting, but we can schedule around your convenience. The results will assist the Alliance for HPSR understand the landscape of funding allocation decisions in your country. Understanding the landscape will guide conversations with senior decision-makers, funders and budget-holders in country-level agencies and international organisations.

Step 0: Preliminary Information

Mandatory: Country, Institution.

Optional: Name, Title.

Step 1: Data Validation

In 2019, [country] spent \$__ on HPSR, and it was __% of total government expenditure on medical R&D. The entire sum was obtained mainly from: (e.g. government taxation, and no funds were obtained from foreign grants, foundations or philanthropy). The main decision-makers for funding are: (e.g. Director-General of Health and the Deputy Director of Health for Research and Development)

Step 2: Decision-Makers

1. Is there a research for health policy, research for health plan/program?
 - a. Does it consider priorities?
 - b. Is HPSR considered amongst those priorities?
2. What are the organisations, departments, ministries, agencies or stakeholders that make resource allocation decisions for research for health? Is HPSR considered in the funding allocation in your country? Please list them.
3. To the best of your knowledge could you please describe how has the budget for health research or research as a whole been allocated and agreed on in the last five years? How does the research funding allocation process work in your country?
4. To your knowledge, what are the decision-making criteria for these funding allocations? Please list them.
5. Is HPSR funding in your country more demand-led or supply-led? Please explain why. (Demand-led is generally considered to be “research is conducted because there is a need for it”. Supply-led is generally considered to be “research is conducted because there are funds for it”).
6. On a scale of 0-10 (10 being the highest importance attached to clinical research, e.g. for new vaccines or medicines), what is your rating of:
 - a. The desired importance of HPSR in your country?
 - b. The actual importance that your country’s decision-makers currently place on HPSR?
7. Does your country provide public funding for HPSR? Yes/No.
8. If your country provides public funds for HPSR:
 - a. In your opinion, what are the main reasons why public funding is provided for HPSR? (e.g. the previous Health Secretary was a proponent of HPSR).

- b. Can you elaborate in more detail who advocates for the funding and how and who makes the decision and how? [WHO in this question may denote an influential individual, or organization(s) or a network of abovementioned]

Step 3: HPSR Funding:

1. If your country does not provide public funds for HPSR:
 - a. In your opinion, what are the main reasons why public funding is not provided for HPSR?
 - b. What are the specific policies or steps to start providing public funding for HPSR?
2. What specific policies or steps need to be taken to strengthen the capacity and leadership of your country's HPSR community? This is in terms of the generation and the use of relevant HPSR data. Please list them.
3. What would you like to see as the right funding mix for HPSR in the next 3-5 years?

IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS (FOR RESEARCH LEADERS – HPSR)

Introduction:

Thank you for taking the time for this online questionnaire on the political determinants of Health Policies and Systems Research (HPSR) in your country. You are being interviewed because you are a HPSR or IR research leader in your country.

This interview may take up to 60 minutes. We prefer to conduct it in one sitting, but we can schedule around your convenience. The results will assist the Alliance for HPSR understand the landscape of funding allocation decisions in your country. Understanding the landscape will guide conversations with senior decision-makers, funders and budget-holders in country-level agencies and international organisations.

Step 0: Preliminary Information

Mandatory: Country, Institution.

Optional: Name, Title.

Step 1: Data

In 2019, [country] spent \$__ on HPSR, and it was __% of total government expenditure on medical R&D. The entire sum was obtained mainly from: (e.g. government taxation, and no funds were obtained from foreign grants, foundations or philanthropy). The main decision-makers for funding are: (e.g. Director-General of Health and the Deputy Director of Health for Research and Development)

Step 2: Decision-Makers

1. What are the organisations, departments, ministries, agencies or stakeholders that make resource allocation decisions for HPSR in your country? Please list them.
2. To your knowledge, what are the decision-making criteria for these funding allocations? Please list them.
3. Is HPSR funding in your country more demand-led or supply-led? Please explain why. (Demand-led is generally considered to be “research is conducted because there is a need for it”. Supply-led is generally considered to be “research is conducted because there are funds for it”)

Step 3: HPSR Funding:

1. Please list the sources of medical research funds for your country. (e.g. government grants, charitable donations, foreign grants).
2. Which category of medical research receives the most funding in your country?
3. What are the factors that led to these high levels of funding?
4. On a scale of 1-5 (1 = significantly inadequate; 3 = adequate; 5 = significantly above expectations), how do you subjectively assess the adequacy of your country’s HPSR funding?
5. What are the reasons for why you chose that number on that scale?
6. On a scale of 1-5 (1 = significantly below average; 3 = average for your country’s overall scientific and research leadership; 5 = significantly above average), how do you subjectively assess the capacity and leadership of your country’s HPSR community?
7. What are the reasons for why you chose that number on that scale?

IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS (FOR RESEARCH LEADERS – NON-HPSR)

Introduction:

Thank you for taking the time for this online questionnaire on the political determinants of Health Policies and Systems Research (HPSR) in your country. You are being interviewed because you are a research leader in your country.

This interview may take up to 60 minutes. We prefer to conduct it in one sitting, but we can schedule around your convenience. The results will assist the Alliance for HPSR understand the landscape of funding allocation decisions in your country. Understanding the landscape will guide conversations with senior decision-makers, funders and budget-holders in country-level agencies and international organisations.

Step 0: Preliminary Information

Mandatory: Country, Institution.

Optional: Name, Title.

Step 1: Decision-Makers

1. What are the organisations, departments, ministries, agencies or stakeholders that make resource allocation decisions for research in your country? Please list them.
2. To your knowledge, what are the decision-making criteria for these funding allocations? Please list them.
3. Is research funding in your country more demand-led or supply-led? Please explain why. (Demand-led is generally considered to be “research is conducted because there is a need for it”. Supply-led is generally considered to be “research is conducted because there are funds for it”)

Step 2: Research Funding:

1. In your opinion, what are the reasons that the government funds health research?
2. What is your understanding of HPSR? How do you view the importance of HPSR in relation to your field of research?
3. In your opinion, what are the reasons why the government will or will not fund HPSR?
4. Please list the sources of research funds for your country. (e.g. government grants, charitable donations, foreign grants).
5. Which category of medical research receives the most funding in your country?
6. What are the factors that led to these high levels of funding?
7. On a scale of 1-5 (1 = significantly inadequate; 3 = adequate; 5 = significantly above expectations), how do you subjectively assess the adequacy of your country’s HPSR funding?
8. What are the reasons for why you chose that number on that scale?
9. On a scale of 1-5 (1 = significantly below average; 3 = average for your country’s overall scientific and research leadership; 5 = significantly above average), how do you subjectively assess the capacity and leadership of your country’s HPSR community?
10. What are the reasons for why you chose that number on that scale?