

Table 1 Key actions for implementation of family practice

Major area	Short-term actions (2-year term)
Governance/ regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate with policy-makers to adopt strengthening of family practice as an overarching strategy for service provision toward universal health coverage • Establish/strengthen a national high-level multisectoral commission for universal health coverage that sets goals, develops roadmap and oversees progress in scaling up family practice • Establish standards for regulation of family practice programme (whether implemented through the public or private sector) • Develop a health information and reporting system (manual/electronic) to monitor health facility (risk factors, health status, system) performance
Scaling up family practice training programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate with university presidents/chancellors and deans of Faculties of Medicine to establish, strengthen and expand family medicine departments and increase intake of family medicine trainees • Develop and implement competency-based short courses to orient general practitioners, nurses and allied health workers on principles and elements of family practice • Introduce incentives for physicians to be enrolled in postgraduate family medicine programmes based on work experience in rural areas and primary health care services • Develop harmonized continuous professional development programmes with evaluation and standards for recertification in family medicine
Financing (strategic purchasing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance family practice programmes as an integral part of the national health financing strategy in a manner to ensure sufficient and sustainable funding for implementation • Engage in strategic purchasing for family practice from public and private providers to achieve pre-set goals • Design and cost essential health services packages, identify target population and pilot provider payment modalities, e.g. capitation, case payment and necessary performance-based payment or their combinations
Integration of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and pilot a prototype referral system between primary, secondary and tertiary level including feedback and follow up (includes policies and procedures, instruments and staff training) • Implement integration in all programmes in certain areas: training, supervision, health promotion, health information systems, drug supply and laboratories
Quality & safety/ standards/ accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop quality standards and indicators for family practice (inputs, process, outputs and outcomes) • Develop training and continuous professional development programmes for primary health care workers on improving the quality of service delivery • Introduce/institutionalize accreditation programmes to support higher primary health care performance
Community empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a community health board to oversee the establishment of family practice • Launch a community-wide campaign to encourage populations to register with reformed health facilities in the catchment population (including civil registration and vital statistics) • Strengthen/initiate and support training of community health workers/outreach teams through multimedia educational campaigns to scaling up home health care as integral part of the family practice approach • Encourage the health volunteer approach as a bridge between households and health care facilities and train volunteers in the use of WHO manuals