

Coordination between Federal, State and District Levels in Managing Health Systems and Policy Implementation in North Darfur State, Sudan

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KEYWORDS Decentralization. Coordination. Health System Management. Policy Implementation. North Darfur State. Sudan

ABSTRACT This study examines the policy implications of decentralization of the health system in North Darfur State, Sudan. This study used documentary material collected from government offices and medical organizations. This study also relied on interviews with government and NGO representatives. This paper argues that coordination among the federal, state and district levels to manage and implement a health policy has been very weak, especially at the district level. This weakness is primarily due to security issues, a lack of trust and lack of human and financial capacity. While the curative health system in North Darfur State is formally decentralized, in practice, the federal government has centralized control, leaving little autonomy and resources to the state government in North Darfur State and even less to the districts. The state and district levels in North Darfur do not have the capacity, capability and infrastructure to implement health policy and to provide quality curative health services.