

- Creating Awareness to combat the stigma and discrimination faced by people with mental illness and their families.

3.3 - Objectives (Page 9)

To include the following points:

- To make the mistreatment and abuse of mentally ill people as a criminal and civil offence with specific penalties stated in the law
- To develop a system of making families responsible for the proper care of mentally ill people
- To improve the capacity and efficiency of the HPSN centre – to be able to successfully treat and reintegrate patients of mental illnesses
- To ensure development and implementation of awareness programs to combat the stigma and discrimination faced by people with mental illness and their families
- To progressively ensure equal accessibility and availability of mental health services in each region of the country – in order to reduce the burden of people who have to travel to the capital city for these services

4.1 - Leadership and Coordination (Page 10)

Clearly define the status and the role of the Mental Health Council. It is important to define whether the Council will be a statutory body or an administrative body.

4.1.2 - National Mental Health Council (Page 10)

As the composition of National Mental Health Council mentioned in this policy is too large, it might lead to difficulties in operation. Instead, this council may be narrowed down to include the following:

- Psychiatrist / psychologist with adequate professional experience
- Senior level representative from Ministry of Health
- Senior level representative from Ministry of Gender
- Lawyer with experience in human rights and/or civil rights

