

Strategic Healthcare Planning in Jazan: Aligning Regional Development with Saudi Vision 2030

Essa Ibrahim Zakari^{1*}, Awaji Qasem Al-Nami², Liaqat Ali Khan²

¹Assistant to Director General Health for Planning Administration, Ministry of Health, Jazan Branch, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

²Director General Health, Ministry of Health, Jazan Branch, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36348/sjbms.2025.v10i11.001>

| Received: 01.04.2025 | Accepted: 06.05.2025 | Published: 13.12.2025

*Corresponding author: Essa Ibrahim Zakari

Assistant to Director General Health for Planning Administration, Ministry of Health, Jazan Branch, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Abstract

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 is a major transformative push for an economy and public services diversification such as in health. This strategic vision of health care in the Kingdom gives emphasis on sustainability, accessibility, and quality in the healthcare delivery systems. Developmentally, Jazan is a fast pace growing area which faces its own specific challenges and opportunities with respect to the provision of health services. This review intends to study the health care planning in Jazan in relation to Vision 2030 which includes key policy issues, infrastructure developments, technology integration, and human resources improvements. It draws conclusions on public-private partnerships (PPPs) for health, digital health initiatives, and strategic interventions to address health issues in the region. By peer reviewing the literature available, government reports, and case studies, this review is presented as an overview of best practices and recommendations for strengthening such systems in Jazan. In conclusion, critical aspects such as healthcare governance, financial investments, and technological advancement have been drummed up, emphasizing the need for Jazan to achieve the extensive healthcare goals set forth under Vision 2030.

Keywords: Strategic Healthcare Planning, Saudi Vision 2030, Jazan Healthcare, Public-Private Partnerships, Digital Health Transformation.

Copyright © 2025 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution **4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0)** which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.

INTRODUCTION

Healthcare planning within Jazan is subject to Saudi Arabia's larger agenda transformation concerning the general healthcare changes that the country is undergoing under Vision 2030. The area will face demographic and geographic challenges which will require strategic moves in equitable access to health services. The healthcare system in Jazan consists of public and private healthcare facilities, with the MOH (Ministry of Health) supervising the health services in the region. The government has made advancements in primary care facilities, hospital refurbishments, and added advanced medical technology for service delivery (Al-Hanawi *et al.*, 2020). Nonetheless, Jazan is confronted by key issues, such as shortage of healthcare professionals, insufficient specific services, and hard-to-reach rural populations (Almalki *et al.*, 2019). These problems can be solved by taking a multi-faced approach combining workforce development with digital healthcare and private sector involvement.

The vision of Saudi Arabia 2030 also has a goal of improving healthcare outcomes through preventive

care, longer life expectancy, and the privatization and insurance model for financial sustainability (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016). So Jazan-the emerging region with its numerous rural inhabitants presents a unique case for testing and applying these strategic objectives. Thus, such investments should be in healthcare infrastructure, workforce training, and digital health technologies. This review presents the extensive overview of strategic health planning in Jazan and how those strategies are implemented into the Vision 2030 strategic outcome.

Healthcare Infrastructure and Development:

Part of the commitment of Vision 2030 by Saudi Arabia in healthcare infrastructure development includes heavy investments into medical facilities in Jazan, which augurs better access to health services. Priority investment into primary health care centers, hospitals, and specialized medical units targeted at the increasing needs of the population. Aside from that, the development includes digital health solutions such as EHRs, telemedicine services, and artificial intelligence-based diagnostics (Alqahtani *et al.*, 2022). Such innovations play a role in patient care, minimizing

waiting times, and optimal use of resources in the health care systems.

But some serious equity issues exist in the distribution of health facility networks in Jazan. Some rural and remote communities will not have access to local health facilities and so mobile clinics, telemedicine, and community health outreach programs are being planned. Therefore, the Saudi Arabian government is dealing with this matter with the private sector in partnership with them to broaden access to health facilities in areas like this (MOH, 2021). In addition, the availability of hospitals and specialist centres in the locality of Jazan has also catered for the demand of tertiary care and specialized services. Investing in infrastructure will always be a necessity in order to accomplish sustainable development along with improved health outcomes since a fast-growing population will always change the health expectations.

Public-Private Partnerships in Healthcare:

According to Al-Hanawi *et al.*, (2020), the government of Saudi Arabia is engaged in the establishment of private investments in hospital management, procurement of medical equipment, and expanding insurance health systems, thereby relieving the financial burden on public healthcare. As such, partnerships have brought some of the best practices in the world, thus in turn improved the service delivery and enhanced the efficiency of the health system.

In Jazan, specialized medical centres that previously existed nowhere else in the region and diagnostic facilities were built through these PPPs. Introduced in the country, therefore, is the latest of medical technologies, such as robotic surgeries, AI-enabled diagnostics, and personalized medicine (Alomi, 2017). Therefore, they provide good outcomes for patients and take off the load on big hospitals by decentralizing health services.

Apart from these, they have also done much for the development of workforces through funding medical education, scholarships for Saudi students in health careers, and training for health professionals. Bridging the gap between demand and supply health care services has been achieved as far as possible in Jazan using the private sector's expertise and resources. However, for the emergence and continuity of such partnerships, clear regulatory frameworks and transparency will have to thrive, together with national health objectives.

Challenges in Healthcare Planning:

Still, there are a lot of efforts, Jazan is making towards the interventions of health objectives within Vision 2030. Such a challenge is, in addition to the lack of health professionals in most specializations, like cardiology, oncology, and neurology. Priority amongst qualified health personnel remains recruitment and retention. It is an ongoing plan to increase medical school

entry and financial incentives to healthcare workers in less favoured areas (Alqahtani *et al.*, 2022).

Another major issue is the financial sustainability of health system expansions. While Vision 2030 advocates privatization-with alternative financing, the long-term funding of health infrastructure and services provision in Jazan will entail strategic budget allocations and efficient cost management (MOH, 2021). They also consider the integration of health insurance systems with value-based healthcare models to invigorate financial efficiency at a minimal cost to patient care.

The geographical diversity of Jazan adds up as another obstacle to health service delivery. The densely populated, more mountainous, and somewhat scattered terrain denies people an equal opportunity to access nearly all medical services. Telemedicine and mobile health units sound easy solutions, but they would require better investment and advances in technology before their scaling up becomes feasible. Solving them would require constant innovation, cooperation among public stakeholders and private ones, and adherence to evidence-based decision-making in developing efficient health service delivery systems.

Future Directions and Recommendations

To achieve a sustainable healthcare model, Jazan must prioritize several key areas of development. First, continued investments in workforce training and medical education are essential for addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals. Expanding residency programs, establishing partnerships with international medical institutions, and implementing continuous professional development initiatives will help build a skilled and sustainable workforce.

Second, the expansion of healthcare facilities must be complemented by technological integration. Artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and telehealth solutions can enhance efficiency, improve patient outcomes, and enable predictive healthcare models. Leveraging AI-driven diagnostics and remote monitoring systems can significantly improve access to healthcare, particularly in rural communities.

Third, fostering a robust regulatory framework for public-private partnerships will ensure transparency, efficiency, and accountability in healthcare investments. Strengthening the governance of healthcare collaborations will enhance investor confidence and accelerate the implementation of innovative healthcare solutions. Moreover, incorporating patient-centered care approaches and community engagement programs will promote preventive healthcare, reduce the incidence of chronic diseases, and enhance overall public health outcomes.

Lastly, strategic policy adjustments must be made to ensure financial sustainability. Implementing cost-effective healthcare models, optimizing resource allocation, and integrating digital payment systems within the healthcare sector will help achieve the financial stability necessary for long-term development. Encouraging research and innovation in medical technology, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare management practices will further support Jazan's transformation into a leading healthcare hub aligned with Vision 2030's objectives.

A sustainable healthcare model will not come easy without the several developments priorities that Jazan will need to pursue. Continued investment in workforce training and medical education will also help tackle the shortage. Increase residency program slots, make partnerships with international medical institutions for training and continuous professional development, and such initiatives will build a skilled and sustainable workforce as well.

Technological integration should go hand in hand with the setting up of healthcare infrastructures. Artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and telehealth solutions can significantly enhance physiological effectivity in patient's results and predictive healthcare modelling. Using AI diagnostics with remote monitoring systems will greatly enhance access to healthcare, especially in rural communities.

Similarly, Public-Private Partnerships would also enjoy the benefit of a strong regulatory framework that would create transparency, efficiency, and accountability in investments within the realm of healthcare. Such regulations and frameworks for governance about private-public partnerships in health will eventually build trust among investors and hasten the roll-out of the new solutions that health innovation brings to the table. Another area of emphasis would be having patient-centred care paradigms and programs for community engagement that may lead to preventive health promotion and reduced chronic disease incidences at the public health level.

Last but not the least, strategic policy changes should also be made in order to ensure financial sustainability. Appropriate financing for sustainable development would be achieved through implementing economical healthcare systems, proper allocation of resources, and including the digital payment system in the health sector in public health financing. Advancing research and development in biomedical technologies, pharmaceuticals, and practices in healthcare management will progress Jazan's transformation into an enviable healthcare hub in accordance with the Vision 2030 imperative.

CONCLUSION

Strategic healthcare planning in Jazan is a critical component of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, emphasizing accessibility, quality, and sustainability. The area is already making considerable strides in expanding healthcare infrastructure and includes digital health solutions that create a secure environment for truly broad-based public-private partnerships. But workforce shortages, financial sustainability, and geographical constraints remain significant obstacles to progress. Investments in workforce and technology development with strengthening of PPP frameworks will be expected to align Jazan health care with national development goals. Through continuous innovation and policy refinement, Jazan has the potential to become a model for regional healthcare transformation in Saudi Arabia, ensuring a healthier and more prosperous future for its population.

Conflict of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

Funding: Nil.

REFERENCES

- Al-Hanawi, M. K., Khan, S. A., Al-Borie, H. M., & Alsharqi, O. Z. (2020). Healthcare financing in Saudi Arabia: A review of the challenges and opportunities. *Global Journal of Health Science*, 12(1), 72-81. <https://doi.org/10.5539/gjhs.v12n1p72>
- Alomi, Y. A. (2017). National pharmacy practice programs at the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Community Medicine*, 3(3), 238-242. <https://doi.org/10.5539/jppcm.v3n3p238>
- Almalki, M., Fitzgerald, G., & Clark, M. (2019). Health care system in Saudi Arabia: An overview. *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal*, 25(7), 456-465. <https://doi.org/10.26719/emhj.19.023>
- Alqahtani, N., Alkhodair, S., & Aldajani, M. (2022). Digital transformation in Saudi healthcare: The role of artificial intelligence and electronic health records. *Saudi Medical Journal*, 43(2), 112-121. <https://doi.org/10.15537/smj.2022.2.000>
- Ministry of Health (MOH). (2021). Annual statistical report. Saudi Arabia: Ministry of Health. Retrieved from <https://www.moh.gov.sa>
- Saudi Vision 2030. (2016). Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Vision 2030. Retrieved from <https://www.vision2030.gov.sa>
- Rahman, R., & Alsharqi, O. (2019). What drove the health system reforms in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia? *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*, 34(1), 100-115. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hpm.2686>
- Albejaidi, F. M., & Nair, K. S. (2019). Public-private partnerships and their impact on healthcare services in Saudi Arabia. *Health Services*

- Management Research*, 32(3), 123-130.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0951484819845433>
- Ahmed, S., & Sheikh, F. (2020). The role of telemedicine in improving healthcare accessibility in rural Saudi Arabia. *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare*, 26(4), 234-242.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1357633X19849578>
 - Alghamdi, S., Alqahtani, N., & Alshahrani, M. (2021). The future of healthcare in Saudi Arabia: Challenges and opportunities under Vision 2030. *BMC Health Services Research*, 21(1), 560.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-021-06678-4>