

Cambodia Newsletter

Greetings from P4HC+ Secretariat!



Photo: Angkor Sankranta

Every year the last two months appear the busiest as we are finalizing our projects and plans while planning for the next round before (most of us) embarking on some festive activities. Last month saw quite a lot of activities with the H-EQIP support mission and the Global Fund's funding flow assessment. This week, the 4th Cambodian Universal Health Coverage Forum took place to celebrate the Universal Health Coverage Day of last week, and we look forward to hearing the updates and experiences during next year's P4HC+ meetings.

Next year we aim to relaunch some of our previous discussions to feed into forthcoming policy development initiatives such as the second H-EQIP and the fourth Health Strategic Plan, initiatives that suggest some exiting and enlightening exchanges.

Prior to boarding planes and embarking on holiday, this newsletter brings you several pieces of reading on social health protection and health system financing in Cambodia to ensure you are entertained during the journeys and long winter nights. We hope you enjoy it!

Wishing you all the best for 2020. Happy New year!

P4HC+ Secretariat

Featured news and reports

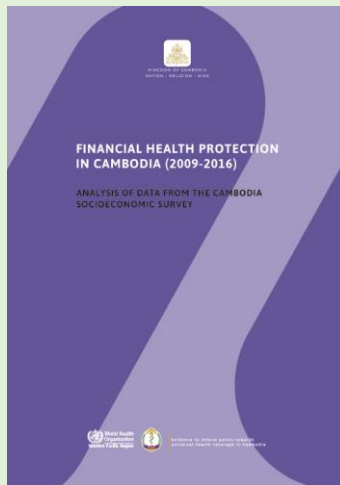
All together now: Extending social protection in Cambodia



Healthy DEvelopment, November 2019: “Until recently there was no overarching platform for coordinating social protection schemes across ministries and agencies in Cambodia. With support from Germany and the United States, the General Secretariat of the National Social Protection Council is now playing this role. What did it take to get there

and does it make a difference to poor people's lives?” [Read more](#)

Financial health protection in Cambodia (2009-2016): analysis of data from the Cambodia Socioeconomic Survey



WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, 2019: “Financial Health Protection in Cambodia presents the findings of a study of data from the Cambodia Socioeconomic Survey conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organization. The study identifies that out-of-pocket expenditure increased considerably between 2009 and 2016, and according to the National Health Accounts 2012-2016 study represented 60% of current health expenditure in 2016. The study presents analysis of catastrophic expenditure and impoverishment among households due to health expenditure.” [Read more](#)

SUPPLEMENT LAUNCH: Transforming health systems financing in Lower Mekong: making sure the poor are not left behind



Health Policy and Planning Debated, 2019: “Many LMICs have undertaken significant reforms in the last decade to strengthen their health financing systems to improve equity and accelerate progress towards UHC. But have these reforms moved the countries any closer to UHC? A new supplement in

Health Policy and Planning provides evidence on the equity impact of health financing reforms in three countries in the lower-Mekong region of Southeast Asia – Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. The countries, though different in many aspects, have much in common: recently attained lower-middle income status, fast growing economies, history of armed conflict and civil strife, and health systems that are among the weakest in the region.” [Read more](#)

Featured Articles



“Costing for universal health coverage: insight into essential economic data from three provinces in Cambodia”

Author(s): *Bart Jacobs, Kelvin Hui, Veasnakiry Lo, Michael Thiede, Bernd Appelt and Steffen Flessa*

Description:

“Knowledge of the costs of health services improves health facility management and aids in health financing for universal health coverage. Because of resource requirements that are often not present in low- and middle-income countries, costing exercises are rare and infrequent. Here we report findings from the initial phase of establishing a routine costing system for health services implemented in three provinces in Cambodia.” [Read more](#)



“Healthcare Access Among Cambodia’s Poor: An Econometric Examination of Rural Care-seeking and Out-of-Pocket Expenditure”

Author(s): *Robert John Kolesar, Sambo Pheakdey, Bart Jacobs and Rebecca Ross,*

Description:

“To inform efforts to improve Cambodia’s social health protection system and advance universal health coverage, health care-seeking and out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) were assessed using the 2016 Cambodia Socioeconomic Survey data. This study focuses on the poorest wealth quintile who reside in rural areas- the primary target population of Cambodia’s largest social health protection scheme, the Health Equity Fund (HEF). The study also estimates the proportion of poor with an Equity card which provides access to HEF benefits at public facilities.” [Read more](#)



“Costing of Health Insurance Premium Collection in Cambodia’s Informal Sector: a case study of community-based health insurance”

Author(s): *Health Policy Plus, March 2019*

Description:

“To inform decision making about premium collection to expand social health protection in Cambodia, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Health Policy Plus (HP+) project undertook a case study of a CBHI scheme to assess the cost of premium collection vis-à-vis the amount of cash collected. The study adopted the Cambodian government perspective (i.e., all costs that can be allocated to the government, either directly or indirectly). HP+ also examined the total cost of the scheme, including user fee payments, to estimate the gap in premium payments that would have been required to fully cover the scheme’s costs.” [Read more](#)

Other documents*

[**Building a Quality Health System in Cambodia: lessons from International Experience**](#)

[**Strengthening Quality in Cambodia Health System to Achieve Universal Health Coverage EQHA**](#)

Presentation by Bruno Bouchet

[**P4HC+ Mailing list \(updated October 2019\)**](#)

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