

P4H Asia Network Newsletter - August 2022

Dear Colleagues

This newsletter edition features news about the World Bank Annual Health Financing Forum 2022 and the WHO Webinar on Health Financing in Fragile & Conflict Affected States. We also covered the launch of the report 'How to make budgets work for health?'

We bring you interesting blog pieces on *UHC in India* and *Supporting countries to get UHC on track*; and news coverage on the roll-back of COVID-19 treatment subsidies in Singapore and the health budget in Malaysia. We also featured the 1st G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' Meeting held in Indonesia in June 2022.

We have curated a list of exciting reads of the month.

Enjoy the reading!

Highlight of the Month

India prepares for L4UHC this year



We are very excited to announce that we will soon launch the Leadership for Universal Health Coverage (L4UHC) programme in India. One of the programme's goals will be to share best practices between the states so that they all reach more people more rapidly and to a consistently high standard. [Read more](#)

Expert Speaks



This month we invited **Prof. Yingyao Chen** to share his insights on the developments towards UHC in China.

Yingyao Chen is a Professor of Health Technology Assessment at Fudan University School of Public Health (FUSPH), China. He is also the Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Health Technology Assessment and Management, Shanghai, China, and the Associate Dean of FUSPH. He says:

With the Chinese government's ongoing commitment, the movement towards achieving UHC has gained momentum and realised considerable success.

1. China has achieved near-universal health insurance coverage, with **over 95% of the Chinese population covered** by three basic health insurance schemes.
2. **Out-of-pocket (OOP) health expenses** as a share of total health expenditures fell from 61% in 2003 to **36% in 2017** (GHED, WHO).
3. **Catastrophic medical insurance and medical aid** effectively provided extra financial protection to vulnerable population groups.
4. The government has set directives to work towards **medical insurance that is fair, legal, safe, smart, and collaborative**.

China is working towards its new targets for UHC and is shifting the focus of medical insurance from population coverage expansion to benefit coverage improvement. The rapidly escalating health care demand and expectation will exert pressure on resources for

increased coverage, improved benefits packages and lower OOP payments. China plans to expand benefit coverage improvement include three steps:

1. Use **health technology assessment** to inform policy making;
2. Use **reasonable reimbursement mechanisms** to trigger the mechanism of appropriate care;
3. **Implement Health in All policies** and strengthen the government's commitments to achieve UHC by 2030 within the context of COVID-19.

China's experience with UHC could provide important lessons for low- and middle-income countries in Asia and beyond.

Trending News

India's Success With Universal Health Insurance Can Be a World Standard If Done Right

In this blogpost, author Neeraj Sood discusses the economics of providing primary care and care of good quality. He also argues that telemedicine has the potential to provide high-quality health care at an affordable price. [Read more](#)

Bhutan has allocated 12% of its total budget for health for the next year

In Bhutan, US\$ 134 million has been allocated to the health sector for 2022-2023, accounting for 12.9% of the total government budget. Budgets have been earmarked for COVID-19-related expenditures such as containment measures, vaccines, test kits, ventilators and hospital equipment. [Read more](#)

Singapore's COVID-19 treatment subsidies to be scaled back

Due to a progressive return to pre-pandemic normal, as of 1 July 2022, Singapore will scale back government subsidies for COVID-19 treatment and return to previous HF schemes. [Read more](#)

Malaysia will allocate the largest expenditures to health in Budget 2023

Malaysia's Ministry of Health will continue to receive one of the largest budget allocations in Budget 2023. This reflects the government's priorities on universal access to quality health care and the prevention of non-communicable diseases. [Read more](#)

First G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' Meeting, Indonesia

The 1st G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' Meeting was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in June 2022 to discuss ways to strengthen global health systems. The meeting provided an opportunity to work together to deliver meaningful improvements for people across the globe. [Read more](#)

Popular Tweets of the Month

How to make budgets work for health?

[How to make budgets work for health?](#) A practical guide to designing, managing and monitoring program budgets in health; 13 contributors from WHO, OECD, Open Budgets, World Bank, R4D and more. [Read more](#)

Political Economy of Financing Primary health Care

In the session on Political Economy of Financing PHC at the World Bank Annual Health Financing Forum 2022, Susan Sparkes emphasized the importance of evidence, identifying political windows and understanding the language of politicians and all the nuances involved. [Read more](#)

Sorting out PFM bottlenecks for primary healthcare facilities

Edwine Barasa joins Moritz Piatti and the team at the [World Bank Annual Health Financing Forum 2022](#) to discuss the critical role that PFM plays in the health sector, and opportunities for sorting out PFM bottlenecks for primary healthcare facilities. [Read more](#)

Key Lessons from WHO Health Financing Webinar

World Health Organization (WHO) webinar draws out key lessons for local and global actors in building stronger health financing systems in future in complex emergency settings. [Read more](#)

Supporting countries to get health systems on track

How can we support countries to strengthen their health systems & accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage? Here are some exciting lessons learned from P4H and UHC2030's Health Related Initiatives. [Read more](#)

Key Reads of the Month

Documents and Reports

1. [Equity of health care financing in South Korea: 1990–2016](#)
2. [Universal Health Coverage Assessment – Republic of the Fiji Islands](#)
3. [Fiji Health Accounts – National Health Expenditure 2011-2015](#)
4. [Financing for a Resilient Health System in India: Lessons from the COVID Pandemic](#)

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