

P4H Asia Network Newsletter - February 2022

Introduction



The P4H Network is a global health network aimed at improving social health protection (SHP) and strengthening health financing (HF) systems to promote universal health coverage in low- and middle-income countries. In 2017, P4H created the Asia Network for Health Financing and Protection (ANHFP). Eighteen countries came together to discuss common policy issues and experiences, best practices and lessons learned in SHP and HF for UHC. Key principles - communication, joint advocacy, collaboration and inclusiveness - guide the Network

Experts Speak

The mission of the P4H Network is to promote, develop and strengthen exchanges and collaboration for SHP and HF towards achieving UHC. Ensuring adequate financial resources, greater equity, efficiency and social protection requires multi-sectoral engagement to initiate collaborations, to discuss region- and country-specific issues, evidence and best practices, and for member countries and experts to learn from each other.

We are pleased to see the growth of activity in the Asia Network—technical contributions from experts, webinars and technical and analytical collaboration among Asian organisations and experts.

Despite COVID-19 challenges, the ANHFP engaged in the India-specific health financing webinar series and undertook cross-country studies on financing health care responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This newsletter is the first in a monthly series aimed at sharing regional news, research and papers, and documenting activities within communities in Asia. I invite all P4H members and experts in Asia to submit their valuable suggestions and comments. I wish you all a very successful and fruitful year of collaboration.

D. Bayarsaikhan

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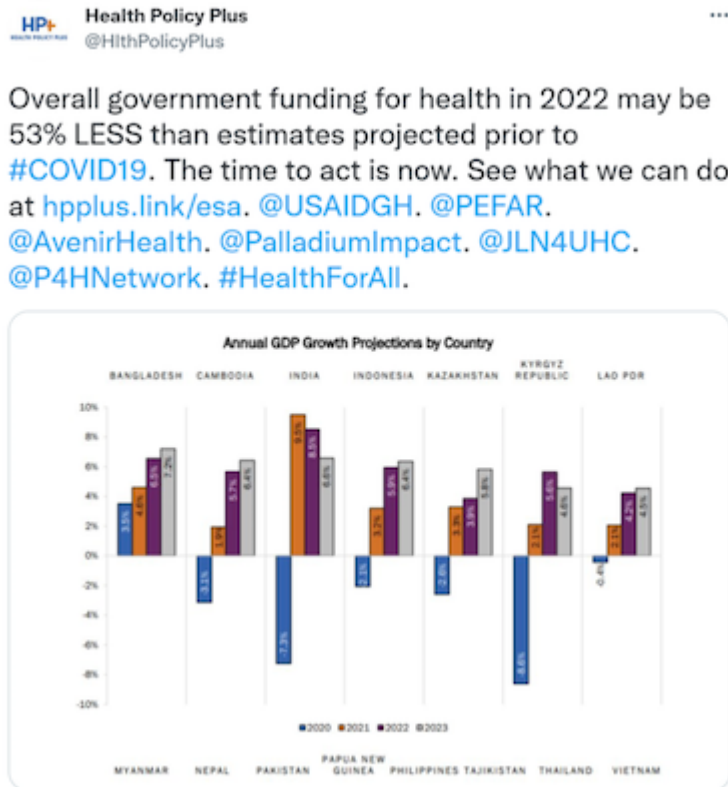
Highlights of the Month

During February, the majority of the Twitter and news posts on the P4H Network's digital platform underscored the impact of COVID-19 on health care spending. Experts predicted that government health spending across the globe will be lower this year than in prior years. However, Asian countries have devised a variety of policies and financial measures in response to COVID-19. For example, Malaysia has implemented the reimbursement model for decanted non-COVID patients from the public to private sector to encourage public-private partnership, while Australia has halved subsidies for rapid antigen tests (RAT). At the same time, COVID-19 has widened the coverage gap in social health protection which is a serious concern for several Asian countries.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Viet Nam shows continuous progress toward UHC, with coverage reaching 90.85 per cent of the population. In November 2021, India released its national health accounts estimates for 2017-18, with decreasing health expenditures. In summary, COVID-19 brought both challenges and opportunities to improve the HF system for better SHP in Asia.

Trending Tweets and News for January 2022

Overall government funding for health in 2022 may be 53% LESS than estimates projected prior to #COVID19 (1 February 2022)



[Read more](#)

More and better investment in universal #socialprotection is indispensable to realize the right to social security for all by 2030 (25 January 2022)



More and better investment in universal #socialprotection is indispensable to realize the right to social security for all by 2030.

Read new @ilo papers on investing more 📈: bit.ly/34YC2jP
investing better 🏠: bit.ly/3qHS4qK

#USP2030



[Read more](#)

Pandemic shows how Malaysia can finance health care in future (11 January 2022)



CodeBlue @codebluenews · Jan 10



Pandemic Shows How **Malaysia Can Finance Health Care** In Future

APHM president Dr Kuljit Singh says buying **health care** services from the private sector is the way forward for the Health Ministry.



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Pandemic Shows How Malaysia Can Finance Health Care In Future - ...

APHM president Dr Kuljit Singh says buying health care services from the private sector is the way forward for the Health Ministry.

[Read more](#)

The world is not better prepared for pandemics in 2022 than it was in 2019 (7 January 2022)



Dr Agnes Soucat ✓
@asoucat



The world is not better prepared for pandemics in 2022 than it was in 2019.

Profound reforms of the global health landscape are needed including UN reform



Laurie Garrett ✓ @Laurie_Garrett · Jan 6

A @TheLancet commission on Global Health Diplomacy & Cooperation just dropped a blistering report on failures and, frankly, sins in the world response to #COVID19 -- and recommendations for fixing the mess.
covid19commission.org/global-health-...

[Read more](#)

A randomised controlled trial (RCT) to assess the effect of health insurance in India presents interesting findings (20 Jan 2022)



The Institute for Fiscal Studies, UK, conducted a large RCT of above-poverty-line Indian households to assess the access and use of health insurance and its impact on health outcomes. The study suggests that access to insurance increased enrolment, which subsequently increased insurance payment for care, assisted by spillover effects.

[Read more](#)

Thailand: National Health Security Office (NHSO) pays out B1bn for vaccine side-effect claims (16 January 2022)



So far, the NHSO has paid out 1 billion baht to 9,551 people who suffered undesirable effects after vaccination.

[Read more](#)

The Korean government's plan for at-home treatment (14 January 2022)



The government of the Republic of Korea decided to expand at-home treatment with in-kind and cash benefits to COVID-19 patients to make the national medical capacity sustainable.

[Read more](#)

Viet Nam: Universal health insurance is a feasible, achievable goal (12 January 2022)



By 2020, more than 90% of the population became part of the health insurance system, and more efforts will be put forth to attract the other 10%, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read more](#)

The Korean government announces the Ministry of Health and Welfare's (MOHW's) New Year Plan for 2022 (7 Jan 2022)



The Republic of Korea's new action plan 2022 focuses on safe health care and medical system, physical and mental health for a better life, a trustworthy medical ecosystem and greater income support.

[Read more](#)

The Australian government now funds half the cost of a rapid test for close contacts (3 Jan 2022)



To curb COVID-19 spending, the Australian government has stopped providing free RAT for some populations. However, it continues to provide free tests for certain population groups and partly subsidized tests for those considered close contacts.

[Read more](#)

Reports and Papers

- [Effect of COVID-19 on HIV financing prospects in 15 Asian countries](#)
- [Investing more in universal social protection](#) - ILO Papers
- [Investing better in universal social protection](#) - ILO Papers
- [Effect of health insurance in India: a randomized controlled trial](#)
- [National Health Accounts estimates for India 2017-18](#)

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