

P4H Regional Newsletter Asia - December 2022

Dear Colleagues

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

In this edition, we present you exciting news, expert views, information on events that happened and also yet to happen, and interesting articles and research papers on health financing and social health protection.

We also bring you two updated databases - Global Health Expenditure Data and UHC Data Portal to explore global data.

We hope that you enjoy our curation!!

Happy Holidays.

Highlight of the Month

The effect of health financing systems on health systems outcomes



Achieving UHC is a widely shared policy objective and several countries are considering health financing systems (HFS) reforms to accelerate progress towards UHC. These HFS reforms seek to accelerate the health financing transition from OOP-predominant to public health expenditure predominant HFS. Here, the authors seek to assess the impact of different HFSs on health system outcomes to inform decisions about potential transitions to either contributory social health insurance (SHI) or non-contributory government financing. The study finds that the effects of government-predominant HFS transitions was more favourable than SHI-predominant HFS transitions, for most health outcomes.

[Know more](#)

Expert Speaks



This month we invited Esabelle Yam, International Engagement Manager at the Australian National University (ANU) to share her thoughts on designing and implementing social protection for people with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, highlighting lessons from Australia and Singapore.

Know her views [here](#)

Popular News and Tweets of the Month

Population ageing and health financing: a new way to assess health system fiscal sustainability

Ageing population will have potential implications for labour markets, economy, as well as health system fiscal sustainability. This paper proposes a new method - the Population Ageing financial Sustainability gap for Health systems, to explore how changes in the population age mix will affect health expenditures and revenues. It suggests that equal attention to both health expenditures and revenues will provide a more balanced set of policy options for addressing the health financing consequences of ageing. The options can range from targeting expenditures and utilization of services to diversifying revenue generation.

[Know more](#)

Reversing COVID-19 impact, rebuilding economies in Asia

Countries that invested heavily in social protection systems suffered comparatively less casualties and bounced back quicker economically. Asia-Pacific countries with inadequate investment in social protection were poorly prepared to face COVID-19, leading to significant loss of lives and millions pushed into poverty, wiping out years of gains made in reducing poverty and inequality. The author makes some recommendations to tackle rising poverty and inequality in the post pandemic era.

[Know more](#)

A Looming Crisis of Public Finances Spells Trouble for UHC in LMICs

During the COVID-19 pandemic, health spending—domestic and external—increased in most low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), as governments sought to mitigate the devastating impacts of the pandemic on health and the economy. This blog discusses the main drivers of fiscal pressure and type of policies that relieve such pressures in LMICs to mitigate their negative impact on health.

[Know more](#)

Strengthening health system financing in the context of COVID-19

This study attempts to take four Asian countries - China, Singapore, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia adapting a theoretical framework on health financing to analyse the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their health financing systems and their response.

[Know more](#)

Extending Social Health Protection to Informal sector workers in India

Dr. Rajendra Kumar, Director General, ESIC delivered key note address on 'Extending Social Health Protection to Informal Sector Workers' during ILO Panel Discussion held recently in New Delhi.

[Know more](#)

One year overview of the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All

The Financing Brief looked at the actions governments can take to create fiscal space and change the rules of the global financial architecture which currently prevent lower-income countries from investing in Health for All.

[Know more](#)

The cost of health care: how to make it affordable

Rob Yates talk about making UHC a reality - "While universal health care may sound impossible, it's more achievable than you might think."

[Know more](#)

WHO manual on sugar-sweetened beverage taxation policies to promote healthy diets

This tax manual is a practical guide for policy-makers and others involved in SSB tax policy development to promote healthy diets and populations. It features summaries and case studies of SSB global taxation evidence, and provides support on the policy-cycle development process to implement SSB taxation.

[Know more](#)

Explore these databases with us

Global Health Expenditure Database

Get access to the updated Global Health Expenditure Database [here](#)

UHC Data Portal

This [Data Portal](#) aims to provide a single interface to access and visualize UHC and Health System data sets.

Upcoming Events

Climate Change and its adverse impact on Health Financing - Side Event at PMAC 2023

In this session, learn from Pakistan as an example of a country where health financing agencies are working closely with the government to address the gaps in funding, aligning their support and providing technical assistance. While at the same time, the country is hit by severe impact of climate posing threat to sustaining the investment in health and other sectors.

[Know more](#)

Suggested Readings

Research Papers and Opinion Pieces

1. [Which indicator should be used? A comparison between the incidence and intensity of catastrophic health expenditure](#)
1. [Improving Health Budget Execution: Learning from Country Experience](#)
1. [The impact of benefits coverage expansion of social health insurance: Evidence from Korea](#)
1. [Catastrophic health spending among older adults in India: Role of multiple deprivation](#)
1. [Forgone healthcare and financial burden due to out-of-pocket payments in Bangladesh](#)

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