



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Terms of Reference for Defining Options for Health Financing Reforms in Kenya

1. Background

Kenya is currently going through transformational changes in the health sector. The responsibility to deliver health services is now with 47 counties and the integrated Ministry of Health (MOH) is responsible for policy setting and strategic direction. The Government has shown strong commitment for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for all Kenyans and introduced new policies such as elimination of payment at point of service delivery for primary health care and elimination of user fee for maternal health services in public health facilities. The MOH is also finalizing the phase I of UHC by testing the operational feasibility of providing health insurance subsidies for the poor.

In light of the high profile of health issues and UHC during the 2013 elections and in the Government agenda, there is high pressure to move forward with the reform process and to deliver tangible results for Kenyans within a limited time frame.

Several partners are supporting these initiatives started by the Kenyan Government with the MOH providing leadership. In particular the JICA, German Development Cooperation, USAID and the World Bank are closely supporting the boarder health financing reforms leading to UHC in Kenya. WHO has been facilitating the process and the Partnerships for Health (P4H) Network is providing technical assistance.

The MOH is currently developing a “Roadmap to UHC”, an action plan laying out the major steps it aims to take to expand effective access to quality care and financial risk protection. One of the major milestones in this process is the agreement of a “Health Financing Strategy”, which will define the major pathways and implementation arrangements through which Kenya expects to reach UHC.

The efforts of the MOH in this process and the support rendered by Development Partners are coordinated in the Technical Working Group UHC under the Health Financing ICC. The following three technical papers have been commissioned by the MOH¹ (in brackets: contracted consultants):

- Assessment of the Health Financing Institutional Design and Organizational Arrangements in Kenya and proposal of feasible options (Dr. Jane Chuma)
- Review of On-going Efforts in the Implementation of the Health Financing Functions and Proposal for Feasible Financing Options (Dr. Timothy Okech)

¹ See: ToR_UHC-situation analysis.doc

- Current status of coverage in terms of services, financial depth and population covered and proposal of options for an affordable benefits package (Dr. Richard Ayah)

The three reports are expected to be completed by mid March 2014.

At the same time, in order to mobilize political attention and backing for the UHC reform agenda and deliver within the tight timelines expected, the MOH intends to host a High Level Forum on UHC on 18/19 March 2014 to bring together the main UHC stakeholders under the auspices of the Minister of Health. During this meeting, the MOH will present a summary of the main options for decision-making coming out of the three technical papers. While it is not expected that any decisions will be taken during the Forum, it provides a unique opportunity to initiate the discussion among relevant decision-makers, focus their minds on the key questions for reform and garner high-level support for steps to be taken.

The three technical papers will not be formally completed by the proposed dates of the Forum, but key lessons and reform options will have been identified by each consultant. The MOH is now looking for a consultant to synthesize these options and produce a document for presentation at the high level forum.

2. Objectives and Tasks

The objective of this assignment is to:

1. Assess the reform options identified in the three technical papers on alignment/compatibility and screen them for interdependencies;
2. Identify a sequence of decision points and the decisions to take at each point alongside key factors to be taken into consideration.
3. Synthesize the three technical papers to develop an options paper that can guide development of the strategy and road map for attaining Universal Coverage in its three dimensions – population coverage, services and direct costs.

To successfully achieve these objectives, the following tasks are to be undertaken:

- Review the three draft technical papers;
- Review selected additional documents as needed;
- Conduct individual and group interviews with the authors of the draft papers;
- Synthesize the findings in a way that closes the gaps and areas of disagreement of the draft health financing strategy (which were identified by a P4H-mission in March 2012)
- Produce a draft document summarizing the key findings;
- Produce a draft revised health financing strategy document on the basis of the above findings (as a document to be discussed and finalized by MOH)
- Present the findings to the MOH and the wider TWG UHC prior to the High Level Forum;

3. Deliverables

Two deliverables are agreed under this assignment (due dates in parentheses):

- One PowerPoint presentation summarising key findings to the TWG UHC (3 days prior to the High Level Forum)
- An options paper to guide development of the UHC strategy and road map for attaining Universal Coverage in its three dimensions – population coverage, services and direct costs.
- Draft revised health financing strategy document (as a basis for discussion and finalization by MOH)

4. Expected duration of the assignment

It is expected that the assignment will require a total of 25 working days; *15 days at the consultant's home location* (preparation and production of documents incl. final report), and 10 days in Kenya (consultations and presentation to TWG UHC).

5. Steering

The contracting agent will suggest suitable consultants to the TWG UHC on behalf of P4H network partners. The successful consultant will be reporting to the chair of the UHC TWG and will work closely with a person designated by MOH. Contracting will be done upon approval by the TWG UHC and payments will be made upon approval of deliverables by the TWG.

6. Professional requirements

The consultant will have a qualification at the level of a Masters or PhD in the fields of health economics / health systems with significant experience in advising decision makers on health financing reforms in low- and middle-income countries. S/he will have experience with systems of mixed financing (tax and social health insurance), especially in devolved systems.

7. Limitations and Other Arrangements

The consultant will not be responsible for any arrangements concerning the High Level Forum except for his contribution.

The consultant's contact person for all technical questions and information in the Ministry of Health is Mr, Nzoya Munguti (Deputy Chief Economist) on behalf of the Director, Policy, Planning and Health Financing. The consultant will be supported by the GIZ (Health) and WHO Kenya country office as regards logistics in country and the preparation of a meeting schedule. Editing support will be provided by the UHC-TWG appointed members.