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Ministry of Health

2nd National Community Health Financing Conference

1st – 2nd November 2017

Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala

CONCEPT NOTE

Theme

Building informal sector capacity to access the National Health Insurance Scheme for inclusive growth

Background

The Government of Uganda has been planning to introduce a national health insurance scheme (NHIS) for some time. In April 2017, a Certificate of Financial Implications was issued, clearing the way for the Ministry of Health to present the NHIS Bill to Parliament for passing into law. The draft bill of 2014 provides for: 1) Social health insurance (SHI); (2) Community health insurance (CHI); and (3) Private commercial health insurance (PCHI). Currently, health insurance coverage in Uganda is estimated to be around 1.5% of the entire population. Of the 1.5%, about 150,000 people are covered by the existing 23 community health insurance (CHI) schemes. CHI schemes were first introduced in Uganda in 1996 and are operating in 15 districts. Under the proposed NHIS, CHI is envisaged to cover most of the informal sector which constitutes more than 80% of the country's working population.

The first national CHF conference was organized and hosted by Save for Health Uganda (SHU) in partnership with Bread for the World (BftW) Germany, the Ministry of Health (MoH), and the Uganda Community Based Health Financing Association (UCBHFA) on 1st - 2nd December, 2016, under the theme, *Advancing Community Health Financing in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Uganda*. It brought together 110 participants from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania Rwanda, and Germany.

The 2nd National Community Health Financing conference

This year's conference aims to build on the achievements of the first conference which aimed and successfully brought to the limelight the community health financing (CHF) schemes which include the community health insurance (CHI) schemes that have been operating in

Uganda since 1996, the savings schemes for health care, and the maternal and child health voucher schemes. The conference also explored and clearly showed how the CHF initiatives are playing a significant role in preparing the population for the proposed NHIS and the roles these schemes shall play in the actual implementation of the NHIS.

1. Objectives of the Conference

The aim of the 2nd Conference is to mobilize support for CHF initiatives to enhance their capacity, and contribute to achieving a fair national health insurance scheme (NHIS) for Uganda. The specific objectives are:

1. To assess the nature of the informal sector in Uganda with a specific focus on capacity to contribute for the NHIS.
2. To review access to health insurance by the informal sector and disadvantaged groups in Uganda.
3. To present and discuss the current status of the NHIS and the implementation framework.
4. To assess how inclusiveness can be promoted in the proposed implementation framework of the NHIS

2. Themes and topics to be discussed at the Conference

The Conference theme is *Building informal sector capacity to access the National Health Insurance Scheme for inclusive growth*. The sub themes, topics and issues to be discussed are summarized in the table.

Sub themes	Topics	Key issues to discuss
1. Nature of the informal sector in Uganda	Capacity to pay for the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)	The diversity of the informal sector in Uganda.
		Premiums and mechanisms for the informal sector to contribute to the NHIS.
		The indigents; who pays and how?
2. Access to health insurance in Uganda	Pooling risks and resources	Ideal management of the NHIS funds. Single or multiple pools?
		What is pooled under the NHIS?
	Scaling up community health financing (CHF)	Why have the existing CHF schemes had slow growth?
		How can CHF be scaled up to reach more people countrywide?
3. Status of the NHIS and how it can be implemented	Active participation in the management and governance of the NHIS	How should the sub-schemes of the NHIS work independently and collectively to achieve the NHIS goal?
		Participation of the informal sector in the

		management and governance of the NHIS.
	Readiness to launch the NHIS	Determining readiness for introduction and running of the NHIS for all.
		Willingness of residents to participate in the proposed NHIS.
4. Leaving no one behind	Phased implementation of the NHIS	Fair representation of all population categories in the phased implementation of the NHIS.
	Government support for sustainability of the NHIS	Governments support for sustainability of the NHIS: Experiences from other Sub Saharan Countries.

3. Participants and structure for the conference

The Conference is targeting 200 participants including policy makers, development partners, central and local government leaders, CHF schemes promoters, community health insurance beneficiaries, academia, private companies, healthcare providers, civil society and the general public.

The conference will comprise of keynote speeches, panel discussions, presentations, plenary discussions, and exhibitions by CHI schemes and organizations involved in health financing and promotion for UHC.

4. Expected outcomes

The conference is expected to provide information and experiences to policy makers useful for improving the NHIS Bill and passing it into law. The information and experiences will also be useful in developing the NHIS implementation guidelines. The awareness and recognition of the existing CHF initiatives and their potential to contribute towards realising national plans for middle income status, NHIS and UHC shall increase.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

1. Save for Health Uganda (SHU)

SHU is a local non-government organisation registered in 2003 with a mission to improve the quality of health of Ugandans through community health financing approaches. It currently works in 10 districts where over 35,000 people have been organised into CHF schemes and linked to 18 health care facilities to access services without requiring cash at the point and time of utilization. This has improved their financial access to quality healthcare services. We believe that our work contributes towards achieving financial risk protection under Sustainable Development Goal number 3. SHU is also involved in advocacy for an all-

inclusive national health insurance scheme for Uganda, and represents UCBHFA umbrella on the NHIS taskforce hosted in the Ministry of Health.

2. Uganda Community Health Financing Association (UCBHFA)

UCBHFA is a network of Community Based Health Financing (CBHF) initiatives in Uganda formed in 1998. The association coordinates and supports the establishment and management of CBHF schemes /initiatives in Uganda. The association currently coordinates 23 CBHF schemes located in 13 districts of central and western Uganda. In total, the 23 CBHF schemes are currently covering about 150,000 beneficiaries.

CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

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