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2nd National Community Health Financing Conference 2017

Concept Note

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 20 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 conference was held on 1st - 2nd December, 2016, under the theme, *Advancing Community Health Financing in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Uganda*. It brought together over 100 participants from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

About the conference

Conference dates, venue and participants

This year's conference will be held on **1st and 2nd November 2017 at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala**. The conference will bring together about 150 participants including promoters of CHF, community health insurance beneficiaries, policy makers, local government leaders, academia, private companies, healthcare providers and the civil society.

Conference objective

To mobilize support for CHF initiatives to enhance their capacity, and contribute to achieving a fair national health insurance scheme (NHIS) for Uganda.

Conference theme and sub-themes

The theme of the conference is **'Building informal sector capacity to access the National Health Insurance Scheme for inclusive growth'**. The sub-themes are four:

1. Nature of the informal sector in Uganda
2. Access to health insurance in Uganda
3. Where we are with the NHIS and how it can be implemented

4. Leaving no one behind.

Table 1: Conference sub-themes, topics and key issues of focus

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.

Conference organisers and partners

The conference is hosted by Save for Health Uganda (SHU), a leading promoter and technical support organization for member-managed CHF schemes in Uganda, in conjunction with Uganda Community Based Health Financing Association (UCBHFA) and the Ministry of Health. Key partners are Bread for the World and Uganda Healthcare Federation.

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