

Universal Health Coverage

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The Problem

- At least half of the world's population still do not have full coverage of essential health services.
- About 100 million people are still being pushed into extreme poverty (living on 1.90 USD or less a day) because they have to pay for health care.
- Over 800 million people (almost 12% of the world's population) spent at least 10% of their household budgets to pay for health care.
- All UN Member States have agreed to try to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

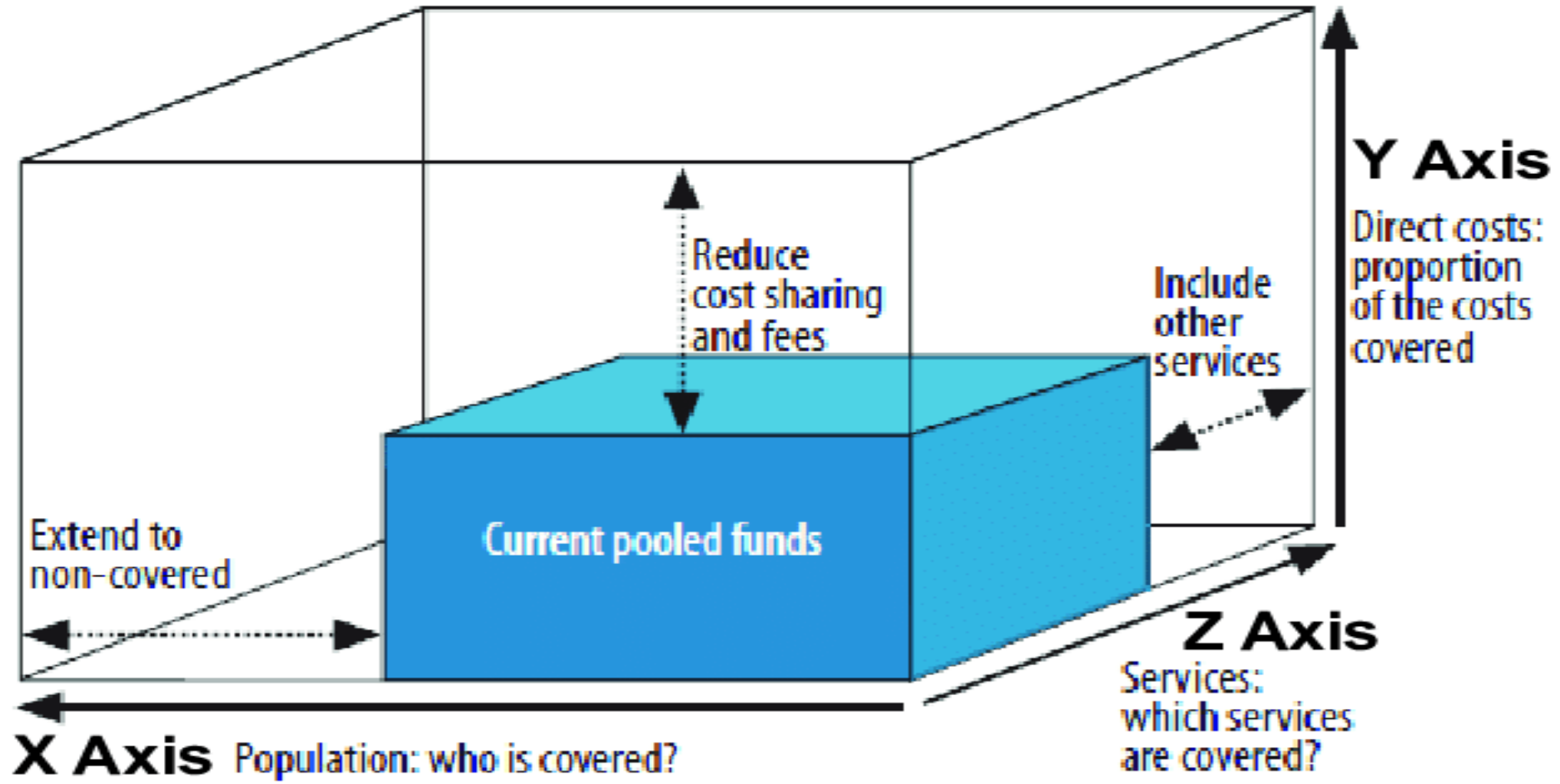
What is UHC?

- UHC means that all individuals and communities receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship.
- It includes the full spectrum of essential and quality health services; health promotion to prevention: treatment: rehabilitation: palliative care
- UHC enables everyone to access the services that address the most significant causes of disease and death
- Ensures that the quality of those services is good enough to improve the health of the people who receive them.

What is UHC?

- Protecting people from the financial consequences of paying for health services out of their own pockets
- Reduces the risk that people will be pushed into poverty because unexpected illness requires them to use up their life savings, sell assets, or borrow – destroying their futures and often those of their children
- Achieving UHC is one of the targets the nations of the world set when adopting the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015

The UHC Cube



UHC is not?

- UHC does not mean free coverage for all possible health interventions, regardless of the cost, as no country can provide all services free of charge on a sustainable basis
- UHC is not just about health financing. It encompasses all components of the health system:
 - health service delivery systems, the health workforce, health facilities and communications networks, health technologies, information systems, quality assurance mechanisms, and governance and legislation.

UHC is not?

- UHC is not only about ensuring a minimum package of health services, but also about ensuring a progressive expansion of coverage of health services and financial protection as more resources become available.
- UHC is not only about individual treatment services, but also includes population-based services such as public health campaigns, adding fluoride to water, controlling mosquito breeding grounds etc

UHC is not?

- UHC is comprised of much more than just health
- Taking steps towards UHC means steps towards equity, development priorities, and social inclusion and cohesion.

How can countries make progress towards UHC?

- Moving towards UHC requires strengthening health systems in all countries.
- Robust financing structures are key.
- Out of pocket payment for health care - the poor are often unable to obtain many of the services they need - even the rich may be exposed to financial hardship in the event of severe or long-term illness.
- National Insurance Schemes can spread this financial risk

How can countries make progress towards UHC?

- **Skilled workforce:** Improving health service coverage and health outcomes depends on the availability, accessibility, and capacity of health workers
- Delivery of quality **people-centred integrated** care
- Investments in quality primary health care is the cornerstone for achieving UHC around the world.
- Investing in the primary health care workforce is the most cost-effective way to ensure access to improved essential health care

How can countries make progress towards UHC?

- Good governance – leadership, decision making
- Sound systems of procurement and supply of medicines: central-procurement Vs de-centralized. Push and Pull systems
- Health technologies eg telemedicine,
- A well-functioning health information systems – use of data for decision making

How can countries make progress towards UHC?

- Primary health care is the most efficient and cost effective way to achieve universal health coverage around the world.

Health Workforce and UHC

To meet the health workforce requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals and universal health coverage targets:

- Over 18 million additional health workers are needed by 2030
- The growing demand for health workers is projected to add an estimated 40 million health sector jobs to the global economy by 2030.
- Investments are needed from both public and private sectors in health worker training

Health Workforce and UHC

- UHC emphasizes not only what services are covered, but also how they are funded, managed, and delivered
- A fundamental shift in service delivery is needed such that services are integrated and focused on the needs of people and communities.

Measuring UHC

Two Main Indicators

- The proportion of a population that can access essential quality health services
- The proportion of the population that spends a large amount of household income on health

Measuring UHC

WHO/World Bank uses 16 essential health services in 4 categories as indicators of the level and equity of coverage in countries:

- Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health:
- Infectious diseases:
- Noncommunicable diseases:
- Service capacity and access:

Measuring UHC

Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health

- family planning
- antenatal and delivery care
- full child immunization
- health-seeking behaviour for pneumonia.

Infectious diseases

- tuberculosis treatment
- HIV antiretroviral treatment
- Hepatitis treatment
- use of insecticide-treated bed nets for malaria prevention
- adequate sanitation

Measuring UHC

Noncommunicable diseases

- prevention and treatment of raised blood pressure
- prevention and treatment of raised blood glucose
- cervical cancer screening
- tobacco (non-)smoking.

Service capacity and access

- basic hospital access
- health worker density
- access to essential medicines
- health security: *compliance with the International Health Regulations.*

UHC in Kenya

- How do you apply the UHC cube for UHC in Kenya?