Open and Inclusive: Fair Processes for Financing UHC

Financing Primary Health Care: Opportunities at the Boundaries

June 14-16, 2022
Interactions & Questions: Virtual Participants

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Side Event 4
Open and inclusive: fair processes for financing UHC

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June 15th / 13:00 – 14:30 EST
How to make financing decisions to “fill the cube” in a way that fairly considers the views and interests of different parts of the population and improves trust in the health system?

Provide guidance on **substantive fairness** (equity) and UHC: how benefits and burdens should be distributed; whose needs to meet first.

Also demand for guidance on **procedural fairness**: how to make financing decisions open, inclusive, and responsive to people’s concerns.
Objectives

**What is open and inclusive decision-making?**
Propose **principles** and **practical criteria** that can be used to examine and build **fair processes** for decision-making in health financing.

**Why pursue openness and inclusivity?**
Explain policy-makers’ incentives.

**How to improve openness and inclusivity?**
Provide an overview of **practical approaches** and examine their real-world application in health financing decisions.
What is open and inclusive decision-making?

- Equal representation regardless of status, gender, ethnicity, religion, income, or power.
- Equal access to information and opportunity to articulate views, which are considered with equal respect.
- Pro-poor, and pro-marginalized.

A matter of degree (see John Kinuthia’s comments). Cases show it is possible to make progress towards fair process incrementally, in many contexts.
Why pursue openness and inclusivity?

1. **Improve policy:** Expose bad ideas and adjust policy for the better. Avoid misunderstanding of the policy’s aims and benefits, which can be a barrier to successful implementation.

2. **Reduce corruption and increase equity:** Transparency can lower fraud. Equal participation also gives a greater opportunity to shape policy in the interests of broad swathes of society.

3. **Build trust, improve acceptance, and raise compliance:** Participation and transparency can enhance legitimacy and trust. This makes people more willing to accept decisions and improves compliance, e.g., in taxation and pandemic policy.
Why pursue openness and inclusivity?

4. **Improve sustainability:** A fair process creates space for voice and buy-in from opposition and the people they represent, thereby increasing sustainability. Example: Ukraine’s health financing reform 2016-2017.

“I was on the side of the proponents to deliver as soon as possible... We were struggling to involve people in a meaningful conversation over a predominantly payroll-based system vs the system based on general taxes. I [now] see that the dilemma was not about technical choices, but about whether to have a system based on a personal link to entitlements or on solidarity. That is what we should have communicated. Some disagreements would have persisted, but the fact that we ignored them and sort of forced the decision on them resulted in a much higher resentment and backlash.”

Yuriy Dzygyr, Deputy Minister of Finance of Ukraine (formerly), Lead Adviser to the Minister of Health (formerly), core member of the health reform team 2015 – 2017, co-author of one of our case studies
Source: IBP, 2022. The Kenya County Budget Transparency Survey 2021