Global Health Norway Conference 2023: Inequity and health system strengthening

Break-out session: Translating solidarity to coverage, access, and equity: navigating contentious choices towards universal health coverage

Solidarity is a central value in every country's pursuit of universal health coverage (UHC). Making policy decisions rooted in solidarity means ensuring that healthcare is available to all those who require it, with contributions from the healthier and more affluent supporting those facing health and economic challenges. Achieving solidarity can be challenging, as contentious decisions often result in expanding healthcare in ways that doesn't fully align with this core value. Drivers of inequitable decisions include divergent ideological perspectives on public financing of health care, power asymmetries, and lack of spaces for citizen participation in policy formulation.

In this parallel session, we will explore how solidarity and equity in coverage and access to health services, as well participation in the policy and knowledge discourses shaping these decisions, is sought achieved in four different settings. These country-focused presentations will be followed by a high-level presentation of a recently published special supplement in Health Policy and Planning on **"Procedural fairness in health financing for universal health coverage: why, what and how"**. This supplement addresses challenges related to voice, information, and oversight when facing contentious choices towards UHC. The presentations will be followed by a panel discussion with opportunities for questions from the audience.

13.00 – 13.10	Welcome and introduction of the presenters ***Unni Gopinathan and Arunima Mukherjee***
13.10 – 13.25	Equity and Inclusion in Health: A Closer Look at Gambia's National Health Insurance Scheme ***Hassan Njie***
13.30 – 13.45	The Promises and Realities of Health Care Solidarities: the Case of Kenya´s National Health Insurance ***Jacinta Victoria Syombua Muinde***
13.50 – 14.05	Advancing universal health coverage in Africa: Is health technology assessment the answer? ***Lumbwe Chola***
14.10 – 14.25	Unlocking citizen participation: navigating challenges for "co-creating" spaces in the process of policy formulation ***Arunima Mukherjee***
14.25 – 14.40	Procedural fairness in health financing for universal health coverage: presentation of special supplement in Health Policy and Planning ***Unni Gopinathan***
14.40 – 15.00	**<u>Panel discussion</u>** Hassan Njie Jacinta Victoria Syombua Muinde Lumbwe Chola Arunima Mukherjee Moderated by Unni Gopinathan

About the presenters

Hassan Njie serves as the Director of Services at Gambia's National Health Insurance Authority and is a PhD candidate at the University of Oslo and has led research on health financing reforms and policy implementation of the National Health Insurance Scheme in The Gambia.

Jacinta Victoria Muinde is Associate Professor of Medical Anthropology at the Department of Community Medicine and Global Health, Institute of Health and Society, University of Oslo. Her research is part of the European Research Council (ERC) funded project ´Universal Health Coverage and the Public Good in Africa´ and the Research Council of Norway funded project ´Epidemics and African Health Systems´

Lumbwe Chola is Associate Professor of Health Economics, Institute of Health and Society, University of Oslo and Senior Advisor at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, supporting evidence-informed priority setting in low and middle-income countries.

Arunima Mukherjee is researcher in the Sustainable Health Unit (SUSTAINIT) at the University of Oslo, Faculty of Medicine, and leads the DigitalAMR project focused on co-producing knowledge with community members, health care providers and researchers to build and evaluate AMR literacy.

Unni Gopinathan is senior scientist at the Centre for Epidemic Interventions Research and Cluster for Global Health at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, leading work on evaluation of epidemic control interventions and strengthening evidence-informed health systems decisions.