

Universal Health Coverage Policy Dialogue

Opportunities and Challenges in Engaging the Private Sector in Kenya

19 March 2019

Introduction and Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demonstrate a renewed global commitment to health, supported by SDG Target 3.8: achieving universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. The inclusion of UHC in the SDGs presents an opportunity to promote a comprehensive and coherent approach to health, beyond the control of specific diseases, to focus on how the health system delivers integrated, people-centered health services.

The Government of Kenya has committed to the realization of UHC through its Vision 2030 blueprint and its more recent “Big Four Agenda.” The government has increased allocation of resources to affordable healthcare for all, and leading policymakers have also shown their individual support to UHC. The launch of UHC pilots in the four counties of Kisumu, Machakos, Isiolo, and Nyeri is an indication of such commitments.

Rationale and Objectives

The private sector is an important part of the health system in Kenya, with over half of all health facilities being privately owned. Vision2030 and the “Big Four Agenda” recognize that achieving UHC will require coordinated efforts by all stakeholders across multiple sectors, and specifically recognize the importance of engaging the private sector given its important role in healthcare.

However, governments engaging in UHC are faced with an array of complex choices on how strategic purchasing can be effectively utilised to shape health markets for the poor, and on the role that private sector providers can play.

This policy dialogue aims to advance collaborations on engaging with the private sector and other players for UHC in Kenya. With a view towards strengthening the evidence base, implementers, researchers, donors, and policymakers will have the opportunity to discuss challenges, progress, and opportunities of working with the private sector to achieve UHC. The fora will deliberate on the following questions, among others:

- » How can the private sector best support the government to achieve its UHC agenda?
- » How can the government both encourage and guide private sector engagement in support of the UHC agenda?
- » What are the barriers for the private sector healthcare providers to collaborate more intimately with the government?
- » What is the experience and role of the private sector in the purchasing of healthcare services in Kenya?

Outcomes

At the end of the policy dialogue, stakeholders will have a better understanding of UHC in the context of:

- » Shaping healthcare markets to better meet population health needs—particularly those of the poor
- » Linking health initiatives to broader market conditions/dynamics and other market actors
- » Barriers and levers in health-seeking behavior in the context of health financing by individuals, insurance, and government

Draft Agenda

Date: 19 March 2019

Venue: Radisson Blu, Nairobi Upper Hill, Elgon Road, Nairobi, Kenya

7:00 - 8:30 AM	ARRIVAL + REGISTRATION
7:00 - 8:45 AM	Breakfast and Registration <i>Innovations for Poverty Action</i>
8:45 - 9:00 AM	Welcome Address and Setting the Agenda <i>Dr. David Kariuki - Head of Policy, Planning, and Healthcare Financing, Ministry of Health</i>
9:00 - 9:10 AM	Theatrical Vignette: Serving Mwananchi <i>Introduced by Avery Seefeld, UCSF; Developed by Fieldwork Creations and UCSF</i>
9:10 - 11:00 AM	Session A: How is the private sector supporting the UHC agenda today? <i>Session Chair: Ms. Jayne Rowan, Deputy Director, AHME</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» <i>UCSF - Insights into Government-Private Provider Relations from the AHME Qualitative Evaluation - Dr. Lauren Suchman</i>» <i>IPA - UC-Berkeley - Insights in AHME's Effects on Equity - Allison Stone</i>» <i>PSK - Getting the poor enrolled for social insurance using five critical market conditions - Rita Mwachandi</i>» <i>MSK - Improving quality of services for small and medium sized private facilities to achieve accreditation in readiness for UHC - Malcom Mugambi</i>» <i>Pharm Access - Making the healthcare market inclusive through digital technology</i>
11:00 - 11:30 AM	COFFEE / TEA BREAK
11:30 AM - 12:50 PM	Session B: Finding common ground: challenges to and opportunities for better public-private collaboration <i>Session Chair: Ms. Joyce Wanderi, CEO, PSK</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» <i>National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) – Julie Ouko/Fardosa</i>» <i>Makueni County Government – Dr. Andrew Mulwe, CEC Health</i>» <i>MSK - Dr. Edward Owino - Health Economist</i>» <i>Ministry of Health - Dr. David Kariuki, Head of Policy, Planning, and Healthcare Financing</i>» <i>Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board</i>» <i>UHC Taskforce - Prof. Kokwaro</i>
1:00 - 2:00 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH
2:00 - 2:10 PM	Theatrical Vignette: The Key Word is Partnership <i>Introduced by Avery Seefeld, UCSF; Developed by Fieldwork Creations and UCSF</i>
2:10 - 4:00 PM	Session C: What is the experience and role of the private sector in the purchasing of healthcare in Kenya? <i>Session Chair: Dr. Laila - Program Director, MSK</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» <i>KEMRI-Wellcome Trust – TBD</i>» <i>Innovations for Poverty Action and Boston University – Impact for price reduction on access to medicine for NCDs - Dr. Paul Ashigbie</i>» <i>AMREF Health Africa - The Good, The Bad and The Ugly in PPPs for Global Health - Dr. Elizabeth Wala</i>» <i>Jubilee Health Insurance - Dr. Patrick Gatonga, General Manager Medical</i>
4:00 - 4:30 PM	Way Forward and Closing Remarks <i>Dr. Amit N. Thakker - Kenya Health Federation</i> <i>Luke Boddam-Whetham - Director, African Health Markets for Equity, MSI</i>
4:30 - 4:45 PM	Vote of Thanks <i>Innovations for Poverty Action - Allison Stone</i>
4:45 - 5:00 PM	COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING (Guests can leave at their own pleasure)