

Measuring and Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
Asian Development Bank Auditorium, Manila, Philippines
02 - 03 December 2014

**Setting the stage: UHC in the post 2015 Development Agenda:
global vision, trends and M&E framework**
December 2, 9:10-10:15

Background

The Asia Pacific region has made considerable strides towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, the health-related MDGs are lagging behind in major areas. The Region continues to face complex public health challenges from widening social and economic inequities to escalating health-care costs from rising non-communicable diseases to infectious diseases spreading through increasing mobility of people. Aging populations, urbanization, climate change, and changing lifestyles are adding complexity to the persisting public health challenges.

This is recognized in the discussion around the successor development agenda of the MDGs. Reforming and strengthening health systems toward universal health coverage (UHC) are now very high on the agenda of many governments.

Almost all the Asia-Pacific countries, irrespective of their level of development, have embraced the goal of UHC – *providing quality health services to all those in need without undue financial hardship*. Achieving these aspirations, however, will not be possible with 'business as usual' attitude, but will require innovative and integrated policies and solutions. Many countries are now exploring different ways to mobilize additional resources and how to use these more efficiently to move towards UHC within a wider social protection framework.

ICT plays an important role as all three dimensions of UHC: (i) who is to be covered; (ii) which services are covered; and (iii) what proportion of the cost is to be covered, are data-intensive and require substantial data and information management to optimize the limited resources and investments available. Collating and analyzing this information together will be important to monitor UHC.

Session Objectives

This session will define the context of ICT for measuring and achieving UHC. A global overview of the latest policy dialogue on UHC will be provided, followed by a regional and country perspective and an outlook of a possible UHC M&E framework.

Session Format: Panel

This session will be conducted in a panel discussion with slide views presented by each panelist.

The panel will begin with a short introduction to the session by the emcee who will also introduce the moderator. The moderator will introduce the three panelists and will ask them to present for 10 minutes each, the key issues of the global visions, regional trends, and about the M&E framework.

The moderator will then start a short Q&A session and pose one question to each panelist:

1. Question for David Evans, WHO

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In 1977, the World Health Assembly declared the main social target of governments and WHO should be the attainment of "Health for All" by the year 2000. In 2008 the World Health Report stressed that countries should focus on primary health care "Now more than ever." The current global health agenda focusses on universal health coverage. How are the emerging global UHC goals, targets, and indicators today building on "health for all" and improving health systems performance based on the values of primary health care? What's the same and what's different now?

2. Question for Ali Ghufron, MOH Indonesia

What in your view is the biggest challenges for countries to achieve UHC and how can ICT help addressing these challenges in the context of Indonesia?

3. Question for Vivian Lin, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office

As DG of the Independent Evaluation Department, I am particular interested in how countries can both align with a global or regional UHC M&E framework while at the same time selecting and using indicators that address national health priorities and strategic directions in strengthening health systems. How do you see the capacity and information infrastructure in the countries to monitor UHC and implement such a rigorous M&E framework? Are we ready? What kind of support is needed and what role should development partners play?

At the end of the discussion, members of the audience will have an opportunity to ask their own questions to the panelists (only if time permits or the conversation flow becomes slow).

Bios

Vinod Thomas is Director General of the Independent Evaluation Department at ADB. Prior to his appointment in August 2011, Thomas held various senior posts at the World Bank, including Chief Economist for Asia and Director General of the Independent Evaluation Group. He formerly lived in Brazil as Country Director for the World Bank, wrote a popular book entitled *From Inside Brazil*, and travelled with President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on his first trip to India. Thomas enjoys travelling with his camera in provinces and towns in the Philippines.

Dr David Evans, Director, Department of Health Systems Financing, WHO

David Evans is Director of the Department of Health Systems Financing in the Cluster on Health Systems and Services at the World Health Organization. He has a PhD in economics and worked as an academic in Australia and Singapore before joining WHO in 1990, initially working on social and economic aspects of tropical disease transmission and control. Subsequently his work has covered a variety of areas including the assessment of health system performance and the generation, analysis and application of evidence for health policy. This work now focuses specifically on the development of effective, efficient and equitable health financing systems. He has published widely in these areas.

Dr. Ali Ghufron Mukti is an expert who is well known for his great involvement, mainly in health insurance, was recently appointed as vice-minister of health of the Republic of Indonesia on October 2011 by President of The Republic of Indonesia. Besides health and financing/ health insurance, Prof Ghufron also has expertise in the field of health service quality, family medicine, and epidemiology.

On 2008, at the age of 46, Prof. Ghufron was appointed to take the dean position in the faculty of medicine, University of Gadjah Mada and became the youngest dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Gadjah Mada. Besides his professional career and academic activities, Prof. Ghufron is actively involved in many professional organizations both in the national and international scale.

Dr Vivian Lin, Director, Health Sector Development, World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office

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Dr Vivian Lin provides support to countries and WHO country offices in a wide range of health system issues, including universal health coverage, health care financing, human resources, information systems, health system research, pharmaceuticals, laboratory services, blood safety, medical technologies, traditional medicine, service delivery models for both the public and private sector, and regulatory aspects of quality and safety. Dr Vivian has more than 30 years' experience on public health, program development, planning, research and development. She was previously Professor of Public Health at La Trobe University, in Melbourne, and is the author of several leading textbooks in Australia, as well as on China. Vivian has also worked at senior levels in health policy in several Australian jurisdictions.