

IMPLEMENTING THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE LAW OF EGYPT: WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES ON STRATEGIC PURCHASING AND ITS GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS?



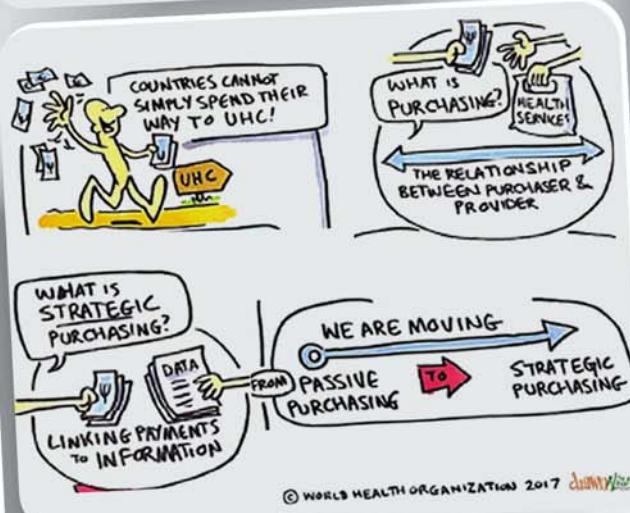
STRATEGIC PURCHASING

Payment methods

Governance

Benefits

Information management



HEALTH FINANCING CASE STUDY NO. 13

IMPLEMENTING THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE LAW OF EGYPT: WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES ON STRATEGIC PURCHASING AND ITS GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS?

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WHO/UHC/HGF/HFCase Study/19.13

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FORWARD

The New Universal Health Insurance Law puts Egypt on the road towards progressive realization of Universal Health Coverage. It entails covering all the Egyptian population with the health services they need without suffering financial hardship.

Within the implementation process, purchasing of health services is considered as a very critical function, since it implies making deliberate decisions on behalf of the population on which services to purchase, how to purchase and from whom.

This assessment serves to inform the implementation process of the Universal Health Insurance Law in Egypt by anticipating the strengths and possible challenges as well as providing options to support a shift towards more strategic purchasing. It also analyses the envisaged governance arrangements related to purchasing.

This document proposes high-level action points to facilitate the implementation of the UHI law; specific action points on the main strategic purchasing areas e.g., benefit design operationalization, provider payment methods, information management systems and related governance arrangements, as well as specific options on various technical aspects.

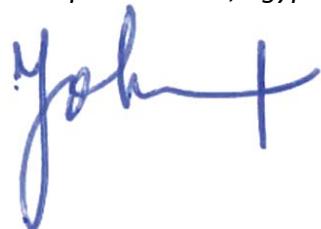
This report demonstrates the collaborative efforts between the World Health organization and the Government of Egypt to ensure successful implementation of the Universal Health Insurance Law.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the constructive efforts within the Ministry of Health and Population and beyond to strengthen the health system in Egypt in order to make progress towards achieving Universal Health Coverage.

The WHO remains committed to support the Government of Egypt in its pursuit to achieve Universal Health Coverage. We are willing to further expand our technical support and address current and upcoming challenges drawing on the wealth of our technical expertise and building on lessons learned from international experiences.

Dr. Jean Yaacoub Jabbour

WHO representative, Egypt

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Yah +".

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAPA	Central Administration for Pharmaceutical Affairs
CCO	Curative Care Organization
CHE	Current Health Expenditure
CoS	Council of State
DHA	District Health Authority
FFS	Fee-For-Service
FHC	Family Health Centre
FHU	Family Health Unit
GGHE	General Government Health Expenditure
GOTHI	General Organization for Teaching Hospitals and Institutes
HIO	Health Insurance Organization
HMIS	Health and Management Information System
HO	Health Office
HTA	Health Technology Assessment
MCIT	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
MOD	Ministry of Defense
MOHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MOHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MOHP DH	Ministry of Health and Population District Hospitals
MOHP GH	Ministry of Health and Population General Hospitals
MOF	Ministry of Finance
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OOPs	Out of Pocket payments
OPD	Outpatient Department
PFM	Public Financial Management
PHC	Primary Health Care
PHI	Private Health Insurance
PTES	Programme for the Treatment at the Expense of the State
SMCs	Specialized Medical Centers
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UHI	Universal Health Insurance
UHIO	Universal Health Insurance Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
VHI	Voluntary Health Insurance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The promulgation of the new Universal Health Insurance UHI Law stimulates major progress towards achieving Universal Health Coverage UHC. By the full implementation, it is envisaged that all Egyptians will be covered with quality health services while ensuring adequate level of financial protection. Moving along the gradual implementation process would entail major institutional transformation and coordination between the old and new system. Hence, for effective implementation, it is crucial to anticipate implications from the application of the legal provisions and to develop possible options to address potential challenges or bottlenecks that may arise.

Purchasing of health services, which is the focus of this document, is a very critical function since it implies making deliberate decisions on behalf of the population on which services to purchase, how to purchase and from whom. Various key aspects related to purchasing, e.g., benefit design operationalization, provider payment methods, information management systems and governance arrangements, however, were not sufficiently specified in the new UHI Law issued in 2018 and its related Bylaw. As

This document aims to inform the implementation process of the UHI by anticipating the strengths and possible challenges as well as developing options to support a shift towards more strategic purchasing.

As per the UHI law, the covered benefit package is broad and generous. Experience from other countries suggests that if a benefit package remains rather broad and unspecified, implicit rationing (e.g. waiting lists, shortages) may arise or continue to prevail. However, as per the legal provisions, **it remains unclear which body/actor/committee will be in charge of defining and revising the benefit package or establishing this list of medical services.**

The new health system architecture may lead to an even more explicit separation of curative services (financed through the UHI system) versus preventive and promotive services (financed by the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP)). This may not help promote a focus on integrated people-centred health services geared towards care coordination and care continuity.

As per the UHI Law, the three new Organizations will not fall under the

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