

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a widely shared global agenda with two fundamental goals: maximizing health impact of populations by reducing health inequality and gaps in coverage, and reducing impoverishment due to healthcare costs. India’s own commitment began with the 12th Five-Year Plan proposing a vision and framework for Universal Health Coverage for the country. The recently inducted government’s emphasis on ‘Health Assurance for All’ brings greater clarity of vision and stronger commitment to UHC in India.

Subsequent to the 12th Plan there has been renewed focus on ‘how to deliver’ UHC emphasizing on the quality and distribution of existing health programs, appropriate roles of the public and private sectors; local and central governments and entitlements for sick, healthy, rich and poor populations. The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) with support from the Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE) has been collaborating on a series of projects to assist in the implementation UHC in the country, including pilot projects in select States. As a culmination of a two-year exercise, we are organising a policy consultation on: Informing the “HOW” of Universal Health Assurance for India. Our consultation invitees represent Central and State governments, Bi/Multilateral implementation partners, administrators, and experts from the private sector, academia and civil society. Some of our session chairs and discussants include:
Chairs:

- Prof. Ranjit Roy Chaudhury (National Professor of Pharmacology & Adviser - Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India),
- Shri Anshu Prakash (Joint Secretary-Public Health),
- Shri R. K. Jain (Additional Secretary & Director General -CGHS)
- Shri Rakesh Kumar (Joint Secretary-Reproductive and Child Health)

Discussants:

- Shri Manoj Jhalani (Joint Secretary -National Health Mission),
- Ms Satbir Silas Bedi, (Principal Secretary, Social Welfare & Women & Child Development, Government of Delhi)
- Dr. Nachiket MOR (Member, Reserve Bank of India Board)
- Ms Preeti Sudan, (Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child)
- Dr. K. Ellangovan (Secretary, Health & Family Welfare & Medical Education, Government of Kerala),
- Dr. M. Geetha (Inspector General Registration, Government of Chhattisgarh),
- Dr. L.S. Chauhan (Director, National Centre for Disease Control),
- Dr. C. N. Mahesvaran (Mission Director, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Tamil Nadu),
- Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan (Additional Chief Secretary/Commissioner for Land Administration, Government of Tamil Nadu)
- Dr. Vinod Paul (Head of Paediatrics Dept. AIIMS)

The event will cover four thematic areas : (Overcoming Health System Challenges for delivering UHC; Prioritizing and Provisioning of Health Services-Centre & State; Role of Medicines in reducing Health Care Costs; and Shaping national health policy for UHC) and showcase four projects that address challenges and pathways for implementing UHC in the country. These include:

- Operational Pathways for Integrating National Disease Control Programs;
- Developing a National and Costing a State level Essential Health Package;
- Baseline survey on roll-out of free medicines initiative in 7 States; and
- Gender Responsive Primary Health Care in India

The proposed outcome of this consultation is to engage policy makers and implementers in suggesting platforms and options for delivering UHC at various levels in the health system.

The projects focus on: promoting health system efficiency through effective resource utilization through public and private programmes; equitable access to health services; access to affordable medicines and diagnostics; reducing out-of-pocket spending or direct payments at the point of service and exploring mechanisms to strengthen inter-sectoral action through broader determinants of health.

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The final agenda will be shared shortly, closer to the event.

If you are attending, please send a line of confirmation to:

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