

Global Advocacy Movement for Universal Health Coverage

National Conference on Universal Health Coverage
Delhi, 12th April 2012

Rob Yates
Senior Health Economist
World Health Organisation

WHO's Formal Definition of Universal Coverage

World Health Assembly Resolution 58.33, 2005, urged countries to develop health financing systems to:

☑ Ensure **all people** have access to needed services

☑ Without the risk of financial ruin linked to paying at the time they receive care.

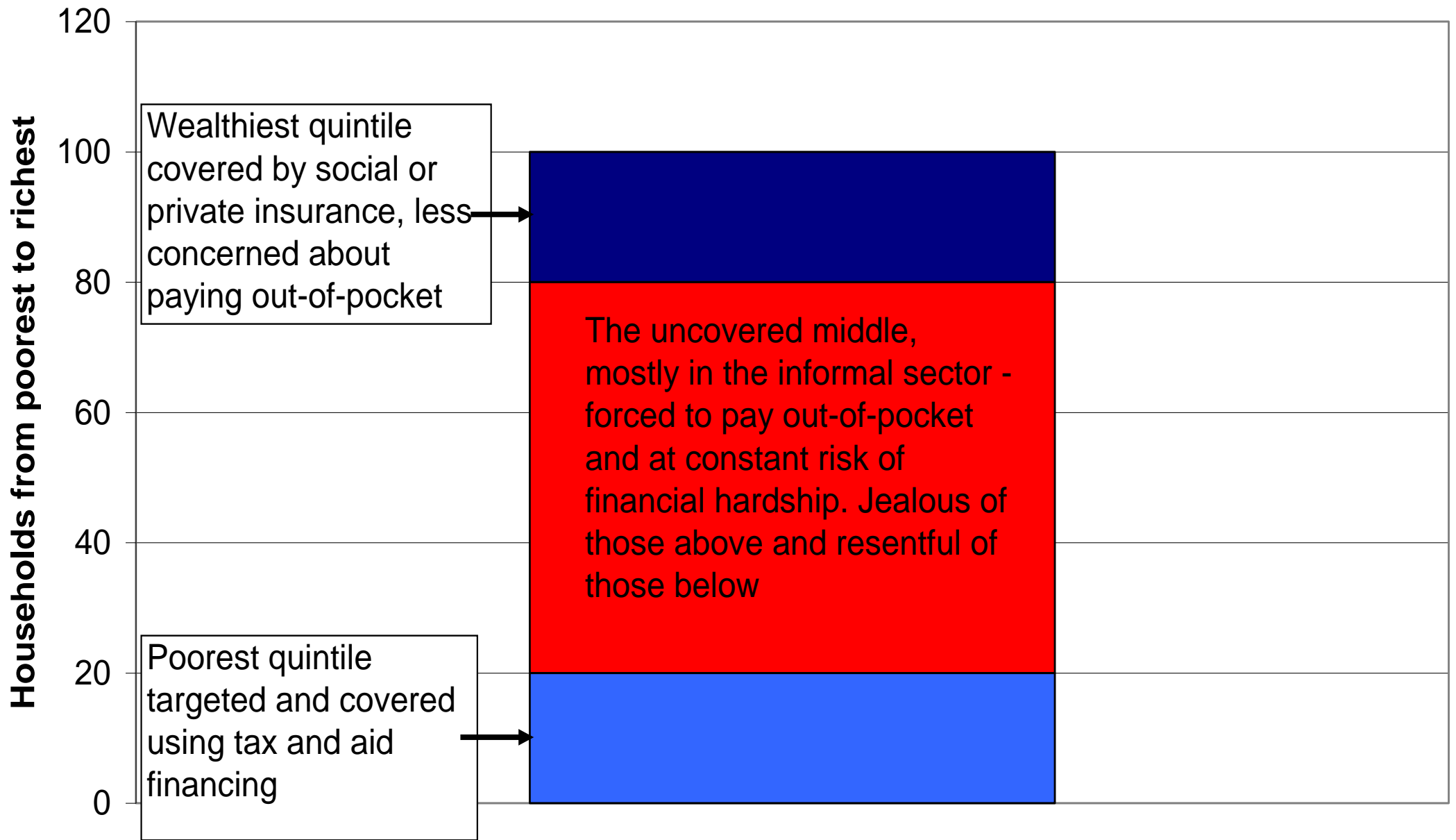
Defined this as achieving **universal coverage**: coverage with health services; with financial risk protection; for all



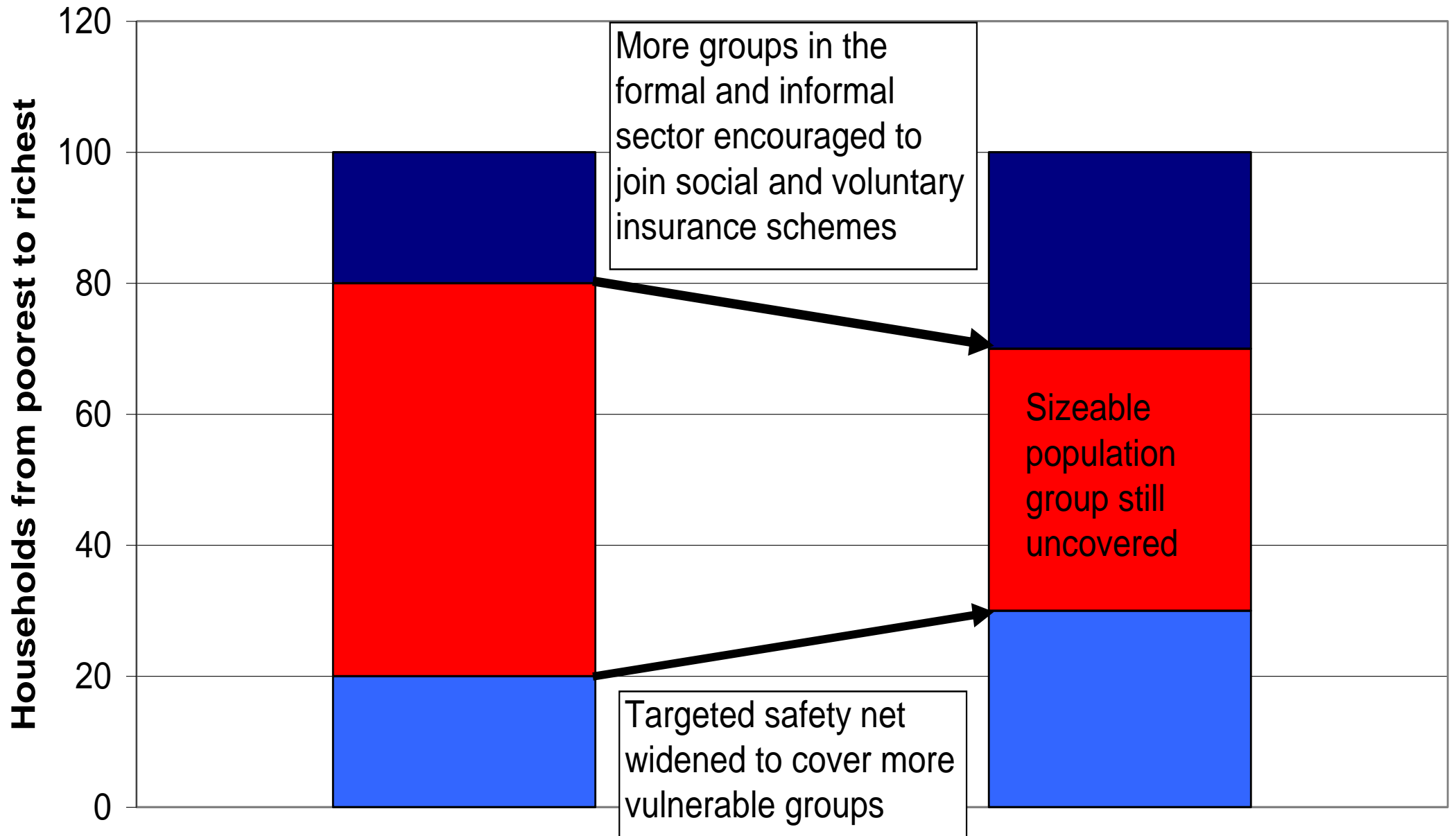
Global History of UHC

- Most High Income Countries achieved UHC 30-100 years ago – exception of US
- Post independence many developing countries had UHC aspirations but lacked sufficient public funding
- Donor policies of 1980s inhibited UHC
- With notable exceptions (China, Sri Lanka, Kerala, Cuba) UHC restricted to richer countries in 20th Century

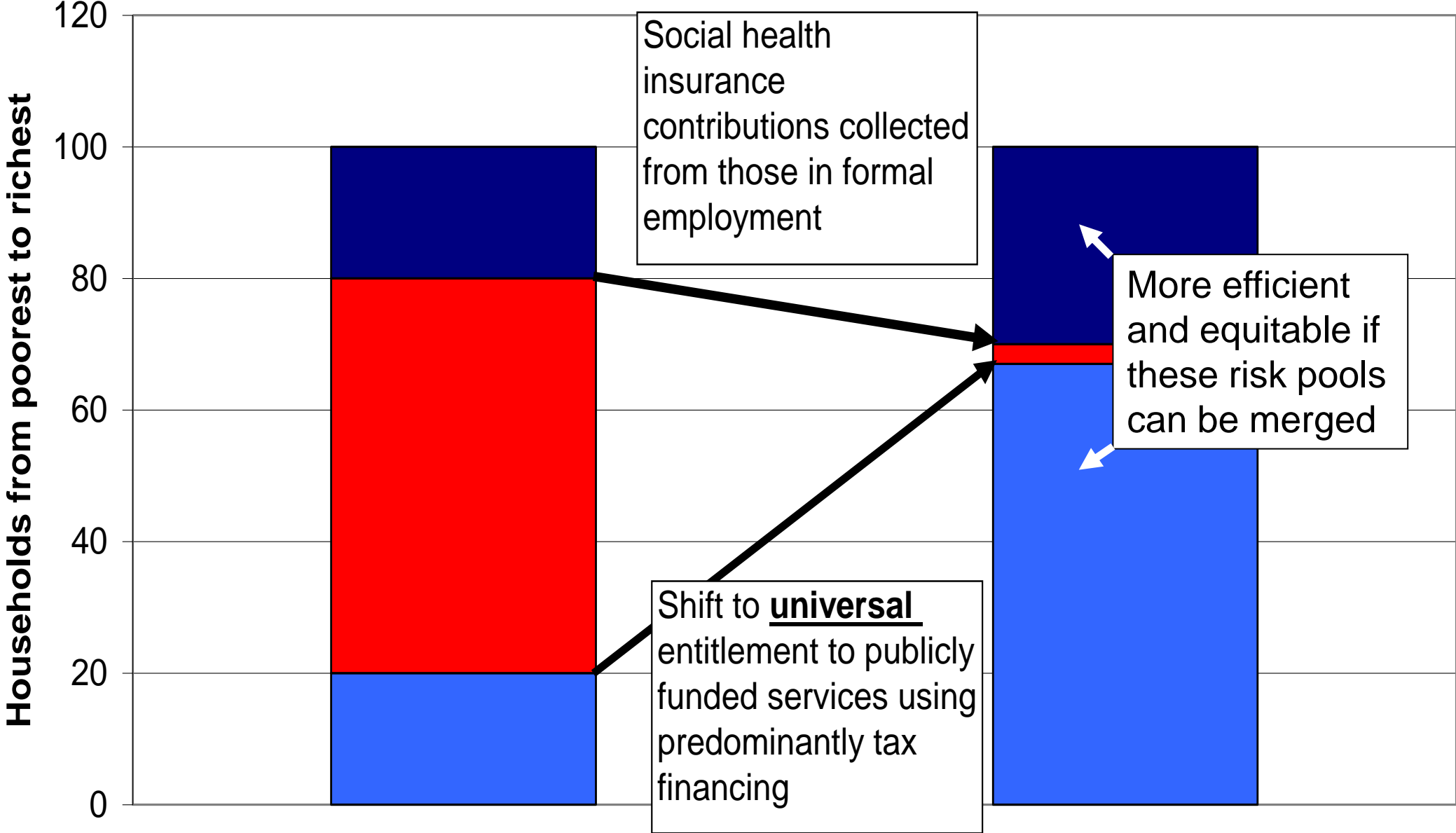
A Classic Health Coverage Scenario in a Low or Middle Income Country



An Incremental Strategy Based on Scaling up Voluntary Insurance and Broadening Targeting Criteria



Rapid Scale Up Towards UHC Using Public (Mostly Tax) Funding to Cover the Untargeted Informal Sector



MICs are leading the global campaign for UHC

- Brazil – Unified Health System since 1988

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/9/10-020910/en/index.html>

- Thailand – UC since 2002
- Mexico – Has just achieved UHC
- China – Now reporting 96% coverage
- Indonesia – Committed to UHC by 2014
- South Africa – Just started piloting UHC reforms <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14504628>
- All are mostly using tax financing to scale-up to UHC

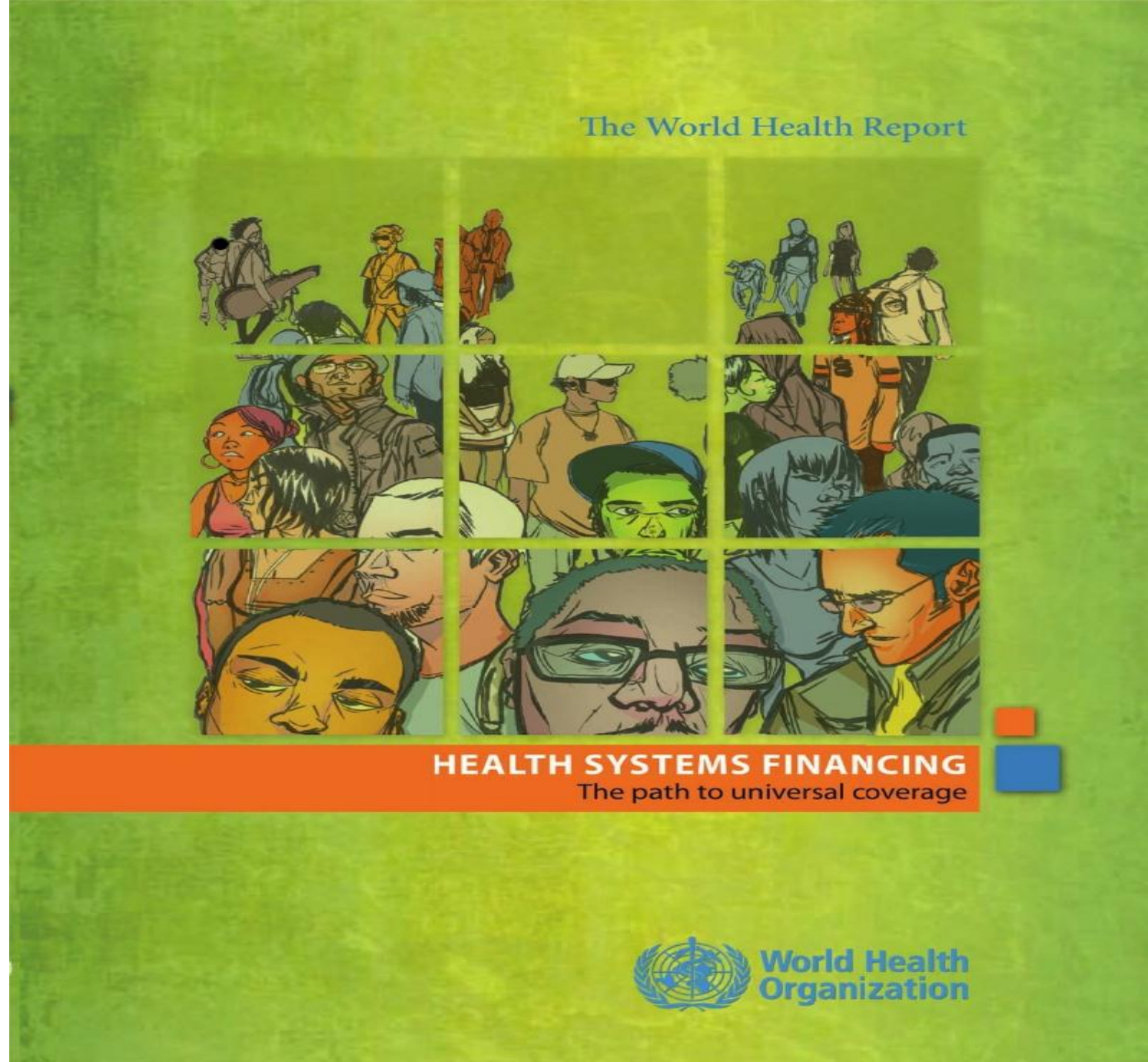
Recent Developments

- World Health Report 2010
- Global Health Research Symposium 2010
- World Health Assembly 2011, WHA 64.9
- PMAC 2012, Bangkok statement:

http://www.pmaconference.mahidol.ac.th/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=524&Itemid=159

- Mexico UHC Conference April 2012
- Watch this: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0mvqipWO-g&feature=youtu.be&a>

The World Health Report 2010



www.who.int/whr/2010

Why UHC Advocacy is gaining momentum

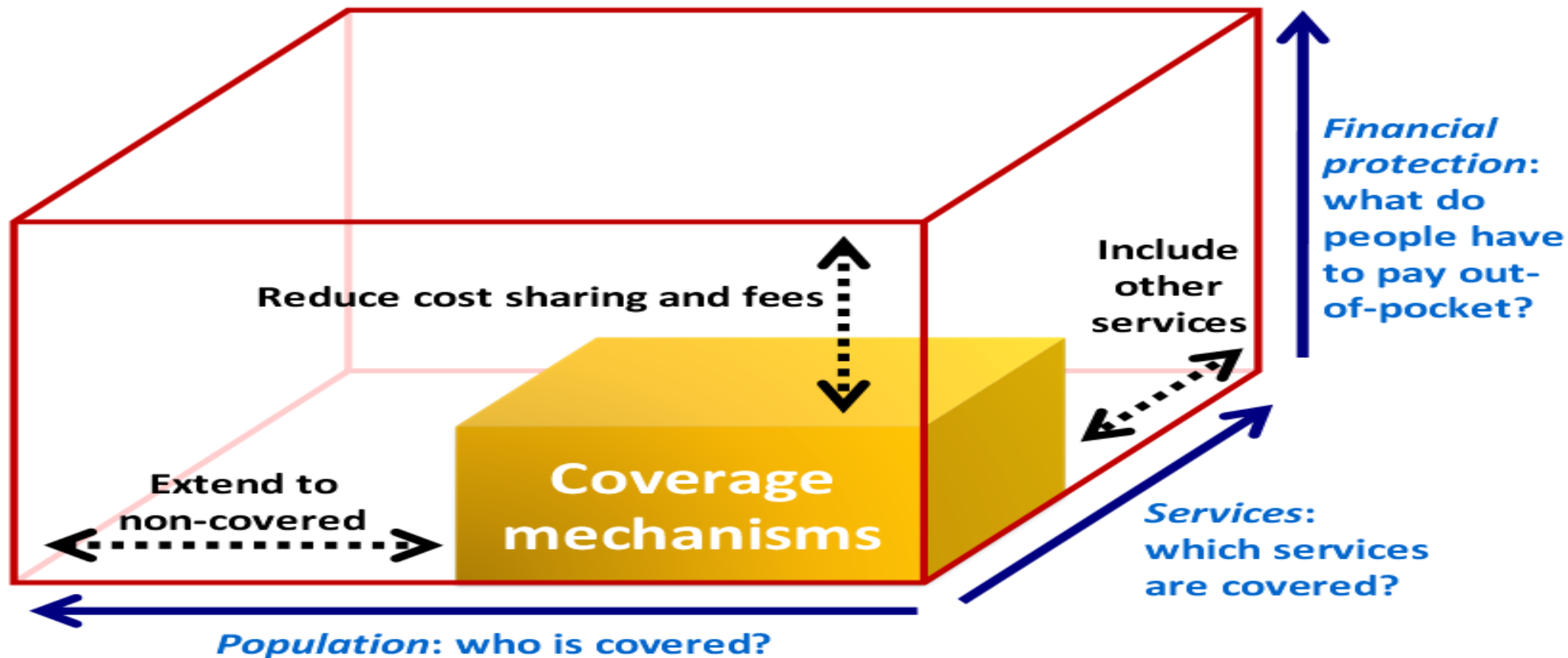
- UHC is relatively easy to understand
- Compatible with human rights agenda
- UHC is an attainable goal – especially as countries make transition to MIC status
- UHC is popular and inherently political
- UHC brings politics into health systems agenda – people receiving services
- Opportunity to celebrate national successes (perhaps at the expense of others failures)

Successful UHC Advocacy

- Address the political economy of health care
- The UHC box represents the different dimensions of politics, economics and service delivery / medicine
- Different stakeholders have different priorities and concerns
- Tailor messages to different audiences eg politicians more interested in political benefits (ie votes!) and MoF wants to see better efficiency
- Need to build alliances and expect and deal with opposition

The Three Dimensions (policy choices) of Universal Coverage

Towards universal coverage



The Most Successful UHC Advocacy Campaign of All Time?

- Watch this:

<http://liberalconspiracy.org/2011/10/11/watch-how-life-was-before-the-nhs/>