

Project title

Health systems governance for an inclusive and sustainable social health protection in Ghana and Tanzania

Foto: Daniel Pittet

Thematic focus

Governance; health system; social health protection; UHC

Year

2016-2021



Project location

Ghana and Tanzania

Swiss Institution

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Partner Institutions

Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), Tanzania, <http://ihi.or.tz/>.

School of Public Health, University of Ghana, <https://publichealth.ug.edu.gh/>.

Description

Social health protection through Universal Health Coverage is the aspiration that all people will obtain the quality health services they need while not suffering financially hardship. In Ghana and Tanzania the major challenges are to understand how to increase and sustain coverage, expand the benefits package for people in the informal sector, and ensure effective coverage with services and financial risk protection to the poorest segments of the population.

The project addresses questions framed by four broad objectives: (1) To identify who is currently excluded from effective coverage of health services and financial risk protection in the current Ghanaian and Tanzanian social health protection systems, why, and the cost implications of extending coverage with needed services; (2) To investigate how the poor and vulnerable groups can be better identified and reached to include them in financing protection mechanisms; (3) To characterize how health systems governance can be improved to support an inclusive social health protection and (4) To empirically test interventions aimed at improving health system governance, increasing the transparency and accountability of health systems, with regard to their effectiveness in extending social health protection.

Development relevance (Agenda 2030)

The project addresses directly 4 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals: 1 (No poverty), 3 (Good Health and well-being), 10 (Reduced inequalities) and 16 (Strong Institutions). The project tackles the issue of poverty through the analysis of better mechanisms to identify poor and protect them from health related financial hardship, reducing inequalities through social health protection tools that pool resources across all wealth classes. The project is also focused on the governance and institutional mechanisms that can improve the performance of health systems in low-income countries in terms of population covered and quality of health service provision.



People queuing for prescription; healthcare centre in Tanzania



Registration with the National Health Insurance Scheme in Ghana