

Terms of Reference

Health Care Financing Technical Working Group

1. Background

Health care financing remains to be a critical challenge in most low-and middle-income countries. Many governments in developing and low income countries, faced with an increasingly hostile economic environment Tanzania inclusive. Demand for extension of health services and increasing pressure on government budgets, are seeking ways of financing health care system so as to achieve universal access of health care. Health care financing involves mobilizing resources and allocating them efficiently in order to ensure adequate access to quality health services, and increased equity and coverage of health promotion, preventive and care. Under the HSSP IV, health care financing has one Strategic Direction which aims to ensure availability of quality and cost effective health services to all residents without financial barriers at the time of need. In order to achieve this, the Ministry under the Health Care Financing Technical Working group developed Health Financing Strategy.

The goal of Tanzania's health financing strategy is to mobilize resources for financing health care services. This enables equitable access to affordable and cost-effective quality health care and financial protection in case of ill health, according to a nationally defined standard minimum benefit package. The Strategy also recommends the establishment of Single National Health Insurance with mandatory nature. The aim is to attain Universal Health Coverage by 2020.

2.Scope of Work

Health Care Financing is one of the Technical Working Group formulated under Health Sector Strategic Plan IV. The main objective of the working group is to oversee the implementation and coordinate health care financing strategy aimed at ensuring accessibility to equitable, cost-effective and affordable health services to all Tanzanian households.

3. The functions of the HCF TWG

The main functions of the Health Care Financing Technical Working Group are as follows:

- 1) Advise on expanding Social Health Insurance to become a viable mechanism for risk-pooling;

- 2) Advise to further implementation of the complementary financing options in terms of strengthened management and use of CHF and NHIF, Social Health Insurance benefits (SHIB)
- 3) Monitor and guide the private health insurances and other informal health insurances;
- 4) Recommend steps to strengthen technical efficiency and equitable allocation of resources,
- 5) Assist in further strengthening the Strategy on universal and equitable access to health care,
- 6) Advise on strengthening the health sector budgetary process in terms of planning and management of resources at all levels of the sector (priority setting; absorption capacity; fiscal space)
- 7) Advise on the sources of Government financial resources since external resources which play a prominent part, with large contributions from DPs, through basket funding, programme funding and off-budget funding are declining.
- 8) Over see the costing of health services and Essential Health Intervention Package to inform the Single National Insurance
- 9) Facilitate the approval, implementation and continually assessment of health financing strategy,
- 10) Facilitate the approval of Single National Health Insurance,
- 11) Support facilities in financial management of Community Health Funds;
- 12) Projections of health expenditures and revenues and determination of financing gaps,
- 13) Set and review health services fees structure and implementation framework;
- 14) Monitor the implementation of Cost Sharing Guidelines,
- 15) Identify the pattern of health expenditures and undertake regular and periodic studies on allocative efficiency to get a full picture of allocation, disbursements and expenditures (PER and NHA).
- 16) Coordinate various studies on health financing and receive feedback on major interventions and review and identify issues that need further follow up and report of the TC. Swap Committee.

4. Membership, Chair and Secretariat

The group is composed of members from MOHCDGEC, Ministry of Finance, PO-RALG, WHO, GIZ, USAID, SDC, Private Sector (APHTA), Faith Based Organization (CSSC), NHIF, NSSF and Civil Society Organizations (SIKIKA).

In implementing its objectives the group collaborate with other TWG like HRH – TWG, District and Regional Health Services TWG and PPP - TWG. Health Policy and Health Sector Strategic Plan IV are the guiding documents in the implementations of roles and functions of the Technical Working Group and functions under the umbrella of TC SWAp. The chair of the group is the Assistant Director Policy and the Co-Chair is the Assistant Director Budget. Economists under policy section are the Secretariat to the TWG.

5. Meeting Schedule

The Health Financing TWG will meet every month on second Wednesday of the respective month on a regular schedule fixed at the beginning of the fiscal year. Ad hock meetings should be called upon according to need.

6. Relationship to existing Working Groups

The HCF TWG will work in close collaboration with other working groups especially the PFM, District, Regional, Zonal and National Health Services, Human Resources for Health, Public Private Partnership, Social Welfare and Social protection and Health Commodities and Technologies TWGs

