

Title: Comapring the Operationalization of Universal Health Care between Thailand, Rwanda and Mexico

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Universal Health Care (UHC) is an objective to provide appropriate and accessible essential health services to all individuals without financial burden. By achieving UHC, countries will make progress in other health-related goals and subsequently provide for healthier children, a stronger workforce and long term economic development. As outlined by the World Health Organization (WHO), UHC should be monitored through trace indicators including the coverage of essential health services and the proportion of the country's population with catastrophic spending on health. These essential health services should provide preventive and treatment services in prioritized health areas such reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious disease, non-communicable disease and injuries. While UHC does outline services and priority health areas, UHC does not emphasize how these health services are to be funded, managed or operationalized. To understand how countries have embodied UHC in their health policies, this study systematically analyzes the different approaches to UHC in three separate countries: Thailand, Rwanda and Mexico. Using an analytical framework, country UHC policies are analyzed on what aspects of UHC were adopted, what kind of services were implemented, what human resources are utilized, what infrastructure exists, what impact results were achieved and how sustainable are such policies. Findings of this study suggest that the implementation of UHC is inherently a political process. In order to withstand different interests of governing bodies, UHC policies must employ both social support and legal frameworks to withstand global political change. Designing UHC policies to be compatible with the political economy will increase a sustainable trajectory towards SDG targets.

Biography

Muhiuddin Haider, Ph.D., is a clinical professor in global health in the University of Maryland School of Public Health's Institute for Applied Environmental Health. Since 2009, he has been teaching undergraduate courses and graduate courses covering topics of both public health science and global health. In addition to teaching, Dr. Haider has managed and led diverse public health projects and research studies in more than a dozen countries over the past thirty years, on behalf of several international agencies and universities. This topics have included HIV/AIDS, TB, R/FP, malaria and expertise in health communication, health promotion and social marketing.

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