



Research Brief

Identification of the enrolment criteria and contributions of the informal sector into the National Health Insurance (NHI) within the context of Zimbabwe: rapid review

SUMMARY

MøHCC in collaboration with ZEIPNet's rapid review results suggest that welfare status (quintiles), gender, age, demographic status (urban/rural, marital status), education and the health status should be taken into account when considering enrolling the informal sector into the national health insurance.

IMPLICATIONS

This rapid review, produced within 12 weeks if request was used to inform policy decision regarding the National Health Insurance cabinet paper. The review focused on the inclusion criteria of the informal sector which was the missing data.

REFERENCES

Zimbabwe National Health Strategy 2016-2020

http://www.mohcc.gov.zw/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=6:acts-policies&Itemid=660

Zimbabwe Public Health Act

<http://www.veritaszim.net/node/3190>

What is the current situation?

- The high out of pocket expenditure for health has slowed down the country's path to achieving universal health coverage.
- There is commitment towards the implementation of a National Health Insurance scheme within the country.

What is the objective?

A rapid review, commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Child Care senior policy makers was conducted to examine the enrolment criteria of the informal sector into the national health insurance scheme.

How was the review conducted?

An electronic search of the literature was conducted in PubMed, Ebsco Host, Scopus, Cochrane Database of Systematic Review, World Health Organisation Repository on 20-28 August 2019. Articles that focused on low and middle income countries, informal sector and health insurance were included. Eligible studies were limited to articles published in English between 2005 and 2019. Two reviewers independently performed study screening and selection, abstracted data and AMSTAR tool was used for quality appraisal. Narrative approach was used for the results. The rapid review was completed within a 12-week timeline.

What did the review find?

- The national health insurance framework should consider the determinants of health insurance enrolment of informal sectors workers such as welfare status (quintiles), gender, age, demographic status (urban/rural, marital status), geographical regions, education and the health status.
- The Informal sector worker, in their different groups, may contribute a fixed amount based on their expenditure capacity, whenever it was impossible to determine subscription based on income (fiscal analysis).
- It is recommended that the proposal for the National Health Insurance contributions should be submitted to the concerned segments of population for further refinement and that the organisation in charge of pooling the funds and purchasing services be responsible for enrolment. The cost and affordability of the NHI, its direct financial benefit to families, and the quality of healthcare it provides to clients is paramount as the ability to pay for the NHI has a bearing on both enrolment and contribution.

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