Call for Expressions of Interest

Case Study Series on Health Benefits Policy

The JLN Primary Health Care (PHC) Health Benefits Policy Collaborative invites JLN member countries to contribute to a new case study series documenting successes and challenges with their health benefits policies. This document describes the project background, objectives, and expected outcomes; and outlines the steps required to submit an Expression of Interest.

Background

The PHC Initiative is one of several initiatives under the JLN, focused on co-production of tools and resources that can accelerate progress toward UHC by orienting health systems toward high-quality PHC services. The PHC Initiative is further organized into working groups known as “collaboratives.” Among these is the Health Benefits Policy (HBP) Collaborative, which aims to create resources to help countries design or improve health benefits packages and several policy domains that shape the delivery of the packages.

As a first step in developing these resources, collaborative members developed a conceptual framework that links the health benefits package to several health system objectives, and then to six policy domains that enable successful delivery and utilization of the package (see Attachment A). The framework itself fills a definitional and communications gap that members were facing as they endeavored to design, revise, and deliver primary health care benefits.

While there is much literature available on defining health benefits packages, there are few documented examples of effective processes and common challenges or successes in developing a holistic set of health benefits policies.

Objectives

To help bridge this information gap and to surface insights and practical guidance, collaborative members have decided to co-develop a series of case studies to discover best practices and lessons learned in countries that have defined health benefits packages and developed supportive policies to promote access to them. The case studies will also document experiences in countries that are still in the process of reform. The case studies will use a common outline and will apply the conceptual framework developed by the collaborative. Synthesized findings from these case studies will then inform development of resources for practitioners, such as a process guide.

The objective of these case studies is to document:

- What decision-making criteria and processes are informing the design or revision of health benefits packages;
- How health benefits policies are being implemented;
- Which objectives health benefits policies seek to accomplish;
- Which policy domains were or are being strengthened to ensure successful delivery of health benefits packages;
- What resources were used to develop and implement the health benefits policy; and
- What are some of the outcomes of health benefits policies that have been implemented.

**Expected Outcomes**

The Health Benefits Policy Collaborative expects through the development of this series to produce eight to ten country case studies, as well as a synthesis document detailing key findings, insights, and best practices regarding health benefits policies in LMICs. The series will be published on the JLN website and through other dissemination channels.

**Level of Effort**

**Expected Contributions**

In collaboration with Health Benefits Policy Collaborative members and technical facilitators, case study authors are expected to:

- Contribute to the conceptual development of the case study survey instrument via virtual meetings and email;
- Participate in an in-person kick-off meeting tentatively scheduled for early February 2017*;
- Establish a team to collect, analyze, and synthesize data that will inform the development of a country case study;
- Draft and finalize a country case study using agreed upon survey template;
- Participate in virtual meeting(s) to synthesize findings across case studies; and
- Participate in an in-person meeting to present findings and identify cross-country best practices*.

*Please note: While all team members are welcome to contribute to the case studies, the JLN will only be able to fund 2 people per country to participate in in-person meetings. Additional members are welcome to participate if they can locate outside funding.

**Optional Contributions**

Case study authors are encouraged, but not required, to become members of the Health Benefits Policy Collaborative. Members would be expected to do the following, in collaboration with other members and technical facilitators:

- Draft country examples and technical sections of the case study outline or survey instrument;
- Provide rapid feedback on survey drafts;
- Participate in in-person meeting(s); and
- Contribute to conceptual development and drafting of additional resources on health benefits policies.
How to Submit an Expression of Interest

Country teams should prepare a 1 – 2-page Expression of Interest that does the following:

- Briefly describe your country’s PHC benefits package, including objectives, mix of services (high-level summary), and stage of development (e.g., planning, in process, complete);
- Summarize to what extent the health benefits package is or will be accompanied by complementary “health benefits policy” reforms designed to improve access to the package, such as new financing, payment, or supply-side strengthening policies;
- Identify notable country successes and challenges in implementing health benefits policies;
- Highlight how holistic health benefits policies (or lack thereof) hinder or advance PHC-led UHC in your country’s unique setting;
- Briefly describe specific documents, tools, or templates that the country could potentially share as part of its case study;
- Identify at least two representatives engaged in health benefits policy design to be involved in the development of the case study; and
- Indicate preliminary interest and availability to become a member of the Health Benefits Policy Collaborative (detailed in “Optional Contributions” above).

The Health Benefits Policy Collaborative technical facilitation team will review all Expressions of Interest and make every effort to accommodate all interested countries. Individual case studies, synthesis documents, and other knowledge products developed by the collaborative will be shared publicly as they become available.

Please submit the Expression of Interest to apervin@r4d.org by Friday, 13 January 2017. Countries will receive a response by Friday, 20 January 2017.