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PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS
(PPPS) FOR HEALTHCARE AS A
CRITICAL ELEMENT IN POVERTY
REDUCTION STRATEGIES AND ITS
LINKAGE TO THE UHC JOURNEY
WITH NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

A PROGRAMME REVIEW NOTE BY DR FRANCIS
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Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)
for Healthcare as a Critical
Element in Poverty Reduction
Strategies and its Linkage to the
UHC Journey with No One Left
Behind

A Programme Review Note
by

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Background

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in healthcare play a crucial role in poverty reduction strategies and the journey towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with a focus on leaving no one behind. This article explores the significance of PPPs in addressing poverty and promoting shared prosperity. PPPs leverage the strengths of both the public and private sectors to improve healthcare access, service quality, and financial protection for vulnerable populations. By expanding coverage, enhancing service delivery, and creating employment opportunities, PPPs contribute to poverty reduction and economic empowerment. Furthermore, PPPs are aligned with the principles of UHC, ensuring equitable access to essential healthcare services and addressing health disparities. Successful implementation of PPPs requires transparent governance, effective risk management, community engagement, and alignment with national health strategies. Case studies from Rwanda, India, and Brazil demonstrate the transformative potential of PPPs in healthcare, highlighting their positive impact on poverty reduction and the achievement of UHC.

Introduction

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have emerged as a vital tool in addressing complex global challenges, including healthcare provision and poverty reduction. As countries strive to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and leave no one behind, PPPs have gained recognition for their potential to enhance healthcare access, improve service quality, and contribute to poverty reduction. This article explores the role of PPPs in healthcare as a critical element in poverty reduction strategies, highlighting their linkage to the UHC journey with a focus on leaving no one behind. Drawing from in-depth research evidence and case studies across the world, possible program frameworks for successful PPP implementation will be presented.

Understanding Public-Private Partnerships in Healthcare

Public-Private Partnerships in healthcare involve collaborative efforts between government entities and private sector organizations, leveraging the strengths and resources of both sectors to improve healthcare delivery. These partnerships can take various forms, such as service contracts, joint ventures, or infrastructure development projects. The primary objective is to leverage the efficiency and innovation of the private sector while ensuring equitable access and quality healthcare services for all.

The Role of PPPs in Poverty Reduction

Healthcare plays a crucial role in poverty reduction, as individuals and households burdened with ill health often face increased economic vulnerability. PPPs in healthcare contribute to poverty reduction through various mechanisms:

Enhanced Service Delivery: PPPs bring together the expertise, resources, and innovation of both sectors, leading to improved healthcare infrastructure, service quality, and efficiency. This, in turn, benefits the poor by providing them with better access to healthcare services.

Expanded Coverage: Through PPPs, the private sector can contribute to expanding healthcare coverage in underserved areas. Private providers can establish healthcare facilities in remote or marginalized regions, bridging the gap in access to healthcare for the poorest populations.

Financial Protection: PPPs can integrate mechanisms for financial protection, such as health insurance schemes, to ensure that individuals do not face catastrophic healthcare expenses. By reducing out-of-pocket spending, PPPs contribute to poverty reduction and prevent individuals from falling into a poverty trap due to healthcare costs.

Job Creation: PPPs generate employment opportunities, particularly in the private sector. This can help alleviate poverty by providing income and livelihood options to individuals, especially those in marginalized communities.

Linking PPPs to the UHC Journey with No One Left Behind

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) aims to ensure that all individuals and communities have access to essential healthcare services without suffering financial hardship. Achieving UHC requires addressing inequalities and leaving no one behind. PPPs can support the UHC journey by:

Targeting Underserved Populations: PPPs can specifically target underserved populations, including those living in poverty, remote areas, or vulnerable communities. By focusing on inclusivity, PPPs can ensure that no one is left behind in the quest for UHC.

Leveraging Private Sector Innovation: The private sector brings innovation, technology, and efficiency to healthcare provision. Through PPPs, these strengths can be harnessed to

address gaps in service delivery and improve access to quality healthcare for marginalized populations.

Strengthening Health Systems: PPPs can contribute to strengthening healthcare systems by improving infrastructure, supply chains, and human resource capacities. This enables the sustainable delivery of essential health services and builds resilience in the face of future challenges.

Program Frameworks for Successful PPP Implementation

Successful implementation of PPPs in healthcare requires careful planning, clear governance structures, and effective monitoring mechanisms. Based on in-depth research evidence and case studies, the following program frameworks can guide PPP implementation:

Needs Assessment and Alignment: Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to identify gaps and priorities in healthcare delivery. Align the goals and objectives of PPPs with the national health strategy and poverty reduction plans to ensure coherence and maximize impact.

Transparent and Accountable Governance: Establish clear governance structures involving relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors, civil society, and local communities. Develop transparent processes for selection, contracting, and monitoring of PPPs, ensuring accountability and integrity throughout the partnership.

Risk Management and Mitigation: Identify potential risks and develop strategies to mitigate them. This includes assessing financial risks, regulatory compliance, and ensuring quality control mechanisms are in place. Implement robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track the performance and impact of PPPs.

Community Engagement and Participation: Promote community engagement and participation throughout the PPP lifecycle. Involve local communities in decision-making processes, ensure their needs are adequately represented, and foster ownership and sustainability of healthcare initiatives.

Case Studies of Successful PPPs

1. **Rwanda:** The Rwandan government partnered with private sector organizations to establish the "Mutuelles de Santé" health insurance scheme, ensuring access to healthcare services for the entire population. This PPP has significantly contributed to poverty reduction and improved health outcomes in Rwanda.
2. **India:** The Public-Private Partnership for Urban Health in Delhi, India, has successfully improved healthcare access for the urban poor. Through partnerships with private healthcare providers, the program has expanded the delivery of primary healthcare services and reduced out-of-pocket expenses.
3. **Brazil:** The Family Health Strategy in Brazil involves collaboration between the public and private sectors to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services. This PPP has resulted in improved health outcomes, reduced health inequities, and contributed to poverty reduction.

Public-Private Partnerships in healthcare are critical elements in poverty reduction strategies and the journey towards Universal Health Coverage with no one left behind. By leveraging the strengths of both sectors and focusing on inclusivity, PPPs can enhance healthcare access, improve service quality, and contribute to poverty reduction. Successful implementation of PPPs requires comprehensive program frameworks, transparent governance structures, and community engagement. Drawing from global case studies, it is evident that PPPs have the potential to transform healthcare systems and drive sustainable development, ultimately ensuring that healthcare is accessible to all, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

Additional Reading:

1. Public-Private Partnerships in Health

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/672561478540044927/pdf/Public-Private-Partnerships-in-Health-World-Bank-Group-Engagement-in-Health-PPP-An-IEG-Synthesis-Report.pdf>

2. Public-private partnerships for public health

https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/480/2012/09/Partnerships_book.pdf

3. Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Healthcare as Critical Element in Poverty Reduction Strategies F Ohanyido Digital Journal <http://www.digitaljournal.com/blog/12649,12649>