

GTZ-ILO-WHO Consortium on Social Health Protection in Developing Countries

Problem Statement

Worldwide 1.3 billion people do not have access to effective and affordable health care. The poor are the most vulnerable as they are less able to recover from the financial consequences of out-of-pocket payments and the loss of income associated with ill health. It is estimated that every year more than 100 million people are pushed into poverty by the need to pay for health services.

What is the Consortium's mission?

The Consortium aims at addressing these problems: low coverage in social health protection leads to poor access to health services and catastrophic health expenditures. This can be overcome by creating and extending sustainable systems of social protection in health based on values of universality, equity and solidarity.

In November 2004, GTZ, ILO and WHO signed a joint letter of agreement on cooperation in the field of social protection in health, sustainable health financing systems and efficient contracting. The GTZ-ILO-WHO Consortium is a joint effort to coordinate work of the participating organizations and collaborate at country, regional and global level. The Consortium strives for extending health protection coverage in developing countries. It is open to various options of financing health. These include, for example, tax-based financing or community-, private- or social health insurance, or a combination of these options. Each financing option generally involves the pooling of health risks and subsidies from rich to poor between and within risk pools.

What are the objectives of the Consortium?

- Strengthen technical support by joining resources and thus increase impact
- Create synergies and savings through complementary activities enabling a faster and broader response to countries
- Increase quality and scope of sustainable and comprehensive health care financing in partner countries, including sharing experiences, building consensus and getting results.



The Consortium also provides a forum for improved coordination and harmonization as recommended in the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

How does the Consortium work?

The Consortium has not created new organizational structures but uses informal, light and flexible forms of cooperation. Incoming requests to the Consortium are shared and resources pooled.

What are major achievements up to date?

The Consortium has completed work on policy concepts and tools, technical co-operation with countries, policy dialogue at regional and international level, and capacity building through seminars, workshops and international conferences. The countries involved in this work include Cambodia, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Philippines, Rwanda, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Yemen as well as international conferences in Berlin and Manila.

Joining us

The Consortium is a non-exclusionary partnership and other organizations are welcome to inquire to associate with or join us. Involvement with the Consortium may range from financial or in-kind support for specific activities (e.g. conference, publication) to longer-term joint technical or financial cooperation.

If your organization subscribes to the mission and values of the Consortium, if you want to tap into a unique network of competence in the domain of social protection in health and if your contribution brings in added-value to the partnership, you may want to join us. The Consortium can increase effectiveness, create synergies and accelerate momentum for initiatives in the area of social protection in health. Feel free to mail to: secretariat@socialhealthprotection.org

