Author's response to reviews

Title: The players and the process behind Uganda's National Health Insurance Scheme: a case study of Uganda

Authors:

Robert K Basaza (rkbasaza@yahoo.com)
Thomas S O'Connell (toconnell@unicef.org)
Ivana Chap&#269;áková (ic533@nyu.edu)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Natalie Pafitis, Executive Editor
BioMed Central
Floor 6, 236 Gray's Inn Road
London
WC1X 8HB
United Kingdom

Dear Ms. Pafitis,

Please find enclosed our manuscript, "The players and the process behind Uganda’s National Health Insurance Scheme: a case study of Uganda" by Basaza et al., which I am submitting for exclusive consideration of publication as a case study in BMC Health Services Research. The study was authorized by Ministry of Health Uganda through the partnership arrangements with UNICEF Uganda Country office. The authors were allowed access to all literature and the same can be available on request to all readers. The government of Uganda has an open door policy to all partners.

To our knowledge this is the first case study on Uganda that provides analysis of stakeholders, policy process, and context within which national health insurance scheme was formulated. The paper demonstrates that stakeholders played an important role in influencing the final design of the national health insurance as well as the pace of the design process. It underscores the importance of conducting stakeholder analysis prior to and at regular intervals during development of the National Health Insurance Scheme law. We believe our findings would appeal to a broad readership of BMC Health Services Research, including those interested in social health insurance in developing countries, health financing reforms, and stakeholder analysis.

Knowledgeable referees for this paper might include:

- Dr. Frederick Mugisha is a health economist whose doctoral research focused on community health insurance in Africa and who now serves as an Economic Adviser to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda.
- Professor Irene Akua Agyepong, Ph.D., of the HPPM Department, School of Public Health of the University of Ghana, acts as a Regional Director of Health services, Ghana Health Services and has published several peer-reviewed articles concerning Ghana’s National health Insurance Scheme.
Professor Manuela De Allegri, Ph.D., of the Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health, Heidelberg University, Germany. Prof. De Allegri’s doctoral research focused on Health Insurance in Africa.

We confirm that this manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with its submission to BMC Health Services Research.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to Dr. Robert K. Basaza of the Ministry of Health, Uganda at this e-mail: rkbasaza@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your consideration of our manuscript. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Thomas O’Connell
Senior Health Specialist (Economic Analyst), UNICEF