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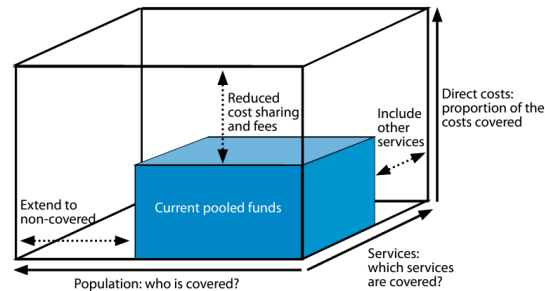
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[Sales Nav](#)**Figure 1.1 Three dimensions to consider when moving toward universal health coverage**Figure adapted from the World Health Report 2010⁴

The Path to Universal Health Coverage: A Closer Look inside WHO's Cube

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The the journey towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), nations are confronted with intricate decisions and challenges. The World Health Organization (WHO) offers a guiding framework, often represented as a cube, to assist countries in this endeavor. This cube encompasses three pivotal dimensions crucial for UHC: expanding priority services, including more people, and reducing out-of-pocket payments. Each dimension presents critical choices, with fairness and equity serving as guiding principles.

Expanding Priority Services

Advancing towards UHC necessitates widening access to essential health services. However, resource constraints demand prioritization. Governments must strategically select which services to offer first, considering factors such as cost-effectiveness, population needs, and existing

infrastructure. By focusing on high-impact interventions, nations can optimize health outcomes while ensuring equitable access for all citizens.

Including More People

UHC aims to extend coverage to the entire populace, yet achieving this goal is complex. Numerous barriers, both financial and non-financial, hinder access to healthcare. Governments must prioritize whom to include first, considering socioeconomic status, geographic location, and vulnerability. By targeting marginalized groups initially, countries can address disparities and progress towards equitable healthcare for all.

Reducing Out-of-Pocket Payments

Out-of-pocket payments pose a significant obstacle, particularly for low-income individuals. Transitioning to prepayment mechanisms like taxes or premiums is essential for achieving UHC. This shift requires careful planning and consideration of its impact on various population groups. Governments must ensure fair distribution of healthcare financing, with a focus on shielding the most vulnerable from financial strain.

The Context of Choice

The path to UHC is shaped by diverse stakeholders, including government institutions, advocacy groups, and healthcare providers. These actors operate within a complex socio-political landscape, where competing interests and ideologies influence decision-making. Fairness and equity serve as guiding principles, ensuring equitable distribution of health resources. Collaboration with stakeholders across sectors is crucial for successful UHC implementation.

Attaining Universal Health Coverage demands navigating a nuanced landscape of decisions and priorities. Embracing principles of fairness and equity empowers governments to chart a course towards healthcare access for all citizens. WHO's cube offers a valuable framework for informed decision-making, fostering a healthier and more equitable society.

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Achieving [#UniversalHealthCoverage](#) ([#UHC](#)) requires navigating complex choices. The [#WorldHealthOrganization](#)'s framework, visualized as a cube, highlights three key dimensions: expanding [#essentialhealthservices](#), including more people, and reducing [#outofpocket](#) costs. Each dimension presents difficult decisions, with [#fairness](#) and [#equity](#) guiding the way. Governments must strategically prioritize services, target vulnerable populations first, and implement financing mechanisms that protect those who can't afford care. By collaborating with stakeholders and embracing these principles, countries can reach UHC and ensure healthcare access for all.

This article from [#TheHieroglyphsOfHealth](#) takes a closer look on WHO's Universal Health Coverage Cube.

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