Looking at Universal Health Coverage through the Lens of Essential Packages of Health Services

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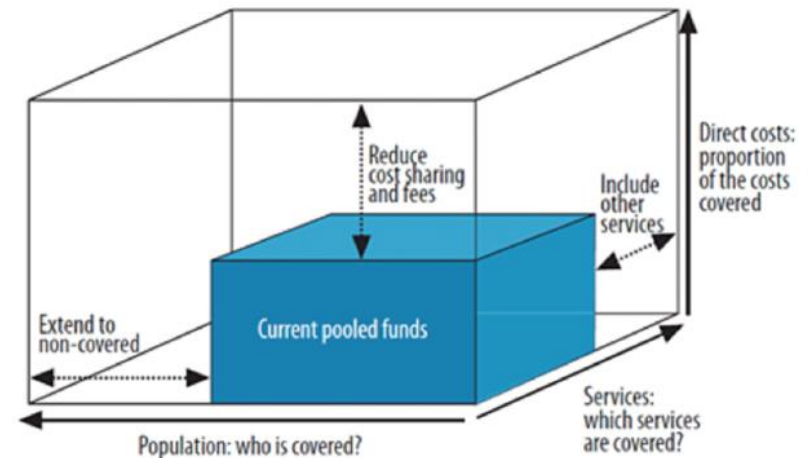
March 4, 2016

- Population – who is covered

  Increase share of population that benefits from pooled financing

- Services – which services are covered, at what quality

  Expand scope of services paid for from pooled financing

- Financial Protection – what proportion of direct costs is covered

  Reduce out-of-pocket payments through increased financing with insurance and/or general government revenue
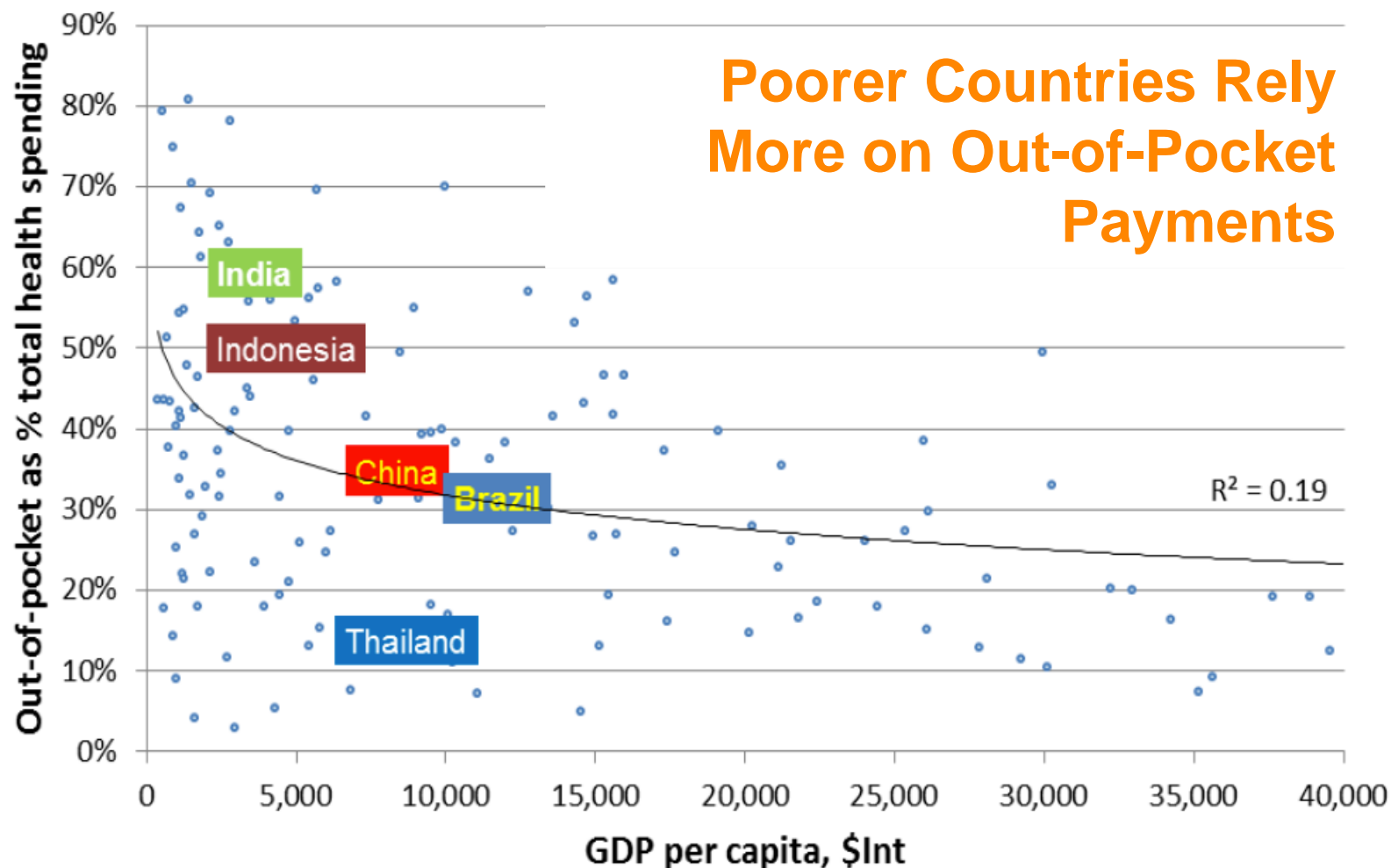
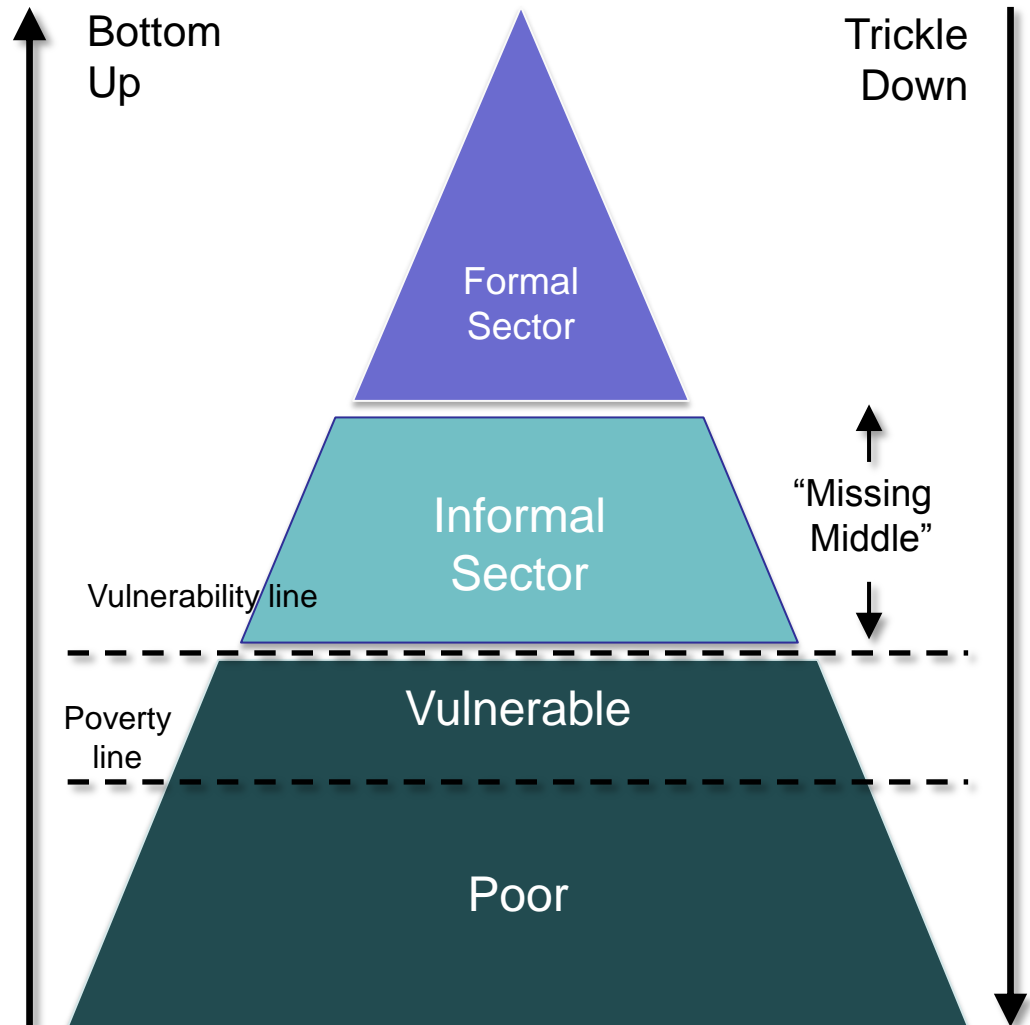# Why is UHC important?

The Role of Financial Protection

Poorer Countries Rely More on Out-of-Pocket Payments

Chart: Out-of-pocket as % total health spending (y-axis, 0%–90%) vs GDP per capita, $Int (x-axis, 0–40,000). Labeled countries: India, Indonesia, China, Brazil, Thailand. $R^2 = 0.19$

USAID Focuses on the Poor and Vulnerable

- Global move away from "trickle down" coverage (pro-rich bias)

- Many UHC programs now seek to reverse this trend – focus on "bottom-up" coverage expansion

- Targeting poor and vulnerable populations is a foundation of "bottom up" UHC

Source: Adapted from Somil Nagpal, 2015

Examples in Practice:

- Expanding coverage from the bottom up

- Mobilizing resources to reduce reliance on out-of-pocket spending

Source: HFG Project

A TOOLKIT FOR
MINISTRIES OF HEALTH TO
WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH
MINISTRIES OF FINANCE

A TOOLKIT FOR HEALTH SECTOR MANAGERS

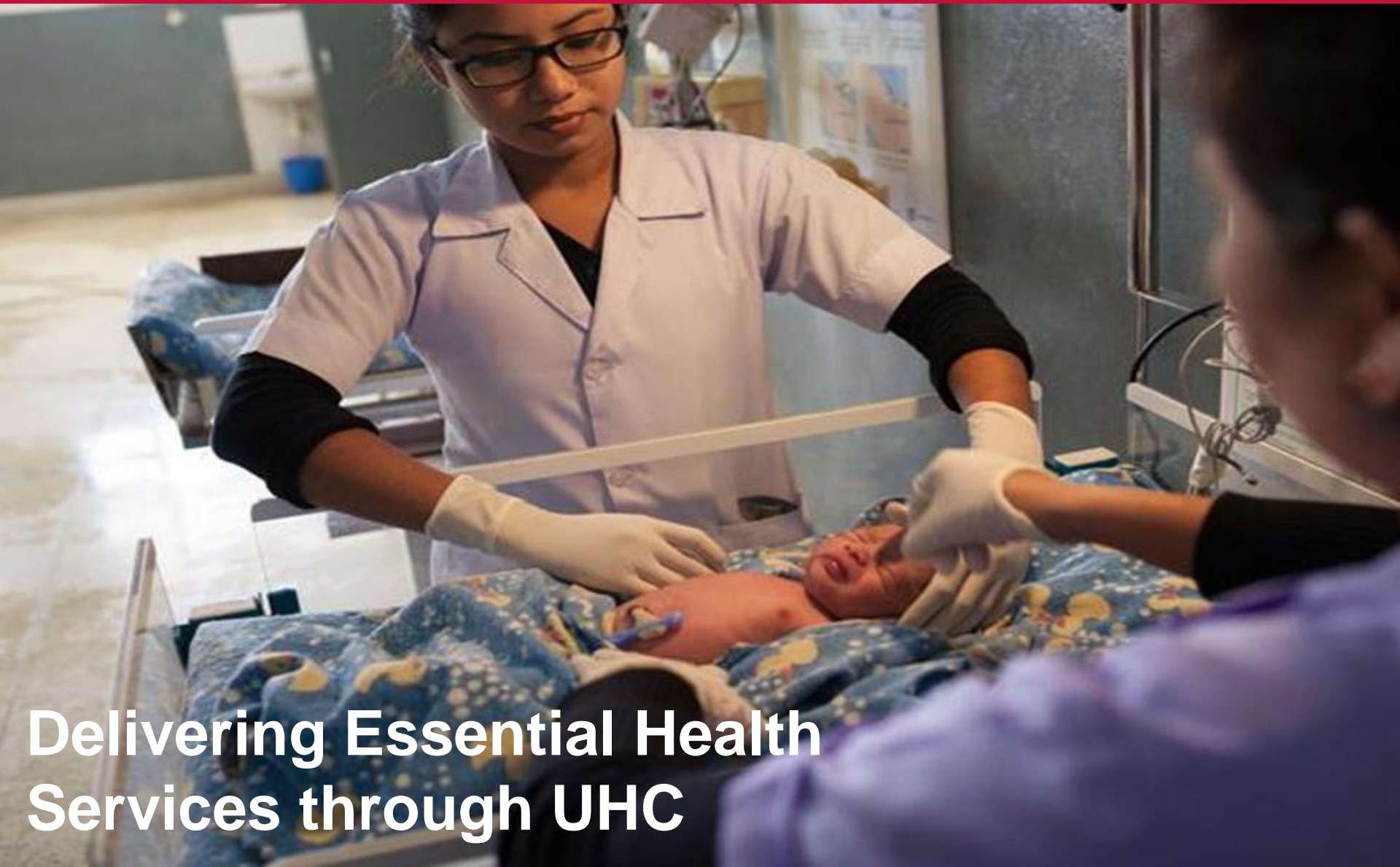Source: HFG Project

Delivering Essential Health Services through UHC

Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS)

- Definition: health care services that government provides or aspires to provide to citizens in an equitable manner

- An explicit statement by government of health care priorities

- May support improving physical and financial access

- Related goals can be efficiency, equity, political empowerment, accountability
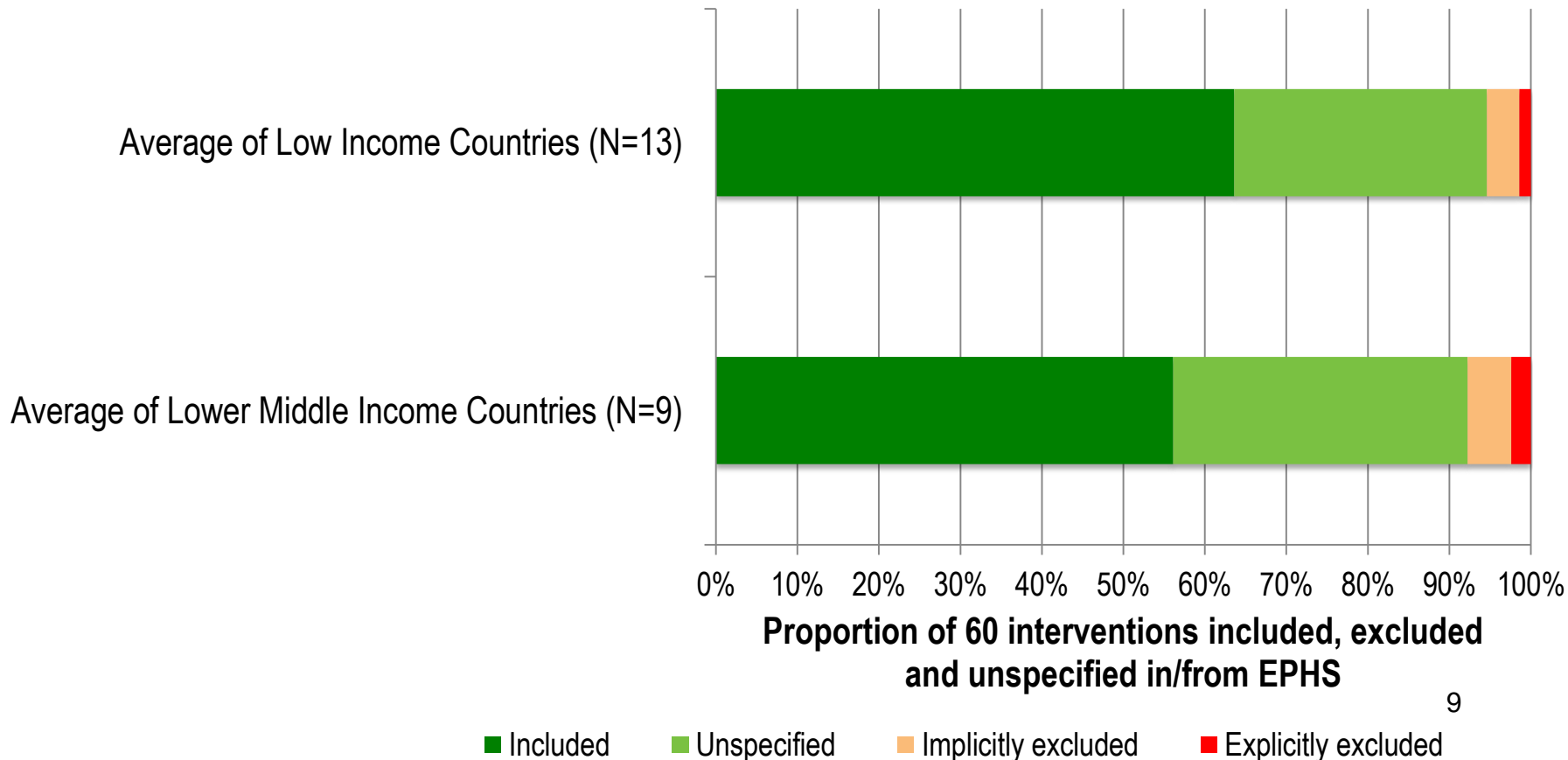
A Study of EPHS across 24 Countries

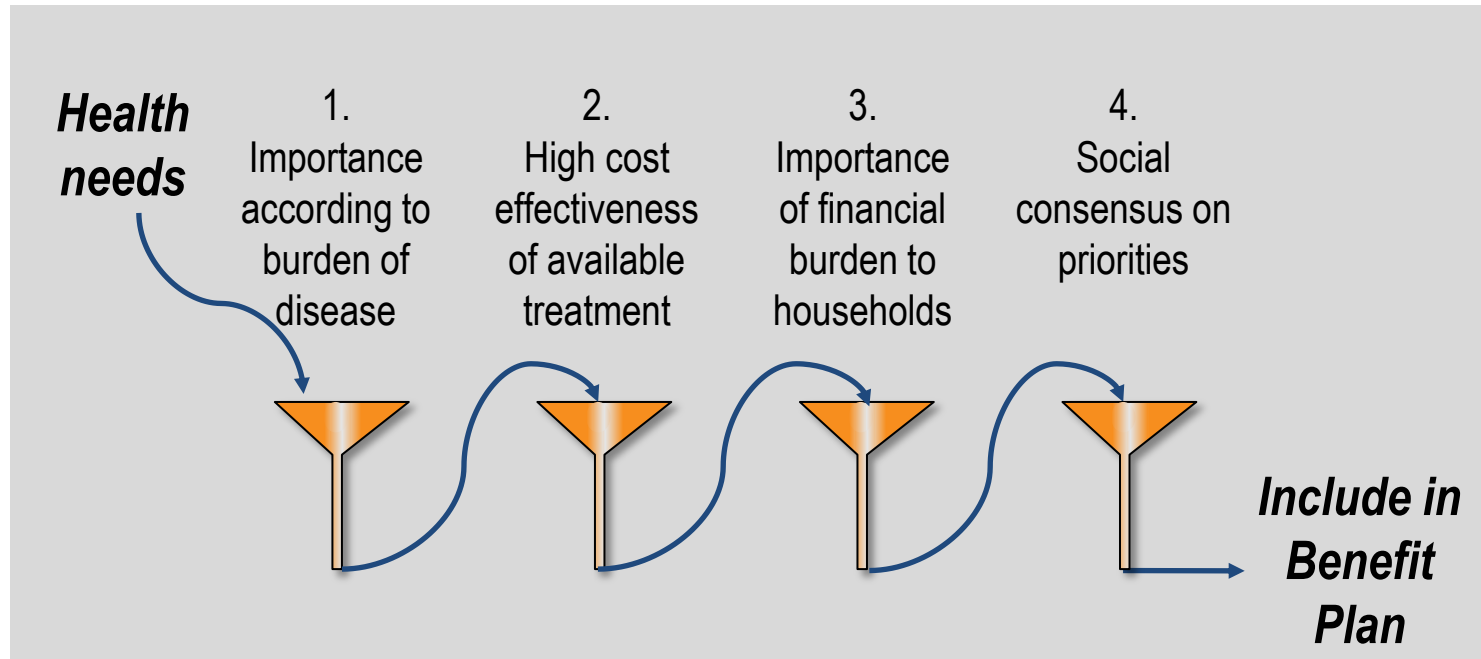- Most include priority reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health interventions

Proportion of 60 interventions included, excluded and unspecified in/from EPHS

■ Included   ■ Unspecified   ■ Implicitly excluded   ■ Explicitly excluded

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From Vision to Practice

- Defining a benefit package is one way to explicitly prioritize what services will be offered, to whom, and at what price BEFORE resources are allocated.

- This benefit package must be linked to a specific financing mechanism, such as insurance to achieve effective coverage of those services.

- Otherwise, services end up being implicitly rationed across the population – by timing, distance, social class, and chance.

Guaranteed Services, but Which Ones?

• What determines priorities? Evidence and data, right?

SOURCE: Bitran and Giedion 2012

Why is quality important within UHC?

Universal Health Coverage and Safety / Quality Agenda

"What good does it do to offer free maternal care and have a high proportion of babies delivered in health facilities if the quality of care is sub-standard or even dangerous?"

-   Margaret Chan
World Health Assembly, May 2012

Dimensions of quality

Health systems should seek to make improvements in 6 areas or dimensions of quality (WHO definition):

- **Effective:** *delivering evidence-based care that results in improved outcomes and is based on need;*

- **Efficient:** *delivering care- which maximizes resource use and avoids waste*;

- **Accessible**: *delivering care that is timely, geographically reasonable, and provided in a setting where skills and resources are appropriate to medical need;*

- **Acceptable/patient-centered:** *delivering care which takes into account the preferences and aspirations of patients and the cultures of their communities;*

- **Equitable:** *delivering care which does not vary in quality because of personal characteristics such as gender, race, ethnicity, geographical location, or socioeconomic status;*

- **Safe:** *delivering care which minimizes risks and harm to patients.*

UHC and Quality

Universal Health Coverage & Quality:
Defining a new unit to drive change at the frontline

Codifying Improvement

- Work with multidisciplinary team of healthcare providers
- Review health workers' competencies and workloads
- Work with patients, their families, and communities
- Test changes to correct for any supply-chain issues or inputs that may be necessary
- Work with and engage leadership structures to test system-level changes, as needed
- Work on changing norms and policies to institute re-designed care processes
- Plot data in real time
- Facilitate experiential learning

QUESTIONS?