



## **Exploring the institutional arrangements for linking health financing to the quality of care: Lessons from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand**

Study Information

### **Background**

USAID's Health Finance and Governance (HFG) project helps to improve health in developing countries by expanding people's access to health care. The project team works with partner countries to increase their domestic resources for health, manage those precious resources more effectively, and make wise purchasing decisions. HFG's research portfolio enhances the ability of USAID to assist countries in delivering priority health services while simultaneously contributing to the global pool of knowledge on health systems strengthening (HSS). Evidence is scarce, scattered, and not widely disseminated on how interventions to strengthen health system performance contribute to sustained improvements in health status. Without this evidence, decision-makers lack a sound basis for investing scarce health funds in HSS interventions.

As the Asia region accelerates efforts to achieve UHC, strengthening the provision of quality health care has emerged as a major priority. However, evidence on the most effective institutional arrangements for ensuring quality in health care remains limited. The role of health financing actors in ensuring quality of care, and their relationships, roles and responsibilities vis à vis other institutions that promote quality (e.g. Ministry of Health, accreditation agencies, and subnational health authorities) are of particular interest to government stakeholders in the region. The goal of this study is to better understand the institutional arrangements designed to enable health financing actors to ensure and promote the quality of health service delivery in Southeast Asia. We are pursuing this goal by conducting a set of three qualitative case studies in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. In so doing, we hope to develop and provide recommendations for the design of similar arrangements that seek to link quality of care considerations to health care financing decisions, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The goal is to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of payers and other quality actors at national and subnational levels are clearly defined and maximize healthcare quality.

### **Study Questions**

1. What institutional arrangements, roles and responsibilities have been established to govern the quality of health care and how have they evolved over time?
2. What are the roles and responsibilities of various institutions in establishing, implementing, and monitoring links between the quality of care and health financing?
3. What can regional neighbors and other low- and middle-income countries learn from these countries to systemically involve health financing actors in strengthening the quality of care?

### **Study Participation**

This study will involve document review followed by in-depth semi-structured interviews with individuals familiar with the programs to ensure the quality of care and health financing in select countries. Interviews will be conducted in-person either by project staff or local consultants. This research is consistent with international standards for the ethical conduct of qualitative research. Participation will be voluntary, confidential, and in no way does this research seek to evaluate the performance of program staff or partners.

### **Contact**

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like additional information, please contact the lead investigator, Altea Cico at [Altea\\_Cico@abtassoc.com](mailto:Altea_Cico@abtassoc.com), or +1-301-347-5061.