



# STRATEGIC PURCHASING FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

## ABOUT SP4PHC

The Strategic Purchasing for Primary Health Care (SP4PHC) project aims to improve how governments purchase primary health care (PHC) services, with a focus on family planning (FP) and maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH). The project is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and is implemented by ThinkWell in collaboration with government institutions and local research partners in five countries: Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines and Uganda. The purchasing context in these countries is quite different; large national health insurance schemes cover most of the population in some countries, while ministries of health at the national and sub-national levels dominate the purchasing landscape in others. Across these different geographies, the project is working to strengthen schemes that are critical for improving the delivery of PHC and addressing the needs of the poor, while also improving alignment across different purchasing arrangements within the health system. Through its learning agenda, the project aims to generate and diffuse knowledge about strategic purchasing for PHC to influence policy and practice at the country, regional, and global levels.

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## OUR APPROACH

- We implement strategies tailored to the country context.
- We have country-based teams in each of the five geographies, which are at the forefront of implementing country activities.
- We work with the public purchaser and other relevant government institutions in each of the countries to facilitate policy dialogue on strategic purchasing reforms.
- We use analytics to diagnose existing challenges, design potential solutions, and test the sustainability of those designs through pilot studies.

## WHAT IS STRATEGIC PURCHASING?

As countries implement strategies to achieve universal health coverage, they are undertaking health financing reforms to mobilize more financing for health and ensure that available funds for health are used optimally and equitably. Strategic purchasing is linked to the second objective. Purchasing refers to how institutions controlling pooled funds – like ministries of health and health insurance agencies – allocate them to healthcare providers. Making purchasing strategic involves basing purchasing decisions on information about provider behavior and population health needs in order to improve health system performance in terms of equitable access, quality of care and financial protection.



## Burkina Faso



We are working with the Ministry of Health to enhance strategic purchasing of FP and MNCH services in the context of ongoing user fee reimbursement (gratuité) and results-based financing initiatives. We are also supporting the eventual harmonization of these schemes under a newly formed public purchasing entity.

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## Indonesia



We are supporting BPJS-K, the implementing agency for the national health insurance scheme, JKN, and the Ministry of Health to improve engagement with private providers, including private midwives, who deliver a large share of FP and MNCH services. We are also exploring policy changes that can shift the balance of spending towards PHC and incentivize improved quality of care.

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## Kenya



We are strengthening how county governments, which are the main purchasers of PHC services, allocate resources to health facilities and manage their performance, especially in the context of the free maternity care program, the Universal Health Coverage pilot, and the Transforming Health Systems for Universal Care program supported by the Global Financing Facility.

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## Philippines



We are supporting PhilHealth and the Department of Health to implement the Universal Health Care Law, which includes providing technical support on policy development and directly working with two pilot Universal Health Care integration sites. We are also collaborating with PhilHealth and the Commission on Population and Development to encourage private providers to offer quality FP services.

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## Uganda



We are supporting the Ministry of Health to develop and implement a more coherent approach to purchasing that draws from the lessons of ongoing results-based financing and voucher programs and leads to harmonization of disparate schemes. We are also facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue on leveraging the full range of public and private health facilities from the national to municipal levels.

For more information, visit <https://thinkwell.global/projects/sp4phc/> or write to [SP4PHC@thinkwell.global](mailto:SP4PHC@thinkwell.global).

*ThinkWell is a health systems development organization with experience designing, implementing, evaluating, and diffusing new solutions to persistent health system challenges. Using tailored strategies that meet context-specific needs, we have supported health financing and governance reforms in over 30 countries. [www.ThinkWell.global](http://www.ThinkWell.global)*