



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 implemented by ThinkWell in collaboration with government institutions and local research partners in five countries: Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines, and Uganda. SP4PHC is supported by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. 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.





Health financing reforms in Burkina Faso are taking place in a challenging environment, as the country struggles with security concerns and labor unrest. SP4PHC is working with the MoH to support reform through pragmatic steps to enhance strategic purchasing of FP and MNCH services. A key focus is the gratuité scheme that uses government funds to replace out-of-pocket payments and allows public health facilities to provide a defined package of MNCH services free of charge. Our goal is to facilitate the eventual harmonization of this and other schemes under the Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie Universelle (CNAMU), and to drive efficiency and effectiveness through the following SP4PHC strategies:

SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GRATUITÉ SCHEME, AND PREPARE FOR TRANSFER TO CNAMU

SP4PHC is working with government stakeholders and development partners to build consensus around the challenges and opportunities of the gratuité scheme and to establish a working group on purchasing primary health care. Together we will explore opportunities to increase efficiency by simplifying and harmonizing systems. SP4PHC will build from this to support the design and testing of modifications to gratuité, and towards the transition of gratuité management to CNAMU.

SUPPORTING MOH'S EFFORT TO EXPAND GRATUITÉ TO INCLUDE FREE FAMILY PLANNING

The MOH, through the technical secretary for the demographic dividend (ST/ATD), has launched integration of FP services into the Gratuité scheme. SP4PHC is supporting the ST/ATD to facilitate dialogue and generate evidence to guide policy and implementation of free FP services nationally.

SUPPORT INCORPORATION OF INCENTIVES FOR QUALITY INTO GRATUITÉ

Health facility quality assessment is resource intensive, and a coherent approach to quality measurement can help to maximize efficiency. SP4PHC is reviewing the range of quality tools used by the MoH – including the national guide under development – with an emphasis on costs and alignment. Building from this review, SP4PHC will facilitate discussions to improve quality measurement, with the goal of strengthening incentives for quality of care through purchasing.

For more information, visit <https://thinkwell.global/projects/sp4phc/> or write to 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