



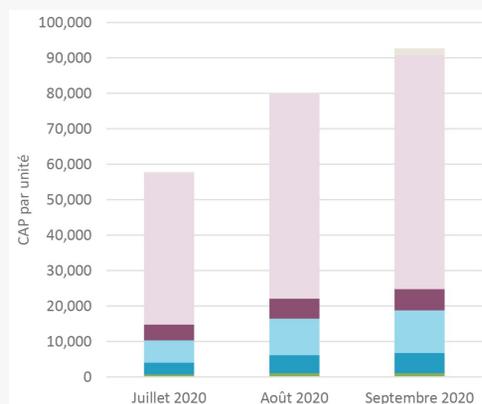
Dear Colleague,

2020 has been a long and grueling year, but I find myself ending it feeling hopeful again. This is not just because I write a week after a new COVID vaccine was administered to the first patient in the world. It is in large measure because across the five countries where the [Strategic Purchasing for Primary Health Care \(SP4PHC\)](#) project is working, our teams are back in the thick of it, helping governments design and implement health financing reforms for making progress towards universal health coverage while also responding to the pandemic.

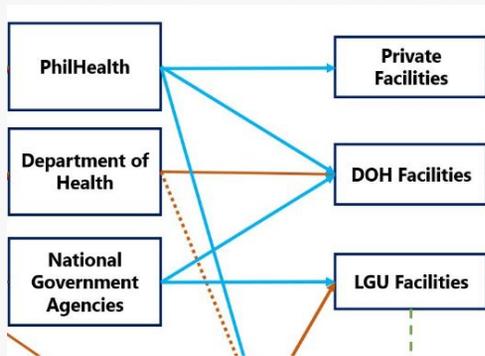
For example, in [Indonesia](#), our country team presented to government the findings from a comprehensive budget impact analysis that assessed the pros and cons of a new approach for contracting and paying private midwives for delivering maternal and newborn services as part of JKN, the national health insurance scheme. In [Uganda](#), our country team is working with the Ministry of Health to draw lessons from a performance-based financing scheme for public facilities and apply them to improve routine financial flows from the national government to districts and health facilities. And, in [Kenya](#), our country team is helping Makueni County reform their scheme for covering hospitalization costs to also promote the uptake of primary healthcare services and align with a national scheme to subsidize government health insurance coverage for the poor.

In this final newsletter of 2020, I share with you three exciting learning products that we just released, updates about recent events, and our latest blogs.

LATEST PRODUCTS



Roll-out of the free family planning (FP) scheme in Burkina Faso increases uptake of implants: ThinkWell supports [Burkina Faso's](#) Ministry of Health with routine data analysis on providing free FP services as part of the gratuité program. This [factsheet](#) summarizes key findings for the first quarter of the national roll-out, showing method mix, geographical distribution, and cost.



How does the Philippines' groundbreaking UHC Law address health financing challenges? "[Health Financing in the Philippines](#)" explains who pays for health services in the [Philippines](#) and how. We identify challenges with the current system, and then explain how the groundbreaking UHC Law is designed to respond.



Credit: Benter Owino

Two new briefs on performance-based financing for Kenyan counties: The National Government in [Kenya](#) provides performance-based financing to counties under a project funded in part by the Global Financing Facility. The "Transforming Health Systems for Universal Care project" brief provides an [overview of the project](#), while a second, companion brief digs deeper into [project implementation and performance in Makueni County](#).

LATEST EVENTS

- Multiple SP4PHC teams presented at the 6th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR2020) in November 2020. Our six posters can be accessed [here](#).
- The team in Indonesia presented study results on how essential services were impacted by COVID-19 at the Annual Scientific Forum of the Indonesian Public Health Association. Our November 2020 presentations are available [here](#).
- ThinkWell is thrilled to participate in the HSR2020 satellite session "Strengthening Capacity for Strategic Purchasing." Access the full details on this session [here](#), and save the date for January 13, 2021, at 10am-12pm EST (7pm-9pm GST).

LATEST BLOGS

- [Leveraging the Strengths of a Mixed Purchasing System for COVID-19: A Perspective from Indonesia](#)
- [Paghiliugyon - Good Governance and Multi-Sectoral Synergy for Pandemic Response in Western Visayas, Philippines](#)
- [Translating Expert Opinion to Effective Health Governance and Evidence-Based Decision-Making for COVID-19](#)

On behalf of the entire SP4PHC team, I wish you a happy and healthy new year.

Regards,



Nirmala Ravishankar, PhD

SP4PHC Program Director

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