**Monitoring progress towards attainment of financial risk protection in Uganda**

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**Background:** Monitoring progress towards attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is focused assessing attainment of the goals on coverage of health services and protection of households from the impact of direct out-of-pocket payments. Although Uganda has expressed aspirations for attaining UHC, out-of-pocket payments remain a major contributor to total health expenditure. The aim of this study is to monitor progress on the financial risk protection dimension for households in Uganda.

**Methods:** This study uses data from the Uganda National Household Surveys for 2005/06. 2009/10, 2012/13 and 2016/17. Financial risk protection is measured using catastrophic health payments and impoverishment indicators. Health payments are defined as catastrophic if they exceed a set threshold of the budget share of total household consumption expenditure based on thresholds of 10% and 25%. Health payments are impoverishing if they push the households below the poverty line (defined using the US$1.91/day and Uganda’s national poverty line). Logistic regression model is used to assess factors associated with household financial risk.

**Results:** The results show that although progress has been made in reducing financial risk protection, this progress remains minimal and there is still a risk of reversal of this trend. We find that although catastrophic health payments at 10% threshold decreased from 22.4% in 2005/06 to 13.78% in 2012/13, we observe an increase to 14.22%. The percentage of Ugandans pushed below the poverty line (US$1.91/day) has also decreased from 5.2% in 2005/06 to 2.71% in 2016/17. We show that the distribution of this risk varies across socio-economic status, location and residence. We also show that some household characteristics are more associated with the household incurring financial risk.

**Conclusion:** To address the burden of financial risk protection, there is need for interventions aimed at reducing out-of-pocket payments especially among those most affected. In short term, ensuring that the population accesses publically financed services through insuring availability of key inputs required at these facilities is critical.