# ABSTRACT

# Dynamics of catastrophic and impoverishment expenditures in Burkina Faso: an analysis of determinants.

GUENE Hervé Jean-Louis, DOAMBA Odilon, NASSA Simon, ZAMPALIGRE Fatimata, COULIBALY Seydou O.

# Background:

The government of Burkina Faso has embarked on a process leading to universal health coverage with the enactment of Law N° 060-2015/CNT on a universal health insurance scheme (RAMU) in 2015. Based on the defined timing, the year 2018 should be devoted to the operationalization of this key programme for the beneficiaries and stakeholders of health. Since the establishment of a health insurance is a highly complex process, it requires total control over all the issues before implementation. It is worth noting that households, the main beneficiaries, would not be necessarily affected in the same manner. While some are already covered, others are incurring catastrophic or impoverishment expenditures.

The aim of this study is to estimate the extent of catastrophic and impoverishment expenditures among the population and identify factors accounting for these expenditures over the 2009-2014 period.

# Methods

The study uses the data from the two most recent surveys on household living conditions (2009 and 2014). The descriptive statistics calculated for the relevant variables such as regions, residential setting and the quintile of household wealth, allowed for an assessment of households. An analysis of determinants of catastrophic health expenditures was carried out through a logistic regression on the data with endogenous variables such as the likelihood for the household to finance a catastrophic or impoverishment expense and, as exogenous variables, the gender of the head of household, household size, structure by age of the household, etc.

# Results

The proportion of households that incur catastrophic expenditures fell from 1.3% in 2009 to 0.8% in 2014, and that of households incurring impoverishment expenditure fell from 1.9% to 1.3% over the same period. Factors such as the fact that a household is situated in a rural area or that one of its members has been hospitalized, or that there are persons aged over 60 years or under 5 year are the main factors that account for the occurrence of catastrophic expenditure.

# Conclusion

The study provided a categorization of households based on their level of health expenditures. It shows that 1.3% of households, representing 206 217 persons became poor because of out-of-pocket payments. The study concludes that interventions of the health insurance scheme must give greater focus to hospitalizations, the elderly (60 years and over) and children (under 5 year-olds), who represent 26% of the total population.

# Keywords

Health financing, out-of-pocket payments, catastrophic expenditure, impoverishment, odd-ratio