# **Assessment of Readiness for Monitoring and Evaluation and Baseline Analysis of Universal Health Coverage in Uganda**

**Background**

Uganda has expressed commitment to Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Consistent with the need to harness the benefits of UHC enshrined within the aspirations of the sustainable development goals, there is need ensure that progress towards UHC is adequately monitored. In this study, we assessed the readiness of the country systems for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for UHC in Uganda’s health system.

**Methods**

We used a qualitative approach using both secondary and primary data sources. Primary data was collected through key informant interviews. Secondary data was collected through review of literature including key policy documents, published and unpublished literature relevant to monitoring and evaluation for UHC. The M&E framework developed by World Bank and World Health Organization was used to assess the readiness of the M&E Systems as well as to conduct a baseline assessment of UHC in Uganda.

**Findings**

Uganda has in the past implemented reforms in line with the principles of UHC. More reforms are planned although most are at policy dialogue level and have not yet been implemented. The Proposed monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework does not comprehensively address all key indicator domains as per the International Health Partnerships (IHP+) framework for M&E. Indicators specific to monitoring UHC such as financial risk measures were also missing in the health sector M&E plan. Although the M&E plan specifies the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders, there are challenges including a lack of an institutional lead for M&E within the health sector and inadequate human resources (both numbers and skills/capacity). Progress towards UHC as per the baseline indicators shows that Uganda is making steady progress albeit below global bench marks for various indicators (both the aggregate achievement and also the equity dimensions).

**Recommendations and Conclusion**

Uganda will need to invest into ensuring that the adequate health system inputs are in place to achieve and monitor progress towards UHC. It is imperative that the M&E indicators recommended in the WHO/World Bank M&E framework for UHC are included into Uganda’s M&E Plan to enable monitoring progress towards UHC. Lastly, there is need to strengthen institutional and human resource capacity to ensure adequate monitoring of UHC in Uganda to ensure regular monitoring of progress towards UHC.