



ILERA AFRICA

10TH REGIONAL CONGRESS

3 – 4 APRIL 2024



Occupational Health and Safety and Health Insurance

National Health Insurance in South Africa

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INTRODUCTION

- Sustainable Development Goal 3.8.1 Universal health coverage full spectrum of health services from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care (WHO, 2023).
- Health system in African countries for the majority of the population is compromised.
- Africa a youthful continent with 40% of the population below 15 years.
- Some African countries have adopted Universal Health Coverage including Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa through National Health Insurance.

SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

- NHI as a model of a sustainable, progressive and equitable social health insurance scheme in Africa.
- South Africa's 30 years of democracy.
- Opportunities and challenges across sectors including Health.
- Socio-economic injustices and imbalances of the past continue to prevail.

SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

- Health inequities and the quality of life.
- Widening gap between the rich and the poor.
- South Africa has been considered to have a quadruple burden of disease, associated with poverty and under-development



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NHI IN SOUTH AFRICA

- Creation of a single health financial pool of funds
- National Development Plan common fund for private and public health providers
- To improve access to health care for the majority of South Africans.
- Access to quality health services care irrespective of their socioeconomic status.



ESTABLISHMENT OF NHI IN SOUTH AFRICA

- NHI for a better quality of life of all citizens and improved health outcomes.
- National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill was submitted to Parliament, adopted, and gazetted on the 26th of July 2019.



BREAKING GROUND SOUTH AFRICA'S NHI

- National Health Insurance Policy and the Bill have been debated to have gaps
- South African healthcare system can be seen through the lenses of COVID-19.
- Efficient and effective execution of a policy is dependent on understanding the overall aim the policy was designed for.

CURRENT DEBATES ON SOUTH AFRICA'S NHI

- Single fund approach will it work?
- Combined public–private platform is argued to enable citizens to access healthcare
- social determinants of health of the labour force in South Africa is central to developing sustainable strategies to close the inequality gap



CURRENT DEBATES ON SOUTH AFRICA'S NHI

- NHI means 31% more tax and 69% less benefits for medical scheme members.
- The need for a flexible approach supported by a reviewed NHI Bill beyond that current endorsed in parliament
- Section 33 was being challenged for not allowing medical schemes to cover the benefits when NHI is fully implemented.



REFLECTIONS ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN NHI

- Despite all odds the current “status quo in the health system cannot remain the same.
- The bill has enjoyed the support of UN Secretary-General and other heads of state in the UN General Assembly.
- Strategic vision, leadership and direction to plan, implement and manage the South African healthcare system

CONCLUSION

- To ensure that the objectives of NHI are achieved, conscious efforts by policy implementers are required to address crucial deficiencies in planning and execution processes.
- Planning, monitoring, documentation and measurement of health needs and outcomes are vital in the healthcare policy design to determine or measure the impact of the policy.

CONCLUSION CONTINUED

- Proactive and positive engagement with key role-players is essential in interrogating and resolving the inadequacies that arise with NHI implementation
- The Health system reform in South Africa is no longer an option but mandatory.
- However, the approach and models to be used need to be context specific other than a copy and paste



THANK YOU