

FINANCIAL PROTECTION IN HEALTH: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE PRE COVID-19

Gabriela Flores
Department of Health Systems
Governance and Financing, WHO
July 2021



#### FINANCIAL PROTECTION IN HEALTH **DEFINITION**

Out-of-pocket health payments (OOPs) made to obtain

health services do not expose people to financial

hardship and do not threaten living standards.











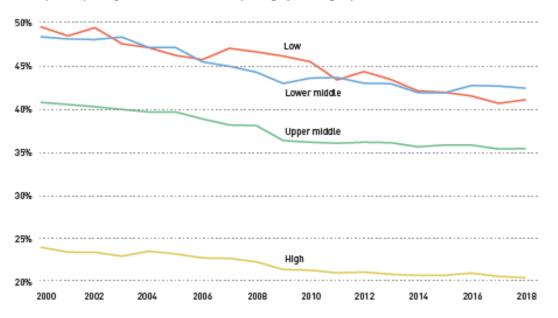




#### OOPS PLAY A ROLE IN ALL COUNTRIES AT ALL INCOME LEVELS

FIGURE 1.14 Out-of-pocket spending declined in all income groups but remained high in low and middle income countries

Out-of-pocket spending as a share of total health spending, by income group, 2000-2018



#### Out-Of-Pocket health payment\$

- barrier to access 

  foregoing care
- For those paying:
- No solidarity between the healthy and the sicker
- No possibility to spread cost over the life-cycle
- source of financial hardship





#### INDICATORS OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WITHIN THE SDG MONITORING **FRAMEWORK**



Catastrophic payments (SDG indicator 3.8.2): Proportion of the population with household out-of-pocket spending on health > 10% or 25% of household's total consumption or income.



Impoverishing payments (related to SDG 1.1): Proportion of households pushed below a poverty line because of OOPs.

For both, alternative definitions exist but all are constrained by the availability of household survey data.

2021



Within WHO, joint work across all levels to conduct country consultations & provide technical assistance to \* Build analytical capacity \* Identify priority research areas \* Develop relevant methods

At global level, joint WHO-WB monitoring of financial protection indicators since 2014.



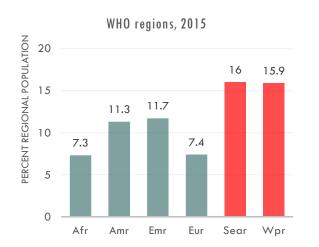
## IN 2015, ABOUT 930 MILLION PEOPLE INCURRED CATASTROPHIC HEALTH SPENDING AS TRACKED BY SDG INDICATORS 3.8.2 AND...

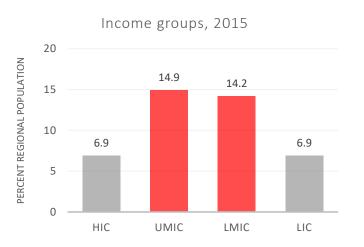
927 million spent > 10% of their household budget on health out-of-pocket

209 million spent > 25% of their household budget on health out-of-pocket

#### mostly in Asia and middle-income countries

% population with OOPs > 10% household budget







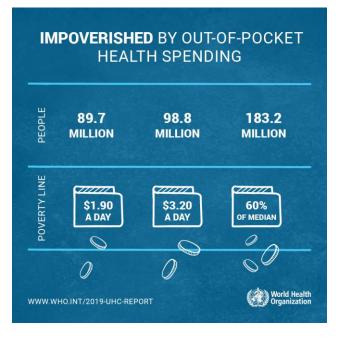
Data available from http://apps.who.int/gho/portal/uhc-financial-protection-v3.jsp and http://datatopics.worldbank.org/universal-health-coverage/



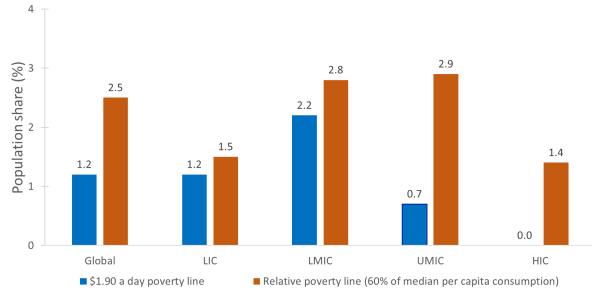
## 90 MILLIONS WERE PUSHED INTO EXTREME POVERTY & 180 MILLION INTO RELATIVE POVERTY

### Due to out-of-pocket health payments:

- Some households become poor after paying for health services
- Households under the poverty line become even poorer



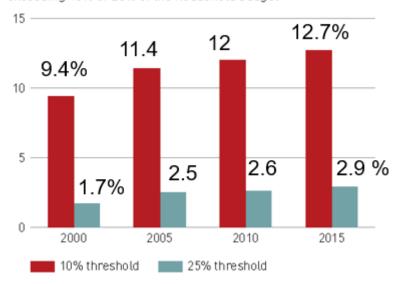
Impoverishing payments by income groups (2015)



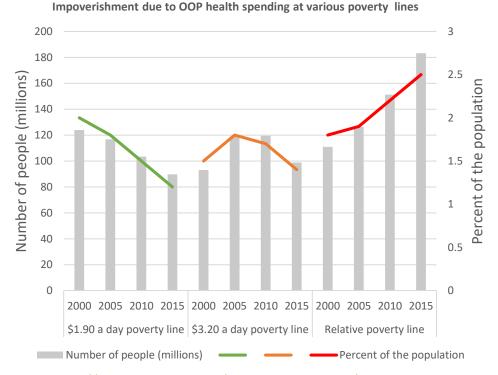


## A GLOBAL CHALLENGE ON THE PATH TO UHC AS FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAS INCREASING PRIOR TO THE PANDEMIC

Percentage of the population with out-of-pocket health spending exceeding 10% or 25% of the household budget



Source: Global monitoring report on financial protection in health 2019 (4).



 $\textbf{Data available from } \underline{\text{http://apps.who.int/gho/portal/uhc-financial-protection-v3.jsp}} \quad \textbf{and } \underline{\text{http://datatopics.worldbank.org/universal-health-coverage/states}} \\ \textbf{but } \underline{\text{http://datatopics.worldbank.org/universal-health-coverage/states}} \\ \textbf{but$ 

THE INCIDENCE OF CATASTROPHIC HEALTH SPENDING INCREASED IN REGIONS AT ALL INCOME LEVELS EXCEPT LICS; EXTREME IMPOVERISHMENT DUE TO OOPS WAS DECREASING BUT RELATIVE IMPOVERISHMENT WAS INCREASING.

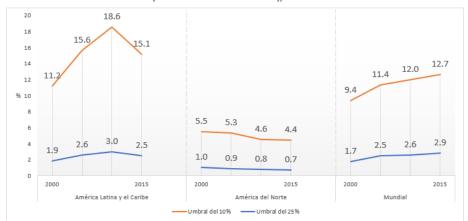




## IN THE AMERICAS, CATASTROPHIC HEALTH SPENDING HAD STARTED TO DECREASED BUT IMPOVERISHING HEALTH SPENDING AT THE RELATIVE POVERTY LINE WAS INCREASING

#### La region de America Latina y el Caribe es la unica region en la que la proporcion de la poblacion con gastos catastroficos disminoyo entre el 2010 y 2015

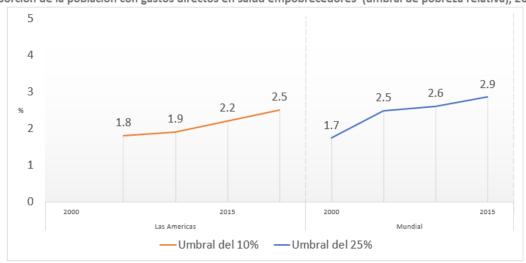
Proporción de la población cuyos gastos sanitarios directos superan el 10% o el 25% del presupuesto del hogar (indicador 3.8.2 de los ODS), 2000-2015



Source: WHO & World Bank estimates based on Global monitoring report on financial protection in health 2019.

#### Pero la proporcion de la poblacion con gastos empobrecedores siguio creciendo

Proporción de la población con gastos directos en salud empobrecedores (umbral de pobreza relativa), 2000-2015



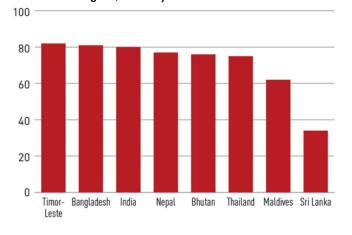
Source: WHO & World Bank estimates based on Global monitoring report on financial protection in health 2019.



Data available from http://apps.who.int/gho/portal/uhc-financial-protection-v3.jsp and http://datatopics.worldbank.org/universal-health-coverage/

## IN SOME REGIONS, MEDICINES IS THE MAIN DRIVER OF OOPS BUT NOT ALWAYS OF CATASTROPHIC AND IMPOVERISHING HEALTH SPENDING

Average OOP spending on medicines as a share of household total OOP spending, WHO South-East Asia Region, latest year available



CUADRO 1. Gasto de bolsillo en medicamentos y servicios ambulatorios en porcentaje del gasto total de bolsillo de los hogares (promedio por país) en siete países de la Región

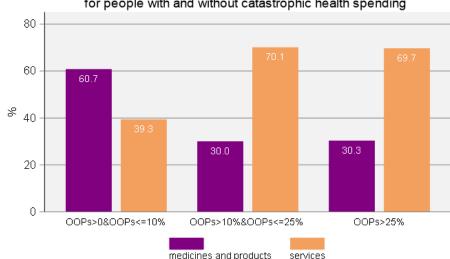
País ( <u>año</u> )	Pagos por medicamentos	Pagos por servicios ambulatorios	Total de gasto en medicamentos y servicios ambulatorios
Bolivia (2015)	74,2%	19,9%	94,10
Barbados (2016)a	53,0%	46,7%	100,0%
Chile (2016)	36,3%	49,3%	85,6%
Colombia (2016)	68,5%	18,6%	87,1%
Ecuador (2011)	61,2%	24,1%	85,3%
Mexico (2016)	73,0%	24,9%	97,9%
Peru (2017)	48,0%	25,0%	73,0%

\*En Barbados, los pagos por servicios ambulatorios incluyen también gasto por servicios hospitalarios de internación.

Fuente: datos provisionales de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud, obtenidos en el Taller de estimación de indicadores de protección financiera. Washington D.C.: OPS; 2019. Los cálculos se obtuvieron de la última encuesta de gasto de hogares disponible de cada país.

Barbados - 2016

#### Average OOPs on medicines/products and services for people with and without catastrophic health spending



Note: among spenders Source: BRB - BLCS, 2016, survey based estimated total population= 205573

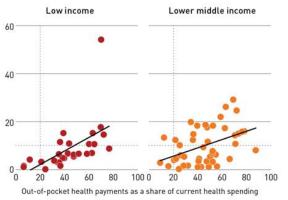


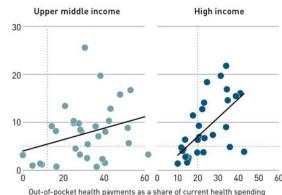
## POSITIVE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE SHARE OF OOPS IN CURRENT HEALTH SPENDING AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

- association only partially explains variations across countries
- reductions in out-of-pocket spending are insufficient to improve financial protection in all contexts
- Policies need to be carefully designed

#### Catastrophic health spending

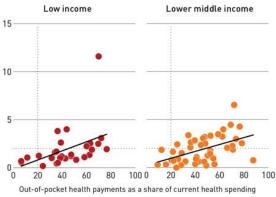
a. Percentage of the population with out-of-pocket health spending exceeding 10% of the household total consumption or income (Sustainable Development Goal 3.8.2)

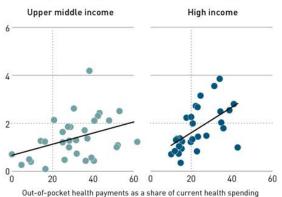




#### Impoverishing health spending

b. Percentage of the population with impoverishing health spending at the relative poverty line of 60% of median per capita consumption









## POLICIES NEED TO BE CAREFULLY DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL PROTECTION AND REDUCE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

- Evidence from the WHO European region:
- Pay attention to the design of user charges especially for medicines

Countries can improve financial protection (and access) by redesigning co-payment policy

#### **WEAK** design

x no exemptions

x no caps

x percentage co-payments

makes people pay for system failures

#### STRONGER design

- ✓ exemptions for poor
- ✓ protective caps
- ✓ low, fixed copayments instead

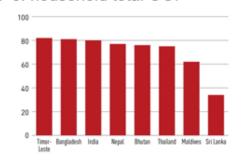
protects people from system failures



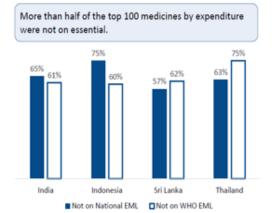


WHO regional office for Europe: can people afford to pay for health care?

#### In **SEARO** spending on **medicines** accounts on average for more than 34 of household total OOP



Average OOP spending on medicines as a share of household total OOP spending, WHO South-East Asia Region, latest year available





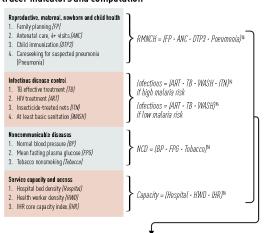


#### PROGRESS TOWARDS UHC BETWEEN 2000 AND 2015 WAS DRIVEN BY IMPROVEMENTS IN SERVICE COVERAGE RATHER THAN REDUCTIONS IN FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

#### Achieving UHC is one of the targets under SDG 3



FIGURE 1.1 The UHC service coverage index (SCI): summary of tracer indicators and computation



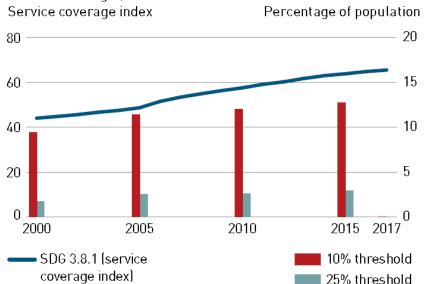
SDG 3.8.2, Proportion of the population with household out-of-pocket spending on health > 10% or 25% of household's total consumption or income

UHC service coverage index = (RMNCH - Infectious - NCD - Capacity)<sup>(A)</sup>

Note: For more detail on UHC SCI calculation methods, see Annex A1.2.

FIGURE 2.20 A global challenge on the path to universal health care arises in diverging trends on health service coverage and catastrophic health spending, as tracked by Sustainable Development Goal indicators 3.8.1 and 3.8.2

Service coverage index and percentage of the global population with out-of-pocket health spending exceeding 10% or 25% of the household budget, 2000–2015



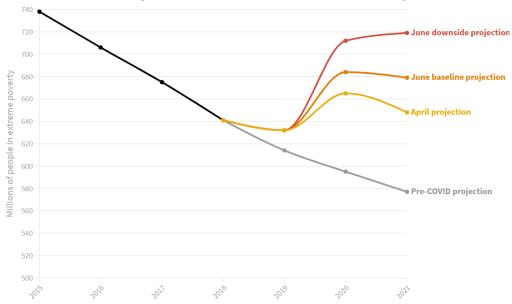
**Source:** Service coverage indicator (SDG indicator 3.8.1) based on Chapter 1 of this report. SDG indicator 3.8.2 adapted from Global monitoring report on financial protection in health 2019 (4).



# 2019 REPORT WAS A CALL TO DOUBLE EFFORTS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL PROTECTION EVEN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT?

#### The Impact of COVID-19 on Global Extreme Poverty

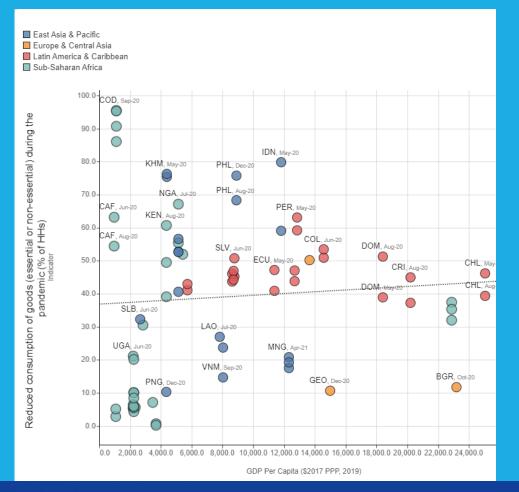


Source: <u>Lakner et al (2020)</u>, <u>PovcalNet</u>, <u>Global Economic Prospects</u>, • Extreme poverty is measured as the number of people living on less than \$1.90 per day.

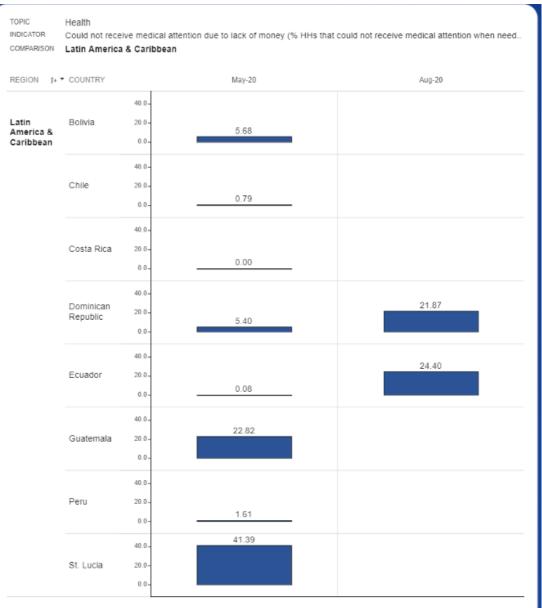
Recent WB estimates project +71- 100 million more individuals will likely be pushed into extreme poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

#### Poverty levels are expected to increase

## PEOPLE ARE CUTTING BACK SPENDING ON ESSENTIAL AND NONESSENTIAL GOODS AND FACING BARRIERS TO ACCESS









#### KEY MESSAGES

Before the pandemic the world was not on track to provide financial protection in health to all due to financial hardship resulting from Out-of-pocket health payments

In the current context, household surveys have been interrupted, it is important to support alternative data collection approaches for monitoring

Policies recommendations related to covid-19 further discussed in the rest of the presentations include

Remove financial barriers to access

Mobilize additional public funds for health

Give health service providers flexibility to respond