
A4. Common goods for health: A foundation for UHC

Public or **common goods in health** (24) are population-based functions or interventions that are obtained by collective financing. Examples of common goods in health are public health operations such as emergency preparation and response, integrated surveillance systems and immunization coverage. Unlike for individual services, the mode of delivery of these goods is population-based, and the benefits accrue to entire populations. It is therefore generally not possible to exclude an individual from the benefits (e.g. by allowing only fee-paying consumers to benefit), and the “consumption” of a common good in health by one individual does not usually reduce the opportunity of others to benefit equally from it. Common goods for health are an important foundation and first step in moving towards UHC. Despite repeated warnings and their relative affordability, however, common goods in health suffer from severe underinvestment (23, 24).