

Addressing the Political Economy of Universal Health Coverage

The Political Origins of Health Inequities and UHC

Oslo

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What is Universal Health Coverage?

A simple definition on UHC:

All people receive the quality health services they need without suffering financial hardship

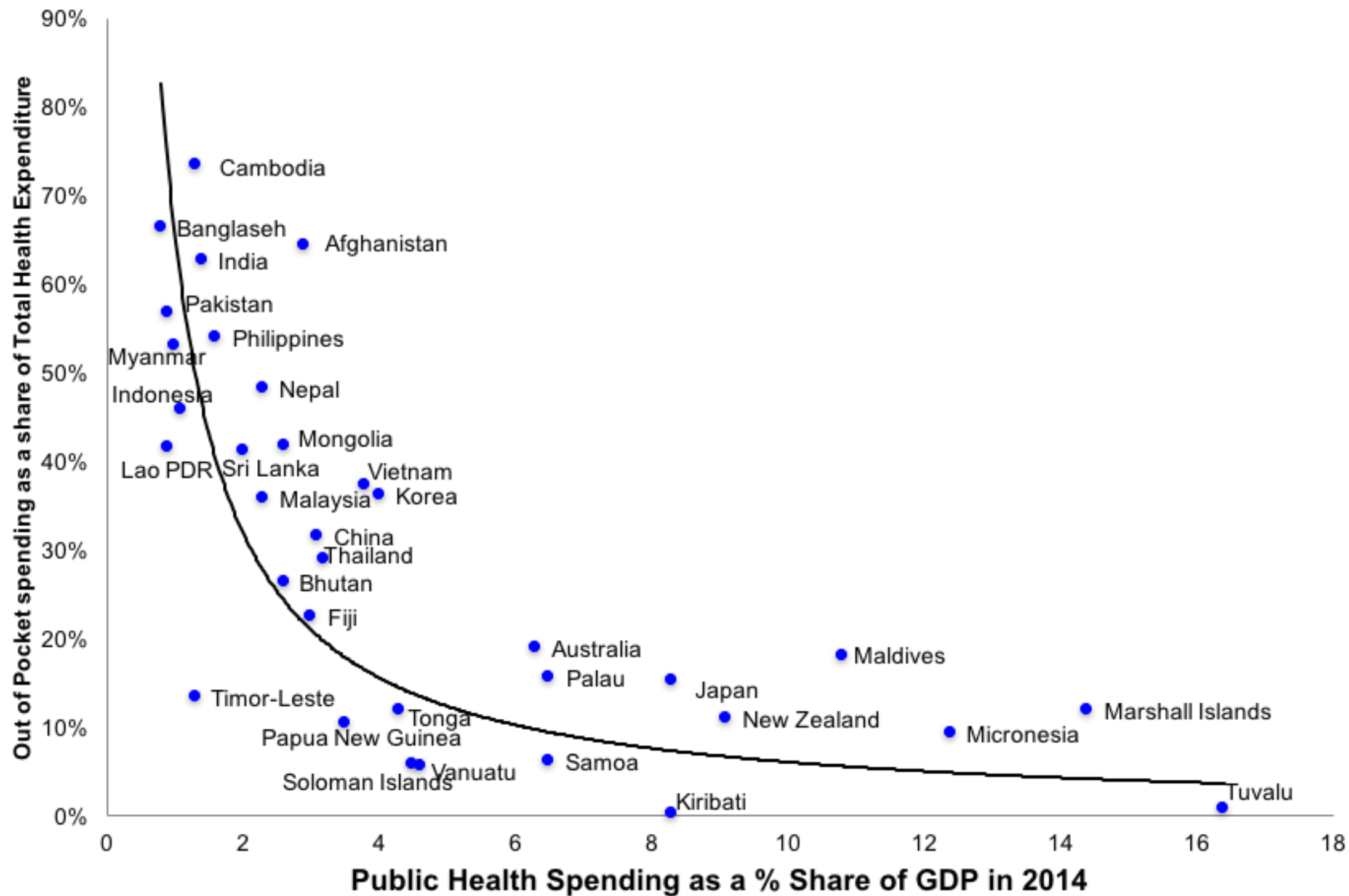
UHC is fundamentally about EQUITY

- Universal = Everybody. Nobody left behind
- Health services allocated according to need
- Health financing contributions according to one's ability to pay
- Healthy-wealthy cross-subsidise the sick and the poor

Global lessons on health financing for UHC

- Market-driven privately financed health systems do not result in UHC
- The state must force the healthy-wealthy to cross subsidise the sick and the poor
- The state must be heavily involved in all three main financing functions of raising revenues, pooling and purchasing services
- Replace private voluntary financing with compulsory public financing - this process is inherently political

Public Health Financing Replacing Out-of-Pocket Expenditure in Asia



Promoting UHC to political leaders

- Head of state leadership is essential to secure funding and overcome opposition
- Politicians want power
- UHC is popular – everyone wants it and its easy to understand
- UHC reforms deliver national results quickly
- UHC = Votes = Power!
- Involve CSOs, trades unions, media etc
- Exploit political windows of opportunity

UHC leaders can become national heroes



Tommy Douglas
"Greatest ever
Canadian"



Aneurin Bevan
Founder of the NHS

PM Thaksin became a hero in Thailand when he brought the people UHC in 2002



Governor Jokowi launched UHC reforms in Jakarta one month after coming to power



I got it!: Residents proudly display their free healthcare (KJS) cards while Jakarta Governor Joko "Jokowi" Widodo looks on during the distribution of the cards at a community health center in Koja, North Jakarta, on Tuesday. (JP/P.J. Leo)

In the televised Presidential debate he promised to bring UHC to all Indonesians



India: At last UHC is climbing the political agenda in the world's biggest democracy



Who will win the political battle in India?

AAP celebrates ex-UN secretary-general's praise for mohalla clinics



Former United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon and former Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Health Minister Satyendar Jain at a mohalla clinic | PTI

Obamacare – A big step towards UHC. History will judge him well.



Barack Obama @BarackObama

20 Nov

Retweet if you believe health care isn't a privilege for a fortunate few, but a right for all. #Obamacare
pic.twitter.com/NYzWBIFIOI



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A golden opportunity for UHC in the USA



Gavin Newsom bringing UHC to California?



UHC advocates taking on Trump in 2020

US Outrights

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Elizabeth Warren

Single Payer

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WHO's new DG is targeting political leaders

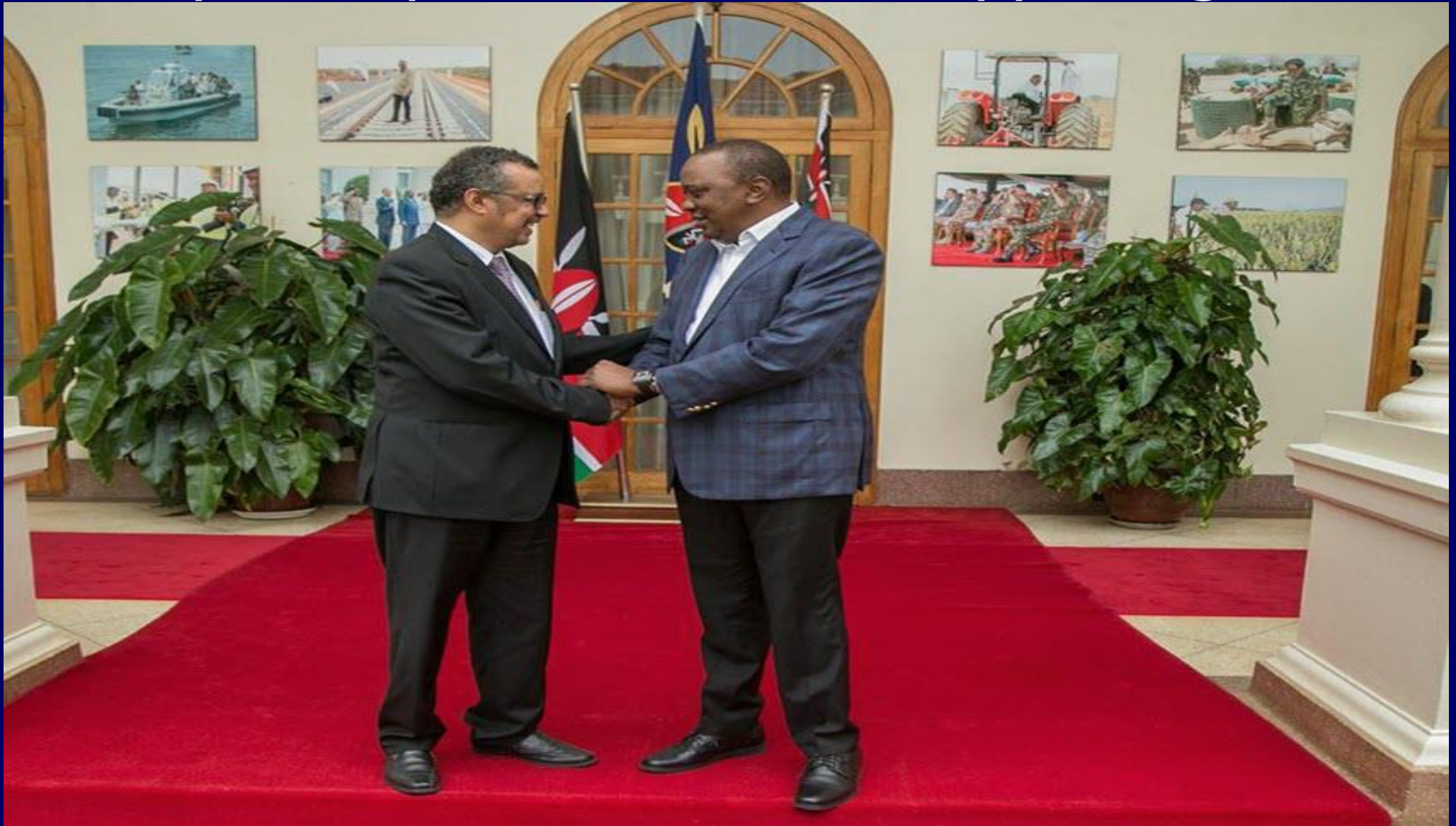
WHO Director General says political will is needed to transform African health systems

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says universal health coverage is his ultimate priority - however it will require engagement with political leaders.



© Picture alliance/dpa/M. Kappeler

President Kenyatta: UHC is 1 of his 4 development pillars – WHO is supporting him



Will President Buhari be Nigeria's UHC Hero?



Concluding thoughts

- UHC is mostly political especially introducing an equitable public financing system
- UHC is popular with people and politicians across the world – it brings politics into health systems
- Global health must raise its game in addressing the political economy of UHC
- Promote the economic benefits to finance ministers and the political benefits to heads of state (and wannabee heads of state!)



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political
economy of
UHC follow:
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