

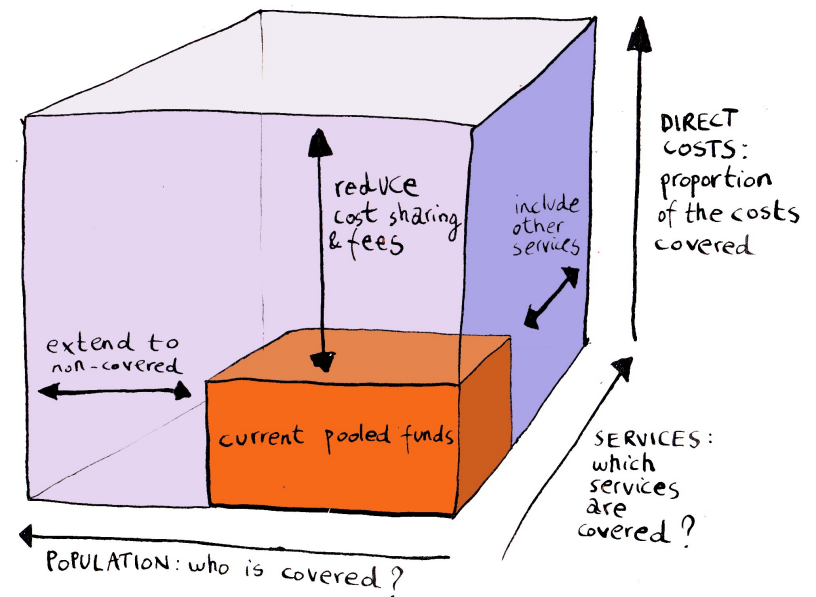
INTERACTIVE TRAINING MODULE  
**ACCESS TO  
HEALTH CARE**



**Universal Health *Coverage***  
**or**  
**Universal Health *Care*?**

# Universal Health Coverage or Universal Health Care?

- UHC is often put forward as solution to strengthen weak health systems in developing countries
- But what does UHC mean?



# *Universal Health Coverage*

*“Ensuring that all people obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship when paying for them” (WHO, 2010)*

*UHC is seen as a financing mechanism for health under the form of insurance schemes covering a package of health services, illustrated by the 'UHC cube'*



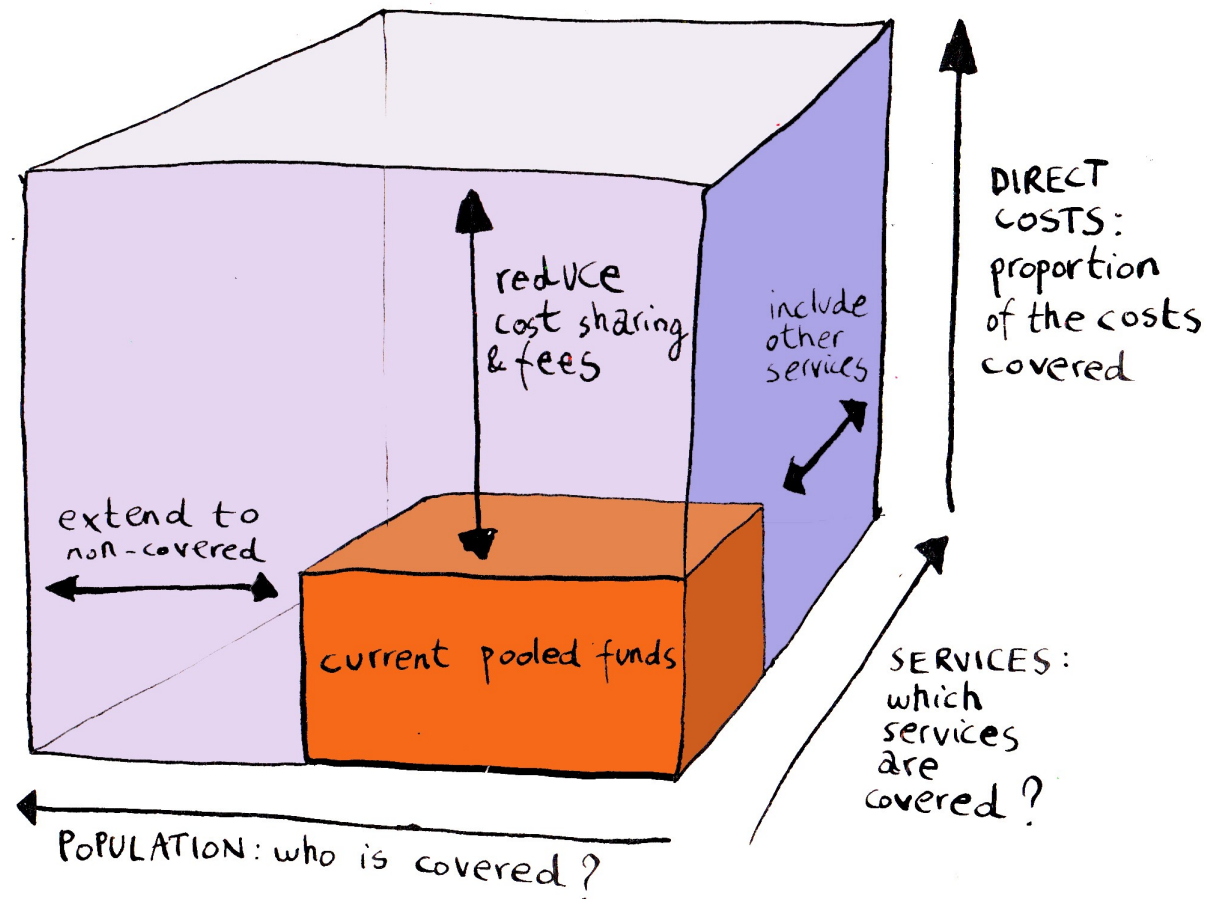
# *Universal Health Care*

*“UHC requires a strong, efficient, well-run health system; access to essential medicines and technologies and a sufficient capacity of well-trained and motivated health workers: “financial risk protection alone is not enough, and without the availability of quality health care, UHC is meaningless.”*

*(Vivian Lin, health systems director at the WHO regional office for the Western Pacific)*



# Universal Health Coverage or Universal Health Care?



# Privatization of health care delivery

- Universal Health *Coverage* throws a blind eye on health care delivery mechanisms and leaves the door open for privatization of health care provision
- Strong tendency to privatize health care provision in developing countries
- Example: European Union Development Cooperation's *Agenda For Change* (2011):
  - *“The European Union should only invest in infrastructure when the private sector is not able to do so on a commercial basis”* (p.8)
  - *“The European Commission aims to foster partnerships with private companies in order to ‘provide basic services, such as energy, water, health care and education’* (EC press release “ A Stronger Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries”, May 13, 2014, p.13)

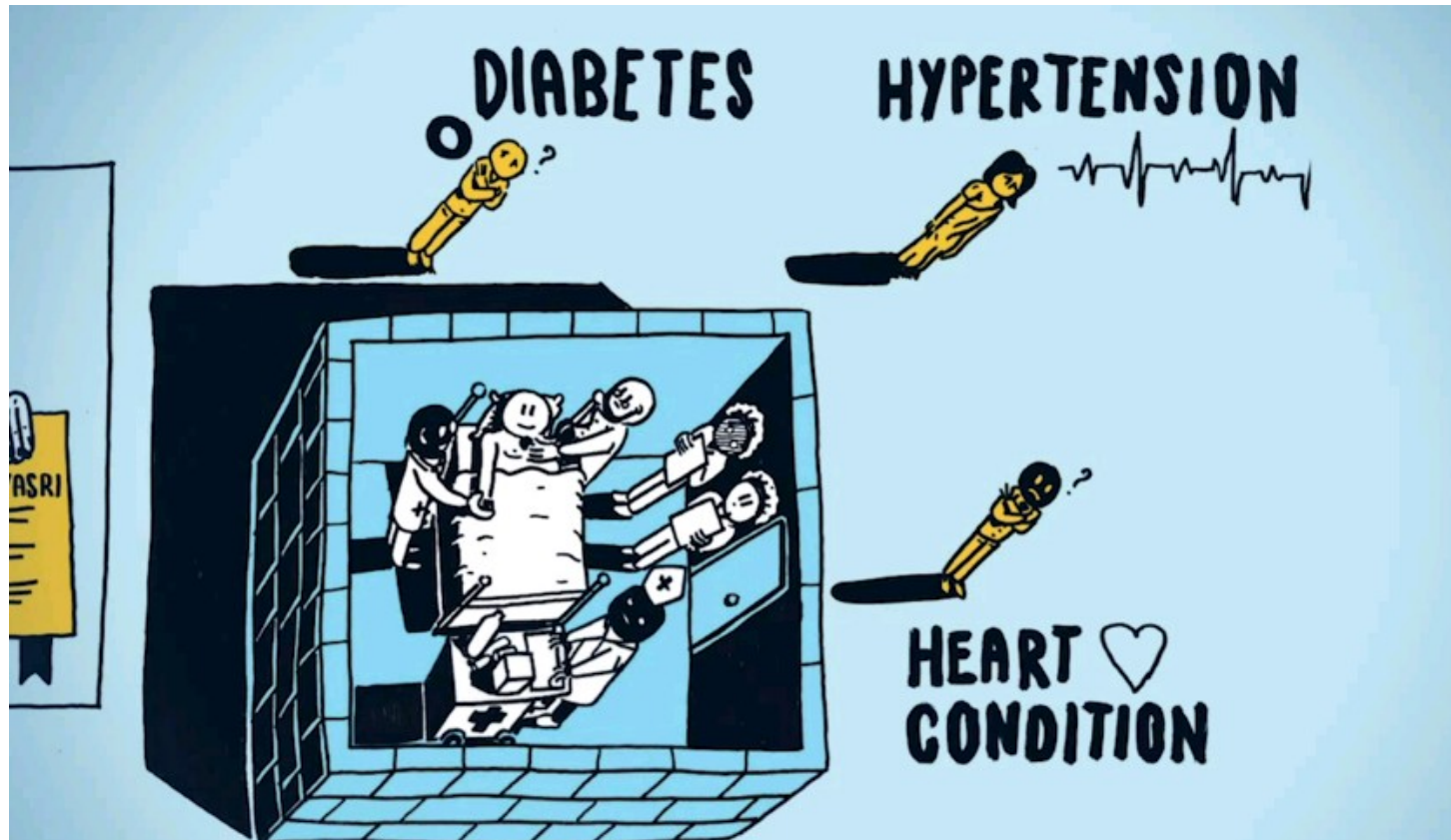


# Can UHC achieve health for all?

- Group exercise: 6 case studies (Philippines, Brazil, India, Ghana, Chile & Costa Rica, Ghana)
- Discuss in group and try to answer following questions (30 minutes)
  - Can UHC as a financing mechanism through universal health insurance achieve access to quality health care for all?
  - What other aspects are important to consider?



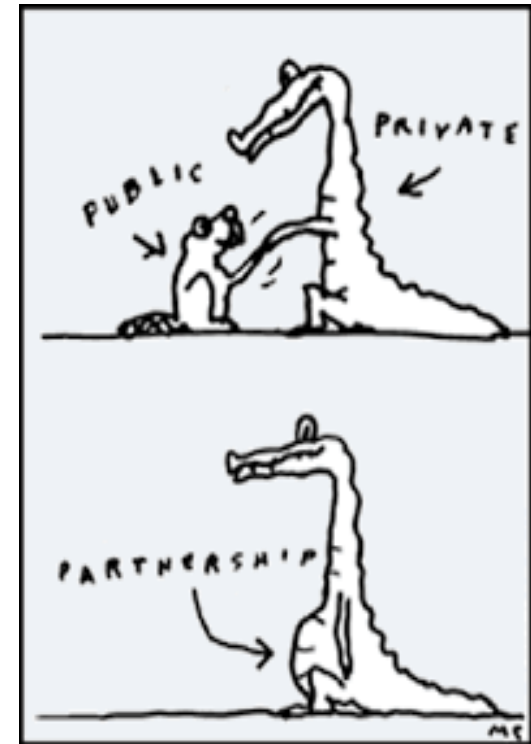
# Movie People's Health Movement India: “From private coverage to public care”





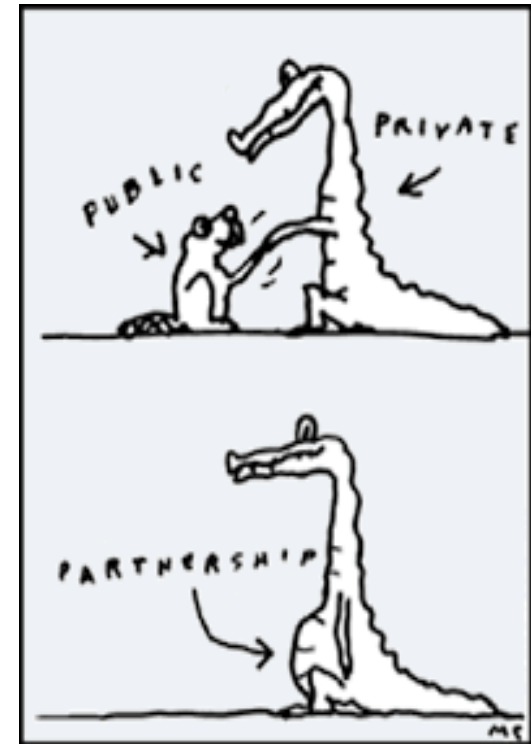
# Conclusion

- A universal financing mechanism for health, based on solidarity is important to achieve Universal Health Care.



# Conclusion

- Universal Health Coverage alone can not achieve health care for all or Universal Health Care
- This also depends on other health system aspects such as access to safe and affordable medicines, affordable, accessible and acceptable quality health care, sufficient and capable human resources, health information systems, and strong political leadership for health



# Conclusion

- While UHC is designed to increase access, simultaneous privatization or commercialization of health service provision might undermine health care access.

