

Role of capacity building in gender and ethics in health system priority setting: Making universal health coverage truly universal

Q Why is gender important for UHC?

A To make universal health (UHC) truly universal we need an approach which places gender and power at the centre of our analysis. This entails examining how gender affects who is included, which services are provided, how services are funded, who decides what is included and who provides services.

Q How can priority setting gaps be addressed?

A Through 1) developing the evidence base on gender and UHC; 2) advocating for the importance of incorporating gender within health priority setting and UHC approaches; and 3) building capacity of health systems researchers and practitioners to undertake gender and ethics analysis.

What is RinGs?

Research in Gender and Ethics (RinGs): Building Stronger Health Systems is a cross-Research Programme Consortium (RPC), bringing together three health systems focused RPCs encompassing 17 institutions across 25 countries: Future Health Systems, ReBUILD and RESYST in a partnership to galvanize gender and ethics analysis in health systems.

HOW DOES RINGS ADDRESS PRIORITY SETTING GAPS?

Developing the Evidence Base

RinGs is currently funding ten research grants focusing on gender and ethics within health systems strengthening, covering topics related to health financing, human resources for health, governance, and health service delivery. In addition, RinGs is conducting systematic reviews on key issues related to gender and health systems.

Advocating for Gender Analysis

To advocate for gender analysis RinGs has hosted a webinar on gender and health financing, published and disseminated a policy brief on gender and UHC, and published a number of blogs related to these topics. RinGs also actively uses social media, such as Twitter, to promote gender within health priority setting and UHC approaches, in addition to being involved in strengthening the gender component of WHO strategies related to human resources for health and National Strategic Plans.

Capacity Building for Gender Analysis

RinGs has actively built the capacity of health systems researchers and practitioners by providing direct support to ten health systems researchers to incorporate gender and ethics analysis into their research projects, including hosting a webinar on how to do gender analysis within health systems research, and compiling a list of ten gender analysis frameworks.

Five gender dimensions to consider when moving towards UHC



Men and women are not better or worse than one another but different, with different (and also shared) needs. [...] Identifying specific types of barriers to UHC is not a matter of privileging certain facets of people's lives but recognizing that they all matter, and are inter-connected." – Sophie Witter, Queen Margaret University/ ReBUILD.

RinGs outputs



How has RinGs built your capacity to incorporate gender and ethics into health systems priority setting?



Ezumah Nkoli Nwakego
University of Nigeria

"RinGs Gender analysis frameworks sharpened my understanding of gender and health systems factors in exploring male and female participation in prevention of mother- to -child transmission of HIV/AIDS services".



Tani Kassimu
Ifakara Health Institute

"RinGs has improved my capacity to design a study to explore how male involvement in the National Health Insurance Fund prepaid insurance scheme has improved/increased the uptake of maternal and child health services."



Sreytouch Vong
ReBUILD

"RinGs has increased my capacity by increasing my knowledge of the double burden of care that female health workers face and the need for specific policies to address this".



Stephen Buzuzi
Biomedical Research and Training Institute, Zimbabwe

"RinGs provided me with unique orientation to methods and concepts that are useful in the analysis of gender in the posting and deployment of health workers in rural areas."



Debjani Barman
Institute of Health Management Research, Kolkata

"RinGs' small grants gives the opportunity to explore the gender role in eye health care seeking for the visually impaired elderly cross-cutting with other social determinants of health."



Tumaini Nyamhanga
Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences

"The information RinGs has provided on how to do gender analysis has contributed to improving my assessment on how well hospital governance structures create an enabling environment for involvement of men in PMTCT"



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Building stronger health systems



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