

# Policy Surveillance of Universal Health Coverage Financing in Developing Countries

Mary Winfred Ugonma Edom, Theiija Balasubramanian, Kiara Ekeigwe, Carlos Hua, Zain Jafar, Suresh Kannoth, Jurica Miklobusec, Judith Mwobobia, Ava Ondik, Michelle Schultze, Ei Ei Swe, You Wu, Ana Young, Ashwini Deshpande, Adam Herpolsheimer, Rosemary Fernholz, Gavin Yamey, and Osondu Ogbuoji

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The United Nations sustainable development goal target for health aims to “achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.” Since then, resources have been invested in tracking countries’ progress toward the achievement of UHC.

### PROBLEM

There is a disproportionate focus on tracking implementation and outcome metrics without sufficient attention to the policy environment needed to achieve success. One reason for this is the lack of quality data on UHC policies for many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Furthermore, there is a little action towards agenda-setting for UHC policies. Hence, it is important to identify the barriers, facilitators, and levels of political priority given to UHC policies for children in developing countries.

### PURPOSE

To create opportunities for comparative cross-country analysis and longitudinal analysis for understanding the impact of different policy experiments on UHC progress in different jurisdictions. This goal will be achieved in three ways:

- **Conduct a surveillance of UHC financing policies in LMICs**
- **Conduct retrospective policy analysis on two matched countries**
- **Conduct a systematic review on political prioritization of UHC policies in LMICs**

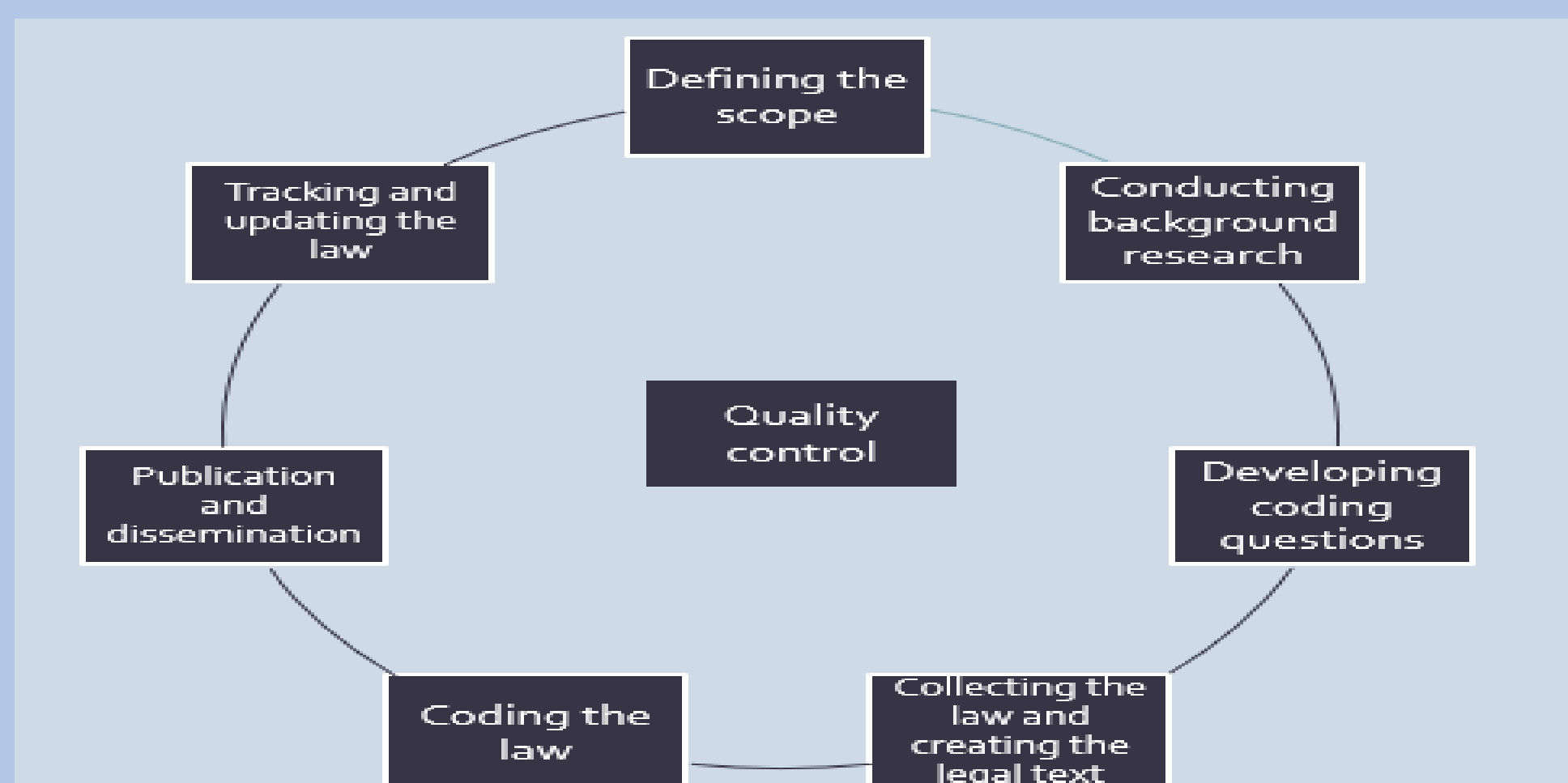
### Policy Surveillance

**Policy Surveillance:** the systematic, scientific collection and analysis of laws of public health significance.

#### UHC Financing Indicators

- Who is covered?
- What is covered?
- How much is covered?

#### Surveillance Process



### Policy Surveillance Process

The Policy Surveillance Program is housed at the Temple University Beasley School of Law

Policy surveillance in 13 English-speaking African countries have been conducted. Some include: Ethiopia, Cameroon, Rwanda, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

### Policy Analysis

**GOAL:** To compare and contrast the success and failures in pushing the under-five children UHC agenda forward and implementing the policies in Ghana and Rwanda

#### STEPS COMPLETED

- Literature review of peer reviewed journals and official reports from government sites and Non-Governmental Organizations
- Arrangement of the series of events that occurred in the two countries in a timeline sequence
- Identification of key actors involved in policy formulation and policy implementation
- Discussion of the timeline and determining the critical period for the development of UHC policies
- Meetings with in-country stakeholders in Ghana and Rwanda

#### CRITICAL PERIODS

- **Ghana:** the critical time frame from development of Ghana Vision 2000 (1996) to formulation of Ghana’s under five child health policy (2007).
- **Rwanda:** the critical time frame from the Rwandan Genocide in 1994 to the nationwide implementation of the community-based *Mutuelles de Santé* health insurance system in 2004. during which the Vision 2020 was published (1998) and implemented (2000) and a constitutional amendment formalized health as an inalienable right (2003).

### Systematic Review

**Prioritization:** the degree to which political leaders actively give attention to an issue and back the attention with resources that are commensurate with the severity of the issue.

**Research Question:** What are the factors that determine prioritization of children’s health policies in low- and middle-income countries?

**Policy condition:** Child mortality, vaccine preventable diseases, childhood vaccinations, diarrhea, malaria, pneumonia, HIV

**Outcomes:** Agenda-setting or political prioritization

#### ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

- Search strategy developed
- Protocol developed
- 39,493 articles retrieved from MEDLINE via PubMed, Embase via Elsevier, Web of Science via Clarivate, and PAIS Index via ProQuest
- Screening ongoing

### Future directions

- Provide information for researchers and policymakers about three main UHC financing components: resource generation; risk pooling; and strategic purchasing and payments.
- Documentation of the results of the policy surveillance process
- Policy analysis and report of the findings during the summer
- Continuation of title and abstract screening during the summer