



Programmes in Africa Health Economics Unit



ABOUT HEU

The Health Economics Unit (HEU) in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine works to improve the performance of health systems through informing health policy and enhancing technical and managerial capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa. www.heu.uct.ac.za

RESEARCH

SHIELD: Strategies for Health Insurance for Equity in Less Developed Countries

SHIELD is a collaborative research project between research institutions from Europe and Africa.

The research project aims to identify the major equity challenges in the health systems of Ghana, Tanzania and South Africa through an understanding of financing and benefit incidence.

Knowledge generated will form the basis for considering alternative approaches to health insurance as a mechanism for addressing health system equity challenges.



SHIELD Stakeholder meeting in Zanzibar

CREHS: Consortium for Research into Equitable Health Systems



CREHS partners from Africa meet in London

The HEU is part of this consortium of research groups from South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, India and Thailand under the leadership of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The consortium aims to increase knowledge on how to strengthen health systems in ways that preferentially benefit the poorest and to strengthen the capacity to support policy development.

Research themes include health sector reform, financial risk protection, health workforce performance and scaling up.

EQUINET: Regional Network for Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa

This network promotes and realises shared values of equity and social justice in health in East and Southern Africa.

Since 1998, the HEU has contributed to EQUINET work around equitable financing of health systems and equitable allocation of health care resources in countries such as Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and more recently Mozambique.

HEU has also collaborated with colleagues in a number of countries to assess progress towards the Abuja target of governments devoting 15% of their budgets to the health sector.



Training workshop: health financing, Bagamoyo

TRAINING

Courses



Masters in Health Economics students

The HEU offers a number of degrees and diplomas for postgraduate study in health economics. Our Masters in Public Health programme is the only one in Anglophone Africa that includes a specialisation in Health Economics. The HEU also convenes an online postgraduate Diploma in Health Economics; the first of its kind offered from an African university.

We provide financial assistance for coursework by making available 6 bursaries per annum for students from Africa. To date, 7 PhD and 84 Masters students from Africa and abroad have successfully graduated from our PhD and Masters courses.

CAPACITY

HEPNet: Health Economics and Policy Network in Africa

The HEU coordinates this unique network of institutions that aims to build in-depth expertise in health economics and health policy analysis throughout Africa. Membership comprises research and academic institutions, as well as government in: South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and Zimbabwe.

The network's activities include support for international events attendance, a newsletter, publication exchanges and workshops. We also provide grants for in-country networking in Africa.



HEPNet workshop



RESEARCH PARTNERS IN AFRICA

GHANA
Health Research Unit

TANZANIA
Ifakara Health Research and Development Centre

SOUTH AFRICA
Wits Centre for Health Policy

NIGERIA
University of Nigeria

KENYA
Medical Research Institute

AFRICAN HEALTH MINISTRIES