Achieving universal health coverage (UHC) in low- and middle-income countries has become an overwhelming global priority. Transforming this ambition into reality is a key technical focus for Oxford Policy Management. From research and analysis to the development and implementation of financing strategies and wholesale reforms, we work across the policy cycle to help governments achieve this.

Increasing fiscal space for health can support progress towards UHC, and improving technical efficiency is a key strategy for achieving this, particularly in resource-limited settings. Better use of existing resources – such as more efficient purchasing and service delivery – can expand coverage of, and access to, health services, while introducing policies that reduce corruption and improve governance, and improving coordination across donor resources, can also increase fiscal space. We have extensive experience in helping make UHC more realisable in different country contexts across the world.

A selection of the countries we have worked in

*OPM manages the World Bank technical assistance fund for its RBF programmes in 35 countries.
Increasing fiscal space for health through efficiency savings

There are four main ways to increase funding for health – borrowing more funds, increasing the share of government spending, increasing funds from development assistance and improving efficiency of expenditure. We use a customised shape of the fiscal space diamond (right) to reflect the sources of additional revenue and the relative contribution of each source to the available budgetary room, expressed as a percentage of the country’s GDP. We work with governments and ministries of health in low- and middle-income countries to improve efficiency of the health sector and, in so doing, these governments can use the same resource envelope to increase coverage (and health outcomes), or they can achieve the same health coverage and outcomes using a smaller budget.

We use our experience and tools such as public expenditure reviews, public expenditure tracking surveys, costing studies (particular expertise using OneHealth) and benefit incidence analysis to support policy reform in our areas of expertise.

Contact us

If you’d like to discuss Universal Health Coverage and technical efficiency, please contact:

Nouria Brikci
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 207 300
Email: nouria.brikci@opml.co.uk
Skype: nounouria

For further information about OPM and our other offices, visit our website at www.opml.co.uk