



# SOUTH AFRICA



With the right to health enshrined in its Constitution, South Africa is strongly committed to Universal Health Coverage and with the support of WHO and other partners is in the process of significantly reorganizing its health system and introducing National Health Insurance.



## NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN, 2015-2020

<b>55.908.865</b> TOTAL POPULATION, (2016)	<b>62 YEARS</b> LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, (2015)	<b>1'148\$</b> TOTAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA, (2014)	<b>54%</b> TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT COVERAGE, (2016)
<b>6%</b> OUT OF POCKET EXPENDITURE AS % OF TOTAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE, (2014)	<b>14%</b> GENERAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH EXPENDITURE AS % OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE, (2014)	<b>2%</b> EXTERNAL AID AS % OF TOTAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE, (2014)	<b>87%</b> ANTENATAL CARE COVERAGE, (2008)
<b>28</b> HOSPITAL BEDS PER 10 000 POPULATION, (2005)	<b>61%</b> RURAL POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES, (2015)	<b>66%</b> DTP3 IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE AMONG 1-YEAR-OLDS, (2016)	<b>94%</b> BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL, (2008)

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SOURCE: WHO GHO & WB

## CURRENT PRIORITIES

South Africa's National Development Plan 2030 commits the country to universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030. It pledges bold health reforms, including strengthening primary health-care services, broadening district-based health programmes and phasing in National Health Insurance, with a focus on upgrading public health facilities, producing more health professionals and reducing the relative cost of private health care. The recently approved NHI White Paper outlines major overhaul of the healthcare system and financial flows towards UHC.

The National Health Strategic Plan 2015-2020 focuses on ensuring effective financial management and accountability, efficient and responsive human resource services, effective communications and ICT systems and a national health litigation strategy. At the centre of the strategy is Operation Phakisa, turning every public health clinic to a facility that is people-centred and provides comprehensive, quality health care services.

## LINKAGE TO UHC

South Africa has committed itself to further progress on Universal Health Coverage. Since 2012, the country has taken steps to implement the NHI fund as well as develop and roll out National Core Standards to benchmark and regulate quality of care by Provincial Health Departments (see story). The NHI Fund represents a substantial policy shift that will necessitate a massive reorganisation of the current health care system. To aid this, a new governmental body, the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) has been set up to enhance and maintain the quality of health services.

The Department of Health has a comprehensive set of strategic goals, including:

- Re-engineering primary healthcare by increasing the number of ward based outreach teams, contracting GPs and district specialist teams and expanding school health services
- Improving financial management by improving contract management, revenue collection and supply chain management reforms
- Improve quality of care by setting and monitoring national norms and standards, improving system for user feedback and improving clinical governance
- Improve HRH by ensuring appropriate appointments, adequate training and accountability measures

Sources: All data WHO 2016 unless otherwise stated

# WHO SUPPORT TO DATE

- Development and implementation of robust national health policies, strategies and plans, including White Paper on National Health Insurance reform
- Policy dialogues focusing on increasing technical and institutional capacities of National Department of Health and National Treasury
- Ensuring international and national stakeholders are increasingly aligned around the National Health Strategic Plan 2015-2020 and adhere to aid effectiveness principles
- Technical assistance during the Market Inquiry into the private healthcare market to address inequity in access and affordability of the private healthcare system

## Remaining gap: Hospital-centric approach

- ↳ **Recommendation: Greater focus on community health workers, prevention, health promotion.**

## Remaining gap: Maternal & child outcomes not improving

- ↳ **Recommendation : Increase allocative efficiency of health spending.**

## Remaining gap: Quality of care standards

- ↳ **Recommendation : Development of National Core Standards by the OHSCI**

## Stories from the field:

### South Africa develops National Core Standards (NCS)



The urgent need to increase quality of care across the whole health system has led the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) to develop National Core Standards (NCS) for Provincial Health Authorities.

The NCS aim to achieve three main goals:

- A common definition of quality care and health standards
- A benchmark against which health establishments can be assessed, gaps identified and strengths appraised; and
- A national accreditation system based on the standards

The NCS was the outcome of an inclusive policy dialogue process with healthcare providers and patient groups supported by WHO. A more responsive health system is likely to improve patient satisfaction, leading to a better quality of life and improved health outcomes. This will equally contribute towards improved human capital, labour productivity, economic growth, social stability and cohesion for South Africa.



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