

Unlocking the potential of health financing in Zambia: A focus on innovative solutions



Key messages

- Health financing is vital for ensuring universal health coverage (UHC) and improving health outcomes.
- Despite challenges, Zambia has made progress in expanding access to health services, especially for vulnerable groups.
- The decentralisation of financial management has led to improved prioritisation of healthcare services.
- The implementation of the e-tax systems has effectively increased revenue collection.
- Overcoming obstacles like resource shortages and disparities in healthcare access is critical for the success of health financing mechanisms in Zambia.

Background

Health financing is a crucial component of health system strengthening, as it affects the availability, quality, and equity of health services and the financial risk protection of the population. Zambia has taken proactive steps to improve its health system and expand access, especially for the poor and vulnerable groups.

Method

A desk review of both published and grey literature was conducted on health financing innovative solutions in Zambia.

Findings

Health financing reforms implemented by Zambia include revenue raising, pooling revenue and purchasing services.

Introducing the social health insurance (SHI) has been a pivotal step towards increasing healthcare access and providing financial protection against health-related expenses.

The reforms have made strides in the right direction, but further action is needed to address existing barriers that prevent the poor from benefiting fully from health spending on curative services and at higher levels of care.

Recommendations

Zambia needs to improve its universal health coverage (UHC) service coverage index, which assesses access to and quality of essential health services; reduce reliance on external health financing; and enhance the health system by gradually increasing domestic health financing.