



Steering the Development of an Essential Health Benefit Package

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE AIMS AT PROVIDING HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO QUALITY ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES AND ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE AND QUALITY MEDICINES AND VACCINES

The situation

Attaining universal health coverage by 2030 is a commitment that was made by all countries as one of the Sustainable Development Goals. Universal health coverage aims at providing households with financial risk protection, access to quality essential health services, and access to affordable and quality medicines and vaccines. However, according to the World Health Organization, “No country is able to provide every health service to everyone”, including Zimbabwe. It is therefore imperative to make choices regarding the path to universal health coverage. Zimbabwe is on course with this process and has outlined a ‘Community Essential Health Package’, which will be rolled out to all 60 rural districts.

Zimbabwe also recognizes gaps in the benefits package for urban communities. In the same vein,

the country is yet to define the Essential Health Benefit Package, which is the first step towards universal health coverage target, and states which services should be included.

However, developing a Package is not enough if it is not costed in a credible manner, to ensure estimates produced can be used to guide domestic and international investments in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe has expressed clear willingness at the highest level to launch the process of developing and costing its Essential Health Benefit Package - as part of its strategic investments towards attaining universal health coverage.



UNICEF Response

UNICEF will steer the thinking and development of the Essential Health Benefit Package to ensure it is in line with the Government's Primary Health Care model.

Specific interventions include the following key steps:

- Defining its essential benefits;
- costing the Package;
- analysing its health impacts;
- optimizing interventions using a hybrid- integration-platform, or 'hip' tool (which helps simplify integrating data and apps across on- premises and multi-cloud environments);
- testing and scaling up of the Package.

Target beneficiaries

By 2026, it is expected that the 'Essential Health Benefit Package' will be available for:

- 606,800 children under 5 years-of-age
- 554,035 children 6-9 years-of-age
- 493,732 children 10-14 years-of-age
- 407,046 adolescents 15-19 years-of-age
- 305,284 young people 20-24 years-of-age
- 976,156 people 25-49 years-of-age
- 418,353 people 50+years-of-age

4 YEAR BUDGET \$1m

Defining the Essential Benefits Health Package	\$100k
Costing the package	\$50k
Coordination and technical support to the government at all levels	\$180k
Testing the package to demonstrate impact in selected provinces	\$150k
Scale up the package	\$520k

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