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ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HEALTH EQUITY: GALVANISING A MOVEMENT FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Editors Erica Nelson,
Gerald Bloom and Alex Shankland



Notes on Article Contributors	v
Notes on Multimedia Contributors	xi
<u>Foreword</u>	
The International Health Partnership for UHC 2030 (UHC2030) Core Team	xiii
Introduction: Accountability for Health Equity: Galvanising a Movement for Universal Health Coverage	
Erica Nelson, Gerald Bloom and Alex Shankland	1
Introduction to Multimedia	
Sophie Marsden, Karine Gatellier and Sarah King Vaishali Zararia, Renu Khanna and Sophie Marsden Denise Namburete and Erica Nelson	17
Health Accountability for Indigenous Populations: Confronting Power through Adaptive Action Cycles	
Walter Flores and Alison Hernández	19
Inverted State and Citizens' Roles in the Mozambican Health Sector	
Jose Dias and Tassiana Tomé	35
Accountability and Generating Evidence for Global Health: Misoprostol in Nepal	
Jeevan Raj Sharma, Rekha Khatri and Ian Harper	49
The Political Construction of Accountability Keywords	
Jonathan Fox	65
Key Considerations for Accountability and Gender in Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	
Linda Waldman, Sally Theobald and Rosemary Morgan	81
Gendered Dimensions of Accountability to Address Health Workforce Shortages in Northern Nigeria	
Fatima Lamishi Adamu, Zainab Abdul Moukarim and Nasiru Sa'adu Fakai	95
Reducing Health Inequalities in Brazil's Universal Health-Care System: Accountability Politics in São Paulo	
Vera Schattan Coelho	109
Making Private Health Care Accountable: Mobilising Civil Society and Ethical Doctors in India	
Abhay Shukla, Abhijit More and Shweta Marathe	129
Neglected Tropical Diseases and Equity in the Post-2015 Health Agenda	
Emma Michelle Taylor and James Smith	147
Glossary	159

Foreword

Accountability mechanisms will be decisive in determining whether the needs of marginalised and vulnerable communities are met as countries, and other stakeholders, work to attain the goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). While equity is inherent in the definition of UHC – whereby *all* people receive the (preventive, promotive, curative, and rehabilitative) health services that they need without risk of financial hardship – there are inevitable trade-offs in policy and programming choices along the pathway towards UHC. Such decisions are highly political and they determine who benefits and who is left behind. This makes multi-stakeholder accountability mechanisms – that facilitate the cycle of monitoring, review and remedial action, and advance the principles of human rights, transparency, and participation – ever more important to ensure that UHC is *de facto* a movement for health equity.

The International Health Partnership for UHC 2030 (UHC2030) is committed to strengthening accountability for UHC, and we welcome this *IDS Bulletin* that brings to the fore concrete experiences that advance our understanding of the complex nature of accountability for health equity. This *IDS Bulletin* makes clear the importance of political economy that determines how choices are made and the longitudinal patterns of change. It acknowledges the proliferation of actors with divergent interests that influence power dynamics and can distort the social contract. And it showcases country experiences of navigating and negotiating these complex contextual realities to advance accountability for health equity. As a multi-stakeholder partnership we look to learn from this evidence in our efforts to strengthen accountability for transformational, pro-equity progress towards UHC.

The International Health Partnership for UHC 2030 (UHC2030)
Core Team

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