

**Strengthen Country Monitoring Systems of UHC SDG Indicators:
A Case of Senegal and Global Practices**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) hosted an official side event of the UHC Forum 2017 titled “Strengthen Country Monitoring Systems of UHC SDG Indicators: A Case of Senegal and Global Practices” at the Tokyo Prince Hotel on December 12, 2017. The panelists were invited from the Government of Senegal, including the Ministry of Health and Social Action, the Universal Health Insurance Coverage Agency, and the National Agency of Statistics and Demography, as well as from Hitotsubashi University, the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), and JICA. Fruitful and interactive discussion was held on how to monitor the progress of UHC and effectively incorporate the results in policymaking.



The panel discussion

On July 6, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the global indicator framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in which indicators of universal health coverage (UHC) (SDG target 3.8) were refined to coverage of essential health services (SDG indicator 3.8.1) and lack of financial protection coverage in health (SDG indicator 3.8.2).

Monitoring these UHC SDG indicators is useful for countries to develop evidence-based health national strategies in order to attain UHC under which no one is left behind in terms of services and financial protection coverage, and transparency and accountability are ensured for the outcomes. Many countries have been developing monitoring systems for the indicators under which household surveys such as demographic and health surveys (DHS), multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) and living standards measurement surveys (LSMS) are conducted and facility records are maintained.

However, the routine collection of reliable and comparable data with sufficient detail on health service and financial protection coverage remains to be a major obstacle to proper UHC monitoring. For example, the data availability about service coverage of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is still limited compared to that of infectious diseases and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health. Household expenditure survey data are not always comparable across surveys in different years of the same country and across surveys of different countries because survey instruments differ in aspects such as the recall period, expenditure items covered and the overall focus of the survey (e.g., a survey focusing on health vs. a multipurpose survey where health is only one item for consideration). Furthermore, additional in-

depth data collection is necessary to reveal what interventions can be useful to improve these coverage indicators, as coverage data alone do not explain why coverage indicators have changed.

Senegal is one country where government efforts to strengthen monitoring systems of the UHC SDG indicators are ongoing with support from development partners and Japanese academia, despite the challenges described above. JICA's technical and financial cooperation is playing a catalytic role in the collaborative UHC monitoring initiative among the multi-stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health and Social Action, the Universal Health Insurance Coverage Agency, and the National Agency of Statistics and Demography of Senegal, as well as the World Bank, Hitotsubashi University and JICA. The side event was closed with words of appreciation and expectation for Senegal, which has the potential to developed further as a model in the global practice of UHC monitoring.

Speakers

- Mitsuko Kumagai, Director General of Human Development Department, JICA (Keynote Speaker)
- Ikuo Takizawa, Deputy Director General, Human Development Department, JICA (Moderator)

Session 1: National initiatives of Senegal to attain UHC and strengthen UHC SDG indicator monitoring

- Dr. Marie Khémesse Ngom Ndiaye, Director General of Health, Ministry of Health and Social Action, Senegal
- Dr. Bocar Mamadou Daff, Director General, Universal Health Insurance Coverage Agency, Senegal
- Dr. Makoto Tobe, Senior Advisor on Health Financing / Health Systems, JICA
- Prof. Motohiro Sato, Director, Research Center for Health Policy and Economics, Hitotsubashi Institute for Advanced Study, Hitotsubashi University, Japan
- Papa Ibrahima Sylmang Sene, Director of Demographic and Social Statistics, National Agency of Statistics and Demography, Senegal

Session 2: Global practices to strengthen UHC SDG indicator monitoring

- Maud Juquois, Health Economist, World Bank
- Dr. John Grove, Director, Information, Evidence and Research, WHO



The panelists