**WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Insurance Governance and Services**

**Collaborating Centres**

**Annual Report**

**KOR-109**

**1. Describe progress made on the agreed work plan.**

**For each activity, detail (1) the actions taken, (2) the outputs delivered, as well as (3) any difficulties that may have been encountered. Three responses are expected. [maximum 200 words per activity]. Indicate, if an activity has been**

**completed previously, has not yet started or has been placed on hold.**

**Activity 1**

**Support for development and governance of health financing arrangements**

Dr. Koeun Park from NHIS conducted a research study titled "A Comparative Analysis of Health Insurance System for Dependent Self-employment" in 2023. The study aimed to investigate and compare health insurance qualification systems for non-standard workers globally, with a specific focus on dependent self-employed individuals. The changing dynamics of contemporary labor markets have led to various non-traditional employment arrangements, prompting a critical examination of the adequacy and adaptability of health insurance frameworks.

The methodology involved an in-depth case analysis of five countries (Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, France, and Japan). The study examined how dependent self-employed individuals are recognized, covered, and addressed by social insurance systems in response to structural changes in the labor market. It explored the concept of dependent self-employment in labor and social security laws, sanctions for disguised employment, and health security system regarding entitlement and insurance premium methods.

The findings revealed challenges faced by traditional social security systems, designed for standard employment relationships, due to the rise of atypical workers that are challenging to classify clearly as 'employees' or 'self-employed.' Specifically, in Germany, similar workers face a lack of mandatory enrollment in social insurances, creating a social protection blind spot. Italy's universal access to healthcare system allows dependent self-employed workers to avail themselves of the same benefits as employees. In the United Kingdom, 'workers' receive legal protections but do not receive unemployment benefits or workplace injury compensation like employees.

France and Japan categorize dependent self-employed workers as self-employed within their social security systems, though France integrated their system into the general one in 2018. Japan's bifurcated social security system creates disparities in health insurance premium imposition based on employment status.

The research concluded by offering strategic recommendations and policy implications aimed at informing policymakers, stakeholders, and relevant institutions about potential refinements to health insurance qualification systems, particularly in addressing the unique circumstances of dependent self-employed workers. In conclusion, the study contributes to the global understanding of health insurance systems for non-standard workers, providing valuable insights into the complexities associated with dependent self-employed individuals. The findings and recommendations serve as a foundation for adapting health insurance frameworks to the evolving landscape of contemporary labor markets.

**Activity 2**

**Provide training in development and governance of health financing arrangements**

The 2023 NHIS UHC Global Academy (NUGA), alternatively titled as the 20th capacity building program on social health insurance, took place from September 11 to 15, 2023. This training initiative was convened through a collaboration with partners, including the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) of Korea and the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO).

Through WHO WPRO's collaboration, the 2023 NUGA featured the agenda "Implications of the Korean healthcare operation system to achieve UHC" and related programs. Moving towards UHC necessitates strengthening health systems in all countries with robust financing strategies.

NUGA commenced on a positive note with Dr. Lluis Vinals Torres delivering the opening speech. Following this, Ms. Ding Wang, Health Economist at the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific, provided insights into Health Financing for Universal Health Coverage. With the overarching support of WHO WPRO, a total of 13 lectures and two discussions were effectively delivered by esteemed colleagues from various countries to an audience comprising 38 government officials and healthcare experts from 11 nations.

Participants' reflections on NUGA showed that overall objectives were achieved throughout the 5-day program. The result of the satisfaction survey, evaluated by all trainees, was 97.20 points, up 2.55 points from the previous year. Consequently, it can be concluded that the program successfully accomplished the designated task through close collaboration with WHO.

**2. Annual report on other activities requested**

**Should WHO have requested activities in addition to the agreed workplan, please describe related actions taken by your institution [maximum 200 words]. Please do not include in this report any activity done by your institution that was not requested by and agreed with WHO.**

There were no other activities requested by or agreed with WHO in 2023.

**3. Resources**

**Indicate staff time spent on the implementation of activities agreed with**

**WHO (i.e. those mentioned in questions no. 1 and no. 2 above). Do not**

**include any data related to other activities done by your institution without**

**the agreement of WHO. Please indicate staff time using the number of “fullday**

**equivalents” – a day of work comprising 8 hours (e.g. 4 hours work per**

**day for 7 days should be recorded as 3.5 full-day equivalents).**

Supervisor TOR 1 and 2

Dr. Soonae-Shin 1 full-day equivalent

PM TOR 1 & 2 on administration

Mr. Chang-youn Lee 1 full-day equivalent

Dr. Eunyoung Kyung 1 full-day equivalent

PM

TOR 1 Dr. HyeSeung Wee 15 full-day equivalent

TOR 2 Ms. Seulki Yang 10 full-day equivalents

PL

TOR 1 Ms. Charmi Kim 10 full-day equivalents

**Implementation of the agreed workplan activities (i.e. those mentioned in**

**questions no. 1 and no. 2 above) normally require resources beyond staff time,**

**such as the use of laboratory facilities, purchasing of materials, travel,**

**etc. Please estimate the costs of these other resources as a percentage of**

**the total costs incurred (e.g. if you incurred costs of USD 100 and the value**

**of your staff time was USD 50 which makes the total of USD 150, please**

**report 33.3% and 66.7%).**

Staff time 67.4% Other resources 32.6%

**4. Networking**

**Describe any interactions or collaboration with other WHO Collaborating Centres in the context of the implementation of the agreed activities If you are part of a network of WHO Collaborating Centres, please also mention the name of the network and describe your involvement in that network [maximum 200 words].**

In 2023, as part of TOR 2, NHIS UHC Academy training collaborated closely with Seoul National University, designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre (WHO CC), to develop lectures. Professor Kwon Soonman from the Graduate School of Public Health discussed the financial aspects of long-term care, emphasizing its importance in an aging society and the increasing demand. NHIS, which operates long-term care insurance, aims to enhance the system by actively seeking input from external experts.