

4th IAEG meeting in Geneva
17 - 18 November 2016

Oral statement Thursday 17, 2016 afternoon
Delivered by Mohga Kamal-Yanni, Oxfam on behalf of Civil Society
organisations present

Mr. Co-Chair

The SDG Target 3.8 on Universal Health Coverage means that everyone can access the quality health services they need without being pushed or pushed further, into poverty. However, with 100 million people falling into poverty every year due to the cost of healthcare, it is imperative that indicator 3.8.2 measures the progress made towards protecting people from this fate. Yet in its current form, Indicator 3.8.2 is not fit for purpose and risks promoting health insurance above other health financing mechanisms – despite a large body of evidence that such schemes don't advance UHC.

The current indicator must be taken off the table and replaced by the proposed refinement that is supported by both the WHO and World Bank. If the current indicator remains, whether alone or alongside the proposed refined indicator, it risks being a futile distraction. Data generated using the existing indicator would be meaningless in measuring financial protection for UHC. Therefore, it will be easily disregarded by experts including the 351 health academics who signed the recent letter on this issue, the 100s of NGOs who've signed letters on the same topic and the 22 statistical authorities who submitted to the online consultation.

We believe and hope that the IAEG-SDGs has recognised the widespread concern around the current indicator, and acknowledge that the proposed refinement will measure what really matters: the real impact of household spending on health and hence will track progress towards financial protection. It is methodologically robust with the necessary data available through routine households surveys, including those already agreed for measuring SDG1 on poverty reduction. As such, there is absolutely no reason why the proposed refinement should not REPLACE the current indicator. We have faith that this will be the final decision of the IAEG-SDGs.