



SOCIAL PROTECTION 4 ALL SOLIDAR MEMBERS IN ACTION



HEALTH CARE 4 ALL

According to the ILO World Social Protection [Report 2014/2015](#), more than 90% of the population living in low-income countries remains without any right to coverage in health. Globally, 39% of the population is lacking such coverage. This means that the cost of health care have to be covered directly by the sick. At the same time, health care is frequently neither available nor affordable, and out-of-pocket payments to access needed services can lead to poverty. **This newsletter highlights SOLIDAR Members' everyday's work, together with local CSOs, to ensure that people are aware of their rights, can exercise their Right to Health, and participate in the decisions that concern their health.**

BUILDING NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

SOLIDAR SUISSE

Healthcare provision in Kosovo is poor. While a reform of the system has been initiated, neither patients nor healthcare professionals have been involved. The KoSana project aims to remedy the situation.

In theory, Kosovo provides free healthcare. In a system established by Yugoslavia, however, medicines are scarce in many healthcare facilities. Most patients have to pay for their medication. Many treatments are unavailable, or only after long waiting periods, which the right kind of 'grease' may sometimes help to shorten. However, few patients can afford to seek private treatment, let alone go abroad.



The government has acknowledged these problems and is planning to reform the system. The centrepiece of the reform is the introduction of compulsory health insurance for all. In spring 2014, parliament passed relevant legislation for a complete overhaul of the country's public health system.

According to a [survey](#) commissioned by Solidar Suisse in 2012, however, the wider public, healthcare professionals and patient associations know few details of the government's reform plans. The plans cannot succeed without the participation of civil-society organisations. Therefore, Solidar Suisse's Kosovo project, KoSana, has been supporting patient associations and unions of healthcare professionals.

KoSana supports partner organisations including the National Autism and Diabetes Associations of Kosova, Kosovo's Action for Mothers and Children as well as unions of healthcare professionals. Together they have compiled and processed reliable data and information, drawn up clear and detailed recommendations for the proposed health insurance, and engaged in lobbying activities. Much valuable information has been processed on a wide range of patient groups and treatments, earning the KoSana partner organisations much respect from a government whose progress towards the new health insurance has been hindered by lack of information.

HEALTH MUTUALS AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE IN BURKINA FASO

SOLIDARITÉ SOCIALISTE

Health mutuals have emerged in Burkina Faso in the last past fifteen years in a context marked by a weak state. [Solidarité Socialiste](#) partner [ASMADE](#) is engaged in the development and the support of health mutuals which are based on the solidarity among all their members.

According to Pauline Rouamba, farmer in Saaba:

"before, when we had health problems, we had to sell our goats to have some money and cover the costs. In the absence of goats, one had to seek a loan from neighbors. But with the health mutuals, we understood the importance of paying contributions in order to help each other during difficult times..."



The development of health mutual is based on the participation of the population at each stage: feasibility study, decision about the cares to cover and the level of contributions, the necessary training for management bodies, etc. Once established, the members pay an annual contribution fee that entitles them to the reimbursement of certain treatments.

While the health mutual certainly help to improve access to healthcare, they do not aim at replacing the state that has the responsibility to ensure the right to health.

Late 2000s, the member countries of the Economic and Monetary Union of West

Africa initiated talks to implement universal health insurance. Gradually, this system should allow all segments of the population, both in the formal and informal sector, to benefit of quality health care.

In Burkina Faso, as in other countries, community health mutuals cooperated with the Burkinabe government on the policies to be implemented and had obtained their inclusion in the new Law on Universal Health Insurance - with the task of managing the

Health Insurance for the population in the rural and informal sector - which was supposed to be voted on 30 November 2014. However, following the recent events in Burkina, the transitory executive power has temporarily halted the legislative process.

In the words of Lamine Mariko, micro health insurance expert:

"The State shall guarantee public health. Mutuals, trade unions and other actors of society must ensure public accountability!"

PROMOTING HEALTH FOR ALL IN SOUTH AFRICA

FOS-SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY

People's Health Movement South Africa (PHM-SA) partner of [FOS](#) believes that everyone should have access to qualitative health care. The mission of PHM-SA is to improve the capacity of individuals and communities to realize their right to health and health care, and to advocate for a Primary Health Care approach.

The South African government has big plans with a "National Health Insurance" (NHI), the primary goal of which is to "ensure that everyone has access to a defined comprehensive package of healthcare services." This plan is one step towards achieving universal health coverage in post-apartheid South Africa where the majority of South Africans do not have access to the available, expensive health care.

In 2011 the government published a Green Paper on the NHI. Today, there's still no White Paper, but it's clear that it will take about 15 years to implement the NHI plan. The Green Paper provides the opportunity to build a health system that allows universal quality healthcare for all South African citizens but this opportunity threatens to be undermined by the powerful interests of the private sector. PHM-SA from its side speaks up for civil society and has formulated its remarks on the Green Paper and has made a list of recommendations and demands.



To reinforce their demands, PHM-SA works on "community health empowerment". PHM-SA organizes workshops and trainings in communities, to bring knowledge about health systems and policy documents such as the Green Paper on NHI to the people, so that they are able to participate in health policies. They inform the people about the advantages of Primary Health Care services, which are part of the NHI plan and are being constructed all over the country. Primary health care must guarantee people's access to medical services close to their homes, and can involve local communities in prevention programs and the organization of health care.

By working on community health empowerment, PHM-SA is identifying the critical areas of struggle. They critique the inconsistencies and identify the dangerous areas within the Green Paper. They closely monitor the process leading up to the White Paper and the actual NHI Bill, because its content will determine if there will ever be a truly universal NHI with a strong public sector. More information can be found [here](#).

PROMOTING WOMEN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS THROUGH AN INTERCULTURAL APPROACH

ALIANZA POR LA SOLIDARIDAD

[Alianza por la Solidaridad \(ApS\)](#), in partnership with the Confederación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas Indígenas Originarias "Bartolina Sisa" and Wiñay, works to promote sexual and reproductive health in four municipalities of Bolivia, the second country with the highest rates of maternal mortality in the Andean region, through an approach that brings together traditional and academic medicine.



In the municipalities of El Alto and Pucarani - located in the highlands of the department of La Paz and where predominates the Aymara population - and the municipalities of Apolo and Chulumani - with a big Quechua and Leco population - ApS conducts information and awareness raising activities with women and men to increase their knowledge about their sexual and reproductive rights. In addition to that, women leaders also receive training to advocate for the

respect of their cultural practices and better health care and services.

At the same time, health centers operators trained on how possibly bring together traditional and academic medicine.

Through the involvement of women groups and public health centres, important results were obtained.

In the municipality of El Alto, for example, seven health centers committed to improve the quality of their care services, address violence against women and their sexual and reproductive rights with an intercultural approach. In the municipalities of Pucarani, Apollo and Chulumani local authorities cooperated with health centers for a pap-tests campaign where over 200 women - who had never done these tests before - participated.

ApS is committed to further promote the cooperation between different actors - of civil society organizations, local authorities, doctors and traditional midwives - so that more women have access to services that effectively guarantee their right to health.

THE "SCHOOL OF HUSBANDS": WORKING WITH MEN TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN NIGER

MOVEMENT FOR PEACE

Niger is one of the least developed countries in the world. According to the 2014 Human Development Report elaborated by the United Nations Development Program, Niger occupies the last position (187) in the development ranking.

This fact is directly related to, among other causes, the difficulties the population faces to access right to health.

[Movement for Peace](#) (MPDL) started its operations in the health sector in Niger's Tahoua

region in 2006. Since then, MPDL has focused on strengthening local capacities, providing access to potable water and basic sanitation systems, developing nutrition programs and promoting sexual and reproductive health.

Currently, the focus is on enhancing women's sexual and reproductive rights, aiming at changing the huge vulnerability levels women face in their daily lives. The "School of Husbands" initiative goes in this direction: men are informed and sensibilised on the importance of using contraceptive methods for family well-being and children's health.



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