

# *Ghana's NHIS Review and Strategic Purchasing:*

## **A review of benefits package design and implications for wider health system reform**

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**RESULTS FOR  
DEVELOPMENT**

# Outline

- Brief background to NHIS review: the issues
- Process and evidence base
- Main findings and recommendations
- Wider health system implications
- Conclusion: How findings and recommendations address TORs

# Background and issues

- NHIS experiencing growing challenges esp since 2009
  - Increasing technical deficits of NHIS and delayed provider payments putting sustainability of NHIS in question
  - Effective return of user fees or ‘cash and carry’ (called co-payments by providers) – raising equity issues among others
  - Growing sense in some circles that benefits package was ‘too generous’ and to blame for problems!
  - Rising user and provider dissatisfaction with scheme
  - Also stagnant or worsening health indicators called spending efficiency into question
- President set up review committee with mandate to review and make recommendations on
  - Sustainability
  - Efficiency
  - Equity
  - Accountability and user satisfaction or responsiveness
- Specific ask to align scheme’s benefits package with “broader sector goals” or priorities and, if necessary, to “redesign and restructure” scheme

# Evidence-based review Process

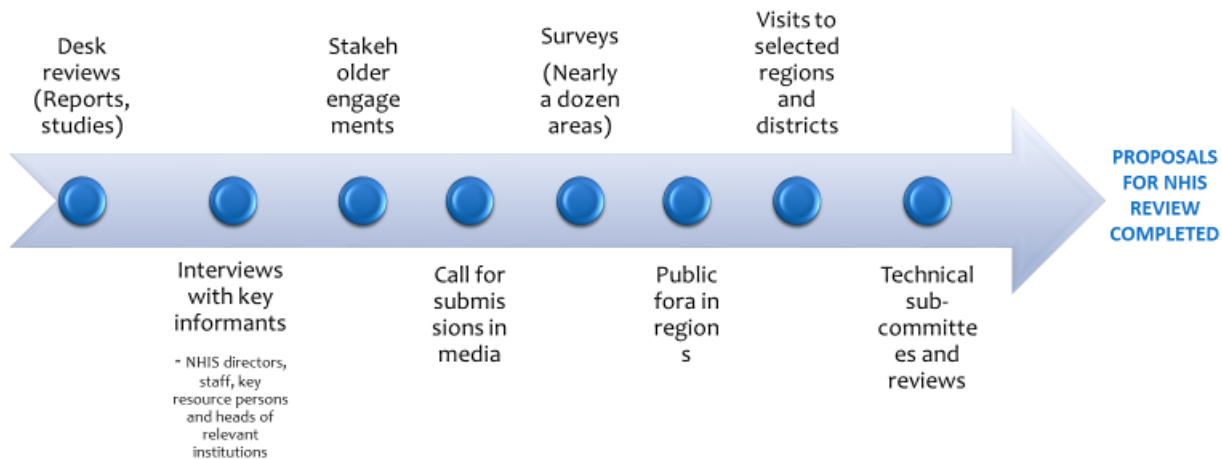
Cost-effectiveness of interventions based on parallel burden of disease work by MOH/IHME/DFID International evidence and other work by NHIA in previous years Committee engaged extensively with stakeholders:

- Officials in relevant government agencies
- Providers, users, NHIA staff (purchaser)
- Development partners, general public, others

## Technical work supporting review in three categories

- Desk Reviews – all available reports, theses and other research on NHIS
- Surveys, quantitative and qualitative, to find answers to questions identified at start
- 7 technical subcommittees made of country's and development partners best experts on topics – eg indicators

## PROCESS EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW



# Two major streams of findings and recommendations

## NHIS Design and Operations

- Governance, efficiency and accountability
- Aligning benefits package with health priorities

## Wider health system issues and implications

- PHC and primary care
- Coordination across health system
- Health system funding and donor transition

- **Strengthen governance, efficiency and accountability**
  - Eg mechanisms for citizen voice, how to better report on performance, provider relations, budget neutrality
- **PHC should be primary focus**
  - PHC for all residents, based on alignment to priorities and taxation base of NHIS
- **Definition of PHC and package, PPP networks to address quality and capacity to deliver package**
- **Coordination of service delivery, regulations and purchasing mechanisms**
- **Coordinating health system funding with donor transition**

Thank you

