***Title:*** Exploring stakeholder perceptions of Universal Health Coverage through human rights and health systems frameworks across eight countries

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***Introduction:*** Despite a global push towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the concept itself is not without debate. With an aim to inform the global dialogue, a qualitative study was undertaken to explore the viewpoints of stakeholders across eight countries –Bangladesh, Chile, Ghana, Pakistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam– on UHC. A rights-based approach and a health systems approach were used to analyze how stakeholder groups view challenges and drivers of different approaches to UHC policies.

***Methods:*** Stakeholders interviewed for this study were selected from policy maker, civil society, and funding organization positions. Interview write ups were analysed through two frameworks: WHO's health system building blocks and a human rights framework. Results present the extent to which 1) health system building blocks were included in discussions of UHC; 2) mentions made of human rights components; and 3) discussion of cross cutting issues such as gender and inclusion of the private sector.

***Results:*** Across all countries, financing systems and leadership and governance were mentioned by almost all respondents (95%) followed by service delivery (68%), the health workforce (61%) and medical devices (59%). Information systems were least mentioned, often when probed about monitoring and evaluation of UHC (30%). Interestingly, stakeholder concerns were focused on similar building blocks across higher income and lower income countries. In terms of human rights components, accessibility and quality were most often stressed by respondents, with equality, participation, and prioritization of the most vulnerable close behind.

***Discussion:*** This study found stakeholders to be relatively more concerned with equitable financing, governance, quality, gender equity and role of the private sector. To address these challenges, investments in a robust primary health care system, user-focused, people-centered care, collaboration across sectors, and community participation in encouraging political will and sustaining accountability were among the drivers stakeholders highlighted in helping to promote UHC.